Congratulations!

At the February Central Council meeting, Grand 2nd Vice President Bob Basuino was elected to the status of Life Member, and Pat Mages, from Branch 380, Thousand Oaks, was elected as the newest member of the Central Council. The vacancy for both positions were created upon the untimely passing of Richard Valli. Congratulations to both Bob and Pat!

2011 Calendar Sales Results

As of February 11, 2011 the following branch and individuals sold the most calendars in their individual division. Thank you for making this year’s calendar sales a great success!

Top Selling Branches in each of 3 categories receive Five (5) 2011 Calendars
Branches placing 2nd and 3rd in each of 3 categories receive One (1) 2011 Calendar

Santa Rosa District Installation
The Santa Rosa District held its Installation of Officers on Sun., January 30 at St. Sebastian’s, Sebastopol. Br. 209 was the host branch. The day started with 10:30 AM Mass, followed by the Installation conducted by Grand President Jim Jones.

Las Vegas Installation of Officers.

GP Jim Jones at the Santa Rosa District Installation.

A delicious lunch followed

Grand President’s Message

(As per tradition, in the March issue of the Bollettino the Grand President shares with everyone his “state of the Federation” speech he gave at all of the installations.)

I am delighted to be here today to install the officers and leaders of your District.

Albert Einstein was considered to be one of the greatest geniuses that ever lived. He was once asked, “What is the purpose of human life?”

His answer was, “We are here to serve others. What other purpose could there be?”

The core purpose of the Federation is to carry out our mission.

What is our mission? We are here to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

You, the members of this organization have been so wonderfully charitable and responsive to the needs of others. It is an honor to know you, to be a part of you and to be a member of such a unique organization as the Italian Catholic Federation.

Last year, you the members of the Federation gave a total of over $610,000.00 to support our charities and ministries.

Stand and give yourself a standing ovation. This presentation is about the wonderful work that you do in your branch and district for the good of others. You deserve a standing ovation for your accomplishments.

You gave $108,000.00 for the Scholarship program, $48,000.00 for the Gifts of Love program, $60,500.00 to the Cooley’s Anemia/Thalassemia program and nearly $100,000.00 to the Bishops Day/Providenza Seminarian Scholarship Fund.

In addition to supporting your ICF charities, you are doing a wonderful job supporting your parishes, your pastors and your branches personal charities, St. Vincent DePaul, Loaves and Fishes and Relay for Life, just to name a few.

We hear so many promising inspirational stories about people being helped in our programs.

If you were to speak to Laurice Levine, Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator at Children’s Hospital, she would tell you what your donations are doing for the hundreds

Convention ByLaw Submission Procedure

Leonard Rossi
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 the Branch bylaws. 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, 2011. Branch bylaw change proposals my 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-reasoned rationale for the proposed change.

The Central Council through the Bylaws Committee is authorized to eliminate proposals: (1) that are unconstitutional, discriminatory (expect as to the age for benefits) or infringing on the fundamental principles of the Federation, (2) proposals...
An Amazing Gift From God, Shared by All

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

Procreation is a beautiful and an amazing gift from God! The very thought that people can cooperate with God in creating a new human being is almost miraculous. A sperm unites with an egg and behold a new human being is created. The fertilized egg divides and divides and continues to divide and thus in nine months forms all the intricate systems in a human body. A new human being is born; unique unlike any other person in all of history. No one in the future will be born with this baby’s personality, this baby’s individuality, this baby’s consciousness of self. We share in this miracle. The consciousness of ourselves, who we are, our thoughts, ideas, feelings, hopes and desires is special. These are personal to us, not known or shared by anyone else. We are unique indeed. No one ever existed before our birth with our consciousness of self and no one will ever be born in the future with our consciousness of self. Therefore, we are special. God made each one of us as a special human being. We thank God for that. We respect the specialness of others. Born, unborn, about to be born! Yes, procreation is a beautiful and an amazing gift.

Membership Stats as of July 1, 2010:
12,291
New: 461
Reinstated: 10
Non-payment: 351
Deceased: 172
Cancelled: 417
Membership as of 02/11: 11,822

Setting Up A Membership Drive Table

Rosedonna Jarrett
Membership Chairperson

Is your 2011 membership drive date set with your parish?

If yes, then let’s start planning how your branch will execute the drive.

If no, please set a date with your church. If membership drives are not permitted after the masses, then use the following information to plan a drive at your next fundraiser or ministry/organization fair.

Once a date is set, line up your help. Choose a person with a clear and energetic voice to read the mass script. If your drive is taking place at an event, there is an alternative script. Both scripts are available on the ICF website.

If your branch has a PR chairperson, ask them (or another member) to create a membership drive flyer that can be inserted in your parish bulletin. Some churches will allow an insert to be included if you stuff the bulletins midweek. With permission, post a flyer on the parish bulletin board – next to your ICF poster. If a flyer is not permitted, ask the church if they can include a blurb about your upcoming drive in their bulletin.

To execute the drive, setup a table and display a poster board. A visual, such as a poster board and your banner, is suggested as it highlights where prospective members can go to obtain information and sign-up. To make a poster board, purchase a science fair board from any office supply store for about $5. Post information about the ICF and include pictures of your members having a good time. Another great visual is your ICF banner.

