

IN TOUCH

Italian Catholic Federation

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District Mentor Newsletter

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A MESSAGE TO ALL MENTORS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your dedication and service to the I.C.F. this past year. 2018 should be an exciting year for the Federation.

Our District Mentor phone conference in December, proved to be especially fruitful as we reviewed your role in promoting and supporting the Federation's revised Strategic Plan in your District and at the Branch level. We also had a chance to share information from each District. I plan to hold another phone conference within a month or so. I will inform you via email or phone of the date and time. I plan to invite either the Chairperson of the Membership Committee or the Expansion Committee to join us.

Hopefully, by now, all Branch Officers should have been elected for the New Year. I am aware that there are many first time officers, including some in the office of the President this year. Mentors, please sit with the Branch Officers, go over the responsibilities of each office and give them the support they will need. There are useful training modules on the I.C.F. website under the Membership Area.

You can help the Presidents and their officers conduct business smoothly and efficiently by offering your support and knowledge. Please give a Mentor Report and highlight ways that the Branch can support the I.C.F. Strategic Plan. The plan can also be found on the I.C.F. website under the Membership Area.

Mentoring is a great skill and can be an enjoyable experience.

Please remember to be a POSITIVE influence and don't forget to send in your reports to me in a timely manner.

BISHOPS' DAYS 2018

Again this year, I want to encourage all Districts

and Branches to start early preparing for their Bishop's Day.

Plan special fundraisers to increase the Bishop's Burse donations from the Branches.

Andy has given this information before regarding the cost of educating seminarians, but I think it bears repeating. Our I.C.F. Spiritual Director, Reverend Monsignor Daniel Cardelli, has explained the the financial challenges faced by the Bishops in educating a seminarian.

The Diocese pays for the seminarians. Most come from other countries and don't have the ability to contribute to the cost of education and formation. Here's a summary of the cost per seminarian per year

Tuition	\$12,795
Room and Board	\$10,532
Medical Insurance	\$ 5,028
Books/Retreat	\$ 950
Personal Living	\$ 1,575
Total	\$30,880

Start early to encourage more members to attend Bishop's Day. Our presence shows our Bishops respect, support and appreciation.

COMMITTEE REQUESTS

The **Convention Committee** will soon be asking that the Branches start early to submit names for the 5 awards to be given out at Convention: Pope Saint John XXIII, Grand President's, Family of the Year, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Young Adult Leadership Awards.

When you receive the application form, please read it completely. The Central Council needs all of the required material for the packet to be complete.

New Deadline for Convention Yearbook Submissions: In order to help with the timeline for the production of the Convention Yearbook, the **Deadline for Submissions is being moved up from July 1st to June 1st**. The materials for the Convention Yearbook are part of the documents, for the Quarter ending 12/31/17, that are now available on the website in the OfficersqPortal. Please make sure that you point this out to the Districts and Branches, so that we can all meet this new deadline.

WORKSHOPS

Your I.C.F. Workshop Committee is ready and Available NOW for a presentation to your District. They will demonstrate any 60 to 90 minute presentation on many of the I.C.F. Programs. Your District President should discuss this with the Branches and select at least two or three topics for a presentation by the Workshop Committee. The topics include Spiritual Activities, Membership Growth, Retention of Members, Awards Program, Heritage/History, Financial Reports, Fundraisers for Charitable Programs, OfficersqMentorsqDuties or any other topics of interest. The Workshop Committee would like to schedule your workshop during the months of March, April or May. Contact the I.C.F. Office for contact information.

WANT TO BE A MENTOR?

Please keep an eye out for individuals who can serve as a Branch Mentor. Many members will not come forward and volunteer to be a Mentor. However, I have noticed that when a member is asked to serve as a Mentor he/she more than likely accepts the invitation. For more information, please contact Vince Piro at vpiro@icloud.com or (209) 756-4817.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MENTORS TO SPEAK ON AT BRANCH MEETINGS

Membership Retention and Payment of Dues.

Make sure that a list of the newly elected District/Branch Officers is sent to the I.C.F. office.

Make sure each Branch has a published yearly calendar of events that has been given to every member and encourage each President to have Chairpersons for all Branch Committees.

Encourage all Branch members to attend the District Installation of Officers. Insist that all Officers, or a Representative, attend the District Installation of OfficersqCeremony.

Encourage Members to join the Hospitalization Program.

Information on our Scholarship Program has been mailed to all of the high schools where the Federation is located. Encourage Branches to contribute at least one full scholarship if they have the means. Partial scholarship donations are also accepted and encouraged. Encourage members who have children or grandchildren who are high

school seniors and meet the criteria to apply. March 15th is the deadline for donations and applications.

Encourage Branches to increase donations to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year and Italian Studies Scholarships this year. The need is great for our advanced Scholarship Program.

Encourage members to make contributions to the Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund, CooleyqAnemia, Gifts of Love and Scholarship Programs. Donation cards are available through the I.C.F. office.

Remind Branches to: pay the Per Capita Tax when the bill is received. Consider now how to have sufficient funds (try fundraisers) to send their Delegates to the Convention this year over Labor Day Weekend.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/17 BY DISTRICT

Gain/Loss since
6/30/17

Central Coast	1,344	+ 0
Santa Clara Valley	1,061	- 33
Fresno	940	- 32
Santa Rosa	767	- 4
Contra Costa	763	+18
San Mateo	635	- 15
Los Angeles	497	- 23
Chicago	414	- 11
Blessed Sacrament	380	- 5
Stockton	451	+ 0
East Bay	400	+ 4
San Diego	307	+ 5
Santa Barbara/Ventura	275	- 4
San Francisco	177	- 9
Marin	224	- 7
San Gabriel Valley	236	+35
Tucson	101	- 2
Orange	105	- 6
San Fernando Valley	65	- 3
San Bernardino	89	+ 1
Reno	46	+ 1

Total membership as of 12/31/17	9,277
New Members	246
Reinstated	19
Cancelled/Non Payment	278
Deceased	77
Dues Not Paid 6 – 8 months	8
Dues Not Paid 9 – 12 months	263

**Wishing you God's Blessings
in this New Year!**