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 companions, 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 Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator and Christmas Party Coordinator Maurice Levine smile for the camera.

Dear Grand President Bob Basuino,

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 nonexistent. 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 Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator
Children’s Hospital Oakland
LLevine@mail.cho.org
510-428-3885, x 5427

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 Clovisdale; 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 it’s 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.

I hope you continue to support the ICF and celebrate its 90 years of service to our communities. I am grateful to all ICF members for their continued support.

Peaceful New Year!

With Love and Warm Regards,

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS
Senior Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator
Children’s Hospital Oakland
LLevine@mail.cho.org
510-428-3885, x 5427

continued on page 5
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. Yes! 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 swirling 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 Bohm 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 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 Catholic Federation, you become the unselfish one.

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.

High Five!

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contra Costa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Clara Valley</td>
<td>+23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marin</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>+9</td>
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</table>

We encourage all Branches and Districts to donate to these relief funds to help the people who were affected. Private donations are also welcomed. If you have any question or comments, please contact the I.C.F. office at 1-888-423-1924.

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 be aware that new, reinstated, transfer in/out and deceased members are included in the stats below.

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

Italian Catholic Federation, you become the unselfish one.
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,

Roselynne Jarrett, Grand Treasurer

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!

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DECEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

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<td>Irene Steele</td>
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<td>Bakersfield, CA</td>
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<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>390</td>
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<td>343</td>
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<td>Ottavio Lucchini</td>
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<td>Marisa Roccia</td>
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<td>391</td>
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<td>Rose Frankina</td>
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<td>Judy Longawa</td>
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<td>Kathy Neuburger</td>
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<td>Roseville, CA</td>
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<td>12/25</td>
<td>Tiffani Souza</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>12/26</td>
<td>Fr. Vu</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Gilroy, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/27</td>
<td>Gerry Meacham</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Gilroy, CA</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/28</td>
<td>Ernest &amp; Norma Anderson</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Pasadena, CA</td>
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<td>12/29</td>
<td>Anna Friebel</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>Morgan Hill, CA</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/30</td>
<td>Deanna Carone</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/31</td>
<td>Anthony F. Miranda</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Modesto, CA</td>
<td>$50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEBSITE: ICF.ORG

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Italian Catholic Federation
90th Anniversary Gala
1924 - 2014

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 Bollentinos.

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza
Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

IN MEMORY OF:
Marilyn Garcia
Cookie Rossi
Donald Waldron
Rose Cazares
James (Jim) Moore
Cookie Rossi
Stella C. (Bruno) Canepa

DONATED BY:
Jeanette Acosta
Mrs. Anita Gatti and Family
Officers/Members of Br. 45
Officers/Members of Br. 45
Leroy and Stella Taddei
Vera Brown
Al and Deanna De Nurra

GET WELL WISHES:
Gloria Ghirarduzzi
Frank Gasparro
Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli
Myrna Rizza
Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli
Albert Oneto

THANK YOU FOR BISHOP’S DAY:
Bob Basuino

THANK YOU:
Jane Dianda

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:
Mrs. Alma Bonino
Joey 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

MARRYNGLY A GARCIA Branch 007
MARY BETTIN Branch 027
JOSIE LARI Branch 027
ELLEN SHEA Branch 027
GERALD LOPOLOPOLI Branch 185
MARGARET VINCI Branch 380
GORDON ABBOTT Branch 391

ANGELA AUTERI Branch 392
CLOTILDE COZZONE Branch 392
ANGELO DE BARTOLO Branch 392
FILIPPO DOLCIMASCOLO Branch 392
REV STEVEN E FOPPIANO Branch 438

Gifts of Love Donations

Donations received by Dec. 10, 2013.

Branch 4 Branch 391 Branch 423 Pat and Lou Mages
In memory of Cookie Rossi
Rose M. Stack
In memory of Dorothy (Cookie) Rossi
Officers/Members of Br. 417
In memory of Ann Sarkisian
Bev Maloney
In memory of Auntie Rose
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Andy Pappani
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Bill Greco

Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Christina Andrade
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Theresa Borger
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Frank Angelino
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Joe Fortino
Alida Grisenti
Get well wishes for Joe Teresi
Nina Malone
Get well wishes for Albert Teegla
Nina Malone
Get well wishes for William (Bill) Keller

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.