At your membership table, the following items are recommended: literature (flyers, brochures, convention books to view), interest sheet for names and contact information, applications for people who are ready to join, pens, treats (candy, Italian cookies), branch calendars and Bollettinos (a limited number of extra copies are available from the office).

The key to selling the branch to parishioners, more than anything, is your ICF Members. Their smiling faces, positive attitudes and good energy are the true deal breakers when it comes to recruiting and retaining members.

Best of luck to your branch as you carry out your membership drive(s).
Did you know when the first Jubilee was declared in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII, it was meant to be a once in a century event? Nevertheless, the next Jubilee came just 50 years later. The interval between Holy Years soon fell to 25 years, in part so that the short-lived people of the Middle Ages could hope to see a Jubilee in their lifetime. Jubilees have continued at that pace to this day, offering the faithful an opportunity to atone for their sins and receive special blessings. And, of course, to make a pilgrimage to Rome. Among those who made that first 14th century trek were the poet Dante Alighieri, who wrote about the experience in his Divine Comedy. To make a proper pilgrimage, visitors to Rome for a Jubilee must make daily trips to St. Peter’s Basilica. The next Jubilee will be the year 2025.

From all over the world. He takes a sky train to get to his classes in downtown Vancouver and really enjoys seeing the many environmentally structured buildings and systems.

Jack is very appreciative of an ICF scholarship and says, “My brother is also attending a very good school in New York and it has been difficult for me and my parents to find the funding for both of us to go to school. With the aid of the ICF and other organizations, it is now possible for me to gain an education and gain the knowledge I need to reach my goals for the future.”

Jack Taforo
College: Simon Fraser University
Mascot: CLAN

A recipient of an ICF Scholarship, Jack Taforo is currently attending Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC. Jack says, “I chose to attend Simon Fraser for their programs on sustainability, their focus on international opportunities for both working and studying, and their amazing campuses in Burnaby, Surrey and downtown Vancouver.”

Jack is studying sustainable design through Simon Fraser’s School for Sustainable Community Development. He is also taking some music classes and is considering a minor in music. When asked why he chose his major, Jack says, “I love nature and the outdoors and consider myself to be a creative person. Sustainable design allows me to work toward protecting the environment while creating new and innovative technologies.”

Jack loves the international feel of Simon Fraser, meeting people and hearing stories from all over the world. He takes a sky train to get to his classes in downtown Vancouver and really enjoys seeing the many environmentally structured buildings and systems.

Jack is very appreciative of an ICF scholarship and says, “My brother is also attending a very good school in New York and it has been difficult for me and my parents to find the funding for both of us to go to school. With the aid of the ICF and other organizations, it is now possible for me to gain an education and gain the knowledge I need to reach my goals for the future.”

Jack’s Scholarship Focus

February Calendar Winners

<table>
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<th>DAY</th>
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<th>BR</th>
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<th>CITY</th>
<th>WINS</th>
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Jubile Souvenirs, the first two dated 1950, third one 1975 and the last one 2000. Photos courtesy of wikipedia.com

January Calendar Winners

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BR</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>WINS</th>
</tr>
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<td>432</td>
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<td>Linda Scambray</td>
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<td>Donald Giudici</td>
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<td>Carole Driscoll</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>Apts, CA</td>
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</table>

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

March 2011
The deadline for a student to apply for an ICF Scholarship is March 15, 2011. That date is quickly approaching. If you have a family member or friend who will be graduating from high school this year be sure to tell them about the ICF Scholarship Program.

Applications can be found online at http://icf.org/scholarships.html. Applications have also been sent to the high schools. Please consider donating to the first year scholarships. Last year, the ICF awarded 213 1st year scholarships, but received 491 applications.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Report Date: 02/16/2011

Lyllian Albanoski Branch 004
Madeleine Duggan Branch 019
Alex C Sola Branch 019
Christina Torrrente Branch 036
Angela Andreozzi Branch 073
Elda cavagnolo Branch 091
Lucille M Opazt Branch 103
Beatrice Guglielmo Branch 115
Leroy Cheda Branch 161
Lois M roeder Branch 163

Ruth E Cislini Branch 200
Maria Tira Branch 223
Katherine Alloway Branch 227
Neva M Farmer Branch 227
Oreste Facchini Branch 327
Mary Bacchetti Branch 390
Rosa B Battista Branch 392
Pasquale Santucci Branch 392
Jack D Flaaten Branch 411
Dominick Incorvia Branch 411
Richard G Caplett Branch 423

Interested in learning more about the ICF’s National Charity, Cooley’s Anemia (Thalassemia)? If your Branch would like members of the Cooley’s Anemia Team at Children’s Hospital Oakland to come and speak at one of your meetings or special functions, please contact: Laurice Levine, Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator (510) 428-3885 x 5427 or email: LLevine@mail.cho.org
Thalassemia is a group of inherited disorders that affect the production of hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. Thalassemia traits and thalassemia major are the most common types.

