ICF Hits the Million-Dollar Mark For Cooley’s Anemia Donations

by Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

The Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) adopted Cooley’s anemia (also called thalassemia) as its national charity back in the 1980s. Since 1992, the donations for Cooley’s anemia have been going to Children’s Hospital and Research Center in Oakland, California, which is one of the seven specialty centers for thalassemia in North America. Over that time period, the ICF has donated a total of $1,001,754. The funds go to the following areas:

Research and the SQUID—Children’s Hospital Oakland conducts cutting-edge research to improve the quality of life for patients, as well as to search for a cure. The ICF has also funded state-of-the-art technology such as the SQUID (also called a ferromitter) machine that measures iron in the body. Prior to the introduction of the SQUID machine, patients had to undergo an invasive surgical procedure called a liver biopsy to assess excess iron. The SQUID involves a simple scan and is completed in approximately 30 minutes. Children’s Hospital also obtained a new MRI machine that enables the measurement of heart iron, when previously there was no way to do so.

Patient Events—These include our Christmas parties, retreats, camps, and family nights. Such events are a vital part of our comprehensive care program and build on peer relationships and support, improve understanding of treatment and disease, and give patients the opportunity to get together and have fun!

Patient Sponsorship—Many patients live in remote areas of California and/or come from around the United States to visit our center. If patients cannot afford to travel, some ICF funds are used to offset their expenses. Patient sponsorship may also include helping patients travel to a retreat, camp, or conference.

Patient Medical Expenses—The average cost of care for a thalassemia patient is approximately $75,000 a year. This covers basic care, including blood transfusions, chelation (iron removal) therapy, doctor visits, and medications. If a patient undergoes hospitalization, then costs can escalate further. No patient is ever turned away from Children’s Hospital Oakland, and patients are cared for regardless of their ability to pay. Dr. Elliott Vichinsky often sees patients for free. ICF funds help pay for basic care costs that patients and families cannot afford.

Education and Outreach—Children’s Hospital Oakland has the only thalassemia outreach program in the United States—thanks to the ICF. We provide in-services to health-care providers, attend and present information at conferences, and give literature out at health fairs. We reference continued on page 5.

Scholarship Application Deadline Nears

By Deborah Kodondi

Scholarship Chairperson

Today young people everywhere, in their senior year of high school, are busy finalizing next year’s college plans and filling out scholarship applications in the hopes of qualifying for one. We have the ability to grant them that wish, with our Scholarship Program. Although we have been able to give a generous amount of scholarships in the past years, there are always many we have to turn away. With your continued help we can make the dreams of these young people, our future, come true.

Notice on the form you can give the gift of a scholarship for all events, get well wishes, in honor or in memory of a special person. What a wonderful tribute to a loved one, memorializing them with a 1st year scholarship in the United States. If a patient undergoes hospitalization, then costs can escalate further. No patient is ever turned away from Children’s Hospital Oakland, and patients are cared for regardless of their ability to pay. Dr. Elliott Vichinsky often sees patients for free. ICF funds help pay for basic care costs that patients and families cannot afford.

Patient Medical Expenses—The average cost of care for a thalassemia patient is approximately $75,000 a year. This covers basic care, including blood transfusions, chelation (iron removal) therapy, doctor visits, and medications. If a patient undergoes hospitalization, then costs can escalate further. No patient is ever turned away from Children’s Hospital Oakland, and patients are cared for regardless of their ability to pay. Dr. Elliott Vichinsky often sees patients for free. ICF funds help pay for basic care costs that patients and families cannot afford.

Education and Outreach—Children’s Hospital Oakland has the only thalassemia outreach program in the United States—thanks to the ICF. We provide in-services to health-care providers, attend and present information at conferences, and give literature out at health fairs. We reference continued on page 5.

The deadline for a student to apply for an ICF Scholarship is March 15, 2012. 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.

