

BOLLETTINO

Highlights



Msgr. Cardelli:
Let the Star Shine
in Our Life



Book Review:
"Amore: The Story
of Italian American
Song", by
Mark Rotella



Saintly Stories:
St. Bonaventure --
The Serafic Saint

Calendar Winners:

No New Calendar Winners
This Month

The ICF And Catholic Charities – A Perfect Match

Santa Rosa District Embraces
Catholic Charities

Robert Acquistapace
Past Grand President, Life Member
Emeritus of the Central Council

The Santa Rosa District Council of the Italian Catholic Federation saw Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa as a good place to direct some of its monetary charity donations. The original plan called for each branch in the Diocese (11) to put \$5 per month into a fund for Catholic Charities. The District added another \$60 and a check for the total amount of \$720 was presented to the Director of Catholic Charities each year at the April meeting.

This year, the District voted to raise the yearly donation to \$75 per branch. Again, this will be presented at the April meeting. Adding the District's contribution of \$75, we will be able to donate \$900 to Catholic Charities in 2011.

The Santa Rosa District feels that the ICF and Catholic Charities is a great match for doing good in our local Diocese.

Catholic Charities helps parents and children who are experiencing hard times with temporary shelter, housing and basic nutri-

scroll down for continued story

2011 Installations Keeps ICF Active



The San Bernardino District celebrated its Installation on January 15, 2011. These are the newly sworn in district officers Front Row Left to Right: District Deputy- Jim Buchner, Sentinel- Irene Vultaggio, President- Jack Grisafe, Trustee- Anne McCarthy, 2nd VP Mauro Romagnoli, Secretary- Judy Romagnoli, Trustee -Nan Judge, Grand 2nd Vice President- Bob Basuino, Orator- Nick Vultaggio, and Central Council Member Tom Passanisi.



San Francisco District Officers' Installation with Grand President Jim Jones & 1st Lady Janice Jones.

ICF Convention Awards -- Time to Choose a Worthy Candidate

Leonard Zasoski
Chairman, Public Relations Committee

The ICF is proud to present awards in five categories annually at our National Conventions. It offers us the opportunity to recognize the time, talent and generosity of outstanding members and citizens in our communities. The application forms and a list of all necessary qualifications can be found on the website at www.icf.org/awards.html. Send all necessary packets and information to the ICF office, 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621 no later than May 1, 2011.

Pope John, XXIII

Every community has a person who gives of themselves unselfishly and exemplifies the spirit and tradition of the late Pope,

John XXIII. This is the highest award bestowed by the ICF to a lay person of any denomination who exemplifies humanitarian service to society.

Grand President's Award

Every branch has a member that gives that extra bit of energy and time to further the aims of the ICF and their perspective branch. Nominees must have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to the ICF.

Family of the Year

This award was implemented to honor a family of 2 or more generations that have steadfastly supported the programs of the ICF and their community.

scroll down for continued story

Grand President's Message



Last month my article was on being more assertive when asking for help at the branch and district level. This month I want to encourage you to be more assertive on a personal level. I call it "Some things you can do this year to improve your personal life."

TURN OFF THE TV

Many of us watch TV because the thing is in the house. We don't watch it because there is something we want to see. TV can actually inhibit our ability to carry on a conversation. One psychologist said, "TV robs us of our time and never gives it back." Of course this does not include any shows on Italy!! Rather than watch TV, why don't you:

READ

Those who read books benefit from what they learn and the entertainment they receive. Most importantly, you exercise your mind and that is one muscle that continually needs exercise. It is recommended that you read at least 30 minutes a day, every-day. Make it an hour or more if you can.

EXERCISE

People, who exercise, whether that involves an intense workout or just a regular long walk, feel healthier, feel better about themselves, and enjoy life more. I started an exercise program a year ago and I have more energy and look forward to my workouts. (Most of the time.) It takes discipline, but worth the effort. Waking is an excellent exercise and it is free.

REMAIN TRUE TO YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Don't let your religious beliefs fade. Going to Mass will give you a longer, healthier and happier life. Attend Mass at least once a week. I have found that it makes your week go so much smoother.

LISTEN TO MUSIC

Music communicates to us in so many ways. Our favorite music tends to transport our mind to its favorite place. When I first met Janice she couldn't stand Country music. I, on the other hand loved Country music, any and all country. Give me a song about Mama, a 6 string guitar, a truck or a railroad, and I love it. Janice was another story. This last year, her granddaughters introduced her to—you guessed it—Country music. Now we have it on our car radio, our CD player, our computer, our television and our iPod.

Start out the New Year by trying new things, to improve your health and personal development. Try different foods, different kinds of restaurants and Country music. Life has so much to offer, take advantage of it.

