May is the month we celebrate the life and devotion of Mother Mary. We traditionally adorn the statues of Mary in church with crowns of flowers and recite decades of the rosary in her honor. In addition, some branches throughout the Federation have a ceremony for the crowning of Mary. Her love and devotion to her son, Jesus, is something any mother can appreciate.

During the month of May we also honor our own mothers. Their love and devotion to their children and families makes them very special to all of us, and most deserving of having a special day in their honor.

Within our organization there are many women who are mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and aunts. They too have helped the ICF from its beginning as devoted members and have been the strong backbones of each branch.

If it were not for a woman like Lady Augusta Providenza, supporting Sir Luigi, the ICF would not be where it is today. The women of the ICF were diligent in their commitment to the organization and all the while still kept their families running at home. For this, and too many other reasons to count, we are eternally grateful to all of the mothers in our lives.

Thought of Mind
"You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."
-- Vince Lombardi

Happy Mother's Day!

God Bless the Italian Catholic Federation,
Andrew J Pappani

Application Process
1. Applications are available from the I.C.F. Office.
2. Candidates’ completed applications must be received by the I.C.F. Office by August 1 in order to be eligible to run for Central Council.
3. A candidate who is not currently a Central Council member must be a Branch Delegate to the Convention.

Other Pre-convention Deadlines
1. If you wish to place a full-page ad in the convention yearbook; the ad contract, your photo and a message must be sent to the I.C.F. Office by June 1.
2. Candidate entries to be included in the Bollettino, must be emailed to both the I.C.F. Office and the Bollettino Editor by August 1. Email admin@icf.org and icfeditor@gmail.com.
3. Submissions should include a photo and an entry that does not exceed 300 words.

Campaign Rules
1. Only one poster (maximum size 24 X 36) may be displayed in the area designated by the Convention Director. An easel will be provided.
2. Campaign flyers and campaign favors may only be given out on Friday evening during “Meet the Candidates.” Food related favors are permitted so long as the item does not compete with the hotel’s food and beverage guidelines. For example: candy would be acceptable by the hotel, but not wine or other beverages as these items would take away revenue from the hotel bar.
3. There will be no candidate hospitality rooms. This decision was made in order to follow the quiet time and no-party policy enforced at hotels. In lieu of candidate hospitality rooms/campaign parties, refreshments hosted by the Central Council will be served during “Meet the Candidates.”
4. No campaigning may take place during convention sessions, activities or in the delegate registration area.
5. No campaign literature should be posted in the public areas or on the I.C.F. Facebook page.
6. Registration workers should not wear campaign items.
7. Candidates should notify campaign helpers of these rules.
8. Campaign speeches will be held during the Saturday session and shall not exceed 2 minutes.

Other Information
1. Candidates for Central Council will be announced in descending order in even years and ascending order in odd years.
2. 10 candidates will be elected to the Central Council.
3. Candidates should wear proper business attire at all functions; no campaign T-shirts, pins, etc.
4. For additional information, or for clarification, please contact the I.C.F. Convention Director.

Thank you for your interest in being a Central Council Member!

Convention Don’t Miss Events:

THURSDAY AUGUST 30TH 6:00PM
REMEMBERING FRANK SINATRA
‘‘The Man and His Music’’
IN CONCERT
Patricia The Sultry Lady of Jazz
This famous Cabaret show was accompanied by the legendary Band, followed by Dancing to the band and Pasta Dinner Extravaganza. Don’t miss this incredible, exciting fun time for the entire family.

For more information, contact Patricia.Sinatra@icf.org or phone at (619) 543-4300. (Patricia.Sinatra@icf.org) -
Reservations are required. Then use reservation link to book a table or call Patricia at (619) 543-4300 to book a table. All employees are allowed to book tables up until 5:00 PM on August 29th.

Deadline for Reservations: AUGUST 29TH 5:00 PM
At 5:00 PM the reservation system will be closed.

REFRESHMENTS
THURSDAY AUGUST 30TH 6:00PM
ON DECK
Gondola Lunch on the bay

ENROLLMENT
NO MONDAY SCHOOL
SCHOOL DINNER: 6:00PM
THURSDAY AUGUST 30TH

For more information, contact Patricia.Sinatra@icf.org or phone at (619) 543-4300. (Patricia.Sinatra@icf.org)

Make checks payable to ICF San Diego District

May is the month we celebrate the life and devotion of Mother Mary.
Monkey See, Monkey Do

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFSpiritDir@aol.com

One day recently, I celebrated Mass for the school children. After I proclaimed the gospel, I stood in front of the altar and silently stretched out my arms. Suddenly the children did too! I raised my arms up and they followed. This was getting good.

I rubbed my belly and then made circles with my arms. Every time I made a gesture, the children imitated what I did. Not a word was spoken! Children imitate very easily.

Not only children, adults do too. How did the style of growing beards start? We see men with beards on television, on the basketball courts, on news programs, in baseball stadiums, even on teenagers who are too young to grow a mature beard. I have the Italian TV channel, RAI, and I notice beards all over the place. What used to be the exception has now become the norm for men of all ages. How did it start?

Women’s hair styles also have trends. Just watch the news on TV. A woman on a major TV network started to part her long hair down the middle. In a week, or so, many women imitated that style. Now, if you notice, the part is moving to one side. The styles will always keep on changing.

Men’s ties not only change designs, but change width. I notice the ties are getting narrower lately. Side burns go up and down. So do women’s hems. Even little kids who don’t understand it do the “high-five.”

Let’s face it, we are all imitators in one way or another. It’s a part of being human. However, we want to be selective. There is good imitating and bad imitating. We always want to choose the good, making Christ our spiritual model. We don’t have to look like the medieval paintings of Him, complete with long hair parted in the middle and a long beard; but we should model our daily actions on Him, striving to love Him and our neighbor in every way. We want always to choose the good. Let us choose to be imitators of Christ! That is our goal.

Increasing Branch Membership by Working Together

Ed Leonard
Membership Committee Member

Membership! No doubt you’ve heard this word mentioned and written about recently regarding each branch’s role in the big picture of the Italian Catholic Federation’s drive for members and more importantly, membership retention.

Our Central Council Membership Chairperson, Anne Interrante, has wisely put in place a system that includes a District Membership person who receives a brief summary from each of the individual Branch Membership persons about their respective branch's - Membership status such as members added, members lost and delinquencies. This can usually be done at the District Meetings, but an email, phone call or text message will do if you can’t make the District Meeting.

Some branches have said they don’t have a membership person, but you probably have someone who takes the yearly dues and sends out the dues notices. So, you’re already halfway there. And it’s not that hard. I did it, and I loved it! I thought I was pretty good at it, too. My point is - If you can do it, anyone can. I would spend time thinking how to recruit new members, but just following steps our ICF has laid out for us is really what we used. I say “we” because our members helped!

Our branch members have friends and relatives that aren’t members of the ICF, that they continually reach out to. They are invited to join us in a social setting with a family- friendly atmosphere at our monthly dinner meetings. They see and hear our ICF’s dedication to works of Charity, Scholarship programs for our worthy students, to our Clergy, our Parish and our Seminarians - our future priests. It’s hard to refuse that kind of invitation. Because we all know, we can’t do all this on our own, but by working together in the ICF, we can.

Our dedicated Branch Financial Secretary and Membership Chairperson responded when asked, what she does to increase membership. Her answer was, “our own members bringing in non-member family and friends as guests to our different events and monthly dinner meetings”. By the way she is also our Central Coast District Membership Chairperson.

We have the tools. It’s all about our members pulling together in the same direction and getting the word out there and INVIT-ING your non-member friends and family to attend your Branch’s lunch or dinner meetings and “fun” raisers. Show them what the Italian Catholic Federation is all about.

We can and should be proud of what we do. If we really make new people feel welcome, I’m pretty sure we’ll make them a new member. And be sure to give them the best seat in the house!

2018 Bishops’ Days:

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See these first on our website: ICF.ORG
The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

The 18th Century and each station is marked with a roman numeral. The Via Dolorosa is lined with stores and shopkeepers trying to entice you into their stores. Some of the route is covered and some is outside. There were several church groups along the route, who stopped and prayed at each station, which takes patience in between other tourists and natives.

At the end of the Via Dolorosa, one comes to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the holiest site to Catholics, even more than St. Peter’s in Rome. The Church was built over the sites of Jesus’ crucifixion, death, tomb and resurrection. As a result, the Church meanders around and isn’t arranged like a normal church. Today it also serves as the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, while control of the building is shared between several Christian churches and secular groups.

These complicated arrangements have been essentially unchanged for centuries. A Muslim family has been entrusted with the keys to the Church for several centuries. Today, the church is home to branches of Eastern Orthodoxy and Oriental Orthodoxy as well as to Roman Catholicism. The original Church was built by the Emperor Constantine in 325 – 326. The present day Church was built by the Crusaders in the 12th Century. During the building of the original Church, Emperor Constantine’s mother, St. Helena, found the three crosses used during Jesus’ crucifixion – the cross Jesus was on and the two crosses of the thieves crucified with Jesus. A miracle revealed to Helena, which was the True Cross of Jesus. Earlier in the cruise, we stopped in Dubrovnik, Croatia and the Cathedral there has a piece of the True Cross.

Garden of Gethsemane

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher rambles all over between the major sites - Golgotha, the place where Jesus’ body was anointed, the tomb, the site of the resurrection, the place where Adam’s skull was located and where the earth cracked when Jesus died, and the place where St. Helena found the True Cross. An altar is built over the site of Golgotha and one has to bend down and go in to the opening under the altar to venerate at the site of the Jesus’ crucifixion.

This just scratches the surface of what makes Jerusalem such an important city to three religions and why through the ages it seems everyone has wanted to conquer and control Jerusalem.

Happy Mother’s Day!

Jerusalem

Jerusalem, located on a plateau in the Judean Mountains between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is considered holy to the world’s three major monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam, which is historically the cause of wars and fighting for Jerusalem. The Jews consider the city holy because it is where King David established the capital of the United Kingdom of Israel and his son, King Solomon built the First Temple. Jerusalem is holy to Christians because it is the site of Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Muslims consider Jerusalem their third holiest city after Mecca and Medina because Mohammed traveled here and took his night flight to heaven where he encountered the prophets of Islam and spoke to God.

Jerusalem has been destroyed at least twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times. The oldest part of the city was settled in the 4th millennium BC. In 1538, walls were built around Jerusalem under Suleiman the Magnificent. Today those walls define the Old City, which has been traditionally divided into four quarters—known since the early 19th century as the Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Quarters. The Old City became a World Heritage site in 1981. Modern Jerusalem has grown far beyond the Old City’s boundaries.

At the end of World War I, in1917, after the Battle of Jerusalem, the British Army, led by General Edmund Allenby, captured Jerusalem. In 1922, the League of Nations entrusted the United Kingdom with a mandate to administer Palestine, neighboring Transjordan, and Iraq.

The British Mandate expired in the 40s and the modern State of Israel came into being in 1948. Jerusalem was divided into West Jerusalem, administered by Israel, and East Jerusalem, including the Old City, administered by Jordan. The Israelis and Arabs have engaged in several wars since 1948 – most notably the War of 1948, the Six Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. After the Six Day War, Israel captured East Jerusalem and reunited the City. All branches of the Israeli government are located in Jerusalem, including the Knesset (Israel’s parliament), the residences of the Prime Minister and President, and the Supreme Court.

In 2011, Jerusalem had a population of 801,000, of which Jews comprised 497,000 (62%), Muslims 281,000 (35%), Christians 14,000 (around 2%) and 9,000 (1%) were not classified by religion.

Our day in Jerusalem focused on the Old City, which despite having an area of only 0.35 square miles is home to many sites of religious importance. Our first stop was the Mount of Olives. This is the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus came to pray after the Last Supper and where Judas betrayed Christ. The garden is peaceful and some of the olive trees are said to have been there since the time of Jesus. As with every other location mentioned in the Bible, Catholics have built a Church on this site, the Church of All Nations. The rock where Jesus prayed, while the apostles fell asleep, is located in front of the Church altar. Many of the churches in the Holy Land are administered by the Franciscans. Looking from the Mount of Olives, across the Kidron Valley, one gets a fabulous panorama of the Old City of Jerusalem.

From the Mount of Olives, we traveled to the Dung Gate, which is one of the 6 gates used to enter the Old City. The name refers to the residue that was taken from building the 2nd temple to the Valley of Hinnom.

