



# BOLLETTINO



## Installations Revitalize ICF

### Grand President's Monthly Message

by Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

*Per Bollettino tradition, the February issue reprints the Grand President's Installation Address to the Federation.*

Dear ICF Members

I would like to thank the newly elected officers from throughout the Federation. Your commitment to be leaders in your branches and district is greatly appreciated.

Over the past several years the Central Council has seen a need to strengthen and rejuvenate the Federation so that we will be there for the next generation.

Membership growth and retention will again be a major focus throughout the Federation during 2017, for bringing in new members and retaining our existing members. Our goal is to have each branch conduct a membership drive and actively work on retaining their existing members. The Membership Committee, headed by Vince Piro, is there to help if needed, with your membership drive or concerns on retaining existing members. Please contact Vince for assistance if needed. The leaders within a branch must play a proactive role in this endeavor regarding membership, and as was stated in the Strategic Plan Workshop, current leaders should always be looking for their replacement in future years to maintain the energy in their branch and to infuse new ideas for a strong Federation.

Are we really making a difference with what we do as an organization, in our parish

community and beyond, by not only our actions but also with the funds we raise within our branch or district?" Here are a few examples of what the Italian Catholic Federation has done and continues to do on a national level.

#### Apostolate Charity

Throughout the Federation this past year over \$452,764 was raised to help our parishes and others in our communities and beyond.

#### Scholarship Program

In 2016 the ICF gave 170 first-year scholarships for \$68,000 and 62 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> year scholarships for \$38,700 which comes to a total of \$106,700 from donations by you, our members.

Since the inception of the Scholarship Program, over 5,900 scholarships have been given, totaling over 2 million dollars for deserving college students, who are the future of our country.

#### Providenza Fund

The Providenza Fund is a program that helps support seminarians in their training and education as our future priest throughout the Federation. This program began in 1981 to honor our founder Sir Luigi Providenza and his wife Lady Augusta. Over \$2,000,000 has been donated by our members since the start of the Providenza Fund for this great cause.

#### Gifts of Love

The Gifts of Love Program was established in 1996 by Past Grand President and Life Member Emeritus Albert Teglia. This program came about as a way for members to help those in need, Catholic and Non-Catholic. Since the inception of this

program, over \$534,736 in donations have been given by our members throughout the Federation and over \$466,830 has been donated to those in need.

#### National Charity Cooley's Anemia

Since making Cooley's Anemia our National Charity back in 1983, the ICF members have donated over \$2,000,000. These funds have been used for research, an outreach program to work with the newly diagnosed and those ongoing patients, and for medical equipment to help with the testing and treatment of

Cooley's Anemia. You, the members, have truly made a difference with your donations.

We also have the Organ Donor and the Live to Give Programs. The Organ Donor Program was established to spread awareness to the members throughout the Federation to give the Gift of Life to help others. The Live to Give Program came about through our National Charity Cooley's Anemia in helping spread the word about the critical need for blood donations in all areas of the Federation. A selfless act of giving a pint of blood helps multiple people. There is no other substitute for blood, so please give so that others may live.

Where the ICF has its greatest benefit is with your local branch and parish communities. They benefit the most from you, the members. For without your dedication to your events, programs, fundraising, spiritual connection to your church, there would be a void if this is not maintained. The foundation of our Federation was built upon bringing those who had fallen away from the church

back into the fold. To me, as your Grand President, the biggest accomplishment that we can make as an organization is to have our members maintain a close connection to their faith and to the values that we, as Catholics, hold dear.

Again this year at the Bishop Day events, I have been told by each Bishop how much they enjoy the Italian Catholic Federation, all that we do in our local parishes and with our programs that helps those in need. One of the main items the Bishops wanted me to instill upon you again is the need to engage the next generation of the Federation - our sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters. We must invite and welcome them to become members so that they, along with us, will maintain a connection to our faith, just as we did at the beginning of the Italian Catholic Federation back in 1924. At the same time as we look to bring in family members, we must also invite our fellow parishioners and friends to be a part of our ICF family.

This year during our convention Mother Teresa was canonized a Saint. She is now known as Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

It has been said that Mother Teresa thought that the Paradoxical Commandments listed below were important enough to put up on the wall of her children's home. I feel that we can all benefit from them.

"People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered."

"Forgive the anyway."

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives."

"Be kind anyway."

"If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies."

"Succeed anyway."

"If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you."

"Be honest and frank anyway."

"What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight."

"Build anyway."

"If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous."

"Be happy anyway."

"The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow."

"Do good anyway."

"Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough."

"Give the best you've got anyway."

"You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway."

May God Bless the Italian Catholic Federation and all her members throughout 2017.

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.  
Grand President



Past Grand President Leonard Rossi and Life Member of the Central Council Dante Galeazzi spent the evening at a Seminar Dinner with his Excellency Bishop Stephen Blaire of the Stockton Diocese and drian Cisneros, currently serving the Diocese in his Pastoral Year at St. Stanislaus; Lourenco Machado, currently studying at Pontifical North American College, Rome, Italy; and Deacon John Ngo, Deacon Joseph Nguyen and Deacon Tom Orlando awaiting the official call to Ordination on May 20, 2017.

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

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UPCOMING:

2017 Bishops' Days:

Feb. 18 Orange

Feb. 18 Tucson

Apr. 23 San Francisco (San Francisco,  
San Mateo & Marin)

Apr. 30 Chicago

2017 District  
Installations:

Feb. 12 Los Angeles (includes San  
Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley  
and Santa Barbara/Ventura)

Feb. 14 Las Vegas

Feb. 18 Tucson

Feb. 19 Blessed Sacrament

Feb. 26 Fresno

Wow!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli  
ICF Spiritual Director  
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

When I received the sacrament of Holy Orders in June 1957, it changed my life. I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ. I could forgive sins, I could anoint the sick, and most of all I could celebrate Mass.

At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, and broke it. He, gave it to his Apostles saying, "Take and eat, for this is My Body." Then he took a chalice of wine, gave thanks to His Father, and passed the chalice around to the Apostles, saying, "Take and drink for this My Blood." He actually changed bread and wine into Himself. He distributed consecrated bread and wine around to his apostles and then said to them, "Do this in memory of Me." (Lk. 22:19-20)

When I was ordained a priest in 1957, I received the power to do what Jesus did. During my first Mass, I took bread and wine and repeated the words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. I changed bread and wine into Jesus, truly physically present, alive! Jesus Christ, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, who is fully human, fully God. It was a WOW EXPERIENCE for me then! It is a WOW experience for me now. After celebrating Mass every day for the last fifty-nine and a half years, it continues to be a WOW EXPERIENCE for me every time. What a great privilege!

It is an amazing honor to have the physical presence of Jesus, our God, in our lives today. All of you also experience this WOW encounter with Jesus every time you receive Communion—"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink... Whoever



eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. (Jn. 6:54-57)

The Eucharist is such an amazing truth. Jesus loves us so much that He gave us the gift of Himself in Holy Communion. He is food for our spiritual life. He fills us with His love. May your WOW encounters with Jesus strengthen you and keep you close to Him.

Membership: Amici di Cuore

Vince Piro  
Grand 2nd Vice President  
Membership Chairperson

The Central Council would like to encourage each branch to create an Amici di Cuore program, or Buddy System. It's easy to do and is a great way to retain members. First, the branch president assigns a current member of your branch as a mentor to each new member/family that enters your branch in 2017. The men-

tor calls his or her assigned member before a membership meeting to invite him or her to attend the meeting. The mentor also encourages the new member to become a part of branch activities (such as fundraisers, church activities, trips . . .). Remember to start small and then encourage new members into leadership roles. What else can the mentor do? The mentor can explain "ways" of ICF (rituals, structure, programs) to the new member. The mentor can invite the new member to district

events (such as Bishop's Day and Installations. The mentor can encourage new members to attend the annual convention. The mentor can also act as a liaison between the new member and current membership - introducing him/her, inviting him/her into conversations, and encouraging him/her to share ideas. Through Amici di Cuore, we hope to welcome everyone into our ICF family and improve the retention of new members. Thank you for participating in this program.

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 2016 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 2016 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, 2017. 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.

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Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2016. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

If you have any questions, or need help filing, please call the I.C.F. Office at 1-888-423-1924.

Thank You,

Deborah Rodondi, Grand Treasurer



## 2017 CALENDAR WINNERS

We held off pulling the calendar winners to give everyone a chance to return their ticket stubs to the I.C.F. office by the January 20<sup>th</sup> deadline. The winners' names for January 2017 and February 2017 will be printed in the March 2017 issue. The winners' names will also be available in the Bollettino Highlights on the I.C.F. Web site at [www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org) beginning with the March 2017 issue.

## Who Are You "St. Valentine?"

Denise Antonowicz  
Heritage Chairperson

The story begins during the third century. The Roman Empire had been at war for years. Its power is declining, especially its army. More and more young men were deserting. At the very least, young men were not as likely as previously, to sign up for the army. According to the writings of Emperor Claude II, potential soldiers were more interested in women and in having families than in fighting for the Empire... To solve the problem, "Cruel Claude", as he is then nicknamed, decided purely and simply to forbid weddings throughout the Empire. However, a priest called Valentine decided to defy the law. In secret, he continued to perform weddings. Valentine even encouraged young lovers to meet him, so they can be blessed with the marriage Sacrament. Claude II eventually heard about these activities...and immediately decided to put Valentine in jail. There, the priest befriended the blind daughter of his prison guard. Valentine was eventually sentenced to death. Per the legend, right

before his execution on February, 14<sup>th</sup> 270, he gave sight back to the blind girl. He also gave her a heart-shaped letter, which he signed: "From your Valentine". When the Roman Empire collapsed at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century Valentine was declared a Saint by Pope Gelase I for his sacrifice in the defense of love. It was not until the Middle Ages that Valentine's Day became a day for the celebration of love.

An old Valentine's day custom in France and now officially banned was called the "une loterie d'amour" or "drawing for love". This entailed single people of all ages entering houses that faced opposite each other and calling out through the windows till eventually they paired off with each other. The male suitor if not particularly attracted to his partner would leave her and the women left single would build a large bonfire and ceremoniously burn images of the men that had deserted them while at the same time hurling abuse and curses at the ungrateful men. Though this was probably very therapeutic for the rejected women it was a practice that soon became out of hand and was eventually banned by the French government.

## 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Year Scholarship Program

Materials on the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Scholarship Program were sent to high schools after Thanksgiving and have now been sent to the Districts and Branches in the January mailing.

The Deadline for Donations and Applications is March 15, 2017. Please discuss participating in the program at your meetings by making a donation of a full scholarship of \$400.00, if possible, or a partial donation of any amount. Partial Donations do help to make other scholarships possible when that money is grouped together. Individual Donations are welcomed as well. Please encourage your children, grandchildren or anyone you know who is eligible to apply.

These are the eligibility requirements for students:

A High School Senior, a total cumulative GPA (3 ½ years) of at least 3.2 and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2: 1) Are Roman Catholic and of Italian Descent and live within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Arizona, California, Illinois and Nevada, only where Branches of the Federation are established. or 2) Are Roman Catholic but need not be of Italian Descent or live where Branches of the Federation are established if either Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" - membership of a Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is mandatory for #2.

Please visit or call your local high schools where you would like to see applicants come from and make sure that they are promoting our scholarship program and have applications available.

If you have any questions or applications are needed, please call the I.C.F. office toll-free at 1-888-423-1924.

## ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

### Deputies...

### Do You Know Who Your Deputy Is?

David Botta and Carmen Kilcullen  
Past Grand Presidents

At this time of the year, when Installations take place, the Grand President will also install the District Deputy and the Branch Deputies. If you are not too familiar with these persons, one might ask who are they and what do they do?

Each district should have a District Deputy who works with each Branch Deputy to ensure that the by-laws and proper procedures in a branch are observed. The District Deputy is appointed by the Chief Deputy who is a member of the Central Council. The District Deputy, in turn, suggests persons from the district to be Branch Deputies. The District Deputy should meet with his/her branch deputies once a year.

Branch Deputies are very important to the life of a branch. They report on appropriate subjects at a branch meeting, define points of order when called upon by the branch president, initiate new members, call for a break or even end a meeting when unpleasant situations arise and generally see that the branch practices proper procedures. However, a Branch Deputy does not interfere with the workings of the branch and does not take part in discussions unless called upon for a clarification. The

Branch Deputy presents any complaints or difficulties to the District Deputy for a possible resolution. Branch Deputies should be very familiar with the by-laws as they may be called upon to render an opinion. Branch Deputies usually remain in office until a successor is appointed.

District and Branch Deputies serve as ex-officio voting members of their districts. They should be given recognition of their position and properly introduced at all meetings. They usually sit at the head table with the branch officers.

A deputy's position is very important to the workings of the ICF. It is usually from the deputies that the Central Council is made aware of problems. An alert deputy can also smooth over situations that can be embarrassing or troublesome.

At your next meeting, if you do not know your deputy, make a point of introducing yourself. Deputies like to know the members of the branch to which they are assigned. Welcome your deputy cordially and make that person feel comfortable with the members of the branch.

We have both been deputies and have enjoyed the experience. You might consider being one if and when your District Deputy comes asking.

The 2017 By-Laws have a complete section on Deputies.

## Join us in the Gold Country! 2017 CONVENTION

September 1 - 4

DoubleTree by Hilton - Sacramento

Theme:

"Discovering the Treasures  
of Our Faith and Heritage"





# What is Gene Therapy?

Laurice Levine

MA, CCLS

Gene therapy process works by genetically modifying a patient's own cells by adding a functional copy of the gene that has a mutation. For thalassemia this is the Beta Globin gene. The gene is modified using a viral vector design. And it is called Lentiglobin. The virus is "turned off" so the patient does not fall ill, bone marrow is taken from the patient, the genes are modified using the viral vector and then the working genes are reinfused into the patient. Before the genes are reinserted into the patient the patient undergoes a condition process to help the body get rid of the thalassemia genes. This condition is similar to chemotherapy.

Information about Blue Bird Bio:

Blue Bird Bio (BBB) is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts with offices in Seattle, Washington and Paris, France. BBB is leading the gene therapy revolution and are developing therapies for cancer, cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, and rare blood disorders such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

BBB has clinical trials for gene therapy to investigate the safety and efficacy of their drug products. There is a stringent eligibility criteria at this time so only patients who meet the specifications can participate in the studies.

How can Gene Therapy help people with thalassemia?

Blue Bird Bio's research focuses on patients with beta-thalassemia who depend on routine blood transfusions to survive. However, blood transfusions can cause too much iron to build up in the body and must do a daily infusion or take pills to remove excess iron. This treatment, called iron chelation therapy, has effects and can negatively impact a patient's quality of life. Currently, the only known cure for thalassemia is a bone marrow transplant however the risks are many and include serious infection, bone marrow failure and graft-versus-host-disease. These side effects can be fatal, so transplants are rare and can only be offered to young patients with matched sibling donors, which typically occurs in less than 25 percent of all patients. Gene therapy is a new treatment which offers much promise to people with thalassemia and since no sibling match is needed it may be available to more patients.

Updates on Gene Therapy:

Bluebird bio presented new data from their multi-center gene therapy studies at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting in December.

For more information:

To summarize, bluebird bio provided updates including:

- Updated interim clinical data from the Northstar (HGB-204) study of LentiGlobin drug product in TDT confirm patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up have stopped regular transfusions; patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up had a median

reduction in transfusion volume of 63%

- Drug product vector copy numbers (DP VCNs) for the first HGB-207 and HGB-206 patients who will be treated using LentiGlobin drug product made using our improved manufacturing process (process 2) are 2.9 and 3.3, respectively

- Updated interim clinical data from seven subjects in the HGB-206 study of LentiGlobin drug product in SCD underscore the need for recently implemented protocol amendments seeking to improve HbAT87Q production in this population

SAN DIEGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 5, 2016-- bluebird bio, Inc. ([Nasdaq: BLUE](#)), a clinical-stage company committed to developing potentially transformative gene therapies for severe genetic diseases and T cell-based immunotherapies for cancer, provided updates across its hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) gene therapy programs, including:

- Updated interim clinical data from the Northstar (HGB-204) study of LentiGlobin drug product in transfusion-dependent  $\beta$ -thalassemia (TDT) confirm patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up have stopped regular transfusions; patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up had a median reduction in transfusion volume of 63%

- Drug product vector copy numbers (DP VCNs) for the first HGB-207 and HGB-206 patients who will be treated using LentiGlobin drug product made using our improved manufacturing process (process 2) are 2.9 and 3.3, respectively

- Updated interim clinical data from seven subjects in the HGB-206 study of LentiGlobin drug product in severe sickle cell disease (SCD) underscore the need for recently implemented protocol amendments seeking to improve HbA<sup>T87Q</sup> production in this population

- Company to expand enrollment in Starbeam study of Lenti-D<sup>TM</sup> in cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy (CALD) by eight patients

"Our focus is learning, adjusting and implementing to innovate on behalf of the patients we aim to serve. This year we have made tremendous progress against this objective," said Nick Leschly, chief bluebird. "In 2016, we focused on further enhancing our LentiGlobin programs in TDT and SCD by implementing high potential manufacturing and protocol amendments while advancing our lead bb2121 oncology program and commercialization capabilities. We are encouraged by the data presented at ASH and how that has informed our plans for 2017."

