



BOLLETTINO



Grand President's Monthly Message

by Andrew Pappani

(As per Bollettino tradition, the February issue publishes the Grand President's Installation Speech.)

I would like to thank the past officers for their commitment to our Federation this past year [A JOB WELL DONE.] The newly elected officers, I congratulate you for stepping up to be leaders in your branches and district this coming year. It is greatly appreciated.

It is my honor to be with you this year, as the Grand President of the Federation. It is a New Year filled with many exciting opportunities and expectations. It is this anticipation that inspires me when installations take place. These ceremonies bring new optimism and life into the Federation. At installation time we remember what it is like to have the sense of family and belonging with our heritage and church. With the unity that brings us together we will work hard in 2018 to make our parishes, communities and the world a better place for everyone.

We all have New Year's resolutions set for the New Year. Mine is to help our branches to grow. One branch at a time, hand-in-hand, we will be there to help you.

When I was installed Grand President this last Convention, in my speech I had challenged all branches to a 10% membership growth; that's not an impossible task. Just think if everybody brought in just one member what our membership would be? And this is in line with the Federation's Strategic Plan which states that "We will grow and maintain our membership base." The Federation needs everyone to focus on our future, growth and

retention. We have the tools and resources, we want to be active in your Branches and Districts. Please, just ask for assistance from your Central Council members, the Membership Committee, Task Force Committee, Workshop Committee, Mentor Program, Expansion Committee and even the Grand President. You have elected us to work for you, and we are here to help all branches in their goals they want to reach.

Remember what I had said, we need to get back to the basics, back to a family atmosphere, A smile goes a long way to get new members. Use the buddy system, Treat every member like a first time member. Treat others how you would like to be treated. Give back to our Parishes.



Thought of mind*

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase"

__ Martin Luther King Jr.

Once again I want to thank each and every one of you for your love and commitment to the Italian Catholic Federation. I am truly grateful for everything that you do, for your friendship and support. I wish each of you good health and much happiness in the coming year.

Now, let's go forth and carry the ideas and aims of forefathers of the Italian Catholic Federation

God Bless you and God Bless the Italian Catholic Federation and the United States of America.

The Ways and Means Committee presents the 2019 "Daily Raffle" theme:

"Festa's Around the World"

We need your participation. So how can you help?

- Share a special story or anecdote about the FESTA your family enjoyed and the HISTORY of the FESTA.
- Share a FAMILY RECIPE that holds a fond memory of the FESTA 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!



ANOTHER WAY TO HELP

List special family occasions such as Family Birthdays, Anniversaries or 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, 2018

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: Bob Basuino
Members: Denise Antonowicz, Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and Leonard Rossi, O.L.J.
Members At Large: Maria Di Paolo and Teresa Helfand
Assistants: Lisa Crudo and Patricia Mages

For further questions, call the I.C.F. office at (510) 633-9058

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

Thank You ICF!

Your generous donations to the Gifts of Love Program have helped this family purchase a mechanical seat for their special needs daughter. The following is their note of thanks and photos of their daughter using the seat.

Dear ICF Members,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$3,000 that went towards the purchase of a van conversion for my daughter, Kylee Steitz. The Bruno seat we got mechanical moves her into the car. It is amazing and is saving our backs. The work you do is so important and appreciated!

Kelly, Kylee and family



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Let's Make 2018 a Happy New Year all Year!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

As I write this article on January 6, 2018, the weather report is:

- An Arctic air mass enveloping parts of the Northeast US on Friday sent temperatures below zero in some areas.

- The frigid weather is the byproduct of a bomb cyclone and polar vortex that slammed the East Coast for much of the week.

- The storm left some vehicles encased in ice on roads in Boston, blanketed New York landmarks in snow, and prompted airport closures and flight delays for a time.

This is really a chilling report (pun intended.) Seriously, this cold, cold



weather can do severe harm to cities, places and people. We hope and pray that this condition doesn't last very long.

Conditions often occur which are out of our control. It may be fires, floods, earthquakes and now extreme cold. God help us! Yes, we turn to God for relief and protection during times of trouble. Be it worldwide problems, personal problems, sickness or death, what do we do? We ask God to help us. What do we find? God's warm heart, His love and guidance and, above all, HOPE. Hope means we can trust that God will give us everything we need, especially to get through our toughest times. He loves us

unconditionally. No matter who we are or what we have done, His love is always present and always perfect.

When someone loves us that much, we cannot help but love Him back. When we love someone, we try to please that person



as much as we can. When we love God, we try to do what is right - what He tells us to do. We praise and worship Him at Mass and live our best lives with His guidance. In turn, He gives us the gift of Himself in Holy Communion.

Thank you, God, for your warm heart and perfect love. Give us the grace to love You, too.

Promoting the ICF in the Community

Teresa Helfand
Grand Sentinel

ICF and further our goals.

We would like to make a special effort to involve young people in the ICF so that they can get involved in a family activity and be the next generation that will carry the ICF forward in the 21st Century.

I would like to give a few tips for the Branches to increase their membership:

- * Have a mother and daughter tea party sponsored by the ICF
- * Organize a trip to a ballgame or sporting event that the whole family can attend

* Have a children's cooking class where the children end up cooking for their parents

* Look into weekend family retreats that are available in your areas, visiting churches, nature retreats, etc.

There are lots of other things that can be done, but everyone should think about what would work well in your area. Also remember to let us know if you see an opportunity to open a new Branch.

We have faith and trust in our Members to promote the ICF and expand our reach throughout the Church!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year!

For 2018, we would like each member to reflect on the ICF's goal of promoting community within the Catholic Church. Each Member should plan to invite a non-member to one of the ICF's events - be it a monthly meeting or a special event - so that we can add to the membership of the

Want to Give More Scholarships? Here's How

Robert Acquistapace
Past Grand President

Each year, when I judge scholarships, I see Italian students with good grades and a need for financial help who do not get an ICF Scholarship because we don't have enough to give. Here is how one branch has been able to give more.

St. Eugene's Branch 198, in Santa Rosa, gave 8 scholarships to high school graduates last year and we expect to do the same

this year. In order to do this we have approached it in three ways. The FIRST WAY is to award one or more scholarships from the branch treasury. This is the key to letting your members know that the branch supports the program. The SECOND WAY was used by the Sikes Family (of the Barbieri-Sikes Family of the Year award recipients) upon the death of the father (Norman) and later the mother (RoseAnne). The family requested that donations be made to the Branch 198

scholarship fund in their memory. Checks were sent to Kathy Acquistapace who gave the family a list of donors and the money to our treasurer. Each year \$400 from this account is sent to the CC for the Norman and RoseAnne Memorial Scholarship. There is still about \$4,000 in this account. The THIRD WAY to get more scholarships is to let your members know they can give the branch \$400 and designate someone to be memorialized. I gave \$400 to honor my father and mother (Rico and Irene). Mary gave in memory of Aldo, Charlene in memory of Joe, Irene and Jerre, Bill in memory of Louis, Margaret and Christine. The Barbieri family gave in memory of past president and secretary (Romie and Helen). Another Barbieri family donates in memory of their father and mother (Peter, a past president and Julie).

The recipients of these scholarships are invited to our May dinner meeting and sit with the donors. In addition to the Central Council Scholarship, our branch gives an additional check of \$100 per recipient at the May dinner.

I hope this article will inspire an individual, a family or the entire branch to award more scholarships in 2018.

2018 1st Year Scholarship Program

Materials on the 1st 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, 2018. 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.

UPCOMING:

2018 District Installations:

Feb. 3 Orange

Feb. 3 Tucson

Feb. 25 Fresno

Apr. 26 Chicago

2018 Bishops' Days:

Feb. 3 Orange

Feb. 17 Tucson

Apr. 8 San Francisco Diocese

Apr. 22 Chicago

Jun. 3 Stockton

Who Are We?

Denise Antonowicz
Heritage Chairperson

Please remember to send the name and contact information for your Heritage Chair to me at d56@comcast.net, no later than March 1, 2018.

How did it all start?

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is an annual holiday celebrated on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian liturgical feast day honoring one or more early saints named Valentinus, and is recognized as a significant cultural and commercial celebration in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country.

Several martyrdom stories associated with the various Valentines that were connected to February 14 were added to later martyrologies, including a popular account of Saint Valentine of Rome which indicated he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman

Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment, Saint Valentine healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius, and before his execution, he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). In Europe, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children, in order to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion, as well as in the Lutheran Church.^[9] Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on July 6 and July 30, the former date in honor of the Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and the latter date in honor of Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

Apostolate – Charity Committee

Lauren Kilcullen
Apostolate Committee Chairperson

This month, we have a special guest columnist – His Excellency, Robert Vasa, Bishop of Santa Rosa. Bishop Vasa graciously agreed to write a column about one of the ICF's most important funds – the Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund.

Gratitude for the Providenza Fund

Each year I am blessed to receive, for the benefit of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, a distribution from the Providenza Fund. This money is given to Dioceses for the purpose of helping offset the ever-challenging cost of seminarian formation. It is a blessing to have younger men again joining the seminary, but this means that they must often complete two or three years of college work before being admitted to four or five more years of theological studies. Since student loans are not always a possibility and since the young men are often engaged, during the summer, in some other forms of volunteer ministry or some additional work on formation, they do not have the resources to provide for their own educational expenses. Thus, it falls to the Diocese, to 'provide' for these expenses. College and Theological formation are both expensive. The costs do not rise to the level of "Ivy League" Schools but it is not at all unusual for a Diocese to expend up to \$25,000 or \$35,000 per seminarian per year. Even with a relatively small number of seminarians this creates an enormous funding challenge.

The annual gift from the Providenza Fund, which I have designated to be placed in a Seminarian Endowment, helps supplement the expenses which the Diocese incurs. While most of the support dollars come from Diocesan collections and Appeals the money from the Providenza Fund is most

encouraging for it is a sign that the members of the laity, in particular the laity of the Italian Catholic Federation, recognize that the duty to support seminarians, their future priests, must be seen as a responsibility of the laity. I get lots of letters begging for priests, begging for better formed priests, begging for priests fluent in both English and Spanish, begging for priests who preach well, begging for younger priests, begging for priests who are known in other parishes. Those letters never include a check to help form priests. True, the laity have, in my view, a right to priests to serve them well and I have a duty to provide such priests to them. However, I can only send the priests that I have, and I can only have the priests after they have been formed and the formation and education are expensive.

The members of the Italian Catholic Federation show by their annual gift that they want to share in the great enterprise of forming the future priests of the Diocese. They show that they understand that priests do not drop down from the sky fully formed and already ordained. This recognition is a source of tremendous encouragement to me as a Bishop. It is also, in many ways, a source of encouragement to my seminarians who see that the Federation is supportive of them and praying for them. Thus, your annual gifts do more than supply for some portion of the material needs of educating seminarians. Your gifts are signs of your hopefulness for future priests, your love for the priesthood and your love for the Church.

I write to encourage you and especially to thank you for your generosity each year to the Providenza Fund which helps my Diocese, and others as well, meet the ever-increasing challenge of funding the education of our future priests.

Bishop Robert Vasa
Diocese of Santa Rosa

JANUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

2018 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 26th deadline. The winners' names for January 2018 and February 2018 will be printed in the March 2018 issue. The winners' names will also be available in the Bollettino Highlights on the I.C.F. Web site at www.icf.org beginning with the March 2018 issue.

Hurricane and Fire Relief Funds

Lauren Kilcullen
Apostolate Committee Chairperson

Thanks to the donations from Federation members, the total for the Hurricane Relief Fund is \$3,539.00 as of December 28, 2017 and the Wildfire Relief Fund is \$11,275.00 as of December 28, 2017.

The final total for the Hurricane Relief Fund was sent to Catholic Charities USA.

The final total for the Wildfire Relief Fund was presented to Len Marabella, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Santa Rosa Diocese and the District Installation on January 21. Photos will be in the March Bollettino.

I thank all members for their generosity for the two funds. Please continue to pray for the people who have been affected by these natural disasters.

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

TO OUR READERS:

Due to health issues with David Botta and ongoing complications following the Santa Rosa fire for me and my family, we are suspending our column - HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS- for now. We hope to resume in the future when things hopefully will be better.

Thank you to our faithful readers.

. ICF is Going Green! If you prefer to read the Bollettino online and like the idea of saving a tree while helping the ICF save on printing costs, follow this link to sign up:
<http://eepurl.com/bLaMFb>

Leonard Zmowski, Jr.
Vice President Construction Operations
District of Safety
Call 927-470-8222



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BOOK REVIEW**Vince Piro**Grand 1st Vice President
Branch 39, Merced**It Happened in Italy: Untold Stories of How the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust**

By Elizabeth Bettina

Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2009.
384 pp.

It Happened in Italy is a first person account of the author's discovery of "how thousands of Jews were spared almost certain death at the hands of the Nazis, simply because they were in Italy." This book tells the story of Jews that lived in Italian concentration camps during WW II. The Italian camps were in stark contrast to their German counterparts and serve as a reminder that amidst evil, human kindness and decency can exist.

No story better captures the severe differences between the Nazi camps and Italian camps than one of the first ones in the book. Edith Moskovich Birns describes the differences between her experiences in Auschwitz and her husband Fred's experiences in Campagna and Ferramonti, the sites of two Italian concentration

camps. She describes her experiences in Auschwitz as horrifying and brutal: ". . . we barely had enough to eat. If I found the core of an apple in the field, I picked it up and sucked it. That little juice helped me survive one more day, but if a soldier found me picking up the apple, he would have shot me immediately." She recounts her husband's experiences in an Italian concentration camp much differently: ". . . the Italian camps were a picnic . . . You know what they did? They played cards. Can you imagine that? When I tell other survivors that my husband played cards in his concentration camp in Italy, they don't believe me.»

Other stories emerge as Bettina continues her exploration of Italian concentration camps during WW II. She learns about Giovanni Palatucci, the Italian Schindler. Palatucci, who was a police officer under the reign of Benito Mussolini, defied orders and saved thousands of Jewish lives. First, he refused to turn over documents and lists to Nazi authorities that would have led them to Jews that had relocated to Italy when they fled persecution in Germany. Then, he falsified documents to allow many Jews to escape Europe as the war raged. If for some reason they could not escape the country, Palatucci arranged for the remaining Jews to be sent to Campagna, where they were held in a concentration camp that was a former convent and where they were treated decently. For his insubordination, the Nazis sent Palatucci to Dachau where he was put to death.