Once through the gate, one encounters the Western Wall. This wall is all that is left from Herod’s Temple, also called the 2nd temple. This is the temple in the Bible that Jesus said he would destroy and rebuild in 3 days and where he disrupted the money changers. The area on top of the Wall is commonly called Temple Mount. It is the supposed location of King Solomon’s Temple, the 1st temple. There is no archaeological evidence that Solomon’s Temple existed or any record of it, other than the Bible. The 2nd temple was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans. Today, on top of Temple Mount is the Dome of The Rock, built in 691, a Muslim and Jewish holy site as the building covers the rock where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac and Mohammed took his night journey. While entrance to Temple Mount is difficult, many people go to pray at the Western Wall and write prayers on scraps of paper which they place into cracks in the wall. Most people praying at the wall are Jewish; however, anyone is welcome to pray.

After the Western Wall, we embarked along the Via Dolorosa, or the Way of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross are located along the street and are marked. We began our walk at the 3rd station. 9 of the 14 Stations of the Cross are along the Via Dolorosa and the final 5 stations are located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The modern day route along the Via Dolorosa was set in the 18th Century and each station is marked with a roman numeral. The Via Dolorosa is lined with stores and shopkeepers trying to entice you into their stores. Some of the route is covered and some is outside. There were several church groups along the route, who stopped and prayed at each station, which takes patience in between other tourists and natives.

At the end of the Via Dolorosa, one comes to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the holiest site to Catholics, even more than St. Peter’s in Rome. The Church was built over the sites of Jesus’ crucifixion, death, tomb and resurrection. As a result, the Church meanders around and isn’t arranged like a normal church. Today it also serves as the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, while control of the building is shared between several Christian churches and secular groups. These complicated arrangements have been essentially unchanged for centuries. A Muslim family has been entrusted with the keys to the Church for several centuries. Today, the church is home to branches of Eastern Orthodoxy and Oriental Orthodoxy as well as to Roman Catholicism.

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The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

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HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY to all! Here is a great recipe to add to your Mother’s Day brunch or as an appetizer before the meal. This recipe comes from a member of my Branch, 19 in Colma, Joann Sangiacomo. She made it many times for our dinners and road trips. Many of us decided it had to be complicated to make, as it was so delicious. Joann shared this recipe with some of us and now it is my turn to share it with you. This recipe is not only simple, but you can get very creative with it and put your own stamp on it.

**Focaccia**

Prepare Dough:
1. Lightly oil top of frozen bread dough (I use Bridgeford, comes in a 3 loaf -1 pound each package)
2. Lightly spray cookie sheet with cooking spray, then place frozen dough on sheet to defrost, it will also rise.
3. Work defrosted dough onto cookie sheet, making indentations with your fingers. Use olive oil on hands to help with the handling of the dough. Do not use too much oil, as that will make it hard to get the dough to spread over the cookie sheet. (The first batch I made I went overboard with the oil and as I spread the dough to the edges of the cookie sheet, the minute I let it go, it shrunk back to the middle of the cookie sheet). Let rise.

Topping:
1. 1) Sauté 1 medium onion, chopped in olive oil (about 1 Tbls.)
2. Add 1 (15 oz.) can stewed, chopped or puree tomato and 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce, salt, pepper and garlic to taste
3. Simmer 25 to 30 minutes
4. Add crushed oregano and/or basil
5. Simmer a few more minutes

Spread sauce over dough. Add chopped green onion and/or pieces of anchovy and/or cheese.

Bake 375 - 400 degree oven, approximately 20 minutes.

When you take out of the oven remove the focaccia from the pan and put on a rack to cool. This keeps the bottom from sweating.

I store in refrigerator in a Tupperware with wax paper or bakery sheets between the layers. This freezes beautifully.

NOTE: Bake 2 sheets at a time and switch them on the racks half way through cooking time.

Other alternatives:

Plain Focaccia: Cover prepared dough with plenty of olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and green onions. I also added chopped fresh rosemary and Parmesan cheese.

Raisin Focaccia: Cover prepared dough with mild vegetable oil. Sprinkle with raisins. Gently press raisins into dough. Can even lightly sprinkle with sugar.

Pesto Focaccia: Lightly cover prepared dough with olive oil, then spread a thin layer of Pesto. This has a wonderful flavor.

Deborah’s Focaccia: Sauté 1 to 1 ½ onions in a small amount of olive oil and butter. Add 2 (15 oz.) cans tomato sauce, 1 (15 oz.) can petite cut tomatoes, 4 pinches of oregano, 1-2 tsp. pesto, 3 sprigs fresh rosemary (chopped), 1 pound sautéed and crumbled Italian sausage, 2-3 tsp. minced garlic, salt and pepper to taste. This is enough to cover 4 sheets of dough.

Spread sauce on dough. For additional goodies top with sliced black olives, chopped green onions, Parmesan cheese. Can even cut salami into small pieces and add to toppings. BE CREATIVE and ENJOY!

Hoping you might like to share some of your specialties or the family recipes that have been handed down with the members of the ICF. Send them to me at drodondi@comcast.net 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!

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**Family Recipes**

By Deborah Rodondi  
Grand 2nd Vice President

---

**Live to Give**

How to Coordinate a Successful Blood Drive

By Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS  
Thalassemia Outreach  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Blood drive coordinators play a vital role in collecting lifesaving blood for patients. Without people to plan blood drives, blood banks would not have as many opportunities to collect blood from donors. Planning a blood drive is fun and easy—however, like planning any event, it takes time. Fortunately, a blood bank representative will help you every step of the way. The following are helpful tips on planning your blood drive:

1. Find a location. A church hall is ideal. If you do not have access to a big building, you can coordinate with a store, a business, or any location to have a blood mobile come instead.
2. Find out what the blood bank serves your area. For example, the American Red Cross and Blood Centers of the Pacific serve the East Bay.
3. Set a date (three to six months ahead of time), and contact your local blood bank.
4. Set a goal. Your blood bank representative will help you decide how many units of blood you want to collect at your blood drive. Remember, you will need to schedule an additional number of donor appointments to assure that you reach your collection goal.
5. Plan a theme for your blood drive. A luau, Mardi Gras, Viva Italian, rock and roll—let your creativity flow!
6. Give away free items. It is always nice to thank your blood donors with little gifts that you buy or get donated. The blood bank often also has giveaways to contribute. Setting up a raffle is also a fun way to add spice to your blood drive. Some ideas for giveaways:
   - Gift cards—you can get small denominations from Starbucks’, Jamba Juice or a local ice cream store.
   - Candy and treats.
   - Pens.
   - Items with the ICF logo or the logo for the thalassemia program at Children’s Hospital.
   - Canvas bags—a great prize item, and all your other giveaways can go inside. Ideas for raffle prizes are as follows:
     - Gift cards to movies (Regal, AMC); clothing stores (GAP, Old Navy, Macy’s); retail/food (Target, Safeway, restaurants).
     - Themed gift baskets are wonderful for this—for example, a spa kit; a snack basket; or an Italian-themed food basket.
7. Promote the event. About six weeks prior to the blood drive, start promoting the event. Your blood bank will provide flyers—you can hang them at the location continued on page 6
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
Thalassemia (Cooley’s Anemia) Trait

By Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS
Thalassemia Outreach
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

Thalassemia is found in all populations, but it is most common among the following:
- Italian
- Greek
- Transcaucasian (Georgian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani)
- Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Laotian, Thai, Singaporean, Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian, Burmese, and Malaysian)
- Chinese
- East Indian
- Middle Eastern

Thalassemia is common in parts of the world where malaria is prevalent because thalassemia trait (also known as thalassemia minor) has protective mechanisms against malaria.

There are two main types of thalassemia trait: beta-thalassemia trait (more common among Italians) and alpha thalassemia trait. Individuals who have beta-thalassemia trait have one normal beta globin gene and one that is altered such that it makes little or no beta globin. There is not much scientific evidence that a person who has beta-thalassemia trait has any symptoms, although women with the trait may be more likely to develop anemia during pregnancy.

Thalassemia trait causes red blood cells to be a slightly smaller size, a condition caused by microcytosis. Since iron deficiency is the most common cause of microcytosis, doctors often mistakenly misdiagnose thalassemia trait as iron deficiency anemia and prescribe iron supplements. However, thalassemia trait and iron deficiency are different problems, therefore before prescribing iron supplements, doctors should rule out thalassemia trait and/or perform lab tests to evaluate iron levels.

A person with thalassemia trait can also be iron deficient, but if he or she is not iron deficient, iron supplements may result in excess body iron, which can deposit in many areas of the body and over time cause organ damage.

Testing for Thalassemia trait is easy! It involves having a blood sample drawn which looks at the following:
- Hemoglobin electrophoresis
- Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- Iron studies (free erythrocyte protoporphyrin and ferritin)

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

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

If you find out you have thalassemia trait and would like more information, please contact Laurice Levine at LLLevine430@aol.com or 360-860-2023.

Blood Drive

from page 4 of your event and in surrounding areas/stores, etc. Plan to distribute (in person or via postal mail) smaller flyers to friends, family, and your community. Promote your blood drive through e-mail and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Plan to send weekly reminders starting four weeks prior to your blood drive.

8. Recruit volunteers. The blood bank phlebotomists and nurses will be responsible for collections, registration, intake, and the canteen (snack stand). You will need to recruit volunteers to greet people, run your raffle, and distribute prizes.

9. Gather literature to give away the day of the drive.
- Give out literature on your organization (ICF brochures).
- If you are doing a blood drive in honor of a specific disease such as Cooley’s anemia (thalassemia), make sure that you get literature about the disease.
- Give out ICF blood donation postcards so that people can donate in honor of someone or as a gift.

10. Schedule appointments. While publicity is important, there is nothing like a personal touch—contact friends, family members, and fellow churchgoers and educate them on the importance of donating blood. The blood bank will also send e-mails to prior donors in their database. Appointments can be scheduled online.

11. Inform yourself. Learn about donor eligibility guidelines; information on the blood bank website; and the sign-up process. It is vital to be informed so that you can answer questions and/or direct people regarding where to find the information they need.

12. Communicate with your blood bank representative. Communicate regarding donor appointment sign-ups; the day’s schedule; room setup, etc.

13. Reconfirm appointments about one week prior to your blood drive. This can be accomplished via a postcard, e-mail, or phone call. Also remind donors to drink plenty of water and eat a good meal prior to donating.

14. Be ready for the day of the blood drive. Arrange when the blood bank staff arrives to greet them and help set up, assure that the room temperature is adequate; orient your volunteers; and organize your welcome and prize tables. Depending on the number of appointments and the population that is donating, you may get walk-in donors—make sure the lines of communication between you and your blood bank staff stay open to assure that the maximum number of units are collected.

15. HAVE FUN! Show the donors your full appreciation and enjoy the blood drive. At the end of the day, give yourself a pat on the back—your hard work, time, and creativity were instrumental in collecting blood donations and saving lives.

For more information or for assistance planning a blood drive, please contact: Branch or District President for a list of blood banks in your area and/or Laurice Levine LLLevine430@aol.com 360-860-2023

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/
### Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

**Report Date: 04/12/2018**

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### Who Are We?

**Denise Antonowicz Heritage Chairperson**

I just read this article and wanted to share it with all of you. Also, don’t forget, your branch’s Heritage Report needs to be submitted to the ICF Office no later than July 1, 2018.

**Denise Antonowicz, Heritage Chair**

### The passion of Italian markets

Rochelle del Borrello | L’Italo-Americano Newspaper

Many tourists rush through Italy, ticking off cities on an iconic bucket list, zipping through museums and taking holiday snaps in front of iconic attractions. This is fine if you are happy to simply cross things off a checklist, but in the Bel Paese, where life is savored, it seems a shame to be in such a rush.

Italians believe in slow food and travel, where you take the time to soak in the character of a place, happily making the most of the moment. In a country where the people and culture are as colorful as the scenery itself, it is justifiable to seek out a more authentic connection to everyday life. Most locals in Italy have a daily appointment with their markets, where they begin preparing their meals. It is normal to trust a good family butcher, who saves that perfect cut to prepare a good veal scaloppini. Or a personal fishmonger, who has had them as clients for years and automatically knows when to keep aside a kilo of sardines. A visit to a market will provide your average Italian with everything they need for a complete four course meal, from fruits and vegetables, to meats, cheeses, pastas and wines, bread, deli products, prepared hot meals, baked goods and desserts.

Markets are filled with the sights, sounds and tastes of an Italy which relishes its food. In times of economic downturn, Italians will cut back on everything except what is on the table. Italian farmers, fishermen, butchers, cooks, pastrymen and bakers are like artisans, they have a lifetime-long passion for their art. Also, the market tradition, has a long history, as old as Europe itself, and stems from medieval times when travelling merchants would take their products to other towns via new trade routes and roads.

There is an art to markets’ shopping and it is always an adventure, as you never know what you can find. Fiery and vibrant Italian markets are the right place to see the freshest ingredients, in a smorgasbord of food and wine, crafts, textiles, antiques, clothes and many other random discoveries! - a wonderfully authentic experience.

