December 2010

**BOLLETTINO**

Highlights

**Msgr. Cardelli:**
*What is the ICF and What Does it Do?*

**Book Review:**
*“The Song of St. Francis”,* by Tomie dePaola

**Saintly Stories:**
*St. Teresa of Avila, The Mystical Carmelite*

Calendar Winners:
*November Calendar Winners*

Central Council Meeting Minutes

**Saturday October 16, 2010**

Francesco’s Restaurant – Oakland, CA

The meeting was called to order at 10:01am by Grand President Jim Jones.


CC Meeting Minutes: from 6-12-10 and 9-5-10 were reviewed and approved as written.

Communications
- Thank you – Andrea Pimentel for donation to the Providenza Fund in memory of her husband George Pimentel
- Thank you – Rosemarie and family for donation to Gifts of Love Program in memory of Ario Gregori
- Thank you – Sid and Andy Pappani for donation to Providenza Fund in memory of Sid’s mother Carmen Sanchez Cardenas
- Thank you – from the The Gubbio Project for donation on behalf of Mother Teresa Award recipient Fr. Louis Vitalle
- Acknowledgement – donation to the

**ICF Mourns Passing of Past Grand President Richard Valli**

Richard Valli, a dedicated and long-time member of the Italian Catholic Federation died on November 15, 2010 in San Francisco after a brief illness. Richard was born on May 17, 1937 to Mario and Rose Valli who were members of Branch 38 in San Francisco. He is survived by his wife, Lillian and a sister, Barbara Jean Di Grazia and husband Herbert as well as nieces, Karen Di Grazia Rossi and her husband Leonard Rossi, Donna Di Grazia, Valerie Pontarelli, Vickie Baiocchi and Paula Boyd, and his great niece, Janet Rossi. Richard attended schools in San Francisco and graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He married Lillian Baiocchi on May 4, 1958 and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary two years ago. He and Lillian joined, (as charter members) Branch 258 at St. Elizabeth’s Parish in San Francisco after a brief illness. Richard was born on May 17, 1937 to Mario and Rose Valli who were members of Branch 38 in San Francisco. He is survived by his wife, Lillian and a sister, Barbara Jean Di Grazia and husband Herbert as well as nieces, Karen Di Grazia Rossi and her husband Leonard Rossi, Donna Di Grazia, Valerie Pontarelli, Vickie Baiocchi and Paula Boyd, and his great niece, Janet Rossi. Richard attended schools in San Francisco and graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He married Lillian Baiocchi on May 4, 1958 and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary two years ago. He and Lillian joined, (as charter members) Branch 258 at St. Elizabeth’s Parish in San Francisco. Richard attended schools in San Francisco and graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He married Lillian Baiocchi on May 4, 1958 and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary two years ago. He and Lillian joined, (as charter members) Branch 258 at St. Elizabeth’s Parish in San Francisco.
What Is the ICF and What Does it Do?

The ICF offers various annual awards. The Pope John XXIII Award is presented to an outstanding lay person who best exemplifies the humanitarian qualities of this exemplary pope. The Mother Teresa award recognizes and honors a priest, nun, deacon or brother for exemplary humanitarian work. We also honor a family of the year as well as a young adult who exhibits the qualities of leadership. We annually bestow the Grand President’s Award to a member for exceptional community service in the spirit of the ICF.

If you are interested in the ICF, please contact a local branch and come to one of our many activities.

WON’T YOU JOIN US?

BOOK REVIEW

The Song of Francis

Tomie dePaola


32 pages.

In The Song of Francis, Tomie dePaola, award winning author and illustrator, introduces young children to the story of St. Francis de Assisi. These simple words and lively illustrations will delight preschool children and teach them valuable lessons about their relationship with God.

St. Francis is so full of love for God that he wants to sing, but he is alone and there is no one to listen. This discourages Francis until a small angel, who follows Francis everywhere, tells him to sing anyway since God will hear him. So Francis begins to sing. His voice reaches the sky and the sun and moon come to listen to his beautiful song.