Last year, the ICF awarded 201 1st year scholarships, but received 440 applications.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
How Lent Saved a Man’s Life

Guido (not his real name) was a hopeless drunk. He lost his job, his family, and his friends. He had no one to turn to for help and no place to go. He was now homeless. It was during Lent. It was night and cold, and the only warm place he found was a church. Guido had not been in a church for a long time. He did not even remember his prayers that he learned as a child taught by his mother. He was tired, hungry and he had no money to buy anything. If he had had money, he would probably buy some liquor to numb his pain and escape his problems. The alcohol would probably kill him. He did not seem to care. He was cold and went into church just to get warm.

It was a Friday night, and people were praying. Guido heard the words of Jesus read. “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” Those words burned into Guido’s heart, especially the word “Forgive them.” That night Guido went home, begged forgiveness from his family, kissed his wife and children, ate a good meal, and never took another drink again. He now is in a recovery program, has a job, goes to Mass, spends quality time with his wife and children. He is truly at peace with himself and with God.

Guido’s life was saved because it was Lent and the church was conducting the Stations of the Cross.

Attracting Families and Keeping Them Active
by Roselyne Jarrett
Membership Chair

When promoting the ICF, we inform prospective members that we are a family organization. Being a catholic organization that welcomes families goes beyond having an economical family membership. Most will probably agree that $10 per year to add your children or grandchildren is a great value. Once a family joins your branch, what do they have to look forward to? Are there family friendly activities offered on your branch calendar? What activities are available to children and teenagers who attend meetings? Is there a children’s price available for all branch and district events? Recently, the following question was posted on our ICF Facebook page: “What does your branch or district do to bring in families and keep them active?”

Here are a few responses shared on Facebook, by email and on the phone:
Branch 39, Merced keeps their younger members active in several ways. Here, the children take turns holding the flag during the salute, they help pull raffle tickets and even have their very own age-appropriate raffle prizes to win. Each St. Joseph’s Day, the younger members assist with the festivities and at Christmas, they help make ornaments out of pasta for the tree at the Merced County Museum. The pasta ornaments are a 20 year tradition in Branch 39.

Branch 214, Concord has a family movie night on the calendar this spring in hopes to bring the families together for a night of fun. Also, each year they host a Halloween carnival for members and parish families to enjoy.

Branch 291, Arroyo Grande is beginning a program to attract the parish school families. The branch will hold a couple of pasta feeds each year to raise funds to assist with the yearly registration fee required for the pre-school, elementary and junior high classes. Parish school families who are active ICF members will be eligible for receiving full or partial funding of their yearly registration, which is over $300 per child. The branch hopes families find this to be a great incentive for joining the ICF and being active. With this program, the branch is promoting ICF and promoting the catholic school at the same time. The branch president will be meeting with the parent’s club to share our organization with them and to invite their families to join.

Branch 380, Thousand Oaks installed seven Youth Officers at their District Installation. The Youth Officers support the Branch Officers. One of the Youth Officers is the branch’s Childcare Coordinator. They plan crafts for each meeting and bring a movie to show on the big screen TV. All the children sit together at dinner too. This year, the Youth Officers will be coordinating their own fundraising event for charity. The above ideas are just a few of the many great programs and activities offered to ICF families. Start thinking about what your branch would like to do this year to promote family togetherness in the ICF. Even if your branch does not yet have family members, consider placing a few activities on your calendar. This way the next time someone asks what the ICF offers for families, you will have programs in place that may interest them to join your branch.

Celebrating Mass as an ICF Family
by Jim Accetelli
Apostolate/Charity Chairman

How often we have heard the phrase “the family that prays together, stays together.” The Apostolate/Charity Committee thought it would be a good idea to focus on bringing forth a “unified” ICF Communion Sunday on the 5th Sunday of the month. All Branches would set aside the 5th Saturday or Sunday as decided by that Branch and, at a specific Mass decided by the majority of the members, would wear their ICF identification, such as shirts/badges. They would sit together at that Mass showing unity and loyalty to the Church. If possible, a display of the ICF banner would easily identify them to those attending that Mass. After Mass, the members would go as a group to a local restaurant, again reinforcing the unity and family aspect of the Italian Catholic Federation by “breaking bread together.”