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### 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.

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 of 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 filling, please call the I.C.F. Office at 1-888-423-1924.
CONVENTION BINGO

Town and Country Hotel, San Diego
Friday, August 31, 2018 3pm – 5pm

Entry Fee Per Bingo Pack:
$25 Advance Reservations
$30 After August 15, or at the door

Each Bingo Pack includes 6 Bingo games. For each game, participants will receive 6 Bingo cards per sheet.

Jacksont based on the number of participants.

Advance Bingo Registration Entry Form: Branch #
Name: ___________________________ # of Bingo Packs: __________
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Name: ___________________________ # of Bingo Packs: __________

Total Bingo Packs: ___________________________
X $25 each
or $30 each

Check enclosed $________

Italian Catholic Federation Convention Yearbook Program
ARTWORK DEADLINE JUNE 1ST!

This is YOUR ICF Yearbook! We’re making this book one you’ll want to look through over and over. It will tell this year’s story of the ICF.

To do that it needs your participation! What’s YOUR part of the story?

The ICF Convention Yearbooks are:
• Collected & kept for years
• Referenced by members
• A visual history of the ICF

COLOR SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY!
Full color 1/16 page sponsor entry for only $25!
EVERYONE should be doing this!
(This is the actual size of the entry.)

COLOR!
Submit COLOR ENTRIES to bring some WOW to your images! Here’s an entry that appeared in black and white last year. They could have had it in color! What a difference!

Italian Catholic Federation GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018

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

“Festas 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
6390 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621

The Committee thanks you for your continued support. Chairperson: Bob Basuino
Members: Denise Antonowicz, Franklin Lopez, Jr. and Leonard Rossi, O.C.S.

Assistants: Lisa Crudo and Patricia Mages

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

2018 Convention Hotel and Travel Highlights
Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California
Thursday, August 30 – Monday September 3, 2018

Hotel Accommodations
• 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108
• Direct phone: 619-291-7131
• Reservations: (800) 772-8527
• Book online: https://aws.passkey.com/e/49392116
• Room Rate: $129 plus tax single/double occupancy (hotel service fee waived)
• Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, August 7

Note: The ICF group code must be used to ensure we meet our contracted room nights and for you to receive discounted parking and waived resort/service fee). Reservations are available until sold out or August 7, whichever occurs first. After August 7, reservations will be accepted at the best available rate. Delegates are required to stay from Friday evening – Monday morning.

Transportation
• $5/night self-parking
• San Diego International Airport – 7 miles
• Amtrak – 5 miles

ICF Code: X3H-999 For travel between 08/27 - 09/06, a 10% discount is offered when you call and provide this code. (800) 872-7245

Please notify your branch of your convention attendance.
To ensure non-delegates have a name badge prepared, please inform your branch that you are attending the convention. They will include you on the guest list.

For assistance, contact the ICF Office at (888) ICF-1924.
Please refer to the Bollettino, ICF website and Facebook page for additional convention details and reservation forms for activities and dinners.

San Diego: Birthplace of the California Missions

Pedro Reservations

Lessons – Come and learn how to play what some say is the “official” card game of the ICF. Lessons are complimentary and will take place on Friday, August 31, from 12:30pm-2:30pm.

Tournament – Beginners and Pros are invited to compete in the annual convention Pedro tournament on Friday, August 31, from 2:30pm-3:30pm. The entry fee is $10 per player.

Prices: 
$10 - $50
$20 - $50
$30 - $50

Conference Pedro

Branch Number: _________________________
City: ____________________________

Attendees for Complimentary Lessons:

Walk in welcome

Pedro Tournament Players:

Tournament Players: ______________
X Entry fee Per Player: ___$10
Total: ________________________

Check Number: ______________________

Please make check payable to ICF and write “Pedro” in memo. Entries must be received by August 5th. Mail to the ICF Office 5139 Longhill Drive, Salts Oakland, CA 94611
Saturday Night Convention Banquet

Non-delegate Reservations

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Please mail your check to the I.C.F. office by August 15th:
2939 Copwall Drive Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94601

Seating arrangements will be distributed during convention registration.
Please reserve your seats on one form if you wish to sit together.
Name of Non-delegate attendees:

Please plan a seat next to the names of children attending the banquet. Each seat requires a paid entrance.

Saturday Night Convention Banquet

Delegates, Members and Guests are invited to the annual Saturday Night Convention Banquet to recognize the recipient of the Italian Catholic Federation's Saint Pope John XXIII Award.

Saturday, September 1, 2018
7:00pm Banquet Seating begins
Town and Country Hotel, San Diego
Semiformal Attire Suggested

Reservation deadline is August 15.
Reservations, refunds will not be accepted by the hotel once the headcount has been submitted.

Convention Delegates ~ Admission is included with convention registration.
A reply is not required on this form.

Three Course Plated Banquet Menu

Baby Greens with Black芝麻 Tomato, Cucumber, and Julienne Carrots topped with Roast Dressing; Grilled Prime New York Strip Steak with Brandy Pepperoncini Sauce, Potatoes and Cheddar Gratin, Wood vegetables, Artistic Bread, Savoury Caramelized Sweet Onion with Caramel Cream and Candied Peanuts, Red and White Wine, Friedly Baked Ravioli and Selection of Italian Tres.

Saturday Night Convention Banquet

ICF CONVENTION TOUR #1
MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ, JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM, AND TOWN & OLD SAN DIEGO RESERVATION (LIMITED SEATING)

TRANSPORTATION: pickup and return via The San Diego Trolley at your hotel.
TICKETS: $30.00 (advance) or $35.00 at the door.
A well-guided tour of the JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM, the first Spanish Mission in America located on the 13th of August, 1769.

Friday, August 31, 2018
$35 per person

WELCOME TO OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO: the story begins in 1769, when a Spanish missionary, Junipero Serra, founded the first Spanish settlement in America, a town that would eventually become the city of San Diego.

The Whisky House Museum is one of only a few officially designated haunted houses in California. Constructed in 1856 as a frontier saloon, the house was once home to the Whisky Family as well as San Diego’s first theater and government building.

Three Decks: Bell Tower, Haunted House, and Ghost Bar. Enjoy a tour of the three decks: Bell Tower, Haunted House, and Ghost Bar. Experience the thrill of the past in a setting reminiscent of the old West.

Friday, August 31, 2018
$35 per person

ICF CONVENTION TOUR #2
MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ, JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM, AND TOWN & OLD SAN DIEGO RESERVATION (LIMITED SEATING)

TRANSPORTATION: pickup and return via The San Diego Trolley at your hotel.
TICKETS: $30.00 (advance) or $35.00 at the door.
A well-guided tour of the JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM, the first Spanish Mission in America located on the 13th of August, 1769.

Friday, August 31, 2018
$35 per person

WELCOME TO OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO: the story begins in 1769, when a Spanish missionary, Junipero Serra, founded the first Spanish settlement in America, a town that would eventually become the city of San Diego.

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Friday, August 31, 2018
$35 per person

SLATE TO SWING

Enjoy a USO inspired evening with dinner, 40’s swing and a salute to our I.C.F. heroes.

Military dress, vintage civilian or semi-casual attire suggested.

ENLIST FOR DINNER, DANCING AND FUN BY AUGUST 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch #</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tr>
<td>X $69 per adult = $</td>
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<td>X $30 per child = $</td>
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Non-delegates:

Please mail your check to the I.C.F. office by August 15th:
2939 Copwall Drive Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94601

BAND HALL THREE CORKS BOTTLE: Wild Angels School with Shawn Bunnell, Amber, Grove and Audry Sack, Vespertine, Bavarian School, Bird Creek, John's Cabana, Paso Robles and Whisky Grill, National Guard, Artistic Branch, Capaiano Piano Cline, Bloodthorpe Cline and Brass, Wine, Friedly Baked Ravioli and Selection of Italian Tres.

SOLD OUT

The San Diego Trolley, will transport you from your hotel to Little Italy, where you will be met by one of Little Italy Support Group volunteers to begin your tour, which includes an expert guided walking tour of Little Italy, home of San Diego’s historic buildings, including some of the oldest buildings in San Diego.

Please call 858-794-0222 and leave a message to reserve your spot.

Saturday, September 1, 2018
Town and Country Hotel
Seating begins at 7pm
Convention Raffle 9:30pm
Los Angeles

St. Peter, Br. 67

Branch 67 will continue to work with Saint Peter’s Church and reaching out to all ICF Members, the Italian Community and those who are interested in continuing an ICF presence at this beautiful Italian National Church. Interested members are asked to call 626-372-7812 for membership in or a position on the Branch 67 Board.

Blessings,
Pat Mages

Los Angeles

Los Angeles Archdiocese

Los Angeles District Council

It’s been busy the past 7 months. We celebrated Bishop’s Day in November; the 100th Anniversary of Mother Cabrini’s Death and the 1st Annual Thalassemia Christmas Party at LA Children’s Hospital in December. In January we held our Officer’s Installation and welcomed in the new year. February, March and April seemed quiet. However, many of our members along with the Expansion Team were busy establishing a new branch. Please Save the Date: Inauguration of Branch 447, American Martyrs, Manhattan Beach, on May 5, 2018, 5:00 PM.

North Hollywood

On Sunday April 8th, President John Maggiora celebrated the April Birthdays of members Ted Shaw and Carmela Satballa at the Lunch social and General Meeting in Connolly Hall. Members and parishioners enjoyed the ICF Dinner Fundraiser at Villa Italia in Duarte on April 11th. Chair Joan Brascia and staff coordinated a wonderful event. Proceeds will be forwarded to several charitable organizations including Wounded Warriors, Child Help Foundation, Get on the Bus, Gifts of Love and Cooley’s Anemia Foundation. On June 10, 2018 - ICF Branch 108 will hold its annual picnic, bocce tournament and general meeting from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Call 626-372-7812 or mail your donation(s) to: ICF Los Angeles Region from 9 am to 12 pm.

On April 8, 2018 the Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House was hosted by the ICF Los Angeles Region from 9 am to 12 pm. Visitors included a former Saint Francis Xavier School student who returned with her mother and daughter. They shared their experiences and how they now realize that they want to school on land where Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini once walked. They said they will be back with their family and friends at the annual pilgrimage on December 2, 2018. Thank you ICF Branches who were able to donate additional funds in support of the Cabrini Chapel this year. We hope other Branches will also be able to contribute through a special collection or fundraiser.

Members that have memorabilia from Mother Cabrini or her former Cabrini facilities and would like to include them in the Cabrini Chapel Library Museum; or would like to help the Mother Cabrini Chapel by volunteering their time or by making a financial contribution, please call 626-372-7812 or mail your donation(s) to: ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504 Attn: Carmelo Sabatella, President
Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they may reach a speedy recovery. And to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

Carmelo Sabatella, Past President
LAADC and ICF Branch 108
Email: cas1810@aol.com

Montebello
St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Our May General Meeting for the month of May will be on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, (corner of Cleveland Ave.) in Montebello. After the meeting, we will have cake to celebrate the Birthdays of the following members who have birthdays this month: Carmelita Aguilera, Filomena Divincenzo, Nicolina Murillo Vieni, Mario Orofino, Vince Veneziano, Jess Noriega, Alfred Viera, Salvatore Canzonieri, Tony Wadzinski, and Salvatore Sorce. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

We would like to thank Fr. Francisco Sandoval, O.A.R., Pastor of St. Benedict Church, for his support for our annual St. Joseph’s Table, and to Rev. Frank T. Wilder, O.A.R. for his wonderful Blessing of this year’s St. Joseph Table, held on March 16 & 17, 2019 and take part in this special catholic tradition.

The monies we raised at the St. Joseph Table will allow us to support our parish, offer scholarships to graduating St. Benedict School students, support our clergy and seminarians with contributions to St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, allow us to award college scholarships to graduating local high school students, donate to Cooley’s Anemia, and other worthwhile charities.

We pray for our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Finally, I leave you with the following quote of the month: “Diversity is the one thing we all have in common. Let’s celebrate it every day”.

Branch 111 St. Joseph’s Day Celebration.

626-403-6102 for more information.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they may reach a speedy recovery. And to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

Carmelo Sabatella, Past President
LAADC and ICF Branch 108
Email: cas1810@aol.com

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St. Benedict, Br. 111

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Branch 111 St. Joseph’s Day Celebration.
May 2018

Arcadia

Holy Angeles, Br. 218

A huge congratulation on a job well done with the St. Joseph’s Table. We netted a profit of $5,191.24. At our last meeting, we discussed several fun things to do and several other fundraisers, one being putting together a cookbook and the other having a pasta sauce contest at our June meeting. More on this later. Our 51st anniversary of the branch was celebrated with a beautiful cake (and delicious). Aileen Blasius won the member attendance drawing. And, in keeping up with heritage reports, I read a letter written by my grandmother on how life was in rural America in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. I hope everyone enjoyed that.