### Thalassemia Trait

- **Beta Thalassemia Trait**: More common, affects 30% of the population
- **Alpha Thalassemia Trait**: Seen among Italians and Southeast Asians
- **Cooley's Anemia**: Also known as beta-thalassemia major

### Symptoms

- **Iron Deficiency**: Common
- **Porphyrin and Ferritin**: In patients with thalassemia

### Diagnosis

- **DNA Testing**: Used to determine the absence of one beta globin gene
- **Hemoglobin Electrophoresis**: Used to detect abnormal hemoglobin types

### Treatment

- **Iron supplementation**: Helps prevent complications
- **Blood transfusions**: For severe cases

### Thalassemia Outreach Program

- **Children's Hospital Oakland**: Provides education and support
- **Italian Catholic Federation**: Supports community involvement

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**Gifts of Love**

The committee is pleased that on May 14 and 15, 2011, seven of these students will receive their First Holy Communion, and one will be Confirmed at Santa Teresa Church. On the first and third Sundays of each month, at the 8:30am Mass at Santa Teresa the Mass is signed by one of the teachers. All are welcome to attend.

Anyone interested in participating in these catechism classes for the deaf, can contact the Gifts of Love Committee, Italian Catholic Federation, 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA, 94621 or 1-888-423-1924.

**Gifts of Love Donations**

- Carla Del Carlo
- Anna Barberi
- Sylvia Richie Sorci
- Sylvia Richie Sorci
- Aline Amatisto
- Marilyn Amoral
- Jon and Jerry Delfino
- Harold, Virginia and Steve Fuentes
- Harold, Virginia and Steve Fuentes
- In memory of Madeline Duggan
- In memory of Madeleine Duggan

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**Gifts of Love Gratitude**

- Get well wishes for Joan Delfino
- Get well wishes for Janice Jones
- Get well wishes for Alex Sola
- Get well wishes for Brandon Gagnon
- Get well wishes for Madeline Duggan
- Get well wishes for Alf Delfino
- Get well wishes for Alf Delfino
- Get well wishes for Ann Fitzgerald
- Get well wishes for Ann Fitzgerald
- Get well wishes for Dr. Lennard Cheda
- Get well wishes for Dr. Lennard Cheda

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**Gifts of Love Sponsors Catechism Classes**

- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4
- Branch 4

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**Cooley's Corner**

**Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia) – Trait**

Part Two of a Five Part Series

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

**Children's Hospital Oakland**

Foreword: An integral part of the Thalassemia Outreach Program at Children's Hospital Oakland is to educate the community. The ICF has generously adopted the Thalassemia Program as their national charitable effort and by popular demand by ICF members, we are doing a Bollettino series on thalassemia. For some of you it may serve to refresh the knowledge that you have already gained and for others, we hope that you find this new information to be of interest. Thank you for reading and thank you for all your support.

Thalassemia is found in all populations, but it is most common among the following:

- **Italian**
- **Greek**
- **Transcaucasian** (Georgian, Armenia, and Azerbajan)
- **Southeast Asian** (Vietnamese, Laoitian, Thai, Singaporean, Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian, Burmese, and Malaysian)
- **Chinese**
- **East Indian**
- **Middle Eastern**

Thalassemia is common in parts of the world where malaria is prevalent because Thalassemia trait has protective mechanisms against malaria.

There are two main types of Thalassemia Trait: Beta Thalassemia Trait (more common among Italians) and Alpha Thalassemia trait. Individuals who have Beta Thalassemia trait have one normal beta globin gene and one that is altered such that it makes little or no beta globin.

There are four subtypes of Alpha Thalassemia trait:

- **Silent Alpha Thalassemia Trait** – one out of four alpha globin genes are missing.
- **Alpha Thalassemia Trait** – two out of four alpha globin genes are missing.
- **Hemoglobin H Disease** – three out of four alpha globin genes are missing. There are symptoms associated with this type of Alpha Thalassemia. Certain medicines and other agents that can cause anemia if not avoided by an individual with Hemoglobin H.
- **Hydrops Fetalis** – occurs when all four alpha globin genes are missing. This can cause still birth or death soon after delivery unless diagnosed in utero and transfused in utero or at birth.

There is not a lot scientific evidence that a person who has Beta Thalassemia trait has any symptoms, although women with the Thalassemia trait may be more likely to develop anemia during pregnancy, than women without the trait.

Most types of Thalassemia traits cause the red blood cells to be a slightly smaller size than usual, a condition caused microcytosis. Since iron deficiency is the most common cause of microcytosis, Doctors often mistakenly misdiagnose Thalassemia trait as iron deficiency and prescribe iron supplements to people with Thalassemia trait. Thalassemia trait and iron deficiency are different problems, therefore before prescribing iron supplements, Doctors should rule out Thalassemia Trait and or perform lab tests to evaluate iron levels. A person with Thalassemia trait can also be iron deficient, but if he or she is not iron deficient, iron supplements may result in excess body iron, which can deposit in many areas of the body and over time cause organ damage.

Testing for Thalassemia trait is easy! It involves having a blood sample drawn which looks at the following:

- **Hemoglobin Electrophoresis**: Quantitative hemoglobin A2 and hemoglobin F
- **Complete Blood Count (CBC)**
- **Iron studies**: (free erythrocyte protoporphyrin and ferritin)

Occasionally trait status cannot be determined by these screening tests alone. If iron deficiency is detected then an individual must be retested after completing a course of iron supplement therapy. With iron supplements iron deficiency should improve. If it does not it may be that the individual has Thalassemia trait. Occasionally, DNA testing that directly examines the Alpha and/or Beta globin genes is necessary. DNA testing is the only way to determine the silent Alpha Thalassemia Trait and Hemoglobin Constant Spring.

