

I.C.F. RECOGNITION DAY

To publicize the Italian Catholic Federation in your parish, we encourage each branch to set aside a Sunday, preferably in the month of June, to honor the founding of the ICF, which occurred on June 15, 1924.

Recognition Day is a most appropriate time to have a parish-wide Membership Drive. First, the Branch President should contact the Pastor to schedule Masses, dedicated to the ICF on a particular Saturday/Sunday, with special announcements in the Parish Bulletin a few weekends ahead of time. The Branch should promote as much participation as possible from its members at the Masses.

At the Mass, the Pastor is encouraged to speak about the Branch and its many years of service to the Parish Community. The Branch President and others should ask to speak at the end of each Mass about what the branch is doing in the parish. (See the enclosed suggested script).

At this Mass, an ICF member might be recognized for extraordinary contributions to the branch. Branch donation to a special parish project could also be made at this time to the pastor.

Invite parishioners to join the branch to continue its good works.

Following the Saturday evening Mass, invite parishioners to the church hall for some Italian appetizer specialties (possibly serving some wine). After the Sunday Masses invite parishioners to come for coffee, donuts, Italian breads, etc.

At the hall, the branch should have a display of ICF materials, branch memorabilia, awards and pictures. The officers can informally speak about the ICF, answer questions, and have membership forms available to enroll interested persons. Forms can also be distributed to be returned later. It is important to follow-up on persons who express interest with a phone call.

We encourage all branches to try this program adapting it to your particular situation. We hope that such a yearly event will inform your parish community about the activities of the ICF and also help you get new members.

Remember to inform members and parishioners of the ICF website: www.icf.org.