



BOLLETTINO



ICF Helps Spread Christmas Cheer

Michelle Feldman
Editor

The spirit of the season was shared amongst members of the Italian Catholic Federation and patients, family and friends at Oakland Children's Hospital's Thalassemia Christmas party, held on Thursday, December 12, 2013.

With an outer space theme, those in attendance watched as the children enjoyed an "out-of-this-world" photo booth; a mini nail salon; face painting; stained glass window art station; drawing station; sand art station; and tissue paper art station. There was also a guess the candy in the jar contest, and a lollipop tree contest.

The dinner from Straw Carnival Faire in San Francisco included a variety of different sliders ranging from Portobello mushroom to pulled pork; salad; mac 'n' cheese; and mashed potatoes. Dessert was a delicious ice cream sandwich treat from Cream.

The highlight of the night -- for both children and adults alike -- was the arrival of Santa Claus and his ever faithful companion, Elf Jones.

The party was attended by members from the East Bay, Santa Clara Valley, Stockton, and Monterey Districts. Also enjoying the night's festivities were Grand President Bob Basuino, Past Grand President Jane Dianda, Past Grand President Jim Jones, Past Grand President Leonard Rossi, Grand 2nd Vice President Andy Pappani, Grand Trustee Franklyn Lopes, CC Life Member Emeritus Leroy Taddei, and CC Life Member Dante Galeazzi.



Members of the ICF that attended had the opportunity to take a picture together with Santa, and the children showed off their gifts.



Members of the ICF, Grand President Bob Basuino, Santa, Elf Jones and Thalassaemia Outreach Coordinator and Christmas Party Coordinator Laurice Levine smile for the camera.

Dear Grand President Bob Basuino, Central Council Members, ICF Staff, and ICF Members:

On behalf of the Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia) program at Children's Hospital Oakland, the Thalassemia Staff, and most especially the patients and families I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your incredible generosity during the Christmas Season.

I am continually amazed by the genuine care, love, and support displayed by the Italian Catholic Federation. The ICF has given so much to our patients and their families. Branches donated hundreds of toys, gift cards, and funds. I was so pleased to see a large ICF turnout at the Christmas party and I also want to extend my thanks to couple of very dear people who made "special" appearances that evening.

Many times the act of giving only occurs during the Christmas season. However, the

ICF is unique in that the generosity extends all year round. I would like to thank each and every Branch, ICF Staff person, and ICF Member for their continued support of the Thalassemia Program. Without your help, our outreach program would be non-existent. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your boundless generosity and your friendship. You brighten hundreds of lives!

I wish you all a Joyous, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year!

With Love and Warm Regards,

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

Senior Thalassaemia Outreach
Coordinator

Children's Hospital Oakland

LLevine@mail.cho.org

510-428-3885, x 5427

Grand President's Monthly Message

I cannot believe January 2014 is now upon us! It has been an exciting first three months with the opening of Branch 442 in Pleasant Hill, California; the 50th Anniversary of Branch 173 in Burlingame; the reorganization of Branch 75 in Cloverdale; and all our Bishops' Days and Holiday events. I can honestly say it was a very inspiring and successful year!

We are planning a very exciting 2014 for the Italian Catholic Federation

which is starting its 90th Anniversary Year! Our Ways and Means Committee is in the process of planning three, yes THREE Gala Celebrations to mark this special event.

One Gala will be held in San Francisco, the birth city of the ICF. The day of celebration will begin with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, location of ICF Branch 1. A reception will follow.

In Los Angeles there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Church, location of Branch 67, also followed by a reception.

The third event will be held in Chicago and is still in the planning stages. The details of these events will be announced soon. Your Bollettino will keep you updated on all the details for these fantastic events.

We want you to take part in this momentous occasion. Along with our 90th Anniversary we will be moving forward with our strategic plan to assure another successful 90 years of this wonderful organization.

I have always known I belong to an outstanding organization, but after becoming your Grand President my love for this group has grown. By meeting many more of our amazing members, and spending more time in our branches, it has reaffirmed my belief that there is no better group to be associated with. Our Branches and Districts are always there to help their Parishes, Diocese, and especially each other. We do need to continue to pull together to be successful and to grow our membership and strengthen our organization. The ICF, like all fraternal groups, is facing similar challenges. I believe we have a solid foundation to overcome the challenges we face, because everything we do is tied into serving others, a tenant of the ICF.

Please help make 2014 be a year of cooperation, coordination, love and compassion, to strengthen our Branches, grow our membership and serve our Lord in every possible way. This can be done by

continued on page 5

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

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UPCOMING:
2014 Bishops' Days:
Feb. 1 Tucson
Mar. 16 Oakland (Contra Costa
& East Bay)
Mar. 29 Stockton
Apr. 27 San Francisco (San Francisco,
San Mateo & Marin)
Oct. 12 Fresno
Oct. 19 San Jose
(Santa Clara Valley)
Santa Rosa
Oct. 26 Monterey (Central Coast)

2014 District Installations:
Jan. 4 Santa Clara Valley
Jan. 5 Stockton
Jan. 12 San Francisco
Jan. 18 Central Coast
San Mateo
San Bernardino
Jan. 19 East Bay
Los Angeles, San Fernando
Valley, San Gabriel Valley
and Santa Barbara/Ventura
(combined)
Santa Rosa
Jan. 21 Marin
Jan. 25 Contra Costa
Jan. 26 San Diego
Feb. 1 Blessed Sacrament
Tucson
Feb. 11 Las Vegas
Feb. 23 Fresno
Feb. 27 Chicago

***Oct. 25 - 50th Anniversary
Celebration for Br. 184, Los Gatos***

icfeditor@gmail.com
The only email address to send things for
the Bollettino is icfeditor@gmail.com.
All other email addresses have been
closed. Please make a note of it.

Thank God For Christmas!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

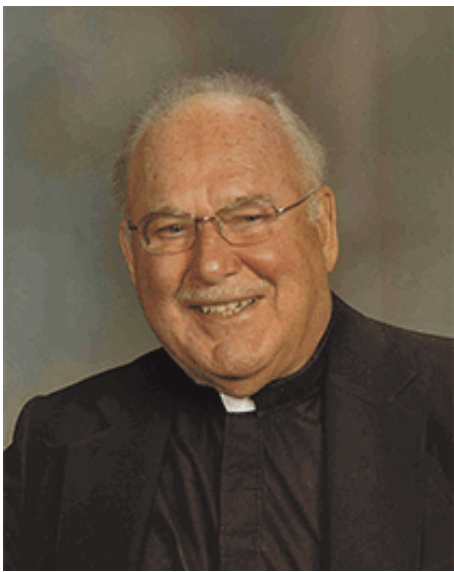
Imagine what the world would be like if the Christ child was not born! There would be no Christmas carols, no gift giving, no Christmas trees, no Good Cheer, no happy times and no celebrations. This is a horrible thought. The stores would go out of business. No Santa Claus. It is unthinkable to spend December 25 without the Nativity scene. No Ho, Ho, Ho!

But, wait a minute. There is a Christmas. Yea! There is a Christ Child. Jesus brought all these celebrations into the world just by His birth. "O Silent Night, O Holy Night." "Santa Claus is coming to town." There are lights and bells and happy times. People expressing their love for one another and exchanging gifts. These are all familiar symbols of the love Jesus has for us. They

should also be expressions of Christ's love that we share with people of God near and far.

Yet, even though Christmas means celebrating the birth of Christ, there is also a certain craziness swishing through the world. Wars, starvation, greed, the poor, the sick. People shooting people. How can this be? We don't really know. Through his birth, Christ brought peace, love and joy. Many millions of people live good, holy lives. Yet there is still a disconnect between the message Jesus brought us and the world condition. During this Christmas season, we hope and pray that the love Jesus has for us will spread and fill the hearts of all people. Yes, then we can really say, "Thank God for Christmas!"

**On a personal note.* Thanks to all of you who prayed for me and sent get-well messages during my recent hip surgery



recovery. May God bless you for your prayers and kindnesses on my behalf.

May God bless you and protect you and your families with good health and love in the New Year!

Unselfish...

Jim Jones
Membership Committee Member
CC Life Member Emeritus and
Past Grand President

Think of what it means to be unselfish. It means to think of yourself less.

Now you may ask; what does this have to do with membership? It has everything to do with membership, especially membership in our organization.

When we ask people to join our organization we are asking them to be unselfish with their personal time, talent and treasure to help make our world a better place.

Not only our charities, church, pastor, seminarians, members and family benefit when you are unselfish, but you also reap the benefits.

I believe the following quotes from Jim Rohn explain why it is important share, and give of yourself unselfishly.

"Sharing makes you bigger than you are. The more you pour out, the more life will

High Five!
Top five districts and areas
with increased membership:
(excluding deceased members)

Contra Costa	+118
Santa Rosa	+36
Santa Clara Valley	+23
Marin	+6
Tucson	+9

**Membership Stats as of
Nov. 30, 2013:**
10,936
Members as of September 30, 2013:
10,935 - 1 total quarterly gain

New:	358
Reinstated:	4
Transfer in/out:	6
Deceased:	70
Cancelled:	233

be able to pour in."
"Somebody says, "Well, I can't be concerned about other people. About the best I can do is to take care of myself." Well, then you will always be poor."

"When somebody shares, everybody wins."
Share the value of this organization with others. By asking a friend to join the

Italian Catholic Federation, you become the unselfish one.

If you have any topics you would like the Membership Committee to cover in its column please email the Editor and let her know at icfeditor@gmail.com

Please Help Victims of Typhoon Haiyan and Midwest Tornadoes

Robert Basuino
Grand President

Dear Branch/District Presidents and District Deputies:

On November 7, 2013 Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines and on November 17, 2013 tornadoes hit the Midwest of the United States causing deaths, injuries and massive destruction. In the Philippines, more than 4,000 people have died and the survivors are desperate for food, clean water, shelter and medicine. The tornadoes in the Midwest cut across several states and destroyed or damaged thousands of homes as well as the states' infrastructure.

The Federation has decided to start relief funds for the people who were devastated by these two recent events. \$1,000 to go towards each disaster has already been donated from the Central Council funds.

We encourage all Branches and Districts to donate to these relief funds to help the people who were affected. Private Donations are also welcomed.

Please send your donations to the I.C.F. Office - 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621. Please make all checks payable to the Italian Catholic Federation and write Philippines Typhoon or Midwest Tornadoes on the memo line. If you decide to donate towards both and make one check, please be sure to notate how much you are donating for each disaster. We will in turn gather all donations and send one check to Catholic Relief Services for the Typhoon in the Philippines and one check to Catholic Charities U.S.A. for the Midwest Tornadoes. The deadline for donations is January 31, 2014, so we can forward the money on to help in the continuing efforts to aid the victims and their families.

Catholic Relief Services is the relief and development arm of the Catholic Church in the United States to help with overseas disasters and Catholic Charities U.S.A. helps with disasters that occur in the United States. Both agencies are coordinating the relief efforts for food and other aid items, counseling and help in getting back to work.

Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to pray for those who were impacted by these terrible disasters.

If you have any question or comments, please contact the I.C.F. office at 1-888-423-1924.

Save The Dates!

The year 2014 will be a year of celebration for the Italian Catholic Federation as it celebrates its 90th Anniversary! There will be celebrations at three different locations:

**San Francisco -- Where it all began
Sunday, June 22, 2014**

**Los Angeles
Sunday, June 29, 2014**

**Chicago
June 8, 2014**

More details will be brought to you as they are available. For now, put the dates on your calendar and get ready to celebrate with your ICF family!

DECEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
12/1	Johanna Ochinerio	14	Crockett, CA	\$30
12/2	Irene Steele		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
12/3	Mst Rev. Jaime Soto		Sacramento, CA	\$30
12/4	Ayden Joseph Dupuis		Bend, OR	\$30
12/5	Ed Thiner		Merced, CA	\$30
12/6	Jerry Tassan		Burlingame, CA	\$30
12/7	Marsha Molinaro	14	Fairfield, CA	\$40
12/8	Lorraine Foster	390	Tracy, CA	\$50
12/9	Al Proietti	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
12/10	Deborah Rodondi	19	SSFrancisco, CA	\$30
12/11	Ottavio Luchini	45	Sacramento, CA	\$30
12/12	Tony Leone	441	Des Plaines, IL	\$30
12/13	Marisa Rocciola	161	Corte Madera, CA	\$30
12/14	Kate Shimshock	408	San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/15	Zosima Aquino	118	Montebello, CA	\$30
12/16	Tony Leone	441	Des Plaines, IL	\$30
12/17	Maria Gloria	38	San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/18	Anita Gatti	352	Danville, CA	\$30
12/19	Carol Silva	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
12/20	Diana Bacigalupi	50	San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/21	Mst. Rev. Robert F. Vasa		Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
12/22	Rose Frankina	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/23	Judy Longawa	195	Calumet City, IL	\$30
12/24	Kathy Neuburger		Roseville, CA	\$50
12/25	Tiffani Souza		Modesto, CA	\$100
12/26	Fr. Vu		Gilroy, CA	\$30
12/27	Gerry Meacham	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
12/28	Ernest & Norma Anderson	108	Pasadena, CA	\$30
12/29	Anna Friebe	435	Morgan Hill, CA	\$30
12/30	Deanna Carone	14	Rodeo, CA	\$40
12/31	Anthony F. Miranda		Modesto, CA	\$50

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEBSITE: ICF.ORG



Save these important dates:

June 8, 2014 - Chicago

Afternoon Mass at St Francis Borgia, Chicago

Gala Anniversary Celebration to follow at Al Pescatore Hall

June 22, 2014 - San Francisco

Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, San Francisco

Gala Anniversary Celebration to follow at the
Basque Cultural Center

June 29, 2014 - Los Angeles

11 A.M. Mass at St. Peter's Italian Catholic Church in
Los Angeles

Gala Anniversary Celebration to follow at Casa Italiano

Watch for more details and information
in future Bollettinos.

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

As you are aware, the IRS and Franchise Tax Board for the State of California require annual tax returns to be filed by our Districts and Branches.

It is important to remember that all Districts and Branches now have two numbers - a Federal Tax ID Number for any forms filed with the IRS and a State Tax ID Number for any forms filed with the State

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2013 is the following:

Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file IRS Form 990 EZ or 990.

Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or less will be required to electronically file IRS Form 990-N which is an e-Postcard.

The State limit for the tax year ending 2013 is the following:

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or more will be required to file State Form 199.

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts less than \$50,000.00 will be required to electronically file State Form 199-N which is an e-Postcard.

THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2014. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this

date, so please take this process seriously.

