ICF Is Going Green!

If you prefer to read the Bollettino online and like the idea of saving a tree while helping the ICF save on printing costs, please send an email to newsonline@icf.org to sign up. Please include your full name, branch number and email address.

Online viewers will be notified by email when each new Bollettino issue is ready for viewing.

Thank you!

Strategic Plan Notes

Over the past few months, the Strategic Plan Task Force and various committees have been working hard behind the scenes to implement the strategic plan for the federation adopted by the Central Council. This work has focused on membership, community/church connections, finance, and leadership. You may already have noticed some of the results, such as Quarterly Reports being distributed via our new online portal, which will save the federation thousands of dollars. In the next couple of months, the Strategic Plan Task Force will be providing workshops on leadership, membership, and parish connections to various districts. These workshops will be open to all federation members who are interested and will set the stage for work that will continue throughout the next three years of the strategic plan. We encourage district presidents to find dates within the next couple of months when the Strategic Plan Task Force can visit your district. For more information or questions, please contact Vince Piro or Leonard Zasoski at icftaskforce@gmail.com.

Grand President’s Monthly Message

by Bob Basuino

I have always known that being a part of the Italian Catholic Federation is being part of a large close knit group. At every event I have attended like District Installations, Bishops’ Days, the Federation’s 90th Anniversary I was reminded again and again of this sense of family. We have joined in many spirited conversations on how we have the renewed sense of family every time we gather together.

On January 27, 2015, my beloved father, Frank L. Basuino, quietly passed away. He was surrounded by his loved ones and returned to our Lord after living a wonderful life of 92 years and 9 months. I know that my Mother Lorraine, who left us 11 years ago, was there with open arms to be reunited with him. On Monday, February 2, my family held an evening vigil service and the next day a beautiful funeral Mass for him. The days leading up to these events were a whirl wind of decision making. We reminisced, laughed, and cried a lot. Every step of the way we were surprised to have family and friends right by our side. Those days flew by in a haze. There really was not much time to think about what was going on or who was there to support and help us in our time of need.

In the days after the funeral, I had time to think and I came to the realization that not only my children, uncles, aunts and cousins were there at my side, helping in any way they could, my ICF family were there every step of the way. Instantly branch members and district members appeared offering help, support, love, food, anything that I or my family needed, whether we realized we needed it or not. Programs, Flowers, Music for the Vigil, Music for the Mass, or anything that was needed an ICF family member appeared there to help. Looking back at the Vigil and Mass I see so many of our ICF family was helping us celebrate dad’s life. As the weeks have gone by, there has not been a day that goes by when I have not heard from a member of the ICF whether they are in Chicago, Arizona, Nevada or California. The numerous cards, donations, Masses, letters and calls have been heartwarming and very much appreciated. All the stories and wishes have joined in many sense of family. We I was reminded again and again of this sense of family. We have joined in many spirited conversations on how we have the renewed sense of family every time we gather together.

In the days after the funeral, I had time to think and I came to the realization that not only my children, uncles, aunts and cousins were there at my side, helping in any way they could, my ICF family were there every step of the way. Instantly branch members and district members appeared offering help, support, love, food, anything that I or my family needed, whether we realized we needed it or not. Programs, Flowers, Music for the Vigil, Music for the Mass, or anything that was needed an ICF family member appeared there to help. Looking back at the Vigil and Mass I see so many of our ICF family was helping us celebrate dad’s life. As the weeks have gone by, there has not been a day that goes by when I have not heard from a member of the ICF whether they are in Chicago, Arizona, Nevada or California. The numerous cards, donations, Masses, letters and calls have been heartwarming and very much appreciated. All the stories and wishes have joined in many sense of family. We

Calendar Sales Results

Top Selling Branches with 1 – 99 Members

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<thead>
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<th>Branch</th>
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<th>Calendars Sold</th>
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Top Selling Branches with 100 – 199 Members

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Top Selling Branches with 200+ Members

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<td>200+</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Branch 14, Crockett</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Branch 391, San Jose</td>
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Individuals

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Louise DeTomasi – Br. 14 – Crockett</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>B.G. Zasoski – Br. 281 – Bakersfield</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!
Easter Joy, Consecrate Your Life to Christ

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

New Life came into the world on Easter Sunday. Lucky for us, Christ is now ever-present to us. What a great gift of love! He gave us! For this we consecrate our lives to the Risen Christ. We do this in a special way during the Easter Season, which goes on for 50 days and will end on Pentecost Sunday.

Easter validates our Faith. Without Easter, without the Risen Christ, we would be lost, groping around without purpose, without Hope. Christ is with us, around us and in us.

He gives us life, a reason to live in Faith. He gives us reason to Love.
During this year dedicated to consecrated life, we, too, can consecrate our lives to Christ by the love we show him. This love is expressed by a special relationship between Christ and us. A relationship that is PERSONAL and intimate. Christ is the best friend of all our best friends. We want our lives to be an example of the love of God and neighbor dedicated and consecrated to give honor and glory to God.

ALLELUIA GLORY AND PRAISE TO GOD, THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT! AMEN

Increasing Family Memberships

Anne Interrante
CC Member

By now you’ve heard that we need to make sure our organization stays strong and vibrant for future generations and that one of the keys for success is an increase in Family Memberships.

We can all agree that this definitely needs to happen, however how can we do it? I am going to share with you how we made this happen in Branch 380, Thousand Oaks.

About 15 years ago, our branch had about 60 members (maybe 40 were really involved in the activities). There were no children in attendance and the age range of adults was 55+ years of age.

Members decided that it was time to make family memberships a priority. Our first step was making our meeting environment a place where children were welcome. If they felt welcome, their parents would feel more relaxed as well.

We secured a couple of highly recommended 8th grade volunteers from our parish school to lead a craft (we provided the supplies), show a kids’ movie and basically oversee the children in the same room as the meeting (this way parents remained accessible if needed). Once this was in place we started telling our extended family, friends, and other parishioners about our monthly meetings – dinner, things for kids to do, fellowship, opportunities to get involved in your parish, etc. We found that families were happy to find a group where they could attend as a family and be involved in their church community.

After the number of families and children increased, we found that more was needed. We were blessed to have members with high school students who wanted to take over child care responsibilities. They were given a monthly budget and prepared all the activities. We decided to include meeting themes that were interesting to all ages – a Family Christmas Party with entertainment and crafts for children, Sports Night with trivia and game contests for all ages, etc. Our mindset changed as we were planning events and we asked ourselves, “Will this be fun for everyone?”

As the number of families and children continued to increase, it was apparent that the children wanted to help out and were ready to take on leadership roles. So, we paid attention to that enthusiasm and started a Youth Officer Program. Again we were blessed that one of our high school students was ready to take on a leadership role and oversee this program.

The children received various tasks that they could perform at meetings and were given opportunities to volunteer for group service projects. We also scheduled youth events where our kids could invite their friends to participate.

Today, we are happy to report that these Youth Officers and High School Officers now take part in the Officer Installation Ceremony – in total we had 15 this year.

It took time, preparation, and a lot of learning to build up our program but the benefits are immense. We have several multi-generational families that are active contributors in our branch. Children are learning to help others and becoming leaders in the process. Today, our membership has grown to over 170 members, of which 40 are children. All we had to do is decide that families were a priority, do some planning, invite them, and stay the course. Your branch can do this too! Talk to your officers and branch members now about making family memberships a priority.

Convention ByLaw Submission Procedure
David Botta
Parliamentarian

Now comes the time of year that we must solicit proposals and/or amendments to the Branch Bylaws. The following is a brief review of the procedure followed in the ICF to accomplish this process and bring the proposals and/or amendments to the floor of the Annual Convention of the Italian Catholic Federation.

All branches are urged to consider, discuss and formulate a proposal to change, modify or abolish a bylaw as it pertains to all the Branches of the ICF. According to the Branch bylaw Chapter XVII Art. 3 G proposals and/or amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted in writing (signed by the Branch President and Recording Secretary) to the Central Council Office not later than April 30, 2015. Branch bylaw change proposals may also come from the Central Council through the Bylaws Committee.

Such submitted proposals and/or amendments are forwarded to the Central Council Bylaws Committee for review, as to form and content. If a question exists relating to the submitted proposal, the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee will contact the submitting Branch for clarification and if necessary revisions to make the proposal acceptable.

It is helpful to present the original bylaw followed by a copy of the modified or changed bylaw with the changes in bold type. The insertions should be in italics and the deletions either in strike out text or underlined. The proposal must be accompanied by a well....
For the next few months, we are going to present the program which we did for the 2013 Convention. At that time, we named the various places in each ICF District which where the first localities of the Catholic religion. Please bear in mind that there may have been others, but we named those that actually were the church’s foundation in each area.

The CHICAGO DISTRICT of the Italian Catholic Federation has the honor of being the first of our districts where Catholicism was introduced. From our American History studies, we remember Father Pierre Marquette and Louis Joliet who explored a large section of the Mississippi River.

Father Marquette was given the charge by the French government to work among the Indians of the region and convert them to the Catholic religion. In the process, Father Marquette opened the mission of the Immaculate Conception in Kaskaskia, Illinois in 1673. In the ensuing years, as many as 10,000 Indians were baptized.

The TUCSON area of Arizona is next. 9 miles south of Tucson, one comes upon Mission San Xavier del Bac, known to the Indians as the “white dove of the desert”. In 1692, Father Eusebio Kino, a Franciscan missionary who had been working in Baja California, visited the site to prepare for the building of a mission. Today, Mission San Xavier is a national historic monument. Branch 433 in Tucson carries the name of Father Kino in its title.

In 1769 begins the story of the California missions. The first locality of our Faith in the SAN DIEGO DISTRICT was the mission of San Diego de Alcala founded by Father Junipero Serra in that year. This mission marked the birthplace of Christianity and of the Catholic faith in the Far West. After years of neglect, the mission was rebuilt in 1931 and remains today an active Catholic parish.

The Catholic Faith was introduced in the CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT in 1770 with the founding of Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio, also known as Carmel Mission, by Father Serra. It was named for the great archbishop of Milan, Charles Borromeo. This mission became Father Serra’s favorite and he is buried there. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

We now travel south to the SAN BARTOLOMEO VALLEY REGION, where, in 1771, the Catholic faith came by way of Mission San Gabriel Arcangela founded by the Franciscan friars. This mission is credited with introducing large-scale viticulture in California and the source of many botanical vines to the state’s wine industry. It is an active church today run by the Claretnians Fathers.

In 1776, the Catholic faith came to the SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT with the establishment of Mission San Francisco de Asis, also known as Mission Dolores. It is the oldest intact building in San Francisco and survived the great earthquake of 1906, but it is now part of the Basilica parish of Mission Dolores and a California Historical Landmark. It is also a favorite spot for weddings.

In the ORANGE DISTRICT, the Catholic Faith started with the building of Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776. Located in sight of the ocean in the town of the same name, this mission became a significant center for agricultural production. It has often been featured in both song, books and movies because of its beauty and picturesque location.

The Catholic Faith manifested itself in the SANTA CLARA VALLEY REGION in 1777 with the founding of Mission Santa Clara de Asis, named after St. Clare, the first mission to honor a female saint. It is a parish church and the chapel for the University of Santa Clara. The bells are rung every evening at 8:30, at the request of Spain’s King Carlos IV in memory of those who had died.

To be continued...

The Grand President has asked the Workshop Committee to continue its successful Travel Show from last year and to follow the effort presented the last two years such as open forum, spiritual, Heritage and fundraising. Even though the Districts and Branches have scheduled to develop many activities for the upcoming calendar for the goodwill in the parish, in the community and in the name of the Italian Catholic Federation... the workshop could provide for the fantastic planning and enriching the many responsibilities of the ICF nationally.

Your Workshop Committee can provide assistance in Membership growth, the valuable leadership and officers’ guidance and direction to set goals reinforced by the memberships of the Branches and Districts. All ideas are necessary and valuable from the past, present and especially the future. Once your goals are determined, the Workshop Committee will provide the necessary resources or additional concepts to your Branches and Districts to hopefully achieve with less effort and struggles. The Workshop Committee can suggest topics on how to increase membership, fundraising activities, provide heritage/history of the Federation or tools for Italian culture for the grandchildren, event planning, officers’ duties, IRS forms, convention awards, apostolic devotions or spiritual activities and even topics selected by the Branches’ membership.

The Workshop Committee highly recommends that when you go to your next Branch or District meeting that you #1) discuss ideas for setting goals, #2) provide and direct the leadership in your District to have a workshop for support and assistance/guidance and #3) stress the importance of achieving those goals for the Federation, your Branch, the District, and the Parish or Diocese in your community. PLAN NOW, because it’s very important for the District Presidents to get their first choice of date and to discuss with the Workshop Committee what are the most valuable topics that are best suited for the Branches and District. You may contact me via email at dantegalezzi@aol.com or at 888.423.1924 for any additional inquiries.