A New Year’s Resolution

Report Date: 12/12/2013

MARCIE A MAFFEI Branch 007
SCOTT M FLEMING Branch 027
EDDIE SUAREZ Branch 027
LUPE VALDIVOS Branch 027
JENNIFER M VALOROSI Branch 027
MARcia i VALOROSI Branch 027
JUDITH M BOZZO Branch 028
SALvATORE J BOZZO Branch 028
MARTIN MILLER Branch 028
ROSENMARIE EVANS Branch 028
MARY BETH NAGAREDA Branch 028
DANTE CAVALLO Branch 052
SARA CAVALLO Branch 052
SUSIE CAVALLO Branch 052
MICHEL J FILICE Branch 052
VALERIE GOODWIN Branch 052
DOMINC LICKEY Branch 052
ISABEL LICKEY Branch 052
JOSEPH LICKEY Branch 052
MIKEA LICKEY Branch 052
RENEE LICKEY Branch 052
CRAG SWANTON Branch 052
JOAN TOSSETTI Branch 052
PAUL TOSSETTI Branch 052
ADDISON CANJA Branch 072

ALICE CANJA Branch 072
ANDREA CANJA Branch 072
REV FRANCISCO SANDOVAL Branch 111
LILLIAN M WARD Branch 127
CHRISTY FJLICE Branch 184
BEN ANTONIOLI Branch 327
GIOpARIO BARBIERI Branch 332
JANET BARBIERI Branch 332
EDMUNDO RAMOS Branch 332
ANTHONY CLANCY Branch 368
CONNIE CLANCY Branch 368
DARYL T HITT Branch 380
JAMIE C HITT Branch 380
NATALIA J HITT Branch 380
GARY G HAKEY Branch 425
LINDA L HAKE Branch 425
JENNIFER LOVATO Branch 425
JOSEPH LOVATO Branch 425
LINDA PASLEY Branch 438
ANDREA LOTITO Branch 440
MICHAEL LOTITO Branch 440
CHRISTIAN MIRAGLIA Branch 440
ANGELA QUAGLIA Branch 440
JOSEPHINE M GIFFORD Branch 442
WILLIAM F SAVIGNANO Branch 442

Scholarship Donations

Donations received by Nov. 10, 2013.

Deborah Rodondi
Get well wishes for Tom Pollicuta
Deborah Rodondi
Get well wishes for Al Teglia
Deborah Rodondi
Get well wishes for Julia Padreddi

Deborah Rodondi
In memory of Cookie Rossi
Trevis and Diana Berry
Merry Christmas wishes and thank you to Ann Barbetti
Trevis and Diana Berry
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
Mr. Charles P Guillo, 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 Basanio
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 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 Starbucks, 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.
- 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. Arrange 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—you 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
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. Francis Cabrini Shrine at Mother Cabrini High School in Manhattan in New York City. A Shrine 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 Befana

La Befana is a nice old woman who flies on her broomstick 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.

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.

Laurice Levine

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 their home. 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 evening was 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 preparing 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 Josephine 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 Luisi, 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 Lenninbrick.
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 Ceur and Joan Garibaldi.

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

After three years of doing the Bollettino articles I an grateful to John on job 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”.

Mered
St. Cecilia, 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. Nette, 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, as well as Josephine and Dan Giampaoli. Almonds were donated by Ezio and Ellis 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 Stu. Father John Bruno blessed the table and 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 Taccrono. We are very sorry for their loss.

We all hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
God Bless
Orolinda Casella

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 lit Christmas trees and the tables with the wrapped 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 Weinzinger 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), Sifter Flor Azevedo (Dec. 9), Pasquale Jacobbe (Dec. 16), Louis Greico (Dec. 18), Kathy Gambero (Dec. 22), Tom Ryno (Dec. 24), Dolores Leon (Dec. 30), and Deanna Hannatt (Dec. 31).

May your New Year be filled with joy, many moments, and many, many blessings in the year 2014.
Wishing Everyone the best for the New Year!

Maria E. Juarez-Garcia

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 Massouto 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 Patrons, Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini who’s credo is “I

Clos
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 grandchildren 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 Conaster 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 in the New Year!

Happy Birthday to January celebrants Bill Conaster, 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 Josephine 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 each 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

Los Angeles

- BOLLETTINO
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, President of Branch 108

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).

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.

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

South Pasadena, CA 91030

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 pita, games, raffle prices and sing along led by our new member Mary Ann Canetti. What a wonderful voice.

Next meeting is January 16, 2014.

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;

Filomena Boccanfuso, Branch 115 Pres. Neal Di Leva, Christopher Felix and 1st V.P. Anna Di Leva 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.