Bettina also shares the story of Walter

Wolff who survived the Daschau camp and moved to Italy where he was sent to an Italian camp in Campagna. Walter notes the differences between treatment he received by the Nazis and Italians: ". . . the Italian camps were nothing like the German camps. In comparison, it was like going to a hotel. There was no forced labor in the Italian camps. We could do whatever we wanted during the day, as long as we obeyed the simple rules of being present for roll call in the morning when the doors to the camp were opened, and in the evening when the doors to the camp were closed." The reader follows Wolff as he returns to Italy many years later to share his story.

What is amazing about this history is how so few people -- even in Italy -- know it. Bettina discovers over and over again that historians, government officials, and others know nothing about the Italian concentration camps and how many small Italian towns helped the Jewish people survive the war. In fact, Italians are often surprised themselves to learn that the citizens of their towns hid or protected Jews during the war. On a visit to Potenza, the mayor of the town notes that ". . . we did not know that Ebrei [Jews] had been Potenza during World War II . . . Infatti [in fact] we have a book that was written on the history of Potenza -- over two thousand pages -- and there is not one word in it about Ebrei being here in World War II . . . Forty historians worked on this, but none of them discovered this part of our history."

While many of the chapters in It Happened in Italy focus on the experiences of the survivors of WW II and the prisoners of the Italian concentration camps, other chapters focus more on Bettina's own experiences and observations as she uncovers this untold story of Italy during WWII. An early chapter in the book "The Photo -- The Rabbi" is an example of this more personal style. In this chapter, she recounts how upon studying a picture of her grandparents' wedding, she discovers a Rabbi standing with the wedding party. She writes, "A picture changed my life. A faded gray photo showed something that didn't make sense. What was an Orthodox rabbi doing standing on the steps of the church where my Catholic grandparents were married? . . . Questions raced through my mind. Since when did this village have a rabbi? Just about everyone in Italy in the 1940s was Catholic. So how did the rabbi get there, especially during World War II?" These first person insights into the author's experiences lend the book a more personal flavor than a strictly historical or academic text. The reader follows Bettina on her journey of discovery and learn about the Italian concentration camps through her eyes.

It Happened in Italy is a reminder that in the midst of war and chaos, there often are brave people who will resist evil, often putting themselves at risk. It is a call to all of us to stand against the injustices and Inhumanity we see in our own communities and throughout the world.

Family Recipes

By Deborah Rodondi

Grand 2nd Vice President

Here is a recipe my Great Aunt Gina (Virginia) Milani Bonalanza discovered on one of her retreats to Saint Claire's, hence the name. Aunt Gina loved to cook and was never afraid to come up with better ways of enhancing recipes. This is one of our family favorites (I think I always say that).

Saint Claire's Retreat Cookies

Cream well:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 2 eggs

Add to the above:

- 2 cups flour (I add another ½ cup)
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix well and add:

1 cup walnuts, chopped-I have also used pecans or eliminated for nut allergy individuals

1 cup raisins (try with dried apricots cut into pieces)

- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 ½ cups rice krispies

Mix well. Will be very dry and crumbly, will make crispy cookies.

Drop by teaspoon (I usually need to use my fingers to keep the mixture together) onto on ungreased cookie sheet (I cover with parchment). Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.

Will keep for several months in an airtight container (like one of those giant pickle jars you kept for some unknown reason...here is your chance to dust it off and use it!)

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 drodoni@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!

**We Treat Kids Better**

Interested in learning more about the ICF's National Charity, Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)?

If so, Laurice Levine, Thalassemia Program Consultant for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, would be honored to come and speak at one of your branch meetings or any special event.

Contact Information:

360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com

It does not matter how small or how large your branch is, the goal is to educate everyone on Cooley's Anemia and the great work the ICF does for this cause.

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

IN MEMORY OF:

Jerry Colivas
 Carolyn Cugia
 Inez Ertassi
 Carolyn Cugia
 Carolyn Cugia
 Carolyn Cugia
 Carolyn Cugia
 Carolyn Cugia

DONATED BY:

Officers/Members of Br. 144
 Officers/Members of Central Council
 Vic and Pat Arnaudo
 The Kilcullen Family
 Bob and Kathy Acquistapace
 Joan and Jerry Delfino
 Diana Petrolino
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dianda and Jane

WITH PRAYERS FOR:

Manuel Gonzales

Susan Padilla

IN HONOR OF:

Seminarian John Ploss

Officers/Members of Br. 144

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:

A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 227 - Capitola.

*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.

In Loving Memory

Report Date: 01/12/2018

JIM ALLIO Branch 007
 BERTINA MARCELO Branch 007
 RICHARD PASTORI Branch 014
 JOHN G SEPULVEDA Branch 014
 FRED (RICO) DELLA SANTINA Branch 021
 LENA MARIE SILVA Branch 021
 CHRISTINE WALKER Branch 021
 LAURA ANGELINO Branch 028
 BENEDICT IMPRESCIA Branch 028

FRANCES SOLIS Branch 036
 ALDO BONGIO Branch 145
 EVELYN BONGIO Branch 145
 JEROME J COLIVAS Branch 145
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 CATHERINE RENZI-COMISKY Branch 358
 BETTY S BRAZIL Branch 390
 DOMINIC J NUNES JR Branch 390
 RICARDO D PRECIADO Branch 434

Scholarship Donations

Donations received by January 10, 2017

Scholarship Donations - 1st Year

John and Dorene Campanile
 In memory of John O'Brien

Rose Haupt
 In memory of Frank Bavaro

Gifts of Love Donations

Donations received by January 10, 2018

Branch 39 In memory of Antonino "Tony" Brullo
 Branch 115 John and Kim Filice
 Branch 154 In memory of Laura Angelino
 Branch 184 Rosalie Campisi
 Arthur Bree In memory of Rose Mauro
 In memory of Yolanda Arnaudo
 Evelyn Taravella
 Officers/Members of Br. 1 In memory of John Janini
 In memory of Inez Ertassi
 Officers/Members of Br. 291
 In memory of Frank Bavaro

Live to Give

November was the "National Sabbath" month

During the month of November, we focused on the message of organ and tissue donation in our religious communities. Our program this past November was, "Celebrating Faith, Hope and Life". Across the country, leaders of all faiths promote organ and tissue donation among their members in many ways. Organ and tissue donation is recognized by all major faiths as a noble and meritorious act. Many, such as in the Jewish faith, feel that it is selfish NOT to donate, since it is a profound way to help your fellow man. For we Catholics, posters are displayed around the Church, announcements are made at Mass, and tables appear for parishioners to talk to volunteers, including donor family members and recipients.

Articles are published in the weekly bulletins, with messages such as this.

Organ and tissue donation offers the hope to heal lives and is a generous act supported by Pope Francis and the Catholic church. Your decision to register as a donor gives hope to the thousands who are waiting for a second chance at life. Among them are parents hoping to see their children grow up and kids looking forward to pursuing their dreams, but their future looks uncertain.

Especially during the Holidays, we reflect on and have gratitude for all the blessings we have received throughout the year. While many of us look forward to celebrating with our loved ones, thousands of people in our community who are on the transplant wait list are wondering if this might be their last holiday. Organ and tissue donors can give the most precious gift, the Gift of Life. Donors save and heal the lives of many people in our community every day and are celebrated for their generosity by transplant recipients. Sadly, 22 people die every day in the U.S. for a transplant that hasn't come in time. We, as people of faith, are called to contribute to causes that are greater than us. Helping those in need is one of those causes. We can all be a miracle to someone in

need. Be that miracle. Register as a donor at DonorNetworkWest.org or at the DMV and share your decision with your loved ones.

So, how much do you know about organ donation?

Answers to November's Bollettino quiz (share them with a friend or family member!):

If I am a registered donor, doctors will not try as hard to save my life.

FALSE. For a doctor or an EMT caring for someone in a medical crisis, their first priority is to save your life. They are not involved in organ/tissue donation or transplantation.

I am too old or too sick to donate.

FALSE. Don't rule yourself out. Medical professionals determine, at the time of death, what can be used.

My religion does not support donation.

FALSE. Pope Francis has described the act of organ donation as "a testimony of love for our neighbor".

An open casket funeral is not possible after donation.

FALSE. The recovery of organs and tissues does not impact the ability to have an open casket funeral.

Organs can be purchased or sold in the United States.

FALSE. It is illegal to buy or sell an organ in the United States.

To be an organ and tissue donor costs my family money.

FALSE. There is no additional cost to your family for donation. You (or your insurance company) are responsible for hospital expenses prior to death.

Closing thought...

Make this a resolution for 2018:

"I will talk to my friends and family about the life saving cause of organ donation, and get at least one person to register."

Cooley's Anemia Donations

Donations Received by January 10, 2018

Branch 31
 Branch 39
 Branch 227
 Branch 237

Manuel and Ana Lucas
 Jacquelyn Labrucherie
 In memory of Laura Angelino

Cooley's Anemia Research Update

The Believe Trial An Efficacy and Safety Study of Luspatercept (ACE-536) Versus Placebo in Adults Who Require Regular Red Blood Cell Transfusions Due to Beta (β) Thalassemia (BELIEVE)

By Susan Carson, RN, MSN, CPNP
– Thalassemia Nurse Practitioner
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

The Believe trial was opened by Celgene in August 2016 in 73 sites around the world. Children's Hospital Los Angeles is one of the sites under the direction of Dr. Thomas Coates as the Principal Investigator and was the first to open and start treating patients.

The hallmark of thalassemia is the body's inability to make red blood cells effectively. Red blood cells are produced in our bone marrow from stem cells. They go through many, many phases as they develop and "grow up" into the mature cells that circulate through our body- carrying vital oxygen and other nutrients. Patients with thalassemia try to make LOTS of red blood cells- but they never develop fully and die in the marrow. Side effects in non-transfused and under-transfused thalassemia patients are a by-product of ineffective blood making (erythropoiesis). They include bone disease, thalassemic facies, spinal tumors, enlarged liver and spleens and growth failure.

Transfusions serve not just to increase hemoglobin and make patients feel better, they also suppress the bone marrow- red cell production will slow down as the body detects that hemoglobin levels are high enough. This is a goal of transfusions. Due to the side effects of transfusion--including iron overload-- researchers through the years have looked for other ways to increase hemoglobin levels in thalassemia patients. Other drugs such as hydroxyurea have been tried. Hydroxyurea raised hemoglobin in some patients, but did nothing to correct their overactive blood making drives--and so the patients still had the same problems as before.

Luspatercept is designed to help the late stage development of the red blood cells which will hopefully raise hemoglobin by reducing the ineffective erythropoiesis.

It's a complicated mechanism, but when it works, it helps the body make red blood cells that grow up completely- rather than stalling in the marrow. As mature cells make their way into the blood stream- then the marrow senses it can slow down.... Which is what we want it to do. Preliminary studies were done in Europe which had very promising results. Some patients who responded were able to come off of transfusions and some were able to decrease their amount of blood – or increase the interval between the transfusions.

The BELIEVE study is a Phase III study- it's primary goal is to look whether Luspatercept works or not. The protocol is looking at this by comparing the study drug to a placebo. One of every three patients is randomized to receive the placebo. Neither the investigators, nor the patient know what they are getting. The medication syringes look exactly the same- but some patients are getting Luspatercept and some are getting saline water. Only the pharmacist who mixes it up knows- and the main study managers. "Blinding" the study helps all of us be objective.

Patients will be treated for 48 weeks to see if their transfusion requirements are reduced. They will also be looking at iron levels, bone density, quality of life and other measurements. Once they have all the data in, they will analyze to see if the medication worked. If it did, they will use this to apply to the FDA for approval. This will take many years.

This study has proven to be very popular and enrolled very quickly. It was only available to adults due to FDA rules. Though some sites may still be open, we closed enrollment earlier this year. We are very excited to be part of this study and look forward to seeing the results.

Reprint from the CHLA Thalassemia Update Fall 2017. For more information:

LLevine430@aol.com

Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

Report Date: 01/12/2018

MICHAEL TALIA	Branch 005	LYNN ROMBI	Branch 036
LORRAINE M SYMYNUK	Branch 007	JENNIFER L RUDISILL	Branch 036
LIZ BRUNETTI	Branch 010	JOSHUA J RUDISILL	Branch 036
MICHAEL BRUNETTI	Branch 010	ALBERT SCHRAN	Branch 036
MICHAEL SEAN BRUNETTI	Branch 010	MAIKO SCHRAN	Branch 036
	Branch 010	DIANNE M SILVA	Branch 036
RORY BRUNETTI	Branch 010	JIM F SWALLOW	Branch 036
JERRY GHISELLI	Branch 010	SHARON A SWALLOW	Branch 036
KATHY GHISELLI	Branch 010	TOM VERGA	Branch 036
LILLIAN MOLZAN	Branch 010	CATHERINE HORAN-WALKER	Branch 036
ELLA CHRISTENSEN	Branch 014	LEONARD WALKER	Branch 036
OWEN CHRISTENSEN	Branch 014	FRANK M LIENERT	Branch 045
DANIELLA FALKENSTEIN	Branch 014	VIOLETA ESPIRITU	Branch 103
	Branch 014	KATHY SALAZAR	Branch 111
MAYA FALKENSTEIN	Branch 014	AEDAN DI GIROLAMO	Branch 127
CARSON HOFFMANN	Branch 014		Branch 127
CHANCE HOFFMANN	Branch 014	BENNETT DI GIROLAMO	Branch 127
PAOLINA RABBACH	Branch 014	VIRGINIA DI GIROLAMO	Branch 127
ROMAN RABBACH	Branch 014		Branch 127
EMILY M GHIO-CATO	Branch 021	PETER J FILIPOVITS	Branch 230
RON COX	Branch 021	HAILEY BLUE KURTZ	Branch 230
LEON GREGORY	Branch 021	HEATHER KURTZ	Branch 230
SARAFINA M TOMASELLI	Branch 021	NICOLO A BOLLA	Branch 332
	Branch 021	NICO LOFRANO	Branch 332
JOSEPH T VALLEJO	Branch 026	ROSE LOFRANO	Branch 332
ROSEMARY M VALLEJO	Branch 026	MICHAEL MACHO	Branch 374
DENISE CAMPAGNA	Branch 028	TRACY WILKINSON	Branch 374
SALVATORE CAMPAGNA	Branch 028	CLARA E CASCELLA	Branch 392
	Branch 028	FRANK CASCELLA	Branch 392
KATHY MC HENRY	Branch 028	DIAMANTE KAVALIAUSKIENE	Branch 392
MOE MC HENRY	Branch 028		Branch 392
DAVE STURLA	Branch 028	JOLITA KAVALIAUSKIENE	Branch 392
MARY STURLA	Branch 028		Branch 392
CESCA ALIOTTI	Branch 036	LEONARD PERNA	Branch 392
RON ALIOTTI	Branch 036	MARIA PERNA	Branch 392
ELIZABETH P BROWN	Branch 036	VITANGELO PIETANZA	Branch 392
SUSAN F DODDS	Branch 036	EMILY BEHRMANN	Branch 395
KATHRYN A DREHER	Branch 036	PAULA L WATT-STOCK	Branch 395
RICHARD F DREHER	Branch 036	ALESSANDRO AGRELLA	Branch 439
JOHN B OLSEN	Branch 036	VINCENZA AGRELLA	Branch 439
ROSELYN REAL	Branch 036	SHARON F BOUSKA	Branch 445
PAULA RISO	Branch 036	TOM BOUSKA	Branch 445

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 2017 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 2017 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, 2018. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

Any District or Branch who does not file for 3 consecutive years will lose its tax exempt status with the IRS and the State. If you lose your tax exempt status you will have to file paperwork and pay a fine in order to regain your tax exempt status.