It is important for individuals and their partners to be aware of their Thalassemia trait status, especially if you are of Italian descent (or other ancestry where Thalassemia is common). Again, since there are no symptoms, an individual may not know they have the trait until they have a child born with Thalassemia Major, a severe form of the disease. If both parents have the Thalassemia Trait there is a 25% chance that their child could be born with Thalassemia Major.

If you find out you have thalassemia trait and would like more information, or to obtain a copy of the article referred to on symptoms and trait, please contact Laurice Levine at LLevine@mail.cho.org or 510-428-3885 x 5427.
Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption
By Laura Hillenbrand

In Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption, Laura Hillenbrand tells the story of Louie Zamperini, a son of Italian immigrants, whose life is filled with tales of adventure that will fascinate and inspire any reader. His epic life journey stands as a testimony that will fascinate and inspire any reader. Hillenbrand notes, again foreshadowing events, “This event foreshadows what will become legend, he rigs a church steeple by tying nearly invisible piano wire to a nearby swaying tree. This “roused the police, the fire department, and all of Torrance with apparently spontaneous pealing.”

Louie Zamperini’s journey begins in Olean, New York, where he is born to Italian immigrants in 1917. He was a precocious and adventurous child. When he is only two years old, even though he catches pneumonia, he “climb[s] out his bedroom window, descend[s] one story, and [goes] on a naked tear down the street with a police officer chasing him and a crowd watching in amazement.” This event foreshadows much of his later life . . . as he runs from the authorities until he learns to run track.

Following a doctor’s advice, the Zamperini family moves to California for the warmer weather. It is here that the young Louie heads down the path of delinquency. He begins smoking at five years of age and drinking at eight. He steals from his neighbor, antagonizes his classmates, and gets into mischief around town. In one clever scheme, he stuffs toilet paper into a pay phone, allowing him to return later to collect the coins with a wire. On one night that has become legend, he rigs a church steeple by tying nearly invisible piano wire to a nearby swaying tree. This “roused the police, the fire department, and all of Torrance with apparently spontaneous pealing.” Hillenbrand notes, again foreshadowing Louie’s later life, that “It is a testament to the content of Louie’s childhood that his stories about it usually end with . . . and then I ran like mad.”

Seeing that his brother is headed for serious trouble, Pete Zamperini, Louie’s older brother, forces Louie to try out for the track team. Louie is a star almost instantly. At the end of his first season, he is the first kid from Torrance to make the All City Finals where he finishes fifth. His success continues and in track he finds role models to whom he can relate. Louie admires stars such as the miler Glenn Cunningham, who overcomes a serious childhood injury to his legs to become a track sensation at Kansas University. Doing well as a competitive runner, Louie also begins gaining a name for himself and people start to call him “The Torrance Tornado.” The kid who was once the terror of Torrance rapidly becomes its hero as he wins track meets and breaks records. Louie begins to dream of running in the Olympics. Too young and underdeveloped to run in the mile, Louie decides to train for and compete in the 5000-meter race—a three mile and 188 yard endurance test to the will and spirit of any runner. Louie does so well in qualifying meets that he makes the 1936 Olympic squad and heads to Berlin, Germany. In Germany, while Louie does not win the 5000-meter, he gives an impressive performance. His final time is the fastest ever run by any American in 1936, and his final lap is the fastest in Olympic history at 56 seconds, several seconds faster than the record. He is so impressive that Hitler comments to him, “Ah, you’re the boy with the fast finish.”

With his impressive finish at the Olympics in Berlin, Louie is looking forward to the next Olympics in 1940. However, World War II breaks out and the Olympics are cancelled and Louie is drafted into the military. Louie’s exploits in World War II make up the bulk of Hillenbrand’s biography. As an airman, Louie lives through one horrifying bombing raid after another in the Pacific arena, helping the United States gain footing in the war against Japan. However, his plane is shot down over the ocean and he and the 2 remaining airmen, Russell Allen Phillips and Francis McNamara, must survive 46 days before being rescued, the longest anyone had endured in a raft on the ocean. The three men in one small raft must overcome shark attacks, dehydration, starvation, storms, and enemy attack. They are at sea so long that their bodies turn yellow from the dye of the raft. At one point, Louie must jump overboard to avoid the bullets of a passing enemy aircraft, but under water, hungry sharks begin to attack him. To survive, Louie must punch each shark in the nose as hard as he can as bullets race past him. Only Louie and Phillips survive the harrowing days, burying McNamara in a funeral at sea. Finally, the two men are rescued – by a Japanese submarine. In POW camps, Louie must carry on through both physical and mental torture. In prison, the Americans are often turned into slaves, endured ridicule, face torture, and suffer from near starvation. The Japanese are relentless in their determination to break their prisoner’s spirit. Louie becomes the target of one particularly sadistic Japanese solider, who beats him so hard at times that Louie loses his hearing for days at a time. This soldier, known as “The Bird,” is so cruel and mentally unstable that the Japanese officers avoid him. Through it all, with determination and courage, Louie survives. Beaten, but not broken, Louie is able to return home after the war. However, this is not the end of Louie’s journey. Upon his return home, Louie suffers from nightmares of his time in the POW camps, but he does not define himself by his suffering. During a religious revival, Louie remembers his promise to God while in the raft. “If you save me, I will serve you forever.” It is at this moment that Louie feels redeemed. He focuses on . . . not all he suffered but the divine love he believed had intervened to save him.” Louie begins preaching about the love of God and about God’s redemptive power. Louie is such a changed man that after learning of the Bird’s suicide, Louie does not feel elation rather he feels compassion. As Hillenbrand puts it, “The Bird was not longer [Louie’s] monster. He was only a man,” a man whom Louie comes to forgive.