Let The Star Shine In Our Life!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

The Magi followed a star in the night and found the child Jesus. Three Kings gave royal homage to Christ the King. They gave him gifts fit for a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus indeed is a king, not in a worldly sense, but **King of Heaven and Earth, King of our hearts.** A king loves and cares for his people. Jesus loves and cares for us.. He loved us so much that he gave



his life for us that we might live. He won for us that which was lost; the life of God on our souls (Sanctifying Grace.) He is the best of all our best friends.



May Jesus light up our lives and be a shining star for us. We strive to follow him to heaven.

Let this New Year inspire us to live the life Jesus wants us to live. To love the Lord with our **WHOLE** heart and soul and with **ALL** our mind and strength.

Catholic Charities Con't

tion in our area. With shelter, supportive housing units and food distribution events, Catholic Charities cares for those who are greatly in need of help.

Try something like this in your diocese too!!!

Awards Applications Con't

Mother Teresa Award

This award acknowledges and honors a Catholic priest, brother, nun or deacon who works tirelessly, to improve the human condition.

Young Adult Leadership Award

This award is to recognize a member, 39 years or younger who demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities and who possesses the enthusiasm, talent, energy and vision to become the leaders who will guide the Federation into the future.

Please take the time and effort to seek someone out for these prestigious awards.

LA District Installation Photos



BOOK REVIEW Vince Piro

Amore: The Story of Italian American Song

By Mark Rotella

Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
2010.

In *Amore: The Story of Italian American Song*, Mark Rotella tells the stories of various Italian-American singers from the first half of the 20th century, a time he considers the pinnacle of Italian American influence on American popular music. This is the era of Enrico Caruso, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Marino Lanza, Tony Bennett, and other great voices. Rotella through a unique style, which mixes biography, personal reflection, and cultural and historical facts, writes a book sure to interest those who have enjoyed these popular singers.

After the great immigration from Italy to the United States in the earlier part of the century, the 1940s and 50s were the time when Italian Americans began to integrate into American mainstream culture, and the story of Italian Americans in popular music reflects this assimilation. To provide a background to the music of the "Italian decade" in American popular music, Rotella also tells the story of earlier Italian singers in the United States.

Each chapter in *Amore* focuses around one singer of the time. From Enrico Caruso to Frankie Vale, Rotella tells the story of each singer's emergence into American popular culture through music, providing interesting anecdotes and supplying the reader with interesting cultural and historical background. However, these are not straight "portraits," for Rotella also provides many personal reflections about the singers that give you a sense of his own admiration of the various singers he describes. Each chapter is almost like a collage comprised of biographical facts, historical/cultural background, and personal reaction. This makes for a unique reading experience — different from a straight historical account of Italian Americans in popular music.

In *Amore*, one will find the story of Neapolitan tenor Enrico Caruso, the first American recording sensation. Rotella writes that "America's first pop music star was an Italian opera singer." Already an opera sensation in Europe, Caruso immigrated to the United States, feeling "America's pull." Born to a poor family in Naples, Caruso's work often reflected the lives and emotions of southern Italy. Music was an integral part of the lifestyle of that region. Men working in the fields often sang songs in a kind of call and response style, and the fishermen of the area sang in a similar fashion as they worked. On the streets, during the day, one could hear "the lyrical cry of vendors selling their wares," and at night, there were the dances and the opera that filled the city. The new Italian immigrants brought this musical background to their new country, and Caruso popularized Italian songs with his appearances at the Metropolitan Opera and other venues and through his recordings on vinyl.

Rotella also writes about Louis Prima, who originally hailed from New Orleans and



was influenced by the culture of that great musical city. Rotella explains how Italian American music and the music of other cultures in the city often influenced one another. The famous new Orleans jazz artist Louis Armstrong was influenced by "Italian bands playing music in the night clubs throughout the city" and by Italian opera, and "the clarinet in [the] Creole-sounding songs [of the city] must have been familiar to the Italians." Louis Prima heard all of this music as a child and used it to propel his famous hot jazz style, full of energy and vigor. Interestingly, he was first discovered by the famous Canadian Guy Lombardo. Like many of the New Orleans musicians, Prima's story reflects the multicultural essence of American culture.

Of course, no story of American popular music would be complete without a through exploration of the life and music of Frank Sinatra and Rotella covers the famous crooner's life in several chapters. Rotella explains how Sinatra's story reflects the story of Italian American culture of that time. Sinatra emerged as America's most popular singer at a time when Italian Americans were making their way into mainstream culture, leaving behind the immigrant experience but still suffering from the effects of earlier prejudice. And Sinatra was able to capture the hearts of not only Italian Americans but of all Americans with his style. And like Prima, Sinatra was influenced by the musical styles of many different cultures. Of course, he was influenced by the Italian music that he heard "at the local salumeria, lattinicia, the olive store, the cheese store. The songs he heard at Italian weddings and First Communions. The Caruso arias he heard on the Victrola . . ." However, he was also influenced by the great African American jazz singer Billie Holiday and Bing Crosby, whose father was Irish American. Sinatra was able to transcend cultural boundaries while remaining uniquely Italian. When someone suggested that Sinatra change his name to Frankie Satin, the singer replied, "You want the voice, you take the name."