Any District or Branch who does not file for 3 consecutive years will lose its tax exempt status with the IRS and the State. If you lose your tax exempt status you will have to file paperwork and pay a fine in order to regain your tax exempt status.

Included in the Financial Secretaries' packet are materials that the District and Branch Financial Secretaries will need to help them with this process. District and Branch Presidents - please work with your Financial Secretary to go over the information when it is received and see that the appropriate forms are filed by the due date.

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2013. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

If you have any questions, or need help filing, please call the I.C.F. Office at 1-888-423-1924.

Thank You,

Roselynn Jarrett, Grand Treasurer

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza
Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
Marilyn Garcia	Jeanette Acosta
Cookie Rossi	Mrs. Anita Gatti and Family
Donald Waldron	Officers/Members of Br. 45
Rose Cazares	Officers/Members of Br. 45
James (Jim) Moore	Leroy and Stella Taddei
Cookie Rossi	Vera Brown
Stella C. (Bruno) Canepa	Al and Deanna De Nurra

GET WELL WISHES:	
Gloria Ghirarduzzi	Officers/Members of Br. 161
Frank Gasparro	Officers/Members of Br. 367
Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli	Deborah Rodondi
Myrna Rizza	Nina Malone
Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli	Nina Malone
Albert Oneto	Officers/Members of Br. 290

THANK YOU FOR BISHOP’S DAY:	
Bob Basuino	Officers/Members of Los Angeles District

THANK YOU:	
Jane Dianda	Bob and Elaine Osorio

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANK YOU:	
Louis and Pat Cordich	Trevis and Diana Berry
Gennaro Filice	Trevis and Diana Berry
John Filice	Trevis and Diana Berry
Angelo Benassi	Trevis and Diana Berry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:	
Mrs. Alma Bonino	Joe Bonino

*Named after the co-founder of the I.C.F., the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides I.C.F. members a lasting way to memorialize and/or extend greetings to friends, relatives, and loved ones. Members’ donations provide scholarships to seminarians studying for the priesthood in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.

In Loving Memory

Report Date: 12/12/2013		ANGELA AUTERI	Branch 392
MARILYN A GARCIA	Branch 007	CLOTILDE COZZONE	Branch 392
MARY BETTINI	Branch 027	ANGELO DE BARTOLO	Branch 392
JOSIE LARI	Branch 027	FILIPPO DOLCIMASCOLO	Branch 392
ELLEN SHEA	Branch 027	REV STEVEN E FOPPIANO	Branch 438
GERALD LOPOPOLO	Branch 185		
MARGARET VINCI	Branch 380		
GORDON ABBOTT	Branch 391		

Gifts of Love Donations

Donations received by Dec. 10, 2013.	
Branch 4	Trevis and Diana Berry
Branch 391	Merry Christmas wishes and thank you
Branch 423	to Christina Andrade
Pat and Lou Mages	Trevis and Diana Berry
In memory of Cookie Rossi	Merry Christmas wishes and thank you
Rose M. Stack	to Theresa Borge
In memory of Dorothy (Cookie) Rossi	Trevis and Diana Berry
Officers/Members of Br. 417	Merry Christmas wishes and thank you
In memory of Ann Sarkisian	to Frank Angelino
Bev Maloney	Trevis and Diana Berry
In memory of Auntie Rose	Merry Christmas wishes and thank you
Trevis and Diana Berry	to Joe Fortino
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you	Aldine Grisenti
to Andy Pappani	Get well wishes for Joe Teresi
Trevis and Diana Berry	Nina Malone
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you	Get well wishes for Albert Teglia
to Bill Greco	Nina Malone
	Get well wishes for William (Bill) Keller

A New Year’s Resolution

Jim Acitelli
Apostolate Chairman

As we begin a New Year let us renew our commitment to the people we serve.

We are reminded by Pope Francis to work for the poor and marginalized in our society. When Pope Francis released his Apostolic Exhortation entitled The Gospel of Joy (Evangelii Gaudium) One reporter wrote” It will take your breath away in its evangelical fervor, spiritual insight, beauty, profound theology and depth of insight” and “it will send shockwaves of the Holy Spirit when its impact is fully experienced.”

The early shockwaves focused on the few parts of this exhortation which indirectly mention economic matters. They captured the news headlines and became fodder for the political pundits, left and right. Pope Francis still seems to intrigue the media with his every word and act

We should not be surprised. Media coverage of our Pope has been mixed from the beginning. The only positive thing that can be said is that it has drawn attention to the Catholic Church and the message of the Gospel, presenting an opportunity for evangelization.

The pope insisted that the Church must

reform itself and pay more attention to the poor. “Today we are living in an unjust international system in which ‘King Money’ is at the center,” he said in the interview. “It’s a throwaway culture that discards young people as well as its older people. In some European countries, without mentioning names, there is youth unemployment of 40 percent and higher,” he said. “A whole generation of young people does not have the dignity that is brought by work.”

“A people that cares neither for its youth nor for its older people has no future,” the Pope said. “Young people take society into the future, while the older generation gives society its memory, its wisdom.”

Pope Francis has called for a more austere church that sides with the poor.

As an apostolic and charitable organization we do wonderful things! We should be proud of our many programs that do exactly what being a Catholic is all about. Let us continue to help those less fortunate than ourselves and renew our commitment to each other and our world.

May God continue to bless the ICF.

Respectfully submitted,
Apostolate and Charity Committee: Jim Acitelli, Chairman, Lisa Crudo, Michael Cannady and Vincent Piccola

Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

Report Date: 12/12/2013		ALICE CANJA	Branch 072
MARCIE A MAFFEI	Branch 007	ANDREA CANJA	Branch 072
SCOTT M FLEMING	Branch 027	REV FRANCISCO SANDOVAL	
EDDIE SUAREZ	Branch 027		Branch 111
LUPE VALDOVINOS	Branch 027	LILLIAN M WARD	Branch 127
JENNIFER M VALOROSI	Branch 027	CHRISTY FILICE	Branch 184
MARCIA I VALOROSI	Branch 027	BEN ANTONIOLLI	Branch 327
JUDITH M BOZZO	Branch 028	GIORGIO BARBIERI	Branch 332
SALVATORE J BOZZO	Branch 028	JANET BARBIERI	Branch 332
MARSHALL EVANS	Branch 028	EDMUNDO RAMOS	Branch 332
ROSEMARIE EVANS	Branch 028	ANTHONY CLANCY	Branch 368
MARY BETH NAGAREDA	Branch 028	CONNIE CLANCY	Branch 368
DANTE CAVALLO	Branch 052	DARYL T HITT	Branch 380
SARA CAVALLO	Branch 052	JAMIE C HITT	Branch 380
SUSIE CAVALLO	Branch 052	NATALIA J HITT	Branch 380
MICHAEL J FILICE	Branch 052	GARY G HAKEY	Branch 425
VALERIE GOODWIN	Branch 052	LINDA L HAKEY	Branch 425
DOMINIC LICKEY	Branch 052	JENNIFER LOVATO	Branch 425
ISABEL LICKEY	Branch 052	JOSEPH LOVATO	Branch 425
JOSEPH LICKEY	Branch 052	LINDA PASLEY	Branch 438
MIKAELA LICKEY	Branch 052	ANDREA LOTITO	Branch 440
RENEE LICKEY	Branch 052	MICHAEL LOTITO	Branch 440
CRAIG SWANTON	Branch 052	CHRISTIAN MIRAGLIA	Branch 440
JOAN TOSETTI	Branch 052	ANGELA QUAGLIA	Branch 440
PAUL TOSETTI	Branch 052	JOSEPHINE M GIFFORD	Branch 442
ADDISON CANJA	Branch 072	WILLIAM F SAVIGNANO	Branch 442

Scholarship Donations

Donations received by Nov. 10, 2013.	
Scholarship Donations - 1st Year	Deborah Rodondi
Deborah Rodondi	In memory of Cookie Rossi
Get well wishes for Tom Pollicita	Trevis and Diana Berry
Deborah Rodondi	Merry Christmas wishes and thank you
Get well wishes for Al Teglia	to Anna Barberi
Deborah Rodondi	Trevis and Diana Berry
Get well wishes for Julia Padreddii	Merry Christmas wishes and thank you
	to Marianne Peoples

Call the office to find out how to advertise in
the Bollettino!



Cooley's Corner



Is your New Year's Resolution to learn more about the ICF's National Charity, Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)?

If your Branch would like members of the Cooley's Anemia Team at Children's Hospital Oakland to come and speak at one of your meetings or special functions, please contact:

Laurice Levine,
Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator
(510) 428-3885 x 5427 or
email: LLevine@mail.cho.org

Cooley's Anemia Donations

Donations received by Dec. 10, 2013.
Branch 4
Branch 423
Mr. Charles P. Gullo, Jr.
In memory of Sam Garofolo
Officers/Members of Br. 417
In memory of Mary Gilbert
Officers/Members of Br. 6
In honor of Deacon Tom Boyle,

Chaplain of Br. 6
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Roger and Kathy Santos
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Frank and Louise Segreto
Officers/Members of Br. 354
In memory of Norma Breton

Grand President

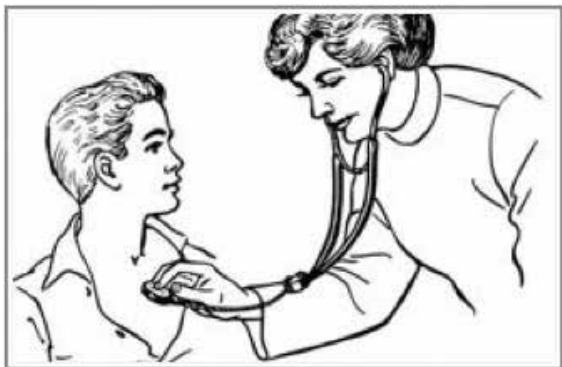
continued from page 1

Buon Anno a tutti !!!!

Bob Basuino
Grand President

the littlest of things. May the New Year bring all of you, your families and loved ones good health, prosperity and much happiness.

Consider Joining the
ICF Hospital Plan
\$25 / Year
provides benefits for
hospitalization and surgeries
Must be under 65 years old to enroll



(in-patient and out-patient)
Contact the ICF Office for more details.
1-888-ICF-1924

Live to Give

How to Coordinate a Successful Blood Drive

Laurice Levine,
Committee Member
Senior Thalassemia Outreach
Coordinator,
Children's Hospital Oakland

Blood drive coordinators play a vital role in collecting lifesaving blood for patients. Without people to plan blood drives, blood banks would not have as many opportunities to collect blood from donors.

Planning a blood drive is fun and easy—however, like planning any event, it takes time. Fortunately, a blood bank representative will help you every step of the way.

The following are helpful tips on planning your blood drive:

1. Find a location. A church hall is ideal. If you do not have access to a big building, you can coordinate with a store, a business, or any location to have a blood mobile come instead.
 2. Find out the what blood bank serves your area. For example, the American Red Cross and Blood Centers of the Pacific serve the East Bay.
 3. Set a date (three to six months ahead of time), and contact your local blood bank.
 4. Set a goal. Your blood bank representative will help you decide how many units of blood you want to collect at your blood drive. Remember, you will need to schedule an additional number of donor appointments to assure that you reach your collection goal.
 5. Plan a theme for your blood drive -- a luau, Mardi Gras, Viva Italian, rock and roll—let your creativity flow!
 6. Give away free items. It is always nice to thank your blood donors with little gifts that you buy or get donated. The blood bank often also has giveaways to contribute. Setting up a raffle is also a fun way to add spice to your blood drive. Some ideas for giveaways:
 - Gift cards—you can get small denominations from Starbuck's, Jamba Juice or a local ice cream store. A little goes a long way!
 - Candy and treats.
 - Pens.
 - Items with the ICF logo or the logo for the thalassemia program at Children's Hospital Oakland.
 - Canvas bags—a great prize item, and all your other giveaways can go inside.
- Ideas for raffle prizes are as follows:
- Gift cards to movies (Regal, AMC); clothing stores (GAP, Old Navy, Macy's); retail/food (Target, Safeway, restaurants).
 - Themed gift baskets are wonderful for this—for example, a spa kit; a snack basket; or an Italian-themed food basket.
7. Promote the event. About six weeks prior to the blood drive, start promoting the event. Your blood bank will provide flyers—you can hang them at the location of your event and in surrounding areas/

stores, etc. Plan to distribute (in person or via postal mail) smaller flyers to friends, family, and your community. Promote your blood drive through e-mail and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Plan to send weekly reminders starting four weeks prior to your blood drive.

8. Recruit volunteers. The blood bank phlebotomists and nurses will be responsible for collections, registration, intake, and the canteen (snack stand). You will need to recruit volunteers to greet people, run your raffle, and distribute prizes.

9. Gather literature to give away the day of the drive.

- Give out literature on your organization (ICF brochures).
- If you are doing a blood drive in honor of a specific disease such as Cooley's anemia (thalassemia), make sure that you get literature about the disease.
- Give out ICF blood donation postcards so that people can donate in honor of someone or as a gift.

10. Schedule appointments. While publicity is important, there is nothing like a personal touch—contact friends, family members, and fellow churchgoers and educate them on the importance of donating blood. The blood bank will also send e-mails to prior donors in their database. Appointments can be scheduled online.

11. Inform yourself. Learn about donor eligibility guidelines; information on the blood bank website; and the sign-up process. It is vital to be informed so that you can answer questions and/or direct people regarding where to find the information they need.

12. Communicate with your blood bank representative. Communicate regarding donor appointment sign-ups; the day's schedule; room setup, etc.

13. Reconfirm appointments about one week prior to your blood drive. This can be accomplished via a postcard, e-mail, or phone call. Also remind donors to drink plenty of water and eat a good meal prior to donating.

14. Be ready for the day of the blood drive. Arrive when the blood bank staff arrives to greet them and help set up; assure that the room temperature is adequate; orient your volunteers; and organize your welcome and prize tables. Depending on the number of appointments and the population that is donating, you may get walk-in donors—make sure the lines of communication between you and your blood bank staff stay open to assure that the maximum number of units are collected.

15. HAVE FUN! Show the donors your full appreciation, and enjoy the blood drive. At the end of the day, give yourself a pat on the back—your hard work, time, and creativity were instrumental in collecting blood donations and saving lives.

For more information or for assistance planning a blood drive, please contact:

Branch or District President for a list of blood banks in your area and/or

Laurice Levine -- LLevine@mail.cho.org

Los Angeles Archdiocese District Honors St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Carmello Sabatella
LA District President

Members of the Italian Catholic Federation branches, from all over the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, gathered together Sunday, December 1, at St. Frances Xavier Church in Burbank to celebrate the life of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, the first American citizen to be canonized by the Catholic Church. The celebration included a Mass and prayers at her Shrine led by Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuoti, Archdiocesan Director of ICF and pastor of St. Bede the Venerable Roman Catholic Church in La Cañada Flintridge, California. The celebration was followed by a luncheon attended by over 150 members of the Catholic organization.