We are aware that many Branches are already using this concept of the Communion Sunday and we are grateful for that but we would like to see ALL Branches participating.

If your branch has received a “Thank You” or any news from a Gifts of Love recipient, please let the editor know so it can be published in the Bollettino.
Heritage Around the ICF

Louise Vento
Heritage Committee

Did you know in Italy many feast and festivals are celebrated during the month of February? Carnevale is one of the most popular festivals in Italy. Carnevale comes 40 days before Easter so the date changes each year. Carnevale is celebrated all over Italy in a variety of ways. Some of the more unusual Carnevale celebrations are the orange-throwing battle in Ivrea, Albanian celebrations in Calabria and a Roman carnival in Aosta Valley. Saint Agatha’s Feast Day is celebrated in Catania. Sicily (she is the patron saint of Catania) The procession is the second largest religious procession in the world. It starts on Feb. 4 with mass at dawn, and it is the second largest religious procession in the world.

The festi-collo, a 40,000 pound silver carriage that was pulled up Monte Sangiuliano. The festi-collo is the second largest religious procession in the world. It starts on Feb. 4 with mass at dawn, and it is the second largest religious procession in the world.

Heritage Around the ICF

Louise Vento
Heritage Committee

Did you know in Italy many feast and festivals are celebrated during the month of February? Carnevale is one of the most popular festivals in Italy. Carnevale comes 40 days before Easter so the date changes each year. Carnevale is celebrated all over Italy in a variety of ways. Some of the more unusual Carnevale celebrations are the orange-throwing battle in Ivrea, Albanian celebrations in Calabria and a Roman carnival in Aosta Valley. Saint Agatha’s Feast Day is celebrated in Catania. Sicily (she is the patron saint of Catania) The procession is the second largest religious procession in the world. It starts on Feb. 4 with mass at dawn, and it is the second largest religious procession in the world.

The festi-collo, a 40,000 pound silver carriage that was pulled up Monte Sangiuliano. The festi-collo is the second largest religious procession in the world. It starts on Feb. 4 with mass at dawn, and it is the second largest religious procession in the world.
Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

IN MEMORY OF:
Matthew Bartley
Jean Lombardi
Edith Lopopolo
Leonora Cuneo
Rev. Salvatore Giacomini, SDB
Angela Voigt
Joe O’Dea
Nuni Radicchi
Richard Greco
Annuantiada Radicchi
Carlo Ambrosini
Bob Dodds
Richard Greco
Nuni Radicchi
Rose Cuva
Sabino Salvino
Nuni Radicchi
Annuantiada Radicchi
John Raphael
John Raphael
Angelo Gardella
Dan Petrolino

DONATED BY:
George and Diana Bacigalupi
Officers/Members of Br. 243
Officers/Members of Br. 308
Officers/Members of Br. 342
Officers/Members of San Francisco District
Officers/Members of Br. 290
Officers/Members of Br. 327
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Dan and Diana Petrolino
Bob Basuino
Bob and Kathy Acquistiapace
Jim and Janice Jones
Jim and Janice Jones
Rosemary Los Lieberman
Officers/Members of Br. 367
Julie and Chuck Boccone
The Gatti Family
Nello and Cookie Rossi
Beatrice Bianco
Leonard and Karen Rossi
Leonard, Karen and Janet Rossi
Officers/Members of Central Council

GET WELL WISHES:
Josephine Pearson
Ann Casarotto
Victor Sarro
Norma Spagnolia
Teresa Guidace
Michael Cannady
Mike Cannady
Mary Ann Rickard
Peter Cassidy
Michael Cannady
Vito Barella

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:
Nancy Brunner
Most Reverend Stephen E. Blair

HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY:
Elia D. Bonino

*Named after the co-founder of the I.C.F., the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides I.C.F. members a lasting way to memorialize and/or extend greetings to friends, relatives, and loved ones. Members’ donations provide scholarships to seminarians studying for the priesthood in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.