## T D T P r o g r a m U p d a t e s

The company announced that the first patient has been enrolled in Northstar-2 (HGB-207), a Phase 3, global, multi-center study in patients with TDT with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes. This study uses LentiGlobin drug product manufactured with updated processes using transduction enhancers. LentiGlobin DP VCN for the first patient to be treated in Northstar-2 is 2.9 vector copies per diploid genome (c/dg), with 77% of the stem cells lentiviral vector positive (LVV+).

Interim data from the Northstar study were highlighted today in an oral presentation by Alexis Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., head of the hematology section of the Division of Hematology Oncology Transplantation and Director of the Comprehensive Thalassemia Program at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, where she also serves as the A. Watson and Sarah Armour Endowed Chair for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders.

LentiGlobin Gene Therapy for Transfusion-Dependent  $\beta$ -Thalassemia: Update from the Northstar (HGB-204) Phase 1/2 Clinical Study (Abstract #1175)

The Northstar Study is an ongoing, open-label, single-dose, international, multicenter Phase 1/2 study designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of LentiGlobin drug product for the treatment of subjects with TDT. Results as of September 16, 2016 include:

- Ten patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and eight patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes have received LentiGlobin drug product. The median follow-up was 17 months (range: 6.3 – 29.8 months); two patients have completed the two-year primary analysis period.

- The median DP VCN for patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes was 0.8 c/dg (range: 0.3 – 1.1 c/dg); for patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes, the median DP VCN was 0.7 c/dg (range: 0.3 – 1.5 c/dg). The median cell dose for patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes was  $7.1 \times 10^6$  CD34+ cells/kg (range:  $5.2 - 13.0 \times 10^6$  cells/kg); for patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes, the median cell dose was  $11.0 \times 10^6$  CD34+ cells/kg (range:  $6.1 - 18.1 \times 10^6$  cells/kg).

- The median in vivo VCN at six months of follow-up was 0.4 c/dg (range 0.1-0.9 c/dg, n=10) in patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and 0.3 c/dg (range 0.1-1.0 c/dg, n=8) in patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes.

- All patients with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes with  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up (n=5) have stopped regular transfusions (median total hemoglobin: 11.7 g/dL; range: 9.5 – 12.5 g/dL). At last follow-up, the median total hemoglobin of all patients (n=10) with non- $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes (median follow up: 14.7 months; range: 6.3 – 29.8 months) was 10.3 g/dL (range: 7.2 – 12.5 g/dl).

- Patients with  $\beta^0/\beta^0$  genotypes and  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up had a median reduction in annualized transfusion volume of 63% (range 47 – 78%) and median reduction in annualized transfusion frequency of 65% (range 31 – 81%), calculated based on their transfusion requirements from month 6 to data cut-off. The median follow-up was 17.3 months (range: 6.7 – 25.4 months). Hemoglobin fractions at month 12 show consistent production of HbA<sup>T87Q</sup> across genotypes  $\geq 12$  months of follow-up.

- A correlation between VCN and HbA<sup>T87Q</sup> production was observed.

- The safety profile remains consistent with myeloablative conditioning using single agent busulfan with no  $\geq$  Grade 3 drug product-related adverse events (AEs) reported.

"The maturing interim data from the Northstar study support the potential for LentiGlobin to provide a transformative treatment option for patients with TDT by reducing or eliminating the burdensome cycle of chronic blood transfusions and iron chelation," said David Davidson,

chief medical officer, bluebird bio. "In addition, we are pleased by the robust vector copy number and high proportion of LVV+ CD34+ stem cells in the drug product manufactured using transduction enhancers for the first patient to be treated in the Phase 3 Northstar-2 study. If the clinical correlation between drug product VCN and hemoglobin production observed in the Northstar study continues with drug product manufactured utilizing process 2, we are hopeful that LentiGlobin drug product with higher VCNs will consistently yield clinically meaningful outcomes for patients with TDT across all genotypes."

Severe Sickle Cell Disease Program Updates  
bluebird bio has amended the protocol of the ongoing HGB-206 study in patients with severe SCD to incorporate several changes with the goal of increasing production of HbA<sup>T87Q</sup>, such as increasing the percentage of transduced cells through manufacturing improvements, increasing target busulfan area under the curve (AUC), introducing a minimum period of regular blood transfusions prior to stem cell collection and exploring an alternate hematopoietic stem cell procurement method with the goal of increasing transduced cell dose. Enrollment has begun under this modified protocol, and the DP VCN for the first patient enrolled under the new protocol was 3.3 c/dg, with 83% of the stem cells LVV+, with infusion planned for early 2017.

Interim data from the HGB-206 study were highlighted today in an oral presentation by Julie Kanter, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

Interim Results from a Phase 1/2 Clinical Study of LentiGlobin<sup>TM</sup> Gene Therapy for Severe Sickle Cell Disease (Abstract #1176)

HGB-206 is an ongoing, open-label study designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of LentiGlobin drug product in the treatment of subjects with severe SCD. Results, as of November 9, 2016, include:

- Seven patients with severe SCD have been infused with LentiGlobin drug product under the original study protocol. All patients are 18+ years of age with a history of symptomatic SCD, adequate organ function/performance status and no previous hematopoietic stem cell transplant or gene therapy.

The median LentiGlobin drug product cell dose was  $2.1 \times 10^6$  CD34+ cells/kg (range:  $1.6 - 5.1 \times 10^6$  cells/kg)

Transfusion-dependent  $\beta$ -thalassemia (TDT), also called  $\beta$ -thalassemia major or Cooley's anemia, is an inherited blood disease that can cause severe anemia and can be fatal within the first few years of life if not treated. TDT is one of the most common genetic diseases in the world, and approximately 60,000 children are born every year with a serious form of the disease.

Despite advances in the supportive conventional management of the disease, which consists of frequent and lifelong blood transfusions and iron chelation therapy, there is still a significant unmet medical need, including the risk for significant morbidity and early mortality. Currently, the only advanced treatment option for transfusion-dependent  $\beta$ -thalassemia is allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT). Complications of allogeneic HSCT include a significant risk of treatment-related mortality, graft



Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza  
Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations\*

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
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Phil Mages	Vince and Robyn Piro
George Bacigalupi	Vince and Robyn Piro
George Bacigalupi	David and Pat Botta
George Bacigalupi	Officers/Members of Santa Rosa District
George Bacigalupi	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Marie Burt	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
George Bacigalupi	Vic and Pat Arnaudo
Phil Mages	The Kilcullen Family
Brinton Moore	Mary Rossetto
George Bacigalupi	Charlyne Pacini
Frank Mencarini	Susan Mencarini and Jay Newsome
Robert Goodwin	Officers/Members of Br. 161
Robert Peruzzo	Barbara Firpo
Barbara Murray	Officers/Members of Br. 163
Filomena C. Pacheco	Jim and Dottie Smith
Phil Mages	Leonard and B.G. Zasoski, Jr.
George Bacigalupi	Leonard and B.G. Zasoski, Jr.

HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY:

Millie Sorci	Giulia Gallego
--------------	----------------

\*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.

failure, graft vs. host disease (GvHD) and opportunistic infections, particularly in patients who undergo non-sibling-matched allogeneic HSCT

About bluebird bio, Inc.

With its lentiviral-based gene therapies, T cell immunotherapy expertise and gene editing capabilities, bluebird bio has built an integrated product platform with broad potential application to severe genetic diseases and cancer. bluebird bio's gene therapy clinical programs include its Lenti-D™ product candidate, currently in a Phase 2/3 study, called the Starbeam Study, for the treatment of cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, and its LentiGlobin™ BB305 product candidate, currently in four clinical studies for the treatment of transfusion-dependent

β-thalassemia and severe sickle cell disease. bluebird bio's oncology pipeline is built upon the company's leadership in lentiviral gene delivery and T cell engineering, with a focus on developing novel T cell-based immunotherapies, including chimeric antigen receptor (CAR T) and T cell receptor (TCR) therapies. bluebird bio's lead oncology program, bb2121, is an anti-BCMA CAR T program partnered with Celgene. bb2121 is currently being studied in a Phase 1 trial for the treatment of relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma. bluebird bio also has discovery research programs utilizing megaTALs/homing endonuclease gene editing technologies with the potential for use across the company's pipeline.

bluebird bio has operations in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Seattle, Washington; and Paris, France.

bluebird bio Presents New Data from HGB-205 Study of LentiGlobin™ Drug Product in Patients with Transfusion-Dependent α-Thalassemia (TDT) and Severe Sickle Cell Disease at American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting

Cooley's Anemia Donations

Donations Received by January 10, 2017

THANK YOU FOR PREPARING THE BRANCH CHRISTMAS DINNER:  
Anne Madej  
Officers and Members of Br. 91

BRANCH DONATIONS:  
Branch 39  
Fresno District

Scholarship Donations

Donations received by January 10, 2017

Scholarship Donations - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Year  
Deborah Rodondi  
In memory of George Bacigalupi

In Loving Memory

Report Date: 01/10/2017	ROBERT W GOODWIN	Branch 161
	FRANK BONACORSI	Branch 184
ELEANOR BACHLE	GERTRUDE KLEM	Branch 184
MARY NANO	VICTORIO A TORCHIO	Branch 198
SALVATORE BASILE	ENIS H HAVEY	Branch 215
MARY LOMAX	EMILIE WEATHERMON	Branch 241
SANDI M MILLER	HELEN ZAHRA	Branch 258
DELLA FALONI	BRYAN M HICKLE	Branch 308
GIULIA RAFFANTI		

Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

Report Date: 01/10/2017	KELLI L MICHAUD	Branch 281
	DONALD GATTI	Branch 308
STEPHANIE C CROFT	ANDREW D CHAPMAN	Branch 395
REV MARTIN CAIN	ERIC V CHAPMAN	Branch 395
MARIE P BLANKLEY	CAROLYN L HENSLEY	Branch 403
STEPHEN M BLANKLEY	MICHAEL S HENSLEY	Branch 403
ANDREW J HABING	ANNA BERTRAND	Branch 413
KATHLEEN ANTONGIOVANNI	CORA BERTRAND	Branch 413
	JAMES BERTRAND	Branch 413
MARIA T CETANI	JIM BERTRAND	Branch 413
DARIO DI MAGGIO	ADRI CUTRIGNELLI	Branch 435
MARIA B DI MAGGIO	FLORIANA CUTRIGNELLI	Branch 435
JOANN DONANGELO		
MARIE DONANGELO	MAURIZIO CUTRIGNELLI	Branch 435
MOST REV RICHARD J GARCIA		
	MICHELE CUTRIGNELLI	Branch 435
KRISTINA LEONARD		
KATHRYN MERCURIO	SARA D CUTRIGNELLI	Branch 435
CHRIS E PANETTA		
ELIZABETH M PANETTA	BRENDA L DELLA MAGGIORE	Branch 435
MELISSA J SPECIALE		
RENAE V WHITESIDE	FRANCESCA R DELLA MAGGIORE	Branch 435
MIKE O WHITESIDE, SR		
EMILIA DESCALSO	GIOVANNI P DELLA MAGGIORE	Branch 435
PAULA DOUGHERTY		
VINCE DOUGHERTY	ISABELLA V DELLA MAGGIORE	Branch 435
KATHY MC MASTER		
CAROL L ALLEN	NICHOLAS J DELLA MAGGIORE	Branch 435
DIANA PICONE		
LOUIS JANIS	VEE HUDSON	Branch 435
JOHN C DE SOUSA	BOBBIE ZAUCHA	Branch 435
SHARON L DE SOUSA	JOHN ZAUCHA	Branch 435
YOLANDA (ANDY) FRIEND	LORETTA MORRIS	Branch 442
	SUE PATTON	Branch 443

Gifts of Love  
Donations

Donations received by January 10, 2017

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
Frank Basuino	Judy Scott
John Legge	John and Terry Giannetto
Yolanda Arnaudo	Arthur Bree

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT:  
Bill Greco  
Santa Clara Valley District

BRANCH DONATIONS:  
Branch 5  
Branch 39  
Branch 115  
Branch 391

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:  
The Greco Family Christmas Open House Fundraiser



# BOOK REVIEW

## Vince Piro

Grand 2nd Vice President  
Branch 39, Merced



## Italian and Italian-American Bookstores

Over the years, members have asked me where do I find books about Italians and Italian-Americans to review. Many suggestions come from members, who pass along a recommendation to me; however, there are some websites and bookstores that I find invaluable sources of information and inspiration. I thought I would share some online bookstores with you this month.

### I AM Books

This bookstore refers to itself as An Italian American Cultural Hub, and according to their website, "I AM Books is the country's first Italian American bookstore. Situated in the heart of the North End, Boston's iconic Italian neighborhood, the bookstore serves as a cultural hub for locals and visitors interested in diving into the rich world of Italian and Italian American literature, history, research, art and more." While I have never been to Boston, I find I AM Books' website a great source of information about a variety of subjects regarding Italians and Italian-Americans: Children's Books in Italian, Learning Italian, Cookbooks, History, Italian and Italian-American Literature in

English, and even Comics and Magazines. The website also hosts a blog with regular updates, reviews, and opinions about books, and on this site, you can sign up for the I AM Books newsletter.

I find the website to be well-designed, easy to navigate, and full of inspiration for reading material.

### Rizzoli Bookstore

I bookstore that I have visited is Rizzoli's Bookstore in New York City. According to the store's website, "Rizzoli's has been widely considered one of the foremost independent booksellers in America specializing in illustrated books on architecture, interior design, fashion, photography, cookery, and the fine and applied arts, as well as literature, and foreign language books. Rizzoli Bookstore has been, and will continue to be a literary landmark in New York City, and a celebrated destination for important authors and book lovers from all over the world . . . Our collection of books is specialized in illustrated subjects – fashion, interior design, art, architecture, photography, design – and literature, in Italian, French, Spanish, and English.

But all subjects of general interest are represented and we carry a selection of European magazines and newspapers. We also carry a fine selection of compact discs and DVDs, and our selection of note cards and stationery is a constant delight to our customers." The website contains an interesting journal, cataloging the events at the store and provides the visitor with a catalog of merchandise and books.

I find the website an interesting place to visit since it contains much information and good recommendations about books on a wide variety of subjects, but panically on illustrated books.

### Libreria Pino - An Italian Bookstore Online

Based out of San Francisco, Libreria Pino is an online Italian bookstore, concentrating on Italian language books, music and film with a selection of books, music and film for all ages. There are books on a variety of subjects for adults from biographies to philosophy to politics to literature and more. They also have an extensive collection of popular books for children learning Italian. The store also has DVDS, CDs, and Audiobooks. If you speak Italian or want to learn Italian, this is the online bookstore for you. You can find the store on Facebook or at <https://www.libreriapino.com>.

<http://www.italianamericanwriters.com/toc.html>

### The Italian American Press

Founded in 2001, the Italian American Press features Italian and Italian American Authors and Books. This website is "helps promote books primarily written by authors of Italian heritage who write about Italian American and Italian culture, heritage, and/or history. Many of these writers publish, distribute, and promote their own books, and they are often overlooked by the media." I have found it an invaluable source for books on fiction, travel, and history.

The site also promotes its own published titles, which include books in a variety of genres, from young-adult through romance.

Of course, many bookstores, including San Francisco's City Lights Books, carry books about Italy, Italian-Americans, and the Italian language. These are just a few online bookstores that I thought readers might find interesting. I might have left your favorite Italian bookstore off the list, but if you know of other bookstores (either online or brick and mortar), please send me an email at [vpairo@icloud.com](mailto:vpairo@icloud.com). If I get enough responses, I will do a follow-up column to this one. Until then, happy reading.

## Family Recipes

By Deborah Rodondi Grand Treasurer

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!!** Hopefully you have most of your Christmas decorations put away for another year. I am usually lucky if I am finished by Valentines Day, and no matter what sometime in July I will notice something that was not taken down and of course at that point I figure might as well leave it up, as I will be starting to decorate in just a few months.