Mother Cabrini was born on July 15, 1860 in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, in the Lombard Province of Lodi, in Italy. She took religious vows in 1877 and added Xavier to her name to honor the Jesuit saint. She became the Superior of the House of Providence orphanage in Codogno, where she taught. She later formed the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (M.S.C.) She later went on to seek approval of the Pope to establish missions in China, but the Pope suggested that she go to the United States to help Italian immigrants who were then flooding to the USA, mostly in great poverty. She founded 67 institutions in New York, Chicago, Des Plaines, Seattle, New Orleans, Denver, Golden, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia and in countries throughout South America and Europe. She became a United States citizen in 1909 and died from complications from dysentery at age 67 while preparing Christmas candy for local children. She continued as Superior General of the missionary sisters until her death. Her body was exhumed in 1931 and found to be partially incorrupt. It now lies on display at the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine at Mother Cabrini High School in Manhattan in New York City. A Shrine



Offering and leading prayers at the Shrine is Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuoti. ICF Members processing to the Chapel and celebrating Benediction with Monsignor Cacciapuoti followed by a Luncheon honoring Mother Cabrini in the Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church Parish Hall. Photos courtesy of Al Restivo, William Mussatto, Jeff Smith, Neal Di Leva and Carmelo Sabatella.

and Library in her honor is at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank and is open to the public.

For more information go to www.icf.org.
Mother Cabrini Shrine.



La Celebrazione di Gioventu -- The Celebration of Youth

La Befana

La Befana is a nice old woman who flies on her broom stick every year on the night between the 5th and 6th of January, which is the Epiphany day, to bring presents to children. That is why she carries a big bag on her back full of sweets, which La Befana will use to fill the stockings kids have left by their chimney. The kids who have behaved in the past year, will find sweets and chocolates in their stocking on the day of the Epiphany. Those who didn't behave will also get a few lumps of coal.

COLOR THE PICTURES OF LA BEFANA



BOOK REVIEW Robert Pachinger Branch 413

Four Witnesses: The Early Church In Her Own Words

By

Rod Bennett

Ignatius Press, 341 pages

Readers of this column have probably noticed that my reviews are centered around an aspect of our Catholic heritage and not solely on our Italian Heritage. This next book is a continuing exploration of what is meant by the "C" in ICF.

Four Witnesses: The Early Church in Her Own Words is a presentation of the lives and writings of Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus of Lyons. All of these men were willing to die for their faith. Not only were they being persecuted by the Romans, they were also struggling to maintain and preserve the identity of Christianity from among the many groups who claimed to follow Christ without following the truth. We know these men by the written words that they left behind and by early church histories. At the time that these men lived, there was no written version of the New Testament. How were the teachings of Jesus to be preserved and bequeathed to future generations?

Clement of Rome was baptized by Saint Peter and eventually became pope himself. As such, the people who were actually with Jesus taught him. This was the foundation of the authority of all those in the church who came after the apostles. It was being passed on directly by the

followers of Jesus who were present with Him during His lifetime. Nevertheless, people within the established churches were tempted to turn away from this authority once the apostles had died. When Clement was pope, the Church at Corinth started to break away and question this authority. Clement's Epistle to the Corinthians written circa A.D. 96 still is valid today. Clement clearly establishes the fact that this Church was meant to be one, single, united church. He also establishes the authority passed on from the Apostles to those that they appointed as bishops, and so on. What is described in Clement's Epistle is what we have today in the Roman Catholic Church. We can trace the succession directly back to Peter and Jesus.

Ignatius of Antioch died a martyr in the Roman Coliseum in A.D. 107. He looked forward to his martyrdom because he saw in it the fulfillment of his love for Jesus. Ignatius was a follower of John. He became Bishop of Antioch after Saint Peter left to Rome. Note that Saint Peter established the church at Antioch. When Ignatius was Bishop of Antioch, he had to face a group known as Docetists. These people believed in almost everything that we understand in Christianity except believing in the fact that the Son of God became human. Therefore, these people did not view the crucifixion and resurrection as we do. Jesus was simply an angelic messenger (similar to beliefs of Jehovah's witnesses). Moreover, these heresies allowed practitioners to reconcile with pagan practices of the Roman world and to avoid the moral accountability that is demanded by Christianity. As Ignatius was being led to Rome from Antioch, he had the opportunity to write. His writings reflect the establishment of the hierarchy that is familiar to us in the Church. He wrote of bishops, presbyters, and deacons. He also warned of heresies. Ignatius' letters contain the first written instance of the term "Catholic Church."

Justin Martyr was a philosopher who converted to Christianity around A.D. 130. His writings are

considered the first in what we call apologetics. In his writings, you will find the sacraments described. You will also find the concept of transubstantiation clearly established. These writings show us that the early church had a clear and complete understanding of the meaning of the Eucharist as passed on by the Apostles. Ultimately, Justin was decapitated after he refused to worship the Roman gods.

Irenaeus of Lyons was ordained a bishop around A.D. 177. His writing is known today by the title "Against Heresies." Among the many arguments against the Church that Irenaeus fought, he had to deal with claims that the Church was not necessary and that a man only needs the Holy Spirit to guide him through Scriptures. Does this sound familiar? Again the authority of the succession from the Apostles is emphasized. How he lived his last years is lost to history.

Rod Bennett, the author, portrays his subjects in a very dramatic way. They lived 2,000 years ago. Yet, he has found a way to portray their struggles as if they were writing today. If any of these men were alive today, they would recognize the struggles in Christianity. Mr. Bennett felt compelled to write this book because he wanted to know what early Christianity was like. He was not a Catholic and was taught that our Catholic beliefs were some medieval creation. He thought that his way of practicing Christianity was the true way as practiced by the first generation of Christians. After his studies, he converted to Catholicism. I encourage you to read his book. You will more fully understand the foundation of our Catholic beliefs.



Spaghetti For Chef Bruno Serato

Thank You to all of the ICF branches, staff and members who donated pasta for Chef Bruno.

Thanks to the ICF, friends, and family I was able to collect 239 pounds (which was 204 bags/boxes) of pasta. The plan was to carry it down when I head to Disneyland, but it's a bit much to carry on a plane. Therefore, I mailed 4 boxes to Chef Bruno on Dec. 13, 2013 - a lucky day in deed. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting this worthy cause.

Sincerely,
Laurice Levine

Chicago
Franklin Park
St. Gertrude, Br. 181

Happy New Year to all our I.C.F members and their families. May you have a healthy and prosperous year.

A big thank you to Chris and Gene Malone who hosted our Christmas Party at Gianni’s restaurant. Everyone received a gift. We also enjoyed singing Christmas Carols led by our priest, Father Al Corbo.

Important dates:

February--installation of officers.

Welcome back to Barbara and Joe Miller who visited their daughter, Debbie, over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Members, please continue to pray for all the sick and pay them a visit or call,

Pray for world peace,

Barbara Miller

Calumet City
St. Victor, Br. 195

Branch 195 held our Advent/Christmas celebration Sunday, December 1, at Carlo Lorenzetti’s restaurant in Chicago Heights. This event is free to 195 members in good standing to say thank you for their work. Our Chaplain,Pastor Rev. Dave Pavlik and our Associate Rev. Bob Sprott joined us making this a truly special event. After the sumptuous buffet prepared by Lorenzetti’s, Christmas gifts were drawn for lucky winners.

This a busy time of year at St. Victor. New tile flooring was installed in the church hall; African Nigerian Thanksgiving celebration held December 1; beginning of the Church’s Advent Season in preparation of the birth of Christ; Feast of the Immaculate Conception; Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration in December; all of which point to the multi-cultural spiritual base of our Church. God’s plan in action!

The results of our 2014 election announced - all officers same as 2013.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas along with a happy, healthy 2014, and prayers for peace throughout the world!

God Bless!

Jo Merlo

River Forest,
St. Vincent Ferrer, Br. 358

Happy New Year!

It seems like we were just preparing for the holidays and now they are over for 2013. Hopefully, the spirit of the past season will hang on.

Mother nature threw us a curve ball on Nov. 17 by pounding us with severe rain, hail & wind as we were preparing to attend our Mother Cabrini Mass at Casa Italia, celebrated by our spiritual director, Father Fanelli. About 55 of us had the faith to see it thru as the rain stopped and the sun came out.

Due to the Chicago cold winters, we do not have meetings in Dec. and Jan. However, we will be busy coming up with ideas for 2014 and planning to attend the Chicago District Installation of all officers on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, beginning with Mass at 6:30pm at St. Bernadine Church in Forest Park.

The following members are celebrating birthdays in January - Elaine Dato and Eugene Gillette, while Pauline and George Nicoletti will be celebrating an anniversary. Best wishes to all of them.

The gift of love, the gift of peace and gift of

joy, may these be yours all through the New Year.

Leonora

Fresno
Bakersfield
San Luigi, Br. 33

Happy “2014” to all! I hope that you all enjoyed your holidays.

Our branch is ready to start off the year under the leadership of our new President Charles Linnenbrink.

You can all help make this a successful year by attending our meetings and being an active member.

Your dues are now due. Please send them to Barbara Crear. Good Luck to all those who purchased a calendar. If you haven’t purchased one, check with Joan Garibaldi.

Lucky Turkey Bingo winners from our November meeting were: Karen Cerri, Mary Pedeflous, Nancy Romanini, Barbara Crear and Joan Garibaldi.

Winner of our November Drawing was Leonard Zasoski \$60 and Member Drawing Paul Steele who was absent.

After three years of doing the Bollettino articles I am passing the job on to Sarah Marchetti. Thank you Sarah for volunteering. You can help to make her job easier by coming to the meetings and giving her some news of interest.

Wishing everyone a beautiful “2014”.

Merced
St. Cecelia, Br. 39

Time to start a new year. Our Christmas party was very nice. Lots of goodies, Santa Claus, gifts, bingo and joyful singing. Thanks to our chairlady, Lori Sutton. We had our biscotti/ bake sale and we were sold out

after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Thanks to those who donated money or baked. Nettie, Janet and Lori baked

250 dozen biscotti. We netted \$1,850.00. Baking other cookies were Gemma Minetti, Rosemary Rainoldi, Gina Pugliese. Cash donors were Anna Fisher, Audrey and Roland Noya, Kathleen Stefani, Maryellen and David Mazzei, and Josephine and Dario Giampaoli. Almonds were donated by Ezio and Ellie Sansoni and Edna and Bill Clendenin.

Our menu for our January meeting is Chicken Fettuccini, veggies, salad, bread and for dessert we will have Spumoni ice cream with biscotti. We will be discussing our budget for 2014. Our 50/50 raffle is still on going. Could be over \$200.00. We delivered Christmas gifts to our members that are in rest homes. Happy New Year to all.

Sanger
Sant’ Antonio, Br. 70

Greetings from Branch 70. Our last meeting was Nov 12, 2013. President Kay Lopez introduced Andrew Pappani as our guest of honor for the evening and his lovely wife Sid. Father John Bruno blessed the table asnd we all enjoyed a nice early Thanksgiving dinner.

President Kay announced we are having a Christmas party, I am sure it will be a fun time.

I introduced our newest member Silvana Campagna. She was welcomed by everyone. We send our sympathy to our financial secretary, Enos Giovacchini and family for the loss of her daughter Donna Tacchino. We are very sorry for their loss.

We all hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God Bless

Orsolina Casella

Clovis
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Our Branch 250 celebrated the Epiphany on January 6. Hors d’oeuvres were served and members enjoyed an exchange of white elephant gifts.

Jeanette Shriver is stepping aside after 10 years of leadership as president with a smile, enthusiasm and vision. The Branch thanks Jeanette for those years of guidance and service. We will all be supporting our new president, Jessie Budd, as we all look forward to a promising new year.

Mary Zanarini traveled to Salt Lake City for a visit with their daughter and her family.

Mary Semas Christmas promises to be exciting with two great grandchildren and two new great grandsons born last January who will be celebrating their first Christmas this year.

We will be glad to have Mary Beth Mueller back after several weeks of illness.

We keep praying for Bill Conatser who had a set-back and was in the hospital for a short stay. He is home now and doing somewhat better.

Tony Rainaldi continues to improve after heart surgery. We thank God for His many blessings.

Happy Birthday to January celebrants Bill Conatser, Verona DeLuca, Tony Rainaldi, Pete Huerta and Ron Travis.

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.” (Edith Sitwell)

Wishing everyone good health and many blessings in the New Year!

Ciao!

LeAnne Lavagnino

Bakersfield
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281

The holidays have come and gone but the hope of Christ’s birth and the love he shares goes with us into the New Year. Our family Christmas Party was a fun event for children and adults alike. Santa came to visit, singing was lusty and loud and the food delicious. Thanks to Kristen Watts and Joseph Zasoski for chairing the event. Also thanks to Allen Watts for preparing the dinner.

Donuts and coffee for Christmas was made festive by Gary Moles and George Carson with candy canes, Christmas music and fresh fruit. Great job guys. Stop by the first Sunday of the month and lend a hand. Talk to people and maybe get a new member to join.

Money for various charities were allocated at the Christmas Party. Thank-you to all members who worked hard at all events to make this possible.

Our new board of officers will start the year off planning various events for the year. Come to the January meeting and see how you can help.

Felice anno Nuovo!

Mindy White

Fresno
St. Anthony de Padua, Br. 308

Happy New Year Everyone!!!

Our wonderful Christmas Dinner party

was held at Pardini’s Banquet Room on Wednesday, December 11. The festivities started at 6:00pm and all 78 guests were seated at beautifully decorated tables of 10. These were arranged just so that everyone could see the lighted Christmas trees and the tables with the unwrapped Christmas gifts. Each member brought an unwrapped gift for patients at Children’s Hospital. A big THANK-YOU to all of you. Among our invited guests were Monsignor Rob Wenzinger and Father Bert Mello, (Father Loren Blessing is still traveling after his retirement). Members enjoyed a delicious five course meal served by great waiters. Fellowship and good cheer were had by all.

Our calendar of events for the beginning of 2014 is as follows:

Monday, January 6 - Board Meeting at 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 8-Dinner Meeting at 6:00pm

Mon., Jan. 18 - Fresno District Meeting at Our Lady of Victory

Continual prayers for all our members and friends that are ill and for those who care for them.

Birthday wishes go out to Ann Scaroni (Dec. 8), Sister Flor Azevedo (Dec. 9), Pasquale Giacobbe (Dec. 16), Louis Grieco (Dec. 18), Kathy

Gambero (Dec. 22), Tom Ryno (Dec. 24), Dolores Leon (Dec. 30), and Deanna Hannart (Dec. 31).