Live to Give —

Why Give Blood?

By Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

One person every 2 seconds in the U.S. will have an accident, a heart or kidney transplant, a major surgery, cancer treatments, or suffer from an injury and will need blood.

An automobile accident victim may use 50 units of red blood cells.

An organ transplant recipient may use 60 units of red blood cells, 6 units of platelets and 50 units of plasma.

A person with Cooley’s Anemia/Thalassemia requires a lifetime of blood transfusions.

A cancer patient may use 8 units of platelets per week.

A bone marrow transplant recipient may use 20 units of red blood cells and 120 units of platelets.

A person undergoing heart surgery may use 6 units or red cells and 6 units of platelets.

**Trivia Challenge??**

Be the first person to answer this trivia question correctly and win a prize:

How often can a person donate red blood cells?

To answer the trivia question or for more information of blood donation please contact:

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS
LLevine@mail.cho.org
or call 510-428-3885 x 5427

**Answer to February’s Blood Trivia Challenge:**

What percentage of the community will need a blood product in their lifetime?

95%

What percentage of the general population actually donates blood? 5% (2-4% in the Bay Area).

In Loving Memory

Report Date: 02/15/2012

ELDA TONELLO Branch 169
JOHN P. TOMAC Branch 186
CARLO AMBROSI Branch 198
RICHARD BAPTISTA Branch 198
ANGELA VOIGT Branch 290
LAURA MOPOLING Branch 319
PAULINE DIAZ Branch 351
ANNELLA AVELLA Branch 380
HENRYTINELLI Branch 380
ASSUNTA PETRALIA Branch 408

FRANKAMALFTANO Branch 115
JIM UPTAN Branch 136
YVONNEA CHIMENTI Branch 139
JEFF MUS Branch 144
ISOLINA GALASSI Branch 173
DENNIS K. KOENIG Branch 173
MARSIAKOEN Branch 173
GEORGE M. Branch 173
MIRANDA M. Branch 173
TIM SPANNER Branch 173
BRENDA WEIZ Branch 173
EMILIANO WEIZ Branch 173
GARY WEIZ Branch 173
MARIAN M. WEIZ Branch 173
CHRISTOPHER C. CHELBANA Branch 195
CHARLENE AMORATTO Branch 198
JOSEPH HUG Branch 209
SARAH M. TRUOB Branch 209
MARIA TERESA IOELE Branch 218
GORDON H. HALL Branch 291
STEVIE HALL Branch 291
LORI HAYS Branch 291
MARK E. HAYS Branch 291
DONALD J. NASHEL Branch 291
Sylvia Nascholm Branch 291
JOELOCHA Branch 291
MARGOT A. CHOA Branch 291
JANER H. CHOA Branch 291
JOE ROCHA Branch 291
JAMES S. CHOA Branch 291
THROCK CHA Branch 291
ALPHONSE J. GUILLER Branch 291
ARTIE CHAVEZ Branch 308
MONICA AM. BREARTY Branch 308
BERNIE A. SQUEO Branch 308
MATILDE YONKERS Branch 308

continued on page 23
### Cooley’s Aneina Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Research &amp; SQUID</th>
<th>Patient Events</th>
<th>Patient Sponsorship</th>
<th>Patient Medical Exp.</th>
<th>Edu/Outreach</th>
<th>Special Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2011</td>
<td>$77,000</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2010</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2009</td>
<td>$62,000</td>
<td>$44,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2008</td>
<td>$57,000</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2007</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2006</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2005</td>
<td>$113,154</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>$10,154</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2004</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2003</td>
<td>$51,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2002</td>
<td>$56,000</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2001</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
<td>$27,500</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2000</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1999</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1998</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1997</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1996</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1995</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1994</td>
<td>$11,600</td>
<td>$11,600</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>$1,001,754</td>
<td>$654,100</td>
<td>$101,654</td>
<td>$87,000</td>
<td>$112,500</td>
<td>$39,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

