



BOLLETTINO



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Thank you!

Strategic Plan Notes

Over the past few months, the Strategic Plan Task Force and various committees have been working hard behind the scenes to implement the strategic plan for the federation adopted by the Central Council. This work has focused on membership, community/church connections, finance, and leadership. You may already have noticed some of the results, such as Quarterly Reports being distributed via our new online portal, which will save the federation thousands of dollars. In the next couple of months, the Strategic Plan Task Force will be providing workshops on leadership, membership, and parish connections to various districts. These workshops will be open to all federation members who are interested and will set the stage for work that will continue throughout the next three years of the strategic plan. We encourage district presidents to find dates within the next couple of months when the Strategic Plan Task Force can visit your district. For more information or questions, please contact Vince Piro or Leonard Zasoski at icftaskforce@gmail.com.

Thanks -
Vince Piro

ICF Starts Fresh with District Installations



Los Angeles Archdiocese District Installation



Santa Rosa District Installation



San Diego District Installation

Grand President's Monthly Message

by Bob Basuino

I have always known that being a part of the Italian Catholic Federation is being part of a large close knit group. At every event I have attended like District Installations, Bishops' Days, the Federation's 90th Anniversary I was reminded again and again of this sense of family. We have joined in many spirited conversations on how we have the renewed sense of family every time we gather together.



On January 27, 2015, my beloved father, Frank L. Basuino, quietly passed away. He was surrounded by his loved ones and returned to our Lord after living a wonderful life of 92 years and 9 months. I know that my Mother Lorraine, who left us 11 years ago, was there with open arms to be reunited with him. On Monday, February 2, my family held an evening vigil service and the next day a beautiful funeral Mass for him. The days leading up to these events were a whirlwind of decision making. We reminisced, laughed, and cried a lot. Every step of the way we were surprised to have family and friends right by our side. Those days flew by in a haze. There really was not much time to think about what was going on or who was there to support and help us in our time of need.

In the days after the funeral, I had time to think and I came to the realization that not only my children, uncles, aunts and cousins were there at my side, helping in any way they could, my ICF family were there every step of the way. Instantly branch members and district members appeared offering help, support, love, food, anything that I or my family needed, whether we realized we needed it or not. Programs, Flowers, Music for the Vigil, Music for the Mass, or anything that was needed an ICF family member appeared there to help. Looking back at the Vigil and Mass I see so many of our ICF family was helping us celebrate dad's life. As the weeks have gone by, there has not been a day that goes by when I have not heard from a member of the ICF whether they are in Chicago, Arizona, Nevada or California. The numerous cards, donations, Masses, letters and calls have been heartwarming and very much appreciated. All the stories and wishes keep the wonderful memories following and remind me how blessed I am for having a wonderful, loving family. Many of these are family members by choice, because they are members of the ICF. This brings to mind again that being a member of the Italian Catholic Federation is not just being a member of an organization it is being a member of a very

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Calendar Sales Results

Top Selling Branches with 1 – 99 Members

1st Place:	Branch 33, Bakersfield	Sold 50 calendars
2nd Place:	Branch 343, Castro Valley	Sold 40 calendars
3rd Place:	Branch 102, Burbank	Sold 37 calendars

Top Selling Branches with 100 – 199 Members

1st Place:	Branch 281, Bakersfield	Sold 75 calendars
2nd Place:	Branch 10, Alameda	Sold 66 calendars
3rd Place:	Branch 28, Gilroy	Sold 51 calendars

Top Selling Branches with 200+ Members

1st Place:	Branch 39, Merced	Sold 100 calendars
2nd Place:	Branch 14, Crockett	Sold 80 calendars
3rd Place:	Branch 391, San Jose	Sold 30 calendars

Individuals

1st Place:	Carol Salmeri – Br. 39 – Merced	Sold 95 calendars
2nd Place:	Louise DeTomasi – Br. 14 – Crockett	Sold 80 calendars
3rd Place:	B.G. Zasoski – Br. 281 – Bakersfield	Sold 75 calendars

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

BOLLETTINO

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Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!

Easter Joy, Consecrate Your Life to Christ

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

New Life came into the world on Easter Sunday. Lucky for us, Christ is now ever-present to us. What a great gift of love He gave us! For this we consecrate our lives to the Risen Christ. We do this in a special way during the Easter Season, which goes on for 50 days and will end on Pentecost Sunday.

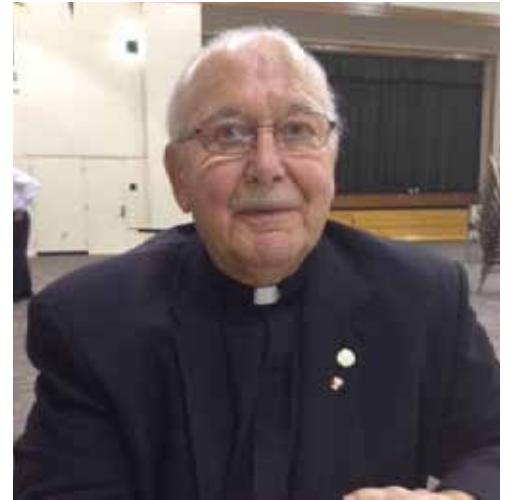


Easter validates our Faith. Without Easter, without the Risen Christ, we would be lost, groping around without purpose, without Hope. Christ is with us, around us and in us.

He gives us life, a reason to live in Faith. He gives us reason to Love.

During this year dedicated to consecrated life, we, too, can consecrate our lives to Christ by the love we show him. This love is expressed by a special relationship between Christ and us. A relationship that is PERSONAL and intimate. Christ is the best friend of all our best friends. We want our lives to be an example of the love of God and neighbor dedicated and consecrated to give honor and glory to God.

ALLELUIA GLORY AND PRAISE TO GOD,
THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY
SPIRIT! AMEN



Increasing Family Memberships

Anne Interrante
CC Member

By now you've heard that we need to make sure our organization stays strong and vibrant for future generations and that one of the keys for success is an increase in Family Memberships. We can all agree that this definitely needs to happen, however how can we do it? I am going to share with you how we made this happen in Branch 380, Thousand Oaks.

About 15 years ago, our branch had about 60 members (maybe 40 were really involved in the activities). There were no children in attendance and the age range of adults was 55+ years of age.

Members decided that it was time to make family memberships a priority. Our first step was making our meeting environment a place where children were welcome. If they felt welcome, their parents would feel more relaxed as well. We secured a couple of highly recommended 8th grade volunteers from our parish school to lead a craft (we provided the supplies), show a kids' movie and basically oversee the children in the same room as the meeting (this way parents remained accessible if needed). Once this was in place we started telling our extended family, friends, and other parishioners about our monthly meetings – dinner, things for kids to do, fellowship, opportunities to get involved in your parish, etc. We found that families were happy to find a group where they could attend as a family and be involved in their church community.

After the number of families and children increased, we found that more was needed. We were blessed to have members with high school students who wanted to take over child care responsibilities. They were given a monthly budget and prepared all the activities. We decided to include meeting themes that were interesting to all ages – a Family Christmas Party with entertainment and crafts for children, Sports Night with trivia and game contests for all ages, etc. Our mindset changed as we were planning events and we asked ourselves, "Will this be fun for everyone?"

As the number of families and children continued to increase, it was apparent that the children wanted to help out and were ready to take on leadership roles. So, we paid attention to that enthusiasm and started a Youth Officer Program. Again we were blessed that one of our high school students was ready to take on a leadership role and oversee this program. The children received various tasks that they could perform at meetings and were given opportunities to volunteer for group service projects. We also scheduled youth events where our kids could invite their friends to participate.

Today, we are happy to report that these Youth Officers and High School Officers now take part in the Officer Installation Ceremony – in total we had 15 this year.

It took time, preparation, and a lot of learning to build up our program but the benefits are immense. We have several multi-generational families that are active contributors in our

High Five!

Top five districts and areas
with increased membership:
(excluding deceased members)

Contra Costa	+27
San Mateo	+14
Santa Barbara	+10
Central Coast	+9
Santa Rosa	+3

Membership Stats as of January 31, 2015:

10,104

Members as of July 1, 2014:

10,454 = overall loss of 350 members	
New:	389
Reinstated:	26
Transfer in/out:	48
Deceased:	-140
Cancelled:	-292
Non-payment >12 mos.:	-333

branch. Children are learning to help others and becoming leaders in the process. Today, our membership has grown to over 170 members, of which 40 are children. All we had to do is decide that families were a priority, do some planning, invite them, and stay the course. Your branch can do this, too! Talk to your officers and branch members now about making family memberships a priority.

tion of the Italian Catholic Federation.

All branches are urged to consider, discuss and formulate a proposal to change, modify or abolish a bylaw as it pertains to all the Branches of the ICF. According to the Branch bylaw Chapter XVII Art. 3 G proposals and/or amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted in writing (signed by the Branch President and Recording Secretary) to the Central Council Office not later than April 30, 2015 Branch bylaw change proposals may also come from the Central Council through the Bylaws Committee.

Such submitted proposals and/or amendments

are forwarded to the Central Council Bylaws Committee for review, as to form and content. If a question exists relating to the submitted proposal, the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee will contact the submitting Branch for clarification and if necessary revisions to make the proposal acceptable.

It is helpful to present the original bylaw followed by a copy of the modified or changed bylaw with the changes in bold type. The insertions should be in italics and the deletions either in strike out text or underlined. The proposal must be accompanied by a well-

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UPCOMING:

2015 Bishops' Days:

- Feb. 21 Tucson
- Mar. 1 Oakland (Contra Costa & East Bay)
- Mar. 7 Orange
- Mar. 28 Stockton
- Apr. 12 San Francisco (San Francisco, San Mateo & Marin)
- Sept. 27 San Diego
- Oct. 4 Fresno
- Oct. 11 Santa Rosa
- Oct. 18 San Jose (Santa Clara Valley)
- Nov. 1 Las Vegas

icfeditor@gmail.com

The only email address to send things for the Bollettino is **icfeditor@gmail.com**.

All other email addresses have been closed. Please make a note of it.

Grand President

continued from page 1

large, loving and caring family.

I know that Dad is in heaven singing:

"Fly like a bird to the Lord, my soul, I want to soar like an eagle.

Though I may journey far away from home, I know I will never be alone."

On behalf of my sister Diane, and our families, we want to thank all of our ICF family for their love and support during this very stressful time.

Convention ByLaw Submission Procedure

David Botta
Parliamentarian

Now comes the time of year that we must solicit proposals and/or amendments to the Branch Bylaws. The following is a brief review of the procedure followed in the ICF to accomplish this process and bring the proposals and/or amendments to the floor of the Annual Conven-

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

David Botta and Carmen Kilcullen
Past Grand Presidents

For the next few months, we are going to present the program which we did for the 2013 Convention. At that time, we named the various places in each ICF District which where the first localities of the Catholic religion. Please bear in mind that there may have been others, but we named those that actually were the church's foundation in each area.

The CHICAGO DISTRICT of the Italian Catholic Federation has the honor of being the first of our districts where Catholicism was introduced. From our American History studies, we remember Father Pierre Marquette and Louis Joliet who explored a large section of the Mississippi River.

Father Marquette was given the charge by the French government to work among the Indians of the region and convert them to the Catholic religion. In the process, Father Marquette opened the mission of the Immaculate Conception in Kaskaskia, Illinois in 1673. In the ensuing years, as many as 10,000 Indians were baptized.

The TUCSON area of Arizona is next. 9 miles south of Tucson, one comes upon Mission San Xavier del Bac, known to the Indians as the "white dove of the desert". In 1692, Father Eusebio Kino, a Franciscan missionary who had been working in Baja California, visited the site to prepare for the building of a mission. Today, Mission San Xavier is a national historic monument. Branch 433 in Tucson carries the name of Father Kino in its title.

In 1769 begins the story of the California missions. The first locality of our Faith in the SAN DIEGO DISTRICT was the mission of San Diego de Alcalá founded by Father Junipero Serra in that year. This mission marked the birthplace of Christianity and of the Catholic faith in the Far West. After years of neglect, the mission was rebuilt in 1931 and remains today an active Catholic parish.

The Catholic Faith was introduced in the CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT in 1770 with the founding of Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio, also known as Carmel Mission, by Father Serra. It was named for the great archbishop of Milan, Charles Borromeo. This mission became Father Serra's favorite and he is buried there. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

We now travel south to the SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REGION, where, in 1771, the Catholic faith came by way of Mission San Gabriel Arcangel founded by the Franciscan friars. This mission is credited with introducing large-scale viticulture in California and the source of many botanical vines to the state's wine industry. It is an active church today run by the Claretian Fathers.