Then the sky fills with birds – red ones, orange ones, yellow ones, green ones, blue ones and more – who want to listen to Francis’ verses. Then, the birds join Francis in his song and “a more glorious sound was never seen on earth before.” Finally, angels come to listen to this glorious song of love. As evening descends, Francis ends his song and he is once again alone, except for the moon and angel.

However, now Francis vows, “Tomorrow... I shall sing again.”

The lessons in this seemingly simple text will appeal to children and adults, too. First, dePaola reminds us that we are never alone, for God is always present in our lives. As the angel reminds Francis when he feels alone and doesn’t want to sing, “The loving God will hear you.” What’s interesting is that God never appears in the book as a character, but his angel appears to inspire Francis and once he begins his song of love to God, Francis’ world fills with life. While one cannot see God, he is present everywhere in the life around us.

Children will also experience the power of love. DePaola writes simply yet forcefully: “I shall sing again.” Readers of all ages are sure to enjoy and love this book. This simple text and loving all things. And the sky fills with both the sun and moon. Birds of all colors – orange, blue, green – fly about, chirping as they accompany Francis as he sings. Brightly colored plants and flowers sprout from the ground and delight the eye.

The illustrations in this slim volume are bright, pulsating with motion and color that children will find attractive. Each page delights the eye and reinforces the text. For example, when Francis is alone, the reader sees a single Francis on the page with just a couple of plants around him. The pleasant colors are few and more muted, a light purple and burnt orange. Later, when Francis’ song of love attracts the sun and moon, the angels and birds, the page bursts with bright colors: yellow, orange, blue, purple, green, and white in various intermixed hues. The page is awash in motion with flying birds and sprouting plants and the pulsating rays of the sun and moon.

This book is filled with the love of God and the life that springs forth from that love. The back cover best summarizes this fine book best: “Celebrate the joy of life.”

For older children, DePaola has written Francis: The Poor Man of Assisi (Holiday House, February 1990), which retells the story of this adored saint’s extraordinary life in a series of vignettes. It was an American Library Association Notable Book. It also includes an introduction, historical notes, and a list of dates that would serve useful for a research paper.

DePaola has been publishing for more than 40 years. He has written and/or illustrated over 200 books. He has written books involving the stories and characters of numerous cultures as well as his Italian heritage, including several books on Strega Nona. For his work, dePaola has received the Caldecott Honor Award and the Newberry Honor Award. To learn more about dePaola visit www.tomie.com.
Teresa of Avila was born in 1515, in Avila, Castile, Spain. Her parents were upper-middle class and raised a family of 10 children. Teresa was described by her biographers as a “bright, imaginative, extraverted and affectionate child.” Her closest sibling and constant companion was her brother Rodrigo, with whom she prayed and took particular delight in reading the lives of the saints. As Teresa entered her teens, her mother died. The event caused a very noticeable change in her personality: she began spending much time alone, so much so that it alarmed her father, who placed her in an Augustinian convent where young women were educated.

After a year and a half in the convent, Teresa fell ill so her father took her home to convalesce. There, Teresa seriously considered the religious life. When she discussed her idea with her father, he opposed the idea. So, at the age of 20, against her father’s wishes, she applied to and was received at the convent of the Incarnation of the Carmelite nuns outside Avila. A year later, no longer opposed by her father, she received the habit and began to give herself wholeheartedly to prayer and penance. Shortly after her profession, she again became seriously ill and failed to respond to medical treatment-in fact, her doctors gave up on her. As a last resort, her father took her to a famous woman healer, whose “treatment” also failed to cure Teresa’s condition (which may have been malignant malaria). Teresa’s ailment continued for the next three years. Then, for no explicable reason, it diminished and Teresa regained some semblance of health.