Our June meeting is on the 10th. Please watch for more information. A belated Happy Mother’s Day and a Happy Father’s Day to all the dads. There will be no meetings in July and August.

Lolly M.

Gardena

St. Anthony de Padua, Br. 237

Dear Members,

We just returned from a very successful and enjoyable trip to Laughlin, NV. These trips help fund our scholarships and other charitable donations the branch contribute to each year. Last March three of our members attended the annual crab fest at St. Peter’s National Catholic Church in Los Angeles. Over 350 Italians and those who wished that were had a great time. The food was excellent as was the company. Hopefully more of our members will attend next year, how about you?

Next on the agenda is our scholarship awards for the year. Stay tuned for details “trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.” — Is 26.4 Respectfully,

Michel Bohannon Roa

Diamond Bar

St. Denis, Br. 317

It’s with a very sad heart that Branch 317 (St Denis Diamond Bar), must let you all know that our former President (for 13 years) Roxanne Perry, passed away on April 6th. Before Roxanne passed, our Branch established the “Roxanne Perry Youth Conference Scholarship” to sponsor one of our Confirmation Students to go to the Youth Conference at UCLLA in August. When I talked to her about it in March, she was very touched and happy. Roxanne will always live on, helping a Student every year. On a personal note...Roxanne, as the new President, I hope that you when you look down and see what the Branch is doing, you will always be smiling and happy. I’ll try to make you Proud. Stay you Rest In Peace.

Pamela-Anne Roemer
President, Branch 317

Claremont

Our Lady of the Assumption, Br. 319

Happy Spring! May is the month of confirmation. Our branch will be hosting tue after Confirmation Reception for the Bishop, priests, participants and family. We will provide coffee, lemonade and cake on May 5th.

Then comes Fiesta May 11 to 13 Mother’s day weekend. Selling pizza is the Italian way. All help will be greatly appreciated.

On May 27 we will collect for the Veterans and again sell sausage sandwiches. Fun fun fun!

Keep June 3 available for our membership party on the green. Hot dogs beans and sides.

Roxanne Perry, Branch 317

“Cherished and beloved mother and sister, Roxanne Perry passed away peacefully with her daughters by her side on April 6th. Her strength, courage, and positive outlook on life never faltered through every hardship she faced in her 79 years of gracing this earth. Roxanne was not only victorious by living by her own law, she inspired others to embrace the beauty of life and the power of love. Fiercely independent and hardworking, she prided herself as a single mother and in her career as an Administrative Assistant for Oakite, Pizza Hut, and Downey medical offices and later as a caretaker for children and the elderly. She “never quit and never gave up”—which culminated in her final very active years which “was not bad for an old person” of living her life to its fullest. As a testament to her strength, for over 10 years before her passing, Roxanne worked as a housekeeper for long term local clients who embraced her as part of their family.

Roxanne and her husband, Walter J. Perry Jr. moved from Chicago in 1973 with their two small daughters to pursue their dream of living in California and raising a family. They settled in Hacienda Heights where Roxanne was very active in the Italian Catholic Federation, for which she served as President for 13 years just prior to her death. After divorcing in 1977, she was an active member of Parents without Partners and Majority of One.

Roxanne would light up every room with her incredible style and her vivacious and outgoing personality. She would rally and organize everyone around her to enjoy and experience life by attending plays, concerts, movies, art exhibitions, and anything that would make an ordinary day into an extraordinary adventure. A lover of ancient Egyptian art, Bichon Frises, anything colored purple, Italy, Elizabeth Taylor, and a glass of white zinfandel, Roxanne is survived by her two daughters, Suzanne and Kristen and her two younger sisters, Eileen and Anita as well as her extended family: Stuart, Sally, Mike, Diane, Don, Bea, Kevin, Kim, Johnnie, The Freeman’s, the ICF, and many- beloved neighbors and friends.

Mass service in memoriam will take place on Saturday, May 19 at St. Denis Catholic Church in Diamond Bar at 12 noon. Donations of flowers or gifts, please can be made to the Roxanne Perry Scholarship Fund: Make checks payable to St. Denis ICF Branch 317 and mail to Pamela-Anne Roemer ICF Scholarships 29 Meadow View Drive, Philips Ranch, CA 91766.”

Temple City

St. Luke, Br. 326

Although Branch 326’s March 18, 2018 pancake breakfast fundraiser was a success, it was saddened by the passing of a long time member, Roberta Nangelo and her entry into God’s loving arms. The Branch will miss her. Keep her and all of the faithfully departed in our prayers.

I wish to thank all the members who put in long hours and their effort into making the pancake breakfast fundraiser a success. All profits will go to the Frank Bucella Scholarship Fund, awarded to Saint Luke’s graduating eighth graders.

In May, the Branch celebrates and wishes a happy birthday to: Dan Arrighi, Josie Basile, Sally Farinella, and Marie Hadaway and a happy anniversary to John and Rose Perfetto.

While the Branch celebrates birthdays and anniversaries, let us remember Memorial Day. And let us celebrate and remember the sacrifice of those who gave their final measure in their service to their country.

The Branch is working on a June 24th turn around. More details will be announced as they become available. So save your dollar bills of all denominations.

Spiritual quote of the month: God gives to us, all the building blocks needed to build a happy life. What we do with those blocks is up to us.

Cool Quote: Life always offers you a second chance. It is called tomorrow.

Tony Farinella, 1st Vice President

St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374

Phyllis Harb, a noted La Canada Flintridge Realtor and member of Branch 374 is shown receiving a Certificate of Recognition for her leadership in the recent St. Joseph Table event sponsored by Branch 374 at St. Bede the Venerable Roman Catholic Church. Through her efforts the branch experienced its most successful fund raiser in years. Presenting the award is Jack DeZell, branch president who noted that Phyllis’ efforts went beyond the call of duty making it possible for the branch to increase its donations to Children’s Hospital’s work with victims of Cooley’s Anemia, Scholarships to students, and funds for the education of priests at St. John Seminary. The branch now meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM at he Knights of Columbus Hall in Montrose. The branch is reaching out to nearby parishes who do not presently have an ICF branch. Montrose is adjacent to La Canada Flintridge.

Members Janette Roberts, Rose Moore and Connie Bohannon at the annual St Peter’s National Italian Catholic Church in Los Angeles. St Anthony of Padua Branch 237, Gardena.
Thousand Oaks
St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380

Branch 380’s April meeting was a ton of fun. Members were split into two teams, and they all had a chance to participate in a jeopardy-style sports competition that included trivia questions and physical challenges. In a tense moment, member Lou Mages made the final putt that broke the tie and won the game for his team. Remo Lezza & crew prepared hot dogs, hamburgers, french fries, and more to round out the sports-themed night. Our monthly attendance drawing was not won this month, and so has now increased to a pool of $100. Come to our next meeting to have a chance at winning!

St. Joseph’s Day Celebration at Branch 362.

Our annual St. Joseph’s Day celebration took place in March. We served a pasta dinner to several hundred people. Guests and members alike enjoyed the silent auction, the live band, and a bake sale featuring many traditional Italian sweets. Thank you to all the members who helped make our biggest fundraiser of the year such a fantastic success!

Upcoming Dates:
May 4 (Friday) General Meeting - Honoring Veterans & Servicepeople
June 2 (Saturday) Bocce Tournament

The winning team of Branch 380’s sports competition celebrates their success.

Monterey
Central Coast
Santa Cruz
Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Sunny Days sprinkled now and then with soft Spring Rains. With the fair weather, we at Branch 21 have enjoyed several events. First, we held two Soup Suppers during Lent that were well attended; more recently we sold homemade cookies from our Italian Sweets Table outside Holy Cross Church after Sunday masses. The homemade soups and cookies were delicious and your support, dear ICF members, enabled us to donate a substantial amount to the Holy Cross Food Pantry, St. Francis’ Catholic Kitchen, and ICF Scholarship Fund. Thank you to the cooks, bakers, servers, and all others who worked hard to make these events fun and productive.

Other upcoming events include the Holy Cross Multi-Cultural Parish Event on June 23rd which will include an ICF Table, and an ICF Dinner Event on June 29th. So stay tuned for more information.

We want to send our congratulations and blessings to Branch 21 couples Johnny and Kay Ghio, and Bob and Ann Zoccoli who have recently celebrated more than 60 years of marriage. Oprah Winfrey once said: “Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.” Happily, it appears these two couples have ridden a bus or two together down the road of life!

Finally, don’t forget to return your Convention Raffle Tickets; you may be as lucky as our last year’s Branch member who won $2500! And, our next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12th instead of the usual first Tuesday. May God’s grace continue to shine upon us all.

Patty Morelli
Secretary Branch 21

The kitchen staff poses for a photo at Branch 380’s annual St. Joseph’s Day dinner.

Salinas
Sacred Heart, Br. 25

Happy Easter to all ICF members! Happy Birthday to Doris Sprouse, mother of Branch 25 member Linda Hoffman, who turned 90 this month! Doris is the accordion player at our Central Coast District Events. We also wish a speedy recovery to our Branch Secretary, JoAnn Sullivan, who had a hip replacement. (As coincidences go, Branch 25 member Bennett “Billie” Brown, JoAnn’s father, went to Chualar School Kindergarten with Doris, he will be 90 in January!)

Mark your Central Coast District Calendars! The Bishop’s Office has confirmed and Bishop’s Day will be August 6, 2017, at the JM Ranch. Invitations will be going out in June.

Our Branch worked on formalizing our annual budget cycle during the March 2017 meeting, with further discussion on membership drives at the April 2017 meeting. The new budget process captures all expenses by categories using an excel format, referring to the CC budget guidelines. The process used the revenue and expenses from the 2016 year just completed to establish a budget baseline, and we then reviewed a proposed 2017 budget. We did identify potential shortfall for 2017 and determined that the cost of the Polenta Luncheon will need to be increased and will be more in line with similar community luncheons. Branch 25 will be sending two delegates to the Convention in September, Julie Richards and JoAnn Sullivan.

Our Branch worked on formalizing our annual budget cycle during the March 2017 meeting, with further discussion on membership drives at the April 2017 meeting. The new budget process captures all expenses by categories using an excel format, referring to the CC budget guidelines. The process used the revenue and expenses from the 2016 year just completed to establish a budget baseline, and we then reviewed a proposed 2017 budget. We did identify potential shortfall for 2017 and determined that the cost of the Polenta Luncheon will need to be increased and will be more in line with similar community luncheons. Branch 25 will be sending two delegates to the Convention in September, Julie Richards and JoAnn Sullivan.

Monterey will be represented at the District Meeting on April 22, 2017, jointly hosted by the Paso Robles and Arroyo Grande Branches. Please let an officer know if you wish to attend by April 19 at the lastest, and if a ride is needed to this meeting. Our next meeting is May 9, 2017 meeting at the Salinas KC Hall, we should know our scholarship recipients by then and hopefully the date for the Polenta Luncheon in early November. We wish all Mom’s a Happy Mother’s Day!

Hollister
Sacred Heart, Br. 26

Hello to all,
I would like to let everyone know that we had a wonderful April meeting with Chicken Parmigiana. We celebrated Betty Ferrero’s birthday. We also celebrated the wedding anniversary of Harry & Kathy Hill. We had two visitors from the Santa Cruz branch, Rosa Radicchi (District President) and Vittorina Howell (District Vice). The branch looks forward to the next district meeting on June 3 at Paso Robles. Please keep or sick members in your prayers Rosalie Campisi, Norma Martinetti and Anthony Trevino. Branch 26th wishes all the grandmothers and mothers a Happy Mother’s Day.
Ciao a tutti,
Vorreli far sapere a tutti che abbiamo avuto un bellissimo incontro di aprile con Chicken Parmigiana. Abbiamo celebrato il compleanno di Betty Ferrero. Abbiamo anche celebrato l’anniversario di matrimonio di Harry & Kathy Hill. Abbiamo avuto due visitatori dalla filiale di Santa Cruz, Rosa Radicchi (Presidente distrettuale) e Vittorina Howell (Vice distrettuale). La filiale attende con impazienza la prossima riunione distrettuale il 3 giugno a Paso Robles. Per favore mantieni o annamalo membri nelle sue preghiere Rosalie Campisi, Norma Martinetti e Anthony Trevino. Branch 26th augura a tutte le nonne e le madri un Happy Mother’s Day.