- $30,000 extra was presented by Nettie Descalzo-Del Nero from a grant at the 2011 Convention

### Gifts of Love Donations

- **Branch 4**
  - Lorraine and Mike Nunziata
    - In honor of the birthday of Fr. Christopher Bennett
  - Al and Fran Teglia
    - Get well wishes for Tina Maline
  - Albert and Frances Teglia
    - In memory of Vincent Marchi
  - Aldine Grisetti
    - Get well wishes for Sam Taormina
  - Maria Milili
    - In memory of Raymond Weiss
  - Eva Stern
    - In memory of Richard C. Greco
  - Pat Mueller

- **Branch 186**
  - In honor of Br. 285's 2011 Officers - Judy Bates, Ed Rocca, Gail Rocca, Helen Wirtenson, Elaine Meier, Mary Merucci, Phyllis Boccoleri, Carolyn Cardinalli, Anna Yocham, Melva Gracia and Deputy Karen Rosati
  - Al and Fran Teglia
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Richard Votey
    - In memory of The Rovera Family
  - Rosa Radicchi
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Officers/Members of Br. 130
    - In memory of The Deceased Members of Br. 130

- **Branch 198**
  - In memory of Br. 285's 2011 Officers - Judy Bates, Ed Rocca, Gail Rocca, Helen Wirtenson, Elaine Meier, Mary Merucci, Phyllis Boccoleri, Carolyn Cardinalli, Anna Yocham, Melva Gracia and Deputy Karen Rosati
  - Al and Fran Teglia
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Richard Votey
    - In memory of The Rovera Family
  - Rosa Radicchi
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Officers/Members of Br. 130
    - In memory of The Deceased Members of Br. 130

- **Branch 227**
  - In memory of Br. 285's 2011 Officers - Judy Bates, Ed Rocca, Gail Rocca, Helen Wirtenson, Elaine Meier, Mary Merucci, Phyllis Boccoleri, Carolyn Cardinalli, Anna Yocham, Melva Gracia and Deputy Karen Rosati
  - Al and Fran Teglia
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Richard Votey
    - In memory of The Rovera Family
  - Rosa Radicchi
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Officers/Members of Br. 130
    - In memory of The Deceased Members of Br. 130

- **Branch 26**
  - In memory of Br. 285's 2011 Officers - Judy Bates, Ed Rocca, Gail Rocca, Helen Wirtenson, Elaine Meier, Mary Merucci, Phyllis Boccoleri, Carolyn Cardinalli, Anna Yocham, Melva Gracia and Deputy Karen Rosati
  - Al and Fran Teglia
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Richard Votey
    - In memory of The Rovera Family
  - Rosa Radicchi
    - Happy New Year Wishes
  - Officers/Members of Br. 130
    - In memory of The Deceased Members of Br. 130

### News From Gifts of Love

**Donations Make Gifts of Love Successful**

- **Andy Pappani, Grand Trustee**
  - *Gifts of Love Chair*

- I am very happy to report that we have had two of many donations that we have received for the Gifts of Love Programs. One was from The Wanda Antonelli Trust Fund for $36,674.63. She was at one time a member of Branch 343, Castro Valley. The other donation is from the The Shirley Silva Trust Fund for $300,000.00 to be divided – per her direction — between the Cooley’s Anemia fund and the Gifts of Love Program. That we may use up to a maximum of 5 percent of the fund income or $30,000.00 annually, whichever is greater, until the fund runs out.

- Shirley was member of Branch 28 of Gilroy, and a past branch president and branch treasurer. Shirley was also one of the people that spear headed the start of Branch 435 in Castro Valley.