Included in the Financial Secretaries' packet are materials that the District and Branch Financial Secretaries will need to help them with this process. District and Branch Presidents - please work with your Financial Secretary to go over the information when it is received and see that the appropriate forms are filed by the due date.

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2017. 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.



Carol Espinola, Branch 27 Treasurer; Betty Scalise accepting a donation on behalf of Holy Family Table, Jim Cavallero, President; Father James Catalano, Chaplin.



Branch 27 Accordion player Rick Di Carlo and Bob Rolan lead the Christmas Carols.



Father Ferdinand, center, with Branch 308 members and guests, at their annual Christmas Dinner 12-13-2017

Fresno

Madera

Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

On December 10th approximately 50 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 Elsie's yummy eggnog (with that extra something!). 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 was dynamic in his role as MC. Thanks Monty the Christmas party wouldn't be the same without you. Bob Rolan and his beautiful voice led the Christmas carols accompanied by Rick DeCarlo on his accordion. We were able to donate approximately \$1200.00, to St. Joachim Church, St. Joachim School, Holy Family Table and other ministries in the Parish. The semi-annual bake sale was held on November 19th and sold out after only several masses. Parishioners were treated to delicious homemade desserts and the club made over \$500.00 dollars. Hope to see everyone at the February meeting on the 13th. Upcoming events in February are the orange sales and officer installation. Please continue to pray for our ill and injured members, especially Art Berryman who has been in the hospital.

Ciao,

Kerin Cavallero

Merced

St. Ceceila, Br. 39

Our January meeting was a wonderful Celebration of Appreciation. We recognized about 45 of our members who donated money or supplies, and/or volunteered their time, service and talent in 2017 towards achieving the goals of our branch. From our officers to those who clear up after our dinner meetings, each one was honored and given a certificate from our president. Molto grazie a tutti i nostri volontari! Thanks also goes to our chef that night: Dominic Giampietro, for the delicious sausage with peppers and onions over pasta. Our 2018 officers were installed. Felice Festa di San Valentino! Members: join us at 5 PM for socializing at the Italo Lodge for our February 14 meeting. We will celebrate the holiday with our third annual «We Love Our Members» honoring those who have been with our branch for many years. As our meeting is on Ash Wednesday, Deacon Chuck Reyburn will distribute ashes at 5:30 before the meeting. Dinner of meatless soups, salad, French bread, wine and dessert will follow. Meeting at 7 PM. We will present our 2018 budget. Stay healthy everyone.

Cari salute,

Stephanie Lucich

Clovis

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Those who attended our Epiphany Celebration had a wonderful time. Shirley Mitchell won the Baby Jesus hidden in the cupcake. The gift exchange/stealing was full of excitement and fun as usual. Each year we look forward to it.

We're looking forward to District Installation of Officers in Sanger on February 25.

Congratulations to Mary Moss who became a great-aunt. Her niece and husband, Ashley and Daniel Picanco, became first-time parents to a beautiful baby boy. Tiago Miguel Picanco was born on 8/24/17, weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20 in long.

Jennie Campopiano and her family took a trip to San Francisco on 9/23/17 and walked across the Golden Gate Bridge. They had beautiful weather and gorgeous views of the City. They spent the rest of the day on Pier 39. Jennie says Best Tours is a great mode of transportation.

A belated Happy Birthday to our December babies. They are: Isabel Ronzano (12/14); Cindy Silva (12/21); and Glory Spatafore (12/6). Happy Birthday to our January birthday celebrants: Verona DeLuca (1/6); Andy Friend (1/10); Tony Rainaldi (1/2); Mark Schultz (1/17); and Ron Travis (1/11). Many Happy Returns to Sherrie Attolico (2/16) and Frank Pimentel (2/25) who were born in February. Many apologies from your writer for being so late in honoring our celebrants.

To those who have managed to avoid the viruses going around this season, stay healthy and pray for those not so fortunate.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." (Edith Sitwell)

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!

Ciao!

LeAnne Lavagnino

Fresno

St. Anthony, Br. 308

A Christmas to Remember from ICF Branch 308 Saint Anthony of Padua.

A simple poem:

Twelve Days before Christmas and all through 308, you could hear the scuttering and planning for the annual Christmas Branch Dinner.

Members were thinking, I need a gift for a child, and what shall I get. A game? A doll? A truck? A toy? And for a girl or a boy?

Much to do, so little time,

Each made a choice – All would glimmer.

First to the store, then to the wrapping, then to remember and bring it for giving.

Off to the dinner,

There were friends to greet, and stories to tell.

And a fine meal was served to 43, as well.



Toys and games donated by Branch 308 members 12-13-2017, for Valley Childrens Hospital patients"



Father Reginald chatting with two Branch 308 members 12-13-2017, at their annual Christmas Dinner 12-13-2017"

The food was a delight, and enjoyed through the night.

Fathers Ferdinand and Reginald were our most special guests, happy to be there, as were all of the rest.

The children would also be happy, as well – 70 gifts for delivery to them, at Valley Children's Hospital.

The members were happy to share these gifts, too, and be with family and friends, for another good yule.

It was a Christmas to remember in this year of 2017.

And for you and your family, we wish a Joyous Christmas remembrance, and a Happy New Year, from your Saint Anthony of Padua friends.

Branch 308 captions

Los Angeles

Montebello

St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Our February General Meeting and San Valentino Potluck Dinner will be on Thursday, February 15, 2018 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 baked pasta, 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 Scordia, Carmelina Palmeri, Lynn Enrico, Florence Terramani, Sandro Mercuri, Christina Castello, and Eileen Viera who celebrate birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

Please mark your calendars - Please attend a St. Joseph Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2018 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 a successful event.



Branch 111 Christmas Party.





Branch 111 Christams Party.

Anita Gioiello Trujillo, Treasurer

Arcadia

Holy Angels, Br. 218

At our last meeting we congratulated Matt Luchetta on an absolutely wonderful New Year's Eve Gala. Our pancake breakfast has not occurred as of this writing, however, I am going to thank Scott Carrano in advance because I am sure that it will be a huge success. President Jerry mentioned that our branch donated a total of \$9,380.00 last year to various charities and Holy Angels Church. This is quite an accomplishment for one branch such as ours. There was also a motion made to name the donut sales after Kraig Keeler who was our official donut saleslady for many years. He suggested calling them "the Kraig Keeler Memorial Donut Sales." The motion was voted on and passed. We welcomed two new members and three guests.

Upcoming: the meeting February 11, donut sale February 25th and it is not too soon to start on our St. Joseph's Table on March 17 and 18. Frank and Karen Berardi and Matt and Audrey Luchetta will again be chairing the event.

To everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. See you next month.

Lolly M.

Downey

St. Raymond, Br. 362

I'm not sure if our branch sent anything in, but I would like to submit this... Branch 362 St. Raymond hosted the LA District Installation. About 120 showed up for mass and the lunch that followed. Our in house caterer, Park Place Catering provided a great meal, and Past President Charlene Drobeck wowed us with her cannoli cupcakes. On the 19th we held our Family/ Kid friendly bingo in conjunction with the Religious Ed School. A great time was had by all. Be sure to join us on the 18th of February for our next regularly scheduled bingo. Looking down the line into March, be sure to drop by on the 18th and join us in celebrating St. Joseph's Day at our annual St. Joseph's Table where there will be plenty of cookies, cakes, and breads to purchase. Happy St. Valentine's Day!

La Canada Flintridge

St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374

Felice Anno Nuovo

Our branch is off to a great start with a healthy treasury and lots of member enthusiasm for a new year. Last years' officers will continue



Branch 446 celebrated the 100th birthday of Josephine Gaglio. Congratulations!

to serve in their previous positions except for Robert De Pietro who is now Financial Secretary.

A great selection of speakers is lined up for the beginning of the new year. The January 21st program will feature Sonia Marie De Leon de Vega, the conductor of the Santa Odilia Orchestra, who will discuss the magnificent music of the orchestra and its award winning educational program, called Discovering Music. February 18th, Father Chris Ponnet from the Center for Spiritual Care in Los Angeles. In March, attention will be focused on the St. Joseph's Table, our major fundraiser, which will be returning to the Parish Hall and feature, among other things, a pasta luncheon catered by Ali Catering. Check the link on Facebook at st.joseph'stableatstbede for further ongoing updates.

In order for the branch to continue its successful series of St. Joseph's table events we are going to need lots of volunteers. Needed are people to provide home baked goods as well as members to cook sauce and secure items from local vendors for our Silent Auction. We will also need members to serve at the Table selling goods after the Sunday Masses.

The April 11th meeting will feature Sister Maria Goretti, a Carmelite, from Avila Gardens Senior Living Community in Duarte.

Mark your calendars for these fun Sunday afternoon 4:00 potluck events as we continue to hold our general meetings at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Montrose .

Applications are now out to 7th and 8th graders at St Bede School as participants in the Distinguished Student Award program. They are urged to contact Mr. Valente, the school principal.

Che Dio ti Benedica,

Al Restivo

First Vice President and Orator

Thousand Oaks

St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380

At our meeting on January 5th, our Branch President Bill Metz gave a presentation on the

traditional Italian story of La Befana, an old woman who is said to bring gifts to children as she journeys along, eternally following the Three Kings' path to Bethlehem. After the presentation, all were encouraged to share their own holiday traditions. One of our members, Jean Bridges, played the role of La Befana, passing out small gifts to the branch's children.

Branch Officers brought homemade soups, salads, and bread to share for dinner. Our new board of officers for 2018 introduced themselves one by one. Our monthly attendance drawing was won by Nanette Metz. Everyone had a great time!

The members of Branch 380 wish you a prosperous new year!

Upcoming Dates:

February 9 (Friday) General Meeting - Mardi Gras

March 3 (Saturday) General Meeting - Member Talent Show

March 18 (Sunday) St. Joseph's Day Celebration

Upland

St. Joseph, Br. 446

Branch 446 in Upland has been busy lending a helping hand with events at our St. Joseph parish as well as putting on social events for our members. The parish hall was recently dedicated to the Presentation Sisters that have been teachers at our school. Several branch members helped with the celebration and wine for the event was donated by members Teresa and Jo Canchola. Branch officers also attended the annual Bishop's Luncheon at which time money was donated for those in formation to the priesthood. A Spiritual Bouquet of prayers, rosaries and masses was also presented to the bishop. We had a lot of fun at our Heritage Appreciation Night when we celebrated the birthdays of senior members. One member, Josephine Gaglio, celebrated her 100 birthday with us! A special blessing was given to all by Fr. Al Alamat, brother-in-law of our president Maria Alamat. Our Christmas party at Cafe Calatto included an ornament gift exchange



San Pedro

St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

Thank you to all who attended our January 'fun'raiser to Pechanga Casino. The funds raised help our branch support the many charities that are dear to our branch. Special thanks to Pauline Iacono for her work in organizing these events!

Our February potluck meeting will be help on Feb 15th at 6pm. Invite a guest along with a favorite dish to share. Please call Carmela Gioiello and let her know what tasty dish you will be sharing. 310 832-0953

At our January meeting Neal discussed our upcoming Crab dinner dance in honor of St. John Joseph of the Cross on March 3rd. Dinner will start at 6pm. This year's menu will include antipasto, green salad, crab, shrimp, linguine and clams, wine and spumoni ice cream for dessert. Music will be provided by Duo Domani. If you have raffle items to donate please contact Maryann Lauro. Tickets are \$40.00 per person. Helping hands are always needed and welcome. If you would like to help with the dinner and or purchase tickets please call Neal DiLeva at 310 433-1044.

Mass in honor of St. John Joseph of the Cross will be celebrated on Monday March 5th at 8am.

Reminder that 2018 dues are payable. This year's dues are \$37.00. Dues will be collected by Pauline at monthly meeting. Dues can also be mailed to Pauline at 1072 w. 8th St. San Pedro Ca 90731

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

Special birthday wishes to our President Neal DiLeva. Thank you for all you do to keep this branch moving forward!!

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

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SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION



Rosa Radicchi, President Central Coast District; Andy Pappani, Grand President; Bella Leonard, Ed Leonard, Co-Mentors; Vicky Howell, Central Coast District Mentor; North; & Pete Galagher, Central Coast District Mentor, South.

and a friendly game of stealing. We recently hosted the Installation of Officers from our neighboring branches. The Installation Mass was followed by a delicious luncheon. We wish all our fellow ICF members a very blessed new year filled with health and love.