Cordiali saluti,
Cheri Huntley
Branch 26, President

Monterey
San Carlos, Br. 36

March 18, 2018, many members celebrated St Joseph’s Day with a beautiful mass at St Carlos Cathedral and a 4-course dinner at Monterey Elk’s Club. April 4, 2018, at our dinner/meeting we honored a very special member, Ruth Flynn on her 100-year-old birthday with a bouquet of
Castroville
Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51
Happy May!
On Sunday, April 22nd our branch held a wonderful Polenta Dinner fundraiser. Thank you to all the members for helping make this a great event and thank you to everyone that attended, a good time was had by all.

Every year students from Palma and Notre Dame, (our local Catholic high schools), travel to Mexico during the week of their Easter Vacation to help build a home for a family in need. This year one of our younger members from Branch #51 Gino Grier had the privilege of being one of the students that went to build the home. Thank you Gino for helping those in need and for sharing your faith with others.

Our Branch Charity work for May is collecting canned and dried foods for our Parish pantry. Members that would like to participate are encouraged to bring canned and dried foods to our next general meeting. These food items will be delivered to our Parish office and will help feed those in need.

Vacation to help build a home for a family in Mexico.

Capitola
St. Joseph, Br. 227
Our Fish Fry this year was another success, with 1,204 meals served. Coordinator Ellen Paul thanks all the tired but happy workers who helped put on the dinners each Friday of Lent. Special thanks to Steve Seliskar, a former member, who faithfully showed up both in the mornings and the evenings to work in the kitchen. His many talents were appreciated. Loretta Reaves brought home-baked treats each week for the morning workers and Magdalena Martinez baked goodies for the evening kitchen crew. Gene Pauly brought his homemade cheesecake for the kitchen workers to share. You may want to sign up to work next year as you can see the kitchen help is never short of good things to eat.

A belated thanks to our March cooks Jane and Rick Kotola and Mike and Liz Rios for a new take on the corned beef and cabbage dinner. They oven-roasted the corned beef and served the cabbage in a delicious crunchy salad.

In the Easter spirit, cooks Mary Lou Weidlich and Jim and Dottie Smith prepared a ham dinner for our April meeting and Magdalena baked the dessert. Many thanks to them.

Due to a conflict with the hall, there will be no meeting in May. The Pertino, Richard Robinson Memorial, and Branch scholarships will be awarded at our June meeting.

Welcome to new members Flo Brown, Linda and Mario Beltranrro.

Please offer get well prayers to Bill Crowley, who had knee replacement surgery, and to Jerry Hach, who is in the hospital.

Happy Mother’s Day. Nothing is really lost until your mom can’t find it.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

(Above) Elizabeth and Bettye from Branch 36 at the Saint Joseph’s celebration, at the Elk Club, in Monterey.

(Lef) Elizabeth and Ruth Flynn celebrating her 100th at Branch 36’s dinner-meeting on April 5.

Gino Grier member from Branch 51 Castroville helping build a home for a needy family in Mexico.

Branch 227 President and Past Presidents.

Branch 227 Mary and Darryl Harrison, Bryan Stow, Sharleen Hedgepeth.

Branch 227 Dolores McCartney, Charter Members, Frank Locatelli and Alice Ponza.

Branch 227 President Ellen Pauly, Grand President Andy Pappani.

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Se habla Español
Dignity
SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

May 2018

robes. All enjoyed a special dinner prepared by our Chef Peter John Curatolo, pork parmesan served over polenta, with fresh mozzarella and tomato sauce, vegetable, spring green salad, bread, and homemade dessert.

May 3, 2018, we will be celebrating our 87th Anniversary. Also, we will be initiating 65 new members at San Carlos Cathedral with a Benediction/Initiation Ceremony. Also honoring our Scholarship recipients.

Our sympathy of the family of Helene Crivello. Helene was a member for 38 years. Our sympathy of the family of Gloria Gamero. Gloria was a member for 14 years.

Our sympathy of the family of Rose Ventimiglia. Rose was a member for 21 years, she loved ICF and a server for many years.

Please pray for our members, who are ill, and/or homebound.

May 20, 2018, we are having a Bingo fundraiser, at the Moose Lodge Monterey at 12:30 PM

Calendar:
May 3, 2018 -- Anniversary/Initiation/ Scholarship Night
Dinner/Meeting 6:00 PM
Benediction/Initiation 5:15 PM San Carlos Cathedral

May 13, 2018 -- HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY
May 20, 2018 -- BINGO - at Moose Lodge, Monterey 12:30 PM
$20.00 for six games -- great prizes -- Lunch available for $5.00

June 7, 2018 Dinner/Meeting 6:00PM
The loveliest masterpiece of the Heart of God
Is the Heart of a Mother – St Theresa of Lisieux

Sincerely,
Elaine Valentine

Gino Grier thanks all the tired but happy workers who had knee replacement surgery, and to Jerry Hach, who is in the hospital.

Happy Mother’s Day. Nothing is really lost until your mom can’t find it.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Branch 227 President and Past Presidents.

Branch 227 Mary and Darryl Harrison, Bryan Stow, Sharleen Hedgepeth.

Branch 227 Dolores McCartney, Charter Members, Frank Locatelli and Alice Ponza.

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SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

May 2018
As spring is in full swing, so is the ICF Branch 291 8th Grade Graduate Scholarship Application process! We have two students who applied this year and our scholarship committee reviewed the applications and will announce the recipients at a future meeting. Our Branch awards the $500 scholarships to local graduating 8th grade students who are continuing their education at a Catholic High School in our area and meet the application requirements.

At our May General Meeting we will be electing our delegates to attend the National Convention in San Diego this coming Labor Day weekend, so if members from Branch 291 are interested in representing our Branch at the convention this year, please let our President, Pete Gallagher, know before the May meeting.

We recently formed a Registration Assistance Program Committee to come up with ideas and help plan and organize our Fall Fundraising Dinners. The proceeds from our Fall Fundraising Dinners fund our Registration Assistance Program, which pays for a large portion of the registration costs for our young ICF members who attend local Catholic K-12 schools. We recently paid the majority of the registration costs for 27 students who were eligible to attend the Convention this year.

Please continue to pray for members who may be experiencing illness, pain or heartache at this time, including Homer and Dianne Clees, Wally Cox, Terry Garrity, Stevie Hall, and Lens and Sonia Wagner.

Happy Mother’s Day! Eddy Sanchez

Recording Secretary

Paso Robles

St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

Our next Pasta Dinner will be held on April 14, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in our parish hall.

This event will help fund our ICF Scholarships for Saint Rose Catholic School, local area High Schools, and Colleges. The branch voted at the March 9th meeting to fund two full $400 1st year Scholarships and sent the money to the ICF Scholarship Committee in Oakland.

On March 17 the Knights of Columbus held their annual St. Patrick’s Dinner in our parish hall. Our next area High School classmates from Newman, CA, made 100 tray favors for the Vineyard Rehabilitation Home and delivered them to help brighten the day of the patients on Easter Sunday.

The next Central Coast District meeting will be at the Saint Rose parish hall on June 3rd, hosted by Paso Robles Branch #354 and Arroyo Grande Branch #291.

The mass for the living and deceased members of the ICF will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday June 10th at Saint Rose Church, members are invited to breakfast at the Grange after mass.

Happy Birthday to our Branch members, Juan Macadalena, Eva Valentin, Carmine and Vera Ceglia.

Father Roberto Vera’s birthday is May 26th.

God Bless,

Sylvia Romero

Corresponding Secretary

Orange

St. Thomas More, Br. 423

The March meeting’s dinner consisted of baked potatoes with assorted toppings. Sides and desserts rounded out the meal. Teresa LeMire, Betty Mackintosh, and Margaret Curiel hosted the dinner. It was spadacious! The annual St. Thomas’s Table was celebrated during the weekend of March 17th and 18th.

Homemade baked goodies, sausage and meatball sandwiches, and freshly made cannolis were sold. Our famous Meal In A Bag and homemade pasta sauce was also sold. Many ICF members assisted during the two days and helped make the event a success. Proceeds from the event will help our many charities and the St. Thomas More building fund.

Branch 423 participated in the Lenten Soup Supper on Friday, March 23 with the Latino and Chinese ministers.

Lyne Goldstrom was the ICF representative for the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday during Holy Week.

Our next restaurant fund-raising events will be on May 16 and 17 at California Pizza Kitchen in Tustin. The next restaurant event will be on June 20 at Rodrigo’s in Tustin. Please join us for these two delicious events.

Annual Picnic set for July 20. Rose Gianantonio and Carole Caplett will host the event. More details will follow.

Ciao,

Miranda Gibson

Branch 423’s St. Joseph’s Table. Fr. John Janze blesses the annual St. Joseph’s Table while the branch officer’s look on.

Oakland

East Bay District Council

Hope everyone has claimed their ticket for our Day at the Races, this is always a fun time. How many winners this year????

Looking forward to hearing from all the branches about what they would like to have presented by the CC Workshop Committee. We were given a lot of choices, now we need to hear from the branches before we can make any decisions. So far it looks like we are leaning towards a Sunday afternoon, still need topics!

Moving right along, we are already looking at August. First, we will have Italian Heritage Night with the A’s on Sat. Aug. 4th. There are still a few tickets remaining. Also, in August we will co-host Bishop’s Day on Sat. Aug. 12th. Please remember to have your spiritual Bouquets ready and to support the Seminary Bursa. More information to follow regarding time of Mass, etc.

Then on to September and the Convention! Hopefully those prize-winning calendars are selling fast, don’t forget to list your special milestoned and to support the theme this year. Along with this, the raffle books are also here and for sale. Another way to make money for your branch.

Please say a special prayer for Dave Rose and his boys during this difficult time.

A Blessed Mother’s Day to all mothers, grandmothers and greats, as well as godmothers. Following Mary’s example, we can all be a mother figure to those who love and those who need us.

Alameda

Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

All are welcome to join us for our 92nd Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, May 19. The evening will commence with social time at 6:15 p.m. We will be honored with a presentation by Laurece Levine, MA and Certified Child Life Specialist, the ICF’s liaison to our National Charity, the Cooley’s Anemia/Thalassemia research program now headquartered at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Laurece will speak on the prevention and treatment of Thalassemia, the blood disorder which especially affects persons of Mediterranean ancestry.

The location for this annual function is Monsignor O’Brien Hall, High Street at Vanden Buren Street, Alameda. Chef Ben Ratto will prepare the dinner of antipasta, salad, roast beef, tortellini, and vegetables. The program will include Anniversary cake, music, and a raffle. Prices are $35.00 for adults and $12.00 for children 12 and under. The event is not intended as a fund-raiser. For reservations, contact John Zugnoni, john@zugnoni.net or (510) 523-8005 before 9:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14.

We will once again award scholarships to a total of four eighth grade graduates of Alamedas two Catholic elementary schools, Saint Philip Neri and Saint Joseph. The scholarships are in the amount $500.00 apiece and are presented to students who will be entering a Catholic high school in August. The recipients are chosen by the principals and teachers of the two schools.

Our numbers now stand at 118 members. Karen Harrington, our treasurer and financial secretary, reported at our April 5 meeting that all but 11 members have paid their dues for 2018. She is very happy that the Aerospace Bowl mathematics at Alameda High School and follows the school’s athletic teams with great fervor, for working at our March 23 Fish Fry rather than attending the Sacra-

Lesbian ancestry.

The location for this annual function is Monsignor O’Brien Hall, High Street at Vanden Buren Street, Alameda. Chef Ben Ratto will prepare the dinner of antipasta, salad, roast beef, tortellini, and vegetables. The program will include Anniversary cake, music, and a raffle. Prices are $35.00 for adults and $12.00 for children 12 and under. The event is not intended as a fund-raiser. For reservations, contact John Zugnoni, john@zugnoni.net or (510) 523-8005 before 9:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14.

We will once again award scholarships to a total of four eighth grade graduates of Alamedas two Catholic elementary schools, Saint Philip Neri and Saint Joseph. The schol-
April 2018
$46 includes buffet lunch, valet parking.
Contact Fran Latorre at 510-857-1509.
Deadline is May 8th.

Happy Birthday to Loraine Alberti, Anne Marie Grader and Alan Prisco.
Please remember in your prayers the sick and convalescing of our Branch. Especially: Anna Alberti, Rite Avery, Anna Castagnini, Rosalie De Santi, Mary Devincenzi, Karen Garcia, Ernestine Pernecco, David Rose, and Esemea Tabacco.

Thought: “It is better to give, than to receive.”
Ciao.

M.A. Francis and L.A. Francis

Fremont

St. Francis of Assisi, Br. 215

“He Has Risen”

Easter has come and we are once again reminded of the promise of resurrection. Spring also reminds us of rebirth and the release from the darkness and cold of winter, at least on the West Coast. Our Midwest and Eastern friends and families will have to wait just a bit longer.