- Our Dee/f-Hard of Hearing Program at Santa Teresa of Avila Church in San Jose, California, is a continued success. We now have it arranged that the 10am Mass on the first and third Sunday of the month are signed. The San Jose Dioceses provides a sign language priest to facilitate the 1:30pm mass on the last Sunday of the month.

- If you are interested in starting a Dee/f Hard of Hearing Program within your dioceses please call or email me and we will get the ball rolling.

- If you are interested in the Gifts of Love Program and want one of the team members to come and speak at your branch meeting or event please contact me directly.

- On behalf of my committee, I wish to express my gratitude for the continued donations that you make to the Gifts of Love Program. Without you, the program would not work.

Please contact me at 831-801-0557 OR pappani1@yahoo.com
In *Extra Virginity: The Sublime and Scandalous World of Olive Oil*, Tom Mueller explores the world of olive oil. He visits various farmers, regulators, archaeologists, agronomists, botanists, and others involved in the productions and sale of olive oil. On the one hand, what he finds is a world full of zealots, dedicated to producing high-quality olive oil for consumption, people who approach the making of olive oil with an almost religious fervor. On the other hand, the reader also meets Andreas Marz, who has produced extra virgin olive oil at a farm called Balsudici in the hills outside of Pistoia, Italy. Marz “has the lucky, permanently stained hands of a farmer, yet his exuberant handlebar mustache, weather worn vest, and red neckerchief suggest a character from the Old West,” a steamboat gambler, or a Texas Ranger. Marz was so fed up with the olive oil industry that he wrote a series of articles “which denounced the poor quality olive oil bottled – though rarely made – in Italy.” He exposed how “major international brands had been caught selling adulterated olive oil. And he repeatedly pointed out that many big Italian producers were breaking international law, labeling oil as extra virgin whose taste and aroma were far inferior to legal requirements for the extra virgin grade.” He also convened tasting panels to blind test various olive oils. When he found the results less than satisfactory, he published the findings. His articles were met by legal intimidation, with large olive oil companies suing the tasters and testers. Marz, himself, was sued for libel when he published an interview with agronomist Marco Mugelli that was critical of the Italian olive oil industry. However, Mueller’s own descriptions of olive groves and workers are evidence of a deep appreciation and love of olive oil. The author describes Marz’s trees with an almost spiritual and reverent tone: “About a meter up their short gray trunks, a few gnarled limbs curved outward and upward, creating a chalice to catch the sunlight. The branches were densely covered with small, oval leaves, gray-green above and silvery beneath, which glistened when a breeze turned them.”

The reader will appreciate Mueller’s extensive references to and descriptions of olive oil throughout his book. He is clearly a man who knows his subject, past and present. Moreover, he is a journalist who has thoroughly investigated his subject. Mueller’s investigation into the world of olive oil takes him around the world, and the final chapter of the book focuses on the author’s visits to farmers and producers in Australia and the United States, especially in California. For anyone who has ever tasted olive oil or used it in cooking, *Extra Virginity* makes not only for a fascinating and interesting read, but it acts as a clarion call to consumers who are being deceived by large corporations that are more concerned about profit than producing high-quality olive oil, woven into the fabric of many cultures and rich in tradition.
Frederic Ozanam
Founder of St. Vincent De Paul

Beginning in the early fifties and lasting for eleven years, Groucho Marx hosted a quiz program called You Bet Your Life. I enjoyed the program and noted that Groucho never let a guest leave without answering every question wrong, Groucho answered every question wrong, Groucho would throw him a leading question such as, “Who is buried in Grant’s tomb?” It was interesting to watch the guest snap off an answer—often incorrect.

I had the same happen to me when I recently watched a quiz show host ask a contestant, “Who is buried in the Society of St. Vincent De Paul?”

Without hesitation I blurted out, “St. Vincent de Paul, of course.” Wrong! It was Frederic Ozanam, and of all people, I should have known better. St. Vincent de Paul, the holy man of France, stands as a symbol of the Society, but its founding and its values derive from Frederic Ozanam, who originated the Society as the Conference of Charity in 1833.