Unbroken is a reminder that life’s suffering and trials cannot be what define us. God’s divine love with its redemption is what will resurrect us from this life’s tragedies.

Laura Hillenbrand is the best selling author of Seabiscuit: An American Legend and the winner of numerous awards for her writing.

La Celebrazione di Gioventù --
The Celebration of Youth
Jelly Bean Prayer

Using jelly beans, designate the various colors as follows:

red for the blood of Christ (making a sacrifice)
green for the shade of the palm (doing a good deed)
yellow for God’s light (showing kindness to others)
orange for prayers at twilight (good behavior during bedtime prayer)
black for sweet rest at night (behaving well when time to go to bed)
purple for days of sorrow (apologizing to someone)
 pink for each new tomorrow (forgiving others).

Crayon “Stained Glass” Cross

Cut two identical cross shapes from waxed paper. Using old or broken crayons and a pencil sharpener, create shavings of various colors. Spread the crayons on one of the pieces of waxed paper in a desired pattern. Then place the second waxed paper cross over the top of the first cross and the shavings. An adult should complete the following step: Using a warm iron, press the two pieces of waxed paper together. Find a sunny spot to hang your creation and remember to offer a prayer of love and thanksgiving each time you lay eyes on your beautiful cross.
Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin

DURING one of our jaunts to Italy, RoseAnne and I visited the shrine of Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, near Ternano. Approximately two million pilgrims per year visit the shrine and it was news to me that Saint Gabriel was so popular. So I researched the life of the saint and allow me to share what I learned with you.

Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, born Francis Possenti, is reputed to be one of the world’s most popular saints. He was born in Assisi on March 1, 1838, the got of Saint Possenti, a civil official and a Church lawyer, and Agnes Friscioni. He was the eleventh of thirteen children. His mother died when he was four years old and he was reared by his father and his siblings. The family moved to Spoleto, where his father was transferred. Francis lived there until he was 18 years old.

Francis was described by acquaintances as a vivacious, intelligent, and very precocious lad. He displayed natural leadership skills and was well-liked by his contemporaries. He was educated by the Christian Brothers in elementary school and during his college years, like many young Italians of today, he kept up with the latest fashions and was an avid dancer. He had a great love of singing, Latin poetry and for theatrical recitations. Francis was careful to maintain his Christian values and his practice of the faith. In his room he had a statue of the Pietà, which he venerated and his lips were never far from a prayer.

Francis often stated that he intended to become a priest, but the promises appeared to be all talk and no action until August 22, 1856, during the procession of the Holy Icon of Spoleto. There, Francis claimed that Our Lady spoke to his heart and made him an offer he could not refuse: “You are not made for this world so what are you doing there? Hurry, become a religious.” Within a few days, Francis entered the Passionist novitiate at Morrovalle and took the name of Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin. One year later, he made his religious profession and began his ecclesiastical studies as a Passionist student. He was a standout student. He was also known for his love of the Rosary, Rule, his spiritual fervor, his fervent devotion to the Passion of Our Lord, the Holy Eucharist and to the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin. He found happiness in the religious life: “The contentment I find within these sacred walls is almost indescribable,” he wrote. Little else is known of his extraordinary spiritual gifts during his life and he experienced no other miraculous events.

He was not a loner; he conformed to the letter to the community life and he was a fervent and exemplary Passionist who stayed hidden in a cloistered world. His life as a religious was marked by a faithfulness to prayer, love of sacrifice, heroic virtue and a very cheerful disposition despite the fact that he was suffering from an unchecked illness. The last years of his life were spent in a small monastery in Isola Gran Sasso, where he died from tuberculosis just short of his 24th birthday.

Saint Gabriel’s fame began in 1892, when his mortal remains were exhumed and the first of his miracles were verified. After death, the Church declared him venerable. His solemn beatification took place on May 31, 1908, in the Vatican basilica. Pope Benedict XV proclaimed Francis a Saint in 1920. In 1926, he was declared one of the patrons of Italian catholic youths by the express wishes of Leo XIII and Pius X. He was also proclaimed the patron of young religious. In 1959 Pope John XXIII declared Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin a saint.

His spiritual director described the essence of Gabriel’s sanctity as: “What that young man did, he did with love.”

Clem can be reached at DeAmicis44@gmail.com

Saintly Stories

by Clem DeAmicis

Grand President

continued from page 1

of patients afflicted with Cooley’s Anemia. She would tell you half of your donations go toward medical research studies that improve quality of life for patients and the search for a cure. The balance go to their outreach program assisting patients and families visiting the Thalassemia Specialty Center; for education, for outreach and for patient medical expenses.

We have equally inspiring stories from our Scholarship recipients, our Gift of Love recipients and members of our clergy who received help while attending the Seminary.

At the Bishops Day in the San Francisco Diocese last year, Father Joseph Landi, Parochial Vicar of St. Cecilia Parish got up and told us that he would not have been able to finish his last year in the Seminary if it had not been for the ICF. It was the money donated by the branches of the ICF that enabled him to finish his last year at St. Patrick’s Seminary.