Just before Christmas, Sacred Heart Parish in Salinas asked all of the ministries to assist with the annual free community luncheon on Christmas Day. ICF was pleased to assist providing some of the food items and helping in the kitchen. The event was a great success with about 700 meals served.

Branch 25 mailed out the scholarship packets to 8 Salinas Valley High Schools the first week of January. We will shortly begin planning towards hosting the District Picnic in August and our Polenta Luncheon in November. At our January meeting we discussed that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year, something of a dilemma for those who give up candy or sweets during Lent ;-). Our next meeting will be on February 13, (Mardi Gras) at the KC Hall in Salinas.

Our prayers continue for long time member, Don Stoffey, during his recovery from a recent health event.

JoAnn Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Monterey

Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

Happy Valentine Days to all.

January 4, 2018, before our dinner/meeting, Branch #36 honored our Past President Elizabeth Grammatico with a bouquet of roses, engraved crystal vase, and a beautiful cake. Liz served as our Branch #36 President for 15 years with her great dedication, leadership, sincerity, and professionalism. Liz has been an inspiration, kind and caring friend to all of us. We surprised Liz and had all her family present to celebrate with her. Eddie Leonard sang a song for Liz, in her honor. Chef Peter Curatolo prepared a wonderful dinner for us, Greek Salad, Stuffed Chicken over polenta, our famous garlic bread, and chocolate cake for dessert.

Branch #36 is getting ready for our Lenten Fish Dinners, starting February 16, 2018, \$14.00 per person. We thanked all our volunteers, who will be working during our Lenten dinners. We are also blessed to have all the youth who will be helping us out during our Lenten dinners.

Our sympathy to the family of Francis Solis. Francis was a member for 8 years and may she rest in peace.

We pray for all our members on the sick list, may they all get well soon.

Calendar 2018

- February 16: 1st Lenten dinner Cathedral Hall
- February 23: 2nd Lenten dinner Cathedral Hall
- March 2: 3rd Lenten dinner Cathedral Hall



Branch 36 honoring out-going president Liz Grammatico.

March 9: 4th Lenten dinner Cathedral Hall

March 16: 5th Lenten dinner Cathedral Hall

March 18: ST. Joseph Celebration Elk Lodge

March 23: 6th Lenten dinner Cathedral Hall

“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 13-34

Elaine Valentine

Branch #36

Castroville

Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51

Hello Everyone,

Wow! Time goes by so fast, January is already gone. The month began with the ICF Installation Mass on Jan. 13th. Our branch was well represented, 9 of us traveled from Castroville to Santa Cruz. We had a great time, lots of fun, food and fellowship. Thank you Santa Cruz for hosting this event.

We also held our first general meeting of the year in January and plans have been made for upcoming events. Mark your calendars! On Sunday, March 25th our branch will be hosting our District meeting in our parish hall at Our Lady of Refuge in Castroville. A delicious lunch is being planned by our chefs. Hope to see many of your there.

Also mark on your calendars our Polenta fundraiser. It will also be held in our parish hall on Sunday, April 22nd. More information about these 2 events will be in next month's Bollettino.

Happy belated birthday to our January babies: my aunt Leonora Barlow and my dad Carlo Cortopassi. Happy Birthday to our February babies: D.L. Grier, Dennis Hibbs, Franca Rossi and my son Gregory Stefani. And a special Happy Birthday to all our friends and family that will be celebrating their birthday in heaven, especially my mom Anna Cortopassi, I love you and miss you so much.

And lastly, as we celebrate Ash Wednesday on this Valentine's Day how appropriate a time to remember the greatest gift of love, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.” John 3:16

Happy Lenten Season,

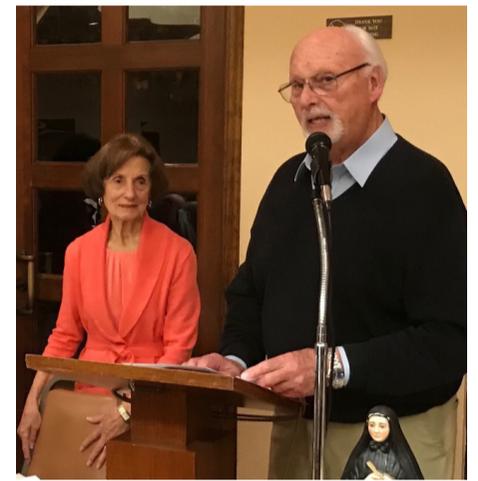
Cindy Stefani

Capitola

St. Joseph, Br. 227

February marks the 70th wedding anniversary of two of our favorite members. Congratulations to Ken and Kay Waldvogel on this milestone.

Fish Fry dinners start on February 16 and continue throughout the six weeks of Lent. Dinners are served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the church hall and take-outs are available starting at 4:30 p.m. Price is: \$15 for adults, \$10 for workers, \$7 for children, and a special family price of \$35. Hope to see you there.



We'll be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our branch on March 10 at the Back Nine at the Inn at Pasatiempo. Franklyn Lopes, Ellen Pauly and Dolores McCartney are heading the committee that is making the arrangements. Price for dinner is \$40 per person before March 1. After March 1 the price will be \$45 per person. Tickets will not be available after March 5 or at the door, so make your reservation early.

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Ron Castle, a member of our branch since 2004 and a Trustee for two and a half years. He served as bartender for our meetings and Fish Frys for three years. He coordinated the 2016 Wine Tasting and was working on another one at the time of his illness. Our condolences to Rachel and Ron's family.

Your prayers and get well wishes are requested for Dr. Tony Calciano, who is undergoing treatment for a serious illness, and Ed Lavorone, who sustained major injuries in an automobile accident and faces a long recovery period.

Remember to get your dues to Financial Secretary Marie Mungai. They are \$39.60 this year.

Happy Valentine's Day

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande

St. Patrick, Br. 291

Our Branch Officers enjoyed attending the Central Coast District Installation ceremonies, hosted by Santa Cruz Br. 21, on Jan. 13th. We were also blessed with beautiful weather for our drive up and back!

Br. 291's first Lenten Fish Fry will be held on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018. We will be serving up 5 fish fries during lent on the following dates: Feb. 16th & 23rd; March 2nd, 9th and 23rd. Please join us if you're in the area for a delicious fish dinner with fries and homemade coleslaw, plus a large assortment of delectable cakes for dessert!

Our Branch lost a very sweet and joyful man recently. Frank Bavaro, a longtime ICF member, passed away peacefully on Dec. 22nd with his wife, Ellen, and other family members by his side. Frank always lit up

Monterey
Central Coast

Santa Cruz

Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

Buon giorno, Tutti! By the time you read this, we will have started out with a New Board, hosted the District Installation, and had a Calamari Dinner. Future plans for events include the “Soup Suppers” during the Lenten Season, and the annual St. Joseph's Day. To help with the events, a message from our President, Roseann Costabile, asks that ‘members help just once a year’. It's fun working on these events and ICF covers all the expenses. If you could help, in whatever capacity, please get in touch with Roseann Costabile or Patty Morelli.

We unhappily report the vandalism of our ICF Branch storage shed that sits outside Holy Cross Hall. Besides taking food stuffs, pots, and pans, the vandals took our Branch Banners! The local police, KSBW TV, and the Sentinel have all been notified of this misfortune. If you have any information, please contact a Branch Board member.

In closing, we share the sad news that another angel has gone from our midst. Lena Silva, a dear friend to all at Branch 21, has passed away. Lena was one of our longest standing ICF members and her support and infectious smile will be truly missed.

Come to your Branch meetings and meet the new Board; help plan our future! You know the drill: 4:30pm on 1st Tuesday (2nd Tuesday in June and September) of each month at Holy Cross Hall. God's Blessings on us all.

Patty Morelli

Secretary Branch 21

Salinas

N.S. Del Sasso, Br. 25

Branch 25 is pleased to welcome 2 new members, Francis and Sharon Scilacci of Salinas. Several of our Board Members are planning to participate in the Central Coast District Installation Ceremonies in Santa Cruz on January 13, 2018. All members are welcome to attend this lovely and spiritual event.



Installation of the Branch officers of Branch 229.

the room with his smile, thoughtfulness and sense of humor. We will certainly miss our dear Frank. Please keep Ellen and the Bavaro family in your thoughts and prayers during their time of loss. We also ask for your prayers for our members who may be experiencing illness, pain or heartache at this time: Dianne and Homer Clees, Stevie Hall, Susan McGaughy, Katie McNeill and the McNeill family, Throck Scudder, Rosemarie Thomson and Jens Wagner.

Happy St. Valentines Day!

Keely Sanchez

Recording Secretary

Oakland

East Bay

District Council

It was nice to hear some new names called for officers in different branches at Installation on Sunday Jan.14th. Thank you for stepping up and meeting the challenge. Remember we "seasoned" ones are there to mentor you if you just ask. Thanks to Branch #10 for handling the details on this occasion. It was special to have the Central Council President, Andy Pappani, with us for the day.

Currently the focus of the District is the Crab Feed on February 17th as this is our main fund raiser to support the scholarship program. The food is always excellent and it is a lot of fun for attendees; hors' doeuvres, raffle baskets to bet on and our card chance game will keep you entertained. Bring your friends and enjoy the evening.

We are still working on the details for the Quarterly Mass in March and as for Bishop's day, we still need a date before we can fill in the blanks for when and where. More to follow, we promise.

Happy St. Valentine's Day to the many sweethearts out there. Stay healthy and happy.

Alameda

Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

We welcomed over 120 guests to our annual Polenta Dinner on Saturday evening, January

13. More large groups were present than have attended our recent social functions. The celebrants enjoyed the meal of salad, polenta with chicken and dessert prepared by our reliable chef, Ben Ratto, and his assistant Rich Kaula.

The next day, Sunday, January 14, we co-hosted with Branch 40 the East Bay District Installation at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland. The event included Mass offered by District Chaplain Rev. Rafal Duda, the installation ceremony, fellowship and dinner prepared by the staff of the Fratellanza Club. Grand President Andrew Pappani north travelled from Gilroy to officiate. Branch 10 Trustee JoAnn Dorn prepared the altar for the Mass.

Next on our calendar are the Lenten Fish Fry dinners, which commence on February 16, the first Friday of Lent, and conclude on March 23, the last Friday prior to Palm Sunday. The dinners are served following Stations of the Cross at Saint Philip Neri Church, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. The Stations start at 5:30 p.m. Prices are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Reservations are not necessary.

Our next major social event will be the very popular Irish Social, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, Saint Patrick's Day. The traditional menu dinner of corned beef and cabbage, cooked by Ben Ratto and Rich Kaula, will be served. Social time will commence at 6:30 p.m., and the salad plates will be placed on the tables exactly at 7:00. Prices will be announced in the March Bollettino. For information, contact John Zugnoni, john@zugnoni.net or (510) 523-8005.

About 75 party-goers from Alameda and Oakland attended the Fifth Annual Rosa Bowl on New Year's Day in Monsignor O'Brien Hall. The afternoon of buffet and football honors a deceased member of Branch 10, John Rosa. John often cooked for our Fish Fry dinners. The event raises money for the John L. Rosa Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to college-bound graduates of La Escuelita Elementary School in Oakland, where John taught for many years and was beloved by his students. At our Branch meeting of January 4 we voted to donate \$150.00 to the scholarship fund. Thanks to John's wife Jan and John and Jan's three sons, John, Jeff and Jim, for keeping the memory of John alive in this



(Above) Great Turnout at the Branch 285 holiday party.



(Left) This cute face is why we do it all.

month of the year was eagerly anticipated for its multiple holidays? Ah, the simple days of childhood. Fear not, we have several events coming up so take note.

The East Bay District's Crab Feed will be held on 2/17/2018 in Alameda at St. Philip Neri Church Hall, Corner of High and Van Buren Streets. Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Price is \$50.00 per person. Children 10 years and younger will cost \$10.00. Chicken is available in lieu of crab. Call Fran LaTorre no later than 2/10/2017 at (510) 887-1509.

Branch 215 will be hosting the next East Bay District Quarterly Mass and Communion on March 3, 2018. Mass at Corpus Christi Church in the Niles District, Fremont will begin at 5:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided following the Mass.

Two memorial masses will be held for our ICF brethren; the first on April 22nd at Holy Spirit at 12:30 PM, the second on August 12th at Our Lady of Guadalupe at 10:30 AM. We ask our ICF family to attend if possible.

ICF Branch 215's bingo luncheon is tentatively set for April 19th. Additional details will follow.

ICF Branch 215 looks forward to joining other ministries at Corpus Christi Church as hosts for a Soup Supper Night during Lent. More information as to date and time to be provided in near future.

As soon as the rains let up and things dry out a bit, bocce season will soon return. Scott Schiecl, who is also a member of the Fremont Elks has some interesting news for all of our bocce players. Here's the news in Scott's own words:

"Branch 215 is working with the local Fremont Elks Lodge to develop two new bocce courts. For the past 18 months, the branch 215's bocce group has had to make do with an old track at an elementary school. The new courts will allow two separate games to be played on adjoining courts. The courts will be built to regulation dimensions and surfaced with sand and crushed shells packed hard. The members are looking forward to playing on the new site this Spring."

Until these new courts come to fruition we will still be playing at Our Lady of Guadalupe's track field which they have so graciously made available to us. Jack Navarra is our primary contact, he can be reached at (510) 656-0258.

We want to take this opportunity to wish all members with birthdays and anniversaries in February congratulations. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to those who are ill and for the safety of our first responders, military, and their families.

Ken Chiatello

wonderful way.

Finally, Branch 10 congratulates our second-president, Peggy Lubeck, and her husband Bob on their 50th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on January 13 with Mass at Saint Philip Neri Church and reception. Bob also attends all Branch meetings and contributes considerable time and effort to our functions. The celebration continued with a 15-day cruise to the Hawaiian Islands.