This is a time for new beginnings and the growth of our branches. New people inject new ideas and energy and we should all do our best to introduce your friends and extended family members to our organization.

On March 7th Branch 215, the Legion of Mary and the Simbanganba Organizations joined together at the soup supper night at Corpus Christi Church. There was a good turnout and everyone enjoyed the seventeen different soups that were presented.

Our Bingo Luncheon was, once again, a great success. Our Lady of Guadalupe provided a great venue for the master calling of Scott Schiel. The delicious salads were provided by Branch 215 members and friends. Thanks to Nadine Matter and her talented committee for their generosity and dedication.

The East Bay District’s Day at the Races will be held on 6/7/2018 at Golden Gate Fields. $46.00 will get you Turf Club seating, valet parking, and a delicious buffet luncheon. Reservations need to be made with Fran LaForre before May 5. Call Fran at (510) 857-1509 or (510) 589-3409.

Corpus Christi will be holding its Parish Festival on 6/10/2018. ICF Br. 215 will once again help organize, set up, and sell donated items at the Flea Market that is part of the Parish Festival. Gently used items and/or new items can be dropped off at Corpus Christi Parish Hall from June 4 through June 9 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

As always, we wish all members with birthdays, Anniversaries, and any other celebrations our congratulations. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to those who are ill and their families, branches of our first responders, military, and their families.

Ken Chiatello
Branch 215

Livermore

St. Filomena, Br. 285

Father Leonard Marrujo was our speaker for our May 18 Parish Supper night at Corpus Christi Church. There was a good turnout and everyone enjoyed the seventeen different soups that were presented.

Do not let us forget to get our tickets from Roselynn for the ball game on Sat. the 4th of August. We have a lot of fun getting together and also watching the fantastic fireworks. Contact Rose at 925 381 4709 or Angels8199@aol.com

Before the ball game we will have the District Breakfast at St. Catherine’s Church, Martinez. The Mass will be at 10:30 am followed by a great breakfast in the hall. Could not be a better offer for only $5.00. I forgot to mention the date. May 20th.

We have a date for Bishop’s Day! Sunday August 12th at 3:30 pm. This will be hosted by the East Bay. Details to follow.

A little something I would like to share with you! You know as we get older our number one concern is to look down to see were we are walking so we do not fall. While yesterday I took a fall and after I gathered myself I thought “Lord where is the protection of my angel when it says in Psalms 91:11-12 “For He commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” It could be because I do not think about angels that much! Do you remember this prayer? “Angel of God my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me hear, ever this day be at my side, to love and guard, to rule and guide”

May your guardian angel protect you and keep you safe.

JoAnn

Martinez

San Martino, Br. 13

We hope all of you had a joyful and blessed Easter season. We look forward to a wonderful summer.

Plans for Branch #13, June 2 kick-off to summer Spaghetti & Meatball Family Dinner are off and running. Tickets are for adults and seniors $12, children 5 to 12 $6 and family two adults and 2-3 children $30. We are busy making baskets for the popular basket drawing. The money is for the ICF fundraisers including the Marin Ellis Eighth Grade Scholarship, ICF National Charity: Thalessema Research, and Fulfilling the Promise Campaign, and others. Call coordinator Marty DeVenuta at 925-639-9730 for tickets.

On Mar. 18 Marie Catanese Helberg, Mary, Tom, Paul, and Rosemary Cook, Marty DeVenuta and Anne Crisp served breakfast to all attending the monthly pancake breakfast cooked by the Knights of Columbus. Congratulations to Mary Lynn Rogers. She was a $30 winner in the February calendar raffle.

Ciao from Martinez, Anne Crisp

Crockett

San Carlo, Br. 14

The gauntlet has been thrown! Irish members are oh so proud of themselves for making more at the corned beef dinner than Italians made at our last polenta dinner. Italians! We have people! This can’t happen again. (Hope everyone knows I write this in jest.) Welcome to Nancy Yacovetti Miller! Nancy was a member of the Junior ICF “a couple of years ago.” So glad to have her return. Get well wishes to Kathy Cargo, Bob Carone, Gerald Lesmeister, Paul Marzi, Kathleen Thomas and Elva Vaili, and sincere sympathies to Bonnie Leal on the loss of her mother. Also, condolences to John Guantoli on the death of his mother. Congrats to our convention delegates Dee and Anna Alberti, Rite Avery, Anna Castagnini.

What are your questions and/or concerns???

Leah Chevy, Terri Hohmann, and Vicki Maves.

Ciao from Martinez.

Ciao from Crockett, congratulating Nancy Miller to the branch.

Welcome Nancy!
Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day at Branch 72.

Carone, Donna Hoffmann, Roni Jimenez and Vonda Lesti-Egan. No doubt that will be a fun time.

Hope to see everyone at the May 8th Mother’s and Father’s Day dinner. Please try to attend mass at 5:30, a free taco bar dinner at 6:30, and the meeting at 7:30.

Remember our Bingo Night on May 11. Hot dogs at 6:00, followed by bingo. It really is a night of laughs.

Wishes for a delightful Mother’s Day to all women...mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and friends who make others feel special and loved. It’s a wonderful day to show how much they are appreciated.

Diane Bottini Thomas

Pittsburg
San Dominico, Br. 72

As we celebrate Mothers day in May. Let us remember to honor our blessed Mother. One way to do that is to take part in a group rosary. Many parishes offer the rosary after daily Mass. Some have weekly novena’s to our Lady of Perpetual help.

On April 15 our meeting was held after our annual spring dinner out. This year we picked a new location. The Brewing Company Restaurant in downtown Pittsburg. The food was good and everyone enjoyed the outing.

We held elections for convention delegates, passed out convention raffle tickets and discussed upcoming events. We thank Donna Stone for donating a book of convention raffle tickets for our branch.

On April 26 we attended the district meeting. Our district delegates are Helen Politakes and Donna Stone. Joann Thielen and Patty Jarrett attend as district officers. Roselyne Jarrett does so as the acting district deputy and as a central council member. We should be proud that we have five of our members as district representatives.

Now we move forward to May. On Saturday May 5 our members will attend Mass at 5:30 PM at Good Shepherd church. After Mass we will have a May crowning of the Blessed Mother. We will then enjoy dinner out at a local restaurant. Invitations with details will be mailed.

Please note: We do not have a meeting in May. Invitations will be mailed with the date and details for our June meeting.

Check out and become a member of the Face Book ICF page. It is a great way to see information on various events being held and view pictures.

That it is for now.
As we say in Pittsburg, Sempre Avanti
Patty

Concord
Todos Santos, Br. 214

Our March meeting included a St. Joseph’s table & St. Patrick’s meal was beautiful. Fr. Johnson of St. Agnes church and our Chaplain blessed our meal.

Members continue to bring New prospective members. It is really fun to see how many people know a new arrival, it’s truly a small world.

We are busy selling our raffle tickets for the upcoming convention.

In May we announce our 8th grade essay winners from St. Agnes, Queen of All Saints & St. Francis of Assisi. Essays written on their heritage, winners will receive $100 towards High School expenses.

In June our Annual Viano Winery event with wine tasting, appetizers, raffles and olive oil tasting will take place. Open for all branches to attend. Mark your calendar for June 10.

Member Sue Giorgetti is busy planning a Reno - October Columbus Day/Italian fiesta for members.

Let us pray for our sick (especially for Jim Armstrong) & elderly. Repose of Mario Armaggi, one of our founders of our branch.

Christina

Danville
St. Isidore, Br. 352

Thank you to everyone that volunteered or attended Branch 352’s “Festa Primavera” spring fundraiser. Chef Angelo’s chicken and pasta dinner was enjoyed while music was provided by the Ken Cooper Trio. Fellowship, dancing and fun was had by all.

Our dinner and raffle allow us to support scholarships and charitable donations so we are thrilled with the attendance and the support.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, May fourteenth, with Barbecue dinner being served.

Blessings.
Cathy Kedzie

Brentwood
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Br. 432

A feast day is a date set aside to honor the life, the patronage and the legacy of a specific Saint. On the March 19th Feast day of St. Joseph, Catholics honor him with an age old tradition called St. Joseph’s Table. History has it the tradition began on the island of Sicily. There was a draught that ruined the harvest and caused a famine. The Sicilians prayed to St. Joseph, the patron Saint of the family. Their prayers were answered when the draught and famine receded. For Branch 432 there were two celebrations of St Joseph’s Day in 2018. The first celebration on March 19th was Parish wide with the entire IHM community taking part: very much like last year’s feast day with a Rosary, procession, and Mass followed by dinner in the hall.

The second St. Joseph celebration was exclusively for Branch 432. All food was prepared by the Branch members and all dishes were meatless in recognition of worldwide famine. Orchestrated by First Vice Presidents Judee and Jay Rioso, a memorable array of pastas, salads, desserts and other prepared foods adorned the St. Joseph’s Table. Coupled with the beverage of your choice, it was truly a great dining experience.

Looking ahead, May is the month Branch 432 puts up the Parish pancake breakfast: May 6th is the day. So, when Deacon John sends out the notice for volunteers, step up. The breakfast runs more efficiently when we all do our share to help.

“There comes a time when you have to choose between turning the page or closing the book.”

la vita è buona

Christ the King
Pleasant Hill, Br. 442

We welcomed Spring with our 4th annual Ladies Tea fundraiser on Saturday March 24th. And what a welcome it was. Even the weather cooperated to make it a wonderful day. Once again our hostesses outdid themselves with their creativity and decorating skills providing us with the most beautiful elegant table settings. Thank you for sharing your stories about the precious teapots, linens and heirlooms. It was a wonderful way to honor loved ones and maintain our family values and traditions. Carol Padlo and her “crew” worked tirelessly (although they were probably exhausted afterwards!) to prepare for us a traditional tea fare of scrumptious sandwiches, scones, pasties and special tea blend. So, our compliments to the chef, and thank you to the whole crew. Thank you to our gentlemen servers who ran the tea parlor so efficiently. Also, thank you to all of you who donated raffle baskets. They were all magnificent. And of course, a big thank you to Diana Mackinson and Joan Cummings for chairing the event, they made it look so easy. And a special thank you to everyone who helped put this sold out, successful, fundraiser event. We understand there is already a
May 2018

Sacramento

St. Mary, Br. 45

Sunday, MAY 6th will be our next meeting and dinner along with BINGO. Meeting at 3:30, BINGO at 4:30, Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Chicken and Polenta on the menu. Join us in Giovanni Hall for a fun evening. Cost is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. For reservations and information, contact me by May 1st at 916-508-1199.

8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for May 23 and our Branch will be awarding two $500 scholarships this year. One scholarship is made possible by donation from Lee and Shirley Pasquini Bennett in memory of Leda Pasquini, a long-time member of our Branch and a second from our branch dinner proceeds. Applications are due back to us by May 11th for selection. Thanks to all of you who participated in our Branch events to make this possible.

Condolesences to Frank Perri and family on the passing of May Perri on March 25, 2018 at age 89. Frank and May have been members of our branch for 30 years and were very active in all branch activities. May she rest in peace.

“Get Well” thoughts and prayers to members Marie Leonard and Maria Keller.

Happy May Birthday to the following members: Lollie Bencen, Paula Buchignani, Jackie Bush, Josette Couray, Ottavio Lucchi, Kathy Pongratz, Tina Tallman, and Catherine Zerio.

Ciao,
Janine

Auburn

St. Joseph, Br. 342

A big thank you to all who helped to make our second annual Bunco fundraiser a huge success. We were able to sell all sixty of our tickets and everyone enjoyed a great lunch and an afternoon of fun and games. Thank you again!

Mark your calendars for our annual corporate mass at St. Joseph’s Church. This event will take place on Sunday, May 20th. We will meet and process in as a branch for the 10:00 mass. Our Elects Mary Anne Miles and I will give a short presentation to the congregation and we will pass out biscotti and ICF business cards after the mass. (Thank you, Norma Harris, for donating the biscotti). We then invite everyone to join us at The Sizzler for an early lunch, fellowship and our monthly branch meeting.

Our Appreciation Dinner will take place at St. Joseph’s Hall on Sunday, June 3rd. At this time, we will honor a member for their service to the branch, present our scholarship recipients, and install new members. The calling committee will be contacting you soon to see what you will be bringing to the potluck dinner. More info to come.

Ciao,
Pam Andersen

Roseville

St. Clare of Assisi, Br. 438

We celebrated St. Joseph’s day on the weekend of March 17th and 18th. With a beautiful St. Joseph Table filled with bountiful items and various pastries. Those bakers who baked went above and beyond. We have been presenting our table for three years now. Every year it gets better. This year it was extraordinary. I personally want to thank all the decorators who set up the table, all the members that worked at the masses. Especially Natalie Malone that worked more then one mass and stayed to the end along with Nina to put things away. Thank you to all the bakers.