This dish I am sharing with you is one my Great Grandmother (Since I already had a Nonnie, I called her "the other Nonnie") Margherita Bottini Milani brought from Lonate Pozzollo, Italy to her new home in Pleasanton, CA. My Nonnie (Grandmother) use to make it for mom and me all the time. Unfortunately the recipe was not written down. Luckily my Nonnies sister Virginia Milani Bonalanza, from South San Francisco, made this dish also and she invited us over for a demonstration and then we stayed for dinner. So with pen and paper in hand I followed each step and wrote it down, so that we could continue to enjoy this wonderful comfort food.

Not too long ago my brother Robert and I were sitting around the kitchen table talking about some of the Italian dishes our family made and he told me that when he worked in the produce market he use to get the cabbage for a friends mom and she would make this dish and invite him for dinner.

I am told the Columbo Club in Oakland serves this dish occasionally also.

I am guessing on the spelling of the name, I could find nothing on the internet to help me out with it, so it is phonetically spelled out. I did find recipes for Cassoeula or Cazzoeula that have the same ingredients and from the Lombardy region, which is were my family is from.

### Cazzerta (Pork and Cabbage)

In large pot use oil to brown well 5 pounds of pork (a combination of baby back ribs, pigs feet or skin, and roast cut into cubes/pieces)(if you use pigs feet rinse with vinegar—no I do not know why!).

After meat is browned put in:

large glass of wine (make that 2...one for the cook)

1 small can (15 ounce) broth (I use chicken)

1 small can (8 ounce) tomato sauce

Simmer while making sauce.

Sauce:

¼ pound butter and 2 Tbsp. olive oil, cook until it froths up but does not burn.

Add 1 very large onion (diced) and sauté (caramelize)

Add: 3 large garlic cloves, minced

2 to 3 Tbsp. rosemary and sage, chopped

3 Tbsp. parsley

2 large carrots, sliced

3 stalks celery, sliced

Continue sautéing.

Add: ¾ cup white wine

Small can tomato sauce

½ can broth

Simmer about ½ hour.

Add to pork, stir.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Cook low at medium heat for about 1 hour.

Add 3 heads cabbage (cored) and cut up, once cabbage has cooked down it is ready to serve. Napa or savoy cabbage works best,

it holds up better in the stew. Sound like a lot of cabbage but it wilts down.

Can freeze in serving size container for a future meal.

Delicious on a chilly evening. Serve with crusty French bread and a glass of your favorite wine. Some even serve it with polenta.

Hoping you might like to share some of your specialties or the family recipes that have been handed down with the members of the ICF. Send them to me at [drodondi@comcast.net](mailto:drodondi@comcast.net) or mail to the ICF office include a story if any. If you have questions send them also, I may not be able to answer them but we can put them out there for our readers and maybe find what you are looking for.

*Buon Appetito!*

## Italian Catholic Federation Facebook Page

Join us on our Facebook page.  
Like us and let us know what your branch is doing. This is a great way to let others know of events happening in their area.



# La Celebrazione di Gioventu -- The Celebration of Youth

Submitted by Roselynn Jarrett  
Central Council Life Member

## Happy Valentine's Day!

Find the hidden objects.



## Live to Give: Learn About Blood Components

Live to Give Committee

Whole blood has four components that can be transfused. Each component serves a special function in our bodies, and when donated can benefit several different patients. Whole blood is often used for surgery and trauma patients.

Red blood cells (RBC's) carry oxygen from the lungs to your body's tissue and take carbon dioxide back to your lungs to be exhaled. Patients who can benefit from RBC's: trauma, surgery, thalassemia, sickle cell disease, anemia,

Platelets are small, colorless cell fragments in the blood whose main function is to interact with clotting proteins to stop or prevent bleeding. Patients who can benefit from platelets: hemophilia, bone marrow and organ transplant, cancer, surgery.

Plasma is a fluid, composed of about 92% water, 7% vital proteins such as albumin, gamma globulin, anti-hemophilic factor, and other clotting factors, and 1% mineral salts, sugars, fats, hormones and vitamins. Patients who can benefit from plasma: burn, shock, bleeding disorders/

Cryoprecipitated Antihemophilic Factor (Cryo) is a portion of plasma rich in clotting factors, including Factor VIII and

fibrinogen. It is prepared by freezing and then slowly thawing the frozen plasma. Patients who can benefit from Cryo: Hemophilia, Von Willebrand disease.

Another component of blood that IS NOT transfusable is the White blood cells (WBC's) which are the body's defenses against disease. Some white cells destroy bacteria, some produce antibodies against bacteria and viruses, and others help fight malignant diseases. WBC's maintain the immune system, but when present in donated blood, they serve no purpose. In fact, WBC's may even be damaging to the blood recipient, causing immune suppression and releasing toxic substances. Therefore, WBC's are removed from the transfusable blood components, a process called leuko-reduction.

There are several different types of white blood cells, one being granulocytes. Granulocytes are only used in more specialized transfusion therapy to treat serious infections that are unresponsive to antibiotic therapy.

Source:

[http://www.redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood/blood-components#blood\\_components\\_table](http://www.redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood/blood-components#blood_components_table)

## A Great Gift for the New Year!

The Trilogy of the Life of Saint Junipero Serra



and the 21 Californian Missions  
Mallorca - Mexico - California

Albert G. Giordano Ph.D., KHS

The book is a pictorial history of the life of Saint Junipero Serra in Petra and Palma, Mallorca, Spain, and then his 99-day voyage to Veracruz, Mexico. It depicts his long walk to Mexico City where he first taught and served the seminarians at San Fernando College. Later he was assigned to the five Missions in the Gorda Mountains. He then worked among the Native Americans of Baja California, and then founded the first 9 of the 21 Missions in California. He has been recognized as the Father of California heritage and known as the "Apostle of California" bringing Christianity to the Native Americans. Carmel Mission became his headquarters and he is buried at the foot of the altar. On September 23, 2015, Pope Francis proclaimed Junipero Serra a Saint in a special canonized mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Washington, DC.

### ~ Order Form ~

The Trilogy of the Life of Saint Junipero Serra and the 21 Californian Missions

Price: \$25.00 each or 5 at \$100 (includes shipping)

Special 10 for \$150

Please send your check to:

Special 22 for \$300

Al Giordano • PO Box 3673 • Carmel, CA 93921

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions?

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Dr. Al Giordano

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

bigalbysea2004@yahoo.com

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 831.512.3225

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.  
Vice President Construction Operations  
Director of Safety



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www.colomboconstruction.com



The Ways and Means Committee presents the 2018 "Daily Raffle" theme:

## "Our Stories, Our Recipes"

**We need your participation. So how can you help?**

- Share a special story or anecdote about your family heritage and history.
- Share a family recipe that holds a fond memory you think others might enjoy.
- **Sell! Sell! Sell!** The "Daily Raffle" is a great fundraiser for the entire Italian Catholic Federation, since a portion of every sale goes directly to your branch!

List special family occasions such as family birthdays, anniversaries, graduations...branch and district events.

### PRICE SCHEDULE

**\$10 – one name/event; \$15 – 2 names/events;  
\$20 – 4 names/events**



(Additional numbers will be a combination of prices listed above)

Example: **\$30 – 5 names/events @ \$20 + \$10 or**

**\$40 – 8 names/events @ \$20 + \$20**  
Deadline for names and payment is: **May 1, 2017**

**Mail information and checks payable to:**

Italian Catholic Federation  
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110  
Oakland, CA 94621

*The Committee thanks you for your continued support!*

*Chairperson: Lisa Crudo*

*Members: Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Leonard Rossi,*

*Denise Antonowicz, Patricia Mages, and Nina Malone*

**For further questions, call the I.C.F. office at (510) 633-9058 or Lisa Crudo (510) 861-9835**



(Above) Branch 195 Members setting refreshment table for the Christmas concert reception in December 2016.

(Right) President – elect Steven Kiernicki and Rose Mangiarcina at the Branch 195 Christmas Luncheon.

Happy Birthday!

Dr. James Izzo

Ciao,

Cathy

### Itasca

#### St. Peter the Apostle, Br. 418

Happy New Year to all I.C.F. members and their families, from the officers and members of branch 418. May God Bless everyone with good health, peace and happiness in the new year.

Despite the inclement weather, our branch Christmas party on Dec. 16th, was a big success. The generosity of all those attending is enabling us to continue with our charitable endeavors for 2017. We thank everyone who attended.

We will not have a branch meeting for February. Because many of our members will be in Florida, plans are that we will have a meeting on March 19th, in Florida. More details will follow next month.

A reminder that our Bishop's Day Dinner Dance will be on Sunday, April 30th, at the Alta Villa Banquets in Addison. More



information will follow shortly.

Please keep all our sick members and their caregivers in your prayers.

*May God Bless,*

*Rita*

## Fresno

### Madera

#### Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

On December 11<sup>th</sup> Over 60 members and guests attended the Christmas party at the Madera Municipal Golf Course. Everyone was treated to a wonderful meal of tri-tip, and chicken, several varieties of salad, rolls and yummy eggnog. Thanks to the December committee, chairmen: Louise Chiarelli, committee: Ray Chiarelli, Mike Chiarelli, Carol Chiarelli, Jack, Jennifer and Juliana Chiarelli, Elsie Bottorff, Monty and Leona Pistoresi, and Ila Schoettler. Monty Pistoresi did his usual outstanding job as MC. Thanks Monty you always add so much to any party. Bob Rolan



(Above) Father James Catalano ICF Branch 27 Chaplin accepting a donation to St. Joachim Church.

(Top Left) Betty Scalise, Branch 27 ICF member, accepting a donation on behalf of the Holy Family Table.

(Bottom) MC Monty Pistoresi and Branch 27 Christmas party chairman Louise Chiarelli.

## Chicago

### Calumet City

#### St. Victor, Br. 195

Memories of the outstanding events ending 2016 are still aglow. For the first time, we successfully co-hosted a reception after St. Victor's Annual Christmas concert. Rose Mangiarcina was honored at our wonderful Christmas party for being the oldest member in both age and years of continuous membership. Rose joined the Branch when it was formally initiated in September 1965, nearly 52 years ago. She was given a Christmas ornament depicting St. Victor Church as a token of her loyalty and dedication. Our Branch officers for 2017 are intent on leading members to create new and enjoyable events and memories. They are:

President - Steven Kiernicki

Vice-President - Susan Banach

Recording/Financial Secretary - Michele Kiernicki

Orator - George French

Trustees - Elaine Malenki and Maris Liki

They will need the help of all Branch members to set and achieve goals and to increase membership. We ask for special blessings for members who have been unable to attend meetings and events. You have been missed.

### River Forest

#### St. Vincent Ferrer, Br. 358

Happy New Year! May the new year be a healthy, happy one for you & yours!

First of all, we would all like to shout out a huge thank you to our outgoing President Dr. James Izzo. We can't thank him enough for being our fearless leader & devoted crusader of all good apostolic works that the ICF practices throughout the years while he was our President. However, he's not off the hook yet because we expect his presence and input at all our meetings.

Congratulations to our new President Judith Schweickert. We're very excited and look forward to this new year working with you!

Many things to look forward to and much planning and work ahead to make this the best ever ICF year for Branch 358!





and his beautiful voice led the Christmas carols accompanied by Rick DeCarlo on his accordian. We were able to donate approximately \$1000.00, to St. Joachim Church and other ministries in the Parish. On a sad note we lost long-time member, Emily Boitano, in the early morning hours of January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to pray for our ill and injured members.

Ciao,  
Kerin Cavallero

**Fresno**  
**Our Lady of Victory, Br. 32**

The new board launched its year with gusto. Our pre-meeting dinner consisted of warm cozy soups with crackers, bread, and a delicious dessert. Prior to the meeting, members began creating Valentine cards to honor our hospitalized Veterans. We're going to visit the vets at the VA Hospital on Feb. 14, as a community service projects.

Our courageous leader for two years, Claire Pisching, set out calendar. She was a great aid in keeping our group together and focused. Her leadership will be greatly missed. God Bless You, Claire, for a job well done. We look forward to your support for this coming year.

The Membership Chairperson is Beverly Magana. On the weekend of Feb. 4 – 5, a Membership Drive will take place. Beverly is ready with a display board, ICF brochures, ICF business cards with local information, lollipops, and Italian cookies. She is being supported by members and fellow officers. Her posse of smiling greeters are ready to round up potential members.

Peggy Barbato has moved. Give her a call. She'd love to hear from you. She is doing well with a great attitude and courage. Yvonne Saldubehere has a new heart valve. Isn't modern medicine incredible? Thank God, Yvonne is back at home and healed. Eleanor is much better and has been seen out and about. Please let the officers know when you become aware of ailing or hospitalized members. I believe prayers do make a difference.

Our fundraising Italian Dinner is April 8, 2017. Get your tickets early, since only 200 tickets will be sold. Call Elaine Lencioni at 559 834 2278 to secure tickets.

Ciao and Pace,  
Patricia Vivenzi

**Bakersfield**  
**San Luigi, Br. 33**



Caption: FRESNO -- Branch 250, Clovis, CA - A mural created on the century-old barn on the Breschini Ranch near Gonzales, CA. Eddie Pisoni (left) and Elvezio Breschini (right) were honored. (See the story in Branch 250 news article.)

Branch 33 was happy to welcome Laurice Levine as a speaker once again. She reported on the latest progress in Cooley's Anemia research and treatment. Laurice, herself, is a testament to advances in both research and modern treatment of this disease. She is also an old friend to Branch 33.

In December, members donated seventy pairs of winter gloves to The St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to their homeless clients. Members are currently collecting winter socks for St. Vincent's.

Judy Jacobs, former St. Francis of Assisi Parish Administrator and Branch 33 member, was recognized for her many years of dedicated service to the Parish. Judy has retired and will be missed. However, Judy does plan to assist the parish in other ways as needed by the Pastor and Parish community.

Alan Watts of Branch 281 discussed and updated plans regarding the up-coming joint fundraiser, Night at the Races.

Roberta Cerri Teglia

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

We celebrated our annual Epiphany potluck dinner on January 4. Several of the members who attended brought gifts to be exchanged and "stolen". A good time was had by all.

Shirley Mitchell and a group at OLPH took a bus trip to Duarte to the Poinsettia Farm and to Hilmar to the cheese factory. Everyone enjoyed the trip.

Melissa Squeo's first grade students were awarded a grant from a 9/11 organization for their community service project honoring firefighters and police officers involved on 9/11.

Rich and Mary Zonarini's family celebrated Christmas and their granddaughter's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on a cruise to Ensenada.

There is a century-old barn on the Breschini Ranch off Highway 101 just north of Gonzales, California, which recently was transformed. A new roof was installed and the foundation was repaired. Then an artist, John Cerney, began his magic. He created a mural which is comprised of 1,100 painted panels attached to the barn. (See the picture in this issue) This mural is a tribute to two iconic figures of the local farming community in the beautiful Salinas Valley, Eddie Pisoni and Elvezio "Saw" Breschini. The Farmall 300 tractor pictured in the center was Saw's favorite tractor. Saw Breschini, now 97 years old, is the father of ICF Branch 250 member, Linda Stockwell. The barn is on the ranch where she grew up.

She remembers spending many hours in that barn working and playing.

Happy Birthday to our February celebrants, Sherrie Attolico (2/16) and Frank Pimentel (2/25).

Happy Valentine's Day to Everyone!

Ciao!  
LeAnne Lavagnino

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

Our January potluck meeting was a great kick-off to the New Year! Our branch discussed many upcoming events, and we are excited to do our best to make 2017 a strong and prosperous year. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought something to share!

Our February is very full this year. To begin, we are hosting coffee and donuts on the 5th--grab a pastry and stay a while to chat with parishioners! What better way to show people what the ICF is all about? Our regular meeting will be in the parish hall on February 9th--I heard there will be a Valentine's Day surprise. Better come to the meeting to find out what!

Mark your calendars on February 25 for our Nite at the Races event! If you've attended in the past, you know how much fun this will be. I personally have a hard time controlling my excitement watching the horses run towards the finish line! It will be held in conjunction with Branch 33, at the St. Francis Church Youth Center.

Lastly, there are two events on February 26 where your attendance would be very appreciated! The Fresno District Installation is at Holy Spirit Church in Fresno. It would be wonderful if you could represent our branch with your attendance--ask Allen Watts about carpooling! Secondly, the OLPH Mardi Gras will be held this day. As always our branch will be in charge of games; it's always fun to contribute to the joyful atmosphere and engage with our church community at this event. Ask George Carson for volunteer information.

Baci e abbracci,  
Kristen Watts

**Fresno**  
**St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 308**

Branch 308 continued to meet, for fellowship and ministry support, after assisting with the ICF Labor Day Convention, hosted in Downtown Fresno this year. In addition to gathering monthly, for dinner



St. Anthony's Branch 308 members Eddie Girado, Lauri Andreoni, Maria and Larry Pricolo, enjoy a catered Christmas Dinner at a local restaurant.