In 1776, the Catholic faith came to the SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT with the establishment of Mission San Francisco de Asis, also known as Mission Dolores. It is the oldest intact building in San Francisco and survived the great earthquake of 1906. It is now part of the Basilica parish of Mission Dolores and a California Historical Landmark. It is also a favorite spot for weddings.

In the ORANGE DISTRICT, the Catholic Faith started with the building of Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776. Located in sight of the ocean in the town of the same name, this mission became a significant center for agricultural production. It has often been featured in both song, books and movies because of its beauty and picturesque location.

The Catholic Faith manifested itself in the SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT in 1777 with the founding of Mission Santa Clara de Asis, named after St. Clare, the first mission to honor a female saint. It is a parish church and the chapel for the University of Santa Clara. The bells are rung every evening at 8:30, at the request of Spain's King Carlos IV in memory of those who had died.

To be continued . . .

Save The Date

It doesn't seem possible, but Grand President Bob Basuino's term will come to an end at the 2015 Convention.

To celebrate his two year's of service to the ICF, there will be a testimonial dinner in his honor.

Save the date for Saturday,
November 7, 2015.

More details will be available as the date draws near.

Thank you!

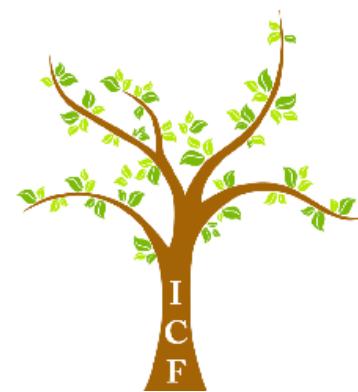
Spring

*"People ask me what
I do in winter when
there's no baseball. I'll
tell you what I do. I
stare out the window
and wait for spring."*

Rogers Hornsby

Branching Out

by Anne Interrante
CC Member, Public Relations
Committee Member



Branching Out is a series that will focus on successful ideas shared by our branches. For more details about a particular idea, you can find the branch contact info at www.icf.org.

Bbranch 406, Orange, California believes Collaboration is the Key to Success.

During the Lenten season, they hold a St. Joseph Table with Italian baked goods while other parish ministries sponsor a luncheon and boutique. All activities take place on the same day and collectively raise money for the Christian service program to purchase groceries for needy families.

Members host a meatball sandwich booth at the parish carnival to raise funds for the church, support Knights of Columbus service projects, and volunteer side by side with Youth Ministry students who help at the branch's annual lasagna dinner.

The next agenda item is to partner with their parish elementary school to begin a scholarship program and determine how best they can serve the students and faculty.

Working together not only makes the workload easier but brings greater achievement to each endeavor.

Plan Now, Set Goals... Get a Workshop

Dante Galeazzi
CC Life Member

The Grand President has asked the Workshop Committee to continue its successful Travel Show from last year and to follow the effort presented the last two years such as open forum, spiritual, Heritage and fundraising. Even though the Districts and Branches have scheduled to develop many activities for the upcoming calendar for the goodwill in the parish, in the community and in the name of the Italian Catholic Federation... the workshop could provide for the fantastic planning and enriching the many responsibilities of the ICF nationally.

Your Workshop Committee can provide assistance in Membership growth, the valuable leadership and officers' guidance and directions to set goals reinforced by the memberships of the Branches and Districts. All ideas are necessary and valuable from the past, present and especially the future. Once your goals are determined, the Workshop Committee will provide the necessary resources or additional concepts to your Branches and Districts to hopefully achieve with less effort and struggles. The Workshop Committee can suggest topics on how to increase membership, fundraising activities, provide heritage/history of the Federation or tools for Italian culture for the grandchildren, event planning, officers' duties, IRS forms, convention awards, apostolic devotions or spiritual activities and even topics selected by the Branches'



membership.

The Workshop Committee highly recommends that when you go to your next Branch or District meeting that you #1) discuss ideas for setting goals, #2) provide and direct the leadership in your District to have a workshop for support and assistance/guidance and #3) stress the importance of achieving those goals for the Federation, your Branch, the District, and the Parish or Diocese in your community.

PLAN NOW, because it's very important for the District Presidents to get their first choice of date and to discuss with the Workshop Committee what are the most valuable topics that are best suited for the Branches and District.

You may contact me via email at dantegaleazzinpc@aol.com or at 888.423.1924 for any additional inquiries.

Do not miss out this year on scheduling a resourceful Workshop to simplify your diligent effort.

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
Joseph Re	Officers/Members of Br. 50
Joseph Re	George and Diana Bacigalupi
Tom Pollicita	George and Diana Bacigalupi
Louis Zanotti	Joe Bonino and Family
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Wayne Shriwise	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Joseph Re	Beverly Desmond
Bill Garibaldi	Giovanni and Nancy Corsi
Anna Deghi	Giovanni and Nancy Corsi
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Lupe and Chana Portillo	Bob Basuino
Joseph Smith	Officers/Members of Br. 290
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Mary Chelini	Diana Petrolino
Frank Basuino	Officers/Members of Central Council
Frank Basuino	Giovanni and Nancy Corsi and Art Fricke
Frank Basuino	Cory and Teresa Helfand
Frank Basuino	Officers/Members of Br. 392
Fr. Frank Piro	Dennis Gillen
Frank Basuino	Jim and Janice Jones
Frank Basuino	Officers/Members of Br. 184
Frank Basuino	Donna and Richard Pfaff
Frank Basuino	Diana Petrolino
Frank Basuino	Officers/Members of Br. 36
Frank Basuino	Officers/Members of Br. 28
Frank Basuino	Pat and Louie Cordich
Frank Basuino	Herb Basuino and Kathleen Urmini
Frank Basuino	Officers/Members of Br. 191
Frank Basuino	Bob and Elaine Osorio
Frank Basuino	Russ and Louise Vento
Frank Basuino	Mary Rossetto
Yolanda Nails	Mary Rossetto
Frank Basuino	Mike and Marcie Rossi
Frank Basuino	Ed and Jo Bertaccini
Frank Basuino	Harold, Virginia and Steve Fuentes
Frank Basuino	The Kilcullen Family
Frank Basuino	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dianda and Jane
Frank Basuino	Forrest and Prudence Price
Elisabeth Steiner	Terri Leinsteiner
Frank Basuino	Leonard, Karen and Janet Rossi
Frank Basuino	Marie Mungai
Frank Basuino	Fran and Joe Addiego
Frank Basuino	Larry and Alfrieda Flocchini
Frank Basuino	Joe and Ann Basuino
Frank Basuino	Romolo and Lorraine Iavarone
Frank Basuino	Pat and Lou Magas
Frank Basuino	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Frank Basuino	Leroy and Stella Taddei
Frank Basuino	Mary Alesi and the Members of Br. 416
Frank Basuino	Jim, Patty and Roselynn Jarrett
Frank Basuino	George and Diana Bacigalupi
Frank L. Basuino	Richard and Kathleen Antuzzi
Frank Basuino	Robert and Kathy Acquistapace
<u>GET WELL WISHES:</u>	
Denise Antonowicz	Officers/Members of Central Council
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Milani	Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District
Denise Antonowicz	Jim and Janice Jones
Bob Dianda	Elma Casale
Marissa Muñoz	Cora Marquez
<u>THANK YOU FOR OUR INSTALLATION:</u>	
Bob Basuino	Officers/Members of East Bay District
Bob Basuino	Officers/Members of Br. 161
<u>WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING PARISH AND BR. 442:</u>	
Father Paulson Mundanmani	The Jarrett and Politakes Families

*Named after the co-founder of the I.C.F., the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides I.C.F. members a lasting way to memorialize and/or extend greetings to friends, relatives, and loved ones. Members' donations provide scholarships to seminarians studying for the priesthood in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.

Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

Report Date: 02/19/2015

DON CORDO	Branch 007	JAMES B ELLIS	Branch 073
REV LEO ASUNCION	Branch 014	MARIA LETIZIA CHAPARRO	Branch 115
JIM CHOQUETTE	Branch 014	ANNA GROppo	Branch 115
LOUISE CHOQUETTE	Branch 014	TED J SIMAS	Branch 139
GENE L GATEWOOD	Branch 014	TERESA B GRAHAM	Branch 154
JOSEPH J ANGELESCO	Branch 018	ALICIA M TREVINO	Branch 154
KATHY A BULLENE	Branch 025	RUBEN A TREVINO	Branch 154
JOANNA ESTRADA	Branch 032	RICHARD C PFAFF	Branch 184
DEACON KURT A NEUHAUS	Branch 032	DR ANTHONY HIRSCHENBERGER	Branch 195
LORI HALE	Branch 033	FRANCES O'DONNELL	Branch 198
JOSEPH J CRESCENTE	Branch 036	MADISON R WHITE	Branch 209
SHARON L CRESCENTE	Branch 036	JAMES F MC GEE	Branch 215
MARIA HERBST	Branch 036	JAMES D SAVAGEAU	Branch 229
KAREN IAQUINTO	Branch 036	YOLANDA L SAVAGEAU	Branch 229
SUZANNE MENENDEZ-HERBST	Branch 036	ZORKA DRAEGER	Branch 291
PATRICIA A ROSSI	Branch 036	ROSEMARY A HANN	Branch 319
JEAN M SANCHEZ	Branch 036	PATRICIA N STROUD	Branch 319
TOD C SANCHEZ	Branch 036	GABRIELLA GIANNINI	Branch 326
DIETER SEITZ	Branch 036	DAN KIDD	Branch 392
HANNI SEITZ	Branch 036	EDDIE CONRADO	Branch 413
ELVAMARIE ZIMMERMEN	Branch 036	PHILIP GIBEAU	Branch 425
ELAINE E LENCIONI	Branch 070	MICHELINA NIGRO	Branch 439
		FILIPPO V PULEO	Branch 439
		CATHY S BRASSELL	Branch 440

In Loving Memory

Report Date: 02/19/2015

ED GUGLIELMETTI	Branch 007	ROSEMARY J COLEMAN	Branch 103
BERT MANTEGANI	Branch 007	ELSIE K PIALORSI	Branch 144
OLGA RUGGERI	Branch 007	THOMAS R MC KEON	Branch 161
WILLIAM GARIBALDI	Branch 012	LIDO S GIUSTI	Branch 173
MARINA DELL AGOSTINO	Branch 014	FRANK BASUINO	Branch 191
VINCENT J RAMOS	Branch 014	LAWRENCE PERRY	Branch 191
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JULIA FANUCCHI	Branch 033	JOSEPH A SMITH	Branch 290
ANDY A BRODEHL	Branch 036	CLARISA V CAMPOS	Branch 317
ROBERT F GRANT	Branch 036	ANTHONY MATTAZARO	Branch 379
REV JOSE ARONG	Branch 040	GILDA EMHOFF	Branch 390
INEZ M INNOCENTI	Branch 040	ASSUNTA GAIA	Branch 390
MARY ANNE ALMEIDA	Branch 045	ROSEMARIE COLTRIN	Branch 391
HELEN SCESA	Branch 054	JOAQUIN CORRAL	Branch 391
		PETER ACRI	Branch 425
		LEONARD CATALDO	Branch 439

Cooley's Anemia Donations

Donations received by February 10, 2015

Branch 135	Roger Santos
Branch 416	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Anna Barberi for a successful year in 2014
Santa Clara Valley District	Roger Santos
Roland and Katherine Codiga	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Members Frank and Louise Segreto for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Rose Lepetich	Roger Santos
Roland and Katherine Codiga	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Marianne Peoples for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Dorothy Coffman	Roger Santos
Officers/Members of Br. 308	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member John Filice for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Louis Grieco	Roger Santos
Officers/Members of Br. 28	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Members Louie and Pat Cordich for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Edward Thorne	Roger Santos
Officers/Members of Br. 28	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Chris Andrade for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Rose Lepetich	Roger Santos
Pat and Louie Cordich	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Angelo Benassi for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Edward Thorne	Roger Santos
Gloria Galeotti and Family	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Diana Berry for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Al Teglia	Roger Santos
Catherine Moresi	Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Andy Pappani for a successful year in 2014
In memory of Nancy Ciacco	Officers/Members of Br. 191
Joan and Ray Odom	In memory of Yolanda Nails
In memory of Nancy Ciacco	Charlyne Pacini
Lois Rice Vennum	In memory of Tom Pollicita
In memory of Nancy Ciacco	Mr. Charles P. Gullo, Jr.
Laurice and Matt Levine	In memory of Joseph Kuzinich
In memory of Nancy Ciacco	Officers/Members of Br. 108
Angela Coscarelli	In memory of Tony Mattazzaro
In memory of Nancy Ciacco	Tony and Tilly Spagnolo
Kathy Santos	In memory of Frank L. Basuino
In memory of Rose Lepetich	
Roger and Kathy Santos	
In memory of Richard Paterson	
Roger Santos	
Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Gennaro Felice for a successful year in 2014	
Roger Santos	
Thank you to Br. 28 Board Member Joe Fortino for a successful year in 2014	

JANUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
1/1	Jane Sullivan	103	Sonoma, CA	\$100
1/2	Mario Slavazza		San Jose, CA	\$30
1/3	Tony Rosellini	352	Danville, CA	\$30
1/4	Steve & Michelle Azevedo		Vacaville, CA	\$30
1/5	Michelle Antonowicz	184	Los Gatos, CA	\$30
1/6	Carol Salmeri	39	Merced, CA	\$50
1/7	Linda Hakey	425	Sahuarita, AZ	\$30
1/8	Bob Osorio	368	Palo Alto, CA	\$30
1/9	Lori Franzoni		So. San Francisco, CA	\$30
1/10	Jean & Joe Kulbeth		Fresno, CA	\$30
1/11	Jan Rosa	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
1/12	Nancy Seppi	52	Healdsburg, CA	\$30
1/13	Toni Reeder	154	El Cerrito, CA	\$30
1/14	Jim Maffei		Foster City, CA	\$30
1/15	Bob Basuino	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/16	Nancy Rogers		Merced, CA	\$30
1/17	Mike & Nick Migliore		San Anselmo, CA	\$30
1/18	Rosemary Busch		San Jose, CA	\$30
1/19	Steven Fuentes	163	San Mateo, CA	\$40
1/20	Jeffrey Westman		Sebastopol, CA	\$30
1/21	Gail Rocca	285	Livermore, CA	\$30
1/22	Mr. & Mrs. Stang		Folsom, CA	\$30
1/23	Elaine Nola	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/24	Marla Kriech	91	San Ramon, CA	\$30
1/25	Blanche Unti	39	Merced, CA	\$30
1/26	Celeste Lennemann	327	San Carlos, CA	\$30
1/27	Tina Tallman	45	Sacramento, CA	\$50
1/28	Yvonne Ayers	39	Merced, CA	\$30
1/29	Sheila Borrelli	54	Newman, CA	\$30
1/30	Patricia Korf	236	Carmichael, CA	\$30
1/31	Fr. Enzie Lagattuta	184	Los Gatos, CA	\$30

FEBRUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
2/1	Carmen Amparan	31	Los Banos, CA	\$40
2/2	Sarah Jane Amoroso	206	Pebble Beach, CA	\$30
2/3	Debbie Myers	417	Fresno, CA	\$30
2/4	Josh Foster		Alameda, CA	\$30
2/5	Sandi Miller	39	Merced, CA	\$30
2/6	Lisa Crudo	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
2/7	Fr. Guglielmo Lauriola	1	San Francisco, CA	\$30
2/8	Kristy Rossi	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
2/9	Valerie Vote	227	Scotts Valley, CA	\$30
2/10	Rita B. Csulak-Gomez		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/11	Louise Vento	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
2/12	Manola Scovel	7	SSFrancisco, CA	\$30
2/13	Anna Arnaudo		Monte Sereno, CA	\$30
2/14	Mary Acton		Petaluma, CA	\$100
2/15	Gerald Fuentes		Redwood City, CA	\$30
2/16	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Balice	418	Oak Brook, IL	\$30
2/17	Kelly Swertfager		Fresno, CA	\$50
2/18	Dora Belluomini	86	Chicago, IL	\$50
2/19	Carmen Kilcullen	52	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
2/20	Damien Watkins	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
2/21	Angela Vidaurreta	12	Napa, CA	\$30
2/22	Denise Volpetti		Altaville, CA	\$50
2/23	Linda Goodman	14	San Francisco, CA	\$30
2/24	Rosalie Alioto	258	San Francisco, CA	\$30
2/25	Diana Bacigalupi	50	San Francisco, CA	\$30
2/26	Don Bohannon	237	Gardena, CA	\$30
2/27	Marilyn Amoral	139	Manteca, CA	\$30
2/28	Fernando Teglia	7	Bakersfield, CA	\$30

Cooley's Corner

Thalassemia Research Update: Gene Therapy: How Does it Work? (part 2 of a two part series on gene therapy)

Laurice Levine

MA, CCLS

Last month we talked about the Northstar gene therapy study conducted by bluebird biotech and taking place at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Gene therapy shows incredible promise towards curing thalassemia and other genetic disease. Here is more information on how gene therapy actually works:

EXPLORING GENE THERAPY

WHAT IS GENE THERAPY?



Each person inherits features from his or her parents in the form of genes¹.



Genes are made up of a molecule called DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)¹.



When a gene does not work properly, the gene is said to be malfunctioning and may cause a genetic disease¹.

GENE THERAPY USES FUNCTIONING GENES AS MEDICINE TO HELP CORRECT A GENETIC DEFECT².

HOW DOES GENE THERAPY WORK?



1 Stem cells are collected from the blood.



2 In a lab, a functioning copy of the gene is inserted into the DNA of the stem cells, referred to as transduction, using a modified virus.



3 Chemotherapy is given to make room for the modified stem cells. The modified stem cells are then transplanted back into the body.



4 The goal is for modified stem cells to become a permanent source of blood cells that grow and produce new cells with the functioning copy of the gene.

WHY GENE THERAPY NOW?



In 2012, the first gene therapy was **approved** in Europe⁴.



Significant advances have been made in **gene transfer technology**, safety and how the transfer vehicles are manufactured.



Long term safety and efficacy has been observed for more than 5 years and **positive data is growing**.

For 30 YEARS,

Gene therapy has been studied as a potential treatment for genetic disease².

~2,000

clinical trials have been conducted using different types of gene therapy in cancers, blood diseases, central nervous system disorders and immune system diseases^{3,5}.

THE GOAL **TRANSFORM THE TREATMENT OF GENETIC DISEASES**
BY PROVIDING FUNCTIONING COPIES OF THE MALFUNCTIONING GENES.

Sources:
¹ [www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/human_gene_therapy.html](#) (Accessed Dec. 4, 2013).
² Sheldahl, C. 2011. Gene therapy: What is new? *Nature Biotechnology* 29(2): pp. 163-168.
³ Kay, M. A. 2011. State-of-the-art gene-based therapies: the road ahead. *Nature* 475(735): pp. 516-26.
⁴ [www.ema.europa.eu/ViewDocs.aspx?ID=329&ID2=329&ID3=329&ID4=329&ID5=329&ID6=329&ID7=329&ID8=329&ID9=329&ID10=329&ID11=329&ID12=329&ID13=329&ID14=329&ID15=329&ID16=329&ID17=329&ID18=329&ID19=329&ID20=329&ID21=329&ID22=329&ID23=329&ID24=329&ID25=329&ID26=329&ID27=329&ID28=329&ID29=329&ID30=329&ID31=329&ID32=329&ID33=329&ID34=329&ID35=329&ID36=329&ID37=329&ID38=329&ID39=329&ID40=329&ID41=329&ID42=329&ID43=329&ID44=329&ID45=329&ID46=329&ID47=329&ID48=329&ID49=329&ID50=329&ID51=329&ID52=329&ID53=329&ID54=329&ID55=329&ID56=329&ID57=329&ID58=329&ID59=329&ID60=329&ID61=329&ID62=329&ID63=329&ID64=329&ID65=329&ID66=329&ID67=329&ID68=329&ID69=329&ID70=329&ID71=329&ID72=329&ID73=329&ID74=329&ID75=329&ID76=329&ID77=329&ID78=329&ID79=329&ID80=329&ID81=329&ID82=329&ID83=329&ID84=329&ID85=329&ID86=329&ID87=329&ID88=329&ID89=329&ID90=329&ID91=329&ID92=329&ID93=329&ID94=329&ID95=329&ID96=329&ID97=329&ID98=329&ID99=329&ID100=329&ID101=329&ID102=329&ID103=329&ID104=329&ID105=329&ID106=329&ID107=329&ID108=329&ID109=329&ID110=329&ID111=329&ID112=329&ID113=329&ID114=329&ID115=329&ID116=329&ID117=329&ID118=329&ID119=329&ID120=329&ID121=329&ID122=329&ID123=329&ID124=329&ID125=329&ID126=329&ID127=329&ID128=329&ID129=329&ID130=329&ID131=329&ID132=329&ID133=329&ID134=329&ID135=329&ID136=329&ID137=329&ID138=329&ID139=329&ID140=329&ID141=329&ID142=329&ID143=329&ID144=329&ID145=329&ID146=329&ID147=329&ID148=329&ID149=329&ID150=329&ID151=329&ID152=329&ID153=329&ID154=329&ID155=329&ID156=329&ID157=329&ID158=329&ID159=329&ID160=329&ID161=329&ID162=329&ID163=329&ID164=329&ID165=329&ID166=329&ID167=329&ID168=329&ID169=329&ID170=329&ID171=329&ID172=329&ID173=329&ID174=329&ID175=329&ID176=329&ID177=329&ID178=329&ID179=329&ID180=329&ID181=329&ID182=329&ID183=329&ID184=329&ID185=329&ID186=329&ID187=329&ID188=329&ID189=329&ID190=329&ID191=329&ID192=329&ID193=329&ID194=329&ID195=329&ID196=329&ID197=329&ID198=329&ID199=329&ID200=329&ID201=329&ID202=329&ID203=329&ID204=329&ID205=329&ID206=329&ID207=329&ID208=329&ID209=329&ID210=329&ID211=329&ID212=329&ID213=329&ID214=329&ID215=329&ID216=329&ID217=329&ID218=329&ID219=329&ID220=329&ID221=329&ID222=329&ID223=329&ID224=329&ID225=329&ID226=329&ID227=329&ID228=329&ID229=329&ID230=329&ID231=329&ID232=329&ID233=329&ID234=329&ID235=329&ID236=329&ID237=329&ID238=329&ID239=329&ID240=329&ID241=329&ID242=329&ID243=329&ID244=329&ID245=329&ID246=329&ID247=329&ID248=329&ID249=329&ID250=329&ID251=329&ID252=329&ID253=329&ID254=329&ID255=329&ID256=329&ID257=329&ID258=329&ID259=329&ID260=329&ID261=329&ID262=329&ID263=329&ID264=329&ID265=329&ID266=329&ID267=329&ID268=329&ID269=329&ID270=329&ID271=329&ID272=329&ID273=329&ID274=329&ID275=329&ID276=329&ID277=329&ID278=329&ID279=329&ID280=329&ID281=329&ID282=329&ID283=329&ID284=329&ID285=329&ID286=329&ID287=329&ID288=329&ID289=329&ID290=329&ID291=329&ID292=329&ID293=329&ID294=329&ID295=329&ID296=329&ID297=329&ID298=329&ID299=329&ID300=329&ID301=329&ID302=329&ID303=329&ID304=329&ID305=329&ID306=329&ID307=329&ID308=329&ID309=329&ID310=329&ID311=329&ID312=329&ID313=329&ID314=329&ID315=329&ID316=329&ID317=329&ID318=329&ID319=329&ID320=329&ID321=329&ID322=329&ID323=329&ID324=329&ID325=329&ID326=329&ID327=329&ID328=329&ID329=329&ID330=329&ID331=329&ID332=329&ID333=329&ID334=329&ID335=329&ID336=329&ID337=329&ID338=329&ID339=329&ID340=329&ID341=329&ID342=329&ID343=329&ID344=329&ID345=329&ID346=329&ID347=329&ID348=329&ID349=329&ID350=329&ID351=329&ID352=329&ID353=329&ID354=329&ID355=329&ID356=329&ID357=329&ID358=329&ID359=329&ID360=329&ID361=329&ID362=329&ID363=329&ID364=329&ID365=329&ID366=329&ID367=329&ID368=329&ID369=329&ID370=329&ID371=329&ID372=329&ID373=329&ID374=329&ID375=329&ID376=329&ID377=329&ID378=329&ID379=329&ID380=329&ID381=329&ID382=329&ID383=329&ID384=329&ID385=329&ID386=329&ID387=329&ID388=329&ID389=329&ID390=329&ID391=329&ID392=329&ID393=329&ID394=329&ID395=329&ID396=329&ID397=329&ID398=329&ID399=329&ID400=329&ID401=329&ID402=329&ID403=329&ID404=329&ID405=329&ID406=329&ID407=329&ID408=329&ID409=329&ID410=329&ID411=329&ID412=329&ID413=329&ID414=329&ID415=329&ID416=329&ID417=329&ID418=329&ID419=329&ID420=329&ID421=329&ID422=329&ID423=329&ID424=329&ID425=329&ID426=329&ID427=329&ID428=329&ID429=329&ID430=329&ID431=329&ID432=329&ID433=329&ID434=329&ID435=329&ID436=329&ID437=329&ID438=329&ID439=329&ID440=329&ID441=329&ID442=329&ID443=329&ID444=329&ID445=329&ID446=329&ID447=329&ID448=329&ID449=329&ID450=329&ID451=329&ID452=329&ID453=329&ID454=329&ID455=329&ID456=329&ID457=329&ID458=329&ID459=329&ID460=329&ID461=329&ID462=329&ID463=329&ID464=329&ID465=329&ID466=329&ID467=329&ID468=329&ID469=329&ID470=329&ID471=329&ID472=329&ID473=329&ID474=329&ID475=329&ID476=329&ID477=329&ID478=329&ID479=329&ID480=329&ID481=329&ID482=329&ID483=329&ID484=329&ID485=329&ID486=329&ID487=329&ID488=329&ID489=329&ID490=329&ID491=329&ID492=329&ID493=329&ID494=329&ID495=329&ID496=329&ID497=329&ID498=329&ID499=329&ID500=329&ID501=329&ID502=329&ID503=329&ID504=329&ID505=329&ID506=329&ID507=329&ID508=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BOOK REVIEW

Vince Piro
Branch 39, Central Council

Matchbox Diary

by Paul Fleischman

Candlewick Press, 2012. 40 pp.