And Joe Aguilar for writing the article explaining St. Joseph’s day for the church bulletin and all his help. With out all your help this would not have been such a huge success.

On Friday March 23rd, we served over 173 parishioners with our annual fish dinner, a big thank you to Michael and Sandra Fuentes, Linda Paisley, Frank and Angela DiGrande along with all their kitchen help who cooked and served one delicious dinner. We can’t forget the crew that stayed and worked hard cleaning up the kitchen.

Pray for all our sick members and those in need. Happy Mother’s Day to all the mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Your Reporter,
Yvonne Perry

San Bernardino

Redlands

Holy Name of Jesus, Br. 217

ICF Branch 217 is honored to report their annual St. Joseph’s Gala Dinner on March 22, 2018 was a huge success. The keynote speaker was Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. The organization is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Homeboy Industries employs and trains former gang members and helps integrate them back into society as honorable and law-abiding citizens. Fr. Boyle gave first-hand accounts of his struggles and accomplishments with the ministry. His inspirational words encouraged those present to go beyond their comfort zone to find ourselves. It was a beautiful event.

San Diego

District Council

As the District Board of San Diego reflects back in time and settles into 2018 three things stand out in all of our minds, New Beginnings as evidenced in our Installation in January 2018, when our esteemed Central Council Officers and immediate Past President took time to come to San Diego for the event, Change because of Social Media, New Traditions, Communication and The Past, a joining of old and new traditions, lead by our innovative District President Christine Murphy.

Branch 217’s keynote speaker Fr. Greg Boyle.

SAVE THE DATE, get ready for an exciting memorable CONVENTION, an experience you don’t want to miss. Thursday Evening August 30th REMEMBERING FRANK SINATRA will kick off the event, an elegant Black Tie Optional event. THE SAN DIEGO TOUR TROLLEY will transport you to A Lavish Cocktail Reception, Delicious Gourmet Dinner, Concert featuring Frank Sinatra’s Original Music, Dancing, Raffle Prizes and Special Fun Activities for the children.

TOURS-two, exciting fun tours are planned. Tour #1 Mission San Diego de Alcala, JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM and Old Town San Diego Tour #2 EXPLORE LITTLE ITALY & CORONADO ISLAND We are doing our best to make sure you have a great time so SAVE THE DATES THURSDAY AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3, 2018.

See you soon!
Patricia Vigli

San Diego

Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. 230

Branch 230 wrapped up its successful January 2018 membership drive with 25 new members enrolled. Responding to Central Council’s call for growth and retention. We were able to specifically attract several young families to strengthen our ranks for years to come.

Looking back on the first few months of the year, ICF 230 is happy with the outcome of the annual Our Lady of the Rosary Fish Fry. While receipts are still being counted, present
Branch 416’s St. Joseph’s Day Table.

Our last meeting on April 5th brought quite an interesting change... There was an exchange between Chef and President of our chapter! Chef Joe Figone, also known as President Figone, was busy in the kitchen preparing a sumptuous meal for us all.

Vice President, Louis Massanti called the meeting to order and proceeded with much expertise to handle the meeting. Roll call was made, minutes were read, and Treasurer Annette Farrell made her report.

Once again we were saddened to learn of the passing of another one of our wonderful members: Renè Mary Molinari. At one time she was one of our most active members, most beloved because she always put a joyous smile on our faces. May she rest in Peace. Eleanor Pietrini motioned we should have a Mass said in her memory, and it was seconded by our Vice President, Louis Massanti.

Liana Figone brought to our attention, that there were other ICF Branches in our vicinity that also had a small number of active members. She suggested we consider perhaps coordinating in some manner. After some discussion, we decided it was certainly something we should consider, and we will certainly follow up on this.

Our closing prayer, led by Vice Pres. Massanti, brought our meeting to a close, and we then enjoyed the marvelous Ham Dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by our President Figone.

Until next time, may God continue to Bless us all!

Ciao,
Antell Ricossa

San Francisco
St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

We hope you all had a Beautiful Pasqua.
On May 23rd we are taking a trip to the Lavender Farms. We will see how Lavender is grown and harvested. We then have lunch at the Hilmar Cheese Factory. Later, we go to the Sbasciola Olive Oil for tasting.

Happy Birthday to our April and May members. Many more years of much happiness and Good Health.
Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.
Remember the following dates:
May 27th - Mass - Remembering Barbara
May 28th - Meeting - 1:30 P.M. in the Rectory
Ciao,
Eva Perata, President

San Mateo
South San Francisco
Sacro Cuore, Br. 7
Buona Festa del Papa South City!
Summer is almost upon us so keep in mind our next scheduled dinner meeting in Wednesday, August 1. In the meantime, enjoy your June and July vacation.

The San Francisco Archdiocese’s Bishop Day celebration has been postponed while the San Mateo District works to reschedule it with the San Francisco and Marin Branches. We may merge it with a previously scheduled San Mateo District event. As more information becomes available, we will pass it along.

Congratulations to three of our hardworking members who are all celebrating big membership milestones. Marie Yoschak is celebrated 40 years of membership on May 3 and both Branch President, Diana Ferrari, and Past Branch President, Lola Migliore are celebrating 40 years of membership on June 7.

The years go by quickly when you are having fun.
Happy Birthday wishes to several of our members. First, Tony Bachle who just celebrated his 91 birthday in April. Next May is a special month for both the Cavaliere and Masini Families. Both Families have two members celebrating in May with Barbara and Cathy Cavaliere and Louis and Mary Masini. Hoping all of them have great birthdays.

Keep all our members in your prayers, especially Dean Balestieri, Bill Mangini and Marlis Risco.

In honor of all fathers remember what photographer Anne Geddes said, “Any man can be a father but it takes someone special to be a Dad.”

Ciao!
FHR

Burlingame
Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173
Our members have been very busy making and filling baskets, working in the kitchen and doing the food shopping for our spaghetti and meatball dinner held /Saturday, April 7, 2018.
We are lucky to have so many members help out and go such a good job. Our committee included Mary Ann Camacho, Dorene Campanile, Maria Camacia, Jean Watterson, & Lucy and Jim Witherspoon. Kudos to all of you!
We received many compliments on the unusual raffle baskets and great food with some of the biggest meatballs we have ever had.

Special mention goes to Gary Wenzin who seems to be a one man show when he does the dirty work of cleaning up after one of our dinners. His wife, Brenda along with Dorene were great bartenders and sons, Mariano and Emiliano on hand to help when needed.
We were pleased to be able to have Laurice Levine come and speak to us for our March meeting on the latest information from the Cooley’s Anemia Group at the Los Angeles location. Laurice continues her work there but luckily now lives in the Bay Area.
We are happy to see some of the members we have been praying for show up for our dinner but prayers are still appreciated for Dorene & John’s daughter, Connie, Jean Watterson’s daughter Jeannine Linda Mustachia, Lorraine Rollandi and John Watterson (recovering from surgery).

God Bless,
Rossalind C. Emery

San Carlos
St. Charles, Br. 327
Hello everyone!
Our branch has been very quiet since our March Anniversary dinner. However, we do
May 2018

have a list of upcoming events and hope you will add them to your calendars.

Saturday, June 16 is the first of the semi-annual District masses. It will be held at St. Augustine’s Church, hosted by Branch 213. It will be at 4:30 pm with refreshments to follow.

Sunday, June 24, Our Lady of Angels, Branch #173 will be hosting a ravioli dinner. More information to come.

Saturday, June 30, Holy Angels Church, Branch #919, will be hosting a champagne Bingo. The Holy Angels hall opens at 1:00 pm, lunch served at 2:00 pm., includes 1 Bingo card, $16.00. Call Deborah Rodondi, 650-583-0805, for reservations.

Friday, November 9 is Chaplains Night. It will be held at South San Francisco Elk’s Club, hosted by St. Augustine’s, Branch 213. Put the date on your calendar now. More details will come soon.

Most of our members have received their book of Convention raffle tickets. The books are $20.00 and the branch keeps $10.00 per book. Marie DeRosa will be collecting your money and ticket stubs.

It’s not too late to pay your branch dues. Get in touch with Alma Brennan, 650-593-8373.

Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms!

Ciao, Virginia Malaspina

Millbrae
St. Dunstan, Br. 403

We had a wonderful St. Joseph’s Celebration with an abundance of pot luck food from our members. Peter Stehler from the Catholic Worker Hospitality House was in attendance and delivered all left over food to his dining room for the homeless in San Bruno.

At our next meeting, May 1, we will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a Mexican Dinner. Social time will begin at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM and meeting at 7:00 PM. Please note your new time. Please mark your calendar, as our annual fundraiser Spaghetti & Meatball dinner will take place on Sunday June 3, 2018 in the Parish Hall, with no-host cocktails at 4:00PM and dinner at 5:00PM. The dinner will include antipasto, salad, spaghetti & meatballs, dessert and wine for $25 per person. Reservations by May 24 to Rose Marie Morando, 706 Clearfield Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030.

Rose Marie Morando
Corresponding Secretary

Marin
Larkspur
St. James, Br. 161

Cari Amici e Soci,

We hope you had a blessed Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Our Branch celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph at our March 26th meeting while we welcomed a wonderful dinner together and welcomed new members. We thank everyone who baked for our St. Joseph’s Table also thank Marin Joe’s for extending to us a warm welcome and providing the delicious menu they created for us.

We also enjoyed each other’s company at our ICF Mass and brunch on Palm Sunday. We are grateful for these wonderful opportunities to be together.

Happily accepting 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.

Anna Biggio
Recording Secretary

San Jose
Santa Clara Valley District Council

After calling the meeting to order, District President Bob Bausino thanked Branch 391 for hosting the meeting. He called on Fr. George who shared a spiritual reflection with stories of how sharing problems, tragedies, difficulties and even funny experiences can help people change. District Mentor, Jerry Delfino reminded all branches to fund scholarships and extra money would be welcomed. He cited branches 28 and 191 for 1st & 3rd place recognition as top calendar sales. Br. 391 won a 3rd place with branches 200+ places.

Br. 435’s President Giulia Gallego said they distributed produce collected by St. Catherine’s middle school students at their St. Joseph’s Table event. Br. 408’s Ric Shimshock hosted 32 people at recent Blood Drive making the Red Cross very happy. Br. 5’s Janet Glauher reminded everyone of the 4/28 Dean Martin entertainment/fundraiser. Louise Vento’s Heritage Report centered on St. Patrick and the role he played in bringing Christianity to Ireland. Eileen Fritsch appreciated Louise’s Heritage story as she is 100% Irish. She called attention to her recent Bollettino article about Nicholas Green, whose organs benefited several people.

Joan Delfino reported that the Gifts of Love program had 12 applications, seven were approved, $11,000 awarded. Jo Bertaccini summed up her spiritual reflection to “Be a Resurrection People”. Anna Gonzalez said the date on the Luau tickets was incorrect and had replacement tickets. She asked all branches to turn in money from sales at next meeting.

Al Valloraz added that from his biblical reading on the Hebrews, that men should make coffee for women.

June District Meeting – Monday June 11, (Top Left) On behalf of ICF Branch 28, President Gennaro Filice presented a donation to Father Robert Brocato for St. Mary Parish.

(Above) Branch 28 - Member Elia Scettrini displaying her beautiful handmade Easter sugar eggs.

(Left) Frank and Theresa Borge members since January 2007 getting ready to enjoy the Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner.

ICF Branch 445 – Transfiguration Church, San Jose.
Mike Nanziata

Santa Clara
N.S. Assunta, Br. 5

We are looking for a few new members of all ages. Come one Come all.

A prospective member(s) should be Catholic and you don’t have to be Italian. Invite them to come for fun, delicious dinners, shows, casino trips and events to raise money for various charities.

Thanks to all members and friends of ICF Br. 5 who have helped and supported Br. 5.

The Casino Trip to Red Hawk in March had some winners and losers but lots of fun.

Happy Mother’s Day and Memorial Day.

Drive safely and enjoy.

See you at the Dinner/Meeting(s) each month.
Ciao,
Marlene J. Rototo

Gilroy
Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

Our Branch 28 St. Patrick themed dinner meeting was held on March 19th which featured “corn beef and cabbage” catered by Dave Bozzo. Dave is the son of members Sam and Judy Bozzo, Sam being a local restaurateur in the Gilroy area for many years. Thank you Dave for the consistently wonderful meals provided, sometimes on short notice, and to your mom and dad for the cultural gift given you that Branch 28 so much appreciates.

At the March meeting President Gennaro Filice presented Father Robert Brocato of Saint Mary Parish with a check of $4,000. One of the results of member sponsored and member participation in fundraising efforts. An example of which is member Elia Scettrini’s beautifully decorated sugar Easter eggs that were raffled at the March meeting. The giving of time and talent by members to fund raise for deserving causes is an inspirational thing to see.