Branch 111 celebrating November Birthdays.

meetings, we held two successful weekend sausage sandwich sales during the Fall. Dedicated teams met to prepare, and sell, the sandwiches - with much commaradary. Our annual Christmas Dinner, at Pardinis, was an especially wonderful evening. It was a nice opportunity to both experience the joy of giving, by donating a toy for the local children's hospital, and enjoy each other's company - as attested by the photo of members Eddie Girardo, Lauri Andreoni, Maria and Larry Pricolo.

**Los Angeles**  
**Archdiocese District**  
**Montebello**  
**St. Benedict, Br. 111**

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Please attend a St. Joseph Meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, (corner of Cleveland Ave.) in Montebello. We need everyone's support to make this year's St. Joseph Table a successful event. Please mark your calendars - The 2017 ICF Officer's Installation will be held at St. Bede the Venerable Church at La Canada Flintridge, on Sunday, February 12, 2017, Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed with installation of officers, and then lunch at the Parish Hall. Our February General Meeting and San Valentino Potluck Dinner will be on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, (corner of Cleveland Ave.) in Montebello. Join us for a pre-meeting Valentine's potluck dinner. The branch will provide vegetable lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and water, coffee, & wine, and cake. Bring your favorite main dish or side dish to share. All are welcome! Congratulations to Irena Scorgia, Carmelina Palmeri, Lynn Enrico, Florence Terramani, Sandro





Mercuri, Christina Castello, and Eileen Viera who celebrate birthdays this month.

Our St. Joseph Table this year will be held on Saturday & Sunday, March 18 & 19, 2017 at St. Benedict Parish Hall. Set up will be on Friday, March 17th, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The monies we will raise at this event will allow us to support our parish, offer scholarships to St. Benedict School graduating students, support our clergy and Seminarians, scholarships to graduating high school students, Cooley's Anemia, and other worthwhile charities.

*God Bless!*

*Frank Salomone*

## Los Angeles

### St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

Thank you to all members and friends of ICF who attended our turn around fundraiser to San Manuel Casino. The funds raised help our branch support the many charities that are dear to our branch. Many thanks to Pauline Iacono for her work in organizing these events!.

Our Feb Potluck Meeting will be held on Feb 16 at 6pm. Please call Carmela Gioiello and let her know what tasty dish you will be sharing!

At our Jan meeting Neal discussed our upcoming Swordfish dinner dance in honor

Members of Branch 111 enjoying a Christmas celebration together.

of St. John Joseph of the Cross on March 4. Mass will be offered at 8am. Refreshments to follow in auditorium. Dinner will start at 6pm. This year's menu will again consist of BBQ swordfish, shrimp, linguine with clams, wine and spumoni ice cream for dessert. Music will be provided by Tony Ciaramitaro band. Tickets are \$40.00 per person. If you would like to help out with dinner and or purchase tickets please call Neal Dileva at 310 433-1044.

Save the date March 10<sup>th</sup> Lenten poor man's meal of pasta e fagioli hosted by ICF branch 115 after 5:15pm mass. Please attend and support this event.

Scholarship applications are now available and can be downloaded from the ICF.org website for graduating high School Seniors. Applications are also available at local High School counselor's office. If your senior is having trouble finding the application please call Neal .

Happy Valentine's Day to all members! Please keep our sick and deceased members in your prayers.

Special birthday wishes to our President Neal DiLeva. Thank you for setting a fine example for all of us!

*Anita Gioiello Trujillo*

*Treasurer*

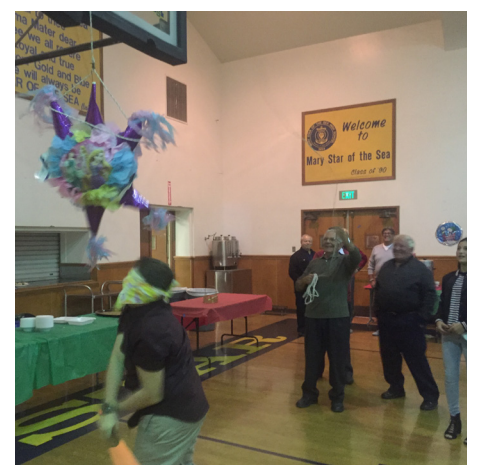
## Gardena

### St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 237

January we focused on selling our calendars, (Uncle Louie won in December!!!) and new members.

We are now planning are annual trip to Laughlin, stay tuned for details.

December and January again proved to be



San Pedro Branch 115 celebrated their Christmas Party with dinner, games pignata and sing along. Santa was non other then Jerry Di Leva. New 2017 officers were introduced.

very busy months for us. We Celebrated Jesus's Birthday with our quarterly Mass and followed with a party. The Children met St. Nick and had a great time. Thanks to all who organized our Christmas Celebration, Rose and John Moore. We could not have done it with out you. Special thanks to Steve Mariorenzi for his part as well.

January we focused on selling our calendars, (Uncle Louie won in December!!!) and new members.

We are now planning are annual trip to Laughlin, stay tuned for details.

## La Canada Flintridge

### St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374

We started the New Year with a healthy treasury and a change in leadership as Jack DeZell assumed the presidency of the branch and conducted his first board meeting on January 3, 2017. Past president Mark Mannarelli assumed the role of Treasurer



Branch 237's children enjoyed a great Christmas party and visit from Santa.





The Italian Catholic Federation branch at St. Bede the Venerable Roman Catholic Church rang in 2017 with a change of leadership as Jack DeZell, a young father and Iraq War veteran, became the president of the branch. Jack succeeds Mark Mannarelli who served for two years and now has become treasurer of Branch 374. DeZell and his wife Laura, along with their six-month-old son Macabe became members last year. Jack is a broker for State Farm Insurance with an office in South Pasadena. As he takes the reins of the branch, DeZell has declared that one of his primary objectives is to recruit young families and eventually build a successful youth organization working closely with the adult members. Jack is shown here (L) presenting a crystal engraved decanter to his predecessor Mark Mannarelli.

December and January again proved to be very busy months for us. We Celebrated Jesus's Birthday with our quarterly Mass and followed with a party. The Children met St. Nick and had a great time. Thanks to all who organized our Christmas Celebration, Rose and John Moore. We could not have done it with out you. Special thanks to Steve Mariorenzi for his part as well.

Thanks to new members of the branch Robert and Wende DePietro, we had a wonderful Christmas party at their Flintridge home.. Robert has been a member of ICF for many years having been a member of ICF Branch 67 and involved in the Federated Italian organization. Thirty members and guests attended and enjoyed a catered dinner and sang Christmas Carols led by Mary Wynton with the piano accompaniment of Jim Celoni. One of the highlights was the homemade Cannoli crafted by Paula Clinnin.

A spirited brainstorming discussion was held at the first board meeting of 2017 to line up programs and speakers for the first half of the year.

We are honored to have been selected as the host branch for the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council installation of officers on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> Monsignor Cacciapuoti will preside over an 11AM Mass which will be followed by the installation of officers from 19 branches in the distract. An Italian dinner will follow in the Parish Hall featuring Rigatoni Bolognese a la Cacciapuoti catered by our favorite caterer Elser from Ali Catering.

Dues for 2017 need to be paid promptly. Please help by paying them as soon as you receive billing.

*Buon Anno a Tutti*

*Al Restivo*

First Vice President and Orator

## San Gabriel Valley Region

Arcadia

Holy Angels, Br. 218

A huge thank you to Matt Luchetta and his crew for our fantastic New Year's Eve party. Also, a big thanks to Scott Carrano and his crew for chairing the pancake breakfast which was also a great success.

Upcoming: Feb 12- General meeting, installation of officers, March 12 – General meeting, March 17, setup for St Joseph's Table on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information forthcoming on this event. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and It takes a lot of coordination and work to make it happen.

At our last meeting, President Jerry announced that the branch donated a total of \$11,463.00 for the year. This is phenomenal for a branch our size and we should all be very proud.

We lost several members recently. Connie Davis lost her husband, Kraig keeler, our hardworking orator and donut lady passed away, and Rocco Sanello, a very longtime member, also passed away. To all the families of these people, we wish to extend our condolences from the branch and myself.

Hoping to see everyone at the next meeting.  
*Lolly M.*

Diamond Bar

St. Denis, Br. 317

Feb. 10 -- I.C.F. Dinner General Meeting

Feb. 11 -- I.C.F. Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser

Feb. 12 -- I.C.F. Installation Officers

The theme of the Feb. Dinner General Meeting will be "Hearts and Flowers" to celebrate Valentine's Day with some



Patrick M. Roemer, a member of the Diamond Bar ICF Branch 317 and Boy Scout Troop 777, was chosen as one of the 50 Eagle Scouts to carry one of the Trophy Banners in the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade.



surprises. Menu will be announced in the Feb. newsletter. A special evening for our members and guests.

The installation of officers will be at St. Bede's in La Canada on Feb. 12th. Let's have a good attendance.

The December I.C.F. Christmas Party / Dinner on Dec. 9th was a beautiful evening with members and alumni sharing a joyous evening. We enjoyed a delicious dinner hosted by Josefina and Eliseo-ham and many lovely side dishes and desserts. We topped the evening with a Gift Raffle of personalized gifts: Josefina a shawl: Pamela and Julia - albums, etc. and various gifts provided by Andrea and Roxanne.

Thank you everyone for a special Christmas celebration bring love and true spirit of I.C.F.

Happy Blessed New Year! Happy Valentine's Day!

*Roxanne Perry President*

Claremont

Our Lady of the Assumption, Br. 319

February 12 will be the Installation of Officers for the Los Angeles Archdiocese District. It will be hosted at St. Bede in La Canada-Flintridge. A great meal will be prepared by Branch 374 with Msgr. Antonio's special sauce recipe (only his mother knows it).

March will be our annual St. Joseph Table on Sunday, March 19. This year again we will have only the baked goods, demos of pizzas and sfinges and some gift baskets for raffles. Spaghetti dinner planned for a future date. During Feb. we will organize and gather gift cards and goodie for the raffles from local merchants.

It is planned for the year to try to have a "Fun" raising event every month and include the parish and school. January it was at El Ranchero Mexican Restaurant on our meeting, allowing future members to see what our meeting are about.

Feb. will possible be Bingo at the church

for a "Fun raiser or possible another restaurant. Future events will include selling Hot Sausage Sandwiches, another

Spaghetti dinner in the fall and a Christmas Boutique.

This will be an interesting year with the announcement that the church renovation possibly starting in July, we may need to slow down on the hall activities in the latter part of the year. We will see in the future months.

*Ciao for now,*

*Andrea Linn*

*Corr. Sect.*

Temple City

St. Luke, Br. 326

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our members!

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday February 25, 2017 at 4:15 p.m.

Our meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month in the church library located in the rectory.

Please continue to keep all of our ill members in your prayers, especially: Mary Lou Lemoine, Roberta Nangelo, Mary Jacobs, Pat Buccola, Herminia Saez, and Ann Primising. And, let's not forget to pray for our deceased members.

Happy February Birthday: Inez Bonura, Ann Primising, and Lucy Hernandez.

Happy Anniversary to: Andy and Frances Bonura 65 years and Jim and Mary Ann Law 58 years.

"Everything is possible if we truly believe. There are miracles and blessings that we can receive. ... Faith is an internal fountain that flows through our veins; Everything is possible if we truly believe." (Clay Harrison)

*God Bless,*

*Jo Anne Disney*

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## ***Santa Barbara/Ventura Region***

**Thousand Oaks**

**St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380**

Our branch had an excellent January meeting with a wonderful catered dinner of Greek food. Our next meeting is February 3rd. Get ready for a Super Super bowl party! We will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs and playing some fun games. Bring your friends.

Our annual St. Joseph's Day celebration is coming up and volunteers are needed. If you can cook, bake or help out in any way please sign up to help with our biggest fundraiser of the year.

A Catholic retreat for our ICF Members is set for March 4th at the Notradame Center in Thousand Oaks. The retreat will take place in the morning and will include breakfast the cost is 7 dollars per person. RSVP by Feb 28.

Happy New Year!

*Jean Fontana Bridges*

*Corresponding Secretary*

### **Palos Verdes**

**St. John Fisher, Br. 444**

Even though Christmas may feel like it was a long time ago, we would like to share with the larger ICF community that our first annual Christmas party was a great success. Almost ninety people dined on food from the Appetizer Restaurant, including baked ziti, eggplant parmesan, chicken, garlic bread, and salad. Yum! Italian music wafted from the speakers and everyone chatted with old friends and made new ones. Children enjoyed participating in holiday crafts. There was a special visit from Santa Claus who handed out gifts to all the children. Adults partook in a raffle with many great prizes. Special thanks go out to Patty Hansen, Christmas Party Committee Chair. She led a fearless team of members who put in many hours planning, organizing, decorating, and holding a spectacular party!

In the month of February, Branch 444 will be honoring Italian earthquake victims by purchasing prosciutto and cheese from the region of Marche where factories were significantly damaged during the recent earthquake. All are welcome to join us to sample and purchase these items to help raise money.

On March 24, we will prepare and serve Station of the Cross parishioners a Lenten Supper which is a humble meal of soup and bread.

Stay tuned for more, as we continue along our journey as new members of the ICF.

*Carol Piccirillo*

*Recording Secretary*

**Captions:**

Christmas Party picture 1 caption: Dave Poncia, David Sassano, Massimo Bettio

Christmas Party picture 2 caption: Patty Hansen, Gina DiPietro, Father Francis

Christmas Party picture 3 caption: Dena Maloney, Pat Payne, Hany Francis

## **Monterey**

**Santa Cruz**

**Nostra Signora del Soccorso,  
Br. 21**

Dear Branch 21 members: I'm afraid your Secretary extraordinaire owes you a big apology for having made a mistake extraordinaire. Last month I sent off the wrong article to the Bollettino to be published; you may have figured out that it was actually the January 2016 article that you were reading. I hope you weren't too confused by my big blunder.

Moving on, there are several events that have transpired. On January 14th, our Branch's new officers were installed at a wonderful event held at Capitola's St. Joseph's Church. The new board members that were sworn in are Richard Vote as President; John Barisone as First Vice President; Mary Jo, Belli as Second Vice President; Gene Ghio as Treasurer; Gary Castiglioni as Trustee; and Rosa Radicchi as Sentinel. Father Martin Cain will be our Branch Chaplain. We send our very best wishes to our new Board.

In late January, we had a Calamari Feed. As usual, everyone flocked to Holy Cross Hall for this favorite. We want to thank Sal Locatelli and his team for preparing the delicious calamari and all those who worked so hard to make this an enjoyable evening.

Here are some of the up-coming events: In March, during Lent, we plan to have a "Soup Supper" on Thursday nights, and also will have our annual St. Joseph's Day Pancake Breakfast on March 19th. In April, we will continue with the Thursday nights "Soup Suppers" until Easter, and then have a "Spring Fling" Dinner-Dance on April 28.

Last but not least, we want to announce that our Past President, Richard Puccinelli, and his wife Laura have a new little baby boy, Emelio Giovanni. Congratulations to Richard and Laura! And I might add that Emelio has become our youngest ICF member!

*Patty Morelli*

*Secretary-Branch 21*

### **Salinas**

**N.S. Del Sasso, Br. 25**

Branch 25 wishes a Happy New Year to all ICF Members and their families. Our first meeting of the new year was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Strategic planning and an updated budgeting process are underway. Information on the ICF Scholarship for high school seniors will be distributed this month. Branch 25 will be sponsoring two ICF Scholarships for students in the Salinas area. Six officers will be attending the District Installation Ceremony in Capitola on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

### **Monterey**

**Santa Rosalia, Br. 36**

Our dinner meeting in January had the greatest meatloaf over polenta, salad, garlic bread, and bread pudding with a delicious sauce and whipped cream topping, Chef Peter John and his fantastic kitchen crew



Monterey Branch 36 Annual Children's Christmas party. Santa-gifts, face painting, entertainment and pasta, meatballs and pizza luncheon.



are the best, plus we have all of our other dedicated volunteers who always work. We are truly blessed.

Our children's Christmas party was huge. Santa was there with his Elves and gave each child an advent calendar and a gift. There was plenty of food and cupcakes for each child and adult, plenty of things for the children to do, plus face painting, everyone had a great time.

We have lost one of our most active members, Tony Hrepich. Tony did his very best for San Carlos Cathedral, family, friends, District Council, he and wife Geri were both deputies at two other branches before his health began to fail, he always had a big smile and made everyone he came in contact with feel very special. God bless you Tony.

Calendar:

February 9 - Monthly Dinner Meeting.

February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day.

February 23 - Thank You Volunteer Dinner.

February 26 - Baked "Goodies" Sale after masses on Sunday.

LENTEN DINNERS: March 3-10-17-24-31 - April 7 - please remember dessert for 6 weeks.