Do not miss out this year on scheduling a resourceful Workshop to simplify your diligent effort.
SIR LUIGI & LADY AUGUSTA PROVIDENZA
SEMINARY SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS*

IN MEMORY OF:  DONATED BY:

Joseph Re  Officers/Members of Br. 50
Joseph Re  George and Diana Baciagalupe
Tom Pollicotta  George and Diana Baciagalupe
Louis Zanotti  Joe Bonino and Family
Otto Ambiel  Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Wayne Shriwise  Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Joseph Re  Beverly Desmond
Bill Garbaldi  Giovanni and Nancy Corsi
Anna Deghi  Giovanni and Nancy Corsi
Wayne Shriwise  Jim and Janice Jones
Lupe and Chana Portillo  Bob Basuino
Joseph Smith  Officers/Members of Br. 290
Mary Anne Almeida  Officers/Members of Br. 45
Mary Chelini  Diana Petrolino
Frank Basuino  Officers/Members of Central Council
Frank Basuino  Giovanni and Nancy Corsi and Art Fricke
Frank Basuino  Cory and Teresa Helfand
Frank Basuino  Officers/Members of Br. 392
Fr. Frank Piro  Dennis Gillen
Frank Basuino  Jim and Janice Jones
Frank Basuino  Officers/Members of Br. 184
Frank Basuino  Donna and Richard Pfaff
Frank Basuino  Diana Petrolino
Frank Basuino  Officers/Members of Br. 36
Frank Basuino  Officers/Members of Br. 28
Frank Basuino  Pat and Louise Cordich
Frank Basuino  Herb Basuino and Kathleen Urmini
Frank Basuino  Officers/Members of Br. 191
Frank Basuino  Bob and Elaine Osorio
Frank Basuino  Russ and Louise Vento
Frank Basuino  Mary Rossetto
Yolanda Nails  Mary Rossetto
Frank Basuino  Mike and Marcie Rossi
Frank Basuino  Ed and Jo Bertaccini
Frank Basuino  Harold, Virginia and Steve Fuentes
Frank Basuino  The Kilcullen Family
Frank Basuino  Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dianda and Jane
Frank Basuino  Forrest and Prudence Price
Elisabeth Steiner  Terri Leinsteiner
Frank Basuino  Leonard, Karen and Janet Rossi
Frank Basuino  Marie Mungai
Frank Basuino  Fran and Joe Addiego
Frank Basuino  Larry and Alfrida Flochini
Frank Basuino  Joe and Ann Basuino
Frank Basuino  Romolo and Lorraine Iavarone
Frank Basuino  Pat and Lou Mages
Frank Basuino  Franklin Lopes, Jr.
Frank Basuino  Leroy and Stella Taddei
Frank Basuino  Mary Alesi and the Members of Br. 416
Frank Basuino  Jim, Patty and Roselyne Jarrett
Frank Basuino  George and Diana Baciagalupe
Frank L. Basuino  Richard and Kathleen Antuzzi
Frank Basuino  Robert and Kathy Acquistapace
GET WELL WISHES:

Denise Antonowicz  Officers/Members of Central Council
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Milani  Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District
Denise Antonowicz  Jim and Janice Jones
Bob Dianda  Elma Casale
Marissa Muñoz  Cora Marquez
THANK YOU FOR OUR INSTALLATION:

Bob Basuino  Officers/Members of East Bay District
Bob Basuino  Officers/Members of Br. 161
WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING PARISH AND BR. 442:

Father Paulson Mundamani  The Jarrett and Polikates Families

*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.
**January Calendar Winners**

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<td>Jane Sullivan</td>
<td>103</td>
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**February Calendar Winners**

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<td>Debbie Myers</td>
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<td>Josh Foster</td>
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<td>Alameda, CA</td>
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<td>Sandi Miller</td>
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Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman

In Matchbox Diary, Paul Fleischman presents a timeless tale of family. When a little girl visits her great-grandfather for the first time, he tells her to pick an object from somewhere in his home, and then he will tell her a story about it. He figures that it will be a good way for her to get to know him through the stories that he tells. The young girl picks an old cigar box. Inside, she finds a collection of matchboxes which make up her great-grandfather’s unusual but clever diary. Each matchbox contains an object that evokes a memory from his past. As he tells his granddaughter the memory and story associated with each object, we learn of his life and his journey from Italy to the United States. Each object evokes different memories: the olive pit his mother gave him to suck on when there wasn’t enough food; a bottle cap he saw on his way to the boat; a ticket still retaining the thrill of his first baseball game. In this way, the young granddaughter (and the reader) learn of her grandfather’s past.

Matchbox Diary contains classic themes that children and adults will find engaging. In part, the tale is a story of survival as the grandfather as a young man leaves Italy because of poverty and immigrates to the United States. For example, an olive pit sitting in one of the small boxes evokes this memory: “An olive pit. I put it in my palm and I’m right back to Italy. That’s where I grew up. Lots of olive trees here. Life was hard - the other reason I save it. No floor in our house, just dirt. No heat in the winter except the fire under the cooking pot. And sometimes not enough food. When I’d tell my mother I was hungry, she’d give me an olive pit to suck on. It helped.”

As many immigrants and their families, the grandfather’s journey to America was fueled by hope that life would be better in his new country. In one box, there is an attractive hairpin that the grandfather found on the ship coming from Italy to America. He tells the young girl that everyone thought that in America “gold [was] lying on the ground.”

Immigrant life wasn’t easy for the grandfather’s family and his story reminds us of the value of perseverance and hard work. When the young girl finds a fish bone in one of the boxes, the grandfather remembers the long days the entire family had to work in the canneries to make ends meet. They were determined to make life work in their new country and overcame their difficult life with hard work and determination and by sticking together. However, the grandfather’s memories are full of good times, too, as he remembers when his granddaughter finds a ticket stub from his first baseball game in one of the boxes.

The charm of Matchbox Diaries comes in the unfolding relationship between the grandfather and granddaughter as he recounts his past. She learns more about him as he tells each story, and she comes to appreciate his full life. Each vignette evokes a different time with careful details and realistic dialogue that both adults and children should appreciate. The illustrations by Bagram Ibatoulline are gorgeous and easily move the reader from present to past while adding details that enhance the narrative.

In today’s society, when so many children (and adults) have forgotten their cultural and familial history, books like Matchbox Diary remind us about the struggles and challenges our ancestors faced and their determination to overcome great odds. Their lives were filled with tragedies and triumphs as they made their way in the world while trying to establish a place in their new country. Remembering this history, we realize that we share a story with today’s immigrants - the American immigration story. We can emphasize with their struggles and trials as they, too, reach for the American Dream. As Pope Francis and the United States Bishops call on Catholics to show compassion and understanding towards today’s immigrants, Matchbox Diary reminds us of our own immigration story, a story we share with today’s immigrants.

Paul Fleischman won the Newbery Medal for Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices and a Newbery Honor for Graven Images. He is the author of numerous picture books, including The Animal Hedge, also illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, and The Dunderheads Behind Bars, both illustrated by David Roberts. Paul Fleischman lives in Maine.

Bagram Ibatoulline has illustrated many acclaimed books for children, including The Animal Hedge by Paul Fleischman; On the Blue Comet by Rosemary Wells; The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and Great Joy, both by Kate DiCamillo; The Serpent Came to Gloucester by M. T. Anderson; and Hana in the Time of the Tulips by Deborah Noyes. He lives in Pennsylvania.

By-Laws
continued from page 2
reasoned rationale for the proposed change.

The Central Council through the Bylaws Committee is authorized to eliminate proposals: (1) that are unconstitutional, discriminatory (except as to the age for benefits) or infringing on the fundamental principles of the Federation, (2) proposals defeated at the immediate previous Annual Convention cannot be presented at the immediate next Convention, except if the Central Council approves the proposal for representation.

Once the proposal is found to be constitutional and acceptable in wording and content, the Bylaws Committee will present the proposals to the Central Council at the June meeting for their information. At this point the Bylaws Committee will “certify” the proposals, and announce they will be presented to the delegates at the next Annual Convention. The order of discussions of proposals at the Annual Convention are prepared in advance by the Parliamentarian and approved by the Central Council.

The proposals to be presented at the Annual Convention will be sent to the Branches in advance of the Convention for their discussion and consideration. At the Convention the proposals will be presented to the delegates for their vote. Matters presented by the Central Council will have precedence in the order of discussion.

Once passed by a majority vote of the delegates at the Annual Convention the adopted bylaw change is immediately effective.

Support our Seminarians by Giving to the Providenza Fund

Monetary Donation Reminder

Roselyne Jarrett
Grand Treasurer

Dear Members,

When submitting donations to one of our programs (Providenza, Gifts of Love, Scholarship, Cooley’s Anemia, etc.), please make the check payable to ICF or Italian Catholic Federation. In the memo, indicate the fund where you would like the donation directed. Additionally, when making donations to multiple programs, please write a separate check for each donation as there is an individual account for each fund.

Finally, we ask that all donations be made by check, cashier’s check or money order. We prefer to not place cash in the depository.

These simple steps will assist our office staff in processing your donations. Thank you for your continued support to the ICF programs.

La Celebrazione di Gioventu --
The Celebration of Youth
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day
Submitted by Roselyne Jarrett
Grand Treasurer
Gifts of Love Donations

Donations received by February 10, 2015
Santa Clara Valley District
John Gillio
The Greco Family Christmas Open House Fundraiser
Bob and Elaine Osorio
In honor of the birthday of Eva Stern
Bob and Elaine Osorio
Get well wishes for Denise Antonowicz
Officers/Members of San Mateo District
Thank you to Bob Basuino for our Installation
Anthony and Lillian La Pres
In memory of Marguerite Silverthorne
Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District
In honor of Outgoing District President John Gillio
Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District
Thank you to Bob Basuino for our Installation
Pat and Louise Cordich
In memory of Rose Lepetich
Bob Basuino
In memory of Nancy Ciacco
Don and Mary Maccucci
In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Ed and Gail Rocca
Helen and Dick Wirtenson
In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Gail and Ed Rocca
Eva Stern
In memory of Frank Basuino
The Antonowicz Family
In memory of Frank Basuino
Heb Basuino
In memory of Louis Vicino
Joanne C. Van Blaricom
In memory of Bob Harris
Louie and Pat Cordich
In memory of Tony Bettecourt
Evelyn Taravella
In memory of Frank Basuino
Janice and Jim Basuino
In memory of Frank L. Basuino
Brad and Rebecca Fuller
In memory of Frank Basuino
Joan and Jerry Delino
In memory of Frank Basuino
Vic and Pat Arnaudo
In memory of Frank Basuino
Marilynn Aguilar and Family
In memory of Frank Basuino
Britt and Amelia Moore
Larry and Alfreda Floccini
Richard and Marie Yurosko
In memory of Frank Basuino
Bob and Esther Sciutto
Officers/Members of Districts 12
In memory of Frank Basuino
Louise and Pat Cordich
In memory of George Sciutto
Joe and Judy Crosetti

2015 Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada
Friday, September 4, 2015 to Monday, September 7, 2015
Glorify the Lord by Your Life

HOTEL AND TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

***OFFICIAL CONVENTION HOTEL***

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino
Phone: (702) 732-5111 / Reservations: (800) 635-7711; 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109
Visit the following link to hotel reservations https://resweb.passkey.com/go/SICF5R on our Web site for ease in reserving your room for the Convention.

- Room Rate: $113.00 Single Occupancy plus 12% (subject to change) tax; $113.00 Double Occupancy plus 12% (subject to change) tax
- Use Group Name “Italian Catholic Federation” or Convention Code “SICF5R” when booking your reservation
- Complimentary Self Parking
- Transportation to/from McCarran Airport: McCarran Int’l Airport is approximately 15 minutes southwest from the hotel. For public transportation (taxis/shuttle services) and rental car information, please visit www.mccarran.com. Bell Trans has a location at the airport and the hotel.

Reservation Deadline is Thursday, August 13, 2015. After this date, reservations will be accepted at the best available rate based on availability. To avoid lost reservations and reservation errors, we will no longer provide reservation forms. You must call the hotel or go to their Web site to make your reservations.

***AIRLINES - NO CONTRACTS - JUST GO ONLINE OR CALL DIRECT***

Here are a few:
Alaska Airlines: 1-800-252-7522; www.alaskaair.com
American Airlines: 1-800-433-7300; www.aa.com
Delta Airlines: 1-800-221-1212; www.delta.com
Jet Blue Airlines: 1-800-538-2583; www.jetblue.com
Southwest Airlines: 1-800-435-9792; www.southwest.com
United Airlines: 1-800-864-8331; www.united.com
US Airways: 1-800-428-4322; www.usairways.com

PLEASE SHARE THE ABOVE INFORMATION WITH YOUR DELEGATES!

If you have any questions, please call the I.C.F. Office toll-free at 1-888-423-1924

Interested in learning more about the ICF’s National Charity, Cooley’s Anemia? If your Branch or District 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
Condolences to 195 member Warren Cebulko on the recent death of his father, Fred Cebulko. Br. 195’s new president, Mike Sawadski, has some exciting plans for 2015. He is in process of putting together a Committee to develop a Strategic Plan for both the short and long range future. Since we are very diverse (and we like being so), our Strategic Plan may put Spirituality first and Ethnicity second. Our focus will be to foster good physical, spiritual and emotional health by having professional speakers at our meetings covering various topics of interest to our members. He has many other interesting plans for us.

St. Victor Parish Transformation Team concluded the first phase of work on behalf of the parish. Our team worked with the Parish Transformation team from Our Lady of Knock Parish here in Calumet City. A Mission Action Plan was presented to Archdiocese. An Implementation Team has been established to follow through on the Action Plan. It has been gratifying and enlightening to work with the wonderful team from Our Lady of Knock. There are opportunities for us to work together.

Archbishop Blase Cupich celebrated mass at St. Jude in South Holland for neighboring South Suburban Communities. Our Choir and many of our parishioners joined in this exceptional celebration.

\[ \text{God Bless} \]
\[ \text{Jo Merlo,} \]

Members, guests and parishioners enjoyed a festive Christmas Party on December 13th. Food was catered and the entertainment was fabulous — an Elvis Impersonator, Will Devine. He sang all of Elvis’ famous songs and interacted with the audience. The highlight of his performance was grifting Christmas Scarves to ladies in the audience.