Then Teresa experienced a period of time when she began to neglect mental prayer and spend too much time mixing with visitors to the convent. Shortly after her father died, her confessor called her spiritual slippage to her attention so she returned to intensive private prayer. During the next 18 years, Teresa reported that God visited her with intellectual visions and interior communications. These “gifts” brought mixed reviews from those few to whom she described them: some thought they were blessed and others thought she was blessed with God-given mystical experiences; others cautioned that these were figments of a runaway imagination; some others warned her that these were the work of the devil and that she should break them off promptly. On one occasion, Teresa stated that she was seized with a rapture in which she heard these words spoken to her within her soul: “I will not have you hold conversations with men, but with angels.” Even though her reports of the raptures and divine messages caused her great distress, she continued to receive and welcome them for ensuing years.

Teresa was a reformer: both internally and externally. Internally, she resolved to follow the Rule as perfectly as humanly possible. Externally, she acted on a suggestion from her niece that since the nuns at the convent at Avila were too relaxed that a smaller stricter and more private monastery should be established. The proposal met with both strong support and with fierce opposition from religious and laity alike. Finally, in 1562, an order came from the Vatican that authorized the establishment of the new monastery of St. Joseph. On August 24, 1563, the monastery was dedicated and during the ceremony four novices received the habit of Discalced Carmelites. Now that she had her monastery, Teresa imposed strict enclosure, perpetual silence and austerities on her community. Then followed the five most peaceful years of her life during which she wrote the Way of Perfection and the Meditations on the Canticle.

In 1567, the Carmel general visited Teresa’s community and approved of her work. He commanded her to establish other convents along the same line. Within the next few years, Teresa founded seventeen convents, some for men, throughout Spain. Some of the convents were met with opposition, especially the monasteries established for men; however, after some political battles within the Carmelite hierarchy, the issues were resolved in 1580 when Pope Gregory XIII recognized Teresa’s Discalced Carmelites as a separate province.

Teresa was endowed with great natural talents, one of which was writing. She described her experiences with remarkable skill in works that have become spiritual classics. Her autobiographies, The Way of Perfection, and The Interior Castle have inspired and guided countless people in their spiritual lives.

Teresa was one of the great mystics and apostles of the Church. She was intelligent, practical, charming and deeply spiritual. She was also skillful enough to blend a very active life with a life of deep contemplation.

Teresa died in October, 1582. She was canonized in March, 1622, by Pope Gregory XVL and, in 1970, Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church—the first woman to be so honored.
The Bollettino... Moving Forward

The Public Relations Committee has been looking for ways to streamline the effort required to format the Bollettino and keep expenses down. First, for efficiency, beginning with the January 2011 issue, only electronic submissions of branch articles and photographs will be accepted for publication. There is a lot of time and effort in converting any handwritten articles and printed photographs into the format required for printing the paper. During the Public Relations workshop at the 2010 convention, it was mentioned that sending articles or photographs by email in the future would be greatly appreciated by Bishop McGraw.

Richard Valli

Francisco. Richard held many offices in Br. 258 and also served as president of the San Francisco District. At the time of his death, he served as branch deputy to Branch 161 in Larkspur. He rarely missed one of their meetings. Encouraged by other Central Council members, he campaigned and was elected president of the Central Council in 1976. He served three years as a Grand Trustee, three years each as Second and First Grand Vice President and served three years as Grand President from 1987 to 1990. A few years later, he was elected to the office of Grand Parliamentarian. He chaired the Task Force, Bylaws/ritual and Organ Donor Committees. He was a past Director of the Transplant Recipients International Organization and member of the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. He often traveled to branches to encourage organ donations. He was a member of the Military and Hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem and bore the rank of Commander. Richard’s 37 years as a Federation member and 32 years as a Central Council member, meant a great deal to him. He often mentioned that the Federation was part of his life. He joined because he believed in the fundamentals and purposes of the Federation. Because of his firm belief in the organization and his experience in the business world, he was a member of the governing body. He was that, and much more. Monsignor Daniel Cardelli, Spiritual Director of the Federations remembers, “Richard Valli, a true friend with a friendly rosy and a banter with a wink who truly loved the ICF. Like John the Baptist he made the crooked paths straight. I will miss him.” A dear and close friend, Past Grand President Larry Marsalli is quoted, “Richard Valli was a man of integrity, was kind and generous and a devoted Federation member. He was a strong believer in proper protocol and doing what was right. I had the privilege of working with him on many committees since we first met in the early seventies. I will miss him as I thought of him as a brother.” Our love and sympathy go out to his wife Lillian. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