March 19 - St Joseph's Celebration- Elks Lodge after Mass at San Carlos.

Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves.

None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end, it can be taken away at any moment.

Perhaps this is the powers way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day. -- Lisa Beamer

*Peace be with you,*

*Bettye*



### **Castroville**

**Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51**

Happy Valentine's Day!

The Christmas Dinner and Bingo Fundraiser were a total success. The fundraiser was an entertaining event with each player waiting for the winning number to get their special prize. Congratulations to chefs Paul Cortopassi and D.L. Grier for that fabulous dinner. A big thank you to Pat Stefani for her delicious salad, I don't know what it is but Pat's salads are the best (it must be that secret ingredient she puts in the dressing).

Our condolences go out to members Toni and Dennis Hibbs on the passing of their nephew in the devastating fire in Oakland. Our prayers are with your family.

We would also like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Geri Hrepich on the passing of her husband, Tony. Geri was the deputy for our branch and we appreciate all her work and guidance. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

The Branch meeting will be at the end of January to finalize our plans for this year, including the Polenta Fundraiser.

A special thank you to our deputies Ed and Bella Leonard (Branch #36) for the beautiful gift of the Statue of Mother Cabrini. Thank you for your generous and thoughtful gift, our Branch truly appreciates your kindness.

Please pray for all I.C.F. members who need God's healing blessings.

*Ciao,*

*Leonora Barlow*

### **Capitola**

**St. Joseph, Br. 227**

It's that time again! Lenten Fish Frys start March 3. Sign-up sheets for workers will be available at the February meeting. Please give as much time as you can.



In keeping with our charitable works, our branch made the following donations:

\$500 – Cooley’s Anemia

\$500 – Sienna House

\$500 – Gifts of Love

\$500 – Grey Bears

\$500 – St. Joseph’s Stars

\$500 – St. Vincent de Paul

\$500 – St. Francis Soup Kitchen

Annual dues are now payable. Treasurer Jim Smith will happily accept your check.

Our membership drive will kick off in February with President Ellen Pauly and First Vice President Franklyn Lopes addressing St. Joseph’s parishioners at all masses.

Former member Filomena Pacheco passed away on December 5 in Hawaii. Filomena was an active member, who worked at every Fish Fry and attended meetings faithfully for ten years. When her health took a turn for the worse about a year ago, Filomena moved to the Islands to be near her daughter.

Condolences to Lillian Laus Riccabona on the loss of her husband, Tony. A member for eight years, Tony passed away on December 10 after an extended illness.

The Perlino Scholarship Committee will award ten \$1,000 scholarships this year. See Committee Chairman Andy Armanino for applications and information on criteria. Due date is April 15.

Your prayers are requested for Peter Manina, who is experiencing health problems related to his kidney transplant.

Here is a thought to ponder from Toby Mac:

Sometimes you are delayed where you are because God knows there’s a storm where you are headed.

*Deanna Musler, Secretary*

### Paso Robles

#### Saint Rose of Lima, Br. 354

Let me introduce myself my name is Jorge Olveda and I am the new Correspondence Secretary for our branch. I will be learning this new job on the fly and hope in time to produce articles that will make our outgoing Correspondence Secretary and branch proud.

After several years of filling the position of Correspondence Secretary for Branch 354 Saint Rose of Lima, Theresa Sollazzo decided to step down and let a younger

member take over the job of writing articles for the Bollettino. Theresa Sollazzo has been writing outstanding and thoughtful Bollettino articles for our branch for the past several years and she left some big shoes to fill, that I believe I can accomplish.

Our new branch officers were installed on Saturday January 14th when the Central Coast District Installation was hosted by Branch #227 Capitola.

Our branch is busy planning our next semi-annual pasta dinner that will be held on Saturday March 4, 2017. The proceeds from the dinner will be used towards our Saint Rose Catholic School and Italian Catholic Federation Central Council Scholarship programs.

Last year our branch funded two full first year scholarships, and one full 2nd, 3rd, 4th year scholarship for the Italian Catholic Federation Scholarship Program. We also awarded four Saint Rose Catholic School scholarships to students graduating from Saint Rose Catholic School to Paso Robles High School and Mission College Preparatory High School.

*Best wishes,*

*Jorge Olveda*

*Correspondence Secretary*

## Oakland

### East Bay

#### District Council

Thank you to all who made the extra effort to attend Installation on Sunday 1/15/17 and an additional thank you to the committee who put it all together for us. Now we just need to put on our running shoes and help with the upcoming activities.

First on the list is the Crab Feed on Feb. 10th at St. Philip Neri Parish, deadline for reservations is Feb. 3rd. Remember when making reservations to specify Crab or chicken. In addition to a full dinner, the branches will be donating tasty hors d’oeuvres and there will be 2 raffle baskets from each branch for you to take a chance on winning. Lots of food and fun!

On a more serious matter, at the district meeting on Monday, March 27, 2017, there will be a special presentation on membership and the deputy programs. With this advance notice we are looking for a good turnout, all branch presidents and members are invited. So if you are

interested or curious as to what a deputy is and their duties, come with your questions or concerns. The meeting will be at Our Lady of Grace in Castro Valley beginning at 7:00 PM.

We are looking forward to Bishop’s Day, this spring, stay tuned for more information.

Also be on the lookout for more information on our quarterly Mass.

Happy St. Valentine’s Day to All.

### Alameda

#### Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

Our leaders formally took their offices at the East Bay District Installation held at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland on January 15. Member JoAnn Dorn, who now serves as a trustee, assisted in the liturgy for Mass which preceded the installation ceremony and pasta dinner. Next year we will act as primary co-host for the District Installation.

Next on our calendar are the Lenten Fish Fry dinners, which commence on March 3, the Friday after Ash Wednesday, and run through April 7, the last Friday prior to Easter. The dinners are served following Stations of the Cross at Saint Philip Neri Church, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. The doors of Monsignor O’Brien Hall will be opened upon conclusion of the Stations, which start at 5:30 p.m. Prices are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Reservations are not necessary. For further information, you can contact John Zugnoni, [john@zugnoni.net](mailto:john@zugnoni.net), or (510) 523-8005.

Our next major event will be the very popular Irish Social scheduled for Saturday, March 11 in Monsignor O’Brien Hall. The evening includes social hour with no-host bar at 6:00, the traditional dinner of corned beef and cabbage, cooked by Ben Ratto, at 7:00, and a raffle. Prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$12.00 for young people 12 and under. For reservations and further information, including prices, contact John Zugnoni.

Our Saint Joseph’s Day celebration is scheduled for Sunday, March 19. The evening begins with a special Mass at 5:00 in Saint Philip Neri Church. Dinner will follow at 6:00. Those attending are requested to bring a dessert for the Saint Joseph’s Table. Prices are . For reservations and further information, please contact Michael Marcheschi, (510) 523-4720.

*John Zugnoni, Publicity*

*Home: (510) 523-8005*

*Cell: (510) 326-3474*

*E-mail: [john@zugnoni.net](mailto:john@zugnoni.net)*

### Oakland

#### Santa Rita, Br. 40

Happy Valentines’ Day everyone. Our new Branch officers were installed on January 15th at the Fratellanza Club. We are in the process of planning Fund Raising events for the upcoming year. We need everyone’s help, and joining our monthly meetings is just one way of sharing your ideas and experience in making these events memorable. On December 8th we lost one of our dear members, June Ratto. June joined the ICF on April 30th 1944 at the young age of 18. She and her husband Joe Ratto were

very active in the ICF. I met June when I was serving at one of Branch 40’s dinners at Sacred Heart. We talked and when she found out who my father was, she shared her memories of him and the good times with the ICF events. She was truly a good person and she always had a lovely smile and will be greatly missed. God Bless you June.

Upcoming:

Feb 6th: Monthly meeting 7PM

Mar 6th: Monthly meeting 7PM

Wishing a Happy Birthday to Alicia Muscardin, Claire Ramirez and Ernestine Pernecco. God Bless you. Remember in your prayers the sick and convalescing, especially Anna Alberti, Anna Castagnini, Marisa and Thomas Poggi, and Clemence Zanata. God Bless you.

Thought: “Give, and it will be given to you. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back” Luke 6:38

*Ciao,*

*M.A. Francis*

### Fremont

#### St. Francis of Assisi, Br. 215

This new year certainly started off with a bang. The heavy rains and snow will definitely help us with our drought. We can only wish that it would have been spaced out a bit so we didn’t have all the flooding.

Our Christmas celebration held once again at Giorgio’s in Milpitas, was a delicious and well-attended event. Thanks to Jack Navarra and Scott Schiechl for coordinating the event.

At January’s meeting, we were visited by Diana Padilla, Corpus Christi’s Religious Education Coordinator, along with six of her teens in the Confirmation Group. They were there to once again, ask ICF Br. 215 for a donation to send 14 teens to Los Angeles in February 2017 to a retreat and a one-day convocation hosted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for teen Confirmation groups throughout California. The group was raising funds by selling chocolate bars.

ICF Branch 215’s \$90.00 donation will purchase 1 ½ boxes of chocolate bars, which we returned to the group so they could increase their profits by re-selling the candy.

At January’s meeting, ICF Br. 215 also agreed to host a Soup and Bread Night at Corpus Christi Church during Lent. Vilma Romo promised to provide her recipe for minestrone soup with pesto (President Fran promised to email members Vilma’s recipe).

Reminder: 2017 is the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of ICF Br. 215. President Fran, Genevieve Vanek, Joan Lampe, and Nadine Mattier have formed a committee to begin brainstorming how to celebrate this special anniversary as part of our next Bingo/Salad Luncheon to be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

*Ken Chiatello*

### Livermore

#### St. Filomena, Br. 285

Our Branch 285 Nativity Displays at St. Elizabeth Seton were a big success thanks to the generous sharing of crèches by so many members and friends. The many viewers

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Branch 285's Nativity scenes:

Shared by Patti & Dave Freitas Family with Mary holding Jesus Nativity 9: Shared by McCoy-Thompson Family, Congo - made from dried banana leaves.

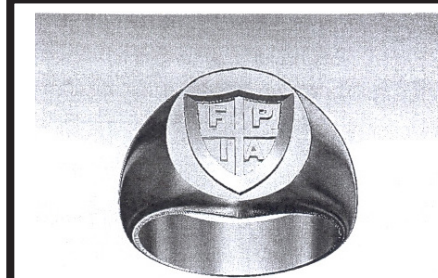


were delighted by the more than 70 different representations of the nativity from so many parts of the world. Two of the many nativities are shown nearby demonstrating the range of artistic interpretations. Our thanks to the hardworking members of our Branch and especially Nancy Navarini, Phyl Buonsante, Judy Wellbeloved, and Elaine Meier.

Plans are jelling for a number of fundraisers this year. First is our annual Bingo Bash on March 10th at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton. Bingo is an American version of the Italian Tombola which is a traditional game played in Italy during the holidays. It's point of origin is closely associated with Naples or Campania. Another fundraiser planned for this year on June 3rd is a Polenta Dinner. Good food, good friends, and good wine are sure to make it a Polenta Extravaganza. Upcoming meetings will include a cooking demonstration, wine tasting, and guest speakers. As those plans are firm, we will share them here. As always, members of other branches are welcome to share in our meetings and fundraisers.

*Ci vediamo presto?*

*Chuck Meier*



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### Castro Valley

#### Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Well once again we celebrated Christmas a bit late this year, the 6th day of the Epiphany, or Jan. 12th. However we had a nice dinner and were once again able to supply gifts and necessities for newborns to Birthright. Thank you for your generosity.

Installation came quickly, in just 3 days, glad that so many of you were able to be a part of the ceremony. It is also a great time to meet peers from other branches.

Next is our Super Bowl Bake sale on Feb. 5, 2017. Time for all the bakers to showoff their talents and help keep the branch solvent. Sorry no local teams will be there, but other teams have fans and look forward to our special treats. So let's dust off those recipes and get baking!

FYI, save the date, if you ever wondered, "What is a deputy, what do they do?" come to the district meeting on 3/27/17 at 7 P.M. @ OLG and get your answers.

In the meantime, a Happy St. Valentine's Day to all you sweethearts out there.

### Contra Costa

#### District Council

The Contra Costa District will not be meeting in the month of Feb, but will meet Thursday March 2, 2017 at St. Isidore's in Danville at 7:30pm.

Jan. 28, 2017 our Installation of Officers was held at the Galileo Club in Richmond, and was hosted by the Pleasant Hill Branch 442. We thank them for their help. We also thank Patty and Roselynn Jarrett, and David Botta.

In the year 2017--"And Mary kept all things, reflecting on them in her heart." As the new year unfolds, may we also keep all things that happen alive in our hearts for reflection, until we work out the appropriate response: gratitude, letting go, prompt action, whatever it calls for. I wish you wisdom, peace, and resolve for the new year.

### Crockett

#### San Carlo, Br. 14

It was a cold, windy night, but thanks to gnocchi makers David Botta, Nancy Botta, Janice Burnett, Enie Foley, Donna Hoffmann, Trudi Jensen, Roni Jimenez, Carmen Nemanick, Carol Padlo, Franca Ponti and Sylvia Smith, those who



Members at Branch 14, Crockett making 6000 gnocchi for their dinner meeting Holy Gnocchi!

weathered the storm enjoyed a fantastic dinner at our January meeting. Everyone present was also able to welcome new members Renon Haley and Barbara Lomez.

Get well wishes were sent to Colin Cabral, Jim Choquette, Andrea Delsid, Tony Raffanelli and Tony Scardina. We hope the New Year brings them, and all of our members, good health.

Condolences were sent to Mary and Medoro Pagni on the passing of our beloved, long-time member, Pino Pagni. Our sympathies also to Barbara (Pino's niece) and Ed Denton. Caring thoughts also to Johanna Orchinero and Laurie Taylor on the passing of Johanna's sister, Grace.

Valentine's Day brings thoughts of hearts and flowers...and the ICF February 14th meeting, when a delicious Chicken Marsala Dinner will be prepared by Chef Al DiPrima, whose cooking skills are well known and eagerly anticipated by many. Please try to attend mass at 5:30, ok?

Soon after our Polenta Dinner (February 4), we begin organizing our March 11<sup>th</sup> Corned Beef Dinner. Adult tickets are \$20. and children's tickets, \$7.00. No one wants to miss this St. Patrick's Day traditional dinner, so be sure to get your tickets; they will be sold after our Valentine's Day meeting.

*Ciao,*

*Diane Bottini Thomas*

### Pittsburg

#### San Domenico, Br. 72

Our branch calendar for 2017 was mailed and a newsletter and dues slips. Hope all members will enjoy this years events and meetings. Please mail your dues check to our Treasurer Helen. I would like to thank Helen for making our branch calendars this year and for all that she does to help our branch.

Jan. was busy for us with our first meeting of the year. A happy New Years theme. Everyone enjoyed it. We also attended the district meeting and the annual Installation of officers. It was held on Jan. 28 at the Galileo Club in Richmond. The host branch 442 of Pleasant Hill did a great job. We thank them. We also thank Roselynn for all that she did to make the day a success. Congrats to all those installed.



David Botta, from branch 14, Crockett, initiating new members Barbara Lopez and Renon Haley. Congratulations!

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday Feb. 19 at 3: 30 PM at 17 Marks Bl. in Pittsburg. We will have a Valentines sweets potluck and free raffle. We will also discuss details for our St. Joseph and St. Patrick's day celebration to be held in March.

We will attend the next District meeting on March 2 at 7: 30 PM in Danville.

We have sold our ICF Calendars. Good luck to all on the daily raffle. We had some winners last year. Let's do that again.

We offer sympathy to Jim Jarrett. His brother Steve died after a short illness in Dec. We pray, Lead all souls to Heaven especially those who are in most need of thy mercy. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Happy Valentines Day

*As we say in Pittsburg,*

*Sempre Avanti*

*Patty*

### Richmond

#### St. Raymond, Br. 154

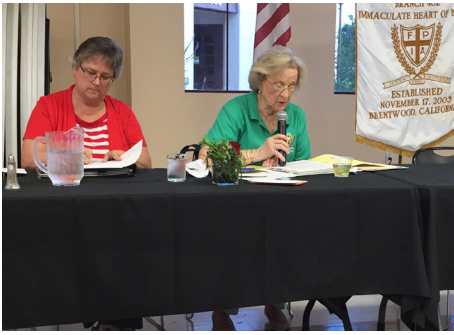
Buon Anno! Happy New Year!!

The January meeting opened with Pizza and Salad followed by egg nog and spirits, a festive way to start the New Year.

New officers were installed at the district installation, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mass was followed with Installation of officers and then lunch at the Galileo Club in Richmond.

Our ICF calendar sale was a big success. We sold all of them. Thank you to Dee Yonke for taking care of the calendar sales





Branch 432's Linda Kortuem (Left) at a Board meeting.

for 2016.