The Italian Mass was celebrated by Father Fecicia on Sunday, December 14th. On Sunday, December 20th, “Coffee And” was served after the 8:30am and 10:00am Masses. All parishioners are encouraged to partake of the refreshments.

As we begin 2015, may we continue the work of the ICF with the help of all of our dedicated members. Through the year, they have all contributed to the success of our fundraisers.

\[ \text{Rose Marie Berg} \]

**Chicago**

**St. Victor, Br. 195**

**Calumet City**

The January 13 meeting found us all well for the first dinner meeting of the year. Many thanks to the January committee: Chairman, Marilyn Rowe; and the committee members; Rosemary Dockery, Mary Contreras, Julian Rosales, Arthur Berryman, and Sally and Jim Bomprezzi. The beef stroganoff, peas, salad and bread was just what we needed for a cold January night.

Members are getting ready for several fundraisers and are making preparations for the installation of officers to be held in Bakersfield. Welcome to our new members: Jim Bomprezzi, Dan Prosperi and Norma Fontana.

Past President Ada Cavaliero just celebrated her 90th birthday. Happy Birthday, Ada!

\[ \text{Branch 27 Chaplin Sister Thomas Marie Heavey, new member Jim Bomprezzi, and President Elsie Bottoff.} \]

Please remember to pray for our sick or injured members.

\[ \text{Cian, Kerin Cavallero} \]

**Fresno**

**Madera**

**Sanctissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27**

Happy New Year to everyone. This new year, may we be blessed with peace all over the world. Let it begin with our branches, listening to each other, speak kind words to each other and be good examples as we walk through our journey of life with Pope Francis.

Our branch lost two very dedicated and loyal members, our Chaplain Father Frank Piro and Thomas Pollicita. These 2 men gave of their talent, time and resources to help others. They had a wonderful sense of humor. Father Frank worked diligently to set up classes for parishioners who wanted to learn more about the church. He was available to the pastor whenever need for Masses, weddings and baptisms. He was a great listener and always answered, sharing his amazing intelligence. Tom Pollicita never met a stranger. He was very dedicated to education for young people. After retiring from the role as principal, at the Colma middle school, they named the school after him. God bless these two special people.

Our polenta dinner is scheduled for March 25. Please pray for our country and our military, our sick and infirmed, and the future of the Italian Catholic Federation.

**Merced**

**St. Cecilia, Br. 39**

Tickets will be distributed and we hope you make every effort to sell them. We will have our wonderful raffle again. 25 wonderful prizes all with a value of $50 or more. Mark your calendars:

- 2/22/15 -- District installation
- 3/11/15 -- Tridium dinner with Father Andrew
- 3/13/15 -- ICF Soup Night at St. Patrick’s Parish.
- 3/15/15 -- ICF St. Joseph’s Table meal St. Patrick’s.
- 2/25/15 -- ICF Polenta dinner at the Italo American Hall.

We will invite the members of the Newman Club from UC Merced to join us for our St. Joseph’s Day meal.

Our prayers for Carol Salmeri’s mother, Caroline Sgarletta, who passed away at the age of 92. May she rest in peace. Remember to visit our members who are in retirement centers or nursing homes. A smile or hug can go a long way to brighten a day.

**Clovis**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250**

Branch 250 is looking forward to the District Installation this month. It will take place in Bakersfield. We always have a wonderful time visiting with friends from other branches in our District.

Mary Zanarini was the “Cheer Team” for her daughter, Alyssa, who ran the half-marathon (13.1 miles) at Disneyland on January 18.

Angelo and LeAnne Lagavino were blessed with their first great grandchild. Little Ethan Philip Laughlin was born January 13. (Great Grandpa was pushing for the name, Luigi.)

Your reporter is a little late with the following two articles, but thought it too newsworthy to not print them: 1) Our youngest member, Vincent Rodriguez (8 yrs old), joined the Garden Club at his elementary school and will now help care for the school garden each week; and 2) Jenny Campopiano had a wonderful time in Pasadena at the St. Philip’s Annual Parish School Festival. Her two grandsons are in the 6th and 8th grades at St. Philip’s. Jenny’s daughter, Joan, was Festival Chairperson.

We need to keep Lena Daddino, Vince Jura, Colleen Maze and Beverly Travis in our prayers.

\[ \text{Branch 39 member Violet Twomey from her private party.} \]

\[ \text{Branch 27 Chaplin Sister Thomas Marie Heavey, new members Dan Prosperi and Norma Fontana, President Elsie Bottoff.} \]

\[ \text{We need to keep Lena Daddino, Vince Jura, Colleen Maze and Beverly Travis in our prayers.} \]
Members of Branch 250 who took CPR Training to learn to use the defibrillator in the Parish Hall.

We’re looking forward to when they are able to be back with us again.

Our birthday celebrations this month are: Mark Budd (3/3), Kathy Christensen (3/15) and Nicole Squeo (3/14). Have a Happy Birthday!

These things I warmly wish for you: Someone to love, some work to do, a bit o’ sun, a bit o’ cheer, And a guardian angel always near. (Irish Blessing)

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Ciao!
LeAnne Lavaigno

**Bakersfield**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281**

As we begin to prepare for the Lenten season, we are continuing with our branch activities. We had a delicious pancake breakfast and the Moles Team did a lot of work to make this another successful event.

Our annual Parish Mardi Gras event was a day packed with fun for all. ICF Games of Chance Chairperson George Carson and his workers are to be thanked for a job well done. Our Branch President and Mardi Gras Chairperson, Deborah Leary, demonstrated much passion for the event and spread the ICF spirit to all who attended. It was a great day of fellowship, games, and shopping for treasures at Grandma’s Attic. There were many things to do, and it was all thanks to the hard work and willing help of volunteers.

Thanks to the members who were able to attend the Fresno District Installation held at our church, OLPH. The officers are excited to start their duties for the New Year.

Our next meeting, March 12, will be Branch 281’s 42nd Anniversary of service to our church. The menu will include a steak dinner cooked by Leonard Zasoski for only $10. Please check the monthly newsletter for menu options and reservation details.

With Lent, our parish will start their annual Fish Fry Dinners hosted by the Knights of Columbus—ICF will host adult beverages, Women’s Guild will host desserts, and Boy Scouts will sell soft drinks. Before the dinner, Stations of the Cross will take place at 5:30pm; this is a good time to spend time with friends for a spiritual evening and delicious dinner.

Don’t forget our Pasta Dinner on Palm Sunday, March 29!

Please keep Michael Passaglia’s mother, Sira, Rosena Todahl, and Marjan Zasoski and their families in your prayers.

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**Los Angeles**

**Archdiocese District Los Angeles Region**

On February 8, 2015 the Mother Cabrini Open House was hosted by the Los Angeles Region. Many ICF Members along with Parishioners from Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church visited the Chapel and Library after the ICF LAADC Installation.The Parish thanked Branch 374 for inviting all District Branches to join him at Saint Bede the Venerable Church in La Canada on March 15 as he hosts a Special Traditional Italian Procession and Communion Sunday Mass celebrating Saint Joseph Day at 11:00am followed by a Luncheon in the Parish Hall. Monsignor is a gifted and inspirational speaker who will be preparing his very own pasta sauce. We are blessed to have him.

The next Mother Cabrini Open House is scheduled on April 12, 2015 from 9:00 to 12:00pm prior to the ICF Cabrini Chapel Committee Meeting in the Chapel Library from 12:00 to 2:00pm at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Burbank. Contact 626 372-7812 for a copy of the 2015 Open House Schedule. All Branches are encouraged to include the Mother Cabrini Open House in their respective Church Bulletins. Thank you ICF Members, families and friends for your support of the ICF and its related events. Prayers go out to those Members and parishioners who have gone to their eternal reward and to the sick members, family, friends and Community Members for a speedy recovery and especially to those who recently passed to their eternal reward. Please remember our brothers and sisters of our armed services in your prayers to keep them out of harm’s way.

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

Carmelo Sabatella, President

Email: cas1810@aol.com

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**Fresno**

**St. Anthony, Br. 308**

I hope all of you had a Happy Valentine’s Day, President’s Day and prayerful Ash Wednesday. Our Branch 308 had a wonderful February Dinner Meeting with spare ribs as the main entree prepared by Joanne De Benedetto and Bernie Squeo with delicious side dishes and desserts prepared by each member in attendance.

President Antoinette reminded us of the Lenten Meals that our branch will be serving the next six Fridays from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. There will be Fish & Chips, Linguini & Clams, Manhattan Clam Chowder, Penne with Salmon & Creme Sauce and our Vegetable Lasagna Dinners. All of the meals include a salad, bread, butter, beverage, and dessert. Friday, Feb. 20 was our first Lenten Dinner beginning with the Manhattan Clam Chowder. Those of you who haven’t received a copy of the schedule for the year please let Antoinette know.

If you are not sure when your membership is due, check with Susan. Please pay them as soon as possible.

The Officer’s Installation was Sunday, February 22 in Bakersfield. The slate of Officers are the following:

- President - Antoinette Pecora
- 1st Vice President - Patricia Faragia
- 2nd Vice President - Jay Newsome
- Corresponding Secretary - Carolyn Romersa
- Recording Secretary - Maria E. Juarez-Garcia
- Financial Sec./Treasurer - Susan Mencarini
- Sentinel - Alex J. Garcia
- Orator - Angelo Pecora
- 1st Trustee - Larry Piccolo
- 2nd Trustee - Tim Solipasso
- 3rd Trustee - Bernie Squeo

Branch Dep. Rep. - Flora De Pasquale

ICF Chaplain - Father Bert Mello

Mark Your Calendar: Wed. March 11 Dinner Meeting will be

**Bac e abbracci,**

Kristen Watts

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**SAVE THE DATES:**

Calendar of Events: Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library, 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA
April 12 - Open House 9:00am to 12:00pm hosted by the San Fernando Valley Region.
April 12 - ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 12:00pm.
June 7 – ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 1:00pm.
Sept. 13 – Open House 9:00am to 1:00pm hosted by Santa Barbara/Ventura Region.
Sept. 13 – ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 1:00pm.
Nov. 8 – Open House 9:00am to 1:00pm hosted by the Burbank Knights of Columbus.
Nov. 8 – ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 1:00pm.
December 6 - Mother Cabrini Mass (12:30pm) followed by Pilgrimage to Chapel and Lunch in the Parish Hall.

Note: Groups may schedule visit to Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library by contacting Carmelo Sabatella at 626 372-7812.

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**March 15, 2015** - Our Archdiocese Director, Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuotti has recently asked Branch 374 to invite all District Branches to join him at Saint Bede the Venerable Church in La Canada on March 15 as he hosts a Special Traditional Italian Procession and Communion Sunday Mass celebrating Saint Joseph Day at 11:00am followed by a Luncheon in the Parish Hall. Monsignor is a gifted and inspirational speaker who will be preparing his very own pasta sauce. We are blessed to have him.

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

Carmelo Sabatella, President

Email: cas1810@aol.com

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**March 2015**
At the last General Meeting on February 1, staff this event. You to members and friends of ICF who helped of winemaking from local producers. And thank and enthusiasm while learning more about the art and the three Central Council Members and the thank you to ICF Grand President Bob Basuino excellent program again this year. A special Shaw and Gina Sabatella for coordinating an special event. Thank you to Co-Chairs Christy including 12 staff and eight Vintners enjoyed this for making the 12th Annual Wine Tasting Event.

Church Thank you members and Parishioners installed in Burbank at Saint Francis Xavier of the 2015 ICF Branch 108 Board recently. Congratulations to the new and returning Officers for 100% Scholarship Participation from the Grand President at the installation. For a speedy recovery. sick members, family, friends and Parishioners who have gone to their eternal reward and to the Prayers go out to those Members and parishioners for your support of the ICF and its related events. Thank you ICF Members, families and friends the families of Tony and Lilian. Missed. Our condolences and prayers go out to the loss of long time member Anthony “Tony” Mattazzaro who went to his eternal reward recently. May he rest in peace. He will be missed. Our condolences and prayers go out to the families of Tony and Lilian.

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

May God bless and keep you healthy “per cento anni!” Carmelo Sabatella, Past President ICF Branch 108 Email: cas1810@aol.com

San Pedro

St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

Fifty of our branch members and friends have returned from a Las Vegas outing safe and sound. Thanks to Pauline Iacono and Neal Dileva for all the hard work they put into making these trips so memorable for us.

Thanks to Carmela Gioiello for organizing our potluck on Feb. 19. We all had a good time and plenty of delicious food. At this meeting we finalized our plans for our upcoming annual crab dinner dance which took place on March 7. Also discussed was the Lenten Meal our branch will be hosting on March 13 after the 5:15pm mass. Please join us as we share a poor man’s meal consisting of Pasta Fagioli, fish fillet, salad and bread.

Neal also announced that the doors to the Mother Cabrini Museum need repair. To raise money for the refurbishing the doors a raffle drawing is taking place. $25.00 will buy you a chance to win $200.00 with 12 chances to win. Please call Neal for tickets. (310) 433-1044

Please join us on April 19 at 6:30pm Italian Mass as we honor Madonna Del Arco. Please bring flowers to be present to our Lady. Also announced was the deadline for High School seniors to apply for the ICF scholarship. Please call Neal Dileva for information and or applications. (310) 433-1044

Upcoming events

March 26th Day trip to San Manuel Casino $23.00 per person ICF members will receive a $3.00 discount Call Pauline Iacono for reservation and info (310) 832-0563.