A new item on the monthly dinner meeting agenda is a sponsored raffle of Branch 28 member dedicated “goods and services” that a lucky member may win. Please remember to bring your Branch 28 membership cards to the meetings and if you have goods or services that would look suitable for raffle please contact Kim Filice. Past President Roger Santos was our first raffle winner and received a bottle of Italian soda and a $35 Nob Hill grocery gift card.

Next dinner meeting is May 21st 2018 at the Old City Hall Restaurant in Gilroy. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Peace and God Bless,
Kim M. Filice

Los Gatos
St. Mary, Br. 184

It’s that time of year when the Ways & Means Committee is asking for your participation in the preparation of the 2019 Calendar. So, if you have a special story you would like to share about a Festa you have enjoyed, or a recipe from a Festa, now is your chance. These are the special “Daily Raffle” calendars which our branches sell each year. You can mail your story to Italian Catholic Federation, 8393 Capayvill Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621.

ATTENTION: CALENDAR

The annual Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Santa Clara will be held on Sunday, June 24, at 11:00 A.M. There is a luau which follows at Michael’s Shoreline. Contact Donna Pfaff if you plan to attend the luau.

Save Sunday, August 5, for the Santa Clara Valley District Annual BBQ at Vasona Park. Details will follow, so stay tuned! It was a great success last year so come and lend us your support.

May the Lord watch over our members. Special Blessings to all Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts and Godmothers, all of whom play an important role in the lives of our youth.

Ciao for now,
Lucy Amico

San Jose
St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

Branch 191 hopes every Branch in the Federation had a blessed Easter spending time with family and friends.

During the month of March, St. Frances Cabrini Parish housed, fed, laundry service, transportation and security for 16 homeless women under the San Jose “Village House” program. Many members of our branch participated in this program; some for the 3rd straight year. It was a very rewarding experience for most of us, helping those in most need of our help.

Our mission and purpose is to serve others.

James Jones
President of Branch 191

San Jose
Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

According to the ‘50s song, “Little Things Mean a Lot.” So many members of our branch think of themselves as doing “just a little thing” but they’ve added up to a lot. Ed and Jane Wendler do a lot of “little things,” such as helping in the kitchen for all sorts of meals in the hall, working on the sound system, leading the guitar, and lending fresh annual diocesan appeal drive in our parish. All of these activities add up to a lot of big “little things.” Thank you, Ed and Jane!

Did you know...that John Gillio makes a delicious polenta, and that Paul Butler knows the history and recipe for polenta? Paul

CTA
John Gillio, our branch president, will be going to Convention. Our pasta fund-raiser dinner will be held on May 12, and Mary Ridi and Anne Cordoni are knee-deep in planning it. Joan Delfino works with Gifts of Love, which pays the bills for necessities of people with disabilities. Thanks to Avis Erkel, Mary Vavroudin, Ann Greesh, and Carol Layne for our Italian and Irish-themed dinner, and to Rosa Traina for the wonderful St. Joseph’s Table bread.

Have a blessed and beautiful spring!

Judy Zahn

San Jose
St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

Our branch said goodbye to our dear chaplain, Fr. Abe, who is returning to India at the end of June. After giving our opening prayer, Fr. Abe was presented a gift with our heartfelt thanks for his years of kindness and support to our branch. President Mike Rossi thanked Al, Diana and team for the delicious Mel’s Diner Special of Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes!

Mary Prolo, our guest speaker, spoke of the upcoming Saint Martin’s Village House to purchase a new bus.

San Jose Church Of The Transfiguration, Br. 445

San Jose Honored March 19th, the feast day of St. Joseph, by having a “St. Joseph’s Table” on March 22nd. (Note, all St. Joseph celebrations might take place on the nearest, most convenient weekend). It was a huge success and we learned a lot about how and why we celebrate St. Joseph!

St. Joseph’s Day is a big Feast for Italians because, in the Middle Ages, God, through St. Joseph’s intercessions, saved the Sicilians from a very serious drought. So, in his honor in Sicily, the custom is for all to wear red, (in the same way that green is worn on St. Patrick’s Day, and build what is known as a “St. Joseph’s Table.” This table is often decorated with flowers and candles, and people place wine and foods on it that are considered “lucky”. Some of these lucky foods include: Fava Beans, Lemons, Oranges, and foods that contain “Sawdust”. All of these foods have symbolic meanings. Fava beans were the only plants that survived during the drought! The Fava plant thrived while all of other crops failed, which is why it is considered “lucky”. Breademrams are worked into the recipes of the dishes because St. Joseph was a carpenter and the Breademrams represent “Sawdust”. Some people place fish and seafood on the altar as well. However, what is not placed on St. Joseph’s Table is any dish which contains meat. That’s because this holiday occurs during Lent. There is also a basket in which the faithful place prayer petitions.

In Sicily, it is also believed that if a woman manages to sneak an Orange or Lemon off of a St. Joseph’s Table on this day, then she will have her luck finding a husband. It is also customary for people on this day to indulge themselves with Doughnuts, Cream Puffs and Sfinge di San Giuseppe. In Italy, Spain and Portugal, St. Joseph’s Day is Father’s Day.

Angelo (Andy) La Scola
Corresponding Secretary

Santa Rosa
District Council

Springtime has come to the vineyards! The grass is green, the birds are nesting and chirping and the vines are budding. God’s nature is wonderful!

Members of the district enjoyed their carpooling jaunt to our northern branches- Arcata and Eureka- for their anniversaries. It was a lovely time and we were amazed at the work of Peter Santino who repainted and refurbished the ceiling and walls of St. Bernard’s Church in Eureka (built in 1886). Thank you, to our northern friends, for your gracious hospitality.

The Santa Rosa District Workshop is scheduled for Sunday, June 3rd at St. John Hall at St. John’s Parish in Healdsburg. The address is 217 Fitch St. The workshop will start at 11:30 AM with presentations from the Workshop Committee. Lunch will be served around 1:30 PM with the district meeting to follow. All are encouraged to attend and hear what’s new in the ICF. This workshop is open to any members of the ICF, not only officers. However, 352 will need a count of those attending, so preparations can be made for lunch. Please call Lauren at 707-433-1210 or email her at Lele1965@comcast.net with your total by May 30th.

By the time you read this article, we will have started rebuilding our home which was destroyed in the October fire. Larry, Lauren and I know that all your prayers and good wishes have helped us on this journey. We are so grateful to all of you.

Remember to love and comfort each other and keep good thoughts in your heart.

Sincerely,
Carmen

Napa
St. John, Br. 12

This is our final entry in the Bollettino. It has been a splendid, fruitful, 90+ years for our Branch but the time has come to say good bye. The members have accomplished so much over the years with donations to Central Council, the scholarships for our Seminarians, to the Catholic churches in the area, Scholarships to 8th graders going on to high school and college. Were given out. Helping and praying for our members in time of need. Wonderful
Stockton

St. Luke, Br. 138

Italian Catholic Federation Branch 138 held their second annual Texas Roadhouse fundraiser. It was a great success last year, and we are looking forward to duplicate that success again this year.

Branch 138 is looking forward to hosting St. Luke’s School’s annual Food, Beer, and Wine Stroll. Members will man a booth pouring wine for local vineyards and serving food for the day.

At our April meeting, our members brought their favorite dishes to share with our Spring Pot Luck. We also had the pleasure of initiating new members Charlie & Debbie Wallin. We hear that they enjoy playing bocce, which means we will look forward to them joining us on May 20th, for “Our Fr. Jerry’s Bocce Tournament,” following the 10 AM mass at St. Sebastian’s Parish.

Our branch thanks Pete & Candy Peters for all of their work and donations of raffle prizes for our branch dinners these past few years. They will be taking a leave of absence from our club and will be missed.

Get well wishes to Candy Peters, Dorte Schmitz and Lona Bertoli.

May 2018
for a Polenta Dinner slated to be held in November, 2018. Tickets will be available in September for this annual event.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Hall
Branch 9138 Corresponding Secretary.

Manteca
Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

A special visit by ICF Grand President Andy Pappam and his wife to Branch 139’s annual “All You Can Eat” Shrimp Dinner capped off the most successful dinner ever on April 7 in the St. Anthony Parish gymnasium. Over 350 tickets were sold, making this branch fundraiser a sell-out. There was a long waiting list of disappointed people but ticket chair Rhonda Musci couldn’t help.

The music was great, the food, prepared by Chef Tony, her role wife Lisa and sons, and Attilio Musci, was outstanding.

Branch President Dr. Elizabeth Demichelis had difficulty getting her thanks to the many ICF members for their hard work in getting this event off. That included the chairs and nearly 60 other ICF members.

On the contrary, not a complaint was heard above the roar of the crowd. Presidente Elizabeth was showered with compliments from members of the public, such as members of the Manteca City Council and Mayor Steve DeBrum.

Plans have already begun for at least a repeat of April 7, if not better, next year.

Ciao,
Mariano

Stockton
Presentation, Br. 395

Happy May everyone! We had a fun, informative and delicious Heritage event at our last branch meeting. We asked members to bring a dessert to share that had some type of special meaning to them growing up or with their family. We had Panettone that was a Christmas must have, as well as Cannoli from a secret Sicilian family recipe. We also had Zabaione that was made when one needed to regain their strength back and nonna’s Budino with Amaretto that she made on every summer visit. Tiramisu was always a must to end an Italian meal and of course lots and lots of different types of Biscotti!

Our branch also had the opportunity to host the May Stockton district meeting at Presentation. A fantastic lunch was prepared by Jo Weber and her crew and a thank you to Bernice Nickols for providing the beautiful centerpieces. It’s always great to get all of the branches together to share what we have all been up to.

Don’t forget to get these summer events on your calendars, June 30-Italian Heritage Night at Stockton Ports Baseball and July 29-Festa Italiana at the Lodi Fairgrounds.

Alla prossima,
Mary Ann

Angels Camp
St. Patrick, Br. 413

Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms of our ICF Members!! I hope you all have a most blessed day with family and friends. May is a very busy month for some branches, but for 413, it is a month to take a just take a deep breath and relax a little. We will be selling tickets for our BBQ Picnic Lunch that will be held July 22nd after the 10:15 a.m. Mass.

Mass gets out around 11:20 a.m. or so, when everyone’s stomachs start reminding them that it is almost time for lunch! Tickets are $25 for BBQ Steak or BBQ Chicken, your choice, and delicious side dishes, not to mention an excellent dessert. Children 12 and under are free, and will receive a grilled hot dog lunch. We will have games for everyone and raffles! The address for St. Patrick’s is 820 S. Main Street in Angels Camp. Come on out to the beautiful rolling hills and the peace and quiet of our little city.

February and March were good months for Branch 413. We had a very successful Valentine’s Dinner Dance and a profitable St. Patrick’s Sandwich Lunch. Our youth are getting old enough to be a wonderful help to the membership. We have Gabriel Singleton, who has been the Branch Babysitter, Child Entertainer, Set-up Junior, Clean-up Junior, and always Dish Washer Controller. We also have the Pachinger Pack, Danielle, Joseph, Russell, and Sebastian, who were raised from infancy helping with cleaning, set-up, dishes, and now serving guests. Our newest youth members, James and Cora Bertrand, have come into the group with all the right skills for the jobs previously mentioned, and don’t hesitate to jump in and help out. Branch 413 is very blessed to have such a wonderful group of hard working, polite, and enjoyable youth!

Ciao for now!
Respectfully submitted by Annette Pachinger, Corresponding Secretary

Tuscan
Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

Buona Pasqua! March was another busy month for our branch. We had two more fundraisers, our annual St. Joseph’s Day Table and our Easter Cookie Sale.

The branch members were busy cooking and baking for these two events.

We had our St. Joseph’s Table after 4:00 mass on Saturday, March 17th, so a little St. Patrick’s Day in there too! We served many members of the church and our community. All the proceeds went to our local Green Valley/Amado/Sahuarita Food Bank. Or president, Bob Burdick and one of our best bakers, Yolanda DeCorso, brought the cheek to the Food Bank to present the check to Debbie Acuna.

We also had our Easter Cookie sale after all our masses on Palm Sunday. Wonderful biscotti, almond cookies, ricotta cookies were baked and sold along with a variety of other cookies. It was an inevitable sell-out!

Things will be slowing down a bit in April and May. Our fundraising is over until October as many of our snow bird members will be heading North again to enjoy the summer weather. We will have our second Corporate Communion at the end of April and our annual picnic at Madera Canyon in May. Then many of us will escape for a month or two in RV’s and cars and travel to cooler climes, enjoying the beauty of our country and visiting our far-off families.

For a list of events, please visit our website: 413branch413.org.