John Zugnoni, Publicity

Oakland

Santa Rita, Br. 40

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Our new branch officers were installed Jan 14th at the Fratellanza Club. We will be planning future fundraising events for this year. Members help would be greatly appreciated to attend our monthly meetings to share your ideas and interests in making these events possible. With in a month our Branch has lost two of our active members for many years; Clemence Zanata on Dec 3rd and Irene Crosetti on Jan 3rd. Chris and Irene were very much alike. Always helpful, generous, kind, very supportive and always positive. We will miss their wonderful smiles. Please remember them in your prayers.

Upcoming:

Feb 5th- Monthly meeting 7PM

March 5th- Monthly meeting 7PM

Member dues for the year have arrived. Please send your check made out in the amount of \$40 to the ICF Branch 40. Please mail it to; Anne Marie Grader, 727 Wimbeldon Rd, Walnut Creek, Ca, 94598. Thank you.

Happy Birthday to Ernestine Pernecco and Claire Ramirez. Please remember in your prayers the sick and the convalescing of our branch.

Thought: There can be no Peace without Love.

Ciao,

M.A. Francis and L. Francis

Fremont

St. Francis of Assisi, Br. 215

Christmas and New Years are but a memory and we're looking forward to President's day. Remember when Lincon and Washington each got their own day and when the shortest

Livermore**St. Filomena, Br. 285**

Happy New Year to all. We are happy again to have Carolyn Cardinali as our President and Elaine Meier and Christine Cardulo as our VP's. Thanks to all others who stepped up to fill our offices and support Branch 285. Our annual Nativity Display at St. Elizabeth Seton was an awe-inspiring event as the photos nearby show. We had nearly 100 Nativity sets on display. Everything from home made to sculptured pieces from all around the world. Some said this was the only place they showed their Nativities. We're very honored by all those who shared with us their connection to Jesus' birth and those who attended. Watching the children with their families viewing the Nativities was a special treat for me. You can see the enjoyment in their faces in the nearby photos. We're looking forward to our annual Bingo Bash or Tombola on March 3rd at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton. It was a big hit last year. As the Italians say, «Un po' di fortuna, e tante allegria,» a little luck and a lot of fun. Jan Sherman, physical therapist, will speak to us on January 19th at St. Elizabeth Seton. Her subject is senior health and wellness with an emphasis on falls and balance, a subject of interest to all. Jan has an impressive and extensive background in this area including a masters degree from University of Southern California. Please call Carlotta Schauer at [925-449-5944](tel:925-449-5944) if you plan to come. Ci vediamo presto?

Chuck Meier

Castro Valley**Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343**

Thanks to all who attended Installation on Sunday Jan.14th, hopefully you were able to meet some new people/peers from other branches and see what is happening with them.

Busy hands are happy hands and we about to find out if this is true because February and March will have all of us very busy. The first thing on the agenda is our Super Bowl Bake sale on Feb.4th.,this is a fund raiser to aid in our scholarship funding. And not only will we be selling our delicious baked goods,but we will also be taking orders for our Biscotti sale in March. This is also a fund raiser,and if last year is any prediction of the future,a very popular one.

Next will be our sell-out Polenta dinner on February 8th, maybe an early Valentine's dinner.

And then we will be helping with Lisa's delicious Minestrone Lenten soup meal,and just think it is not even March yet.Thanking you all for all your help with these activities.

If anyone has any ideas for special raffle baskets for the District crab feed, feel free to step-up and volunteer!

Don't forget the St.Joseph's table at our March meeting, we support the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Transfiguration Church with your donations at this function.

With all of these activities here's hoping that you are all able to remain healthy.

Happy St.Valentine's Day to all, keep those sweethearts close.

Contra Costa**District Council**

Contra Costa District had their Installation of Officers on Sat. the 20th of Jan. It was held at the Galileo Club in Richmond. We want to take this opportunity to thank Roselynn, Patty and Walter for their work on this event. We also want to thank Father Larry for

offering mass and Deacon John for assisting. Again we thank all the officers for taking on a leadership role.

We held our first district meeting Jan 25th at Legends at Diablo Creek Golf Club in Concord, and our next meeting will be the same place Thursday, Mar. 1st at 7:30PM Please bring your calendar. for the year 2018 to give to each branch by Mar.1st. meeting. Please each branch president come to the meeting and appoint two delegates from their branch to also attend.

The East Bay district will host Bishops day this year. They are waiting for a date from the Bishops office.Details will follow, and all the information will be sent to you

Here we are 2018 singing the same song in 2017 "One day at a time sweet Jesus,that's all I'm asking of you" Here we are

frail creatures that we are with our same promises each year, and He in outstretched arms assures us He will be there one day at a time. Wishing you all a Happy and Holy New Year.

Joann

Crockett**San Carlo, Br. 14**

I'm writing this in January, prior to our Polenta and Sausage Dinner, but I can tell you with confidence that it will be successful. It's still cold outdoors, polenta is a comfort food, and the warm ambiance assures a winning combination.

Pork Loin will be served at our regular meeting on February 13th, and tickets for the March 10th Traditional Corned Beef Dinner will be sold after the meeting. Lots of green is promised at the Corned Beef Dinner; green decorations, and prizes, and for those with the "Luck of the Irish," perhaps Pull Off Ticket wins! Adult tickets are \$20. and children's tickets, \$7.00.

On Sunday, February 25, a Continental Breakfast will be served in the Hall for all members attending 10:00 a.m. mass.

Get well wishes were sent to Wanda Abondonza, Clare Alvarado, Donna Hoffmann, Johanna Ochinero, Helen Petersen and Elma Nursement. We miss you all at our meetings.

Condolences to the Dent Family and the Townsend Family. Additionally, it is with great sadness that we report that two of our favorite members, John Sepulveda (Suppy) and Begonia Triglia have passed. Suppy's smile and hugs will surely be missed, and to put it simply, Begonia was a wonderful woman, with many positive qualities. Our sympathies to their loving families.

In February, we celebrate President's Day, so this is a perfect time to thank our own President, Donna Hoffmann. We are so very fortunate to have such a dedicated, exceptional woman willing to lead us. Donna exemplifies volunteerism and charitable good works. She is generous with her time, quick to add humor to what could be contentious matters, and never declines a request for help. Donna Hoffmann, President Extraordinaire! Thank you, Madam President!

Ciao,

Diane Bottini Thomas

Pittsburg**San Domenico, Br. 72**

What a fantastic party we had for our Christmas gathering at the Olive Garden. We had some guests in attendance who said they want to join our branch. We thank all those who were able to make it. We also thank Roselynn for the Santa hats she brought for

each of us.

On January 20 we attended the District Installation of officers at the Galileo club in Richmond. Mass was offered by Chaplin Father Larry. Deacon John from Brentwood assisted. After Mass the installation took place followed by a social and luncheon. Thank you officers for taking on a leadership role.

At our first meeting of the year we enjoyed both a Happy New Year and super bowl theme. We discussed our 2018 calendar. We look forward to our meetings, potlucks and dinners. We will once again celebrate St. Patrick and St. Joseph's day at our March meeting. We plan to visit the Pittsburg museum. We talked about a day trip to Apple Hill. We hope to have our annual bus trip to Monterey. We plan to do an apostolic activity.

You should have received your 2018 dues slip from treasurer Helen. If you have not paid your dues please send your check payable to ICF branch 72 to Helen. Mail to: [953 Veterans Drive Martinez Calif. 94553](mailto:953_Veterans_Drive_Martinez_Calif.94553).

Please pray for our second vice. Josie had to be hospitalized because she had pneumonia. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Roselynn and I recently attended the funeral of Carolyn Cugia. Carolyn was a former ICF first lady. Her husband Mario was Grand President 59 years ago. May she rest in peace.

Wishing all our members a Happy Valentines day.

Until next time,

Sempre Avanti

Patty

Richmond**St. Raymond, Br. 154**

Buon Anno! Happy New Year!!

The January meeting opened with Pizza and Salad. Terry Ventin gave us a very enlightening talk on the history of Pantone, which means bread of Tony. This was our first heritage talk of the New Year, and was enjoyed by everyone at the meeting. Thank you to Terry, our Heritage chairperson.

Also discussed at the January meeting was the upcoming Ravioli Family Fundraiser dinner. Please mark your calendar for February 24, 2018. Raffle donations are still needed as well as help setting up tables. Please call Dee Yonke for reservations, 510-236-0689, social hour at 6PM, Dinner at 7PM, \$22.00 /adults, \$6.00 children. In addition to ravioli's there is chicken, salad, bread and dessert! St. Jerome's Rohan Hall El Cerrito. Make your reservations now before it is sold out!

New officers were installed at the district installation, January 20th, 2018. 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 for 2018.

Our next meeting is Feb.12, 2017, in honor of Chinese New Year we will be celebrating with a Chinese Dinner. Everyone loved it last year so expect another enjoyable meal. The cost is \$10.00. Gung Hay Fat Choy! Please call May for reservations, 510-232-4963.

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

Another up coming date to keep in mind: Bus trip to Cache Creek, March 26, 2018. Call Joe Meneghelli, 510-234-2208 for your seat on the bus. Bring your friends too!

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our beloved member, Carol Jobe. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

If you have any graduating high school seniors in your family, please inform them



Branch 214 celebrated Christmas and the 89th birthday of Mia Basarich.

of the ICF scholarship program. Check out the ICF website for information, WWW.icf.org or Google, Italian Catholic Federation/scholarships. The deadline for submitting applications is in June.

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 Mike Cannady, or Toni Reeder.

If you haven't been to a meeting in awhile consider adding attending a meeting to your New Year's resolutions. You'll be glad you did!

Concord**Todos Santos, Br. 214**

We celebrated Christmas and a Toast to Mia Basarich for her 89th birthday at La Viranda in Clayton. It was a great day with many members in attendance.

Working on calendar of events for 2018, new ideas & some surprises.

Prayers for our sick & elderly especially: Lillian Whalen, Ed Koski and Rosie Lexon

Ciao

Christina, corres. secty

Danville**St. Isadore, Br. 352**

We started our New Year off right – with a Pasta & Crab Feed on January 15th! Once again, Russ Belleci catered his delicious marinated crab, with pasta & all the fixin's. No one left hungry – and, by the noise level, everyone had a great time! Then, it was time for our Installation of Officers, held at the Galileo Club, on January 20th. Many thanks to all of the involved branches, for a wonderful day & lovely luncheon.

To all of you Bingo lovers, plan to join us for our Champagne Bingo on Saturday, February 3rd in the St. Isidore room. Doors open at 5pm with dinner catered by Boston Market. This is always a well-received social event, enjoyed by all parishioners.

Bring your favorite Valentine to our February monthly dinner meeting. This will be held early - on the 2nd Monday, February 12th, to avoid conflict with the following holiday weekend. Wear RED! Dinner is at 6pm and Chef Angelo will be in the kitchen – whipping up a Valentine's Day surprise!

In closing, we'd like to express our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of Pat Petrini, Carolyn Cugia and Bob Cardelli. Please remember them in your prayers.

Branch 352

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

Happy New Year All !! A little belated but all good.

As we start the New Year we should take time to reflect on the year just past and the many blessings that we received. By reflecting on the past, those experiences can be used going forward for our continued well being and



(Above) Fr. Erick with Branch 432 party goers.

(Below) The Brays and Silvas enjoying the Branch 432 festivities.



success as an ICM Branch. At this time in our lives we are indeed blessed to be part of a community like IHM.

Branch 432 ended the year with a rollicking good time at our annual Christmas dinner. Well attended as always, we closed out 2017 in style. The dinner was held at Sweeney's restaurant in Brentwood. With thanks to all who attended, it was a great way to finish the year.

With little going on in December, we'll use this space to take a look at 2018 and what it holds. With no guarantees for accuracy, here is a thumbnail overview of the major activities for the coming year:

- January -- installation of Officers
- February -- Parish Breakfast
- March -- St. Joseph's Table, The sale of Raffle Tickets begins
- April -- Parish Breakfast
- June -- Scholarship Awards Dinner, Monkey Wrenches Car Show, Parish Breakfast
- August -- ICF night at the Oakland Coliseum with the A's, Parish Breakfast
- September -- 9th Annual Festa d' Italia, ICF Convention
- October -- Nominations of Officers for 2019, Parish Festival, Parish Breakfast
- December -- Christmas Dinner, Parish Breakfast

There you have them, the 2018 activities. Start putting your thoughts together for the events you would like to work on.

Have a great year, full of good health,

happiness and God's Blessings.

I am in charge of how I feel and today I am choosing happiness.

la vita è buona

**Pleasant Hill
Christ the King, Br. 442**

Hope 2018 has started well for everyone. Bit cold and rainy. We are most definitely in inverno.

It was nice to read the different family heritage and recipes in the ICF calendar. Don't forget that we have our own Where Are We From map. Make sure Nancy Santos, Heritage lead, has your family information. Or any updates. Maybe you thought your family was from the north and through popular ancestry searches you found out they were from the south, or Spain!

If you haven't taken note, here is a reminder of upcoming events. Please be on the look-out for the sign-up sheets:

Dinner for our parish youth group. Our Ladies Tea fundraiser is scheduled for March 24th. Serve and share a meal with our parish guest families during Winter Nights. Salami Toss booth at our parish festival in May.

The Feast of Saint Joseph is in March. Be sure to look at the online March meeting invite. Hope you can all make it and participate in the traditional Saint Joseph's Table.

*Alla prossima,
Eileen McGauran*



Newly installed officers of the Blessed Sacrament District Board.

Sacramento

District Council

Instillation for the Blessed Sacrament District took place at St. Clare's Church in Roseville on January 6th. After a beautiful mass said by Father George and Deacon Marinko, members were installed by 1st Vice President Vince Piro. Newly installed District President Nina Malone gave an inspirational message encouraging us to continue to work hard for the Federation. Members enjoyed a fantastic buffet lunch at La Provence. A big thank you goes to Natalie Malone for preparing our delicious dessert! Past President Paula Scarpelli was honored for her hard work over the past three years (especially for leading us through a successful 2017 convention with the Stockton District). Thank you to Central Council Members Vince Piro, Lisa Crudo, and Anne Interrante for attending. Another big thank you to all those who helped to make this event so wonderful. I am looking forward to a great year with all of you.

*Pam Andersen
District 1st Vice President*

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

Welcome new members to the Branch – Terry Corcoran, Catherine Zerio, and Frank Lienert. We look forward to your participation in our Branch events. Thanks for joining.