April 20-22 Laughlin Trip 2 nites 3 days stay at the Aquarius Casino Price $120.00 per person double occupancy $155.00 single occupancy. ICF members will receive $5.00 discount. Please call Pauline Iacono for reservations (310) 8320563.

Thank you members, families and friends for your support of the ICF and its related events. Happy Easter to all. May God bless and keep you healthy Anita Gioiello Trujillo Treasurer

San Pedro Branch 115 attended the 2015 officers Los Angeles District installation on Sunday, February 8 at Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Church in Burbank. Mass at 10:30am followed by installation and luncheon. Branch officers present: Neal and Anna Di Leva, Frank Colonna, Nancy Ventimiglia, Nancy Donato, Pauline Iacono, Carmela Gioiello, Nicolina Mattera, Frank Amalfitano , Robert Hohman and Mary Cigliano.

Members, parishioners and Central Council members enjoyed the Branch 108 12th Annual Wine Tasting Event.
**San Gabriel Valley Region**

**Arcadia**

**Holy Angels, Br. 218**

A huge thanks to all that helped with the pancake breakfast, especially Scott Carrano and John Curley, the co-chairs. All the profit goes directly to Holy Angels School.

The St. Joseph’s Table is almost here – March 20 – start setting up, 21st – finish setting up. The Table will be blessed after the 5:00 mass and will be on display that evening, with the pasta dinners being served. On Sunday, the Table will be on display from 8:00 to 3:00 with dinners being served until 3:00. Please bring any donations to the hall on Saturday or early Sunday. If you wish to help, contact Karen and she will guide you to one of the leaders in each category. This is our main fundraiser for the year, so let’s all work together to make it the huge success that it always has been.

Everyone is aware of the circumstances of our president, JoAnn. She’s a fighter, but we all need to keep her in our prayers and hope that she will be back with us soon.

*Lolly M.*

**Diamond Bar**

**St. Denis, Br. 317**

03/07 - Pastoral Leadership Award Dinner/Dance

03/13 – Lenten Soup and General Meeting

03/16 - Board Meeting

On January 20, our dear member, Clarisa Campos passed away. Everyone was in disbelief and apparently the cause was heart failure. She was loved by our members and many at St. Denis. The ICF branch 317 prepared a beautiful luncheon for attendees of her funeral on January 31. The vigil was on Friday, January 30 at 7:30pm. Viewing Clarisa was difficult, however, I must emphasize she appeared as a child. Youthful, serene, and at peace as if she was welcomed in the arms of Jesus and Mary. We shall miss her, but we are grateful we shared the time, even though it was brief.

We shall begin our Cannoli fundraiser on March 1. Please sign up for the presales.

On March 13 we will have a Lenten soup meal and General Meeting. More details in the March Newsletter.

Thank you to Barbara and Randy for hosting the delicious February Valentine Dinner on February 13. Also, thank you to Mary for the beautiful decorating of the tables.

*God Bless,*

*Roxanne Perry*

**San Fernando Valley Region**

**Burbank**

**Santa Maria Goretty, Br. 102**

Our first meeting was well attended and new officers were voted in:

- Chaplin: Rev. Benny George
- President: Bert Gallagher
- 1st Vice President: Bernie Baima
- 2nd Vice President: Phil Bartus
- Recording Secretary: Melanie Bellomo
- Corresponding Secretary: Delores Baima
- Treasurer: Kristine Kaiser
- Orator: Dottie LaMacchia

**Temple City**

**St. Luke, Br. 326**

Happy Saint Patrick’s Day to all of our members!

Our next General Meeting will be held on March 25, 2015 at 7:30pm. Dessert and coffee will be served at 6:30pm.

Our quarterly Mass will be held on March 15 at the 8:30am. Mass. Breakfast to follow at Coco’s on Baldwin in Arcadia.

There will be no April meeting due to St. Luke’s Fiesta.

Also, just a reminder that our Pancake Breakfast will be on June 7, 2015. Pre-sale tickets will take place in May. Please support your branch and help make this a successful fundraiser.

Please continue to keep all of our ill members in your prayers, especially: Anne Dandrea, Roberta Nangelo, Mary Jacobs, Eva Arrighi, Hermenia Saez, Eleanor Cuneo, and Ann Premising. And, let’s not forget to pray for our deceased members.

Happy March Birthday: Salma Bishara and John Perfetto.

Happy Anniversary to: Frances and Frank Scorsone (43 years).

“I choose to walk friendship’s path with those who know me best, for we share life’s precious moments, and everyone is blessed. We celebrate the happy days and dry each other’s tears, as the road keeps winding upward throughout the passing years. Every life is a stepping stone for those who come behind. For when we need that special hug, It’s never hard to find.” (Clay Harrison)
are eager to continue to make our Branch vital and fun. We hope that you will join us at these meetings which are always held at Holy Cross Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm; except for June, that is, when the meeting will take place on the 3rd Tuesday, June 16.

In closing, a happy note for all you gardeners out there, past and present: “In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.”

Margaret Atwood
Patty Morelli
Secretary Branch 21

Salinas
Nostra Signora Del Sasso, Br. 25
It is with a sad heart that we report the death of Emil Mirandette, one of our most active and respected members. Emil was a member of the ICF for almost 30 years and actively supported the branch all that time. He was always the voice of caution and reason in our deliberations and his guidance and experience are sorely missed. God Bless Him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lorraine.

It is scholarship time once again. If you know someone worthy of a scholarship, contact a branch officer or go to icf.org web site for requirements and application forms. Applications must be in by March 15, 2015.

As noted, our Polenta Luncheon was a great success, netting $3,699.80, including over $450 in bake sales. We are thankful for branch members who worked so hard, and to non-members who helped so much. Food donations came from Joe Massolo (wine), Salinas Mushroom, Inc, Green Gate (lettuce), Star Market (Polenta) and Kathy Bullene (Gourds for decorating). Great job everyone!

Lenten Season is here again as are the Friday night fish dinners at Madonna del Sasso. A number of members work on food preparation and serving. Help if you can, but attend in any event and enjoy a great meal with friends and neighbors.

Remember: You are dust and to dust you shall return.

Dates to remember:
August 2, 2015 District Picnic at J&M Ranch
Ciao

Monterey
Santa Rosalia, Br. 36
Lenten dinners are going strong, keep volunteering and bringing a dessert each week, our dinner guests love desserts, and we want to keep them happy, and it is only six weeks.

The money we make from Lenten dinners go to San Carlos Church, maintenance of the Parish Hall, Loans and Fishes, scholarships, and many charities.

Sunday, March 15, 2015, is St. Joseph Celebration. Mass will be at San Carlos Cathedral at 2:00 p.m. Dinner Dance at San Carlos Parish Hall following Mass. Great music by Anthony Lane Band and Mike Marotta Jr. Dinner prepared by Celebrity Chefs Gaspar Catanzaro and Vito Spadaro, and Chefs Eddie Leonard, P.J. Curatolo and Crew. All reservations must be pre-paid by March 8, 2015. Make checks payable to I.C.F. Br. #36 and mail to: Mary Manuguerra, 4 Antelope Lane, Monterey, CA. 93940. Price is Adults, $25.00 - Children 6-12 $10.00. If you need any more information please call Mary, (831) 375-2009, or Beatrice Bonanno, (831) 649-3216.

If you bake bread please bring some for St. Joseph’s Table.

This day is always beautiful, I am looking forward to it.

Calendar:
March 6 - 3rd Lenten Dinner
March 13 - 4th Lenten Dinner
March 15 - St. Joseph Celebration
March 17 - Happy St. Patrick’s Day
March 20 - 5th Lenten Dinner
March 27 - 6th Lenten Dinner
We have so many members who are ill, please pray for them.
No love more perfect than God’s love,
No gift more perfect than the gift of prayer.
Peace be with you,
Bettye Sollecito

Castroville
Santa Caterina da Siena, Br. 51
Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

This past month our Branch has been busy with all the preparation for the annual Scholarship Fundraiser. At the January Pasta and General meeting, our Fundraiser Chairperson, Ashley Stefani, had a sign-up sheet for the various areas we needed help. By the end of the evening all the areas were covered. We have great members that work well together, and for that I am grateful.

Later this month (March 19) is our Branch’s Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This year our celebration falls on St. Joseph’s Day. We always like to prepare our St. Joseph’s table in honor of his special day.

January was a difficult month for many of the people of Castroville as many longtime residents passed away. Mike and John Bellone, Pat Bissett, Joe Jimenez, Albina Boggiatto, Nick Haro and Marvin Sarmiento all passed away in January. Although they were not I.C.F. members, they were friends and members of our small community for many years. We pray for their souls.

A reminder to Branch 51 members if you have not paid your dues please mail them as soon as possible.

To our members who live out of the area, Gina Candillor, Bruna Del Chairo, Virginia Frassetto and Thelma Sbarra, we miss you and you are in our thoughts and hearts always.

As we continue on our Lenten Journey, let us remember our sacrifices are small, our Lord gave everything for us.

Ciao,
Leonora Barlow
Our next branch meeting, Friday, March 20, 6:30pm at St. Michael’s Hall in Livermore, will be a Lenten pot luck and will feature a St. Joseph’s Table organized by Rosie Dickie. Please bring non-perishable food for the needy in our area. Marie Timmer will speak to us about the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Italian opera singer, Enrico Caruso, who was there. Everyone will enjoy this!

We learned recently that Catherine Cate, a long-time member of Branch 285, passed away in January, at a nursing home in San Jose. She was 93, a member of St. Michael’s parish and fondly remembered by many of us. May God rest her soul.

Twenty three members have expressed interest in attending a bocce on a regular basis. Don Merucci is researching courts, times and costs. If you are interested in playing but haven’t signed up yet, please call Don at 925-846-8436.

Clear your calendar for Branch 285’s Primavera Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 2, at St. Michael’s Hall in Livermore! Our major fundraiser for the year offers a very nice evening of food, fellowship, dancing to great music, and lots of raffle prizes! More information next month!

Ciao,
Mary Merucci

Castro Valley
Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Well Christmas in January is not such a bad thing, it makes the holidays last longer. But now it is back to real time. Hope all had a great New Year’s Day and were able to enjoy our “early celebration” at our Polenta, chicken and sausage dinner.

With Lent beginning so early this year, Feb.18, it is once again time to think about ways we can be of service to others. Our March dinner will again have a St. Joseph’s table for the purchase of desserts, the proceeds will be contributed St. Vincent de Paul at Transfiguration church. Our branch will also be providing the final Soup Meal of Lent on March 25 at OLG. See, there are lots of ways to be of service.

Bishop’s Day will be at St. Isadore’s church in Danville on March 1, hopefully we will have a large turnout. Dinner will follow in the parish hall.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day to all Irish and those who wish to be Irish.

From your non-Irish secretary,
Pat Grasso

Contra Costa
District Council

The District is very grateful to the Officers and Members of Branch 214 in Concord for hosting the 2015 Installation of Officers. Special thanks go to Roberta Healy, David Bota, Michael Cannady and Patty Jarrett for their extra efforts in making this event so successful. Many thanks also to Roselyne Jarrett for her work and for representing the Council Grand President and for performing the Installation. The atmosphere and food at the La Veranda restaurant in Clayton was very good, along with a beautiful day.

The ICF Contra Costa and East Bay Districts
It’s time to turn the page on so many illnesses lately. Sincere get well wishes to Aaron Cargo, Andrea DeSilid, Lena McCrossen and David Townsend. It’s with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our members Marina Dell Agostino and Vince Ramos. Both were active members, loved by many; they will long be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to their families, especially Rich Dell Agostino and Lois Ramos. With a tip of the hat to the Irish, we say, “May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks. May your heart be as light as a song. May each day bring you bright happy hours, that stay with you all the year long.”

Karen Paz, President

Branch 379 - 4th of July Parade: (from left to right) Karen Paz, Greg Geraci, Maria Di Paolo, Lillian Campbell and Anthony Mattazzaro in the 4th of July Parade in 2014.

Pittsburg
San Domenico, Br. 72

In Jan. our officers attended the District Mass and Installation. This was hosted by the Concord Todos Santos branch and we thank them for a job well done. We were honored that Roselynn spoke of us and asked by our Grand President to represent him that day. At our Feb. meeting we had a Valentines party with a sweets potluck and raffle. We also shared stories of how we met our Valentines.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, March 1 -- Bishops day Mass and reception to be held at St. Isidore’s church in Danville at 4:30 pm
Sunday, March 8 -- Meeting and St. Joseph’s Table/St. Patrick’s day party at 3 pm. Soup and Salad lunch will be served.
Sunday, April 12 -- Meeting and lunch to be held at New Mecca in Pittsburg at 2 pm.

Thurs., April 23 -- District meeting in Danville at 7:30 pm.

Did you know that your children/grandchildren can join ICF under the family membership plan for just $10.00 for the entire family? Did you also know that ICF has a hospitalization plan that you can join for just $25.00 a year? Ask Patty for details.

I am happy to report the recovery of two of our officers. Our second vice president Josie was ill and needed to be hospitalized. Our secretary Grace had a bad fall and was injured. Both ladies thank you for your prayers.

If you know of any other sick members contact Jane Russo. She is our sunshine chairperson and will gladly send a card on behalf of the branch.

See you soon.