In Matchbox Diary, Paul Fleischman presents a timeless tale of family. When a little girl visits her great-grandfather for the first time, he tells her to pick an object from somewhere in his home, and then he will tell her a story about it. He figures that it will be a good way for her to get to know him through the stories that he tells. The young girl picks an old cigar box. Inside, she finds a collection of matchboxes which make up her great-grandfather's unusual but clever diary. Each matchbox contains an object that evokes a memory from his past. As he tells his granddaughter the memory and story associated with each object, we learn of his life and his journey from Italy to the United States. Each object evokes different memories: the olive pit his mother gave him to suck on when there wasn't enough food; a bottle cap he saw on his way to the boat; a ticket still retaining the thrill of his first baseball game. In this way, the young granddaughter (and the reader) learn of her grandfather's past.

Matchbox Diary contains classic themes that children and adults will find engaging. In part, the tale is a story of survival as the grandfather as a young man leaves Italy because of poverty and immigrates to the United States. For example, an olive pit sitting in one of the small boxes evokes this memory: "An olive pit. I put it in my palm and I'm right back to Italy. That's where I grew up. Lots of olive trees there. Life was hard - the other reason I save it. No floor in our house, just dirt. No heat in the winter except the fire under the cooking pot. And sometimes not enough food. When I'd tell my mother I was hungry, she'd give me an olive pit to suck on. It helped." As many immigrants and their families, the grandfather's journey to America was fueled by hope that life would be better in his new country. In one box, there is an attractive hairpin that the grandfather found on the ship coming from Italy to America. He tells the young girl that everyone thought that in America "gold [was] lying on the ground."

Immigrant life wasn't easy for the grandfather's family and his story reminds us of the value of perseverance and hard work. When the young

girl finds a fish bone in one of the boxes, the grandfather remembers the long days the entire family had to work in the canneries to make ends meet. They were determined to make life work in their new country and overcame their difficult life with hard work and determination and by sticking together. However, the grandfather's memories are full of good times, too, as he remembers when his granddaughter finds a ticket stub from his first baseball game in one of the boxes.

The charm of Matchbox Diaries comes in the unfolding relationship between the grandfather and granddaughter as he recounts his past. She learns more about him as he tells each story, and she comes to appreciate his full life. Each vignette evokes a different time with careful details and realistic dialogue that both adults and children should appreciate. The illustrations by Bagram Ibatouline are gorgeous and easily move the reader from present to past while adding details that enhance the narrative.



In today's society, when so many children (and adults) have forgotten their cultural and familial history, books like

Matchbox Diary remind us about the struggles and challenges our ancestors faced and their determination to overcome great odds. Their lives were filled with tragedies and triumphs as they made their way in the world while trying to establish a place in their new country. Remembering this history, we realize that we share a story with today's immigrants - the American immigration story. We can emphasize with their struggles and trials as they, too, reach for the American Dream. As Pope Francis and the United States Bishops call on Catholics to show compassion and understanding towards today's immigrants, Matchbox Diary reminds us of our own immigration story, a story we share with today's immigrants.

Paul Fleischman won the Newbery Medal for Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices and a Newbery Honor for Graven Images. He is the author of numerous picture books, including The Animal Hedge, also illustrated by Bagram Ibatouline, and The Dunderheads and The Dunderheads Behind Bars, both illustrated by David Roberts. Paul Fleischman lives in Maine.

Bagram Ibatouline has illustrated many acclaimed books for children, including The Animal Hedge by Paul Fleischman; On the Blue Comet by Rosemary Wells; The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and Great Joy, both by Kate DiCamillo; The Serpent Came to Gloucester by M. T. Anderson; and Hana in the Time of the Tulips by Deborah Noyes. He lives in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, when making donations to multiple programs, please write a separate check for each donation as there is an individual account for each fund.

Finally, we ask that all donations be made by check, cashier's check or money order. We prefer to not place cash in the depository.

These simple steps will assist our office staff in processing your donations. Thank you for your continued support to the ICF programs.

Monetary Donation Reminder

Roselynn Jarrett
Grand Treasurer

Dear Members,

When submitting donations to one of our programs (Providenza, Gifts of Love, Scholarship, Cooley's Anemia, etc). please make the check payable to ICF or Italian Catholic Federation. In the memo, indicate the fund where you would like the donation directed.

La Celebrazione di Gioventu -- The Celebration of Youth Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Submitted by Roselynn Jarrett

Grand Treasurer



ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these words associated with St. Patrick's Day.

01. REVCOL _____
02. WINBOAR _____
03. RANLIED _____
04. NOTES _____
05. CHARM _____
06. ADRAPE _____
07. DREAMEL _____
08. STAIN _____
09. ICONS _____
10. HIRIS _____
11. LABYERN _____
12. SOREHEHOS _____
13. RICEMILK _____
14. MOCKRASH _____
15. TARPICK _____
16. ANHELPCURE _____
17. ACEBELTER _____
18. CULKY _____
19. EVENTHETENS _____
20. ENGER _____



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By-Laws

continued from page 2

reasoned rationale for the proposed change.

The Central Council through the Bylaws Committee is authorized to eliminate proposals: (1) that are unconstitutional, discriminatory (except as to the age for benefits) or infringing on the fundamental principles of the Federation, (2) proposals defeated at the immediate previous Annual Convention cannot be presented at the immediate next Convention, except if the Central Council approves the proposal for representation.

Once the proposal is found to be constitutional and acceptable in wording and content, the Bylaws Committee will present the proposals to the Central Council at the June meeting for their information. At this point the Bylaws Committee will "certify" the proposals, and announce they will be presented to the delegates at the next Annual Convention. The order of discussions of proposals at the Annual Convention are prepared in advance by the Parliamentarian and approved by the Central

Council.

The proposals to be presented at the Annual Convention will be sent to the Branches in advance of the Convention for their discussion and consideration. At the Convention the proposals will be presented to the delegates for their vote. Matters presented by the Central Council will have precedence in the order of discussion.

Once passed by a majority vote of the delegates at the Annual Convention the adopted bylaw change is immediately effective.

**Support
our
Seminarians by Giving
to the Providenza
Fund**

Gifts of Love Donations

Donations received by February 10, 2015

Santa Clara Valley District
 John Gillio
 The Greco Family Christmas Open House Fundraiser
 Bob and Elaine Osorio
 In honor of the birthday of Eva Stern
 Bob and Elaine Osorio
 Get well wishes for Denise Antonowicz
 Officers/Members of San Mateo District
 Thank you to Bob Basuino for our Installation
 Anthony and Lillian La Pres
 In memory of Marguerite Silverthorne
 Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District
 In honor of Outgoing District President John Gillio
 Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District
 Thank you to Bob Basuino for our Installation
 Pat and Louie Cordich
 In memory of Rose Lepetich
 Bob Basuino
 In memory of Nancy Ciacco
 Don and Mary Merucci
 In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Ed and Gail Rocca
 Helen and Dick Wirtenson
 In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Gail and Ed Rocca
 Eva Stern
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 The Antonowicz Family
 In memory of Frank Basuino

Herb Basuino
 In memory of Louis Vicino
 Joanna C. Van Blaricom
 In memory of Bob Harris
 Louie and Pat Cordich
 In memory of Tony Bettencourt
 Evelyn Taravella
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Janice and Jim Basuino
 In memory of Frank L. Basuino
 Brad and Rebecca Fuller
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 Joan and Jerry Delfino
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Vic and Pat Arnaudo
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Marilyn Aguilar and Family
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Britt and Amelia Moore
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Larry and Alfrieda Flocchini
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Richard and Marie Yurosko
 In memory of Frank L. Basuino
 Bob and Esther Ramonda
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Officers/Members of Br. 12
 In memory of Frank Basuino
 Louie and Pat Cordich
 In memory of George Sciotto
 Joe and Judy Crosetti
 In honor of the birthday of Diana Crosetti

2015 Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada Friday, September 4, 2015 to Monday, September 7, 2015

Glorify the Lord by Your Life

HOTEL AND TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICIAL CONVENTION HOTEL

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino Phone: (702) 732-5111 /
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 -- Visit the following link to hotel reservations <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/SICF5R> on our Web site for ease in reserving your room for the Convention.

► **Room Rate: \$113.00 Single Occupancy plus 12% (subject to change) tax; \$113.00 Double Occupancy plus 12% (subject to change) tax**

► **Use Group Name "Italian Catholic Federation" or Convention Code "SICF5R" when booking your reservation**

► **Complimentary Self Parking**

► **Transportation to/from McCarran Airport: McCarran Int'l Airport is approximately 15 minutes southwest from the hotel. For public transportation (taxis/shuttle services) and rental car information, please visit www.mccarran.com. Bell Trans has a location at the airport and the hotel.**

Reservation Deadline is Thursday, August 13, 2015. After this date, reservations will be accepted at the best available rate based on availability. To avoid lost reservations and reservation errors, we will no longer provide reservation forms. You must call the hotel or go to their Web site to make your reservations.

AIRLINES - NO CONTRACTS - JUST GO ONLINE OR CALL DIRECT

Here are a few:

Alaska Airlines: 1-800-252-7522; www.alaskaair.com

American Airlines: 1-800-433-7300; www.aa.com

Delta Airlines: 1-800-221-1212; www.delta.com

Jet Blue Airlines: 1-800-538-2583; www.jetblue.com

Southwest Airlines: 1-800-435-9792; www.southwest.com

United Airlines: 1-800-864-8331; www.united.com

US Airways: 1-800-428-4322; www.usairways.com

PLEASE SHARE THE ABOVE INFORMATION WITH YOUR DELEGATES!

If you have any questions, please call the I.C.F. Office toll-free at 1-888-423-1924



Italian Catholic Federation Fifteenth Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT



DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015

COURSE: Laguna Seca Golf Course
 10520 York Road, Monterey, CA 93940

FORMAT: Four Person Scramble

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

BANQUET

2:00 - San Carlos Church Hall
 500 Church Street, Monterey, CA 93940
 No-host Cocktails

3:00 - Sumptuous Four Course Dinner

RAFFLE: There will be a raffle with stupendous prizes!

PRICE: Golfers: \$165 (includes hot buffet breakfast, 18 holes of golf with cart and banquet.) After July 17th, the price per golfer is \$180. Banquet only: \$45.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: JULY 17, 2015

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

SIGN UP:

Name _____	Handicap _____

Banquet only

Make check for total amount (\$165 per player plus \$45 per banquet guest), payable to the I.C.F. Golf Tournament, and send to the address below before the July 17th deadline.

Remember: \$180 per player after July 17th.