This is what the Italian Catholic Federation is all about — serving others.

Your Central Council accomplished several important projects last year.

We had a very successful Convention in Los Angeles under the direction of Convention Director Steve Fuentes and his Committee. It was an enjoyable, educational and worthwhile experience for everyone who attended. The Los Angeles District did a magnificent job with every detail.

Secondly, the Central Council hired a Field Operations Director. Lou Mages comes to the Federation well qualified. His experience and knowledge of the ICF will be very beneficial to do the job he is asked to do. He is working to start new branches, keeping branches open and assisting branches with challenges on membership and retention problems. If you have leads, need help, would like to talk to Lou, call the Central Office for information.

Last year the Ways and Means Committee put on a special fund raiser for the Providence Seminary Scholarship Fund. Jim Friebel and his committee held a special dinner dance with excellent entertainment by Pasquale Esposito in San Jose.

We are constantly looking for ways to balance the budget. This year’s Seminary Night will be held in June in Monterey, Calif. You are all invited and I encourage you to attend. You are also invited to our Annual Golf Tournament in July in Monterey.

Call the office for more information.

The Ways and Means Committee appreciates the work you did this last year to make the Calendar sales a success. Thank you.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve the Federation.

This year I have asked Mike Rossi to continue as Chair of the Task Force Committee. I have asked him and his committee to develop a 3-5 year strategic plan on what we want the Federation to look like and the vision of how we can achieve it. The purpose of having a strategy is to guide our organization toward our desired future.

The Central Council provides the tools for our branches and districts to increase membership, retain members, train officers and deputies, answer all of your questions to the best of our ability, provide literature and support.

We can’t do your work for you. You must put the time and effort in if you want to succeed. But we can help you.

Bob Basuino and his Workshop Committee will come to your District to put on an officer training workshop, an educational workshop or leadership workshop.

Membership Committee headed by Robert Hyline Larratt will come to your District and put on a workshop on how to increase membership, how to retain members and how to bring new members to your branch.

Jane Dianda, head of the Deputy Program, has an excellent workshop to provide training for your Deputies.

Lou Mages, Field Operations Director, will come to your parish and speak at the masses inviting parishioners to join the ICF.

Leonard Zasoski, head of the Public Relations Committee will tell you how to use the Bollettino Newspaper and the website to help your branch with Heritage, communications, stories, forms, suggested books to read, personal development, calendar of events and many other helpful ideas to improve your branch and district.

Vince Piro, head of the Heritage Program, will give you ideas on how you can create a great Heritage Program in your branch. Your heritage is an important part of who you are. Younger members want to know about their Heritage. We live in a world where the telling of stories about our lives and sharing these stories with each other has been lost. Stories bring us into each others lives.

Develop a Heritage Program in your branch. Tell your stories.

Please use your Central Council Committees. We are here to help you.

I want you to think back to the time you joined your branch. Why did you join? I want you to go back to the feelings you had. Back to when you said, “I really love the people in this branch; I look forward to coming to the meetings and seeing my friends.”

When we first joined, we experienced love, altruism, generosity, sharing, friendship and fellowship. Those things that is so typically—Italian. We share sympathy and fellowship. Those things that is so typically—Italian. We share sympathy and fellowship. Those things is so typically—Italian. We share sympathy and fellowship.

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Remember to File Branch Tax Returns

George Bacigalupi, Grand Treasurer

As you are aware, the IRS requires annual tax returns to be filed by our Districts and Branches.

Now, we have received notice that the State of California will be requiring an electronically filed annual informational return as well starting January 1, 2011 for the tax year ending December 31, 2010. Many Districts and Branches have already received letters from the State assigning a Tax Identification Number in preparation for this.

It is important to remember that all Districts and Branches will 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. At this time, for the State, we are only being told that this new regulation applies to those Districts and Branches in California. We have not received any notice regarding Branches in Arizona, Illinois or Nevada stating that those States will be implementing a similar practice.

The IRS is raising its limits for the tax year ending 2010 to 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. This should help some of our Branches.

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2011.

According to the information we have from the State, they will be requiring Form 199-N (their electronic form) for gross receipts of $25,000.00 or less and Form 199 for gross receipts of more than $25,000.00. It seems that the State is not going to match their limits to the IRS at this time.

To give you an idea of the information you will have to provide on the electronic form - this is what the Franchise Tax Board has provided so far: Legal Name, Any other Name under which the Organization does Business, Mailing Address, Web Site if applicable, Tax ID Numbers for both the Federal and State, Name and Address of a Principal Officer, Total Gross Receipts for the Year, Tax Year Begin and End Dates, Contact Person Name and Phone Number and whether or not the Organization Terminated or Went Out of Business. This is very similar to the information needed for the IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard).

The deadline for the State forms will also be May 15, 2011 and again any District or Branch who does not file for 3 consecutive years will lose its tax exempt status with the State just like the ruling with the IRS.

We recently sent out a packet of 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. Samples of how to file the on-line forms are included with directions to follow.

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2010. 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, please call the I.C.F. Office at 1-888-423-1924.