Our next meeting is Feb.13, 2017, in honor of Chinese New Year we will be celebrating with a Chinese Dinner. Everyone loved it last year so expect another spectacular dinner. . The cost is \$10.00. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Please pick up a branch calendar for a schedule of meetings, officers, and fundraising events. They are available at the next meeting.

The date for our next fundraiser is April 29<sup>th</sup> 2017. Please mark your calendar. A few other up coming dates to keep in mind is the bus trip to Cache Creek in March, and Bishops Day also is also coming up, dates to be announced later.

If you have any graduating high school seniors in your family, please inform them of the ICF scholarship program. Check out the ICF website for information, WWW.icf.org or Google, Italian Catholic Federation/ scholarships

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 Acuña*

### **Brentwood Immaculate Heart of Mary, Br. 432**

Not much going on right now with Branch 432, the Christmas party supplanted December's meeting and January's meeting won't happen until the end of the month. This is a good time to reflect on the Branch's events for 2017 and recharge our batteries.

One member who requires little recharging is Linda Kortuem. Linda joined the IHM Community in 2005. With her cornucopia of skills she quickly became involved with the ICF. First becoming the Financial Secretary and, in time, adding the Treasurer's role to her duties. She has, without fanfare, handled those two positions as long as anyone can remember. Over the years, along with her financial duties, Linda has provided ongoing assistance for the other Board positions that fell lacking. When she saw a need, Linda quickly stepped in and filled it. Without a doubt, Linda helped set the tone for the continued success of the Branch.

Linda's dedication to the Parish and her Faith didn't stop with the ICF she became involved with many of the functions within IHM. Included among her many duties for the Parish is the operation of the Faith Formation Program; curriculum, class scheduling, instructors and safety. The Faith Formation Program is a full time job in itself. It is not difficult to calculate the depth and breadth of Linda's devotion to her Faith and the Community in which she

brings it to fulfillment; there is no bottom, there are no boundaries.

Thank you, Linda. God Bless you for the selfless giving of yourself to your Faith and your Community.

*la vita è buona*

## **Sacramento**

### **Sacramento St. Mary, Br. 45**

Felice Anno Nuovo!!

On Sunday, February 19th, St. Mary's ICF Branch will host the Installation of Officers for the Blessed Sacrament District. Mass will be at 11:00 am, followed by the installation of officers and lunch. Details will be provided from our District President.

St. Mary's Branch would like to welcome our new member, Pina Noto. Pina is a longtime member of our Parish and a great ambassador for our Italian heritage.

Condolences to the family of Kay Pesce who passed away on November 11, 2016, at the age of 98. Kay was a very supportive and involved member of Branch 45 for 29 years. May she rest in peace.

Belated January Birthday Wishes to Eric Bush, Barbara Davidson, Matthew Ebert, Dante Mazza and Barbara Savarino!

Our February Birthday Wishes to Manuel Cazares, Gina Devita, Olivia Ebert, Ted Georguson, Dorothy Heick, Mario Mandy, Marlene Oehler, Mary Louise Padlo, Emily Rossi and Katherine Stefani!

*Ciao!*

### **Roseville San Vito, Br. 73**

Plan to attend Mardi Gras three days early by attending Branch 73's polenta/chicken dinner the evening of Saturday 25 February. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and youngsters thirteen and older, \$10.00 for those six to twelve, and at no cost for those younger. The dinner also includes salad, roll, and dessert. Tickets are available from Giuseppina Novi (783-3816), Rosemarie Presti (791-1726), and Arlene Roe (782-3073), with the eighteenth as the deadline for making reservations.

The new year brings the need to again pay dues; these are \$34.00, with an additional \$25.00 for anyone having hospitalization. Payment may be made at the meetings of 17 January and 21 February, or sent to Fred Terrio, 228 Skopas Court, Roseville, CA 95661.

Buon compleanno e tante belle cose a tutti i soci della Sezione 73 nati nel mese di febbraio. Una di questi e Hilda Blay, la quale arriva al suo novantacinquesimo il 18 del mese. A cento anni, Hilda!

*Robert Delpippo*

### **Auburn St. Joseph, Br. 342**

A big that you goes out to Chef Rico and his crew for working so hard to prepare the meal for last month's very successful (and very delicious!) Polenta dinner. Rico's parents started cooking the dinner many years ago and now Rico is training his son



Sacramento District President and our past President Paula Scarpelli initiating new members to Branch 438, Roseville.

for the job. We would not be able to have this dinner without Rico and his family sharing their talent and we are so grateful for the service he gives to his branch.

We also want to thank all those who helped with set up and clean up, the bar and bar ticket sales, serving, dinner ticket sales, music, and the raffle. A special thank you to Marisa Borba (and helpers) who created the beautiful raffle baskets and gathered raffle and auction items. As you can see, it takes a lot of hard work to create a successful dinner and our branch is so grateful to all that were able to help.

*Ciao!*

*Pam Andersen*

### **Roseville St. Clare of Assisi, Br. 438**

Here it is a new year. Did you make your new years resolutions? If you did promise yourself that you are going to follow them through this year. I am going to promise myself on mine. I am hoping for a very prosperous year for our branch. With everyone's help we will have a successful year. Santa Claus and his elf came to visit us at our Christmas party, What a way to celebrate the holidays. Thanks to Al and Janet Smith for cooking us a delicious dinner. It was so good to see so many members and guest enjoying the festivities. Oh yes we can't forget the little ones with the expression of delight when they saw Santa. The bake sale was a huge success. Thank you Connie Terry for baking and chairing. You did a great job. Thank you to all the members who baked and worked selling all those scrumptious goodies. All of you made this possible. Michael and Sandra Fuentes, Linda Paisley and Joe Aguilar made a variety of soups for the parishioners for the Novena in December. You are so appreciated. Please send your pictures of different events for the Bollettino before the Tenth of the month. As I have a deadline to submit them. Stay dry and healthy. We are having one cold and wet winter. We prayed for rain and boy did the good Lord answer our prayers. Pray for all our sick members and those recovering from there illness.

*Your Reporter,*

*Yvonne Perry*

## **San Bernardino**

### **Upland St. Joseph, Br. 446**

Program events have been very enjoyable for members of Branch 446 from St. Joseph's in Upland. In October we had a Halloween party that was especially fun for the kids. In November we played Turkey Bingo and each member received a small plastic turkey. Every winner had to yell "gobble gobble" while shaking the turkey in the air. Many prizes were given out. In January, to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the officers cooked pasta and sausage for everyone and also recognized our Italian tradition of La Befana. It was a fun night for all. We are looking forward to serving our parish by taking over the annual St. Joseph's Table and feast day events in March. Last year over 400 people were in attendance. Although we are a new branch, our officers and members are determined to make a vital impact within our faith community.

## **San Diego**

### **San Diego Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. 230**

A joyful and prosperous New Year to all! Branch 230 is staring off with a bang as it hosts the San Diego District Annual Installation Mass and Luncheon on Sunday, January 29. The Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in San Diego's Little Italy will be at 10:30 a.m. followed by the lunch in the parish hall. The District Chaplain Fr. Joe Tabigue, CRSP will be the celebrant and Andy Pappani, ICF Grand 1<sup>st</sup> V-P will be the installing officer. As new branch and district officers are being installed, a special thanks is extended to the outgoing district officers President Richard Barker and District Deputy Forrest Price. Branch 230 would also like to thank its outgoing President Delfina Centanni. They have all done a tremendous job in upholding the policies and principles of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Incoming Branch 230 President Patrizia Vigili will conduct the first general meeting of the year on Friday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m. All members are strongly encouraged to attend. The 2017 calendar of meetings and events will be presented to the membership. The most important date being the annual Fish Fry to be held





Happy New Year from Branch 261!

on Friday, March 3, 2017. The February general meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017. Reserve these dates.

*God bless,*

*Maria Tollefson*

### San Diego

#### St. Theresa, Br. 261

In a recent e-mail Tony Anthony, First VP, reported on the number of scams that are directed at senior citizens – especially during the festive seasons. Before contributions are made to any charity it is advisable to look into the financial history of the charity. Most seniors have “land line” phones not cell phones – consequently telemarketers have been a scourge.

So before any contributions are provided these groups should be scrutinized. The following is alleged :: that the March of Dimes gives one dime to charity for every dollar collected. The leader of United Way receives a salary close to \$1 million. The CEO of Goodwill receives over \$1 million salary.

Not to be discouraged because there are “good” charities... The Salvation Army gives 96 cents for every dollar donated. The American Legion has zero administrative costs. Veterans of Foreign Wars has zero administrative costs.

A San Diego TV outlet recently had a segment on the good deeds of International World Vision. This is a global charity that has assisted children on a global scale. But they have also supported Hamas with thousands of dollars... This has been reported by an indictment in Israel... Australia and Germany have prohibited this group from seeking funds...

Seniors are great targets for scammers... We have personally experienced the phone

call reporting that our grandchild is in a Mexican prison and it is imperative for us to send money to get him home!!!

*Vic Tallarida*

*San Diego, CA*

## San Francisco

### San Francisco

#### District Council

I hope all of you celebrated Christmas in a blessed and meaningful way. In putting too much emphasis on the commercial aspect of the season, we very often miss the true meaning of the birth of the Christ Child. Looking back on my many years as a member of St. Cecilia's choir, I realize that the numerous rehearsals in preparation for Christmas, give one much time to reflect on the religious meaning of the season. The commercial side becomes unimportant.

The San Francisco District wishes to thank Grand President, Leonard Zasoski, for presiding over the installation of our branch and district officers. Thanks, also, to Central Council members Andy Papani and Dante Galeazzi. They and their spouses drove a long way in wet and blustery weather to be here.

Our thanks to District President, Debbie Major, who took care of all the arrangements.

God Bless and have a healthy and happy New Year.

*Ann Basuino*

### San Francisco

#### Maria S. S. Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members:

Our recent Installation and Lunch was enjoyed by all!

Upcoming:

February -- No meeting

Feb. 26 -- Branch Mass, ICC, 10:30am

March 1 – Spuntino & Raffle, 6:30pm. Cash: \$15.00. Reservations: Vic Arnaudo (650) 755-1369. Please bring a Raffle Prize.

Happy Valentines!

*Ciao!*

*Toni Morsello*

### San Francisco

#### Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

We decided to declare January a “Ski Month”...just like last year! With all the parties and running around in December, I think a month to relax is needed for all of our Br. 38 members. Hopefully, 2017 will be a good year for us to get new members to join our beloved Branch #38. We are going to do more advertising to our SSPP Church Parishioners and in our North Beach & surrounding communities.

Even though we had only 10 members & guests present our Christmas Mini Meeting and Party it was very enjoyable...we had a good time. We didn't have it catered this year... we felt the price was a too high for a lunch. Therefore, Cosmo took over! Since we don't have a stove in the PC, Cosmo used 3 portable burners (yes, Tom 1 belongs to the YMI) to cook the ravioli and heat the Meat & Mushroom sauce. Cosmo made the salad at the PC, he ordered the chicken from Il Pollaio, and ordered Strawberry Shortcake for dessert.

Santa just couldn't make it this year...he was just too busy at the North Pole. Our two youngest branch members Dominic & Matthew Ramsey helped. They just took over Santa's job and distributed all the gifts. The boys' did a great job...just like two pros! Also, special thanks goes to Norma Tealdi's daughter Judy Fontana for doing so much to help us, and Nicola Anelli for also stepping in to help. Mille grazie to Patrick Ramsey you never fail to bring gifts, pitch in to help...UR2 NICE! Cosmo how can I/we thank you?

\*\*\*\*Our 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the New Year, February 11, 2017...at 12:00 Noon in the PC. Ciao,

*Mara Amato,*

*President*

### San Francisco

#### St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

A Happy and Healthy New Year to our Officers, Members and their Families. We hope 2017 will be good to all of us. Our sincere sympathy to Helen Zahers's family. Helen was a member of our Branch for 34 years. We will miss you, Helen. For our February members having Birthdays, we wish you much Happiness and good health in the coming year. Our Christmas luncheon was very nice. We had a nice group. It is always nice to visit with friends and the food was delicious. Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers. Please remember these dates:

Off. Meeting: February 6, 2017

Mass: February 26

Meeting: February 27

*Ciao,*

*Eva Perata, President*

### San Francisco

#### St. Cecilia, Br. 365

By the time you receive this month's Bolletino, the hectic pace of the holidays will be behind us. It is our sincere hope that your Christmas was not just parties and presents, but that your most precious gift was the gift of the Christ Child and that your Christmas was blessed with a peace that will last throughout the year. When we read of the chaos in the world and the total disregard for human life, we know we are truly blessed to be living in the United States. (from our branch article of January 2000.)

Six of our members attended the District installation. Thanks to those of you who were there.

Dues are now payable for 2017 and will be collected by Joe Basuino. Please mail your check, in the amount of \$40.00, to Joe at 2627 – 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. F. CA 94127.

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, in the Serra Room. Please try to attend and maybe bring a friend.

*God Bless,*

*Ann Basuino*

## San Mateo

### Colma

#### San Vincenzo De Paolo, Br. 19

Hello everyone,

The year started off with a great and delicious Polenta dinner hosted by Kathy Trevizo and Deborah Rodondi with dessert by Annette Novi. Good to see everyone on the beginning of a New Year.

#### Coming Activities:

Monday, February 13 – Dinner hosted by Joanne Alvarado and dessert hosted by Jackie Barnes.

Reservation to Cheryl Simon by 9<sup>th</sup> (650)755-0878 leave message or email cas94015@yahoo.com with reservation.

Tuesday, February 14 St. Valentine's Day

Monday, February 27 – Making St. Patrick's Day favors – anyone interested is welcome to join the group.

#### Coming Event(s):

Monday, March 13 - Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner hosted by Donna Barnes and dessert hosted by Joann Sangiacomo. Reservation to Cheryl Simon by 9<sup>th</sup> (650)755-0878 leave message or email cas94015@yahoo.com with reservation.

Sunday, April 23 - San Francisco diocese Bishops Day will be at Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame with lunch to follow in the hall. More information will follow.

February is consecrated to the Holy Family. If you have a prayer corner or a home altar, gather together and pray for all families for peace.

*N. Thurman*

*Valente Marini Perata*  
*& Company* FD-100

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**Burlingame**

**Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173**

Happy New Year to all! Hope all are being careful on the roads as the rains finally came and plenty of it.

We have our first dinner meeting on 1-12 (Tortellini, salad and dessert) and our dinner/meetings and events planned for the year. New members are always welcome along with guests.

Upcoming events:

Mass, Installation and Lunch  
Saturday 1-21 9:15 AM San Mateo Elks Club

February 9, 2017: Dinner/Meeting (Ham) chaired by Mara Millis and flyer to be sent out.

March 9, 2017 St. Joseph Table Potluck and sign ups will be at our January meeting. Event is being

chaired by Dorene Campanile

April 23, 2017 Bishop's Day San Mateo District. (Details will be forthcoming.

Please keep several members of our branch in your prayers: Anita Cecena,

Patty Dugoni, The Edmundson's, Lois Fragomeni, Rosemarie Gregori, Elana

Malta, Dave Mayer, Lorraine Rollandi and Bob Tomasello.

*God Bless,*

*Rosalind C. Emery*

**South San Francisco**

**St. Augustine, Br. 213**

Welcome to our new members. We are excited to have you join our Branch and welcome you to attend our monthly dinner meetings and participate in our fun activities.

The January meeting was hosted by Jackie Smith and Roberta Franchini, and as always, served a wonderful meal that was enjoyed by everyone.

On January 21st we installed our new officers at the San Mateo Elks Club with a celebration of Mass, followed by a wonderful luncheon hosted by St. Charles Branch 327. A special thank you to all for taking on this year's committee positions and to Branch 327 for organizing this year's installment.

We are busy planning our Branch Anniversary Luncheon Sunday, May 7th. Please save the date. Invitation will be given out at your monthly meeting. We hope you plan on attending this celebration supporting our Branch Anniversary.

February Happy Birthday Wishes go out to all and prayers to those who are ill during this season for a speedy recovery.

*God Bless,*

*Joyce James*

**San Carlos**

**St. Charles, Br. 327**

A big thank you to the board members for providing all the goodies for our December Christmas meeting. It was a wonderful assortment of food enjoyed by all in attendance.

Some up-coming events to note on your calendars:

Tuesday, February 21 – February meeting

Saturday, March 4 – our Anniversary dinner/St. Patrick's dinner

Sunday, March 26 – the first of our semi-annual Masses, 11:30am, Our Lady of Angels

Our condolences are being sent to our Chaplain, Deacon Ernie von Emster on the loss of his brother, Konrad.