As one British biographer remarked, Ozanam was quite a chap. He was born in 1813 in an upper-middle class family in Milan, which was then a French province. He was one of fourteen children. His father started a career as a merchant but, after suffering financial reverses, he established a practice as a physician in Lyons. During his teens, Ozanam took a course in philosophy, which led him to doubt his faith in God. However, through a mentor and spiritual guide, Frederic subsequently resolved the doubts which plagued him; he promised God to devote his life to the services of truth—a vow which he kept for the rest of his life.

Ozanam was a highly intelligent youngster. At the age of 18, he wrote a treatise, Reflecting on the Doctrine of Saint-Simon, which was an anti-Church, social doctrine preached by followers of the Utopian Socialist, Saint-Simon. At the request of his father, Frederic went to Paris and studied law at the Sorbonne, where he found an extremely hostile, anti-Christian climate.

However, there, he had access to a number of great Catholic minds of the day who influenced him greatly. Ozanam and a few of his friends joined Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, who was working to assist the poor Paris. The Sister directed Frederic to visit some poor families; she also provided fuel, food and rent money to many of the poor. Ozanam was sickened by the squalor and degradation which he saw among the poor.

At the same time, Frederic and some of his friends were members of a student study society which discussed and debated social teachings of the Gospel. During one of the meetings, while Ozanam and his colleagues were defending attacks on Christianity, some of the young Saint-Simonians challenged the Christian students to show what efforts they were making to help the poor. The confrontation prompted Frederic and his friends to organize and enlarge the volunteer work they were already doing with Sister Rosalie. They formed the Conference of Charity and began engaging, very earnestly, in the practical works of charity for the poor.

From the original group of eight students, the group soared to over one hundred, one year later. In 1835, two years after the initial meeting, the Conference of Charity had its official rule and a new name: the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. As the work of the Society became known, its membership increased until it became so large that it had to be split into sections. As members moved from Paris or returned home or sought employment, they started other conferences. In just a few years, the Society became international.

Meanwhile, Frederic spent much of his time traveling, teaching, writing and helping the poor. His intellectual achievements were many. He was awarded a Doctorate in Law from the Sorbonne in 1836, and he was awarded a Doctorate in Literature from the Sorbonne, three years later. He authored a brilliant thesis on Dante which was considered a masterpiece. Along with his Doctorate, he was given the Chair of Commercial Law at Lyons, and later he became a full-tenured judge.

He won great praise for his literary efforts in defense of the faith, which displayed a brilliant intellect, profound spiritual insight and outstanding eloquence.

Unfortunately, Frederic spent his last years in pain because of a lingering ailment. He moved to a seaside cottage in Italy in an attempt to recuperate.

However, within a few months, he decided to return to France, and died on the birthday of his mentor, Sister Rosalie Rendu, at the age of 40. Pope John Paul II beatified Ozanam for his works on August 22, 1997. Throughout his life, Frederic Ozanam’s simple hope was to “become better—to do a little good.” His and his fellow students did more than a little good: from the humble origins of the Society he established, there are now approximately 4,400 units of the Society in America with a membership of more than 60,000 laymen and women devoted to personal service to the poor through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Society also acts worldwide in more than 130 countries and has more than 800,000 members, many of them are hand-capped persons employed in renovating goods and in store operations. Additionally, the Society operates food distribution centers, shelters and community rehabilitative programs.