Always remember;

Sempre Avanti

Patty

Richmond
St. Raymond, Br. 154

The February meeting opened with a Soup and Salad dinner, prepared by Walter Costa and Toni Reeder. Delicious as always! We hosted 2 guests from district, Donna Hoffman and David Botto. Their comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Walter Costa has agreed to take on the role of Heritage spokesman for our group. Thank you, Walter! Jim Rampoli has offered to look into name tags for all members. These could be useful to use at convention and other ICF functions.

We welcomed three new members to our branch, they are: Teresa Graham, Alice Trevino and her son Zoomi.

Please respond before February 19th if you plan on attending Bishop’s Day. The cost is $25.00 and includes a Pork Loin dinner with Salad, Pasta and dessert. The date is March 1, 2015 at 4:30 pm at St. Isidore’s Church 440 La Gonda Way Danville.

Happy 80th Birthday to Diana De Simoni, our Sentinel. She was kind enough to bring a delicious birthday cake to share.

Mark your calendar for the next Polenta Dinner, on April 18 at St. Jerome’s Parish Hall, Adults $22.00, Children $6.00. This is usually a sold out event so get your reservations in early at the next meeting.

Next meeting is March 09, 2015, 6 pm mass followed by Corned Beef and Cabbage, $12.00, reserve with Dee at 510-232-1387.

Don’t forget dues are payable now! Annual dues are $35.00 and Hospitalization is $25.00. Make your check payable to the ICF and give your check to Lori Framsted.

Lorraine Acuta

Ciao!

Brentwood
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Br. 432

A belated Happy New Year to all. We’ve been a little remiss in getting our happenings out so we’ll start with the end of 2014 and head into 2015.

We ended 2014 with a great Christmas dinner at Sweeny’s, a local restaurant. With plenty of food and drink, a good time was had by all attendees.

Moving on into 2015, on January 17, we started the year off with the installation of our Branch Officers. In concert with the other Branches of the Contra Costa District, the installation was held at St. Agnes Church in Concord. After the installation of Officers, all of the Branches reconvened at La Veranda Cafe in Clayton. For what else, food, drink and an enjoyable time.

Congratulations to our new Officers for 2015:

Chaplain -- Deacon John Kortuem
President -- Gene Simonetti
First Vice President -- Philomena Sawko
Second Vice President -- Grace Grimis
Secretary -- Marilyn Simonetti
Treasurer -- Linda Kortuem
Orator -- Art Londeros
Trustees -- Mary Webber, Frank Stagnitto, Jack Bagar
Sentinel -- Marie Modafferi

We held our first Branch meeting of the year on January 26 at Mountain Mike’s Pizza. After pizza and beer, a great way to get ready for a meeting incidentally, we looked forward to the year ahead. The group was challenged by President Gene Simonetti to come up with another annual fund raiser. Not an easy task but looked on with great enthusiasm by all.

May the coming year reward all with good health, good fellowship and much love.

la vita e bonna

Christopher Ilg

Pleasant Hill
Christ the King, Br. 442

Thanks to all members who took part in planning, organizing and attending our Valentine’s-themed February branch meeting and St. Joseph’s Day March meeting (complete with a meatless potluck and St. Joseph’s Novena).

Because of the branch’s fundraising efforts, we were able to donate $1,000 to the parish, two $400 scholarships and $350 toward Bishop’s Day. The branch also donated two Italian-themed baskets with Italian pottery and cookbooks to the parish school auction. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make our fundraising events such a success!

Plans are well underway for our April 25 spring tea fundraiser from 11:30 to 2. It will feature authentic tea, scones, sandwiches and desserts. Tickets are $25. For more details or to reserve a spot, email icfpleasanthill@aol.com. We are also planning a spring bocce ball event, so stay tuned for further details!

We wish everyone a blessed and joyous Easter.

Ciao!

Fellows

Orange
Huntington Beach
St. Bonaventure, Br. 379

Branch 379 started the New Year with its traditional Holiday Party on January 18. Members held the January meeting and then enjoyed a pasta and salad dinner at Baci Restaurant in Huntington Beach. On January 25, members attended the Brick Dedication of Mary’s Courtyard at St. Bonaventure Catholic School. Branch 379 purchased one of the first bricks, placed in the courtyard; all proceeds benefit the school’s Endowment Fund to support Catholic education of our youth. Also on the 25th, branch members helped with the Donut Ministry at St. Bonaventure, serving donuts, juice and coffee in the Hall after all morning masses.

The branch also suffered the loss of member Anthony Mattazzaro in January. For the last two years, Anthony has driven his 1967 red convertible Mustang in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade with several officers of Branch 379, and he took much delight in participating in our nation’s celebration and promoting the Italian Catholic Federation to the crowds. He also held an annual August summer BBQ at his home and invited all the members. Anthony’s joy in life and jokes will be well-missed. We will cherish our fond memories of him.

Submitted by Karen Paz, President
Hello from Branch 45

Time for our tasty Chicken and Polenta dinners to begin; the first one of the year will be on Sunday, March 22, with a branch meeting at 4:30pm and dinner at 6:00pm. Cost is $12.00 for members and $16.00 for non-members and guests. Make your reservation by calling Janine, 916-400-3283; please call by March 17. We invite all the branch 45 members to attend the meeting. Bring your ideas and opinions and let us know your visions for 2015.

Upcoming in May will be Monte Carlo Games and Pasta Dinner Night to be held in Giovanni Hall on May 17. “CASINO 45” will feature a variety of games, BlackJack, Texas Hold’em, Bingo, Bunco and Roulette with a cache of valuable prizes for the winners. The evening will be followed by a delicious pasta dinner.

More information to come next month.

Buon Compleanno to Mindy Jung, our only March Birthday celebrant. Dues ARE DUE! If you have any questions, contact Janine (916-400-3283) for more information.

See you all March 22 at our first dinner; we are looking forward to a busy and productive year.

Robert Delpippo

San Bernardino

St. Joseph, Br. 210

We had our February meeting on the 8th. It was a pretty good group. Our Substitute, Retired Priest, Father Pierre Stopped over to see what the ICF was all about. He blessed our food and took a plate home. Since he is retired, our Bishop assigned him as Chaplain for Fontana Kaiser Hospital so he celebrates Mass occasionally at our Parish. Nan Judge did the decorations again, with a Valentine theme. At our meeting, we voted to fund another Scholarship this year and make a donation to Cooley’s Anemona. Our Parish is participating in Pope Francis’s Request for input for the Synod on “Marriage and Family” which will be held in October of this year. Our President encouraged anyone interested to participate. John Guerin, our Branch Deputy, informed us of the St. Joseph Celebration at his Branch on March 19th. Guest Speaker, Bradley James, will talk about his experiences working with (Mother) Saint Teresa of Calcutta. An Italian Dinner will be served prior to the speaker. After singing happy Birthday to members Angie Teal, Pat Grisafe and Pete Dente the Meeting closed at 3:45.

Have a blessed Easter Week God bless.

Jack Grisafe

Sacramento

St. Mary, Br. 45

Hello from Branch 45

Top o’ the month to you! Wishing you all a very Happy St. Patrick’s Day!!

President Mary Ann Profeta thanked Tom and Peggy Farrell for hosting the Christmas party in December. She also thanked Ann Volpe and Randy Profeta for making the ham dinner at January’s meeting.

Treasurer Tom Farrell reminded everyone that dues are due. Membership fee is $40 per person.

Bishop dinner and Installation of Officers plans are currently being made. More details to come.

The annual St. Joseph’s Table will be held on March 21 and 22 at St. Thomas More Parish in Irvine. Mina Brooks and Lupe Montejano are co-chairs for the event. We will have a cupcake station, fresh sausage and meatball sandwiches, freshly made cannolis, Meal-In-A-Bag, and homemade delectables to choose from. Please bring your homemade baked goods and other delicious edibles to the event.

Next meeting will be on Friday, February 20.

Ciao,

Miranda Gibson

Reno

St. Albert, Br. 135

Sunday, February 8 at St. Albert’s Hall, 26 members and guests braved a rainy evening, which was a welcome relief to our very dry winter, and enjoyed Lasagne, fresh green beans, salad, garlic bread and Red Velvet cake prepared by Ron and Romi Frediani. Many thanks to the Fredi family for providing such terrific food.

It was reported that our member, Brother Matthew Cunningham recently had back surgery and was spending a few days in the hospital. Keep Br. Matthew in your prayers and we wish him a speedy recovery. We pray for God’s healing touch for everyone who is sick.

Vonnie Ramos is lining up cooks for our meetings in May, October and November. Plan on volunteering to help cook for a meeting.

Vonnie Ramos gave a Heritage report on St. Valentine who was martyred on February 14th in the first century because he would not give up his Christian belief. He is the Patron Saint and protector of love, lovers, and happy marriage. His Christian belief. He is the Patron Saint and protector of love, lovers, and happy marriage. He is the Patron Saint and protector of love, lovers, and happy marriage. He is the Patron Saint and protector of love, lovers, and happy marriage. He is the Patron Saint and protector of love, lovers, and happy marriage.

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Our next meeting was moved to March 15th. Plan on attending as there is prospects of a delicious dinner of Corned Beef and Cabbage.

Dinner at 6:00pm. Cost is $12.00 for members and $16.00 for non-members and guests. Make your reservation by calling Janine, 916-400-3283; please call by March 17. We invite all the branch 45 members to attend the meeting. Bring your ideas and opinions and let us know your visions for 2015.

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He also explained the reasons why we receive ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday. The austerity of the Lenten season was seen as similar to how people in the Old Testament fasted and the fiscal impact of not allowing organizations to have fundraisers has had on our small group.

Past President Dinner for Tina Flanders will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 5pm at the Thunder Valley Buffet.

Please continue to pray for our sick members and their families.

Belated Birthday wishes to Natalie Malone (January 10), Gloria Trapasso (January 21), Anita St. Denis (February 6), Josefina Stang (February 23rd), and Freida Mayers (February 27).

Happy Birthday to Pat Korf (March 6), Ann D’Antonio (March 15) and Virginia Becker (March 16).

Just another friendly reminder that annual membership dues are now payable.

Our next meeting will be held on March 11, 11am in the Parent Center. Hope to see everyone there.

Margie Burke
San Francisco

San Francisco
SS Immacolata, Br. 1

Just a few reminders. Our next District Council meeting will be on April 9, at the Taraval Police Station, at 6:00pm, and will be hosted by Branch 290.
Archbishop’s Day, hosted this year by the San Mateo District, will be held on April 12. Mass and dinner will be in Millbrae.

Ann Basuino, Dist. Secty.

San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

San Diego

District Council

On Sunday, February 8, 2015, the San Diego I.C.F. District held its annual Joint Installation of Branch and District Officers at St. Therese Parish. The 11:00 a.m. mass was celebrated by Pastor and Branch Chaplain Reverend Michael Pham. Following mass, a luncheon, short program and the installation were held in the Social Center. A delicious luncheon was catered by Cupid’s Catering. Grand 2nd Vice President, Andy Pappani conducted the installation and presented the Grand President’s annual message. Master of Ceremonies was Forest Price, C.C. Emeritus. Chairpersons for the event were Christine (Chris) Murphy, San Diego District 1st Vice President and Prudence Price, District Trustee. Refreshments were handled by Jim Cardinal-Hill, S.D. District 2nd Vice President.

The only exception will be the June meeting, which will be held in the evening to accommodate the annual dinner in honor of the ICF scholarship winners.
A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who attended our Crab Feed on February 7. Many thanks to everyone who worked to make this event such a great success.

Dear Friends,
Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19. Please remember that all future meetings will begin with lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by our meeting. The only exception will be the June meeting, which will be held in the evening to accommodate the annual dinner in honor of the ICF scholarship winners.

San Francisco

Corpus Christi, Br. 290

San Francisco

St. Cecilia, Br. 365

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

San Francisco

District Council

ITALIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY providing services to the Italian-American community since 1916
CASA FUGAZI
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March 2015

The business/dinner meeting for April will be on the 1st. So don’t be an “April Fool” and plan to attend the meeting.

Just to give you a “heads up”, we will have a Pedro Tournament in the month of May. The date is currently TBD (To be determined). Please contact Norma for more information, 650-583-3643.

May 6 will be our last business/dinner meeting as we take a break for the months of June and July. Our first meeting after the break will be August 5. So until next time...a little thought to ponder. “The same boiling water that softens the potato, hardens the egg. It’s not about the circumstance, but rather what you are made of”.

Sempre Avanti,
Laurie Masetti

San Carlos

St. Charles, Br. 327

Our January meeting was well attended and our meal was exceptional. Thank you to Dede Masters-Waters for the wonderful chicken piccata dinner and the even more wonderful home-made tiramisu.

Coming in March: Saturday, March 7, 2015 is our 38th Anniversary Dinner. We are celebrating with our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner to be held in St. Charles Borromeo Hall, 890 Tamarrack Avenue, San Carlos. Tickets are $30.00 per person. For reservations contact Barbara Borra, 650-593-4118. (catered by Harry’s Hofbrau) Reservation deadline is March 2.

San Carlos – A tradition of offering thanks to St. Joseph for his intercession during a drought.

March 22 - This is our annual joint Communion Breakfast with our neighbor Branch 173. Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame. Mass at 8:30am followed by breakfast at the Terrace Cafe in Millbrae.

April 12 - Bishop’s Day with Mass at 10:30 at All Soul’s Church in So. San Francisco followed by lunch at the Basque Cultural Center.