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

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Neal Di Leva
President Br#115

San Pedro
St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

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A scrumptious luncheon was prepared by Chef Jacob. Many friendships were rekindled;
Murphy, a precious friend. Prayers for her family; dearly-departed parishioner Clarice Keep in your prayers: Don Bohannon and Bersano (January 27)

Happy January Birthday wishes to: Eleanor great December B-days. Gennifer Bohannon and Angela Marino had invited guests had a wonderful time. traditional piñata was a challenge. Members/ by Orator Gloria Castaneda! Santa (Don food and a “Happy Birthday” cake created and the smiles of happy children! Delicious was filled with camaraderie, fun & games, Branch 237’s December 15 Christmas Party by our Chaplain Fr. Manuel Bravo. Also the 2014 officers were introduced.

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

now expand from 9 branches to 18.

Officers for the next year are:

Al Restivo, President
Mark Mammarella, 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.

Dio e buon anno,

Auguro a tutti voi abbondanti benedizioni di

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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MERANO TOURS

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISES

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

CAR RENTAL
January 2014

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

We will be holding 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

Tempel City
St. Luke, Br. 326

Happy New Year to all of our members!

Our Annual Christmas Dinner was held on December 15 and it was fantastic! Everyone had a good time sharing each others company. The food was fabulous! Thank you to Frances Scorsone for setting up and decorating the tables. I am sure that the Friends of Foster Children enjoyed all of their gifts that members donated.

Our next General Meeting will be held on January 22, 2014 at 7:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm, but the menu has not yet been decided.

Please continue to keep all of our ill members in your prayers, especially; Rose Costa, Anne Dandrea, Roberta Nangelo and Ann Primising. And, let’s not forget to pray for our deceased members.

May the New Year bring us all health and happiness.

“Friendship is a special jewel that you choose to wear each day; it gives out a shine and sparkle in the things you do and say. Friendship is the little pebble that you found along the shore that was different from the others, but you treasure it evermore. Just as both the moon and stars are the friends of God above, Friendship here on earth is precious for He blesses it with love.” (Edna Fontaine)

God Bless,
Jo Anne Disney

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 Usseyer, Don Stoffey, Ralph Cristiano, 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 Cristiano, 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

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
Central Coast

Salinas

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Felice Anno Nuovo
Roy Frontani

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

Peace be with you,
Bettye Sollecito

Branch 218 Holiday Boutique.

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

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.
Capitola
St. Joseph, Br. 227

Happy New Year from Capitola. On December 7 we hosted our branch Christmas party. A great meal of ham scalloped potatoes then bread and salad were prepared by Ed Laverone. Richard and Valerie Voce and Bob and Mary Montoney. 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 Lopez

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 luncheon and breakfast meeting on January 25.

Please continue to keep the following members of Branch 291 in your prayers: Bob Harris, Jan Hilton, Trish and Dan Jiminez, 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 to have our group of dedicated workers and our President David’s hard work, the task was accomplished, and we could provide the carpet.

On November 16, David & Karen Kudija 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 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 a Healthy, Happy and平安的2014年！

Pat Grasso

Oakland
East Bay District Council

Glad that there was such a nice turnout for the district’s super Christmas party at Bistro Appetito, thank you to Lisa Crudo and friends. Now however is the time to make those resolutions for the upcoming New Year. First on your 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 to the 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: Essema 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, Elise Giani, Catherine Kapper and David Rose.

Remember in your prayers the sick and the souls of all who are gone before us.

Thought: “There can be no Peace, without Love.”

Ciao, M.A. Francis/L. Francis

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 ICF 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. Yeah!

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

Ciao,

Leonora Barlow
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 Camega, 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 Dennis 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.
Upcoming:
Sunday, January 12 – Branch Meeting at 2pm. Theme: Happy New Year
Thursday, January 16 - 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 McGiurk; Recording Secy, & Joanne Doorack; Orator. We Thank Eileen Von (Past Vice President), Teresa Hurley (past Recording Secy. and Dixie Gross (Orator) for great jobs well done. Others Board Members are: President Roberto Healy, Correspondence Secy.: Christina Artale, Financial Secy.; Angie Monson, Treasurer: Barbara Faircloth, Sentinel: Karen Gee, Heritage: Paul Scheps; Trustees: Allison McGiurk & 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.

I will keep all of our elder and sick members in my prayer.

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!