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



ICF, 8333 Capwell Drive, # 110, Oakland, CA 94621 - 888-423-1924 - FAX: (510) 633-8758 - Web Site: icf.org - E-mail: info@icf.org

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

If your Branch or District would like members of the Cooley's Anemia Team at Children's Hospital Oakland to come and speak at one of your meetings or special functions, please contact:

Laurice Levine, Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator
 (510) 428-3885 x 5427 or email: LLevine@mail.cho.org



Branch 358 celebrating Mimosa Sunday at our St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

Chicago

Calumet City

St. Victor, Br. 195

Condolences to 195 member Warren Cebulko on the recent death of his father, Fred Cebulko. Br. 195's new president, Mike Sawadski, has some exciting plans for 2015. He is in process of putting together a Committee to develop a Strategic Plan for both the short and long range future. Since we are very diverse (and we like being so), our Strategic Plan may put Spirituality first and Ethnicity second. Our focus will be to foster good physical, spiritual and emotional health by having professional speakers at our meetings covering various topics of interest to our members. He has many other interesting plans for us.

St. Victor Parish Transformation Team concluded the first phase of work on behalf of the parish. Our team worked with the Parish Transformation team from Our Lady of Knock Parish here in Calumet City. A Mission Action Plan was presented to Archdiocese. An Implementation Team has been established to follow through on the Action Plan. It has been gratifying and enlightening to work with the wonderful team from Our Lady of Knock. There are opportunities for us to work together.

Archbishop Blase Cupcich celebrated mass at St. Jude in South Holland for neighboring South Suburban Communities. Our Choir and many of our parishioners joined in this exceptional celebration.

God Bless

Jo Merlo,

Des Plaines

St. Zachary, Br. 441

Members, guests and parishioners enjoyed a festive Christmas Party on December 13th. Food was catered and the entertainment was fabulous --- an Elvis Impersonator, Will Devine. He sang all of Elvis' famous songs and interacted with the audience. The highlight of his performance was gifting Christmas Scarves to ladies in the audience.

The Italian Mass was celebrated by Father Feccia on Sunday, December 14th. On Sunday, December 28th, "Coffee And" was served after the 8:30am and 10:00am Masses. All parishioners are encouraged to partake of the refreshments.

As we begin 2015, may we continue the work of the ICF with the help of all of our dedicated members. Through the year, they have all contributed to the success of our fundraisers.

Rose Marie Berg

Fresno

Madera

Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

The January 13 meeting found us all well for the first dinner meeting of the year. Many thanks to the January committee: Chairman, Marilyn Rowe; and the committee members; Rosemary Dockery, Mary Contreras, Julian Rosales, Arthur Berryman, and Sally and Jim Bompreszi. The beef stroganoff, peas, salad and bread was just what we needed for a cold January night.

Members are getting ready for several fundraisers and are making preparations for the installation of officers to be held in Bakersfield.

Welcome to our new members: Jim Bompreszi, Dan Prosperi and Norma Fontana.

Past President Ada Cavallero just celebrated her 90th birthday. Happy Birthday, Ada!



Branch 27 Chaplin Sister Thomas Marie Heavy, new member Jim Bompreszi, and President Elsie Bottorff.



Branch 27 Chaplin Sister Thomas Marie Heavey, new members Dan Prosperi and Norma Fontana, President Elsie Bottorff.

Please remember to pray for our sick or injured members.

Ciao,

Kerin Cavallero

Fresno

Our Lady of Victory, Br. 32

We're off to a great start with new members, new officers, and a new chaplain. Tom Marschall organized our members for a Membership Drive Weekend in January. New administrators bring new rules. While not being able to speak to the congregation after mass, parishioners were greeted by the ICF with banners, information brochures, enticements, and excitement.

We are so happy to announce we have a new chaplain, Deacon Kurt Neuhaus. Deacon Kurt has already attended some meetings and has agreed to the challenge of being our chaplain. Welcome aboard, Deacon.

On February 20, the first Friday of Lent, Br. 32 hosted the Lenten Meal and led parishioners in the Stations of the Cross.

We sadly report our dear Louise Petrucelli was called to Heaven. Condolences to her loving family.

Richard Romagnoli was a late elected officer. He will fill in as Sentinel for Br. 32. Welcome aboard.

Please pray for our country and our military, our sick and infirmed, and the future of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Merced

St. Cecelia, Br. 39

Happy New Year to everyone. This new year, may we be blessed with peace all over the world. Let it begin with our branches, listening to each other, speak kind words to each other and be good examples as we walk through our journey of life with Pope Francis.

Our branch lost two very dedicated and loyal members, our Chaplain Father Frank Piro and Thomas Pollicita. These 2 men gave of their talent, time and resources to help others. They had a wonderful sense of humor. Father Frank worked diligently to set up classes for parishioners who wanted to learn more about the church. He was available to the pastor whenever need for Masses, weddings and baptisms. He was a great listener and always answered, sharing his amazing intelligence. Tom Pollicita never met a stranger. He was very dedicated to education for young people. After retiring from the role as principal, at the Colma middle school, they named the school after him. God bless these two special people.

Our polenta dinner is scheduled for March 25.



Branch 39 member Violet Twomey from her private party.

Tickets will be distributed and we hope you make every effort to sell them. We will have our wonderful raffle again. 25 wonderful prizes all with a value of \$50 or more. Mark your calendars:

2/22/15 -- District installation

3/11/15 -- Tridium dinner with Father Andrew

3/13/15 -- ICF Soup Night at St. Patrick's Parish.

3/15/15 -- ICF St. Joseph's Table meal St. Patricks.

2/25/15 -- ICF Polenta dinner at the Italo American Hall.

We will invite the members of the Newman Club from UC Merced to join us for our St. Joseph's Day meal.

Our prayers for Carol Salmeri's mother, Caroline Sgarletta, who passed away at the age of 92. May she rest in peace. Remember to visit our members who are in retirement centers or nursing homes. A smile or hug can go a long way to brighten a day.

Clovis

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Branch 250 is looking forward to the District Installation this month. It will take place in Bakersfield. We always have a wonderful time visiting with friends from other branches in our District.

Mary Zanmarini was the "Cheer Team" for her daughter, Alyssa, who ran the half marathon (13.1 miles) at Disneyland on January 18.

Angelo and LeAnne Lavagnino were blessed with their first great grandchild. Little Ethan Philip Laughlin was born January 13. (Great Grandpa was pushing for the name, Luigi.)

Your reporter is a little late with the following two articles, but thought it too newsworthy to not print them: 1) Our youngest member, Vincent Rodriguez (8 yrs old), joined the Garden Club at his elementary school and will now help care for the school garden each week; and

2) Jenny Campopiano had a wonderful time in Pasadena at the St. Philip's Annual Parish School Festival. Her two grandsons are in the 6th and 8th grades at St. Philip's. Jenny's daughter, Joan, was Festival Chairperson.

We need to keep Lena Daddino, Vince Jura, Colleen Maze and Beverly Travis in our prayers.



Members of Branch 250 who took CPR Training to learn to use the defibrillator in the Parish Hall.

We're looking forward to when they are able to be back with us again.

Our birthday celebrants this month are; Mark Budd (3/3), Kathy Christensen (3/15) and Nicole Squeo (3/14). Have a Happy Birthday!

These things I warmly wish for you: Someone to love, some work to do, a bit o' sun, a bit o' cheer, And a guardian angel always near. (Irish Blessing)

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Ciao!

LeAnne Lavagnino

Bakersfield

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281

As we begin to prepare for the Lenten season, we are continuing with our branch activities. We had a delicious pancake breakfast and the Moles Team did a lot of work to make this another successful event.

Our annual Parish Mardi Gras event was a day packed with fun for all. ICF Games of Chance Chairperson George Carson and his workers are to be thanked for a job well done. Our Branch President and Mardi Gras Chairperson, Deborah Leary, demonstrated much passion for the event and spread the ICF spirit to all who attended. It was a great day of fellowship, games, and shopping for treasures at Grandma's Attic. There were many things to do, and it was all thanks to the hard work and willing help of volunteers.

Thanks to the members who were able to attend the Fresno District Installation held at our church, OLPH. The officers are excited to start their duties for the New Year.

Our next meeting, March 12, will be Branch 281's 42nd Anniversary of service to our church. The menu will include a steak dinner cooked by Leonard Zasoski for only \$10. Please check the monthly newsletter for menu options and reservation details.

With Lent, our parish will start their annual Fish Fry Dinners hosted by the Knights of Columbus—ICF will host adult beverages, Women's Guild will host desserts, and Boy Scouts will sell soft drinks. Before the dinner, Stations of the Cross will take place at 5:30pm; this is a good time to spend time with friends for a spiritual evening and delicious dinner.

Don't forget our Pasta Dinner on Palm Sunday, March 29!

Please keep Michael Passaglia's mother, Sira, Rosena Todahl, and Marian Zasoski and their families in your prayers.

Baci e abbracci,

Kristen Watts

Fresno

St. Anthony, Br. 308

I hope all of you had a Happy Valentine's Day, President's Day

and prayerful Ash Wednesday. Our Branch 308 had a wonderful February Dinner Meeting with spare ribs as the main entree prepared by Joanne De Benedetto and Bernie Squeo with delicious side dishes and desserts prepared by each member in attendance.

President Antoinette reminded us of the Lenten Meals that our branch will be serving the next six Fridays from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. There will be Fish & Chips, Linguini & Clams, Manhattan Clam Chowder, Penne with Salmon & Creme Sauce and our Vegetable Lasagna Dinners. All of the meals include a salad, bread, butter, beverage, and dessert. Friday, Feb. 20 was our first Lenten Dinner beginning with the Manhattan Clam Chowder.

Those of you who haven't received a copy of the schedule for the year please let Antoinette know.

If you are not sure when your membership is due, check with Susan. Please pay them as soon as possible.

The Officer's Installation was Sunday, February 22 in Bakersfield. The slate of Officers are the following:

President - Antoinette Pecora

1st Vice President - Patricia Faragia

2nd Vice President - Jay Newsome

Corresponding Secretary - Carolyn Romersa

Recording Secretary - Maria E. Juarez~Garcia

Financial Sec./Treasurer - Susan Mencarini

Sentinel - Alex J. Garcia

Orator - Angelo Pecora

1st Trustee - Larry Pricolo

2nd Trustee - Tim Solipasso

3rd Trustee - Bernie Squeo

Branch Dep. Rep. - Flora De Pasquale

ICF Chaplain - Father Bert Mello

Mark Your Calendar: Wed. March 11 Dinner Meeting will

be Corn Beef & Cabbage and Sat., May 9, the Bocce Tournament and Picnic-

-We are still looking for a chairperson for the Bocce Tournament to be

in charge of signing up teams of four. On May 13 Dinner Meeting will be

Tri-tip and rice pilaf;

Please pray for our ill members, in therapy, or having surgery and for their caregivers.

Birthday Wishes go out to Tobias Fortunato (Feb. 3), Patricia Faragia (Feb.13), Maria E. Juarez~Garcia (Feb. 14), Kathleen Demas (Feb.15), Jay Newsome (Feb.19), Suzanne Swanson (Feb. 24), and Ed Toste (Feb. 20).

May you have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Maria E. Juarez~Garcia

Los Angeles

Archdiocese District

Los Angeles Region

On February 8, 2015 the Mother Cabrini Open House was hosted by the Los Angeles Region. Many ICF Members along with Parishioners from Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church visited the Chapel and Library after the ICF LAADC Installation the the Parish Hall.

On February 8 Officers of the ICF Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council and the 18 Branches in the District were installed by the ICF Central Council in the Parish Hall of Saint Francis Xavier Church in Burbank. Congratulations to all District and Branch officers new and returning for taking on the leadership positions in this amazing organization. Grand President Bob Basuino congratulates and gives the San Fernando Region a Certificate of Merit for 100% Scholarship Participation in 2014 then congratulates and gives a Certificate of Merit for 100% Apostolic/Charity Report Participation for 2014 to the Santa Barbara/Ventura Region. District President Carmelo Sabatella gave the ICF Grand President Bob Basuino and eight Central Council Members a Mother Cabrini Coffee Mug as a souvenir of this incredible event with an invitation to visit the Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library. All nine CC Members visited the Mother Cabrini Chapel and prayed to Mother Cabrini for guidance and strength to lead ICF in 2015.

Don't miss March 15th in La Canada! Our Archdiocese Director, Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuotti has recently asked Branch 374 to invite all District Branches to join him at Saint Bede the Venerable Church in La Canada on March 15 as he hosts a Special Traditional Italian Procession and Communion Sunday Mass celebrating Saint Joseph Day at 11:00am followed by a Luncheon in the Parish Hall. Monsignor is a gifted and inspirational speaker and will be preparing his very own pasta sauce. We are blessed to have him.