May your New Year be filled with with joy, special moments, and many, many blessings in the year 2014.

Wishing Everyone the best for the New Year!

Maria E. Juarez~Garcia

Los Angeles
Los Angeles
District Council

A ICF historic milestone has been reached in Los Angeles. On November 13, LA District Council President Carmelo Sabatella Chaired the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Consolidation Committee that brought the four Districts in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles into one again after a 38 year separation. Five months and seven meetings later, Presidents William Mussatto of the San Gabriel District and Patricia Mages of the Ventura/Santa Barbara District joined President Carmelo Sabatella and Secretary Theresa Shaw of the Los Angeles District in signing a joint letter requesting the ICF Central Council approve the combining of the four Districts with a total of 18 Branches into one unified Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council. Signing this document on November 13 was bittersweet as this was the Feast Day of the ICF Patroness Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini who’s credo is “I





LA District Committee Meeting at Gales Italian Restaurant.

can do all things in Him who strengthens me.”
On December 19 members celebrated Christmas at Branch 108 in South Pasadena. Thank you members for making this a fun filled event. Even Santa stopped by to wish all a Merry Christmas.

The District Board encourages all Branches to support each others events wherever and whenever possible. Board members also wish to express how proud they are of all branches for their efforts in keeping the ideals and aims of the ICF alive.

Grazie to our members for your support of the ICF and its related events and your prayers for our sick and deceased members, friends and Parishioners who recently passed on to their eternal reward; they will be missed.

Please keep our troops in your prayers that they may be kept safe and from harm’s way.

Carmelo A. Sabatella, AIA, President
South Pasadena, CA 91030

South Pasadena Holy Family, Br. 108

On December 8, 2013 ICF Branch 108 held its annual Christmas Party in the Holy Family Church Parish Hall. Good music, food and great members made this a fun time for all. Thank you members and special guests Santa and Mrs. Claus for making this a very special event.

Save The Dates:

January 5, 2014 - ICF Br. 108 Continental Breakfast (6:30am to 12:30pm), Bocce (1:00pm to 2:30pm) followed by Lunch Social and General Meeting (3:00pm to 5:00pm). Mass will be at 5:30pm.

January 12, 2014 - Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House hosted by the Villa Cabrini Alumni Association. Come visit and learn about the Patroness of the Italian Catholic Federation and America’s first American Saint. Call [626 372-7812](tel:626-372-7812) for more information.

Save the Dates

January 12, 2014 - Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House from 9:00am to 1:00pm at 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA. Come visit the Chapel where our first American Saint prayed to Our Lady Help of Christians. Call [626 372-7812](tel:626-372-7812) for more information.

January 19, 2014 - ICF Officer Installation in Casa Italiana at Saint Peter’s Catholic Church in Los Angeles. Mass at 11:00 am followed by Installation and Luncheon beginning at 1:00pm in Casa Italiana.

Thank you Members, families and friends for your support of the ICF and its related events. Our prayers go out to those Members and parishioners who have gone to their eternal reward and to the sick members, family, friends and Parishioners for a speedy recovery.

May God bless and keep you healthy “per cento anni!”

Carmelo Sabatella, Past President - ICF Branch 108

Email: cas1810@aol.com

San Pedro

St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year 2014.

On November 23, 2013 Anna Di Leva Filomena Boccanfuso and myself attended the Ordination to the Diaconate of our “Adopt Seminarian” Christopher Felix. The celebration took place at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Encino, Ca. Four seminarians were ordained by Bishop Gerald Wilkerson.

On December 1, 2013 a bus with 30 members attended the Pilgrimage of Mother Cabrini in Burbank, Ca. The Mass, procession and the luncheon was well attended.

Our Christmas Party took place on December 7. A catered dinner free to members was served followed with the breaking of the piñata, games, raffle prizes and sing along led by our new member Mary Ann Canetti. What a wonderful voice.

Next meeting is January 16, 2014.



Filomena Boccanfuso, Branch 115 Pres. Neal Di Leva, Christopher Felix and 1st V.P. Anna Di L eva of Branch #115 pictured at the Ordination to the Diaconate of the branch “Adopted Seminarian” Christopher Felix on November 23 at the Our Lady of Grace Church in Encino, Ca.



Members of Branch 108 celebrating Christmas together.



Jan. 20-22, 2014-- Las Vegas Trip-2 days, 3 nights at the Harrah’s Hotel and Casino on the strip

Price \$140 per person, double occupancy, and \$185 for single. Call Pauline Iacono 310-832-0563.

March 1, 2014-- Crab Dinner-Dance. Price \$38 per person. Call Neal Di Leva 310-433-1044

Menu: antipasto, salad, linguine with clams, crab, shrimp, rolls, coffee and wine.

March 4- Mass at 8:00am in honor of St. John Joseph of the Cross.

March 11, 2014—Palm Springs Follies show with music, dancing and comedy Price \$90.00 per person. Trip includes a stop at the Spa Casino. Bus leaves at am. Reservations and payments by February 3, 2014. Call Pauline 310-832-0563.

Happy New Year to all of you and your families.

Neal Di Leva
President Br#115

Gardena

St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 237

Welcome to 2014 which promises wonderful adventures!

Cabrini Pilgrimage: December 1:

Many ICF Branches visited the Shrine of Mother Frances X. Cabrini at St. Francis Xavier Parish, in Burbank. Monsignor Antonio celebrated the Mass where his homily was truly inspiring, and he led us as we, pilgrims, processed from the church praying the rosary....up the hill for services at the shrine. Liturgical music during the Mass was awesome as provided by Cantor Robin Lee and pianist Vincent Morton...They also led the singing at the shrine.

A scrumptious luncheon was prepared by Chef Jacob. Many friendships were rekindled;



Branch 115 Christmas Party Dec. 7. Mary Ann Canetti led the singing.



raffles were fun. A special shout-out to Lillian & Anthony (Branch 108); Angelina & Tony (Branch 218), and Neal, Anna, Carmela, Anita, Libby, and Rosaria (Branch 115)!

Branch 237's December 15 Christmas Party was filled with camaraderie, fun & games, and the smiles of happy children! Delicious food and a "Happy Birthday" cake created by Orator Gloria Castaneda! Santa (Don Bohannon) was in excellent form; the traditional piñata was a challenge. Members/invited guests had a wonderful time.

Gennifer Bohannon and Angela Marino had great December B-days.

Happy January Birthday wishes to: Eleanor Bersano (January 27)

Keep in your prayers: Don Bohannon and family; dearly-departed parishioner Clarice Murphy, a precious friend. Prayers for her



Chef Jacob prepared a gourmet luncheon for ICF members to enjoy after the Pilgrimage in Burbank at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

A fun night with games and hitting the pinata by our Chaplain Fr. Manuel Bravo. Also the 2014 officers were introduced.

husband Pat and their large family.

Dear ICF Friends,

This will be my last report for the year 2014. I have written this Bollettino report happily for quite a few years. It is now time for another Branch member to take up the gauntlet. It has been a privilege working with Michelle, our Bollettino editor.

Keep a happy heart, keep calm, and carry-on the work of the Lord.

Ciao,
Eleanor Rose Bersano

La Cañada Flintridge

St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374

Our branch continues to have fun. Most recently we enjoyed a presentation on the Puglia area of Italy by member Nancy Lieggi Ammirato, a native of that region. Future meetings will include presentations on Liguria, Sicily and other regions of Italy provided by natives and descendants. We are also planning a fun meeting sometime in early 2014 where members will share traditions of their families.

Look for an announcement for our February Movie Night, which will feature an Italian movie and discussion led by Max Leonida, a branch member and a noted Italian movie director.

New officers for the branch will be installed at St. Peter Church on January 19. Branch 374 will be a part of the expanded and consolidated Los Angeles District, which will



Branch 237's President Connie Bohannon and 1st Vice Elaine E. Bersano pose with the beautiful statue of St. Mother Frances X. Cabrini at her shrine in Burbank, on Dec. 1.



Members of Branch 115: Anna, Rosaria, Libby, and Anita join Branch 237 member Elaine Bersano as they proceed to the ICF luncheon, following the pilgrimage.

now expand from 9 branches to 18.

Officers for the next year are:

Al Restivo, President

Mark Mannarelli, First Vice President

Maria De Salguero, Second Vice President

Joseph Vinci, Treasurer

Mary Wynton, Recording Secretary

Mary Liss, Corresponding Secretary

Fiora Marcucci Murphy, Financial Secretary

Angela Battaglia, Orator

Joseph Layton, Trustee and Director of Membership Development

Rae Anne Mertz, Trustee and Director of Marketing

Sherene de la Motte, Trustee and Director of Fund Raising

Jack Kojimoto, Alternate Trustee

Nancy Lieggi Ammirato, Sentinel and Director of Evangelization Programs

Several members attended the Pilgrimage of St. Frances X. Cabrini held at her Shrine in Burbank last month. Attending were Al and Diane Restivo, Fiora Marcucci Murphy, Alice McCormick, and Vince Ammirato. This deeply spiritual event was led by our pastor Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuoti, who is also Archdiocesan Director of ICF for Los Angeles.

Many attended the LA District Christmas Party at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena and enjoyed the camaraderie of being with ICF members from many branches in the district.

Plans are underway for the next gala St. Joseph Day event that will take place on Sunday, March 23. Mark your calendars and volunteer to be a part of the planning and execution of important this annual fundraiser.



Cantor Robin Lee and pianist Vincent Morton arrived at the luncheon, having led ICF members in song at the Mass and at the Shrine, all in honor of Mother Cabrini.

Auguro a tutti voi abbondanti benedizioni di Dio e buon anno,

Al Restivo, Branch President

San Gabriel Valley

Arcadia

Holy Angels, Br. 218

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. We had a very busy month.

Thank you to all who helped at our Thanksgiving dinner.

We had our annual Holiday Boutique along with a meatball and sausage sandwich sale.

Both events were a huge success. We made a profit of \$2100 for the entire event. Thank you to Karen Berardi for chairing the event and all the volunteers and vendors who made it out.

Past Events

We had to cancel our annual Christmas Party and hosted a New York New Years Eve Party.

Upcoming Events



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HOTEL
ACCOMODATIONS



MEDITERRANEAN
CRUISES



CAR RENTAL



CAR RENTAL





Branch 218 Holiday Boutique.

There will be a donut sale Sunday, January 12, 2014.

We will be hold our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 26, 2014 6am--3pm. We will be setting up for the breakfast on Saturday, January 25. Looking forward to seeing you there.

God Bless

Kerri DiMichina

Heritage Chair



Branch 218 outgoing President Frank Berardi and incoming President Jo Anne Howell.

Monterey

Central Coast

Salinas

Nostra Signora Del Sasso, Br. 25

Our Polenta Luncheon held November 13, 2013 was a success, thanks to the effort of a diligent crew who worked hard to ensure that outcome. We appreciate the hard work of Linda Hoffman who headed up the committee and to Julie Richards, Gia Ussery, Don Stoffey, Ralph Cristofano, Olga Mazgai, Thelma and Roy Frontani, and Foster Hoffman. Thanks also to Bud Clough who worked, as did John Cailotto who responded to our call for help, even though neither are ICF members. We could not have served so many meals, nor cleaned up in time without John. The totals for the Polenta dinner are not yet available.

The annual Christmas party was to be held just after the due date for this bulletin input. However, planning was well underway at this writing, and there is every reason to expect that the party was once again a major highlight of our ICF year. We owe Julie and Joe a huge debt of gratitude for sharing their beautiful home with us. NOBODY decorates more than Julie and Joe do. It's a sight to behold....and we did.

We should mention that Joanne Cristofano, who has helped at Polenta every year since she joined, missed this year due to an injury. She is still convalescing at home. We miss you Joanne and hope for a speedy recovery.

Felice Anno Nuovo

Roy Frontani



Members of Branch 317 celebrated Christmas at its December meeting.



Branch 317 winners of the raffle tickets at Breakfast with Santa Left to right Patty Lasko won the 6 small cans of coffee Roxanna won the wrist watch, Petita won the blanket and the little boy Jacob won the musical puppy.

Monterey

Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

Happy New Year - May your year be blessed with good health, family, friends, and happiness.

Our Christmas Dinner-Dance was so much fun, we were pleased to have Jim & MaryAnn Friebe, Marco & Diane Galeazzi, and Dante Galeazzi enjoy the evening with us. We had a full house, delicious food, and the US Express Band, and a dance floor filled with fantastic dancers, it was wonderful to see everyone have so much fun.

We are happy to have Father Peter Crivello back after a six month sabbatical.

Our prayers are with Frank Goulart who lost his son David, in all the world there is nothing that can compare with the pain of losing your child.

Lenten dinners will be starting March 7, so put on your working shoes and help like you always do, also we will need a dessert each week for six weeks.

Mark your calendar:

- January 9 - Dinner meeting
- February 6 - Dinner Meeting
- February 20 - Volunteer Dinner

Above all else guard your heart for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

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These cute little elves helped deliver raffle prizes to all the lucky winners during Branch 291's Christmas Luncheon. Pictured L-R: Eli, Mary and Lucy Marsalek.

President Pete Gallagher gives a big thank you to Branch 291's Christmas luncheon committee, Kathleen Sullivan, Joanna Van Blaricom and Sylvia Nasholm.



Castroville

Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51

The Holidays are over but the memories live on!

It is with sadness that I report that one of our members of over 40 years passed away. Eva Barcellos, who was 97 years young, was well remembered by many in Castroville. I was in grade school when Mrs. Barcellos was the Cafeteria Manager. In those days everything was cooked from scratch, no frozen or package lunches, lots of good memories.

Our new Board is ready to go---planning our yearly fundraiser is just the beginning. We hope to hold it a little earlier this year if everything can come together and the date is available. We are trying to raise more money for Student Scholarships this year.

Santa's elves were busy again this year. Elf Pat and Elf Pauline were seen shopping in Santa's Store for Branch 51's little angel. These elves are great shoppers they even had enough money to help one of our Parish families. Way to go Santa's helpers!

Again it is with sadness that I report that one of Castroville's beloved citizens has passed away. Joey Micheli was not an I.C.F. member but he was a great friend, he too will be missed. The gentleman that gave the Eulogy stated, "If there were more people like Joey the world would be a better place." So Very True!

On the lighter side, congratulations to my brother and sister-in-law John and Sharon Danelon, (Monterey Branch) on soon-to-be Nonna and Nonno. Yea!

Thank you Lord for all the Blessings you have given us, especially for the Blessing of Eva and Joey.