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 Poinfa 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

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 $1,500 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 DiCuglielmo

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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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, opened the meeting. Council Secretary, CC Member Emeritus Chmiel. Mary Alesi was elected sentinel.

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

Ciao!

Toni Morsello

San Francisco

Stts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

Our November meeting was a huge success. Our turkey luncheon with all his 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. Madeleine 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 will 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.

“Iz 2014 Here We Come!”

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

12:30pm, 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 that had 86 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, Bex and Elizabetha 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.
Senior Special

Has the process of getting in & out of the bathroom become difficult or is it a safety concern?

We are dedicated to providing walk-in tubs manufactured for comfort and safety at an affordable price.

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John is an active member of Branch 332, Novato and serves the entire Bay Area.

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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, 10:30a 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.

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 Ballestieri; Treasurer, Donna Smith; Orator, Leonore Armanino; Sentinel, Jeanette Acosta; Trustees, Marie Pariani, Carol Tassan, Barbara Demattei, and Phyllis Feudale.

Mark you calendars for our future fundraising events. We will have a Crab Cappuccino 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 officers for the year 2014. They are: President, Kathy Trevizo-Heckman; Vice-President, David Novi; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Cheryl Simon; Financial Secretary, Joann Sangiacomo; Treasurer, Deborah Rodondi; Orator, Noreen Thurnam; 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 Jan. 10 at (650)755-0878 (leave message)

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

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.

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

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, since 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!

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 Genevra, 2nd VP: Al Genevra, Sec: Deidre O’Sullivan, Fin Sec: John Reber, Treas: Rena Gretz, Orator: Ed and Mary/Jane Ehnhke, Trustees: Paul Eisenman, Caterina Mazzitelli, Mary Riviello, Sentinel: Chato Switlaski

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

Member Mass at 5:00pm at Church of Nativity for our Living and Deceased Members

---No January Dinner/Meeting***

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, Phil and Joyce Robba 1 (408) 225-0883
Feb. 8, 2014 -- Branch 391’s Annual Valentine’s dinner Dance -- Cathleen Lencioni

---San Mateo Elks Club Br. 403

Installation of Officers to be held at St. Pius Church in San Mateo. Call Cecilia ASAP at 650-743-0233

Thursday, February 6 - 5pm Member Mass at Nativity followed by Dinner and Meeting. Call Cory at 650-867-8946

Please pray for our many sick members.

Wishing everyone Happy and Healthy New Year!

---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.

---St. James, Br. 161

Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Another year has gone by.

Thank you to Santa Teresa for hosting the 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 everyone in the kitchen especially Phyllis Rybenksy 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 Carlos
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, Treasurer; 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.

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 not to 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
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!

A Christmas Family Gift of $300.00 is being 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

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 Fayette 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

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.

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 hillytop 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 Chef 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
January 2014

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 Baslin

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.

Julliann Fontana, President

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. 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 Homemde Ravioli Dinner. More details, next month.

Happy New Year!
Lauren Kicikullen

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 Cascarino
Secretary - Cecelia Cascarino
Financial Secretary - Sue Honzik
Treasurer - Louis E. Guglielmino
Trustee - Carol Lautermilch
Trustee - Roger Honzik
Orator - Robert Acquistapace
Chaplain - Fr. Feral McGuinness
Deputy - Carmen Kicikullen

We thank all of the distinguished guests who attended.

Our Christmas dinner on Dec. 19.
Felicie Anno Nuovo,
Cecelia Cascarino

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 Bollertino 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 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 Barton 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 Saks 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
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 Bourse 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 Bourse Manteca, Mass 11:00am

Happy New Year!
Cecilia 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 Bourse 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 Bourse – Br. 139 St. Anthony’s Manteca

Cecilia 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 Demichels, 2nd Vice-pres., Linda Bertuccio, Secretary, Lisa Compton, Financial sec., Marilyn Amoral, Treasurer, Jadi Oliveira, Orator, Joe Pellegrino, Sentinel, Yvonne Chimienti, Fred Golisano & Dino Cunial, Trustees.

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

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

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 Borquain 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 Schieda; Secretary Karen Calabrese; Sentinel Joe Barton; Orator Kim McGriff; Trustees Jim Acitelli, Art Flanigan and Sue Simmons.

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, January 4, 2014, at St. 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, Recording Secretary

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 many more years of happiness together.

We were welcomed a guest, Kathleen Giansiracusa, who learned of our Branch through Br. 454.

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 officers for 2014.

After our meeting in October we had lunch at Mama Luigi’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