The next Mother Cabrini Open House is scheduled on April 12, 2015 from 9:00 to 12:00am prior to the ICF Cabrini Chapel Committee Meeting in the Chapel Library from 12:00 to 2:00pm at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Burbank. Contact 626 372-7812 for a copy of the 2015 Open House Schedule. All Branches are encouraged to include the Mother Cabrini Open House in their respective Church Bulletins.

Thank you ICF Members, families and friends for your support of the ICF and its related events. Prayers go out to those Members and parishioners who have gone to their eternal reward and to the sick members, family, friends and Community Members for a speedy recovery and especially to those who recently passed to their eternal reward.

Please remember our brothers and sisters of our armed services in your prayers to keep them out of harm's way.

May God bless and keep you healthy "per cento anni!"

Carmelo Sabatella, President

Email: cas1810@aol.com



SAVE THE DATES:

Calendar of Events: Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library, 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA

April 12 - Open House 9:00am to 12:00pm hosted by the San Fernando Valley Region.

April 12 - ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 12:00pm.

June 7 - Open House 9:00am to 1:00pm hosted by San Gabriel Valley Region.

June 7 - ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 1:00pm.

Sept. 13 - Open House 9:00am to 1:00pm hosted by Santa Barbara/Ventura Region.

Sept. 13 - ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 1:00pm.

Nov. 8 - Open House 9:00am to 1:00pm hosted by the Burbank Knights of Columbus.

Nov. 8 - ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee meeting at 1:00pm.

December 6 - Mother Cabrini Mass (12:30pm) followed by Pilgrimage to Chapel and Lunch in the Parish Hall.

Note: Groups may schedule visit to Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library by contacting Carmelo Sabatella at 626 372-7812.

Save The Dates:

March 15, 2015 - Our Archdiocese Director, Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuotti has recently asked Branch 374 to invite all District Branches to join him at Saint Bede the Venerable Church in La Canada on March 15 as he hosts a Special Traditional Italian Procession and Communion Sunday Mass celebrating Saint Joseph Day at 11:00am followed by a Luncheon in the Parish Hall. Monsignor is a gifted and inspirational speaker and cook who will be preparing his very own pasta sauce for this event. You don't want to miss this.

April 12, 2015 - Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House at Saint Francis Xavier Church at 3801 Scott Road in Burbank from 9:00am to 12:00 pm hosted by the ICF San Fernando Valley Region. ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Committee meeting in Library from 12:00pm to 2:00pm.

May 9, 2015 - LAADC Board Meeting at Holy Family Church, So Pasadena from 9:00 to 11:30 am hosted by Branch 108.

May 30, 2015 - LAADC General Meeting at Saint Cornelius Church, Long Beach from 9:00am to 11:30am by Branch 440.



The LA District gave Mother Cabrini mugs to Central Council Members at the installation.



San Fernando Region received a Certificate for 100% Scholarship Participation from the Grand President at the installation.



Santa Barbara/Ventura Regio received a Certificate of Merit for 100% Apostolic Charity Participation.

South Pasadena

Holy Family, Br. 108

Congratulations to the new and returning Officers of the 2015 ICF Branch 108 Board recently installed in Burbank at Saint Francis Xavier Church Thank you members and Parishioners for making the 12th Annual Wine Tasting Event on February 7th a success! Over 140 guests, including 12 staff and eight Vintners enjoyed this special event. Thank you to Co-Chairs Christy Shaw and Gina Sabatella for coordinating an excellent program again this year. A special thank you to ICF Grand President Bob Basuino and the three Central Council Members and the many Holy Family parishioners for your support and enthusiasm while learning more about the art of winemaking from local producers. And thank you to members and friends of ICF who helped staff this event.

At the last General Meeting on February 1,



Members, parishioners and Central Council members enjoyed the Branch 108 12th Annual Wine Tasting Event.



San Pedro

St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

Fifty of our branch members and friends have returned from a Las Vegas outing safe and sound. Thanks to Pauline Iacono and Neal Dileva for all the hard work they put into making these trips so memorable for us.

Thanks to Carmela Gioiello for organizing our potluck on Feb. 19. We all had a good time and plenty of delicious food. At this meeting we finalized our plans for our upcoming annual crab dinner dance which took place on March 7. Also discussed was the Lenten Meal our branch will be hosting on March 13 after the 5:15pm mass. Please join us as we share a poor man's meal consisting of Pasta Fagioli, fish fillet, salad and bread.

Neal also announced that the doors to the Mother Cabrini Museum need repair. To raise money for the refurbishing the doors a raffle drawing is taking place. \$25.00 will buy you a chance to win \$200.00 with 12 chances to win. Please call Neal for tickets. (310) 433-1044

Please join us on April 19 at 6:30pm Italian Mass as we honor Madonna Del Arco. Please bring flowers to be present to our Lady.

Also announced was the deadline for High School seniors to apply for the ICF scholarship. Please call Neal Dileva for information and applications. (310) 433-1044.

Upcoming events

March 26th Day trip to San Manuel Casino \$23.00 per person ICF members will receive a \$3.00 discount Call Pauline Iacono for reservation and info (310) 832-0563.

April 20-22 Laughlin Trip 2 nites 3 days stay at the Aquarius Casino Price \$120.00 per person double occupancy \$155.00 single occupancy. ICF members will receive \$5.00 discount. Please call Pauline Iacono for reservations (310) 8320563.

Thank you members, families and friends for your support of the ICF and its related events. Happy Easter to all. May God bless and keep you healthy

Anita Gioiello Trujillo Treasurer



San Pedro Branch 115 attended the 2015 officers Los Angeles District installation on Sunday, February 8 at Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini Church in Burbank. Mass at 10:30am followed by installation and luncheon. Branch officers present: Neal and Anna Di Leva, Frank Colonna, Nancy Ventimiglia, Nancy Donato, Pauline Iacono, Carmela Gioiello, Nicolina Mattera, Frank Amalfitano, Robert Hohman and Mary Cigliano.



Branch 237 President Connie Bohannon and grandson John Roa at LA District installation.

Gardena

St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 237

Our Branch President, Connie Bohannon represented our group at the recent LA Archdiocese District installation. She was accompanied by Rose Moore, special events coordinator and grandson Johnny Roa. He was quite the hit with the ladies from host Branch 102.

We recently took a bus load of happy gamblers to a local casino for a day of fun and good fortune. This is a fund raiser and an enjoyable way to add to our scholarship fund.

March 22, we will host Coffee and Donuts for our Parish and have a recruitment opportunity. Wish us well!

Next month we will be going to Laughlin for our annual 3 day trip. This is one of our major fundraisers and is a favorite of our Parish.

Happy St. Joseph's Day and St. Patrick's day to all. How can we make the forty days of lent a time of true conversion that lasts well beyond Easter?

Respectfully,

Micheal Bohannon-Roa

San Gabriel Valley Region

Arcadia

Holy Angels, Br. 218

A huge thanks to all that helped with the pancake breakfast, especially Scott Carrano and John Curley, the co-chairs. All the profit goes directly to Holy Angels School.

The St. Joseph's Table is almost here – March 20 – start setting up, 21st – finish setting up. The Table will be blessed after the 5:00 mass and will be on display that evening, with the pasta dinners being served. On Sunday, the Table will be on display from 8:00 to 3:00 with dinners being served until 3:00. Please bring any donations to the hall on Saturday or early Sunday. If you wish to help, contact Karen and she will guide you to one of the leaders in each category. This is our main fundraiser for the year, so let's all work together to make it the huge success that it always has been.

Everyone is aware of the circumstances of our president, JoAnn. She's a fighter, but we all need to keep her in our prayers and hope that she will be back with us soon.

Lolly M.

Diamond Bar

St. Denis, Br. 317

03/07 - Pastoral Leadership Award Dinner/Dance

03/13 – Lenten Soup and General Meeting

03/16 - Board Meeting

On January 20, our dear member, Clarisa Campos passed away. Everyone was in disbelief and apparently the cause was heart failure. She was loved by our members and many at St. Denis. The ICF branch 317 prepared a beautiful luncheon for attendees of her funeral on January 31. The vigil was on Friday, January 30 at 7:30pm. Viewing Clarisa was difficult, however, I must emphasize she appeared as a child. Youthful, serene, and at peace as if she was welcomed in the arms of Jesus and Mary. We shall miss her, but we are grateful we shared the time, even though it was brief.

We shall begin our Cannoli fundraiser on March 1. Please sign up for the presales.

On March 13 we will have a Lenten soup meal and General Meeting. More details in the March Newsletter.

Thank you to Barbara and Randy for hosting the delicious February Valentine Dinner on February 13. Also, thank you to Mary for the beautiful decorating of the tables.

God Bless,

Roxanne Perry

Temple City

St. Luke, Br. 326

Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all of our members!

Our next General Meeting will be held on March 25, 2015 at 7:30pm. Dessert and coffee will be served at 6:30pm.

Our quarterly Mass will be held on March 15 at the 8:30am. Mass. Breakfast to follow at Coco's on Baldwin in Arcadia.

There will be no April meeting due to St. Luke's Fiesta.

Also, just a reminder that our Pancake Breakfast will be on June 7, 2015. Pre-sale tickets will take place in May. Please support your branch and help make this a successful fundraiser.

Please continue to keep all of our ill members in your prayers, especially: Anne Dandrea, Roberta Nangelo, Mary Jacobs, Eva Arrighi, Herminia Saez, Eleanor Cuneo, and Ann Primising. And, let's not forget to pray for our deceased members.

Happy March Birthday: Salma Bishara and John Peretto.

Happy Anniversary to: Frances and Frank Scorsone (43 years).

"I choose to walk friendship's path with those who know me best, for we share life's precious moments, and everyone is blessed. We celebrate the happy days and dry each other's tears, as the road keeps winding upward throughout the passing years. Every life is a stepping stone for those who come behind, For when we need that special hug, It's never hard to find. (Clay Harrison)

God Bless,

Jo Anne Disney

San Fernando Valley Region

Burbank

Santa Maria Goretti, Br. 102

Our first meeting was well attended and new officers were voted in:

Chaplin: Rev. Benny George

President: Bert Gallagher

1st Vice President: Bernie Baima

2nd Vice President: Phil Bartus

Recording Secretary: Melanie Bellomo

Corresponding Secretary: Delores Baima

Treasurer: Kristine Kaiser

Orator: Dottie LaMacchia



Members of Branch 380 celebrating La Befana and its 30th year anniversary.

Trustees: Dina Tomei, Mary Massucci, Wilma Bartus

Deputy: Bernie Baima

We are now a smaller branch but we are determined to keep our branch alive, thanks to our young members who keep us seniors on our toes.

Lent will soon be upon us and our ladies will be preparing their delicious soups for our parish soup suppers each Wednesday evening during Lent.

Sadly we mourn the passing of Clara Letrick. May her soul and all our dearly departed members rest in peace.

Until our next meeting, March 14 in Cabrini Hall.

May God's blessing be upon each of you.

Ciao,

Dina Tomei

Santa Barbara/Ventura Region

Thousand Oaks

St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380

Our January meeting was a celebration of our members. Our meeting included a visit from La Befana, aka Branch 380 member Margherita Aufmuth, who stopped by for a visit and passed out small gifts to each child. Board Members provided homemade soup for dinner in appreciation of our members. We recognized that our branch is celebrating its 30th year anniversary and called up our charter members to thank them for starting Branch 380 in Thousand Oaks. We shared special cake, too.

Preparations for our 29th annual St. Joseph Day Celebration have begun. St. Joseph's Day is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we encourage all of our members to get involved to make this a spectacular event this year!

Were looking forward to a great year at the ICF.

Ciao,



Jean Fontana Bridges

Corresponding Secretary

Monterey

Santa Cruz

N.S. Del Soccorso, Br. 21

Ah, Spring, wonderful Spring! Leo Tolstoy once said: "Spring is the time for plans and projects." And when we look at our Branch 21 event calendar, we see many plans and projects in the making. On Sunday, March 22, we will have our annual St. Joseph's Day Dinner at Holy Cross Hall. There will be the traditional spaghetti and meatball dinner; our wonderful bread and dessert table; and beautiful raffle prizes. In May, on the 5th or Cinco de Mayo, our General Meeting will be extra special with a Mexican style dinner. Then later in May, on Friday the 15th, we plan to have our annual Spring Event. And, by the time you get this Bollettino, our annual Valentine's Dinner Dance will have happened and I'm sure the zippy dance band music, the luscious menu of Italian style short ribs and Fettuccini Alfredo, and the camaraderie of members and guests all made for a wonderful evening. As always, we need to thank the hardworking and generous members and volunteers who helped make this evening a success.