Rose Marie Morando
Corresponding Secretary

San Jose

Santa Clara Valley

District Council

Denise Antonowicz continues to sparkle as she gavelled the SCV District meeting to order at the February District Meeting. Host Branch 408 President Ric Shimshock with some of his branch members prepared the meeting room and served up refreshments.

Branch 4 Holy Cross and Branch 5 Santa Clara planning a combined celebration of 90 years. Branch 28 confirmed 185 paid members and a Polenta Dinner on March 7. Branch 191 - Jim Jones sadly reported the passing of Yolanda Nails and Frank Bausino (Central Council Presidents’ father). He invited everyone to the dinner dance “Under the Big Top” and that a carnival theme was emphasized especially for children. Branch 391 confirmed 155 paid members and celebrated their 20th Anniversary lunch at the Cultural Center. Branch 408 completed a successful Blood Drive and started Lenten Soup Nights. Branch 435, Andy Pappani said they are planning a St. Joseph’s day.

Fr. George underscored the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation being promoted by the Diocese of San Jose at all of the Catholic Churches during Lent this year. The series will run every week, every Wednesday. The series aims at equipping all the lay faithful with tools for their own spiritual health and the spiritual health of others.

Our Lady of Peace Mass – 11 am, June 14

Mike Nunziata

San Jose

Holy Cross, Br. 4

The Installation of Officers Mass was beautiful. Fr. George Arana officiated.

Officers for 2015 are hoping for a good year. Each of us, as members, should do our best to help out and insure our fundraisers are successful.

Bring your family members and friends. These functions are what keep our Branch going.

We are now in the period of Lent. This is the perfect time to reflect on our personal and spiritual lives, and reaffirm our faith.

Have you paid your dues? Bring them to the meeting or mail them to Connie Barretta.

Thanks to those who purchased a calendar. All of our allotment were sold!

March 4- Mardi Gras fundraiser. Pasta Bar, Salad bar and More. Donation $25.00

Feb 21- Santa Clara Valley District is hosting a day of recollection at Santa Teresa Church. 9:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. Morning hospitality and lunch. Suggested donation$10.00. Father George presiding.

April 1- Dinner meeting- Phone Committee will call.

Remember to pray for our sick members. A phone

San Francisco

District Council

Our next meeting will be March 17, the guest speaker that night will be Laurence Levine.

Upcoming events: April 12 – San Francisco District Bishop’s Day

Our get-well wishes for a speedy recovery to all of you who aren’t feeling well.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Easter.

Buona Pasqua a tutti!

See you next month,
Ciao,
Anna Biggio
call or card will brighten their days.

Our deepest sympathy to our Grand President Bob Basuino and family on the death of the beloved Father, Frank. All of us that knew Frank will miss him. May he rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord.

“May your Faith be Greater than your Years”

Blessings to all,

Ann Fitzgerald

Gilroy
Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

A large thank you to all those who helped with our Polenta dinner on March 7. Especially our wonderful chef Andy Pappani and his crew of hard working cooks.

Our spring scholarship breakfast will be on April 12. Remember this is a fundraiser for the scholarship program, and we give out 5 scholarships a year to High School graduates and St. Mary 8th grade graduates and one 2nd year graduate. So we need your support. Please come to our breakfast and bring friends and family.

Please note: April dinner meeting is on April 20. Roger placed the wrong date in his newsletter. The calling committee will be calling you.

Please keep our sick and homebound members in your prayers.

Ciao,

Anna Barberi

Los Gatos
St. Mary, Br. 184

Like our President Denise likes to say, “Our Branch is small but we are mighty.” As we get ready for our next dinner dance, I want you to tell us that we gave out $12,032.72 in Charitable donations. They were given mainly to Scholarships, Cooley’s Anemia Research, Gifts of Love and Sacred Heart, in addition to other entities. That is the information that fuels us to work on “fundraising” projects. And, I might say “fun raising” as well! BENVENUTO, or WELCOME, to our Italian Trattoria, this year’s theme. On March 21 our loyal cooks and servers are preparing Polenta with Chicken Cacciatoro. No host cocktails served at 6:30 P.M. and dinner served at 7pm. Dance to the live music of Reno di Bono in Howley Hall’s Trattoria. Please call Donna Paff at (408) 265 7902 for tickets and/ or information. If possible, please bring an unwrapped lattice item in size 0 to 6 months for the Diocese Lapette program. Grazie a tutti!

Sunday, March 15 is the date for our next Quarterly Mass, at 7:30am. Join us at the Hickory Pit on Campbell Avenue after Mass for breakfast. March also brings us St. Patrick’s Day, St. Joseph’s Day and Palm Sunday. This year seems to be off to a flying start. Let’s make sure we find time to pray for our friends and family, and to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. May the hope of the Resurrection be with all of you.

Peace, Lucy Amico

P.S. Our next meeting is March 12 at 7pm. All members and guests are welcomed.

San Jose
St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

WOW!! New President, new board, new Chaplain, New Deputy, New Year. Jo Bertucci took over the reign as President at our last meeting and did a magnificent job. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year. Thank you to our Chaplain Father Paolo Golbo and Deputy Joan Delfino, wife of C.C. Member Emeritus and District Deputy Jerry Delfino for your dedication and being there for us.

We were saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Past President, long time member, Frank Basuino, Father of our Grand President, Bob Basuino. The funeral Mass was beautiful with a special honor guard initiated by branch 191 members, a procession, and Father Chris Bennett as the Main Celebrant with ICF Spiritual Director Msgr. Dan Cardelli, Santa Clara District Chaplain, Father George Aranha and Branch 191 Chaplain, Father Paolo Golbo Concelebrating. Goodbye Dear Friend. God Bless you and we will miss you.

Our Spring Polenta and Chicken Cacciatoro Dance will be held March 7 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in San Jose. The theme will be “Under the Big Top” and promises to be a lot of fun. Debbie Piro (Vince Piro’s Sister) and Jaime Portillo will head up this dinner dance. Bring your entire family, especially your Grandchildren for carnival games, Balloon Lady, and Face Painting. I heard that Janice Jones, wife of Past Grand President Jim Jones is having her face painted. I may join her.

Happy New year to all the Branches in the Federation.

Jim Jones

PGP Emeritus

San Jose
St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

The evening started off with Penne in a meat sauce, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and valentine cookies for dinner and dessert.

Our new Chaplin, Fr. Abe, updated the branch on St. Martin’s Capital Campaign and the status of renovations. He said that the ICF member’s faith is contagious to the rest of St. Martin’s community.

Bob Osorio filled in as deputy. He spoke in his relationship with many of the chair members and thanked them for their service. He also said we should be proud that our branch provides many scholarship opportunities and donations to charities!

John Lencioni thanked everyone for his scholarship. He is putting it to good use! If you know someone who is eligible for a branch scholarship, make sure you contact Sal Lipari before the deadline.

Louise Vento gave the heritage report on a book she recently read about immigrants coming into America through Ellis Island. Russ Vento announced that we need #391 members to chair St. Martin’s station of the cross in March. Contact St. Martin’s office to fill this role.

Make sure you welcome our newest member, JoAnn Schiro, to Branch #391, who was initiated at February’s meeting.

Ciao,

Bianca Villaroz

Sunnyvale
Resurrection, Br. 408

As we begin our Lenten Journey to a Blessed Easter, we pray for God’s guidance.

Branch 408 hosted its first Quarterly Communion Mass and Breakfast after the 8:30am Mass on January 25. The 8:30am Mass Intention on the 18th of January was held for Alice Fritsch – a very special lady. She is District Sentinel. His family attended the day Morgan Hill
Santa Caterina D’Alessandria, Br. 435

Last month our branch enjoyed a delicious meal of Polenta and chicken and sausage Cacciatoro prepared by Jim Friebel and Syd Pappani. Thank you both for a wonderful feast.

Our next dinner meeting will be held a week earlier on Feb. 12, instead of the 19th. We will be having roasted chicken with stuffing, salad, bread and apple pie with ice cream. By the time you receive this in the Bolletino our dinner meeting will be over.

The Saint Joseph table will be held on March 21st with a collaboration project of the ICF and St.Catherine’s Middle school Ministry. Everyone is welcome.

A special thank you goes out to Gail Wess, who did such a wonderful and creative way of doing our flyers for our dinner meetings. Gail went above and beyond the call of duty, besides being a talented cook.

Ciao,

Julianne

Healdsburg
San Francesco Di Sales, Br. 52

Congratulations to our new members! At our January Polenta Dinner, we initiated 46 new members and guests are welcomed.

Dante Coretta of Branch 18 presenting the President’s Award to Doreen O’Rourke.

our treasurer she put a great effort into making them so cute and original. Thanks Gail, we all appreciate your hard work.

Our branch is having our quarterly Mass on March 15 at the 10:30 Mass and following Mass we will be doing hospitality with doughnuts and coffee. Please try to join us.

Our prayers have been answered with the rain situation, let’s hope it continues, we certainly need more.

Keep in your prayers, the homeless, the needy and all the sick in our parish.

Donna Basilin

Santa Rosa
Napa
San Giuseppe, Br. 12

Our Branch attended the District Installation in Cloverdale on January 31. The District President’s Awards were presented. We are very happy that our 2nd VP Ken Marshall was awarded this Award. Ken has been an involved member of ICF in our Branch, a Branch Deputy to Petaluma Branch and is District Sentinel. His family attended the day too. We served a Chinese dinner at the monthly Developmentally Disabled Christian Ministry dinner meeting. It is so rewarding to be with these wonderful people.

Pauline Seago prepared a delicious chicken cacciatoro dinner for our February meeting. An Irish dinner is planned for our March dinner meeting.

Our sympathy is extended to Gloria Garibaldi on the passing of her beloved husband William in January. He joined our Branch in 1976.

Ciao,

JoAnn Schiro, to Branch #391, who was initiated at February’s meeting.
Youth Installation -- Branch 75, Cloverdale’s youth group that served at the Santa Rosa District Installation.

members, 19 of whom are children. Welcome to Branch 52.

Upcoming Events:
March 3: Branch Meeting, 7 pm at the Rectory.
March 27: Our 1st Annual Fish Fry. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Please come and support the branch at this new event. Price: $20.00 for adults. $10.00 for children 6 – 12, under 5, free. Reservations are a must by calling Mary Madden 431-0438, Nancy Seppi 433-4708, or Karla Lippincott 237-1308.

We will also be hosting one of the Lenten Soup Suppers at Church. Please read the Church Bulletin to see which night.

In honor of Dad, Mary and Monica - Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Lauren Kilcullen
Sonoma St. Sebastian, Br. 103

President Margo Kosta and the officers of the Branch unanimously agreed to host a Bingo/Champagne and Dessert party on Sunday, April 10 at the Seven Flags Club House, 1400 W. Watmaugh Rd., Sonoma, from 2-4 p.m. SAVE THAT DATE! Proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund of the Branch. For reservations, please call Lila Boragno at 996-3448. For directions call 966-9082 or consult Google maps and/or your GPS.

Since Father Roberts’ Hall at St. Francis Solano Church is still under repair, the Branch has decided to have a potluck dinner on its regular meeting night of March 10 at the Seven Flags Club House. Members are asked to consult the Branch’s monthly newsletter for more details. For reservations, call Lila at 996-3448.

Saluti,
Marie-Therese Denning

Petaluma
St. Vincent, Br. 127
Greetings from Petaluma!

Well we’ve gone from stormy skies and heavy rain to a most beautiful day today. Isn’t God good to us. We should take advantage of the beauty of the winter season. We can take off and go to the mountains with all the beauty of the snow or take off to the beaches and watch the pounding waves as they hit the beaches or we can just stay home, turn on the gas fireplace, read a good book or watch a little television. We are all so lucky living in Petaluma, where at least we are not shoveling a lot of snow as they are back east and midwest.

Our thanks go to the Cloverdale Branch for the lovely day and dinner we had for the Installation. Glad to see that they are increasing their membership and doing so well.

Our spaghettata dinner was great. We want to thank Denise DiGirolamo and Sharon Hromek for chairing the event. Denise made the sauce and everything was delicious. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to all who helped in any way.

I will give a report on the Crab Feed which is on February 21st in the next Bollettino.

We will be having our Quarterly Communion Mass for living and deceased members on Saturday, March 21st at 5:00 p.m., St. James Church, followed by the St. Joseph’s Table Dinner in the Church Hall. Everyone who has attended a St. Joseph Table dinner knows how great it is and how good the food is. Cost is $20 Adults $10 Children under 12 yrs. Sharon Cresci is Chairperson and will need help to prepare for the dinner. For reservations call: Spence - 763-9082 or Louise - 769-7389.

March/April/May: Bakeless Bake Sale
April 13th: Regular Meeting
Welcome to our new members Madeline and Bob.

Get well wishes to Frank Cresci and to those members who are ill. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary wishes to those celebrating this month.

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

Ciao,
Louise Vicino
Arcata
St. Mary, Br. 144

Congratulations to our new officers installed in Eureka at a lovely dinner and evening hosted by Br 145. Our Anniversary will be celebrated on Apr. 18, beginning with 5:30 Mass at St. Mary’s, followed by a Social hour and Dinner in Leavy Hall.

Barbara Vanni and Rosemary Melandy are planning our Meager Meal for March 6. Call them if you want to help. Larry DePeel and Mike DalPorto are in charge of our St. Joseph’s Table for March 21 and 22. We would like a large display of goodies... Plan ahead. Jacque Aseltine and Marie LaBianca are in charge of the District Christmas Raffle tickets. Please support this project. Linda Spallino to gather the donations for the Raffle Basket.