Our 2018 Board met in January and created our calendar for the year. Look for a copy of the calendar along with your dues receipt this month in the mail. **SAVE THE DATE** for Sunday, March 11th for our first meeting and dinner for 2018. Chicken and polenta will be served starting at 6:00 pm in Giovanni Hall. The Branch meeting will be at 4:30 pm before the dinner. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. For reservations and information, contact me by March 6th at 916-508-1199.

Catching up with belated Birthday wishes to members for January: Eric Bush, Barbara Davidson, Matthew Ebert, Dante Mazza, and Barbara Savarino.

Happy Birthday to members for February: Manuel Cazares, Joseph Courey, Gina Devito, Olivia Ebert, Ted Georguson, Arlene Gianatasio, Dorothy Heick, Dominic Ielati, Matthew Ielati, Marlene Oehler, Sue Olson, Mary Louise Padlo, Emily Rossi, and Katherine Stefani. WOW – a busy month!

*Ciao,
Janine*

**Roseville
San Vito, Br. 73**

Plan to set aside the evening of 10 March and attend the polenta/chicken dinner which marks the seventieth anniversary of Branch 73. Besides the polenta and chicken, the dinner will consist of salad, roll, and dessert. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children six to twelve, and at no cost for those younger. Tickets will go on sell in February and may be ordered from Giuseppina Novi (783-3816), RoseMarie Presti (791-1726), and Arlene Roe (782-3073). Those who have attended Branch 73's dinners in the past can testify to the excellent food, ample beverages, nice raffle prizes, and pleasant company that characterize them.

The year 2018 is still young enough to allow us to extend best wishes that all the members of Branch 73 and of the entire Italian Catholic Federation may experience good health and much contentment, and during it may they accomplish many good things.

Buon compleanno e tante belle cose a tutti i soci della Sezioni 73 nati nel mese di febbraio
Robert Delpippo

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

A big thank you to all those who helped to make our annual Polenta Dinner a big success. Although we were a bit smaller in number this year, we still had a great time visiting with each other, eating a great dinner, dancing, and winning lots of great raffle prizes. We are grateful to those who set up and cleaned up, donated and set up raffle prizes, sold tickets, ran the bar, cooked, and did all the other important jobs that made our dinner so great. Hope to see you all again next year for our 40th Annual Polenta Dinner on January 19, 2019.

Congratulations to all Board members who were officially installed at the District Installation on January 6, 2018. President: MaryAnn Mikles, Vice President: Pam Andersen, Secretary: Sue Tidball, Treasurer: Barbara O'Rourke, Financial Secretary: Flo Mooneyham, Sentinel: Lisa Stockman, Orator: Maria Fregosi and Orators Trish Putkey, Adele Valdez, and JoAnn Swars.

*Ciao!
Pam Andersen*

**Roseville
St. Clare, Br. 438**

A very Happy New Year to everyone. We had a very festive Christmas party. Our dinner was prepared by our premier chefs Darell and Connie Terry and Frank and Angela DiGrande. They served one delicious Italian



Newly installed officers of Branch 342's board.

cuisine. Along with all their helpers. Paula and Hank Scarpelli decorated the very colorful tables. Anne and Rob Finn kept our beverages flowing. The clean up committee was lead by Tony Cravotta. A big thank you for all the members that helped put on this scrumptious dinner. A very special thank you to Frank Decato who did various duties. Following dinner the members enjoyed each others conversations. Ho Ho Santa and his elf came in with his sack of goodies. The children were so excited to see him. Santa passed out gifts to the little ones. What delightful expressions on the kids faces when they received their presents.

Your Reporter,
Yvonne Perry

had by all!

Upcoming events are the St. Joseph's Day Table, and the Branch Anniversary Event (50 years). More details forthcoming.

Please pray for our deceased members, for those who are sick, for all military personnel, and for victims of terrorism and disasters.

When you see a man or woman in uniform, please thank them for their service to our country! God bless our military! God bless America! God bless the ICF!!

Ciao!

Karen Judson
Recording & Corresponding Secretary

San Diego

Chula Vista

St. Rose of Lima, Br. 229

First, congratulations to member Mary Colletta for reaching her 100th birthday! A lovely intimate birthday party was held for her, and she looked lovely. We wish her all of God's blessings.

Long time member Maria Tollefson passed away in November. She was Branch 229's President for many years, and she was always in the kitchen or parish hall working at events. We shall miss her. Our deepest condolences to her family. May she rest in peace.

The Branch's Christmas party was a great success. Thank you to Louis and Esther Pierotti for making it such a great event! The lunch was delicious, and a great time was



Michael & Sandra Fuentes' grandchildren Lukas & Mia, with Connie & Darrell Terry's granddaughter Sy.

Also, Lukas eating one of the delicious homemade cannoli at Branch 438.



San Francisco

San Francisco

Maria S.S. Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members:

Our recent Installation was enjoyed by all!

Upcoming:

February: No meeting

March 7: Spuntino & Raffle. \$20.00. Reservations: Vic Arnaudo (650) 755-1369. Please bring a Raffle Prize.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Ciao,

Toni Morsello



Liana Figone and her son attended the Branch 50 Christmas celebration. Photo credit: ©Kevin O'Connor.

San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

The Holidays are over and its time to start the New Year! One reason we didn't have a meeting in January was the SF Branch had the ICF Installation Luncheon on Saturday, January 13, normally Br. #38 meeting day. Because our meeting attendance and membership is low, this years' ICF Grand President Andy Pappani, wants our Br. #38 to stay open and active. After Debbie Major, SF District President, and I had a conversation about Br. #38's future, Debbie spoke to Mr. Pappani, and he told her there would be a Membership Drive in February. I do not know the details or when the Membership Drive will happen, but as soon as I know I will absolutely phone all our 2018 paid up members to give you the details. Mr. Pappani also told Debbie Major, Grand Trustee Anne Interrante from Br. #380 will be taking care of the meeting/ Membership Drive.

A lot depends on us members more than ever! We need to get involved to help keep our branch alive and going. Hopefully, 2018 will be a good year for us to get new members to join our Branch #38. We will do more advertising in our SSPP Church Bulletin and in "Nextdoor Washington Square North Beach"...via the computer. Please, wish us good luck in our endeavors. If you think of a way to recruit new members...please do so!

We had 11 members & guests present our Christmas Mini Meeting and Party it was very enjoyable...we had a good time. The Luncheon was catered by the SFIAC and was delicious...the SFIAC included everything...even the wine! It was great to see our members: the Ramsey boys...Patrick, Dominic, Matthew and our guests: George, Joe, Victor and his lovely wife, who helped us so much. One funny or terrible thing did happen: I promised our 2 home-bound ladies, Madeline Torre and Iva Belloni to bring them each a slice of our Strawberry Shortcake dessert. Well what did Cosmo do...in his hurry he smashed the 2 pieces of cake in the trunk... sorry...we owe you cake, ladies!

Santa did not show up this year. We thought of hiring 1 from Washington Square Park where at this time of year there are 1,000's, but Dominic & Matthew did a great job!

ICF Grand President Andy Pappani asked Cosmo to please collect the 2018 Dues for Br.#38. So far 12 members have renewed... it's a good start. Please help us, by paying promptly! If you have questions, please phone Cosmo 1-415-392-3560.

I'm not sure when our next meeting or

Membership Drive will be...expect a phone call!

Ciao,

Mara Amato

San Francisco

Santo Stefano, Br. 50

Buon Anno Nuovo !

Si spera che quest' anno porterà pace' e salute a tutti !

Branch 50 wishes a Happy New Year to all ICF Members and their families.

We did not have a business meeting in December, however we did have a wonderful Christmas Celebration by enjoying our Christmas Luncheon in the private room at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. It was an honor to have Dante Galleozi, from Central Council, join us. All members brought unwrapped toys to be donated to the "Operation Dream . The gifts were personally picked up by their representative, who told us of the work they do, and expressed his thanks and appreciation for all of our gifts.

We were happy that our past president, Liana Giovannini Figone was able to attend together with her son Joe, and share in the festivities. We must note that among all her accomplishments she also holds the rank of "Cavaliere" !

We look forward to our first meeting of 2018, and we wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day !

Ciao, Anstell Ricossa

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Felice Anno Nuovo to all of you from the Officers and members of Branch 258.

On February 5th we have a trip planned to an exclusive Valentine's Day Spectacular, Finocchio Style at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland, Ca. We always have a delicious lunch, Italian Style.

To our members who have a birthday in January, many more years of much happiness and good health. Barbara, hope you are doing better.

Anita, glad to hear you are on the road of complete recovery.

Please mark your calendars for the flowing dates:

Mass: February 25th

Meet: February 26th

Ciao

Eva Perata, President.

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San Mateo**South San Francisco****Sacro Cuore, Br. 7**

Happy Valentine Day South City!

Bet you didn't expect to see an article in this month's Bollettino, but through the grace of God a new editor has been found.

With the New Year, a new slate of officers has been elected:

President: Diana Ferrari

VP: Lola Migliore

Treasurer/Recording Secretary: Donna Smith

Financial Secretary: Dean Balestieri

Orator: Leonore Armanino

Trustees: Robbie Huerta, Jeanette Acosta, Barbara Bergamaschi and Odilia Gutierrez

Congratulations to Odilia who is a long time member but a first time officer. Thank you for saying yes to the nomination, we know you will love it.

A big thank you to our former Branch President Jim Eli for a phenomenal job. The Branch appreciates all you have done these past two years. We also thank retiring trustees Manola Scovel and Carol Tassan.

This year marks Carol's 40th year as a member and she has been a tremendous booster for our Branch along with her late husband, Giordano "Gerry" Tassan. Her retirement as an officer is well deserved.

The Aldo DeTomasi Memorial Cioppino Dinner will be held Saturday, February 24 at All Souls and chaired by Aldo's longtime sous chef, the magnificent Bill Mangini. \$45 for adults and \$20 for children. Call Donna for reservations 650-796-9466. Remember a chicken dinner is available for those who don't eat crab, let Donna know when you make your reservation.

Keep all our members in your prayers, especially Jeanette Acosta, Marc Teglia and my mother: Marlis Riso.

Ciao!

FHR

Colma**San Vincenzo De Paoli, Br. 19**

Buon Anno to everyone.

Hoping everyone had nice Christmas and New Year. Here's hoping 2018 will be even more exciting and busy; especially with good health to everyone.

Again, A HUGE thanks to the members who helped at the end the year; for Chaplin's Nite, dinners, favors, Christmas party and Simbang Gabi. All those who came to the party brought goods for St. Vincent de Paul.

Coming Activities:

JANUARY

***20th, Saturday, San Mateo District Installation January 20, 1018 - San Mateo District Installation of Officers at San Mateo Elks Club, Hosted by Branch 327, St. Charles Church in San Carlos, Ca. Reservation to Deborah Rodondi,

FEBRUARY

***12th, Monday, Polenta Dinner meeting, dinner and dessert hosts Kathy Trevizo and Deborah Rodondi, Reservation to Cheryl Simon by the 8th (650)755-0878 Leave Message or email cas94015@yahoo.com with reservation.

***14th, Ash Wednesday

Reminder:

Calendar tickets are for sale ... 365 chances to win; contact Deborah Rodondi (650)683-0805 and membership dues are also due, contact



Branch 213 birthday celebration with Jackie Smith and Diane Pangburn.

Joanne Sangiacomo with any questions.

Good luck for the coming year!

N. Thurman

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

Our new year starts out with a spaghetti and meatball dinner and meeting with our

new officers. Some have traded offices but we are glad to have a new Correspondence Secretary, Mara Millis join us and our new President is Mary Ann Camacho. Luckily for Mary Ann she had a great person in our former President, Dorene Campanile to answer many of her questions.

The officers welcome any new ideas and volunteers to assist with our dinners, etc.

Upcoming Dates:

Installation of Officers Jan 20, 2018. San Mateo Elks 223 West 20th Ave. Mass: 9:15 A.M. Installation: 10:00 A.M. \$40.00 should be sent to Donna Cervelli 650-343-3790 by the 12th with your choice of food.

February 8 Our ham dinner will be chaired by Mara Millis. Flyer will be sent out with the February newsletter.

Please keep our sick members in your thoughts and prayers: Larry Cavagnaro, Frank Clyne, Linda Mustachia, Carol Norcia, Lorraine Rollandi, and John Watterson.

God Bless,

Rosalind C. Emery

South San Francisco**St. Augustine, Br. 213**

Our January meeting was hosted and enjoyed by all our members, the food was delicious. It was fun getting together and planning our activities for the following months. Thanks to everyone who took on new volunteer jobs and committed to helping President Barbara to come up with new activities for our Branch.

Birthday Wishes go out to January members, Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Special prayers for those who are not well, We are thinking of you and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

January 20th we attended the Installation of Officers at the San Mateo Elks Club hosted by Branch 173. The lunch was wonderful and enjoyed by all our new and old officers that attended this very special event. Congratulation to all our 2018 Officers.

Plans are being made to host our 2018 Chaplains Nite in November. More information will be given out at the next meeting.

Mark your calendars for these very important dates that will be taking place in the following months and make plans to attend ; (Let us know if you want to carpool)

February 18th BR 403 St Dunstons 28th Anniversary



March 3rd BR 327 St Charles Anniversary Dinner

March 17th BR 19 Holy Angels Champagne Bingo

April 7th Br 173 Pedro Tournament

Til next month, stay warm, good health and enjoying our branch activities and member friendship.

Ciao,

Joyce James

San Carlos**St. Charles, Br. 327**

Thank you to all of the board members who provided the food and goodies for our December Christmas meeting. The choices were many and delicious. A good time was had by all.

Our annual Anniversary Corned Beef dinner will be held on Saturday, March 3. The price is \$40.00 per person and will include musical entertainment. Rose Beall will once again be organizing the gift baskets for the raffle.

Donations for the baskets may be brought to our February meeting. We need empty baskets as well as goodies to be put in the baskets.