CC Minutes

Providenza Fund from the Bella and Eddie Leonard Family for the 2010 Family of the Year Award
- Acknowledgement – donation to the Gifts of Love Program from Central Council in memory of Ario Gregori
- Acknowledgement – donation to the Providenza Fund from the Central Council in memory of Carmen Sanchez Cardenas, Sid Pappani’s mother
- Invitation – NIAF 35th Convention to be held in Washington, D.C. Oct. 22nd and 23rd

Reports

Spiritual Director – Msgr. Daniel Cardelli
No report

Grand President – Jim Jones
- Sept. 25 – Br. 4 San Jose’s 85th Anniversary
- Sept. 27 – Celebration of Life for Ario Gregori
- Sept. 29 – Office Staff meeting along with Mike Rossi to review Employee Handbook
- Sept. 30 – Oct. 1 – vigil and funeral for Santa Clara District Deputy Giovanna Graziano, Br. 45 Year Award
- Oct. 8 – Finance Committee Meeting and Heritage Meeting
- Oct. 15 – Task Force Meeting
- Oct. 16 – Central Council Meeting
- Oct. 16 – Jane to attend Br. 50 San Francisco’s 75th Anniversary
- Oct. 17 – Bishop’s Day in Glendale, AZ; Jane to attend Central Coast; Bob will represent in Las Vegas
- Oct. 23 – Br. 51 Castroviejo 75th Anniversary
- Oct. 24 – Santa Rosa Bishop’s Day; Jane to attend in Fresno, Bob in Sacramento
- Oct. 26 – Highland, CA meeting with Lou Magno – Jane to attend
- Oct. 27 – San Bernardino Bishop’s Day; Jane will represent the Grand President
- Oct. 30 – Msgr. Daniel Cardelli’s 80th Birthday celebration
- Oct. 31 – Santa Clara District Bishop’s Day
- Nov. 6 – Santa Barbara/Ventura Bishop’s Day

Grand Treasurer – George Bacigalupi
- General Fund Budget for Jan – Sept. 2010 was reviewed

Deputy Chairperson – Jane Dianda
- Appointed Jody Balestri as District Deputy for San Diego District effective Sept. 1
- Appointed Jerry Delfino as District Deputy for Santa Clara Valley District
- Due to serious health issues, Tony Zanotto, District Deputy of the Blessed Sacrament District has resigned; working with Nina on suggestions for his replacement
- Br. 217 Redlands – President Michael Mangino did not show up for convention, although his registration and banquet was paid. Several messages have been left with no response
- Br. 286 Alhambra is starting the process of closing branch; members willing to transfer
- Presenting Deputy Workshop for East Bay District on Oct. 10
- Scheduling workshops for San Mateo, Santa Clara Valley, San Bernardino and San Gabriel Districts
- Completed the latest issue of the “In Touch” Newsletter
- Br. 323 Chicago asking to rescind decision of convention fine based on new information. Since this information came late and the fine was voted on by the delegates, nothing can be done to rescind this decision.