Rotella's book is full of interesting stories, descriptions, and historical facts about Italian Americans in American popular music, and it is clear from his personal reflections that he clearly loves the music about which he writes. The reader of *Amore* will be rewarded with a book full of illuminating stories and facts. *Amore* is a "celebration of the 'Italian decade' —the years after the war and before the Beatles when Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Dean Martin, and Tony Bennett, among others, won the hearts of the American public with a smooth, stylish, classy brand of pop." However, it is also a reminder that the United States has gained much from its multicultural, immigrant roots.

Mark Rotella is the author of *Stolen Figs and Other Adventures in Calabria*, and a senior reviews editor at *Publishers Weekly*. He lives in Montclair, New Jersey, with his wife and their two children.



**SAINTLY
STORIES**
by Clem
DeAmicis



**Saint Bonaventure —
The Serafic Saint**

RoseAnne and I just returned from a visit to my relatives in the Abruzzi which we topped off with a rather frenetic tour of Northern Italy. While there, we heard that the country was in an economic recession. So being loyal ItaloAmericanos, we decided to do something about it. Armed with two brand new Visas, we cut an economic swath from Viareggio to L'Aquila—a swath reminiscent of Union General William Sheridan's 1864 March to the Sea. We'll know by the end of the month how greatly we impacted Italy's GNP. During the spree, we stopped at Civita Di Bagnoregio, a traffic-free hill-village which boasts to be the hometown of one of the Catholic Church's smart cookies, Saint Bonaventure, a good subject for my column.

St. Bonaventure was born in 1221. How his baptismal name of John changed to Bonaventure is not certain. However, a cute

but highly improbable legend traces the latter name to the exclamation, "*O buona ventura*," attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, when Bonaventure was brought to him as an infant to be cured of a dangerous illness. No other details of his youth were recorded.

Bonaventure went to the university at Paris in 1235, where he became a disciple of the brilliant English Franciscan, Alexander of Hales, who induced him to enter the Franciscan order. He studied intently and soon earned a bachelor of Holy Scripture and Theology; shortly thereafter became a master of Theology and was appointed to

the professorial chair of the Friars Minor where he taught Theology, Scripture and preached in Paris for several years.

His teaching was interrupted by the opposition of the secular professors to the mendicant friars. The professors were jealous of the successes of the mendicants and were made uncomfortable by their austere lives. Bonaventure became a prime mover in the controversy and defended the mendicant orders against the attacks, as did another Church luminary, St. Thomas Aquinas. In 1256, Pope Alexander IV denounced the secular professors and put an end to their attacks. Thus, the mendicants were vindicated and their orders were re-established. One year later, Bonaventure and Aquinas received their doctorates in Theology together.

At the age of 36, Bonaventure was chosen minister general of the Friars Minor and quickly made major changes in the organization. His actions had a lasting effect on the order and why he is sometimes called the second founder of the Franciscans.

Bonaventure strongly supported the importance of scholarship and the need for the order to provide books and learning centers. He praised the practice of monks teaching and studying at universities, believing that the Franciscans could better fulfill the need for teaching and spiritual guidance than could the poorly educated

clergy. He aligned himself with the greatest of all Christian thinkers, St. Augustine; in stressing the supremacy of grace, he followed in the footsteps of St. Francis. When Aquinas asked where he gained his great knowledge, Bonaventure pointed to a crucifix and replied: "I study only the crucified one, Jesus Christ, my master."

In 1274, Pope Gregory asked him to draw up the agenda for the 14th general council at Lyons to implement the reunion of Rome with the churches of the East. All the best theologians were summoned to the council. (St. Thomas Aquinas did not participate: he died en route to the council.)

Bonaventure was the outstanding figure in the historic assembly which affected the reunion of the Greeks and Rome. Unfortunately, he died before the assembly ended.

Bonaventure was an outstanding philosopher, theologian and one of the great minds of medieval times. Known as "the Seraphic Doctor," he wrote numerous treatises, theological tracts, biblical commentaries and over five hundred sermons. Additionally, he wrote the official biography of St. Francis of Assisi. This great, Catholic intellectual was sanctified in 1482 and was declared a doctor of the Church in 1588.

Clem can be reached at DeAmicis@pacbell.net.

More Los Angeles District Installation Memories