Ciao,
Leonora Barlow

Capitola

St. Joseph, Br. 227

Happy New Year from Capitola. On December 7 we hosted are branch Christmas party. A great meal of ham scalloped potatoes green beans and salad were prepared by Ed Laverone. Richard and Valerie Vote and Bob and Mary Montonye. Once again we served Tom and Jerry's made by Margaret Margo and her team. Santa arrived with gifts for the kids. And the joy of the season was shared by all.

The new board attended and was sworn in at our districts installation on January 18 in Pacific Grove. Thank you to Sara Jane and her members for a great enchilada lunch.

We pray for all of our sick members and for the souls of all who are gone before us.

*Blessings to all,
Franklyn Lopes*

Arroyo Grande

St. Patrick, Br. 291

Branch 291 celebrated the Christmas season with a luncheon at the Madonna Inn on December 1. We enjoyed delicious food, beautiful decorations, delightful entertainment by the Pacific Horizon Chorus, wonderful fellowship and fun prizes handed out by Santa's little elves! A big thank you goes out to Joanna Van Blaricom, Kathleen Sullivan and Sylvia Nasholm for organizing and planning this successful event!

Our new officers are looking forward to the Installation ceremony and luncheon in Pacific Grove on January 25.

Please continue to keep the following members of Branch 291 in your prayers: Bob Harris, Jan Hilton, Trish and Dan Jimenez, David Minicucci, Jean and Mini Minicucci, Joe Slavin, Lorraine Spargo, Josephine Volanto, and Sonia and Jens Wagner.

Happy New Year!

Keely Sanchez, Recording Secretary

Paso Robles

St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

Oh, "The Sweet Smell of Success". We pulled it off! The new carpets have been installed in our church, the aisles, the altar - even the upstairs balcony, and it is beautiful! We thank all who were instrumental in this endeavor: members, parishioners, clergy, friends and families. Our November Pasta and Meatball dinner was a HUGE success. We are so fortunate in having dedicated workers and with our President David's hard work, the task was accomplished, and we could provide the carpet.

On November 16, David & Karen Kudjia drove David and Irma, Alice Mastagni, and I down to the Arroyo Grande ICF's last pasta dinner of the year. As usual, the food was great and the camaraderie we have with this group made for an enjoyable evening.

On Thanksgiving Eve, Lucy Olsen and I took tray favors to the Vineyard Hills Health Center hoping to help make the holiday brighter for the patients there. The little colored paper cornucopia's were filled with candy and looked pretty cute.

Sunday, December 8, members, friends and families will be gathering for our annual Christmas Party at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. We will tell you about it in the next newsletter.

We wish all of you Christmas blessings, good health and contentment for the 2014 New Year. I read recently, "Pray for an end to all intolerances and racism in our country and become One Nation Under God."

*Theresa Sollazzo,
Correspondence Secretary*

Oakland

East Bay

District Council

Glad that there was such a nice turnout for the district's super Christmas party at Buon Appetito, thank you to Lisa Crudo and friends. Now however is the time to make those resolutions for the upcoming New Year. First on the list should be that all officers should attend installation at the Fratellanza Club on Jan. 19, 2014. It is a great way to get to know other ICF branches. Next on the list is being involved in the Crab Feed, on Feb. 7, 2014, by selling tickets, supplying hors d'oeuvres and super raffle prizes. This is one of the fund raisers we will be having to support the ICF convention that will be held in Oakland, in Sept. 2014. And finally, for the short list, increasing membership in our branches in the upcoming new year.

Bishop's Day will be March 16, 2014, instead of March 2 as previously reported.

Here's wishing you a Happy, Healthy 2014!

Pat Grasso

Oakland

Santa Rita, Br. 40

Wishing you and your family a very Happy New Year. The Christmas Party was a time of good food and company of good friends. Dues for the year of 2014 are due. You can send your check in the amount of \$36, made out to ICF Branch 40. Please mail it to Catherine Kapper, 20700 Tuxedo Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94552. Any questions please call 881-0616.

Officers for the 2014 year are:

President: Anna Alberti

Vice President: Vito Muscardin

Recording Secretary: Mary Ann Francis

Financial Secretary: Cathy Kapper

Treasurer: Elma Casale

Orator: Rosalie De Santi

Trustees: Esemea Tabacco and Angie Raniero

Sentinal: Ida Scodella

Chaplain: Father Jose Arong

Upcoming:

January- Monthly meeting 7pm

January 19- Installation of Officers

Happy Birthday to Mary De Vincenzi, Deanna Denurra, Elsie Giani, Catherine Kapper and David Rose.

Remember in your prayers the sick and the convalescing.

Thought: "There can be no Peace, without Love."

Ciao, M.A. Francis/L. Francis

Oakland

St. Theresa, Br. 223

Please note that the first Br. 223 meeting in 2014 will take place on Thursday, January 9 at 7:30pm, at the St. Theresa School Library. No meeting on January 2.

Coming attractions... On April 5 we will have our Spring Dinner featuring Polenta and all the trimmings, plus dessert from Dianda Bakery. More information in future articles.

We look forward to having another Bake Sale near Mothers' Day as well as a Ravioli Sale in December. And then, maybe we will undertake some surprises in 2014.

Welcome to new member Larry Dunnigan. Benvenuto.

Out thanks to all who chaired, baked, cooked, sold, took orders or helped in any way to make our activities joyful and successful during 2013.

Officers do not forget that installation will be held January 19 at the Fratallanza.

Congratulations to Don and Marian Greb, who became Great-Grandparents of a baby boy born November 1, and to Elsie Giuntoli, who welcomed a Great-Grandson when Camden Joseph was born recently.

May God assist our sick members with their illnesses this new year of 2014.

You can't put love in a box, but you can wrap a person in a hug.

*Happy New Year!
Felice Anno Nuovo!
Yoli Moglia*

Livermore

St. Filomena, Br. 285

The Holidays have passed and we can now pause and count our blessings for all that has been given to us, both in the past and in the year to come. The lord watches over all his people every day throughout every season. We should continue to pray for our salvation of all mankind.

Branch 285 will start their New Year off with a new set of officers in January. We welcome Bobbie Farrington as President, First V.P., Judy Bates, Second V.P., Carl Bates, Secretary, Carolyn Cardinalli, Treasurer, Elaine Meier, Orator Mary Merucci, Trustees, Joe Buonsante, Phyllis Boccoleri, Gail Rocca, Sentinel, Judy Well beloved. Our best wishes for a successful and fun year.

Our special "Thank You" is being sent to Diana & Peter McIntyre for the opportunity to have our Christmas Party at Castlewood Country Club. The food was wonderful and everyone had a really festive evening to remember.

Birthday Wishes are being sent to: Elaine

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(Above) Members from Branch 14 at contra costa district Christmas party. Pat and David Botta , Carol Lawson, Donna Hoffmann and Dee Carone.

(Below) Members from Crockett Branch 14 bringing in the cheer to all at the towns Christmas gathering.



Meier, Ted Tinges, Cindy Tujague, and Dave Wellbeloved. May there be many more Happy and Healthy birthdays to come. God Bless all of you.

Sadly, we send our sincerest condolences to the family of Rudy D'Angelo. He will be fondly remembered by our branch as one of our former Presidents and dear friend. May his sole rest in peace. Our prayers for a speedy recovery from surgery are for: Dick Wirtenson, heart surgery, Gail Rocca, shoulder surgery, and Judy Wellbeloved, foot surgery. Please Get Well Soon.

May this New Year of 2014 bring all of you, Peace, Joy & Hope.

God Bless,

Salute,

Pat Bellavia

Castro Valley Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Here's hoping that you all had a Merry Christmas, but if you were too busy to really enjoy it in December, come join us for our belated Christmas party on Jan. 9, at our regular meeting. Please bring unwrapped, new baby clothes and /or diapers for our gift to Birthright.

In the spirit of the seasons, when asked, we stepped up and donated \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of a new refrigerator for Stack Center where we cook and hold our meetings.

Remember, installation of officers is Jan. 19, 2014 at the Frattellanza Club.

Bishop's day will be on Feb. 16, 2014.

As a gentle reminder to all members, we really do need your e-mail address as we will be sending out minutes from our meetings via

e-mail beginning this month.

Let's keep working on building up our membership in 2014.

Have a happy, healthy 2014.

Pat Grasso

Contra Costa District Council

Contra Costa District had a wonderful Christmas Party at Carpaccio Ristorante Oakley! The success of the party was primarily due to our Brentwood Branch 432. Thank you for all your effort, and also for donating such a beautiful and tasty cake.

We are looking forward to January 25, 2014 when we will have Installation of officers at the Galileo Club in Richmond. 10am mass, 11am Installation followed by lunch. Adults--\$25.00. Please RSVP to your branch president in advance.

I received a Christmas card verse that I would like to share during this Holy Season! His greatest gift was the gift of His only son, the gift of love. Let us remember this blessing throughout the new year, and hold it in our hearts. Wishing all a very Mary Christmas

Pax Joann

Crockett San Carlo, Br. 14

Happy New Year Everyone! Branch 14 is beginning another year without missing a beat. Our January calendar is already filled with events.

But first a note about our 2013 end-of-year donations. Because of our combined efforts, we were able to donate almost \$4,000 in



Nancy Botta, from Branch 14, receives "Heroes in the Classroom" award from the San Francisco 49ers.

December! To those who work, to those who offer financial support, and to those who attend our fundraisers, God Bless You! Nothing is better than knowing we have helped others.

Special congrats to Nancy Botta, who was honored by the 49er organization as a "Hero in the Classroom" at a December football game! She was shocked when 49er personnel and cheerleaders arrived at a surprise assembly with her award and a \$1,000 check for Collins Elementary, especially since she had no idea her name had been submitted. Nice, Nancy; very nice indeed!

We hope by now Dave Alvarado, Cherie Bellecci, Sante Cerri, Julie Contestable and Jerri Daniel are feeling well. We send belated but sincere sympathies to Theresa Canepa, Peter Fabrizi, Derek and Helen Peterson and Patricia Sullivan.

The first meeting of 2014 is on January 14. Mass 5:30, dinner 6:30, and the meeting at 7:30. But the dinner isn't just any ordinary dinner. Oh no, it isn't! We will have homemade gnocchi, and as is customary in January, dinner will be followed by Tom and Jerry's and panettone! January is always well attended as those limited polenta tickets (Polenta Dinner is February 1) go on sale.

Other dates to remember:

January 19 -- Communion Breakfast, St. Rose of Lima

January 24-- Bingo Night, everyone welcome

January 25 -- District Installation of Officers

Again, Happy 2014! May the New Year bring good health, happiness, and many blessings.

Ciao,

Diane Bottini Thomas

Pittsburg San Domenico, Br. 72

Our Christmas luncheon was followed by a free raffle and dancing. A big thanks to Josie Leontini. She was the chairperson of this event. She decorated with pink and red poinsettias. We thank Jim Jarrett and Denny O Laughlin for putting the tables and chairs away and Roselynn Jarrett for washing dishes. What a wonderful afternoon it was.

I am pleased to announce the officers for 2014.

President Patty Jarrett- First vice Jane Russo- Second vice Josie Leontini, Recording secretary Grace Scanipico-Financial



Members enjoying themselves at the Branch 72 Christmas party.



secretary and treasurer Helen Politakes, Orator Roselyne Jarrett-Trustee's Denny O Laughlin, Donna Stone and Joann Thilgen and the Sentinel is Jim Jarrett.

Have you bought your ticket for the bus trip on Feb 6? Tickets are going fast. Call Joann at 925-625-0863.

Upcoming:

Sunday, January 12 – Branch Meeting at 2pm. Theme: Happy New Year

Thursday, January 23 - District Meeting in Danville at 7: 30pm

Saturday, January 25 – District Installation of Officers hosted by the Richmond branch at the Galileo club. 10am Mass, 11am installation with luncheon to follow.

Thursday, February 6 – Turnaround bus trip to Graton casino in Rohnert Park.

Sunday, February 9 – Sweets potluck and branch meeting at 2pm. Theme: Valentine's Day. Stories will be shared about how some of the members met their valentine.

Thursday, February 20 - District Meeting in Danville at 7: 30pm

Dues are payable and should be sent to Treasurer Helen. We have an exciting list of events on this year's calendar.

Sempre Avanti,
Helen Politakes

Concord

St. Agnes, Br. 214

Which includes parishes, St. Bonaventure Queen of All Saints & St. Francis of Assisi Churches.

Members met at Dallimonti's in Pleasant Hill for a delicious Christmas dinner; a great time was had by all.

We welcome two New Members to our branch: Ray Doorack & Susan Georgetti; both were installed at our November meeting, by David Botta.

A few changes in our board for this year; Ron Artale is now our Vice President & Ed McGuirk; Recording Secty, & Joanne

Doorack; Orator. We Thank Eileen Vonk (Past Vice President), Teresa Hurley (past Recording Secty. and Dixie Grossi (Orator) for great jobs well done. Others Board Members are: President Roberta Healy, Correspondence Secty: Christina Artale, Financial Secty: Angie Monson, Treasurer: Barbara Faircloth, Sentinel: Karen Gee, Heritage: Paul Schepis; Trustees: Allison McGuirk & Diane Lorenzetti.

We are excited about our upcoming year of events: Which include a Wine & Chocolate Tasting in February and our Annual Tea in May, dates to be posted soon.

We keep all of our elder and sick members in our prayers.

Wishing all a Wonderful 2014

Felice Anno Nuovo!

Chris

Brentwood

Immaculate Heart Of Mary, Br. 432

The beginning of a new year, with that comes lots of opportunities for growth and renewal of our Faith and a chance to do some things better than we did the previous year. We all start out with some kind of New Year resolutions, maybe this will be the year some of the resolutions we make will actually stick with us for a time.

I hope that for some of you this will be the year you can give a little more time to your branch and help your board out a bit more when they ask for help with events and fundraisers. We can all do something, to help carry the load. God will definitely bless the efforts you make.

Our District Christmas Dinner was a Huge Success!! Our Branch hosted it this year, for the first time. And, if I can brag on behalf of our branch we had more members from branches in the District than ever before. There were 65 of us who enjoyed a wonderful meal and camaraderie at Carpaccio's Restaurant. Thank You Gene, we all had a great time.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday, January 27.

On January 25 we will be looking forward to our District Installation of Officers for the

branches for 2014. Hope to see many of you there this year!

Until next month,

Ciao,

Phyllis Lilly

Pleasant Hill

Christ the King, Br. 442

Branch 442 celebrated its inaugural Christmas Party on Dec. 15 in the Parish Hall, complete with a delicious pasta dinner and visit from Santa Claus, who took time out from his busy schedule to welcome our new branch to the ICF family. Thanks to everyone who helped with planning and organizing this fun event. We look forward to many more to come!