And we also pay our respects to the family of Mike Young. Mike was a member of our branch for 38 years, as well as a former Deacon at St. Charles. Every February, Mike and his wife, Martha prepared a meat loaf dinner for the branch.

May Konrad von Emster and Michael Young rest in peace.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of branch 327.

*Ciao,*

*Virginia Malaspina*

**Millbrae**

**St. Dunstan, Br. 403**

Sunday, January 21, 2017 we had our Installation of Officers for this year at the San Mateo Elks Lodge, beginning with Mass and followed by lunch. Our officers for this year are as follows: President-Mary Vella Treseler, 1st. Vice Pres.-Paul Larson, 2nd. Vice Pres.-Al Morando, Treasurer-Eunice Danli, Recording Secretary-Lois Agresti, Corresponding Secretary-Rose Marie Morando, Orator-Roy Fry, Trustees-Gloria Borruso, Helen Habeeb and Maria Swanson, Sentinel-Ann Gardner. We thank our retiring 1st. Vice President, Dan Capodanno for all his years dedicated to our ICF Branch and wish him well.

Our first meeting for this year will be on February 7 with a soup dinner at 6:30PM in the Parish Center. We will celebrate our 27th Anniversary on February 19, 2017 in the Parish Center beginning at 4:00PM with no-host cocktails. The menu is stuffed chicken breast and pork loin chop, with antipasto, salad, vegetable, dessert and wine for \$30 per person. We will end the evening with a raffle. For reservations send check payable to ICF#403 to Rose Marie Morando, 706 Clearfield Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030 by Feb. 14, 2017.

**Marin**

**Larkspur**

**St. James, Br. 161**

We would like to thank Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr. for installing our Branch officers.

Our deepest condolences to the family of Robert Goodwin who recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, he was a member of the ICF for many years.

Please continue your get-well prayers for Maria DellaSantina, Doris Onetti and to everyone who isn't feeling well.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day.

*Anna Biggio*



Branch 332 Gourmet Basket Committee: Jo Bacon, Rosella Piazza, Sandy Vasquez (not pictured Angela McDuffee, Tecla Salvestrin)

**Novato**

**Our Lady of Loretto, Br. 332**

Buon Anno a Tutti!

Our Branch finished the year with a wonderful Christmas celebration accompanied by our annual Gourmet Basket Raffle, and a visit from Santa.

As we reflect on this past year, we are grateful for the few hours spent together each month, allowing us to enjoy the opportunity for friendship and for service to our community. The generosity and enthusiasm of our members for our work is so very much appreciated by the Board. Thank you to everyone! We hope that in this new year we will be able to expand many of our cultural and apostolic programs.

Mark your calendars now for our February 14th meeting, at which we will have a very special presentation. Novato Villages is a group of dedicated volunteers who provide assistance to seniors to allow them to age in place in their homes. Novato Villages sponsors monthly social activities, including coffees and lunches, while also lending a hand for computer needs or minor home repairs. Novato Villages is all about keeping seniors active and connected. This is a presentation you won't want to miss.

**San Jose  
Santa Clara Valley**

**District Council**

Bob Bausino gaveled in the year's first district meeting which was hosted by Branch 191. He welcomed all the newly installed officers of all the branch's as well as delegates and guests. How appropriate that this meeting should occur at his home branch where he started as a mere neophyte. Little did he realize what would transpire from that early beginning.

The district finished on a high note with a Christmas Party hosted by Ric Shimshock's Branch 408 accompanied by a banquet catered by Tony's and Alba (Diane & Al

Valorz). Jerry Delfino listed all of the Branch Deputies and asked for a replacement for Pat Cordich who is unable to continue.

President Bob presented the District Budget and had Treasurer Steve Lencioni go over the highlights. Subsequently the budget was passed. Bob then listed the district event calendar as follows:

- o Day of Recollection - April 1
- o Our Lady of Peace Mass – June 11
- o Golf Tournament TBD
- o Day at the Races – TBD
- o Picnic – TBD
- o Bishop's Day – October 21
- o St. Francis Cabrini – November 12

Fr. George gave us a mini-homily: Maintain your inquisitive nature and build up others. He also briefly mentioned his new tour "Best of Italy" 12 days: September 11 – 12.

March District meeting: Branch 408 Resurrection Church – Monday March 13.

*Mike Nunziata*

**San Jose**

**Holy Cross, Br. 4**

Happy New Year ICF family,

We rang in 2017 with a delicious sausage and vegetable soup made by member Carrie Greco. Our meeting fell on Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton's feast day; Father Livio told us her very interesting story. This year the Presidency roll will be shared among Maria Greco and Chuck Gullo, we wish them both the best! Our branch is in need of volunteers to cook for the monthly meetings, please contact Maria or Chuck and let them know how you can help! We are preparing for our February 1 Pasta and Meatball fundraiser please volunteer to help at this event! Adult \$15 Child \$7. March 1 meeting has been moved to March 8 mark your calendars! Please try to attend monthly meetings! If you need a ride contact your fellow members, there are people available to pick you up! We send our deepest sympathy to the families of





ICF Branch 28 – December 19, 2016 Christmas Celebration

our recently deceased members; Mary Sauro, Adolph DeMattei and David Ballard. Their presence will be greatly missed but their spirits will live in our hearts forever. Please send your dues to Bob Mirolo as soon as possible. See you all Feb 1<sup>st</sup>!

Happy New Year!

*Anna Gonzalez, Br 4*

### **Santa Clara N.S. Assunta, Br. 5**

The Dinner/Dance Show on January 14, 2017 was sold out. Everything was outstanding. Thank you goes to the Lauri Taylor and her sister, Bea Cunha, members of Branch Br. 5, and students from St. Clare School for help and support of this event. It was enjoyed by all.

Please remember to pay your dues for 2017. Thanks to all members who have paid their dues.

There is always still time to pay.

Calendar Menu for 2017 was mailed to all members in January. If you have not received one, please let me know or one of the officers.

We always are looking for new members to join ICF Br. 5. Please encourage you friends and relatives to join us. See Marlene for membership applications.

Happy Valentine's Day to all. All members are special Valentine to each other.

Hope 2017 New Year is a great one for ICF Br. 5 and all members.

*Ciao,*

*Marlene J. Rotolo*

### **Gilroy**

#### **Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28**

Hello All ICF Members,

On December 19, 2016 we held our annual Christmas dinner meeting. Members, family and guests enjoyed a wonderful meal, choir concert by Gilroy High School students and a visit by Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Children present received gifts and told Santa what they were looking forward to this Holiday season. Our Branch has 185 members, and the Board is working on ideas to increase our membership. All members are encouraged to come forward with ideas on outreach to increase our

current exceptional membership. Gennaro Filice, Branch President has secured the "Cooks" for meal preparation for our 2017 meetings. Our Branch is truly fortunate to have such able and willing members who step forward in our branch meeting meal preparation. "Cooks" for our January 23, 2017 meeting will be locally renowned cook and wife, Sam and Judy Bozzo. Sam humbly dismisses the title of chef but in reality he is an outstanding "chef" with many cookbooks to his credit. Thank you to our members for your support in purchasing the 2017 ICF calendar and don't forget to send in your slip for the daily drawing. In our exceptional membership I would like to draw attention to one who is in that extra special domain. W. John Filice (no relation) is our Orator for Branch 28 and says prayers before and after each meeting. W. John is a long time member who is always there to help on committees and events. Thank you W. John for being an exceptional member, an exceptional person and for all your wise sage advice. Our February 2017 meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Peace and God bless,*

*Kim M. Filice*

### **Los Gatos St. Mary, Br. 184**

As I write this letter, the rain is pounding down. We are grateful for the rain, but I pray that you are all safe!

Congratulations to our officers who will serve this year. They are Denise Antonowicz President; Julie Klem Brusco 1st Vice President; Marie Antonowicz 2nd Vice President; Marie Yurosko Recording Secretary; Lucy Amico Corresponding Secretary; Michelle Antonowicz Financial Secretary; Donna Pfaff Treasurer; Barbara White Orator; Trustees Rose Arnaudo, Norma Buonaccorsi and Joe Yurosko; Victoria Nguyen Sentinel. We will all be installed on January 28 at St. Catherine Church in Morgan Hill, with Mass and luncheon afterwards.

Please keep March 25 open for our next Dinner-Dance. More information to follow.

This is the time to call Rose Arnaudo for Scholarship Applications. Her phone number is [408 354 4017](tel:4083544017). Every little bit helps with college costs!

We always ask for prayers for our members and their families. This time we especially

ask for prayers for Gianni Vallez and for Nick Norcia, grandsons of the Antonowicz and Norcia families.

I jumped the gun with Valentine's Greetings - ha! I meant to say "Best wishes for a Blessed New Year - 2017! Keep Healthy - Keep Happy!"

Please try to attend our monthly meetings, held the second Thursday of the month in the Parish Lounge.

Best wishes to all who read this on Valentine's Day and all thru the year.

### **San Jose**

#### **St. Francis Cabrini, Br. 191**

Oops, I forgot to wish everyone a Happy New Year last month. Actually, I forgot to write an article in January. Bad me!!!

So here goes: "Branch 191 wishes all the branches in the Federation a Happy New Year with the hope you will have many blessings in the year to come."

Our branch is excited about 2017. Our first fund raiser is on March 4; Polenta Chicken Cacciatore Dinner Dance headed by our President Jo Bertaccini. The theme is "Carnevale Di Venezia."

We have many activities scheduled for the year and I will let you know more about them in future articles.

*Bless you all.*

*Jim Jones*

### **San Jose**

#### **Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368**

Happy winter! During these cold days I think about the warm events from the Christmas season and recognize one special moment that probably was special for many members of our branch. At the 6:00 Mass my soul was touched by having my family present and by hearing our much-loved Father George Aranha sing "Oh, Holy Night." My spirit tingled from the beautiful music.

An unexpected treat came our way at our Christmas celebration: champagne for all, thanks to Bob and Elaine Osorio, adding to our Christmas cheer. Thank you, Bob and Elaine!

We are pleased to announce that Tina Souza Dutra will continue to be our branch deputy this year. Thank you for your help at our meetings, Tina, keeping us up to date on information regarding the district.

We are currently working on the Crab Feed, our 14th annual one, on February 3. It is a parish activity, but many of our members contribute their time and talent to it.

On October 15 of this year, the feast day of our patron saint, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our parish. Many of our branch activities will be flavored by our emphasis on this anniversary.

We congratulate and thank our officers, who were installed on January 28. Also, those students who wish to apply for a scholarship need to do so soon. Finally, dues for this year are now due. Is that why we call them "dues?"

*Ciao,*

*Judy Zahn*

### **San Jose**

#### **St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391**

Fr. Abe said the opening prayer at our first meeting of 2017, and in his Chaplain Report, he asks us to pray and be supportive when working on New Year Resolutions.

Delicious homemade soup was prepared by our dear friend Al Vallorz and served by Joe and Cathy De Maria, Mary Lipari, Linda Vallorz and Mary Kay Tocce. We graciously thank you.

Sal Lipari reminded us that scholarship donations and applications are due March 15, 2017. Forms can be downloaded at [www.icf.org/scholarships](http://www.icf.org/scholarships) or picked up at local school offices.

Louise Vento presented traditional Italian Christmas stories and customs that occur. She also reported that all of our ICF 2017 calendars were purchased.

Tina Rossi reminded us that 2017 membership dues are due. Please update your current address and phone numbers with her if any changes.

Valentine's Dinner Dance will be held on February 18, 2017 marking its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Contact Steve Lencioni for tickets. Pete Sanchez requested help with set up and decorations.

2017 Village House for the Unhoused Project will be held during the month of February. Volunteers are needed in many areas. Visit their website at [www.smvillagehouse.org](http://www.smvillagehouse.org).

Don't forget to check out our wonderful website at <http://www.icfbranch391.org/> John Busco does a great job in maintaining this site.

Look for our 2017 Calendar of Meetings and Events coming to you at our February meeting.

*Janis Patellaro*

### **Sunnyvale Resurrection, Br. 408**

Congratulations to Donna Ogden our winner 2016 winner of the Dioscean Seminarian Raffle for the Creche. This Raffle raised over \$350 and a check was made out to Fr. Joe Kim our Dioscean Vocations Director.

We had a good turn out as we kicked off the year with our first Quarterly Communion followed by Breakfast at Black Bear Diner. We discussed our plans for the New Year.

Our 2016 SCVD Installation was held on Saturday 28 January 2017 at St. Catherine's in Morgan Hill. Mass started at 10:30 AM followed by a buffet lunch at Momma Mia's @ Dunne and Butterfield.

Mark your Calendars for 3 March 2017 as our Branch will host the first Lenten Soup for the Parish, 11 March for our Pasta Dinner Fundraiser, and 13 March for hosting the District Meeting in the Farana Center.

Please pray for our sick members – especially for Anne Lopez, Betty Deville, Susan Colon, Dori Blefari, Edith Novak, and Carolyn O'Connor.



**Morgan Hill**

**Santa Caterina D'Alessandria,  
Br. 435**

Our branch celebrated our Christmas dinner with a special treat of Prime Rib, scalloped potatoes and all the trimmings. It was prepared by some of Dave Bozzo's staff. Our president Giulia Gallego presented a check to our pastor, to put toward the renovation of the Church. She also gave a check to Blanco Cinco who represented St. Vincent De Paul to help their wonderful Charity. It has helped so many needy people in our area. The District Installation of Officers will be held at St. Catherine's on Jan. 28th. It will be over by the time you read this article. Branch 435 wishes to thank Sylvia Sorci for her many years served on the ICF board and as a Charter member. She will be taking a break from serving on the board and will continue being a member. We look forward to seeing her at our future events. She was a big help keeping us informed about board meetings etc. After many years on the ICF board George Guglielmo has retired from our board. We want to thank him for the many wonderful contributions and hard work he has done for our branch. He has cooked, cleaned, and whatever and whenever we needed help, he was there for us. ABIG THANK YOU for letting us enjoy the wonderful vineyard for our summer barbeque. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of George Chiala who passed away last week. George and his brother Rick were hard workers in our branch. I'm sure they are in Heaven together.

*God bless,  
Donna Basilin*

**San Jose**

**Transfiguration, Br. 445**

2016 was our first year as one of the newest ICF Branches.

We finished off the year with a rousing Christmas party filled with food and enjoyable music. We pray that this new year will be just as productive for us, both personally and as a group.

Thanks to Roberta La Ducca who prepared a beautiful Christmas basket for our seminarian, Michael Scott. He hopes to attend our next General Meeting.

We had our first quarterly Mass on January 21 followed by a delicious dinner at Giorgio's. Our next Mass is scheduled for April 2. Our next General Meeting with a Pot-Luck dinner is on February 23.

*Onward & Upward,  
Richard Pfaff*

# Santa Rosa

**Napa**

**San Giuseppe, Br. 12**

The new year has begun for our Branch. The end of January we served dinner to the Developmentally Disabled Christian Ministry group. It is always a joy to serve these young men and women just to see their smiles. We are planning a Polenta/Stew Dinner fundraiser in March.

Our prayers go out to our Trustee Angela



La Befana came to visit Branch 52.

Vidaurreta on the passing of her daughter Paula Krause on December 29. Now Paula is with her dad Al who passed away several years ago. We wished Ken Marshall a Get Well wish after learning he was ill with a very high fever. He said his mom nursed him back to good health.

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Ciao,  
Juliann*

**Healdsburg**

**St. Francis di Sales, Br. 52**

We celebrated our 81st Anniversary as a branch at the January 21 Polenta Dinner. Thank you to Richard Passalacqua and his crew for cooking the delicious dinner. This was our last Polenta Dinner of the season. You'll have to wait until November, for the next one.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 7: Branch meeting, 7 PM at the Rectory.

March 3: Our 3rd Annual Fish Fry. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. This event sold out last year. In addition to the delicious dinner, we will have a silent auction, raffle and buy-ins. Reservations a must by calling Mary Madden 431-0438.

March 7: Branch Meeting, 7 PM at the Rectory.

We will also be hosting one of the Soup suppers during Lent.

If you haven't paid your 2016 dues, yet, please send them to Bill Jones. We'd like to have all members paid in full by the end of March. As of January, 80% of our members have paid their dues. Thank you!

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Lauren Kilcullen*

**Sonoma**

**St. Sebastian, Br. 103**

After an enjoyable dinner with lots of good cheer to celebrate the New Year, the branch members are hard at work to finalize planned fund raisers for 2017.



At Br. 52's Christmas Party Pres. Nancy Seppi presented their yearly donation to St. John's School Principal Mr. Brandt and School Development Director Anne Seppi.

(Below) Branch 52's youngest members line up to meet with Santa.







Raffle callers at Branch 103.  
Branch 103 partysers.



Special thanks to our wonderful chef, Diane Klauber, for her gourmet dinners and to our roving photographer, Fran Mc Natt. Fran is also our table decorator for our dinners and celebrations.