Comments concerning Clem’s columns may be sent to his attention at the ICF office; email users may reach him at ClemDeAmicis@icfnet.net.
Make Your Reservations For "A Night For The Seminarians"

The Italian Catholic Federation Central Council will be hosting the 3rd Annual “Night for the Seminarians” on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

Enjoy an evening of dining and dancing while supporting the seminarians and their education. It will be a “Black Tie Optional” event held at St. Pascal Baylon Hall, 155 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, California. This is the home of ICF Branch 380. From 5pm to 9:30pm you will get to enjoy appetizers and the music of Mark Tortorici ‘Torch’ and his combo. A sit-down dinner of Veal Picata will be followed by an Italian Pastry Buffet, with a special music performance to enhance your dining experience. After dinner and dessert continue the evening with dancing to Mark Tortorici and his combo. The price per person is $50.00. An RSVP is needed by March 30, 2012.

Please send reservations with seating requests to:
Pat Mages — CC Ways & Means Committee Member and Br. 380 member
1158 Calle Pinata, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
email: pat.lou.mages@gmail.com; call: (805) 492-9658

“A NIGHT FOR THE SEMINARIANS”
RESERVATION / SPONSOR FORM
(Sit Down Dinner with Appetizers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BRANCH #</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Friday, March 30, 2012 to:
Pat Mages — CC Ways & Means Committee Member
1158 Calle Pinata, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
email: pat.lou.mages@gmail.com; call: 805-492-9658

Things to Ponder

Repentance is the doorway to the spiritual life, the only way to begin. It is also the path itself, the only way to continue. Anything else is foolishness and self-delusion. Only repentance is both brute-honest enough, and joyous enough, to bring us all the way home.

Frederica Mathewes-Green, The Illumined Heart: The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation

Important Information Regarding Dual Membership

By-laws and Ritual Committee

The By-Laws and Ritual Committee has become aware of problems in implementing the By-law that was recently adopted at the 2011 Convention concerning Dual Memberships. There was no problem with the original proposal. However, there are problems implementing the amendment that accompanied the original proposal. The amended proposal indicated that a person may be a member of an Auxiliary Branch by paying the Regular Dues, minus the fees for Public Relations and Apostolate.

We have been informed by the office staff that administering this will be extremely costly and difficult. The present computer per capita billing program cannot eliminate the fees for public relations and apostolate. Our programmer indicated that if a new program could even be created, that it would be very costly and difficult to do. He stated that it would be a “programming nightmare.” If done by hand, every Branch would have to be checked in order to identify an individual who is a dual member. The Financial Secretary of each individual Branch would also have to indicate the dual membership fee for that individual member and highlight their name for the per capita billing. This will produce a substantial delay in the per capita billing process. This will also cause a high degree of error for both the office staff and the individual Branch.

The By-Laws and Ritual Committee was not aware of these problems associated with administering the amendment portion of this proposal when it was discussed at the Convention. We now conclude that the Delegates were not able to make an informed decision in terms of its administrative process concerning this proposal. Because of this lack of information in making an informed decision concerning Dual Membership, the By-Laws and Ritual Committee recommended to the Executive Committee to rescind Chapter II – Dual Membership from the By-laws.

A motion was made and passed by the Executive Committee to rescind Chapter II from the By-laws.

A member desiring to belong to more than one (1) Branch may continue to do so by paying the entire membership fee for each Branch.

Please forward any questions or comments to the Parliamentarian of the Central Council, Leonard Rossi, by writing or calling the Central Council office.

The Ways and Means Committee announces the Theme for the 2013 Fundraiser Calendar as "I Villaggi E Le Città Da Dove Siamo Venuti / The Villages And Cities From Which We Came."

The Ways and Means Committee would like you, the members, to send us articles written by you about the villages and cities your families emigrated from to come to the United States. The articles should be about 200 words in length and you can send us pictures that you may have so we can include some in the calendar. These articles do not have to be only stories about coming from Italy, but may also include other places in the world that our diverse membership families have originated from.

Please use the following outline as a guide to your article:
My Village or City’s Name, Location, Population, Elevation, Architectural Interest, Festivals, Popular Foods, Something Unique or Memorable About the Town.

Mail your article, 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

May 1, 2012

Foolishness and self-delusion. Only repentance is both brute-honest enough, and joyous enough, to bring us all the way home.