

# Heritage Newsletter

## Italian-American Festivals



ICF Float -- Santa Rosalia Festival, 1948

Over the years, the Italian Catholic Federation has participated in many Italian-American festivals and events. It's the federation's way of participating in the Italian-American community at large and a way of promoting the ICF to larger community. And the festivals are always lots of fun! The ICF has entered floats in a variety of festivals, often earning prizes and awards. The federation has also set up information booths promoting the ICF to prospective members. Besides festivals, the ICF has been involved in other events throughout the country. For example, the ICF visits San Jose Giants games once a year to promote membership in the federation. The Giants always welcome the federation and it's a good way to promote the organization while enjoying a summer evening. To the right you will find a list of festivals and events that the ICF Heritage Committee will be attending or helping out with this year. In Los Angeles, branches will participate in the San Gennaro Festival in late September. If you know of events that your branch participates in, please, let us know by emailing Vince Piro at [vfp@aol.com](mailto:vfp@aol.com).

### ICF Festival Appearances

*The ICF Heritage Committee will participate in the following festivals and events this year.*

**Italian Picnic and Parade**  
(Sutter Creek, CA)  
June 3rd-5th

The ICF will enter a float in this year's parade.

**San Jose Giants Italian Night**  
(San Jose, CA)  
July 16th

The ICF will sponsor a booth at that night's game and members will attend the game.

**Santa Rosalia Festa Italia**  
(Monterey, CA)

September 10th-11th  
The ICF will enter a float in this year's parade.

**Morgan Hill Italian Festival**  
(Morgan Hill, CA)

September 10th-11th  
The ICF will sponsor a booth at this year's festival.

ITALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES: RESOURCES



There are many resources for learning about Italian American festivals in your state and community. Festivals begin in early spring and run through early fall. Some festivals are more like carnivals with food booths and rides while others include cultural events and parades. Of course, the festivals take place mostly in states and communities where there is a large Italian American presence, such as New York, Illinois, California, and Pennsylvania. However, there are also festivals in North Carolina and Oregon. Some states still have the traditional festivals that honor a saint. For example, in Boston, you will find Saint Anthony's Feast & the Feast of Saint Lucy, the St. Agrippinas Festival, and the Feast of Saints Cosmas

and Damian. For specific dates, locations, and contact information, there are several useful websites:

- <http://www.niaf.org/research/festivals.asp>
- [http://goitaly.about.com/od/festivalsandevents/tp/US\\_italian\\_fests.htm](http://goitaly.about.com/od/festivalsandevents/tp/US_italian_fests.htm)
- <http://www.italylink.com/festivals.html>
- <http://www.lifeinitaly.com/heritage/italian-americanfestivals.asp>

ICF ON FACEBOOK

On the ICF Facebook page, you will find a list of current ICF events.

On the ICF Facebook page, you'll be able to chat with ICF friends.

You'll also find pictures from various ICF branch events.

You'll be able to leave messages and announcements.

You'll find flyers and announcements about ICF events, such as the ICF Golf Tournament.

You'll be able to post pictures and videos for your ICF friends.



ICF Special Event	ICF Special Event
A Night for the Seminarians Banquet 2nd Annual June 18th, 2011 For more information, please contact ICF at (888)ICF-1924 or Jim Friebel at (408)595-	Golf Tournament and Banquet 11th Annual July 29th, 2011 For more information, please contact ICF at (888)ICF-1924.

## THE HISTORY OF THE ICF:

### The First Decade (1920s)

This excerpt of the ICF history is taken from the Federation's 75th Anniversary Book

In 1927 the custom of official visits to the branches by Central Council officers began. The Federation held its first official Convention in May in San Francisco.

The structure of the Central Council was codified; there would be 12 elected and 12 life members. The first elected Central Council members were: Tony Gallo, Joe Beltrami, Frank Isi, M. Bertolli, J. H. Barcellona, V. Chiesa, V. Freccero, V. Biagiani, A. Rossi, L. Solari, D. Bagnasco, and L. Dellara. The Federation's assets, including the Central Council and all the branches, which numbered exactly 13, totaled \$12, 606.

When Branch #16, St. Francis of Assisi in San Rafael, was inaugurated, the San Rafael Independent wrote: "One of the most spectacular pageants ever witnessed in Marin County was staged in San Rafael on Saturday afternoon by the local members of the Italian Catholic Federation on the celebration and discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus."

In July of 1928 the first branch in Santa Rosa was inaugurated, with much fanfare; it was the largest yet, with 145 members being initiated.

That year Father Bandini's translation of Dante's Divine Comedy was published and received national acclaim.

Nineteen branches were represented at the Convention. By the end of 1928, the Central Council began receiving requests from all northern California areas for the formation of branches in local parishes.

1929 saw the formation of the first branch in the Monterey-Fresno diocese—Branch # 21 in Santa Cruz.

Branch 22's inauguration in San Mateo was attended by 4,000 people, and was covered by the San Mateo Times. The year also marked the first ICF event attended by the Archbishop of San Francisco, Edward J. Hanna, who delighted members by addressing them in fluent Italian.

Amerigo Rossi was elected Grand President, the first lay person elected to this position. The end of the decade was characterized by hard work, zeal and enthusiasm on the part of missionaries, Central Council officers, and no less the branches themselves. Everyone traveled about a lot and there was much gaiety and excitement in being part of the expanding movement.



Amerigo Rossi

A ROSE IN ITALY -- PICTURES FROM ROSE JARRETT'S TRIP TO ITALY



Entrance of the Leaning Tower



Rialto Bridge



Messina, Sicily



Mass with the Pope at  
St. Peter's Square



Coliseum



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This newsletter was produced by the  
ICF Heritage Committee.

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