Save the dates:

Tuesday, February 20 - branch meeting

Saturday, March 3 - 41st Anniversary and Corned Beef dinner

Tuesday, March 20 - NO branch meeting

Ciao,

Virginia Malaspina

Millbrae**St. Dunstan, Br. 403**

Our Installation of Officers for the 2018 year took place at the San Mateo Elks Lodge with Mass and luncheon.

Our next meeting will be February 6, 2018, with a delicious soup dinner prepared by our Past President Carla Del Carlo. For reservations send check of \$12 payable to ICF #403, to Eunice Danli, 4 Spring Valley Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030, by February 2nd.

On Sunday, February 18 we will celebrate our 28th Anniversary in the Parish Hall with no-host cocktails at 4:00PM, dinner at 5:00PM. The dinner menu is chicken cordon bleu, with appetizers, salad, rice pilaf, vegetables, dessert and wine for \$25 per person. For reservations send check payable to ICF #403 to Rose Marie Morando, 706 Clearfield Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030 by February 13, 2018. Our President Mary Vella Treseler was recently in the hospital, but is home recuperating. Our good wishes and prayers go with her. *Rose Marie Morando*

Marin**Larkspur****St. James, Br. 161**

On Tuesday, January 16 we started the evening with a pot luck dinner and then had a very short meeting. During the meeting Second Vice President Deborah Rodondi installed the officers. Thank you for making the visit and doing the installation.

We are in the process of finalizing our calendar for the upcoming year.

We need new members, if you have a friend please bring them to an upcoming meeting.

Please continue your get-well prayers for everyone who isn't feeling well.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day.

Anna Biggio

Recording Secretary

San Jose**Santa Clara Valley****District Council**

Our newly elected Santa Clara Valley District Board was duly installed as well as all the branch mentors. Emily Corral and Donna Pfaff were replaced by Pat Cordich and Mary Ann Ruiz. No other changes were made so we will have a veteran core of officers and mentors to lead the district for 2018. John Gillio was recipient of the "Mentor of the Year".

District Mentor Jerry Delfino reminded all branch mentors to read their "In Touch" newsletter and if they have any questions to contact Vince Piro, head of the Mentor Program. Jerry also mentioned that the Mass & Pilgrimage for St. Frances Cabrini was the best he attended, and the lunch was excellent.

Branches 184 and 368 have their crab feeds on Feb 24 and Feb 3 respectively. Branch 368 reported they made \$5400 on their Monte Carlo Night, Equal shares were given to the Knights of Columbus, Fil-Am Group, ICF 368, and Santa Teresa Church. And SCV District Bishop's Day was very fruitful with the Bishop McGrath receiving a Spiritual Burse as well as \$9,000 dollars.

Denise Antonowicz told the members that Italians do not have a comparable "Thanksgiving Day" but rather celebrate a "Festival of Thanks" called "Il Giorno di Ringraziamento". Mike Rossi told members that November 11 was the Feast Day of St. Martin of Tours. Martin was a patron Saint of France and was one of the first non-martyrs to be publicly venerated as a saint.

March District Meeting - Monday, March 12, ICF Branch 391 - St. Martin's Church

Mike Nunziata

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

All Officers of ICF Br. 5 were installed on January 6, 2018. We are ready to serve our members in this New Year of 2018. We need your help to make it another successful year.

If you have not paid your 2018 Membership Dues, please do so as soon as possible.

Please mail or bring the dues to the dinner/meeting and give to Marlene Rotolo. If you have any questions see me.

Plan ahead for the Dean Martin Dinner/Show schedule for April 28, 2018. Seats are limited. More information will be available at a later date. Come make it a successful fundraiser. Put the event on your calendar.



Branch 28 – Gilroy High School Ensemble Choir performing at the December Christmas Party.



Santa Claus with children and members at the December Christmas Party.



Branch 28 - Joe and Peggy Fortino, 1st vice president and trustee's grandson Jackson Zephyr Foster enjoying some quiet time with his Santa provided Santa snowman after the excitement of the Branch 28 Christmas dinner meeting.



Branch 28 – Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus at the December Christmas Party.

meal and visitation of Santa and Mrs. Claus. The Holiday season saw members contribute 418 pounds of food to St. Joseph's Family Center along with many toys for needy families. Also a needy family selected by St. Joseph's Family Center was provided with the necessary things to make the holidays into a true Christmas.

On January 6, 2018 Installation was held at Branch 445's Church of the Transfiguration with Mass and a nice luncheon following. Board members, and new board members Kim M. Filice and Roy Shackel were installed as Financial Secretary and Orator respectively. Thank you to Branch 445 for hosting this beautiful event.

Branch 28 sold 51 ICF calendars and provided calendars to the clergy of Saint Mary Parish. Also our "Tastes of Italy" shrimp and ravioli dinner is scheduled for April 21, 2018.

The next dinner meeting will be held on February 26, 2018 at Cullen Hall. Our callers will be contacting you and please confirm if you are attending or unable to attend this dinner meeting. Remember you



Branch 184: Left to right: Marcia Green, Maria Greco, Lucy Amico, Julie Klem-Brusco, Barbara White, Rose Arnaudo and Norma Buonaccorsi are shown following the Mass and Installation ceremony at Transfiguration Church.

can bring guests as long as you confirm their attendance with your designated caller. It is very important to get an accurate as possible attendance for all meals in order for caterers or meal preparers to plan efficiently. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dues forms have been mailed out to members for the upcoming year, please respond in a timely manner and keep in mind anybody that would like to be an ICF Branch 28 member.

Peace and God Bless,

Kim M. Filice

Los Gatos

St. Mary, Br. 184

Well here we are in a New Year. We pray all went well for you during the Christmas Holiday Season.

The Installation of Officers was held on January 6 at the Transfiguration Church in San Jose. It is the newest branch in our area and they did a wonderful job! Fr. George Aranha gave a message of love and inclusion. The ceremony went off beautifully and the catered lunch following gave us a chance to catch up with old friends and make some new ones!

Please keep February 24 open on your calendar. We will be hosting a dinner on that date and the details will be coming.

This is the time of year to call Rose Arnaudo for those wanting a scholarship application. Her phone number is [\(408\)354 4017](tel:4083544017). Applications are available and the requirements for the students are being Italian and Catholic, and related to a member of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Greetings for Valentine's Day and best wishes to you all throughout this year,

Lucy Amico

San Jose

St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

Branch 191 had its first Board Meeting for the year 2018 on January 2nd and I found it amazing how many items you have to cover that first month! Come on Folks, I was a branch President before and a Grand President, but it was like I was just beginning my Presidency. Thank goodness for Past Presidents.

Our Branch is off to a great start, with an Installation on January 6th, a Day of Recollection on January 15th, a Quarterly Mass and Luncheon on January 21st, and our first General Dinner Meeting on January 24th.

I have a great Board of Directors and I'm looking forward to working with them this year.

God Bless,

Jim Jones

San Jose

Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

We are so sorry to report that John Janini, a founding member of our branch and past president, has passed away. We really miss his gravelly, deep voice announcing, "The bus is full!" John and his wife Judy spent a lot of time and earned a lot of money for our branch organizing the bus trips to the Indian casinos. Such a loss for all of us. May the souls of all the faithful departed of branch #368, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Thank you to our January hosts and hostesses, Steve and Caroline Caracciolo, Bobbie Gallegos, and Paula and Bill Radzinski. The lasagna, salads, appetizers, and desserts helped us all ring in 2018 with a hearty celebration. Thanks, folks!

Our next big event is the parish crab feed on February 3. One of our past presidents, Phil Robba, and his wife Joyce play a leading role in planning the crab feed. They also organize the parish food pantry and chair the food distribution on the holidays. They do a wonderful job!

We thank also Tina Souza Dutra, our branch mentor, who is beginning her fourth year with us. She is always available to answer questions and encourage us in our efforts. Thank you for your enthusiasm and your support, Tina!

Have you ever thought that random acts of kindness may be very kind but chosen carefully rather than randomly?

Judy Zahn

San Jose

St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

Our opening prayer was led by Sister Jane Garrison, and President Mike Rossi began our January meeting with our ICF Salute and thanking Al and Diana Vallorz for the delicious chili and cornbread meal.

Tina Rossi reminded our members that there was an increase to ICF dues (\$40.80) and that the deadline for submitting payment is March 15, 2018. Statements have been mailed out to members.

Our new Scholarship Chairperson, Mary

Happy Valentine's Day to all.

Ciao,

Marlene J. Rotolo

Gilroy

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

Branch 28's Christmas dinner meeting was held on December 18, 2017 at the Old City Hall Restaurant in Gilroy. The Christmas dinner meeting saw members, guests, and children enjoy a performance of the Gilroy High School ensemble choir, a wonderful



Installation of Branch 408 officer Patricia Look.



Installation of Branch 408 officer Rhea Shimshock.

Carolyn O'Connor.

Lipari, reminded us that scholarship applications are available online and are due in March.

Thank you, Louise Vento, for selling all 35 ICF calendars, earning our branch \$175.

In her heritage report, Louise presented memories of her Christmas past. She reminded us that the holiday season is a time to remember our own past Christmases.

Our 31st Annual Valentine Dinner Dance, "Love Around the World," will be held on February 10, 2018. 6:00 P.M.--No Host Cocktails, 7:00 PM—Dinner, and 8:00 P.M.—Dancing! Tickets (\$40 per person) for this popular grilled steak dinner are available by contacting Cathleen Lencioni. We ask that you bring your donated prizes to our next meeting or the day of the event.

Mayme Abbott graciously volunteered to be our new Sunshine Person. Please inform Mayme of our sick and deceased members for her to send appropriate cards.

Reminder: Branch #391 February Dinner Meeting—February 6, 2018 at 6:30pm.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Janis Patellaro

Sunnyvale Resurrection, Br. 408

Installation of our 2018 Branch 408 Officers was held at our newest Branch in the Santa Clara Valley District (SCVD) Transfiguration Br 445. Our 10 AM Mass was concelebrated with Fr. George, Fr. Chris and Fr. Tito. Msgr Milani was also in attendance. Fr. George gave an excellent Homily about bringing Joy into each others lives with little acts of kindness and compassion. The effects of the 2018 Flu Outbreak were widely evident with a reduced turnout for this event.

A very tasty Luncheon was held in the Parish Hall after the Installation and Mass. Fellowship was widely evident as members of the District caught up with each other after the Holidays. We look forward to a successful ICF Year in 2018.

Ash Wednesday is 14 February and ICF hosts the first Lenten Soup Supper in the Farana Center (FC) on Friday 16 February. We will need ten (10) soups in FC by 630 PM to serve our Parishioners.

Our High School Scholarship Applications need to be submitted by 15 March 2018.

We look forward to our Annual PASTA Dinner on Saturday 17 March @ 6 PM. We will need cooks and Servers.

Please pray for our sick members – especially for Olive DeFrancisci, Steve Richey, Dori and Paul Blefari, Edith Novak, Betty Deville, and

San Jose Transfiguration, Br. 445

The 2018 Mass and Installation of Officers for the Santa Clara Valley District was held at Transfiguration Church in San Jose on Saturday, January 6th. The ICF Branches in attendance that installed officers were: 5, 28, 47, 184, 191, 368, 391, 408, 435 and 445.

The 2018 Officers for Branch 445 are: Fr. Christopher Bennett, Chaplain; Jim Falcone, President; Janie Falcone, 1st Vice President; Donna Pfaff, 2nd Vice President; Dick Pfaff, Recording Secretary; Correspondence Secretary Andy La Scola; Amy Debem-Moody Financial Secretary; Karen Fierravanti, Treasurer; Orator Emily Corral; Art Maggio, Trustee; Chic Cannon, Trustee; Jennifer Nisich Trustee; Diane Devine, Sentinel; and Jim Jones (Br.191) Mentor.

Thanks to Donna Pfaff and her amazing staff for her dedication and hard work in putting together the wonderful catered lunch in Taber Hall, that followed the Installation Mass.

Thanks, to all of the outgoing officers that served in 2017.

Angelo (Andy) La Scola

Corresponding Secretary

Santa Rosa District Council

Hope you all enjoyed the holidays! Let's pray that 2018 will be good for us in many ways.

The next District Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2018, hosted by #18. The meeting will be held at the Parish Life Center at St. Eugene's Parish. Officers at 1:30 PM and general meeting at 2:PM. All branches are asked to appoint 3 delegates to attend the district meetings. Suggestions are made for the benefit of the branches, so, you need to be there to vote.

In April, we plan to car-pool our way north to attend the anniversary dinner for #144 and #145. Start making your plans. More information to come.

Our condolences to the family of Jim Spallino, of #144, on his passing. Jim was active in the branch for many years.

Make plans to attend functions of other branches. The food is always good, the company convivial and profits go to charity. Invite someone (non-ICF) to go with you. Consult your district packet for listing of events.

Take care of each other and pray for God's blessings.

CK

Healdsburg



Celebrating the holidays at Branch 75, Cloverdale.

St. Frances de Sales, Br. 52

We celebrated our 82nd Anniversary as a branch at the January 20 Polenta Dinner and initiated our new members who joined in 2017. Photos will be in the March Bollettino. 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. 6: Branch meeting, 5 PM at the Rectory.

March 23: Our 4th Annual Fish Fry. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. This event is always a sellout. 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 13: Branch Meeting, 5 PM at the Rectory.

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

If you haven't paid your 2017 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

Cloverdale L'Annuciata, Br. 75

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our ICF Branch is growing!

We had a great December Meeting. Everyone brought food to share that was red or green. We also brought Christmas gifts for 2 families in the community that we adopted for Christmas. Every member of the family received gifts and food was provided as well. There was an outpouring of generosity from our members.

This year we were also to make a donation to Catholic Charities for victims of the fire.

We are planning for our biggest event of the year, BBQ Chicken & Pasta Dinner. It will be held on February 17th this year. It is always held on the Saturday during the Cloverdale Citrus Fair. We still have some preparations to do for it.

Everyone is looking forward to the District Installation of Officers at St. Eugene's on January 21st. We have a good nice slate of officers that are ready to get to work. Our Pastor, Fr. David Galeana, has agreed to be our new Chaplain.

We are thankful for all the blessings of this past year!