Our new branch is looking forward to playing a big role in the parish and ICF in 2014. We are continuing to form committees and select volunteers to lead them, and working on assembling a calendar of events for 2014. Please join us for our next branch meeting at 2:30pm on Jan. 19 to hear more about these plans and share your ideas. Details to come via evite, email and phone tree. Contact us at icfpleasanthill@aol.com with questions, thoughts and ideas.

Please circle these dates for upcoming branch meetings:

Jan. 19

Feb. 16

March 16

May 4

June 8

Best wishes to all our members for the New Year. Our sincerest thanks and appreciation to everyone who has stepped forward to make our new branch a success!

Ciao!

Reno

Reno

St. Albert, Br. 135

A 5pm Mass at St. Albert's was celebrated by our Bishop Calvo on Sunday, December 8. Following the Mass, we were delighted to welcome 33 members and guests to our annual Bishops Dinner. This annual dinner commemorates our praise to the Lord for our lives, our community, our pastoral care and our families.

Special thanks goes to Bob & Suzanne Capurro, Bob & Audrey Ferrari, Bobbie & Rachael Ferrari, Lydia Brunelli, Mel Sullivan, and Carolyn Smith who prepared delicious lamb roast dinner, including ravioli with meat sauce, tortellini with pesto, vegetables, salad, ice cream and cookies for the occasion.

Special guests attending the event included Bob Basuino, Grand President of ICF who presented the Bishop \$1500 for his Seminary fund. Gifts from Branch 135 were presented by Carolyn Smith including a gift of \$1,500 to Bishop Calvo for his seminary fund and a gift of \$300 for his TV ministry.

Members brought "bags of food" to this annual dinner event, which will be given to Saint Vincent's Pantry, whose ongoing mission is to feed the "homeless and hungry" in our Reno community. Also, it was announced by Virginia Zorio that our branch netted about \$5,000 from our polenta dinner on November 9 with more detail to be provided at our next scheduled meeting which will be on Sunday, January 14.

We wish all our members and their families a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo 2014.

Submitted by,

Tony DiGuglielmo

Sacramento

Auburn

St. Joseph, Br. 342

Merry Christmas! Here is our submission for January:

Happy New Year to all of our members! I hope 2014 is full of happiness and health for all of our members and I look forward to many wonderful ICF events in 2014.

Our condolences go out to the family of Robert Molinari who passed away last month. He and his wife Mary, along with daughters Janet and Nancy and their families, have been active and supportive members of our branch for 22 years.

Please mark your calendars for our very popular Polenta dinner. This event is a sell-out and will take place at St. Teresa's Hall on Sunday, January 19. Please call Dolores (823-9125) or Trish (878-6814) for tickets. Hope to see you there!

Ciao!

Pam Andersen

Bollettino Contributor

San Bernardino

Fontana

St. Joseph, Br. 210

We had a good group for Prime Rib dinner last month. Our Branch Deputy John Guerin attended and sang Happy Birthday cheers for

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the December celebrants. He also led us in a few Christmas Carols. Other than the reading of the officer and the committee reports, there wasn't much to discuss.

We are waiting for the Installation of Officers details. Our Installation Ceremony will be hosted by Branch 217 in Redlands. Mass will be celebrated by Father Jerry Our District Chaplain at 11am with Installation and dinner following. We are hoping someone from Branch 303, steps up to lead as President of their Branch, so they can also be installed. I spoke with Roselynn Jarrett. She offered some suggestions. She also said she and other Central Council Members will be in Los Angeles for their District Installation on January 19. so they may attend ours the day before. That would be great! We hope to see many CC members at our Installation too.

With the start of a New Year, I hope we can bring in new members and retain our present membership. Keep yourselves healthy so we can enjoy your presence each month.

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

San Diego

District Council

On Monday evening, Nov. 18, 2013, the San Diego district Council met at the Social Center at St. Rose of Lima Church in Chula Vista. District Council President, Tony Anthony, presided at the meeting. CC Member Emeritus Mary Alesi, reported on the Bishop's Day that was held on Sunday, October 20, 2013, at Santa Sophia Church in Spring Valley. The event was chaired by Mary Alesi and Phyllis Benbrook who are co-branch president's there. Mary reported that there were approximately 70 attendees. Mass was held in the Social Center due to a recent fire in the church. New San Diego Bishop Cirilo Flores, presided over the 11:00am Mass. He was assisted by pastor, Father John Bertrand. Following the Mass, a reception was held in another room in the Social Center. The reception was catered by Cupid's Catering. Grand President Bob Basuino, presented the CC's seminary burse and Tony Anthony presented the San Diego district's burse. Additionally, in attendance were CC Member Pat Mages and her husband, Lou Mages, and Central Council Member Emeritus, Jody Balestrieri and CC Emeritus, Forrest Price and his wife Prudence.

We also elected 2014 district officers at our Nov. meeting. The new officers are: President, Richard Barker; 1st V.P. Chris Murphy; 2nd V.P., Jim Cardinale-Hill; Recording Secretary, Maria Tollefson; Corresponding Secretary, Forrest Price; Financial Secretary & Treasurer, Sherry Thurston; Orator, Jody Balestrieri; and Trustees, Pat Postal, Prudence Price and Don Chmiel. Mary Alesi was elected sentinel.

Forrest Price

San Diego

Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. 230

Cari Amici,

Felice Anno Nuovo! Branch 230 had a General Meeting on Nov. 15, it was preceded by a Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you to our cooks Theresa Cutri, Mary Lou Terramagra, Pietro and Josie Vella. Thanks to our bartenders Joe and Marcia Buompensiero, and to our dessert hostess Annie De Maria. Thanks also to Jack Battaglia and his set up crew.

During the General Meeting we prayed a Rosary for the intentions of Most Reverend Bishop Cirilo Flores, which fulfilled the Spiritual Bouquet we gave His Excellency at the ICF San Diego District's Annual Bishop's Day last Oct. 20 at Saint Sophia Parish.

During her Branch Deputy Report Jody Balestrieri gave a moving remembrance on her parents' immigration from Italy to this country. She recounted the barriers her parents and other immigrants had to overcome to survive and succeed in a new land. Jody made a call for thanksgiving to those who gave so much to insure the freedoms we now enjoy.

Membership dues invoices have been sent-please pay up.

The annual ICF Fish Fry Fundraiser will be the first Friday of Lent, please help us recover from last year's poor turn-out on the day after Valentine's Day. All proceeds go to Our Lady of the Rosary so please promote and support this year's event.

Please remember to pray for our lawmakers and for our servicemen and women.

Pace di Cristo,

Richard Barker

San Francisco

San Francisco

Maria SS Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members:

Our recent Christmas Party was enjoyed by all!

Upcoming events:

January = No meeting

January 12 -- Installation of Officers. Place IASC (Russia St.) Info. Call Vic Arnaudo at (650) 755-1369

January 26 -- Monthly Mass, ICC 10:30am

Continue prayers for sick members.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all Branch members and their families!

Ciao!

Toni Morsello

San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

Our November meeting was a huge success. Our turkey luncheon with all the trimmings, catered from the Silver Cloud Restaurant, was delicious. Even our youngest member Matthew Ramsey ate his lunch with lots of "gusto." What a good appetite he has! Thank you Norma Tealdi for making the arrangements with the Silver Cloud and everyone who helped. We ended the day with our favorite pastime BINGO!

December is the holiest of seasons. This is a very appropriate time to pray for our sick and homebound members. We wish you all a speedy recovery and may God be with you at this time of need. Madeline Torre, our Financial Treasurer...who works on our ICF fiancés from home, we miss you at our meetings. It's been awhile you've been homebound, but we still have a lot of hope you will be joining us "presto". And, thank you for again being an officer of ICF Branch #38.

May God Bless and keep healthy all of the members of our ICF family.

"2014 Here We Come!"

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 11, 2014

11:30am, meeting in the PC.

12:30am, lunch: "New Year's Party" with maybe a little more Asti Spumante, a Brown Bag lunch, Hot Minestrone Soup, and at the end of the day Bingo Games!

Ciao!

Ci vediamo il 12 di gennaio 2014!

Mara Amato

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Our Christmas Ravioli Luncheon on Dec. 3 was another huge success. We had 96 who attended. It is always nice to see and visit with good friends. A big thank you to Leo and his crew for the delicious lunch. Many thanks to Flo, Bev and Elizabetta for the delicious homemade gravy. We are very fortunate to have you ladies. Thanks to everyone for their excellent help!!

On Feb.7 we are planning to go to Thunder Valley. Hope we have some winners.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

A very Happy and above all a Healthy New Year to all our members and their families. We hope the New Year will be good to all of us.

I want to thank all our members for their assistance this past year. I really appreciate all the help you have given me.

Remember these dates:

Officers Meeting: January 6, 2014

Mass: January 26

Meeting: Jan. 27

Ciao,

Eva Perata, President

San Francisco

Corpus Christi, Br. 290

Happy New Year, dear friends!

Our first meeting of the new year will be held on Thursday, January 16, at 7:00pm in Corpus Christi Church Hall. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Branch 290's annual Crab Feed will take place on Saturday evening, February 1, at 6:30pm. Price of this event to be determined.

During the November meeting, members celebrated a special birthday of our dear friend, Millie Franzoni. Congratulations and best wishes were extended to Millie along with a delicious birthday cake. Millie, may you be blessed with many more happy birthdays.

Please pray for Al Oneto, John Consiglieri and other members who are experiencing health issues.

Ciao,

Jeannette

San Francisco

St. Cecilia, Br. 365

I hope that everyone had a blessed and wonderful Christmas and that the New Year will bring health and happiness to everyone.

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Our branch elected the same slate of officers for 2014. Many thanks and congratulations to all of you for accepting the responsibility for yet another year. Special thanks to George Pagni, who took on a big job as President, for a relatively new member.

All San Francisco Branch officers, as well as District officers, will be installed by members of the Central Council on Sunday, January 12, at the Italian American Social Club, 25 Russia Ave. Installation will be at 11:30am. Luncheon will be served at 1:30pm. Cost for lunch is \$40.00 per person. Call Ann or Joe Basuino, 415-564-7254, for reservations or further information. Please try your very best to be there.

Our Christmas dinner/fundraiser was a great success. We had in excess of 40 happy enjoying a wonderful evening food, friends and fun.

Our next meeting will be on January 8. Please try to attend.

God Bless,

Ann Basuino

San Mateo District Council

Hope you all enjoyed Happy Holidays. Wishing you a Blessed New Year 2014!

Mark your Calendars:

Saturday, January 18, 2014 -- District Installation at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City. 10:30am Mass followed by Installation of Officers. Please remember all Officers should arrive by 10:00am. Luncheon will follow at the San Mateo Elks Lodge, 223 West 20th Street, San Mateo. \$35.00 per person. Reservation deadline January 10, 2014.

Entree choices: Sliced Cross Rib Roast, Panko Herb Petrale Sole, Chicken Marsala. Hosted by Branch 130.

Thursday, January 23, 2014 -- San Mateo District Holiday Party at Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame for Delegates and Alternates. 6:30pm Hosted by Branch 130.

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San Mateo District celebrated their annual Chaplains Night at the San Mateo Elks Club on November 8, 2013. It is an evening when Branches and their Chaplains share food, company, jokes and song. The evening festivities were hosted by Branch 351 Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park. Pictured are CC members Deborah Rodondi, Grand Secretary (events MC); Lisa Crudo, Grand Trustee and Leonard Rossi Life Member, Past Grand President with Branch Presidents and Chaplains (including the 2013 Mother Teresa Award Winner) along with visiting cleric and seminarian.

Thursday, March 27, 2014 -- next District meeting at Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame. 7:30pm.

Sunday, April 27, 2014 -- Bishop's Day hosted by San Francisco District. More info later.

Keep in our thoughts and prayers Father Frank Murray and all our ill members. Call Father Frank or send him a note. Don't forget all that he has done for us.

Peace and Love.

Anne O'Brien

South San Francisco Sacro Cuore, Br. 7

Our first business meeting for the year will be January 8, 2014. We hope you all had a peaceful and holy holiday season. It is time to begin again. But first a quick look back to thank the entire kitchen team for the wonderful holiday dinner they prepared on December 11 and also thank everyone who donated to "A Very Special Toy Box!"

We also want to thank the many "Unsung Hero's" who make and bring raffle items, our bartenders, who set up, serve and clean up, our lovely ladies, who sell tickets...raffle, drink, and dinner tickets and all the individuals that volunteer every month to cook our dinners. We would not be so successful if it were not for all of you!

Congratulations all of our newly elected officers for the year 2014. They are: President, Kelly J. Teglia; 1st Vice President, Marc Teglia; 2nd Vice President, Diana Ferrari; Recording Secretary, Kelly Teglia; Corresponding

Secretary, (open); Financial Secretary Dean Balestieri; Treasurer, Donna Smith; Orator, Leonore Armanino; Sentinel, Jeanette Acosta; Trustees, Marie Pariani, Carol Tassan, Barbara Demattei, and Phyllis Feudale.

Mark your calendars for our future fundraising events. We will have a Crab Cioppino Dinner on February 15 and a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on March 15. For more information contact Norma at 650-583-3643.

So, until next time...a few thoughts to ponder... "Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give." And, "Humor oils the wheels of life and helps to keep it running smoothly!"

Happy New Year!

Sempre Avanti,

Laurie Masetti

Colma

San Vincenzo de Paoli, Br. 19

Congratulations to our newly elected 2014 officers: President, Kathy Trevizo-Heckman; Vice-President, David Novi; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Cheryl Simon; Financial Secretary, Joann Sangiacomo; Treasurer, Deborah Rodondi; Orator, Noreen Thurman; Sentinel, Joe Sangiacomo; Trustees: Joanne Alvarado, Christine Prudenciado and Donna Barnes. The installation of officers will be held in Redwood City, hosted by Branch 130 on January 18, 2014, following 10:30 Mass at St. Pius Church. A luncheon at the San Mateo Elks Club will follow. Call Kathy if you plan to attend.

All those who helped with the garage sale were thanked and were pleased to hear it was financially successful.

Our Christmas Dinner Party at the Sharp Park Restaurant at the golf course was a wonderful evening to start the Christmas season. Holy Angels Parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society was able to restock its shelves with the generous pantry contributions from the party goers.

Looking ahead:

Jan. 13 -- Dinner meeting - Polenta 6pm no host cocktails/6:30 pm dinner. \$10 members/\$12 guests. Reservations to Cheryl Simon by Jan. 10 at (650)755-0878 (leave message)

Jan. 18 -- Installation - 10:30 Mass at St. Pius Church, Redwood City.