Field Operations Director – Louis Magno
- July 1 – Orientation meeting w/GP Jim Jones, Dave Botta & Carmen Kilcullen
- July 5 – Contacted Joe Donato regarding Las Vegas; will contact at convention.
- July 7 – Meeting w/fr. 143 North Hills Board of Directors
- July 9 – Meeting w/Br. 143 North Hills Executive Committee Meeting and pastoring
- July 11 – Meeting w/Jody Balestri in San Diego regarding expansion
- July 15 – contacted Leonard Zasoski – new parish in Bakersfield; will schedule meeting in the fall. Br. 436 Glendale meeting postponed until July 22
- July 20 – Meeting w/B. 102 Burbank
- July 22 – Meeting w/f/Br. 437 Surprise, AZ with Bob Aquastapace, followed by a meeting w/Br. 436 Glendale with David Botta
- July 26 – Contacted Archbishop Charles Chaput in Denver, CO; will meet Oct. 12th
- July 28 – Contacted Nina Malone, Tony Zanotto in Blessed Sacrament District regarding new branch in Redding, CA
- Aug. 3 – met w/Br. Lucille – Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO
- Aug. 6 – Attended Italian Festival in Redding, CA; spoke w/ Fr. Lawrence, pastor of St. Joseph Parish. ICF interest was from previous pastor who has since moved.
- Aug. 11 – Br. 143 North Hills; officers meeting w/Fr. Alex on hold due to a funeral
- Aug. 17 – Br. 102 Burbank; Branch President requests meeting with all board members
- Aug. 19 – Contacted Br. 137 Santa Barbara
- Aug. 25 – Participated in organization of Cabrini Chapel in Burbank for convention tour
- Aug. 31 – Br. 137 Santa Barbara; meeting. Branch has no parish home and older members. Will establish more monthly meetings and attend district functions
- Sept. 2 attended the ICF Convention
- Sept. 9 – Br. 102 Burbank; board meeting. Will schedule meeting w/pastor regarding a membership drive at weekend Masses.
- Sept. 13 – Post convention meeting of Cabrini Chapel Committee in Burbank
- Sept. 16 – Br. 326 Glendale; meeting along w/Dave Botta to discuss first Bishop’s Day in Phoenix Diocese. Pastor Jim Turner suggested this as a good opportunity to re-introduced ICF to the parish
- Sept. 21 – Br. 137 Santa Barbara BBQ luncheon meeting
- Sept. 23 – Br. 437 Surprise, AZ – met w/ branch for first meeting and election
- Sept. 24 – Participated in the San Gennaro Festival booth w/Los Angeles ICF District
- Sept. 26 – Contacted Leonard Zasoski regarding new parish in Bakersfield
- Sept. 27 – Attended Celebration of Life for Ario Gregori at Br. 19 Colma
- Sept. 28 – Received info. from Bob Osorio regarding Sacred Heart Parish in Saratoga; schedule to discuss new branch
- Oct. 1 – Attended funeral for Mary Volente, charter member of Br. 102 Burbank and currently Br. 380 Thousand Oaks

scroll down for continued story

Joseph and Father Peter Siemans from St. Joseph Parish in Cupertino.

Attendance of all 16 seminarians currently studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of San Jose was facilitated by the Diocesan Vocation Director Father John Poncini, who also attended the luncheon.

The membership of Branch 47 in Mountain View headed by Joseph Teresi and his committee, hosted the beautiful day. Michael’s Restaurant accommodated 142 people at the luncheon. The ownership group of the Restaurant did a wonderful job – great food, excellent service and was generous in reducing the bill by over $500. We thank them for their generosity.

This year, despite the hardship with the economy, God blessed the District with successful fundraisers thereby allowing the District to donate $10,500 to the Diocesan Vocation Program. This money goes directly to the seminarians for support of their education. “To see the appreciation and excitement in the eyes of these young men made it all worth the work and effort,” Grand President Jim Jones presented the Bishop with a check from the Providenza Fund in the amount of $2,500. Pier DelFrater, Orator of Branch 47 presented the Bishop with our Spiritual Bouquet, which was gratefully accepted by Bishop McGraw.
October 5 – Meeting w/Mgr. Kidder at Holy Spirit Parish in El Dorado Hills (Blessed Sacrament District)

October 12 – Meeting w/Archbishop Charles Chapeau in Denver, CO to discuss expansion

October 13 – Contacted Rita De Tomasi; presented list of possible parishes for expansion

Highland, CA – Dave Botta and Carmen Kilcullen will be following through with Lou to see if a new branch can be established.

Committee Reports (in reverse order)

Workshop – Bob Basuino

• Workshops were well attended.
• East Bay District Workshop was very successful. Planning on more workshops in the San Mateo District after Joint Installations.
• Positive response to convention workshop

Ways and Means – Jim Friebel

• Ann Interrante is member at large on committee this year
• Golf Tournament net profit was $8094.55
• Convention Bingo made a profit of $972
• Seminary Night – will be held in Monterey on June 18, working on entertainment
• Calendar theme – regions of Italy; feature one or two each month. Possibly open up to having members publish birthdays for $10 each and others.

