You've had a lot of time on your hands, haven't you? Pulled out all those recipes you've been saving for years , organized them nicely, and thought, "Now's the time to try some of these." How about making Strozzapreti—the deadly pasta.

The Cursed Pasta: Strozzapreti

The ladies in the first video link at the bottom of this message are making a pasta called Strozzapreti. The word *strozza* in Italian means "to choke or strangle," and the word *preti* means "priests." Strangle a priest?? Absolutely and in the olden days they did it with great glee! Here's the story.

The weird looking, twisted handmade pasta shaped like a hangman's rope was originally created to suffocate an insatiable priest. Yes, you read that right. It has a dark and sinful past.

Centuries ago, the Catholic Church held control over everything; the people had nothing. Needless to say, they hated the clergy. The priests especially loved good food and wine. Villagers dreaded the moment when clergy travelling to Rome would knock at their door for a lavish meal and a good night's sleep. Housewives would curse them and with each twist of making the dough, they envisioned strangling the fat throat of a clergyman. It was like a spell, voodoo-like even.

Priests, while voraciously slurping the Strozzapreti, ended up choking and died fork in hand. The pasta would stick to their

throat, their faces turn fire-red, and they'd stop breathing. The clergymen either ate too quickly, or the curse had turned real.

The curse lives on, as all spells do. Gulping down this pasta too quickly could still be risky. They melt on your tongue and are slippery enough to run down your throat and cause you to choke, fork in hand like the priests!

So next time you're in Italy don't forget to chew a lot before swallowing this deadly treat. Possibly accompanied by two glasses of good red wine like those surviving, diehard bishops did to avoid the curse.

Check out the old ladies making the deadly pasta by clicking here.

And if you want to see these old-timers making other pastas, **here's a link to the series.**