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Elsie Palorsi. Please pray for our ill: Kenneth David, Laurice Levine accepts a $4000 donation from Br. 52 President Nancy Seppi for Cooley’s Anemia.
President Bob Bausino, and CC Life Member Jose CC Member Marco Galeazzi, and Grand At a recent Central Council meeting in San Jose CC Member Marco Galeazzi, Grand President Bob Bausino, and CC Life Member Dante Galeazzi.


How is your Lent progressing? Are you succeeding with your intentions to give up something and/or adding a special “project” as a Lenten sacrifice? If you feel you’ve been a little lax...oh well! Our Lord still loves you. Try being and be grateful all of the Graces, and things he does for us. Blessed Holy Week and Easter!!

Ciao,
Linda

Eureka
St. Ambrose, Br. 145

Congratulations to all of our newly installed officers! They are as following: Joe Bonino, President; Vice President, Elise Farse; Recording Secretary, Marrian Griffin; Duane David, Treasurer; Nancy Bruner, Financial Secretary; Orator, Suanna Rowell; Sentinel, Greg Griffin; Trustees are Gary Paoli, Lora Canzonieri, and Greg Griffin. Thank you for accepting these offices. The new Eureka officers and the new Arcata Branch officers were also installed at our January 17 dinner. Thank you to Bob and Kathy Aquistapace for coming to Eureka to install all of the new officers. Also thank you to Joe and Julie and all who helped them prepare our dinner. During our January 9th meeting we initiated members Mary and Ken Griffin. Congratulations to you both! Also at the same meeting Betty Senestraro introduced new members Marian and Ron DiMino. Welcome to you both.

New dates for your calendar are April 18th, our anniversary dinner, and of course February 10 for our next meeting, please plan to attend.

Blessed Holy Week and Easter!!

St. Michael, Br. 209

Congratulations, once again, to our 2015 Branch 209 Officers!! The Installation of Officers was held on January 31 and hosted by Cloverdale Branch 75.

Our February meeting featured a “GIFTS OF LOVE” fundraiser. Pizza, Caesar Salad and Ice Cream Sundae served. A donation of $5/member was dedicated to the fundraiser. By the time you read this article, Branch #209 will have hosted their February 21 Chicken & Polenta Dinner. No doubt it was our usual success. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped in any way.

Friday, March 13th is the date of our upcoming Fish Fry. This is a very popular event, so if you want tickets, please call ahead. Lona Bertoli (707-527-1021) will be taking reservations. Please remember that dues are now payable - $32.80/member. Please pay at the meeting or mail your check to: Gerrie Goin, 1883 Paradise Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Upcoming:
March 13 -- Fish Fry – 6:30pm – St. Sebastian’s Parish Hall
April 7 – 6 pm – Board Meeting
April 14 – 6 pm – Regular Meeting
Happy St. Patrick’s Day!!
Lona Bertoli

St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Brothers & Sisters

As we near the end of the Lenten season lets make sure that we stress the Catholic side of the Italian Catholic Federation. End the 40 days with a special Mass remembrance for all the I.C.F. members who have gone before us marked with the sign of Faith. Remember them on Good Friday and celebrate with your family members on Easter Sunday.

Mark Bisio is our new Trustee and we thank him for accepting the job.

The Prime Rib & Pasta Fundraiser is on April 18th in the Becker Center with Mass at 4:30pm, cocktails at 5:45pm and dinner at 6:15pm. The tickets are available from Clair Giampaoli (539-1443) for $ 20.00, remember the ticket includes cocktails and dinner with wine. Please remember our members who are ill or in need of our prayers. Especially Marie Lagomarsino, RoseAnne Sikes, Ezio Mangiantini and Caroline Vettelini.

Buona Pasqua a Tutti,
Lorraine Castelli

Sebastopol

St. Ambrose, Br. 48

Congratulations to all of our newly installed officers! They are as following: Joe Bonino, President; Vice President, Elise Farse; Recording Secretary, Marrian Griffin; Duane David, Treasurer; Nancy Bruner, Financial Secretary; Orator, Suanna Rowell; Sentinel, Greg Griffin; Trustees are Gary Paoli, Lora Canzonieri, and Greg Griffin. Thank you for accepting these offices.

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New dates for your calendar are April 18th, our anniversary dinner, and of course February 10 for our next meeting, please plan to attend.

Remember to keep all our members and families in your prayers, especially those who are recovering from illness.

Many Blessings to you all

Santa Rosa

St. Ambrose, Br. 390

Photos taken at the Branch 390 January dinner meeting - captions are as follows left to right top row:
Joe Bacchetti cooking polenta, Mike Bacchetti in the kitchen, Eileen Morri and Pat Reeves.

left to right bottom row:
Anthony and Nance Jaques, Arvene and Jim Rinaldo; Annette Elisagrayar and Lucy Orsi; William Ridolfi and Dante Galeazzi.

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Joe Bacchetti cooking polenta, Mike Bacchetti in the kitchen, Eileen Morri and Pat Reeves.

left to right bottom row:
Anthony and Nance Jaques, Arvene and Jim Rinaldo; Annette Elisagrayar and Lucy Orsi; William Ridolfi and Dante Galeazzi.

St. Joseph's Table Celebration.

This will be a very busy month for our branch beginning with our St. Joseph’s Table Celebration. It will be March 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm. It will be in the hall at 7th and K Streets. It is a potluck so bring your favorite dish, you family and friends and join us. The potluck always brings some of the best food. We will have our fun raffle after lunch, the proceeds of which go to St. Vincent De Paul.

Next will be the Stockton District Bishop’s Banquet Saturday March 28, 2015 starting with mass at 12:00 noon at the new church at 1200 Maze Blvd. A social hour and a pork loin Luncheon will follow at the community center next door. Bring your family and friends and invite your parishioners to attend also.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sunday March 1, 2015 and April 5, 2015 at the 8:00 am at the Maze Blvd. Church

Coming up:
Mar 11 - 7:00 pm - Meeting St. Stanislaus Hall 7 & K Streets Modesto
Mar 15 – 2:00 pm St. Joseph’s Table Stanslaus Hall 7 & K Streets Modesto
Mar 28 - Bishop’s Dinner Mass 1200 Maze Blvd – Dinner Community Center
April 8 – 7:00 pm – Meeting St. Stanislaus Hall 7 & K Streets Modesto

Cecelia McGhee

St. Michael, Br. 209

Congratulations, once again, to our 2015 Branch 209 Officers!! The Installation of Officers was held on January 31 and hosted by Cloverdale Branch 75.

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Lona Bertoli

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Cecelia McGhee

Manteca

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Cecelia McGhee

St. Bernard, Br. 390

Happy to report new members are joining
March 2015

Branch 390 just when we anticipated our numbers declining. Next month we will hold an initiation of these new members. February’s monthly dinner meeting attendees were served Italian Roasted Chicken, Penne Pasta, Italian Green Beans, salad, and dessert prepared by our baking-specialist members. Annette Elissagary, our scholarship committee chairwoman, is gathering special spa basket prizes for our annual scholarship drive which has become a huge success. Tickets are being sold now with the drawing held at our monthly dinner meeting, Italian Heritage Night, on April 28th. Steve Rideloff has taken over the reigns for this larger-than-life heritage celebration.

On Sunday, February 15, Tracy Branch 390 hosted the Stockton District meeting in Father Fleming Hall at St. Bernard’s Church. The tasty menu consisted of Italian Breaded Chicken, Pasta Alfredo, Asparagus, Tossed Green Salad. A wide assortment of deserts finished off this gourmet meal. Lots of raffle prizes added to the fun of this event as well. On March 28th our branch members will be attending the Bishop’s Burse celebration at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto for Bishop’s Day Mass and lunch.

More sad mentions here regarding losses during the past month. Assunta Gaia, who was a charter member of our branch, passed away on January 14, 2015 at the age of 99. She was born May 5, 1915 in St. Clemente, Italy, married Enrico Gaia in 1950 and moved here in 1952. Assunta loved to garden and cook and happily shared many personal recipes with members. Our 2nd VP Alena Chappell is her granddaughter. Our branch family members also lost their father, Frank Bacchetti, 76, on January 21. He was the father of our fabulous cooking duo of Michael and Joe Bacchetti, and their sister Claudia. We send our heartfelt condolences to both of their families.

Ciao for now, Betty Hollars

Stockton

Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

Branch 395 is very busy with the final planning of our annual Polenta/Chicken Cacciatorri Dinner to be held on Thursday, February 12. We are also preparing for Lent and our branch will facilitate the Stations of the Cross and soup supper on March 20 with homemade soups made by our wonderful cooks! Our branch will also have a booth at the upcoming Festa Italiana to be held this year in Lodi in May. Upcoming events:

March 12 – Thursday, Branch meeting - 6:00 pm
March 28 – Saturday – Bishop’s Burse – Modesto hosting
May 3 Sunday – District meeting – Our branch to host, 1:30 Guadalupe Hall
May 31 Sunday Festa Italiana in Lodi

Many blessings.

Ciao,
Josephine Weber, President

Angels Camp

St. Patrick, Br. 413

Hello again from the foothills of the Sierras. We have been a bit out of touch as we have many folks out ill. We hope to see them back at our meetings soon. We have a need for prayers for all of our members but in particular, Amy and Ron Schimid and Lorin and Pat Ramorini. Please remember them in your prayers.

Much thanks to our New President Annie Pachinger who conducted a great Feb meeting AND brought lunch for the group. We are off to a good start for the New Year. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 1 with lunch by Giovanni and Nancy Corsi. They have just transferred to our Branch from Br. 91 in Oakland. Special welcome to our newest member, Eddie Conrad!!! We hope you will enjoy many years of fellowship with the ICF.

Thank you all who helped make our Valentines Dinner Dance so much fun and a success. Great food and dance was enjoyed by all. Please join us every Friday during Lent for Soup or Pasta dinner, sponsored by our Branch, for the parish after Stations of the Cross which begin @ 4:30.

Ciao for Now!!!

Nancy Corsi

Tucson

Green Valley

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

Wow! We are still in the afterglow following the completion of another of our February Lasagna Dinner Fundraisers. We served nearly 400 meals, equally divided between sit-down and take out. We give thanks for hard work of more than two dozen members and friends.

We mourn the death of member Bill Dale following a stroke and a brief illness. His ready smile and quick wit will be missed. We seek ways to comfort Marilyn. More than forty members attended Bill’s memorial service and a goodly number journeyed to the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista to witness the burial with military honors. We are family.

Ten Branch 425 members spent a relaxing Saturday evening at a Branch 434 dinner dance fundraiser hosted by Mike and Donna Raffanti in memory of their deceased daughter. We are family.

Branch 425 is preparing to host Bishop’s Day on Saturday, Feb. 21st with Tucson Branches 434 and 433 participating in the event. Undoubtedly we will “divvy up” a fair share of the Lasagna Dinner proceeds and we look forward to an informative and entertaining evening.

Most Sundays...some Branch 425 members...12 to 20 strong...gather after 9 AM mass...and proceed to a restaurant for breakfast. We are family.

Barbara Barton reporting.

This Ad Space Could Be Yours!

Find out how to place your business advertisement here by calling the ICF
Office: 888-ICF-1924

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

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

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

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2014 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 2014 is the following:

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

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of $50,000.00 or less 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, 2015. 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, 2014. 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.

www.festa-italiana.com

The Lodi Grape Festival and Harvest Fairgrounds

More Info:

Sunday, May 31st, 2015
10 AM–6 PM
209.242.9970

Bambini Zone ★ Live Music ★ Italian Dancers ★ Bocce ★ Italian Vendors
And of course AWESOME LOCAL ITALIAN FOOD!
Las Vegas, Get Ready for the ICF!

The Annual Italian Catholic Federation Convention will be held before you know it, and this year, it will take place in Las Vegas.

According to Wikipedia, here are some things to see and do, aside from hitting the casinos.