Sonoma

St. Sebastian, Br. 103

I have just volunteered to be the new Recording-Secretary of Br. 103, relinquishing my position as Treasurer. Our dinner meeting was this evening, January 9th at 4:30 p.m. Our dinner was very good, turkey meatloaf with all the trimmings and several members in attendance.

We will have a new President, Ken Marshall who seems to be quite anxious to assume the reins from Thomas Wurst who has decided to become 1st vice-president instead, citing work related obligations. I shared the table with Ken, Josephine Grant and a few others. We are all looking forward to a great new year as our little branch engages new officers and grows. Hopefully, January 21st at St. Eugene's will be my first opportunity to view the new cathedral and to embrace another position in our branch, 103.

Respectfully yours,

Marilyn A. Sylvestri

Petaluma St. Vincent, Br. 127

Greetings from Petaluma!

Our first meeting of the year was held with a delicious soup/salad nite. Due to the cold and rainy weather we had a smaller meeting than usual. All who attended enjoyed the meal and we want to thank Bruno Fomassi, Angelo Leone, Giacco Manni and John and Mariann Ciabattari for all their hard work into making the dinner delicious and successful. Setting up and cleaning up crews are also thanked.

Try and attend the meetings and support our President Denise. It is everybody's participation in meetings and events that make the Branch a success. You will make new friends and enjoy the old ones.

We will be having our All You Can Eat Crab Feed on Feb. 24th in the St. James Church Hall at 6:00 p.m. starting with o'erderves, 7:00 p.m.dinner; salad, pasta, crab, dessert and wine served with dinner. Cost \$45. Make reservations with Louise [707-769-7389](tel:707-769-7389).

St. Joseph's Table is March 24th. A delicious dinner will be served after our 5:00 p.m. Quarterly/Communion Mass at St. James Church. Dinner served in Church Hall at 6 p.m. o'erderves; dinner at 7:00 p.m., salad, pasta, salmon, dessert and wine with dinner. Cost \$25. Make reservations with Louise - 769-7389.

Feb. 12th - Regular Meeting

Mar. 12th - Regular Meeting

Get well wishes to Kathleen Walker and Lillian Ward and to any other ill members. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary wishes to all celebrating this month. Pray for the homeless, our service members, and our Country.

Happy Valentine's Days wishes. Remember to tell your loved ones you love them and that they are special to you.



Installation of a young group of branch presidents at the Stockton District Installation.

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

*Ciao,
Louise Vicino*

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

Pres. Judy opened the meeting with a prayer. It was reported that our Breakfast with Santa served 107 adults and 32 children.

Anne Eanne proposed two possible money makers for the branch: A miniature terrarium workshop with supplies donated by a local nursery which could be scheduled for April 14 and an art painting workshop. Anne will present more details and recommendation at the next meeting.

Pres. Judy continued our tradition of delivering a Panetone at Christmas to our "over 90" members. The recipients were Mary Tanferani and Josetta Matteri.

Our Chicken Polenta Dinner will be February 18. Make your reservations with Doris 822-3049, Toni 633-5679 or Joan 443-5176. All able-bodied members stay healthy. We need your help!!!

We received a thank you from Fr. Frances for all we do for the parish and for the donation toward the Leavy Hall floor project.

Mary Tanferani was released from the hospital after a bout with pneumonia. Some of our members have been recovering from the flu, from falls, broken hips, and aches n pains. Get Well wishes to all.

February Birthdays are : Joan DePeel, Loretta Speziale, and Maegan Lindsey! Happy Birthday to each of you!

Happy Valentine's Day to each of you! Hug your loved ones!

Rosemary

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

During our January 10 meeting we presented our nominations of officers for the 2018 year. After discussion we voted on the nominees. They are: President Ken Griffith, Vice President Gene Senestraro, Treasurer and Treasury Secretary is Joe Bonino, Recording Secretary Suanna Rowell, Correspondence Secretary Marian Griffin, Orator Betty Senestraro, Sentinel John Silva, Trustees Joe Pera and Lora Canzonieri. Our

installation of officers will be on January 27 at the Samoa Cookhouse. Cocktails at five and dinner at six. The cost is 20.01 per person, yep you read it correctly! Please plan to attend. Arcata Branch will be hosting. Thank you for your efforts.

Please pray for past members who have passed. Jerry Colivas, Evelyn and Aldo Bongio, Don Rafaelli, and Anita Pera. May their souls rest in peace.

*Keep faith, love, and hope,
Nancy Paoli*

**Stockton
District Council**

Greetings from the Stockton District! We pray that everyone's Christmas was a very happy time with your family. Now with the New Year, we are ready to roll up our sleeves and begin the work of the ICF.

We had our installation at St. Stanislaus. Thank you Central Council members for being with us on this special Epiphany Sunday. Your dedication to the organization does not go unnoticed (especially when the long trip is made on the day of the wedding anniversary). Branch 48 did a great job as always with the reception. Dinner was delicious. Sebastian, our 8-year old was unofficial photographer at the event with Elizabeth Demichelis (Branch 139) providing great assistance at a crucial moment. Steve Ridolfi was the official photographer. Thank you to all who made this day a special one.

Our next District Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2018, at St. Bernard's in Tracy.

*Respectfully submitted by
Robert J. Pachinger, President*

**Modesto
St. Stanislaus, Br. 48**

We had a great turnout for the installation of officers and a great deal of help from the district branches for the set up and with the mass. Their help was very much appreciated. Many compliments were received on the food. Thanks to Annette Elissagaray for being the MC at our dinner.. As always she did a great job. A special thanks to Father Ramon who was able to say the mass this time and stay for dinner. He is a great supporter of the I.C.F.

Our new president was bitten by the flu bug



Installation of Stockton District Officers in January, 2018.



Central Council Members at the Stockton District Installation in January, 2018.

and was unable to attend her first meeting as president. Please keep her in your prayers. Also Please keep our member Mary Souza in your prayers. Mary was 95 years old and passed away January 1, 2018.

Our branch made a donation to our local branch of Catholic Charities for hurricane relief

Mass for our deceased members will be Sundays February 4, 2018 and March 4, 2018 at the 8:00 am at the Maze Blvd. Church.

Our Bank Night winner was Ermelinda Zamora. The refreshments for the February 14, 2018 will be furnished by Antonella Truchetti.

Coming up:

Feb 11 1:30 pm District Meeting - Tracy

Feb 14 7:00 pm Meeting in the Hall 7 & K Streets

Mar 14 7:00 pm Meeting in the Hall 7 & K Streets

Mar 18 2:00 pm St. Joseph's Table Hall 7&K Streets

Cecelia McGhee

**Stockton
St. Luke, Br. 138**

The Italian Catholic Federation, Branch #138 of St. Luke's Church in Stockton, California, held their Christmas Party for members' families on December 16, 2017 in the parish's Social Hall. The branch provided a ham main

course, with members bringing their favorite side dish or dessert to share.

Following the dinner, members enjoyed a wild game of "Christmas Mad-Libs," and the Bear children, Natalie, Emily, and Molly, sang a delightful medley Christmas carols.

The Italian Catholic Federation #138 is working with St. Luke's Knights of Columbus to hold several joint fundraisers, the first one being a St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner on Saturday, March 17, 2018.

**Manteca
Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio,
Br. 139**

With the corps of officers duly installed for 2018, Branch President Dr. Elizabeth Demichelis is looking forward to an active year.

The budget committee of Marilyn Amoral, Lillian Pauletto and Jim Alfieri met with the president, developed a 2018 budget and found some leftover 2017 funds. The committee then allocated those funds to the electricity improvement project at the parish rectory, to Sister Ann's parish senior ministry, to the Catholic Youth Organization for new uniforms, to Sister Ann herself and to our priests and seminarians. Tony and Ida Queirolo were recognized for their preparation of the delicious dinners at each of our monthly meetings.

The 2018 budget was presented, discussed and unanimously approved by all the members present. Funds were increased for our



Installation of the Branch 390 officers.

delegates to the Grand Convention in San Diego, as well as for our donation to Gifts of Love and for an increase in the number of student scholarships.

Central Council member Dante Galeazzi, assisted by Past Branch President Frank Re, initiated several new members.

We hope that all I. C. F. members enjoyed a Buon Natale.

*Ciao,
Mariano*

**Tracy
St. Bernard, Br. 390**

Thank you to members who have agreed to become the new 2018 officers for Branch 390: President Lucy Orsi, 1st Vice President Anita Ridolfi, 2nd Vice President Nancy Schlemmer, Recording Secretary Anita Ridolfi, Correspondence Secretary Betty Hollars, Financial Secretary Annette Elissagaray, Treasurer Serena Martocchio, Orator Joe Schlemmer, Trustees are Joe Bacchetti, Mary Gualco, Marilyn Tuso, Sentinel Stephen Ridolfi, Branch Deputy Marilyn Amoral, District Deputy Karen Rosson. Installation of all district officers were Sunday, January 7 at St. Stanislaus Church and our own Annette Elissagaray was chosen as MC. Lots of fun!

On January 25, members feasted on the ever-popular polenta and chicken cacciatore along with all the trimmings. We are very fortunate that our membership is continuing to grow each year after several years of declining numbers. Annette Elissagaray has been doing a fantastic job as our membership chairwoman for the past few years, paying special attention to new folks and encouraging them to participate in everything. Again our thanks go out to the members who donate raffle prizes and continue to contribute every month - our highest ever month last year was \$680 for raffle tickets - all profit since the items are all donated! Can't beat those numbers, or can we?

February's monthly meeting will be Thursday the 22nd and all are invited for the month we celebrate love. Menu includes ribs, special secret recipe beans and all that goes with them! Can't wait!

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of long-time members who have passed away recently, including Betty Brazil, Dominic Nunes and Robert Weinberg. May they rest in peace in the glory of God.

Hope everyone has a healthy, happy and safe 2018!

*Ciao for now,
Betty Hollars*

**Stockton
Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395**

What an exciting start to 2018!! Our new branch officers were installed and it is thrilling to see so many members step up who haven't held leadership positions in the past. Their enthusiasm is contagious and we look forward to a fantastic year.

February is a busy month for our branch. We will be holding our annual Polenta Dinner on February 8. This is our branch's major fundraiser of the year and we appreciate all of the community support. Our goal is 500 attendees, so fingers crossed. If you would like to attend, and who doesn't enjoy polenta this time of year, reach out to Karen Rosson, this year's chairperson.

Our two 2017 scholarship recipients, Gina Devaggio and Grace Lin-Cereghino have survived their first round of finals and are both very happy with their college choices. We are so proud of them both.

During this Lenten season our branch looks forward to again sponsoring Stations of the Cross along with a soup supper prepared by the excellent cooks in our branch.

We also decided to challenge our Branch 395 members this year. We have asked everyone to bring in one new member in 2018. We challenge all of you to do the same!

*Alla prossima,
Mary Ann Piana Chapman*

**Angels Camp
St. Patrick, Br. 413**

Here we are in February of a new year! Branch 413 is having our annual ICF Valentine's Dinner Dance on February 17th. We will be serving a pork roast and scrumptious side dishes with a delicious dessert, and drinks, all for only \$25 a person. There will be music for dancing and raffles for winning! If you are going to be in the area, don't forget to purchase your tickets by February 12th.

With the coming of Lent also in February, our branch will be making a soup for the Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper on March 2nd.

Our next event is St. Patrick's Day Corn beef Sandwiches served with a side salad and a pickle. This is a popular event because we are at St. Patrick's here in Angels Camp! Prices and more information will be coming in the next Bollettino.

Branch 413 had all but 2 of their officers



Mary Ann installs our newest Branch 395 members, Pat Beglau, Linda Biancalana, Paula Watt and Emily Behrmann.

attend the Installation of Officers this past January 7th at Old St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto. The Mass was beautiful, and the Installation went well. No one was forgotten or injured in the process. Branch 48 had the meal catered and the food was very good.

God bless you all and keep you safe,
Ciao

*Annette Pachinger
Recording Secretary*



take away Lasagna Dinner on February 10th. We are also looking forward to hopefully welcoming some new members during our January membership drive! We wish all ICF members a prosperous 2018.

Submitted by: JoAnne Sapp

**Tucson
Green Valley**

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

Buon Anno at tutti! Our branch had a lovely December meeting. Though many of our members were out of town visiting with family for the holidays, those of us who attended the meeting were greeted by lovely Christmas piano music from one of our newest members, Paul Lupo! That's him in the photo, along with photos of other members getting ready for our meeting. We even had a Christmas sing along after out appetizer and dessert potluck. Really put us in the holiday spirit.

We are getting ready for two big fundraisers, our newest, a Hawaiian Luau luncheon on January 13th and our annual Sit down or



Italian Catholic Federation Eighteenth Annual



GOLF TOURNAMENT

DATE:

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018

COURSE:

**Laguna Seca Golf Course
10520 York Road, Monterey, CA 93940**

FORMAT:

Four Person Scramble

START:

Breakfast 7:00 A.M. / Shotgun tee off: 8:45 A.M.

BANQUET

: Prepared By Our Returning Chef Ed Leonard

2:00 -

**Moose Lodge
555 Canyon Del Rey Blvd, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940
No-host Cocktails**

3:00 -

Sumptuous Roast New York Strip Dinner

RAFFLE:

There will be a raffle with stupendous prizes!

PRICE:

Golfers: \$170 (includes hot buffet breakfast, 18 holes of golf with cart and banquet.) After July 20th, the price per golfer is \$185. Banquet only: \$50.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: JULY 20, 2018

*****If an individual brings in 3 foursomes, that individual golfs for free!*****

SIGN UP:

Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

Banquet only _____



Make check for total amount (\$170 per player plus \$50 per banquet guest), payable to the I.C.F. Golf Tournament, and send to the address below before the July 20th deadline.

Remember: \$185 per player after July 20th.

The Central Council and Tournament Committee are very excited about this event and hope to see all of you (golfers and non-golfers) there!





December potluck and Christmas celebration at Branch 425.

• Congratulations to Branches who participated in the 2017 New Member Recruitment Campaign! Thank you for all your hard work in bringing in new members.

• Attention 2017 Officers! ICF Officer Training Slides are available on our website in the Members Area for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Sentinel and Orator. You can also follow this link: <http://www.icf.org/membership/members/>