ICF Branch Event Announcement

| EVENT | BRANCH #: DATE:  TIME:  LOCATION |
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A Night For The Seminarians, 2011

Jim Freidel, Chairperson
Ways and Means Committee

The Italian Catholic Federation will host its 2nd "A Night for the Seminarians" fundraising event. This year the event will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2011. The event is sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee with the help of other Central Council and ICF members. The net proceeds from this event will be placed in the Providenza Seminary Fund, which supports the education of Seminarians in the various districts of the ICF. Last year, with your generous support, we donated a profit of $11,457.36 to the Providenza Fund. It will be a "Black Tie Optional Event" held at San Carlos Church Hall - 550 Church Street - Monterey, CA 93940. The Social Hour will be at 6:00pm and the dinner will follow at 7:00pm. The meal will be a Prime Rib dinner with all of the trimmings. The evening's entertainment will be provided by Fr. Gaetano Borgo from Venice, Italy. Fr. Borgo is known around the world as "The Singing Priest." There will be dancing afterwards. The price per person is $50.00. There is a limit of 325 people.

On October 13, 1979, Pope John Paul II praised priestly vocations saying, "The world looks to the Priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ; but everyone can see the Priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord." These words represent a great truth, as the presence of a Priest always strengthens our faith in Jesus and is always greatly appreciated. They celebrate with us in our joyful times like Baptisms, Confirmations and Weddings. They are there for us to provide direction about a difficult decision we have to make or when we just need someone to talk to. They are also there to help console us in the sad times when we lose someone like a family member or a close friend. A Priest always devotes himself to making our lives better by bringing Jesus' message of joy and hope.

One of the ways we can express our appreciation is to support our Seminarians' vocations - their journey to becoming a "glimpse of the Lord." We invite you, our Districts and Branches, to support this event by blessing us with your attendance and/or kindly making a donation. All donations will be recognized and posted at the event, in the Bollettino, and on the ICF website.

Thank you for your dedication to the Federation and our many charitable programs that you support. With your assistance, we can achieve great things.

“Night For The Seminarians”
Reservation / Sponsor Form
(Prime Rib dinner with all of the trimmings)

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Total # of Reservations __________ x $50.00.
Donation as a Sponsor ____________.
A check is enclosed in the amount of ____________.

Please mail this form and your check, payable to Italian Catholic Federation, no later than Tuesday, May 31, 2011 to:

Italian Catholic Federation
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621
Branches will be seated together unless notified differently. Please contact the I.C.F. Office if you have any questions at 1-888-423-1924.
T

There has been concern raised from members regarding some Branch / District article submissions going over the allotted length of 200 words, while others are making an effort of complying with the established guidelines. After reviewing this issue with the Bollettino Editor, we will be increasing the article length to 250 words starting next month. If your article is over the maximum amount of 250, it will be edited to the proper length by eliminating all words over the amount of 250 which will change the ending of your article, or if severely over the amount of 250, you will be informed that your article was not published due to its size. We hope the increase in the article length will help.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

PR Committee

Calendar Sales Results
continued from page 1

Top Selling Individual receives Five (5)
Sold 66 calendars
Sold 95 calendars

Individuals placing 2nd and 3rd receive
Sold 60 calendars

Bylaws
continued from page 1

Bylaws Challenge 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 consideration. 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.