To See:

- **Aquarium @ The Mirage.** There is an impressive aquarium behind the check-in counter and a dolphin habitat. Not Free.
- **The Adventuredome at Circus Circus.** America's largest indoor theme park with 25 rides and attractions for all ages. Individual tickets or all day ride passes are available.
- **The Auto Collections @ The Quad, 3535 S Las Vegas Blvd, [11].** Originally an auto museum at the Imperial Palace, The Auto Collection became the largest classic car showroom in 2000, selling, buying and trading more than 200 fully restored cars ranging in price from $15,000.00 to several million. The collections spans 125,000 square feet and every car is one-of-a-kind.
- **BODIES... the Exhibition @ Luxor, 3900 S Las Vegas Blvd.** 10:00am-10:00pm. The Exhibition showcases 13 whole-body specimens and more than 260 organs and partial body specimens. These real human bodies have been meticulously dissected, preserved through an innovative process. The bodies are respectfully presented, giving visitors the opportunity to view the beauty and complexity of their own organs and systems. The Exhibition provides an up-close look inside our skeletal, muscular, respiratory, and circulatory systems. Authentic human specimens illustrate the damage caused to organs by over-eating and lack of exercise encouraging healthy lifestyle choices. $32.00 General Admission, $30.00 Seniors (65 and over), $24.00 Children (4-12 years), Free Children (3 & younger), $29.00 Locals (with valid id).
- **Botanical Gardens @ Bellagio.** Inside of the casino there is a tremendous flower garden, with displays changed every month or two.
- **Flamingo Garden.** 3555 S Las Vegas Blvd S. A 15-acre garden with Flamingos and other exotic birds, as well as koi and turtles.
- **Fountain Show @ Bellagio.** The Fountains of the Bellagio perform a magnificent display (set to music) every 15 minutes in the evening and every hour on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Show times can vary on public holidays.
- **Fremont Street Experience - Viva Vision.** 702-678-5600. dusk to mid night. A pedestrian mall just outside the downtown casinos. Multimedia shows are displayed on a giant canopy over the street nightly. Free.
- **Gallery of Fine Art @ Bellagio.** A fine-art gallery. Not free.
- **Las Vegas Chinatown Plaza.** (about 1 mile west of Treasure Island, Take a westbound CAT Route 203 bus from the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Spring Mountain Road between TI and the Fashion Show Mall). A place to experience Asian culture.
- **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, 377 S Las Vegas Blvd, 702 862-7800.** Madame Tussauds is a Las Vegas is a one-of-a-kind special events venue in which more than 100 of the world's hottest celebrities, politicians, athletes and legends are in attendance. Featuring seven highly themed rooms ranging from a Hollywood party with guests including Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears, and Eva Longoria to an exciting sports arena with interactive experiences featuring Shaquille O'Neal and Tiger Woods.
- **Mob Attraction @ Tropicana, 3801 S Las Vegas Blvd, 702 739-2662.** 10:00am - 8:00pm Monday-Saturday. Mob Attraction Las Vegas is a one-of-a-kind entertainment experience that immerses visitors into the world of the mob. It takes guests on a fun, exciting, interactive journey through the world of organized crime. Inside you become a part of the story and go face-to-face with the mob. The attraction also features an extensive collection, artifacts, memorabilia, photos and videos. $33.00 General Admission, $30.00 Seniors (60 and over), $18.00 Children (6-12 years), Free Children (3 & younger), $29.00 Locals ($29.00 with valid id).
- **The Neon Museum, 7600 Las Vegas Blvd, +1 702 387-4366.** An outdoor lot loaded with huge signs that once twinkled in front of the Silver Slipper, Stardust, and El Cortez. See the giant horeshoe made of thousands of color-coded light bulbs! $15.
- **Shark Reef Aquarium @ Mandalay Bay.** The highlight is walking through a transparent tunnel with sharks, sea turtle, fish on all sides. $16.
- **Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park.** Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park has over 150 species of animals and plants.
- **World's Largest Golden Nugget @ Golden Nugget Hotel.** The world's largest gold nugget is on display in the back of the casino. About 100m behind reception where you can also hold it.
- **The Tank @ Golden Nugget Hotel.** A $30 million complex complete with a shark tank, a 3-story water-slide and seven private cabanas. $20.
- **Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition @ Luxor, 3900 S Las Vegas Blvd.** 10:00am-10:00pm. The 25,000-square-foot exhibit features numerous items from the Titanic, including luggage, the ship's whistles, floor tiles from the first-class smoking room, a window frame from the Verandah Cafe and an unopened bottle of champagne with a 1900 vintage. In addition, the exhibit features a piece of Titanic’s hull, a full-scale re-creation of the Grand Staircase as well as a newly expanded outer Promenade Deck, complete with the frigid temperatures felt on that fateful April night. $32.00 General Admission, $30.00 Seniors (65 and over), $24.00 Children (4-12 years), Free Children (3 & younger), $29.00 Locals (with valid id).
- **The Mob Museum, 100 East Sahara Avenue,  +1 702 387-2000.** Monday-Saturday. Mob Attraction Las Vegas. It takes guests on a fun, exciting, interactive journey through the world of organized crime.
- **Play Pinball Games @ The Pinball Hall of Fame.** 6160 E Tropicana Ave, [29]. Old-style machines and newest ones from Stern are there, all in very good condition. Definitely worth a look. From $0.25 per game.
- **The Gun Store, 1110 E Tropicana Ave,  +1 702 454-7572, [31].** International travelers welcome. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are recommended. Packages including transportation, Glocks, Beretta, AK-47, M249 SAW, Thompson, Barrett 50 Caliber and M2HB. Coupons and monthly specials available online. $49 - $999.
- **Indoor Skydiving @ Vegas Indoor Skydiving, 200 Convention Center Dr, +1 877-545-8093.** 10am-5pm. Fly your body in a vertical wind tunnel. No experience necessary, all training and equipment provided. $85.
- **The Quad, 3555 S Las Vegas Blvd.** 10-7205-3000. Drive some of the most exclusive race cars in the world on a real race track also choose from the world largest selection of exotic cars to race. $89.+
- **Kayak Trips from Kayak Las Vegas, 1647A Nevada Highway, Boulder City,  +1 702 293-5026, [30].** Paddle the Colorado River from the base of Hoover Dam to Willow Beach Arizona, hike to hot springs from the river. Paddle to island beaches for a swim at Lake Mead.
- **Helicopter Tours From Fly Maverick, 6075 S Las Vegas Blvd, +1 888 261-4418, [31].** Helicopter tours that will take you deep into the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon or soaring above the neon lights and mega resorts of the Las Vegas Strip, as well as helicopter tours that include rafting down the Colorado River. $114-599.
- **The Hunt Las Vegas, (Las Vegas Blvd & Flamingo), +1 702 751-4868, [32].** Limo Scavenger Hunt throughout the City of Las Vegas. Thrills and visits to the cities Hotspots, both on the Strip and Downtown are included in The Hunt. $50+.
- **Sun Buggy & ATV Fun Rentals, 6925 Speedyway Blvd Blvd #106 (I-15) N to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. 3rd Right behind
Shelby's corner cafe), +1 702 644-2855, [34], 7AM-7PM daily. Chase, tour, or explore on an ATV, UTV, or Dune Buggy at the Vegas Dunes, Valley Of Fire, or Amargosa. The Largest Off Road Adventure Firm in Las Vegas has been featured on over 30 TV shows internationally.

Exotics Racing School. After a training session, get behind the wheel of a Ferrari F430 F1 or other race car and go up to 130mph with an instructor in the passenger seat. From $249 depending on the car and number of laps.

Vegas Horseback Tours, 2470 Chandler Ave Ste 11, +1 888 584-9059. Daily. Horseback Tours include a Sunset Dinner, Lunch or Breakfast horseback ride, an authentic cowboy meal and a visit to cowboy town and petting zoo. Free hotel pick-up. $109-139.

The natural attractions of Las Vegas Red Rock Canyon. Red Rock Canyon, on the western edge of the Las Vegas city limits. Features hundreds of traditional/gear and sport routes. Climbing is possible year-round, though Spring and Fall tend to be most comfortable. There are a couple of guide books that detail the routes. Though the area does not receive much precipitation, it is worth remembering that if the sandstone becomes wet (from rain or snow) it becomes brittle and you'd be wise to avoid it for at least two days before checking if it dried out. There is also a scenic drive through Red Rock Canyon, which will take you about 30 minutes to complete, though there are opportunities to park up and get out of the car. Entry is $7 per car unless you have a National Park pass.

Strip Gun Club, 2233 Las Vegas Blvd. South ((Sahara and Las Vegas Boulevard)), 702-777-GUNS, [38], 10am to 8pm. This 4500 sq ft range located on the Strip at Sahara & Las Vegas Blvd, offers rentals of automatics, rifles, handguns and shotguns. Packages start at $99 for the Deuces Wild Free which includes a t-shirt, 1 rifle/pistol 1 target, eye and ear protection and can run as high as the let yourself go wild package; The Buffet $1,999 (includes Four individual ride tickets and 2 5x7 close up photos).

Rides @ The Stratosphere Hotel, 2000 S Las Vegas Blvd. There are 3 intense rides on the top of the tallest hotel on the strip. Big Shot - Shoots passengers straight up 160 feet at 45 mph (over 4 Gs) until they are 1,081 feet above the Strip. X-Scream - A giant teeter-totter that propels you 27 feet over the edge of the Tower, 866 feet above the ground. Insanity, the Ride - A massive mechanical arm extends 64 feet over the edge of the Tower and spins you at a force of 3 Gs for a truly mind-bending experience. For the people who do not like rides but still want to do something at the top, there are shops and a great view. Tower Admission: $18.00 Adult, $10.00 Groups/Parties over 20; Rides: $15.00 each, $34.00 Tower Admission + All Day Unlimited Rides, $33.00 Tower Admission + 3 Rides, $28.00 Tower Admission + 2 Rides, $23.00 Tower Admission + 1 ride, additional $10.00 Express Pass.

SkyJump @ The Stratosphere Hotel, 2000 S Las Vegas Blvd. 10:00am - 1:00pm Sunday-Thursday, 10:00am - 2:00pm Friday-Saturday. SkyJump is a controlled free fall, similar to a vertical zip line. The launching pad is located on the 108th floor, 855 feet above the Las Vegas Strip. Jumpers are harnessed in and attached to a cable that is connected to a descending mechanism. Guide wires keep the skyjumper on course and on target. Just before reaching the rapidly approaching ground, the skyjumper is slowed down for a controlled and safe landing. $109.99 Per Jump, $119.99 Jump/Photos, $139.99 Jump/Wristcam Video/Photos.

The Adventuredome Theme Park @ Circus Circus, 2880 S Las Vegas Blvd, 702 794-3939. 11:00am - 6:00pm Monday-Thursday, 10:00am to 12:00am Friday-Saturday, 10:00am - 9:00pm Sunday. America's 2nd largest indoor theme park with 25 rides and attractions for all ages. $16.95 Day pass (over 48 inches tall), Premium Rides - $8.00 each : FX Theatre featuring SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer, Disk'O (Spinning Inversion), Canyon Blaster (Roller Coaster), El Loco (Roller Coaster), Sling Shot (Tower Ride), Chaos (Spinning & Tilting Ride), Inverter (360° Counter-Rotation Ride), SineFx Extreme Ride Theater, Happy Feet: Mumble's Wild Ride, Lazer Blast (Laser Tag Adventure); Large Rides - $5.00 each: Canyon Cars (Bumper Cars), Sand Pirate (Swinging Ship); Junior Rides – $5.00 each: Frog Hopper (Jr. Tower Ride), Miner Mike (Jr. Roller Coaster), Thunderbirds (Jr. Plane Ride); Family Rides - $5.00 each: B.C. Bus (Bus Ride), Circus Carousel (Merry-Go-Round), Drifters (Ferris Wheel), Road Runner (Mini-Himalaya Ride).

ICF Hospitalization Plan

Annual Cost – Only $25

Eligibility – ICF members who join before their 65th birthday

Benefits

• $75 per use of operating room in hospital or surgical center
• $50-1st day, $25-2nd day, $10 each day thereafter per hospital stay
• $500 per calendar year/$500 per illness

Features

• Membership continues beyond the age of 65 yrs. old
• Payments are made directly to you
• No medical examination is required to join
• Claims are accepted up to 1 year after hospital stay and/or surgical procedure

To apply now, visit our website www.icf.org or call 1-888-ICF-1924
The Ways and Means Committee announces the Theme for the 2016 Fundraiser Calendar as:

“Famous and Infamous Italian Americans Who Have Contributed to the Shaping of America”

The Ways and Means Committee will be planning and designing the 2016 Calendar. Included in the calendar will be pictures, biographies and anecdotes about famous, (and infamous), Italian Americans. We invite you to participate in several ways: First, share special stories or biographies of your favorite Italian American in history. You can research and provide information and pictures if you wish, or just submit a name, and we’ll do the research! We will pick the most popular 12 names submitted.

We also invite you to participate in the listing of not only birthdays (yourself, your children, grandchildren, parish priests and chaplains, or even friends) but also anniversaries (weddings, Branch founding, Priest’s ordinations, etc.) You may include your branch and district events as well.

The price schedule will be as follows:
$10.00 for one name/event; $15.00 for 2 names/events; and $20.00 for four names/events.
Other numbers will be a combination of prices; for example, 5 names/events will be $30.00 ($20.00 + $10.00), but keep in mind that 8 names/events would be $40.00.

The deadline for the names and payments will be May 1, 2015

Please mail your information with a check payable to the I.C.F. to:
Italian Catholic Federation
8393 Capwell Dr., Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621

The Committee thanks you for your continued support!
Chairperson: Lisa Crudo
and Members: Franklyn Lopes Jr., and Leonard Rossi
For questions, please call the I.C.F. office at (510) 633-9058 or Lisa Crudo (510) 861-9835

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Save The Date

5K to benefit Cooley’s Anemia (Thalassemia)
What: 5K Walk or Run
Where: UC Berkeley
When: Sat., April 25, 2015

Contact: Laurice Levine
Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator
for more information 510-428-3885, ext. 5427 llevine@mail.cho.org

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Important Announcement!
You Might NOT Qualify for a Reverse Mortgage after March 2, 2015!

Starting March 2, 2015, HUD, the governmental body that regulates Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) also known as a Reverse Mortgage insured loan, will require a Financial Assessment of all applicants. This will include a review and analysis of your income and credit status. This Financial Assessment could result in less cash available at closing or possibly not qualifying at all.

Currently, a HECM has minimal income and credit qualifications. The basics require you to be at least 62 years of age, own and occupy the home as your primary residence.

Qualify for a Reverse Mortgage before March 2, 2015

Call me today at 408-297-0000 before the new Financial Assessment requirement takes effect. I can answer all your questions about a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), these new requirements, and assist you with the application process. There’s no obligation, just the opportunity to unlock the equity in your home and make the most of your life.

Dan Casagrande
Local Reverse Mortgage Expert

CALL ME Today
408-297-0000

www.ReverseManDan.com
dan.casagrande@S1L.com

ICF # 227 - Member

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