

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Keep in mind that every Branch is unique and these recommendations are optional. Work with the ideas that will most benefit your branch. Use the talents in your branch.

Invite the entire family to your dinner/potluck suppers. Make them feel welcome. Inform them that they need not stay for the meeting, keep in mind that children have homework and early bedtime. The thought is that you are making them feel part of your branch family, reaching out to them when they need you; the busiest time of their lives. As that family grows, they will have more time on their hands and they will become future active members. Also, if there is a school in your parish, begin working with school parents and ask them and their families to join and participate.

Plan activities for the children at Branch meetings:

- Have an adult or older child entertain the children during the meeting.
- Show a children's video, play board games, provide them with coloring books and crayons (have them write their names on the books and each time they come, they can get their own book).
- Provide games at District and Branch picnics.
- Let children help with the Branch dinners (serve dessert, help clean up, etc.)
- Sponsor an "ICF Mom's Night Off" program with a brunch or lunch with a guest speaker. Choose family-related topics. Provide baby-sitting during the session.

Special times of the year:

- Christmas Party: Please include the children. Have Santa Claus present, give small gifts, candy canes, read Christmas stories, have the children sing Christmas Carols. Have a Giving Tree, where the children bring an item of food for a needy family.
- Valentine's Day: Have someone work with the children, making valentines for their parents or elderly at convalescent homes.
- Easter: Sponsor an egg hunt at your local club. Join up with another club to do this.

Other Ideas:

- Have the children put on a play. You can find an adult member who will work with them.
- Have a bowling party or sponsor a child's bowling league / family league.
- Use your Imagination and do what works for your branch.
- Use the talents of your adult members to be creative.
- Plan a day at the beach or amusement park, where families could meet one another.

Parents will always get involved when their children are included. Sponsor an essay or poster contest. Give cash awards of \$5.00 or \$10.00.

Make the family membership part of your Branch. They will have wonderful memories that the Italian Catholic Federation provided for them. They will become the future leaders of the Italian Catholic Federation.