On a sad note, we would like to send good thoughts and prayers to the families of our Branch 21 members who have recently passed. They are: Erma Dalbesio, Emily Cress, and Charles Kirksey. We know they are at home now with Our Lord.

Finally, I must say, our General Meetings have had such a nice turn out of old and new faces. Our membership is growing and new President, Richard Puccinelli and other Board Members



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FD-995



SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

are eager to continue to make our Branch vital and fun. We hope that you will join us at these meetings which are always held at Holy Cross Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm; except for June, that is, when the meeting will take place on the 3rd Tuesday, June 16.

In closing, a happy note for all you gardeners out there, past and present: "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." [Margaret Atwood](#)

Patty Morelli

Secretary Branch 21

Salinas

Nostra Signora Del Sasso, Br. 25

It is with a sad heart that we report the death of Emil Mirandette, one of our most active and respected members. Emil was a member of the ICF for almost 30 years and actively supported the branch all that time. He was always the voice of caution and reason in our deliberations and his guidance and experience are sorely missed. God Bless Him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lorraine.

It is scholarship time once again. If you know someone worthy of a scholarship, contact a branch officer or go to icf.org web site for requirements and application forms. Applications must be in by March 15, 2015.

As noted, our Polenta Luncheon was a great success, netting \$3,698.80, including over \$450 in bake sales. We are thankful for branch members who worked so hard, and to non-members who helped so much. Food donations came from Joe Massolo (wine), Salinas Mushroom, Inc, Green Gate (lettuce), Star Market (Polenta) and Kathy Bullene (Gourds for decorating). Great job everyone!

Lenten Season is here again as are the Friday night fish dinners at Madonna del Sasso. A number of members work on food preparation and serving. Help if you can, but attend in any event and enjoy a great meal with friends and neighbors.

Remember: You are dust and to dust you shall return.

Dates to remember:

August 2, 2015 District Picnic at J&M Ranch

Ciao

Monterey

Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

Lenten dinners are going strong, keep volunteering and bringing a dessert each week, our dinner guests love desserts, and we want to keep them happy, and it is only six weeks.

The money we make from Lenten dinners go to San Carlos Church, maintenance of the Parish Hall, Loaves and Fishes, scholarships, and many charities.

Sunday, March 15, 2015, is St. Joseph Celebration. Mass will be at San Carlos Cathedral at 2:00 p.m. Dinner/Dance at San Carlos Parish Hall following Mass. Great music by Anthony Lane Band and Mike Marotta Jr.. Dinner prepared by Celebrity Chefs Gaspar Catanzaro and Vito Spadaro, and Chefs Eddie Leonard, P.J. Curatolo and Crew. All reservations must be pre-paid by March 8, 2015. Make checks payable to I.C.F. Br. #36 and mail to: Mary Manuguerra, 4 Antelope Lane, Monterey, CA. 93940. Price is Adults, \$25.00 - Children 6-12 \$10.00. If you need any more information please call Mary, (831) 375-2009, or Beatrice Bonanno, (831) 649-3216.

If you bake bread please bring some for St. Joseph's Table.

This day is always beautiful, I am looking forward to it.

Calendar:

March 6 - 3rd Lenten Dinner

March 13 - 4th Lenten Dinner



Branch 291 enjoyed a presentation made by guest speaker Police Chief Steve Annibaldi at a recent General Meeting. Pictured L-R: Top row – Pete and Abby Gallagher, Sandy and Jerry Quintiliani. Seated – Zorka Draeger, Joanna Van Blaricom, Deborah Annibaldi and Chief Steve Annibaldi.

March 15 - St. Joseph Celebration

March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - 5th Lenten Dinner

March 27 - 6th Lenten Dinner

We have so many members who are ill, please pray for them.

No love more perfect than God's love,

No gift more perfect than the gift of prayer.

Peace be with you,

Bettye Sollecito

Castroville

Santa Caterina da Siena, Br. 51

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

This past month our Branch has been busy with all the preparation for the annual Scholarship Fundraiser. At the January Pasta and General meeting, our Fundraiser Chairperson, Ashley Stefani, had a sign-up sheet for the various areas we needed help. By the end of the evening all the areas were covered. We have great members that work well together, and for that I am grateful.

Later this month (March 19) is our Branch's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This year our celebration falls on St. Joseph's Day. We always like to prepare our St. Joseph's table in honor of his special day.

January was a difficult month for many of the people of Castroville as many longtime residents passed away. Mike and John Bellone, Pat Bissett, Joe Jiminez, Albina Boggiatto, Nick Haro and Marvin Sarmiento all passed away in January. Although they were not I.C.F. members, they were friends and members of our small community for many years. We pray for their souls.

A reminder to Branch 51 members if you have not paid your dues please mail them as soon as possible.

To our members who live out of the area, Gina Candiloro, Bruna Del Chairro, Virginia Frassetto and Thelma Sbarra, we miss you and you are in our thoughts and hearts always.

As we continue on our Lenten Journey, let us remember our sacrifices are small, our Lord gave everything for us.

Ciao,

Leonora Barlow



Pacific Grove

St. Angela Merici, Br. 206

Several of the officers and Members will be attending the Central Coast District Installation of Officers on February 28 at Sacred Heart Church in Salinas. Everyone will enjoy the celebration hosted by that Branch.

Our regular meeting on March 13 will be cancelled due to a conflict with the Church's lenten soup supper in the Hall. All the members are encouraged to attend this fun event.

The Members were asked to continue to pray for any Members and their families who are ill.

God Bless!

Marjorie McClure, Recording Secretary

Capitola

St. Joseph, Br. 227

Our Fish Frys are off to a great start. Thanks to all who volunteered to help and be sure to check in with Coordinator Ellen Pauly prior to your shift, so you can get credit for working. Dinner of calamari, baked fish or fried fish is \$12 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5 through 10, and children under five eat free. The rate for a family of two adults and two or more children under 10 is \$30. The dinners are every Friday during Lent.

Love must have been in the air in February many years ago because several of our members celebrated very special anniversaries. It's 67 years for Ken and Kay Waldvogel, 60 years for Ted and Jeanne Day, and 50 years for Angelo and

Rita DeBernardo. Congratulations!

Speaking of Rita, thanks to her and her crew of Bruce and Jean Dunne and Gary and Janice Podesto for fixing polenta dinner at our recent meeting under difficult circumstances when the power went out due to the rainstorm.

Special recognition goes to Liz and Mike Rios for taking charge of coffee and donuts after mass when it is ICF's turn to do so.

Many thanks to Salinas Branch 25 for hosting the Central Coast Installation of Officers on February 28. The rib eye steak dinner was certainly a treat.

Dan Casagrande has put together the schedule of cooks for the year, but needs help for the meetings of September, November and December. Please contact him if you can pitch in.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande

St. Patrick, Br. 291

Our Lenten Fish Frys are underway! Branch 291 has three fish frys remaining on March 6, 20th and 27th. Our February fish frys have been very well attended, and our wonderful, hardworking crew makes the whole process run smoothly, plus we have a lot of fun!

At a recent General Meeting we had a special guest speaker—Arroyo Grande Police Chief Steve Annibaldi. Chief Annibaldi gave an informative and entertaining presentation and brought us up-to-speed on the Arroyo Grande Police Department remodel. Chief Annibaldi and his wife, Deborah, were our dinner guests at the meeting as well. Thank you to Joanna Van Blaricom for making all the arrangements for Chief Annibaldi to attend our meeting as our guest speaker and dinner guest!

Please continue to keep in prayer Sr. Carol Carter, Dianne Clees, Tim Dutra, Annette Grimaud, Stevie Hall, Jean & Emil Minicucci, James and Marjorie Rodarte, Joe Slavin, Lorraine Spargo, Sonia & Jens Wagner, Delfina Zarate, Mary Ann Zogata and all members of ICF and their families who may be experiencing pain or heartache.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Keely Sanchez

Recording Secretary

**Oakland
East Bay**

District Council

We began the new year on a sad note with the closing of one of the Oakland branches, St. Theresa, Br. 223. Hopefully most of you have been able to find other branches to join, if not there are always some with the welcoming mat still out there.

A BIG thank you to all who helped make the crab feed such a huge success. The hors d'oeuvre

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table was always busy, dinner was outstanding and some how we still had room for a refreshing dessert. And then there were the over the top raffle prizes and a card game by Michael Stantich to increase our coffers.

Our next big function will be Bishop's Day with Contra Costa county on March 1 at St Isadore's parish in Danville. Mass is at 4pm with dinner following in the parish hall. Let's plan to attend as a group.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 and will be with us until Easter Sunday, April 5th. Lots of time to improve our faith life and be of service to others. Along with prayer this is what the C in ICF is all about.

Now we may be Italian, but we can still celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the best of them. So take a tiny break and enjoy the Irish food and merriment!

Happy St. Paddy's Day,

Pat Grasso, Secretary

Alameda

Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

We hosted our annual Polenta Dinner on Saturday evening, January 31, in Monsignor O'Brien Hall in Alameda. We had moved the date around somewhat so that the event would not conflict with other activities. Still, a sellout crowd of 100 was present to enjoy an outstanding dinner of salad, polenta with chicken, mixed vegetables and ice cream prepared by chef and Branch 10 member Ben Ratto.

Monsignor O'Brien Hall came alive again just six nights later for the East Bay District Crab Feed on the evening of Friday, February 6. Over 200 persons travelled through the rain to attend this major yearly event. Jeanette Zugnoni prepared two baseball-themed gift baskets as our contribution to the raffle. The usual corps of several other leaders of Branch 10 helped in setting-up, decorating and staffing the dinner in our 90-year-old meeting place.

Our Lenten Fish Fry's started on February 20, the Friday after Ash Wednesday, and continue through March 27, the Friday before Palm Sunday. The simple dinner follows Stations of the Cross at Saint Philip Neri Church, which begin at 6:30 p.m. Prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for young persons 12 and under. Reservations are not necessary for the Fish Fry's.

The next major Branch 10 dinner will be our annual Irish Social, on Saturday, March 14. The doors to Monsignor O'Brien Hall will open for the social hour at 6:00 p.m., and the traditional dinner of corned beef and cabbage will be served at 7:00. From year to year, the Irish Social is likely the most popular event on the branch's social calendar. Prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$12.00 for guests 12 and under. For additional information and reservations, please contact Jeanette Zugnoni, (510) 523-8005.

Five nights after the Irish Social, on Thursday evening, March 19, we will hold our annual Saint Joseph's Table. Cost is \$10.00 for children and \$15.00 for adults. Guests are requested to bring desserts to be shared by others in attendance, and reservations will not be necessary. Maria Croft will prepare the meal. Michael Marcheschi will chair the event and can be reached at (510) 523-4720.

Monsignor O'Brien Hall is located at High Street and Van Buren Street, Alameda, about 1 1/2 miles from the High Street exit off Interstate 880 in Oakland. Parking is available in the adjacent schoolyard and in the surrounding residential area (we seems to be alright with our neighbors). We always look forward to seeing new, "mainland" faces at ICF functions in our island city of Alameda.

John Zugnoni

Livermore

St. Filomena, Br. 285

Branch 285's Bingo Bash, held on February 21, was lots of fun! And, a BIG "thank you" to all who organized, worked, attended and enjoyed the evening which benefited Children's Hospital/Cooley's Anemia.

The Stations of the Cross will be led by our branch on Friday, March 6, at 7pm at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton. We hope that many of our members will participate in this Lenten tradition.

Our next branch meeting, Friday, March 20, 6:30pm at St. Michael's Hall in Livermore, will be a Lenten pot luck and will feature a St. Joseph's Table organized by Rosie Dickie. Please bring non-perishable food for the needy in our area. Marie Timmer will speak to us about the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Italian opera singer, Enrico Caruso, who was there. Everyone will enjoy this!

We learned recently that Catherine Cate, a long-time member of Branch 285, passed away in January, at a nursing home in San Jose. She was 93, a member of St. Michael's parish and fondly remembered by many of us. May God rest her soul.

Twenty three members have expressed interest in playing bocce on a regular basis. Don Merucci is researching courts, times and costs. If you are interested in playing but haven't signed up yet, please call Don at 925-846-8436.

Clear your calendar for Branch 285's Primavera Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 2, at St. Michael's Hall in Livermore! Our major fundraiser for the year offers a very nice evening of food, fellowship, dancing to great music, and lots of raffle prizes! More information next month!