*Saluti cordiali,*  
*Marie-Therese Denning*

**Petaluma**  
**St. Vincent, Br. 127**

Greetings from Petaluma!

Rain rain, go away, please come back another day! We have been wanting and needing rain and now that we have it we are being bombarded with it here in Petaluma and everywhere. I love the rain, but i also love sunshine. I know the year has just started, but oh how I look forward to Springtime.

We had our first meeting of the new year and we are off to a good start. We had our soup/dessert night and thanks to our cook, Bruno Fomasi, the soup was hot and delicious. Desserts were brought by many of the members and were plentiful.

Our next meeting will be held February 13th and will start at 6:30 p.m. in Room 9. From now on all meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. with coffee and dessert being offered before our regular meetings which will start at 7:00 p.m.

The Branch will be having an All you can eat crab feed on February 18th. We will be serving Salad, crab and dessert. More information will be provided at our next meeting. Call Louise for further information and reservations at [707-769-7389](tel:707-769-7389).

We will not be having a St. Joseph’s Table this year. Our Quarterly/Communion Mass for living and deceased members will be held on March 18th at St. James Church. More information can be obtained by calling Louise - 769-7389.

March 13th - Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Get well wishes to Janet Leone and Judi Fomasi. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all celebrating. Happy Valentine’s Day to all.

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

*Ciao,*  
*Louise Vicino*

**Arcata**  
**St. Mary, Br. 144**

On January 8<sup>th</sup> we gathered to celebrate our Befana. During the potluck, “Mrs. Befana” made an appearance to greet the eight children in attendance. All were good children – no coal given out this year!!

Our January meeting was conducted by Vice-President Joan DalPorto. Plans were made for our upcoming Chicken Polenta



Margie Pettibone, a director at the Santa Rosa Diocese Catholic Charities, receives a check from Gene Zingarelli, Branch 198 President, sponsoring a room for a homeless family.

Dinner to be held on Sunday Feb. 12, with servings at 4 PM and 5:30 PM. Set up will be Saturday at 9 AM. The Arcata High Track team will set up and take down the tables/chairs for us. Invite your friends and family to join us for a delicious dinner.

Deputy Joe Bonino reported that the scholarship program needs funding by the branches. Students may download scholarship information and the application on the ICF web site.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Br. 145 will host the Installation Dinner with Mass at St. Joseph Church and dinner following at the Samoa Cookhouse. The ICF calendars need to be sold or returned to Central Council.

Please pray for our ill: Shar Evans, Larry DePeel, Jim Spallino, and Loretta Speziale.

January birthdays: Elena David, Shar Evans, John Gai, Roger Macdonald, and Mitchell Monge.

May your new year be safe, holy and happy!  
*Rosemary*

**Eureka**  
**St. Ambrose, Br. 145**

Our December 13th meeting began with cocktails and a variety of delicious foods. After our meal we had a short meeting to finalize the plans for our annual cocoa with Santa event. This year our efforts were shared with the Knights of Columbus. We were responsible for the cocoa and finger food desserts. The Knights of Columbus took care of the decorations with a beautiful tree. Besides refreshments there was a cake walk, games, and crafts for the children that included making picture frames for their picture with Santa. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all who helped to make it a success.

Our installation dinner will be a the Samoa Cookhouse on January 28th. Cocktails are from 5:30 to 6:30. We will be installing our new officers. New officers are Gene Senestraro, President; Ken Griffith, Vice President; Treasurer, Joe Bonino; Recording Secretary, SuannaRowell; Corresponding Secretary, Marian Griffin; Orator, Betty Senestraro; and Sentinel, Greg Griffin. Please plan to attend.

Our next meeting will be February 14th.  
Many Blessings for the New Year

**Santa Rosa**  
**St. Eugene, Br. 198**

January 9 was our 51st Anniversary which we celebrated with a fine pork loin dinner prepared by Bob Acquistapace, Tom and Carol Saksa and Bill Scinto. We honored charter members Bob and Kathy Acquistapace and Rose Anderson. At the dinner we donated \$1200 to sponsor a room at the Catholic Charities Family Support Center. Margie Pettibone of Catholic Charities updated us on the progress and the needs of the Center for homeless families. Our officers will be installed by the District Council on January 14. Then February 6 is our Valentine cookies exchange meeting followed by our St Eugene Catholic school scholarship dinner on March 6.

Un Nuovo Beato Anno, Gene Zingarelli

**Stockton**  
**District Council**

The Stockton District held its Installation of Officers on January 8, 2017, at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto, CA. Our sincere thanks to Branch 48 (Modesto) for hosting the event; to Fr. Marion for celebrating our mass and to Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr., Grand First Vice President Andy Pappani, and Grand Second Vice President Vince Piro for conducting the installation.

Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr. reminded us that united together as a family, the members of the ICF make a tremendous impact on the lives of others. The ICF has awarded tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships and its donations to Thalassemia and Gifts of Love have added up to millions of dollars. Our goal this year is not only to “grow” our organization but there will also be an emphasis on member retention.

Our next District meeting will be hosted by Branch 390 (Tracy), on February 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Bernard’s.





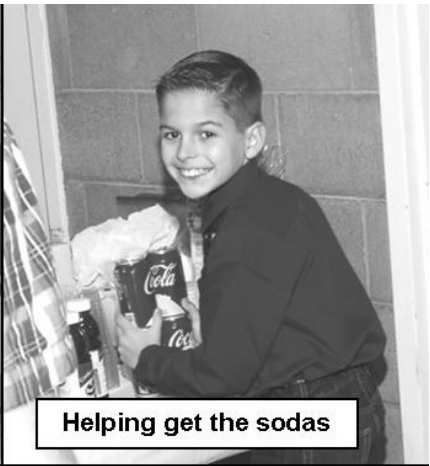
Members checking in.

# Christmas 2016

Branch #390  
St. Bernard's Parish  
Tracy, CA



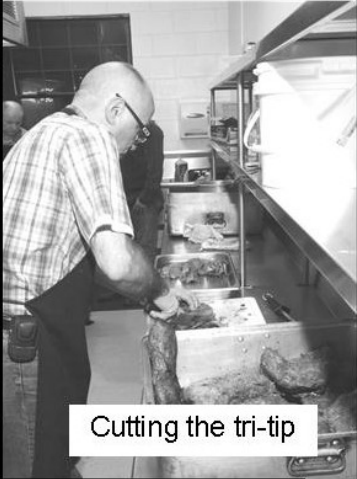
Getting raffle tickets ready



Helping get the sodas



Raviolis are ready



Cutting the tri-tip



Dessert is being put out.



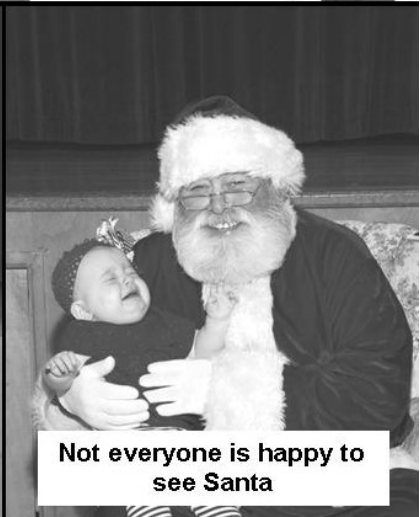
Time to eat



Santa is here



Santa with the families



Not everyone is happy to see Santa

Mark your calendars for the Bishop's Burse at the Church of the Presentation (Stockton) on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Bishop Blaire will celebrate mass at 10:30 AM with lunch and program immediately following.

Our mass on Sunday was dedicated to the memory of Tracy ICF member, Roger Elissagary who passed away just the day before. Heartfelt prayers go his wife Annette. "In this time of sadness...may you see God in the faces of friends, hear Him in their voices, feel Him in the touch of their hands...May their help, caring and sympathy reflect His love and kindness at this time when you need Him most."

Anna Mello

District Corresponding Secretary

## Modesto

### St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

We had some visitors with us at our Christmas Potluck. We had a very nice evening visiting and as usual the food was great.

The Installation came off with a few glitches. The bad weather and sickness prevented some, that made reservations, from coming. A few changes in the

program had to be made and I want to thank John Zamora for filling in for the missing members. He and Joe Schiemmer led the songs Noi Vogliam Dio and God Bless America for the closing.

Not only did I have that help but some of the branches arrived early and within a short time just following the diagram I handed them they had tables set up the decorations on them and also helped with the take down just as well. Since our branch is so small we appreciate all the help we get from the other branches.

I hope you have save the date of July 8, 2017 on your calendars as Branch 48 will be celebrating their 80th anniversary. As I get the details in order they will be in the Bollettino.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sunday, February 12, 2017 and March 5, 2017 at the 8:00 am at the Maze Blvd. Church.

Coming up:

Feb 8 - 7:00 pm Meeting - Hall at 7th & K Streets

Feb 12 - 1:30 pm District meeting Br. 390 Tracy

Mar 8 - 7:00 pm Meeting - Hall at 7 & K Streets

Mar 12 - 10:30 am Mass - Bishop's Burse - Presentation Church Stockton

Mar 19 - 2:00 pm St. Joseph's Table Potluck - Hall at 7 & K Streets.

Cecelia McGhee

## Manteca

### Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

Outgoing Branch President Frank Re conducted his final meeting--a short one--at our annual Christmas party in December. Some routine end-of-year business was taken care of.

The party resumed with a special guest, Stockton Bishop Stephen Blaire, in attendance and enjoying Chef Tony's prime rib and all the fixings.

Our 2017 officers, led by President Elizabeth Demichelis, were installed on January 8 at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto. Dr. Demichelis has met several times with her corps of officers to go over plans for our 2017 activities. We are looking forward to a busy and productive year.

Ciao,

Mariano

## Tracy

### St. Bernard, Br. 390

We offer our sincere condolences to Annette and the family of Roger Elissagary, long-time member of ICF who was very instrumental to the success of our branch here at St. Bernard's. Roger passed away on Saturday January 7. He will be greatly missed by all, not just our members but also the many citizens of Tracy who he helped, along with his loving wife Annette.

Officers of the new year for our district were installed at a ceremony on Sunday January 8 with Modesto hosting. A beautiful Mass was said prior to the installation, followed by lunch provided by Modesto branch 48. Thank you!

Scholarship season is fast approaching so all Branch 390 families are encouraged to fill out the application that can be obtained from any board member or online. We look forward to helping anyone who qualifies with furthering their education. Application requirements are described online as well so please take the time to read and apply!

Next up on our calendar of events is our own Stockton District meeting to be held on Sunday, February 12 in Father Fleming Hall at St. Bernard's Church. This will be



the first quarterly meeting for the officers who were just installed for our district - we promise to go easy on the new ones but all should be prepared for a very active year!

New members who joined Branch 390 during 2016 were initiated at the January 26 dinner meeting. By popular request, polenta and chicken cacciatore were served. Speaking of food, we all look forward to the monthly dinner meeting on February 23 featuring country ribs and beans with vegetables, salad and deserts!

Hope everyone enjoyed the much-needed rain and stay safe.

Ciao for now,  
Betty Hollars

Stockton

Name, Br. 395

The 2017 Branch officers were installed in Modesto at St. Stanislaus Church on Jan. 8. Following mass President Leonard Zazoski appointed Central Council Members Andy Pappani, Vince Piro, and Dante Galeazzi to install the officers. A luncheon followed.

Many events are planned for the next three months.

The Annual Polenta Chicken Cacciatore Dinner is Feb. 9. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. The live auction item is dinner for eight with Bishop Stephen E. Blaire prepared by our branch chefs.

February 12 is the next Stockton District meeting hosted by Branch 390 St. Bernard Parish in Tracy at 1:30 p.m. in Fr. Fleming Hall. Dinner is \$15.

March 5 is Quarterly Communion 8:45 a.m. mass. Gather after mass in Guadalupe Hall for the Knights of Columbus World Famous Pancake Breakfast for \$4.00.

March 12 is the Bishop’s Burse Mass/ Dinner at Presentation Church. Bishop Blaire will preside at the 10:30 a.m. mass with dinner and program following in Guadalupe Hall.

March 15 is the deadline for first year scholarship applications. Is your child or grandchild graduating from high school this year? Have them contact their school for an application or access it at [www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org).

April 7 our Branch will be hosting the Stations of the Cross and soup Supper. Everyone looks forward to our great variety of meatless Italian soups served in Guadalupe Hall.

It is with great sadness that we learned about the death of Roger Elissagary, husband of our Past District President Annette Elissagary. May he rest in peace.

Pray for the sick and their caregivers as we enter the season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

Karen Rosson

Angels Camp

St. Patrick, Br. 413

Happy and Blessed New Year to all! Branch 413 just finished the Installation of Officers with our Stockton District Members on January 8th. It was a smaller group this year, due to bad weather and illnesses, but those of us who came enjoyed each other’s company. We even had the pleasure of having the company of the Grand President Leonard Zazoski, Jr. and his beautiful wife,

Betty. It was a good start to the New Year.

Our Branch has many events coming up again for this year. We are gearing up for our Valentine Dinner Dance on February 11th. Pork tenderloin will be the main course, and we hope you will come and join us. Lent brings a soup supper for the parish, and Easter will hopefully be visited by the Easter Bunny Bob with Holy cards and candies for the little ones. Somewhere in all of that is March 17th, the feast day of St. Patrick, who is the patron of our parish. Branch 413 does a corn beef sandwich lunch. May is the time for a Baccalaureate Mass for our graduates, and June is the month for our BBQ Dinner. There are so many events to prepare for and execute in the coming months. Our new members give us hope to continue our work in the parish and with our ICF family.

We pray that all of you and your families are safe and happy, and that God will bless us, and rest the souls of our departed family and friends in His Peace.

Ciao,  
Annette Pachinger  
President  
For  
Robert Pachinger  
Correspondence Secretary

Tucson

Tucson

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

Tonight’s meeting featured a presentation by the S County Sheriff’s Department Scam Squad who alerted nearly 50 ICF members and guests to the types of scams that are being played in Green Valley and environs...very informative. The Christmas Cookie Sale was reported to be the best ever. Volunteers responded to fill the jobs for our second major fundraiser on Feb. 11...lasagna dinner for 400 patrons...200 seated and 200 take out. Planning is underway for our Bishop’s Table meal on March 18. Bishop’s Day and installation of officers will be hosted on Feb. 11 by Branch 434, Saints Peter & Paul... with Branches 433 and 425 participating. We inducted 3 new members bringing our membership total to 74 hard-working... fun- loving fellow parishioners.

We are family.  
Barbara Barton, reporting

The Hymn to Love (excerpt)

Love never gives up.  
Love cares more for others than for self.  
Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.  
Love doesn’t strut,  
Doesn’t have a swelled head,  
Doesn’t force itself on others,  
Isn’t always “me first,”...

The Apostle Paul’s famous words about love. This scripture is often read at wedding ceremonies, and is a good one to quote in a Valentine’s card. This is an excerpt (the whole chapter can be found here) 1 Cor 13:3-7 (The Message)

A New Commandment

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Christ inaugurates a new way of loving others - John 13:34-35, (NHEB)

Read more: [http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/valentine\\_prayer.html#ixzz4WaJsQIY2](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/valentine_prayer.html#ixzz4WaJsQIY2)

The Ways and Means Committee presents the 2018 “Daily Raffle” theme:

“Our Stories, Our Recipes”

We need your participation. So how can you help?

- Share a special story or anecdote about your family heritage and history.
- Share a family recipe that holds a fond memory you think others might enjoy.
- **Sell! Sell! Sell!** The “Daily Raffle” is a great fundraiser for the entire Italian Catholic Federation, since a portion of every sale goes directly to your branch!

List special family occasions such as family birthdays, anniversaries, graduations...branch and district events.

PRICE SCHEDULE

\$10 – one name/event; \$15 – 2 names/events;  
\$20 – 4 names/events

(Additional numbers will be a combination of prices listed above)

Example: **\$30 – 5 names/events @ \$20**  
+\$10 or

**\$40 – 8 names/events @ \$20 + \$20**  
Deadline for names and payment is: **May 1, 2017**

Mail information and checks payable to:

Italian Catholic Federation  
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110  
Oakland, CA 94621



The Committee thanks you for your continued support!

Chairperson: Lisa Crudo  
Members: Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Leonard Rossi,  
Denise Antonowicz, Patricia Magee, and Nina Malone

For further questions, call the I.C.F. office at (510) 633-9058 or Lisa Crudo (510) 861-9835



# **Join us in the Gold Country!**

# **2017 CONVENTION**

**September 1 - 4**

**DoubleTree by Hilton - Sacramento**

**Theme:**

**“Discovering the Treasures  
of Our Faith and Heritage”**





# Happy Valentine's Day!

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