Jan. 25 -- Pedro Tournament- 9:30am check-in and coffee, 10: am tournament starts. \$30 by in includes hot-dog lunch. Limited to 100 players. Contact Joe Sangiacomo for more information at (650)756-5969.

Jan. 27 -- Come help with the tray favors for our local nursing homes. Call Deborah or -email drodondi@comcast.net for time and place.

Reminder that 2014 dues are now payable. Please send in your dues ASAP to Joann Sangiacomo.

2014 Calendars at \$25 are still available. \$5 stays with the Branch and there is a winner every day. Maybe you will be the next lucky one.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ruth Lapachet

San Mateo St. Matthew, Br. 163

Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed New Year for 2014. Hope your are ready to start another busy and rewarding year.

Many thanks to Steve Fuentes for preparing and cooking our delicious ham and lasagna Christmas dinner. Thanks also to Anne Guerin and her sister Eda Rossetto for the very tasty salad and the members for the cookies and cakes. We had a very lovely evening. The raffle winners will be posted later.

Mark your calendars:

Monday, January 6, 2014 -- Board Meeting, Ward Hall.

Thursday, January 16, 2014 -- Branch meeting and dinner, 6:00pm. We will have a Befana Tree for our charity.

Saturday, January 18, 2014 -- District Installation of officers. 10:30am Mass at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City. Lunch following at the San Mateo Elks Club. Branch 130 is hosting. Price is \$30.00 for members. Entree choices: Sliced Cross Rib Roast, Petrale Sole, or Chicken Marsala. Deadline: January 10.

Thursday, January 23, 2014 -- District Holiday Party at OLA for delegates and alternates.

Thursday, March 27, 2014 -- District meeting at OLA 7:30pm.

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Congratulations to the new grandparents, Michele and Jim Loman, on the arrival of their granddaughter Harper Riley Kuhls!!

God Bless!

Anne O'Brien

Burlingame

Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

Our last meeting of the year was held with a potluck Christmas party chaired by Jean Watterson who did a great job and her helpers, Luciana and Jim Witherspoon, Bob Bacich and Jerry Emery. We always enjoy the music of Dan Campodanno and honored our past president, Dorene Campanile, for all of her hard work for the last three years. Also, we are very grateful to Cecelia Tommei for her guidance for the past few years and her right hand friend, Cory, for being a part of our branch. We will miss them.

We look forward to our 2014 activities and know Norm Bennett will do a good job as President.

We have a cooperative team of officers anxious to make our branch activities as much fun as possible. Any suggestions for dinners or activities the branch can go to or do together would be appreciated.

Future Dates:

Jan. 8, 2014 -- Meeting

Jan. 18 -- Installation of Officers, St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City, 10:30am. Lunch Elks Club San Mateo. Deadline: Jan. 10, 2014.

Please keep in mind our sick members of all branches and from our branch, Larry Cavagnaro. It was great to see John Watterson at our party as he has been away too long.

Sympathy condolences to Patricia Dugoni on the death of her sister.

God Bless,

Rosalind C. Emery

South San Francisco

St. Augustine, Br. 213

Happy New Year to you all! Hope everyone had a glorious Christmas holiday and is ready to take on 2014. There's not much to report, sine we did not meet in December.

Reminder: San Mateo District's Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at St. Pius Church in Redwood City. Mass is at 10:30am followed by Installation. Lunch will follow at San Mateo Elks Club in San Mateo. Call President Joe Crosetti for more information.

Dues are now payable and reminders will be given out at our January meeting.

Our first meeting of 2014 will be on Tuesday, January 14. See you then!

rf

Menlo Park

St. Patrick, Br. 351

Thank you to our 2013 Officers for all your help throughout the year! Officers for 2014 are: Pres: Cecilia Tommei, 1st VP: Theresa Genevro, 2nd VP: Al Genevro, Sec: Deirdre O'Sullivan, Fin Sec: John Reber, Treas: Rena Gretz, Orator: Ed and MaryJane Ehmke, Trustees: Paul Eisenman, Caterina Maestrini, Mary Riviello, Sentinel: Charo Switlaski

Thank you to everyone who attended and donated the delicious food for our Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner!

Member Mass at 5:30pm at Church of Nativity for our Living and Deceased Members
****No January Dinner/Meeting****

Saturday, January 18 -- San Mateo District Installation of Officers to be held at St. Pius Church, Redwood City at 10:30am Mass with lunch to follow at the San Mateo Elk's Club. \$25.00 for our Branch Members. Call Cecilia ASAP at [650-743-0233](tel:650-743-0233)

Thursday, February 6 - 5pm Member Mass at Nativity followed by Dinner and Meeting. Call Cory @ [650-867-8946](tel:650-867-8946)

Please pray for our many sick members.

Wishing everyone Happy and Healthy New Year!

cr

Millbrae

St. Dunstan, Br. 403

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Dinner Party at our meeting on December 2, 2013. prepared by our president Lorrie Kalos Gunn. We were entertained by our accordion playing V. P. Dan Capodanno, and we sang Christmas carols which put us all in the Holiday Spirit.

We had a successful year thanks to the participation and support from our members and the dedication of our Board members. We have donated to the following:

St. Dunstan's Church, Second Harvest Food Bank, St. Dunstan's T.E.R.E.S.E Committee, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Dunstan's Athletic Board, St. Vincent de Paul Catherine Center.

Our Installation of Officers will take place on January 18, 2014 at St. Pius Church in Redwood City followed by lunch at the San Mateo Elks Lodge.

Marin

Larkspur

St. James, Br. 161

Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Another year has gone by. On December 7, we had our annual Christmas Buffet at St. Patrick's Healy Hall. There were over 80 adults and over 20 children. Everyone enjoyed the pasta and meatballs dinner. Thanks to everybody in the kitchen especially Phyllis Rybensky for making the spaghetti sauce and to Dave Biggio (with Anna's help) for cooking the pasta. Thanks to everyone who donated raffle baskets. The children were very happy to sit on Santa's lap and get a gift. Wishing you and your families a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ciao,

Anna Biggio

San Jose

Santa Clara Valley

District Council

Congratulations to all new branch and district officers of The Santa Clara Valley District. Thank you to Santa Teresa for hosting the Mass and installation and then the luncheon at the Three Flames in San Jose. Make a New Year's resolution, and volunteer at your branch. Support your hard working officers, cooks, and committee members. Don't wait to be asked! I'm guessing they could use your help but don't know who or how to ask. Join your ICF family and support the following fundraisers to help us raise money for our charities.

Feb. 7, 2014 -- Branch 368's 11th Annual Crab Feed \$40.00, Phill and Joyce Robba 1 (408) 225-0883

Feb. 8, 2014 -- Branch 391's Annual Valentine's dinner Dance--Cathleen Lencioni



(Above) The Grecos & Antonowicz' Santa Clara Valley District Christmas in the Park Tree. You missed a lot of fun and they missed all of you!

(Below) The dessert line for Santa Clara Valley District's Christmas dinner. We wish all of you a very Happy New Year.



1 (408) 248-6728

I know there are more branch activities, so please also check out the individual Santa Clara Valley branch articles for more opportunities to join your ICF family for fun, meeting new people, and eating great food!

Buon Anno!!

Marcie Rossi

Santa Clara

N.S. Assunta, Br. 5

The Installation of ICF Br. 5 Officers took place on January 4, 2014 at Santa Teresa Church. Congratulations to all old and new officers.

The Officers hope that you are all healthy and happy since the last time we saw each other in 2013.

The Office of the President will be rotated by some of the Past Presidents in 2014. During the month of January, 2014, the President is Larry Marsalli. Other Officers for 2014 are: Joe Martinez, 1st Vice President; Janet Glauke, 2nd Vice President; Marlene Rotolo, Financial Secretary; Judy Hare, Recording Secretary; Mary Ann Ruiz, Treasure; Virginia Martinez, Trustee; Dolores Sanchez, Trustee; Ann Talia, Trustee; Esther Galedridge, Sentinel; Elise Marsalli, Orator; Father George Aranha, Chaplain.

The Officers will meet with Mike Holder to arrange for a Dinner Menu for each Dinner for 2014.

Date and Menu for January, 2014 will be put in the January Newsletter mailed to all members in early January.

Officers would like to thank all members for coming to the Dinners/Meetings in 2013 and their support of all events and activities.

We need your support and help in making 2014 a successful year for ICF Br. 5.

Please remember to paid your membership dues for 2014, and mail or give them to Marlene Rotolo as soon as possible.

Hope to see you all in the January Dinner/ Meeting in 2014.

Ciao,

Marlene J. Rotolo

Gilroy

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

Happy New Year. Hope all members had a happy and holy Christmas. We welcome a new year with much anticipation. We look forward to our many fund raisers and hope that you can all give the support for a bigger and better year.

Many thanks to Diana Berry for her three years as President, and Theresa Borge for the many years she was our Financial Secretary.

Thank you to all the members that helped make our Christmas Party in December such a great success. Special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Clause. They are always such a treat with the children.

Remember to mark your calendar, our dinner meeting in January and February will be a week later so as to not conflict with the holidays on the regular meeting nights.

January 27 -- Dinner meeting Cullen Hall, 6pm

February 24 -- Dinner meeting Cullen Hall, 6pm

Have a good January and let us pray for rain .

Ciao,

Anna Barberi



Russ and Louise Vento, Cathleen and Stephen Lencioni, Diana and Al Vallorz, and Donna and John Rossi from branch 391 at the Santa Clara Valley District Christmas dinner.



Members of Br. 391 enjoy breakfast together as an ICF "family" after their quarterly communion.

Los Gatos

St. Mary, Br. 184

"Baby it's cold outside!" That's not just a line from the Christmas music in the background - it's true! Well, the tulip bulbs will appreciate this weather. By now, gifts are put away, but wait, La Befana is on her way with one last surprise..

In November, the District Officers held an Officer's Training and we learned more about the ICF, the officers who lead, and the good works they perform. Denise Antonowicz spoke of the ICF as Faith, Family, Food and Fundraising, while Louise Vento stressed the importance of tradition.

The District Installation of all Officer's will start with Mass at Santa Teresa Church and end with lunch at Three Flames. Its always a festive start to the New Year.

As a matter of fact, 2014 will mark the 50th Anniversary of our Branch. PLEASE save the date of October 25 for our Gala Anniversary Dinner-Dance and Mini Auction!

Blessings to all in this New Year, as we pray for Peace and good health. Hope to see more members at our meetings, held the second Thursday of each month. March 29 will be our next Polenta Dinner Dance.

Ciao for now,

Lucy Amico

Los Altos

St. Nicholas, Br. 186

Hopefully you have reserved your Cioppino tickets for January 18, 2014. If you haven't, call Elaine 650-493-5520.

As she has for so many years, Bernadette Tapella hosted an event at her home to benefit the Layette Program. Everyone played Bunco and had a wonderful time. Needless to say the hors d'oeuvres were delicious. More than \$700 was raised, also many layette items were

donated. Many, many thanks from all of us..

Bernadette also each holiday brings a wonderful candy favor for each resident of Villa Siena. Each candy favor relates to the current holiday. For Christmas they were Christmas trees with candy. Beautiful.

Happy Birthday to Richard D'olivia's mom, Erma, who celebrated her 101st birthday December 9.

The members of Branch 186 want to welcome Tina Dutra as our new Deputy for 2014. She is no stranger to our branch as she has accompanied her husband, Matt, to our meetings each month. Thanks Matt for being our Deputy the last two years. Glad to have you Tina.

Reminder: Andy Cauz has sent out the dues notices. Please send your check to him.

February 6 - Regular Meeting 6:30pm - School Center. Bring hors d'oeuvres to share

February 19 - Deceased remembrance Mass at 8am, St. Nicholas Church

March 8 - Polenta Dinner Dance

"I can not change yesterday. I can only make the most of today, and look with hope toward tomorrow"

Have a great New Year.

Elaine

San Jose

Santa Teresa, Br. 368

Thanksgiving came early this year when our members prepared a delicious traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Special thanks to Lorraine Nunziata, Ann and Robyn Schlice for all their hard work.

Ed Wendler gave an informative talk about our patron saint, St. Frances Cabrini. We were all amazed at her devotion and to hear of her accomplishments as our first citizen to be canonized.



Branch 391 members Fran Bowen, Mike Bonacorsi, Lynn Bonacorsi, Father George Aranha, Marcie and Mike Rossi, and Don Bowen after Mass at St. Martin of Tours Cathedral in Tours, France. What a wonderful experience!!



Santa's helper and head chef of Br. 391, Al Vallorz, thanks Mary Kay Tocce, Diana Vallorz, Mary Lipari, John Rossi, and Juan Milan for their help in the kitchen.

Aldine Grisenti gave a talk on the spirit of "Giving." Our branch is especially committed to being generous in our pursuit of supporting the community. Mike Nunziata gave an extensive report on just how much our branch has given over the past few years.

We are happy to report that 17 members attended "Bishop's Day" this year. We continue to support this worthwhile event.

A very special guest, Laurice Levine gave a most heartwarming and inspiring talk about Thalassima Disease (Cooley's Anemia). She detailed her own struggles with the disease and shared how much our branch's generosity is helping with the ongoing research and treatment of this devastating disease. Thank you for your informative talk.

A Christmas Family Gift of \$300.00 is being given to the church to buy gifts for those in need.

Upcoming Events:

December -- Christmas In The Park

January 4 -- Installation of new officers: 10:00am at Santa Teresa- Lunch at 3 Flames

Have a blessed Christmas!

Cheryl Sanchez

San Jose

St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

As always, Branch 391 had a festive December dinner, which wouldn't have been complete without a little visit from Santa Clause. This year, Santa Clause came straight from the hilltop of Mt. Fuji, Japan, and like always, he had some goodies for several of Branch 391's outstanding members. Also, at the special request of Santa Clause, I lead the group in singing some Christmas carols.

We also had two guests, Harry Soza and Caelin Tralongo, grace us with two songs from Cold Suspension's Christmas album. Thanks to generous sponsors that donated CD creation costs, 100% of your donation will go directly to the Nativity School, which benefits impoverished children who attend a rigorous school to help break them from the cycle of poverty. The band is requesting a donation of \$5 for each CD. Please contact Harry Soza for more information at hrsoza@aol.com.

Branch 391 has its very big Valentine dinner/dance fundraiser on Saturday, February 8. This year's theme is the Roaring 20's Sweetheart Ball. If you would like to be part of the fun event, please contact Kathleen Lincioni for tickets at 408-248-6728. The festivities will include happy hour, dinner, and dancing. You won't want to miss out!

Have a great New Year!