BENVENUTI MEMBRI NUOVI

Report Date: 02/16/2011

CONNIE C BENNE Branch: 014	VERA DORIS	Branch: 051
RICHARD BENNE Branch: 014	RUBINO FORTUNATO	Branch: 108
MARK S DENT Branch: 014	JOSEPHINA VIVIRO	Branch: 108
MARY GOODMAN Branch: 014	BRMAETH CUNNINGHAM	Branch: 135
DONNA M HARBAUGH Branch: 014	MARIE RITA ESS	Branch: 135
MELVIN D HERMAN Branch: 014	MIRIAM SIRI	Branch: 135
DEBBIE KEYS Branch: 014	CHRISTOPHER TOMOEY	Branch: 137
ANGELA M HAGINS Branch: 026	MICHELE GARGIULO	Branch: 161
ANNE M HAGINS Branch: 026	ANIELA HASHED	Branch: 161
JASON D HAGINS Branch: 026	ELIZABETH ASHDOWN	Branch: 163
MARYE HAGINS Branch: 026	ROSE ASHDOWN	Branch: 163
DENISE M OLAUGHIN Branch: 026	BRAN BARRON	Branch: 163
KELLEN O LAUGHIN Branch: 026	DIANA BARRON	Branch: 163
JILLIAN M WILSON Branch: 026	JULIA BARRON	Branch: 163
CINDY M BENSON Branch: 028	DOMINIC BARTLEWSKI	Branch: 163
JOHN H BENSON Branch: 028	GIANNA BARTLEWSKI	Branch: 163
JOHN J GILLIO Branch: 028	GINA MBARTLEWSKI	Branch: 163
NOREEN T GILLIO Branch: 028	ISABELLA BARTLEWSKI	Branch: 163
ROBERT PALMER Branch: 033	CARENO DAVI	Branch: 163
JUSTIN BIANCHI Branch: 036	DANTE DAVI	Branch: 163
JOAN RIZZOTTO Branch: 036	RAED DAVI	Branch: 163
ANTONIO DAVI Branch: 036	ANTHONY SYLVESTRI	Branch: 163
SANDIK DAVI Branch: 036	CARLA SYLVESTRI	Branch: 163
VIVIAN SELBY Branch: 036	MARIANA SYLVESTRI	Branch: 163
JOSEPHINE MALVEAR Branch: 039	SANTINO SYLVESTRI	Branch: 163
RE ROBERTO AROJAS Branch: 047	DOROTHY ERYAN	Branch: 173
ATTILIO LEGITTIMO Branch: 050	REV VINCENT TINDBJANG	Branch: 186
MARIE BELARDI Branch: 191	MARCHELLO RIDI	Branch: 388
ROSALYN CASTELLO Branch: 191	MARY RIDI	Branch: 389
BEVERLY KASPEREK Branch: 196	ROSA TRAINE	Branch: 389
CHARLOTTE G MIZU Branch: 196	JAMES BUSALACCHI	Branch: 374
RICHARD A MIZU Branch: 198	MARY KAYE BUSALACCHI	Branch: 374
DAVID J ROMANI Branch: 198	ARELIE WILKS	Branch: 374
ORA I ROMANI Branch: 198	JOHN ROBERT CASARES	Branch: 379
MARILENE S SIMPSON Branch: 213	KELLY CASARES	Branch: 379
CARYL MADAMS Branch: 218	ROBERTA CASARES	Branch: 379
RICK A ADAMS Branch: 218	GUSTAVOLOPEZ	Branch: 382
CAROL R FARRUGIA Branch: 218	ANTHONY V POLLINO	Branch: 391
JERRY FARRUGIA Branch: 218	LORETAM RIDDLE	Branch: 391
SUZANNOVES Branch: 218	ANGELE GRANATA	Branch: 392
TERRY LEWIS Branch: 227	NICHOLPORE	Branch: 392
REVENIVEQUE ALVAREZ Branch: 236	GLAMERALAGO	Branch: 392
DANIELA CONTRERAS Branch: 290	VINCENZO D'AGRO	Branch: 403
TIMI M DUTTA Branch: 291	DORICIA MALLIA	Branch: 403
MARCO A GALEAZZI Branch: 326	RUDOLPH ORFINO	Branch: 403
PATRICIO RERCTOR Branch: 326	DAO FRENCH	Branch: 413
DEACON MICHAEL MURPHY Branch: 327	MICHAEL FRENCH	Branch: 413
MARGARET R DE MARTINI Branch: 327	PHILLYS HAMMONT	Branch: 423
PAUL D S MARTINI Branch: 327	KAREN W MC CLURE	Branch: 423
MARDINA FRASER Branch: 332	MARY JANE LIKE	Branch: 425
LYNNE SOLDAVINI Branch: 332	MICHAEL GROGGIO	Branch: 433
DEAN SJUJUGET Branch: 340	KAREN PIZZONE	Branch: 434
JANICE A AUGENT Branch: 340	LOU PIZZONE	Branch: 434
DONALD J GATTI Branch: 352	JILL LAMOURUEX	Branch: 436
BEVERLY JAWALSH Branch: 352	ADISON ROSS	Branch: 436
BILL PALPE Branch: 367	ALICIA ROSS	Branch: 436
FRANK J SCHURLEY Branch: 367	MONICA ROSS	Branch: 436
IRENE SCHURLEY Branch: 367	VICTOR ROSS	Branch: 436

Le Regioni D'Italia

"Le Regioni D'Italia / The Regions of Italy"

Each month, the calendar will feature regions of Italy -
The History, Interesting Highlights, Cuisine, etc.

Ways and Means Announces Theme for 2012 Calendar Fundraiser

Mail your list of names with birthdates and a check made payable to the I.C.F. to:
Italian Catholic Federation
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621

If you have any questions, please call the ICF Office at 1-888-423-1924 or Jim Friebel, Ways and Means Chairperson, at (831) 638-1742.

March 2011
in the church hall. At the lunch, District President Linda Sherman presented the 2010 District President’s Awards to Roy and Leona Spadoni and Lauren Kilcullen. All three were chosen for this honor based on their years of commitment and work for their branches and the district. They were honored to receive the award. Central Council members in attendance included, Grand Trustee Deborah Rodondi, Sergeant At Arms, Roselynne Jarrett and her mother, Patty Jarrett, Life Member Dante Galeazzi and his wife, Julie, Central Council Member Jim Friebel and his wife Mary Ann, Central Council Member Marco Galeazzi and his wife, Diane, Central Council Member Vince Piro and his wife Robyn, Central Council Member Andy Pappani, Past Grand President David Botta, Past Grand President Bob Acquistapace and his wife, Santa Rosa District Deputy Kathy, Past Grand President Carmen Kilcullen and her husband Larry, and Life Member Emeritus Bob Dianda and his wife Theresa. The District thanks all the Central Council Members for coming.

San Gabriel Valley Installation
The San Gabriel Valley District held its annual Installation of Officers on Jan. 22. The event was hosted by St. Lukes Br. 326, Temple City, with a Mass prior to the dinner.
In attendance was Grand President Jim Jones and wife Janice, Past Grand President Mike Rossi and wife Marcie, and Central Council members Dante Galeazzi, Marco Galeazzi, Jim Friebel, Tom Passanisi, and Members Emeritus Ann Iarossi-Armenio and Louisa Russo. All 5 Branches were well represented and Installation was conducted by G.P. Jim Jones assisted by the Central Council members.
Our thanks to the members of Branch 326 for another wonderful job well done.