

IN TOUCH

Italian Catholic Federation

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District Deputy Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE ROSSI

I wish a Happy New Year to all Deputies. I thank you for your dedicated service and hard work. I look forward to a good year for our members.

The District Deputies should assess the Deputy Program in their District and plan now to make changes that will support the Branches. I ask you to do three things:

1. Please try to appoint a Deputy to every Branch in your District. Make an effort to ask people personally if they will serve.
2. Appoint the strongest Deputies to the weakest Branches. Branches that are having trouble need the most help and a strong Deputy may make all the difference.
3. Make sure your Deputies have the tools and knowledge they need to do well. Share the "In Touch" with them, make sure they have a By-Laws and a Ritual Book, have periodic Deputy meetings either before or after District meetings and schedule a Deputy Workshop with me.

LET'S KEEP OUR MEMBERS

The primary concern of every Branch should be to renew everyone's membership in their respective Branches. We must continue to attract new members, but keeping those that we have is an equally important goal. As time marches on, it gets harder and harder to renew delinquent members, and they ultimately become cancellations. I ask every Branch Deputy to speak on member retention and to suggest ways in which the members can be approached. This is not easy, but it is the most pressing problem that we have been facing for the past 10 years. Let's make every Branch's goal to keep all of its members and to show an increase in membership.

I.C.F. CALENDARS

Please encourage the Branches to continue selling calendars. Branches should return unsold calendars immediately to the office, so they can be distributed to Branches that can sell them. Thanks to all Deputies who encouraged members to sell the I.C.F. calendars. As you know, everyone profits from the sale of each calendar.

WORKSHOPS

Deputy Workshop - Please contact me if you would like to schedule a Deputy Workshop for the Deputies in your District. It is a great way to build camaraderie with your Deputies and to help answer their questions about the Deputy Program.

WANT TO BE A DEPUTY?

Please keep an eye out for individuals who can serve as a Branch Deputy. Many members will not come forward and volunteer to be a Deputy. However, I have noticed that when a member is asked to serve as a Deputy he/she more than likely accepts the invitation. So, if you notice a person who enjoys the Federation, approach him/her about becoming a Deputy. You may be surprised when the answer is YES!!!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Encourage Branches to participate in this year's Membership Drive. The top four Branches in each of four categories receive a cash award of \$100.00. The Branches placing 2nd and 3rd each receive \$50.00. The top Individual Recruiter will receive \$200.00. Every member that recruits 10

or more members will receive \$25.00. The Branch recruiting the most New Family Memberships will receive \$100.00. The District with the highest net gain will receive a plaque.

Encourage Branches to participate in the Membership Drive. Branches will receive \$25.00 for every 5 new members they sign up. Please encourage the Branches to take advantage of this program to earn cash for their treasuries and grow their membership at the same time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPUTIES
TO SPEAK ON AT
BRANCH MEETINGS**

Membership Retention and Payment of Dues.

Make sure that a list of the newly elected Branch Officers is sent to the I.C.F. office.

Make sure each Branch has a published yearly calendar of events that has been given to every member and encourage each President to have Chairpersons for all Branch Committees.

Encourage all Branch members to attend the District Installation of Officers. Insist that all Officers, or a Representative, attend the District Installation of Officers' Ceremony.

Information on our Scholarship Program has been mailed to all of the high schools where the Federation is located. Deputies should speak on this important program and encourage Branches to contribute at least one full scholarship if they have the means. Partial scholarship donations are also accepted and encouraged. Encourage members who have children or grandchildren who are high school seniors and meet the criteria to apply. March 15th is the deadline for donations and applications.

Deputies should also encourage Branches to increase donations to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year and Italian studies scholarships this year. The need is great so please be generous.

Encourage the members to make contributions to the Providenza Seminary Fund, Cooley's Anemia and Gifts of Love Programs. They can use the donation cards that are available through the I.C.F. office or printed in the Bollettino. We also now have a donation card for the Scholarship Program.

Remind branches to: pay the Per Capita Tax when the bill is received. Consider now how to have

sufficient funds (try fundraisers) to send their Delegates to the Convention this year over Labor Day Weekend.

**MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/06
BY DISTRICT**

		Gain/Loss since 6/30/06
Santa Clara Valley	1562	- 12
Central Coast	1462	+14
San Mateo	1168	+19
Fresno	1134	+20
Santa Rosa	946	+ 5
Los Angeles	764	- 16
Contra Costa	710	- 3
East Bay	676	+ 4
San Francisco	663	- 10
Blessed Sacrament	568	- 7
San Diego	553	- 4
Stockton	526	+ 7
Chicago	483	- 3
Santa Barbara/Ventura	291	+13
San Fernando Valley	287	- 6
San Gabriel Valley	285	 0
Marin	281	+ 5
San Bernardino	242	 0
Orange	234	- 6
Reno	79	+ 1
Las Vegas	73	+ 3
Tucson	89	+31

Total membership as of 12/31/06 **13,076**

New members	371
Reinstated	21
Cancelled/Non Payment	208
Deceased	129
Delinquent 6 – 8 months	24
Delinquent 9 – 12 months	322

Let's try to retain some of those delinquent members. Please make every effort to see that the Branches contact these members so that they can remain in the I.C.F. Family.

BUON ANNO