Sunnyvale

Resurrection, Br. 408

Special thanks to our Special Christmas Potluck Chefs John Parker and Fred Petralia and to all who shared their food and fellowship at our Christmas Potluck. It was a evening of fellowship and good food.

Our December Blood Drive collected over 39 units of blood to support the numerous upcoming holiday surgeries. We thank all of our donors.

We look forward to our upcoming PASTA Dinner which will be held Saturday, March 8, 2014 to raise funds for the 5th Grade Science Camp.

Please Pray for a successful 2014 and for our Br. 408 Officers for 2014.

President -- Ric Shimshock

1st Vice President -- Bob Ong
2nd Vice President -- Dori Blefari
Treasurer -- Mary-Jo Di Muccio
Financial Secretary -- Kate Shimshock
Trustee -- Jackie Anderson, Ann Lopez, John Parker
Orator -- Betty DeVille
Sentinel -- Fred Petralia
Blessings of the Christmas Season to all our Members!
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

Remember to include our sick members in your prayers and please pray especially for Dori Blefari, Franco Ciacchella and Betty DeVille.

Morgan Hill

Santa Caterina D'Alessandria, Br. 435

Our Thanksgiving dinner meeting was held on Nov.14. We all feasted on a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Our members and guests enjoyed every single bite of this fabulous feast. Thanks again to Jerry Caravelli and his hard working crew. Giulia Gallego and her helpers decorated the tables so eloquently and the centerpieces were lovely.

By the time you read this our Christmas dinner banquet will be over. On Dec.19 our branch is hosting a wonderful Christmas Dinner with an Antipasti table, Prime Rib and many other delicious entrees. We are also bringing toys to children that will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul Holiday gift giving.

Whenever we have our dinner meetings if anyone would like to volunteer to help set up or in the kitchen, please contact Jerry Caravelli or anyone on the board of directors. We appreciate any help you are able to contribute.

Closing on a happy note Chris and Susan Manahan celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary with family and friends on Nov.30. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and blessed year.

Peace and God bless you all.

Donna Basilin

Santa Rosa
Napa
NAME, Br. 12

Our November dinner/meeting was well attended. Members brought non-perishable food items for St. Vincent de Paul at St. John's Church. We had a delicious turkey dinner prepared by Pauline Seago and Ernie Rota with helpers.

We hosted the District Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1. Again we had a good turnout with 53 in attendance. Many happy people won the raffle prizes. The dinner was good with Branch 12 members serving a sit down dinner.

Our Branch had their Christmas Party Monday, December 9 at Fume Restaurant. It was a fun time for all. There was a raffle to defray the cost of the dinner. Again, may happy winners.

We are preparing for the 2014-year. There are three new officers and just recently learned two former members will be returning to our Branch.

Happy Holidays to one and all.

Juliann Fontana, President



Br. 52 President Nancy Seppi leads the children in Christmas Carols at the Branch's Christmas Party.

Healdsburg

St. Francis di Sales, Br. 52

On December 6, we had our Christmas Party with over 160 people in attendance. The festive evening was enjoyed by all, especially by the children who enjoyed a visit from Santa. We presented Christmas donations of \$4000 to St. John's Church, \$1000 to the school and nineteen \$100 scholarships to children who are branch members and who attend St. John's School.

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 11 -- Polenta Dinner. Bar: 5:45pm. Dinner: 6:30pm. Price: \$10.00 members, \$12.00 non-members.

Jan. 14 -- General Meeting in the Rectory. 7:00pm

Jan. 19 -- We host the Santa Rosa District Installation. 10am Mass with installation and lunch following in the Activity Center. Price: \$20.00. For tickets, call Carmen or Lauren: 577-7304

Feb. 5 -- General Meeting in the Rectory. 7:00pm

Feb. 15 -- Annual Homemade Ravioli Dinner. More details, next month.

Happy New Year!

Lauren Kilcullen

Cloverdale

L'Annunciata, Br. 75

Installation of our new officers took place at our Oct. 17 meeting.

President - Patch Guglielmino

First Vice President - Patsy Buchignani

Second Vice President - Sal Casciaro

Secretary - Cecelia Casciaro

Financial Secretary - Sue Honzik

Treasurer - Louis E. Guglielmino

Trustee - Carol Lautermilch

Trustee - Roger Honzik

Orator - Robert Acquistapace

Chaplain - Fr. Feral McGuiness

Deputy - Carmen Kilcullen

We thank all of the distinguished guests who attended.

Our Nov. 21 meeting was preceded with a tasty pot luck meal and we look forward to

our Christmas dinner on Dec. 19.

Felice Anno Nuovo,

Cecelia Casciaro

Sonoma

St. Sebastian, Br. 103

As the Italians would say, "Felice Capo D'Anno," and as the Americans would say, "Happy New Year to all"!!!

Our branch has chosen some of its fund raisers for 2014—a biscotti sale and a dinner. Further details in future Bollettino issues.

Our new slate of officers will be installed in Healdsburg on January 19 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

The next dinner meeting will be January 14 and the menu will be a gourmet surprise. For reservations, call Lila Boragno at 996-3448.

Saluti,

Marie-Therese Denning

Recording Secretary

Petaluma

St. Vincent, Br. 127

Greetings from Petaluma!

Another year almost gone. I'm exhausted with all the hustle and bustle of the Holidays! Of course I'm not getting any younger so what can I expect. Hope that you all are having wonderful festivities going on in your life and that you are enjoying the holidays with all your family.

We have had a wonderful year in our Branch this year. Many new members and many good dinners with good food, but most of all getting together with lovely friends and meeting new people. We're going to have a



Branch 103 Deputy Scinto displaying his Italian afghan donation.

new President, Bruno Fomasi, so this year plan on coming to the meetings to support him and his Officers. You will have a good time with other members, this Branch is a lot of fun.

We give our Past President Spence Burton our many thanks for having a such a good year and we hope that his health is improving day by day. We thank Cathy for being such a supportive First Lady.

Jan. 6 - Soup/Dessert Night in the Church Hall - 6:00pm. Cost \$5

Feb. 10 - Regular Meeting

Feb. 15 - Our first Crab Feed. St. James Church Hall. More details to follow later.

Get well wishes to any one who is ill and Happy Anniversary to those celebrating an Anniversary.

May you all have a very blessed and Merry Christmas and may the blessings of good health, and happiness in the New Year!

Remember to be nice to someone, you will always get it back in return.

Ciao,

Louise Vicino

Cotati

St. Joseph, Br. 150

Our December Christmas dinner was held at the Olive Garden. We presented gift card thank you's to Carol Martinez and Lydia Camozzi for the many years they have been officers in our branch. Especially Lydia who has been an officer in district for 15years as well as our branch for 22 years. Thank you to Tom Saksa for hosting the Christmas party.

January 19 will be installations at St Johns in Healdsburg. Please contact Lydia if you are going. All officers need to attend or if unable



Lila Boragno, Financial Secretary of Branch 103.

too have someone go in your place to fill the spot. Mass at 10:00 with installation and lunch to follow.

Get well wishes to everyone who is ill and recuperating.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Susan Daly

Santa Rosa

St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Brothers & Sisters

Our president, Bob Acquistapace, thanks everyone who helped to make 2013 a banner year. Bob would also like to single out the seven women who were officers in 2013 and went beyond their official duties to insure our success. Claire Giampaoli served as first vice president and ran the meeting as needed. She also was ticket chairperson for our two fundraisers. Kathy Acquistapace did a great job as secretary and led the salad makers at our fundraisers, cooked for the district meeting and helped set up for every dinner. Nancy Azevedo as financial secretary had our dues envelopes ready and collected the money at dinner meetings. Lorraine Castelli served as trustee and was the telephone committee, worked at all our dinners and always donated a raffle prize. RoseAnne Sikes was a trustee and a major seller of tickets to our fundraisers. Mary Desideri as orator led our prayers and worked to setup at every event. Marie Lagomarsino, a trustee, made beautiful table decorations for our events at her own expense.

Congratulations to Randy Apel winner of the Santa Rosa District Presidents award for 2013.

Happy New Year!

Lorraine Castelli

Sebastopol

St. Michael, Br. 209

On December 7, Branch 209 celebrated its 47th Anniversary with a Ravioli Dinner. Thanks to all who attended and, also, thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success!!

We continued to enjoy this festive season at our December 10 social meeting with members furnishing appetizers/finger food. Homemade Tom & Jerrys prepared by Lorraine Vannetti and Lona Bertoli were served by our bartender, Gene Vannetti. Santa arrived to distribute gifts and candy canes. Many thanks to Jerry Sanchietti (Santa) and his wife, Lillian (Mrs. Santa) who always fill the roles expertly.

Lucky members who were winners in our Christmas attendance drawing were: Bill Cole, \$100. Bill, in turn, donated his \$100 to our Bocci project. Thanks for your generosity, Bill; Yvonne Watson, 2014 dues paid; Gene Vannetti, 2014 ICF Calendar. Loudean Becchetti announced that at the recent District Meeting, prizes were won by Mercy Medrano and Tia Polley. Jackie Corsetti and Don Becchetti won table decorations.

Upcoming:

January 7 -- Board Meeting

January 14 -- Regular Meeting

January 19 -- Santa Rosa District Installation, Healdsburg

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all!!

Lona Bertoli

Stockton

District Council

The District Meeting February 16, 2014 will be hosted by St. Bernard's Branch 390, 163 W. Eaton Ave. Tracy. Encourage your members to attend the meeting.

The Bishop's Burse will be March 29, 2014 hosted by Br. 139 St. Anthony's Church 525 E. North Street, Manteca. Invite your families and friends. Put a notice in your bulletin inviting your parishioners to attend. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

Coming Up:

Jan. 5 -- Installation St. Stanislaus Br 48, Modesto, Mass 1:00pm

Feb. 16 -- District Meeting St. Bernard's Br 390 Tracy 1:30pm

March 29 -- Saturday Bishop's Burse Manteca, Mass 11:00am

Happy New Year!

Cecelia McGhee

Modesto

St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

Once we get past the Stockton District Installation of Officers January 5, 2014 we slow down a bit for the month of February then it gets really busy again.

We will be busy with district meetings, the St. Joseph's Table Celebration and the Bishop's Burse plus our regular meetings.

The St. Joseph's Table will be March 16, 2014 at 2:00pm. Mark the date on your calendar and join us for some great food and fun raffle. It is potluck so bring your favorite dish, family and friends.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sunday January 5, 2014 and February 2, 2014 8:00am at the Maze Blvd. Church

Happy New Year!

Coming up:

Jan. 5, 2014 -- Installation of officers, Mass 1:00pm 709 J Street

Jan. 8, -- 7:00pm Meeting -- St. Stanislaus Hall 7th and K Streets

Feb. 12 -- 7:00pm Meeting -- St. Stanislaus Hall 7th and K Streets

Feb. 16 -- 1:30pm District Meeting, Br. 390 Tracy

Mar. 12 -- 7:00pm Meeting -- St. Stanislaus Hall 7th and K Streets

Mar. 16 -- 2:00pm St. Joseph's Table Celebration St. Stanislaus Hall 7th & K Streets

Mar. 29 -- 11:00am Bishop's Burse -- Br. 139 St. Anthony's Manteca

Cecelia McGhee

Manteca

N.S. Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our newly elected officers will be installed on January 5, 2014. The new officers are John Pesta, Pres. Frank Re, 1st Vice-pres., Elizabeth Demichelis, 2nd Vice-pres., Linda Bertuccio, Secretary, Lisa Compton, Financial sec., Marilyn Amoral, Treasurer, Judi Oliveria, Orator, Joe Pellegrino, Sentinel, Yvonne Chimenti, Fred Golisano & Dino Cunial, Trustees.

Our Holiday Biscotti Sales went quite well. Thanks to all who helped make them and to all who donated ingredients.

Our next fundraiser will be the "All you can eat Shrimp Dinner" on April 26, 2014. Save the date!



Branch 425 initiated new members at its meeting. Welcome one and all!

Our next meeting will be on January 28 in the school's Cafeteria. Please join us for dinner at 6:30pm.

Pray for a safe return of all our troops.

Ida Queirolo

Stockton

Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

ICF Branch 395 had a wonderful Christmas Luncheon at the Gathering Space Youth Center at the Presentation Church. The meal was catered by Gian's Deli, the owner of whom is the son of one of our members Janet Bolognini. Members provided home made desserts. A Catholic Trivia game was played by members with prizes going to the top 3 winners who had the most correct answers. It was a fun time by all.

Tucson

Green Valley

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

A New Year, new members and new officers. What could be better? At our November meeting we welcomed guest Patricia Borquin and our returning "snowbirds." New members initiated into the Branch were Matt and Marcie Rhonda, Gary and Linda Haskey, Susan Burdick and re-initiated were Bill and Marilyn Dale.

Our Drive-Thru Lasagna Dinner was successful and a Big Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it a success.

New Officers for 2014 are President Joan Silva; 1st Vice President JoAnne Sapp; 2nd Vice President Mitchell Sapp; Treasurer Don Schweda; Secretary Karen Calabrese; Sentinel Joe Barton; Orator Kim McGriff; Trustees Jim Acitelli, Art Flanigan and Sue Simms.

All members of the Branch enjoyed the Christmas Brunch at the Desert Diamond CAsino which was paid for by the Branch -- a wonderful gift to everyone for their dedication and hard work during the past year(s).

In December the Branch members enjoyed a trip to the Gaslight Theatre for their Christmas show and then members enjoyed dinner at Dolce Vita restaurant.

We will be joining the other Tucson Branches for Bishop's Day and Installation of officers on Saturday, February 1, 2014, at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. There will be a dinner following the Mass.

February will have us back to work again with our sit-down Lasagna Dinner, which is always a big event for us and the Parish.

Bette Acitelli, Reporting

Tucson

Fr. Eusebio Kino, Br. 433

Congratulations to our Branch President Henry Fleischmann and his wife Maria on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary! We wish them manymore years of happiness together.

We welcomed a guest, Kathleen Giansiracusa, who learned of our Branch through Br. 434.

We are very happy to have her joining us and look forward to having her as a member.

There is a possibility that we have obtained a Recording Secretary and we are very thankful for that!! We will then have a full slate of officer for 2014.

After our meeting in October we had lunch at Mama Louisa's restaurant.

Our Bake Sale in November brought in additional monies to our Treasury.

December 8 was our Christmas Party and the Branch joined Green Valley Branch 425 at the Desert Diamond Casino for Brunch and a gift exchange.

The New Year will see us seeking additional members for our Branch and with our new officers and new ideas we know this will be successful as they are a dynamic group!!

We are also looking forward to Bishop's Day and Installation as we will be hosts for the event. The dinner afterwards will be an "Italian Picnic" theme.

Bette Acitelli, Recording Secretary