Task Force – Mike Rossi

• Focus on operations on the federation structure, troubled branches, heritage, hospitalization, mission statement, etc.
• Developed an employee manual, cross-training, job descriptions
• Projection that by 2012 membership will be down to 10,000

Scholarship – Dante Galeazzi

• Committee asking branches to select a scholarship program and/or a funds raiser.
• Branches should have green cards readily available at branch and district meetings.

Public Relations – Leonard Zasoski

• Reviewed the convention workshop and felt all necessary information was covered.
• Convention awards – reminder to start looking within branches and districts now instead at the last minute, since it takes time to prepare the packet. All applications for awards are on the ICF website.
• Bollettino – information after convention seems to take awhile to get to Michelle. Software needs an upgrade; not compatible with other programs. Money is available. Advertisement – need help from everyone to get more ads to collect more revenue. The committee feels that the ad should be placed within the district; this may be more of an incentive to the advertiser.
• Changes are still being made to the website; forms being added, etc.

Membership – Roselyne Jarrett

• Central Coast and Fresno District membership training has been completed.
• Convention – set up a Membership table to present posters and additional information.
• Several projects in the future include: branches and districts to appoint membership chairperson, submit articles from the youth in the Bollettino encouraging our younger members, ICF placemats that advertise the organization, eliminating postcard portion of the brochure, since few are being returned to the office.
• Investigate and follow up on cancellations and non-paid members
• 2011 membership awards; committee moved to follow proposed scheduled annual budget of $695; motion passed.
• Additional membership posters will be available from the ICF office for $1 each

Hospitalization – Deborah Rodondi

• The committee is coming up with ideas to educate members on the benefits of the plan.
• As of Sept. 30, 2010, there are 588 active members in the plan.
• As of Oct. 8, 2010, the total assets are $816,000.
• Plan increase of 6.76% in the third quarter compared to only .88% last quarter.
• Accumulated gains from Dec. 31, 2002 to Sept. 30, 201 is $278,464
• Committee will be reviewing investment with UBS to see if any changes are needed.

Heritage – Vince Piro

• Jean Bridges will serve as a member at large on the committee.
• Reviewed the responsibilities of the committee, including Sutter Creek Parade, Morgan Italian Festival, Los Angeles San Gennaro Festival and San Diego Little Italy.
• Committee would like to develop a DVD for convention featuring interviews with members who worked with Sir Luigi Providenza; Al Teglia & Nello Rossi will continue the project of archiving old pictures.
• Heritage Award winners will be published in the Bollettino in the coming months.
• Create a pictorial history on DVD of the ICF that can be handed out to members at the convention; video presentation can be presented as a link on the website.
• Bi-monthly online newsletter on the website, including stories from heritage book.

Gifts of Love – Andy Pappani

• $25,746.98 total available with $7,317.50 allocated for the Deaf Program.
• 10 awards given at last meeting on July 17, 2010 totaling $10,400

Finance – George Bacigalupi

• June 2009 – motion was made to reimburse CC members to include second night lodging if participating in CC dinner if traveling at least 100 miles each way. The policy was to be reviewed regarding details of distance and revisited at the CC meeting in Oct. 2009; no follow-up occurred. The finance committee recently reviewed this policy; discussion ensued. The motion stands and should be noted as such on the expense voucher.
• Bank accounts will be updated to reflect removal of old information and current signers.
• Draft Budget and Finances for 2011 was presented; motion passed.

Constitution Director’s – Steven Fuentes (absent) – No report

By-Laws & Rituals – Leon P. Rossi

• Branch by-laws and CC statutes have been updated to reflect recent changes.
• Encourage submission of amendments from membership to committee.
• Dual membership issue will be discussed this year.

Apostolate & Charity – Theresa Helfand

• Newly formed committee met this morning to discuss ideas for the future.

December 2010