Ciao,

Mary Merucci

Castro Valley

Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Well Christmas in January is not such a bad thing, it makes the holidays last longer. But now it is back to real time. Hope all had a great Valentine's day and were able to enjoy our "early celebration" at our Polenta, chicken and sausage dinner.

With Lent beginning so early this year, Feb.18, it is once again time to think about ways we can be of service to others. Our March dinner will again have a St. Joseph's table for the purchase of desserts, the proceeds will be contributed St. Vincent de Paul at Transfiguration church. Our branch will also be providing the final Soup Meal of Lent on March 25 at OLG. See, there are lots of ways to be of service.

Bishop's Day will be at St. Isadore's church in Danville on March 1, hopefully we will have a large turnout. Dinner will follow in the parish hall.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all Irish and those who wish to be Irish.

From your non-Irish secretary,

Pat Grasso

Contra Costa

District Council

The District is very grateful to the Officers and Members of Branch 214 in Concord for hosting the 2015 Installation of Officers. Special thanks go to Roberta Healy, David Bota, Michael Cannady and Patty Jarrett for their extra efforts in making this event so successful. Many thanks also to Roselynn Jarrett for her work and for representing our Central Council Grand President and for performing the Installation. The atmosphere and food at the La Veranda restaurant in Clayton was very good, along with a beautiful day.

The ICF Contra Costa and East Bay Districts



Officers and members from Branch 14 , Crockett at the District Installation in Concord.



Members from Branch 14 ,Crockett at a branch Communion and Breakfast day at St Rose church .

celebrated annual Bishop's Day honoring the Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ on Sunday, March 1st 2015. I will give a more thorough report of this event in the April issue.

Our next District Meeting will be on Thursday, April 23 at St. Isidore's in Danville. There will be no meeting in March.

Best wishes for a Happy Birthday to our members born in March. May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

We will soon be in the Lenten season.

Hurtful things wrinkle the heart--forgiveness puts it back into shape.

Wishing you a profitable Lent

Joann

Crockett

San Carlo, Br. 14

Yes, it really is Lent already. And I'm still finding Christmas sparkles on my floor!

March 10 is our St. Joseph Table meeting, so there

is no mass, but there is a Blessing of Tables at 6:00 (note time change), followed by a meatless pasta dinner. Please bring a meatless dish to share, i.e., a torte, vegetable, salad, fruit, stuffed eggs, dessert, etc. The pasta is provided by the branch. This is an interesting, different dinner meeting that you will want to experience.

And speaking of dinners...our Polenta Dinner received rave reviews, and was as financially successful as usual. And now, 'tis shamrock time at Branch #14. Our Corned Beef Dinner is Saturday, March 14, and the fun begins at 6:30. Come share the luck, laughter and joy of the Irish with our fun-loving Irish members. Everyone is Irish in March, right?

The St. Rose Fish Fry is Friday, March 27. In addition to a delicious fish dinner, the real advantage of the Fish Fry is visiting with friends, because this is a fundraising event for the church that everyone attends. It's a kind of reunion for those who love eating great fish and visiting with friends.

An enthusiastic welcome to our newest members, Rich Dell Agostino, Allen Lira, and Reggie and Judy Pereira. So glad to have you!



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It's time to turn the page on so many illnesses lately. Sincere get will wishes to Aaron Cargo, Andrea DelSid, Lena McCrossen and David Townsend.

It's with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our members Marina Dell Agostino and Vince Ramos. Both were active members, loved by many; they will long be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to their families, especially Rich Dell Agostino and Lois Ramos.

With a tip of the hat to the Irish, we say, "May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks. May your heart be as light as a song. May each day bring you bright happy hours, that stay with you all the year long."

Ciao,

Diane Bottini Thomas

Pittsburg

San Domenico, Br. 72

In Jan. our officers attended the District Mass and Installation. This was hosted by the Concord Todos Santos branch and we thank them for a job well done. We were honored that Roselynn was asked by our Grand President to represent him that day.

At our Feb. meeting we had a Valentines party with a sweets potluck and raffle. We also shared stories of how we met our Valentines.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, March 1 -- Bishops day Mass and reception to be held at St. Isidore's church in Danville at 4: 30pm

Sunday, March 8- -- Meeting and St. Joseph's Table/St. Patrick's day party at 2pm. Soup and Salad lunch will be served.

Sunday, April 12 -- Meeting and lunch to be held at New Mecca in Pittsburg at 2

Thurs., April 23 -- District meeting in Danville at 7:30pm

Did you know that your children/grandchildren can join ICF under the family membership plan for just \$10.00 for the entire family?

Did you also know that ICF has a hospitalization plan that you can join for just \$25.00 a year? Ask Patty for details.

I am happy to report the recovery of two of our officers. Our second vice president Josie was ill and needed to be hospitalized. Our secretary Grace had a bad fall and was injured. Both ladies thank you for your prayers.

If you know of any other sick members contact Jane Russo. She is our sunshine chairperson and will gladly send a card on behalf of the branch.

See you soon.

Always remember,

Sempre Avanti

Patty

Richmond

St. Raymond, Br. 154

The February meeting opened with a Soup and Salad dinner, prepared by Walter Costa and Toni Reeder. Delicious as always! We hosted two guests from district, Donna Hoffman and David Botta. Their comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Walter Costa has agreed to take on the role of Heritage spokesman for our group. Thank you, Walter!

Jim Rampoli has offered to look into name tags for all members. These could be useful to use at convention and other ICF functions.

We welcomed three new members to our branch, they are: Teresa Graham, Alice Trevino and her son Zoomi.

Please respond before February 19th if you plan



Branch 154 celebrated the 80th birthday of Diana!

on attending Bishop's Day. The cost is \$25.00 and includes a Pork Loin dinner with Salad, Pasta and dessert. The date is March 1, 2015 at 4:30pm at St. Isadore's Church 440 La Gonda Way Danville.

Happy 80th Birthday to Diana De Simoni, our Sentinel. She was kind enough to bring a delicious birthday cake to share.

Mark your calendar for the next Polenta Dinner, on April 18 at St. Jerome's Parish Hall, Adults \$22.00, Children \$6.00. This is usually a sold out event so get your reservations in early at the next meeting.

Next meeting is March 09, 2015, 6pm mass followed by Corned Beef and Cabbage, \$12.00, reserve with Dee at 510-232-1387.

Don't forget dues are payable now! Annual dues are \$35.00 and Hospitalization is \$25.00. Make your check payable to the ICF and give your check to Lori Framsted.

Lorraine Acuña

Brentwood

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Br. 432

A belated Happy New Year to all. We've been a little remiss in getting our happenings out so we'll start with the end of 2014 and head into 2015.

We ended 2014 with a great Christmas dinner at Sweeny's, a local restaurant. With plenty of food and drink, a good time was had by all attendees.

Moving on into 2015, on January 17, we started the year off with the installation of our Branch Officers. In concert with the other Branches of the Contra Costa District, the installation was held at St. Agnes Church in Concord. After the installation of Officers, all of the Branches reconvened at La Veranda Cafe in Clayton: For what else, food, drink and an enjoyable time.

Congratulations to our new Officers for 2015:

Chaplin -- Deacon John Kortuem

President -- Gene Simonetti

First Vice President -- Philomena Sawko

Second Vice President -- Grace Grimes

Secretary -- Marilyn Simonetti

Treasurer -- Linda Kortuem

Orator -- Art Londres

Trustees -- Mary Webber, Frank Stagnitto, Jack Bagar

Sentinel -- Marie Modafferi

We held our first Branch meeting of the year on January 26 at Mountain Mike's Pizza. After pizza and beer, a great way to get ready for a meeting incidentally, we looked forward to the year ahead. The group was challenged by President Gene Simonetti to come up with another annual fund



Branch 379 - 4th of July Parade: (from left to right) Karen Paz, Greg Geraci, Maria Di Paolo, Lillian Campbell and Anthony Mattazaro in the 4th of July Parade in 2014.



(Above) Branch 379 - Brick: Branch 379's brick in Mary's Courtyard at St. Bonaventure Catholic School.

(Left) Branch 379 - Marys Courtyard: St. Bonaventure School is selling engraved bricks in its inner courtyard to increase its Endowment Fund.

raiser. Not an easy task but looked on with great enthusiasm by all.

May the coming year reward all with good health, good fellowship and much love.

la vita 'e bouna

Pleasant Hill

Christ the King, Br. 442

Thanks to all members who took part in planning, organizing and attending our Valentine's-themed February branch meeting and St. Joseph's Day March meeting (complete with a meatless potluck and St. Joseph's Novena).

Because of the branch's fundraising efforts, we were able to donate \$1,000 to the parish, two \$400 scholarships and \$350 toward Bishop's Day. The branch also donated two Italian-themed baskets with Italian pottery and cookbooks to the parish school auction. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make our fundraising events such a success!

Plans are well underway for our April 25 spring tea fundraiser from 11:30 to 2. It will feature authentic tea, scones, sandwiches and desserts. Tickets are \$25. For more details or to reserve a spot, email icfpleasanthill@aol.com. We are also planning a spring bocce ball event, so stay tuned for further details!

We wish everyone a blessed and joyous Easter.

Ciao!

Orange

Huntington Beach

St. Bonaventure, Br. 379

Branch 379 started the New Year with its traditional Holiday Party on January 18. Members held the January meeting and then enjoyed a pasta and salad dinner at Baci Restaurant in Huntington Beach. On January 25, members attended the Brick Dedication of Mary's Courtyard at St. Bonaventure Catholic School. Branch 379 purchased one of the first bricks placed in the courtyard; all proceeds benefit the school's Endowment Fund to support Catholic education of our youth. Also on the 25th, branch members helped with the Donut Ministry at St. Bonaventure, serving donuts, juice and coffee in the Hall after all morning masses.

The branch also suffered the loss of member Anthony Mattazaro in January. For the last two years, Anthony has driven his 1967 red convertible Mustang in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade with several officers of Branch 379, and he took much delight in participating in our nation's celebration and promoting the Italian Catholic Federation to the crowds. He also held an annual August summer BBQ at his home and invited all the members. Anthony's joy in life and jokes will be well-missed. We will cherish our fond memories of him.

Submitted by Karen Paz, President

Irvine**St. Thomas More, Br. 423**

Top o' the month to you! Wishing you all a very Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

President Mary Ann Profeta thanked Tom and Peggy Farrell for hosting the Christmas party in December. She also thanked Ann Volpe and Randy Profeta for making the ham dinner at January's meeting.

Treasurer Tom Farrell reminded everyone that dues are due. Membership fee is \$40 per person.

Bishop dinner and Installation of Officers plans are currently being made. More details to come.

The annual St. Joseph's Table will be held on March 21 and 22 at St. Thomas More Parish in Irvine. Mina Brooks and Lupe Montejano are co-chairs for the event. We will have a cupcake station, fresh sausage and meatball sandwiches, freshly made cannolis, Meal-In-A-Bag, and homemade delectables to choose from. Please bring your homemade baked goods and other delicious edibles to the event.

Next meeting will be on Friday, February 20.

Ciao,

Miranda Gibson

Reno

Reno**St. Albert, Br. 135**

Sunday, February 8 at St. Albert's Hall, 26 members and guests braved a rainy evening, which was a welcome relief to our very dry winter, and enjoyed Lasagne, fresh green beans, salad, garlic bread and Red Velvet cake prepared by Ron and Romi Frediani. Many thanks to the Fredianis for providing such terrific food.

It was reported that our member, Brother Matthew Cunningham recently had back surgery and was spending a few days in the hospital. Keep Br. Matthew in your prayers and we wish him a speedy recovery. We pray for God's healing touch for everyone who is sick.

Vonnie Ramos is lining up cooks for our meetings in May, October and November. Plan on volunteering to help cook for a meeting.

Vonnie Ramos gave a Heritage report on St. Valentine who was martyred on February 14th in the First century because he would not give up his Christian belief. He is the Patron Saint and protector of love, lovers, and happy marriage. She also explained the reasons why we receive ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday. The austerity of the Lenten season was seen as similar to how people in the Old Testament fasted and repented in sackcloth and ashes.

Our next meeting was moved to March 15th. Plan on attending as there is prospects of a delicious dinner of Corned Beef and Cabbage.

Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17 and Happy St. Joseph's Day, March 19.

Have a blessed Lenten Season

Charlyne Pacini

Sacramento

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

Hello from Branch 45

Time for our tasty Chicken and Polenta dinners to begin; the first one of the year will be on Sunday, March 22, with a branch meeting at 4:30pm and dinner at 6:00pm. Cost is \$12.00 for members and \$16.00 for non-members and guests. Make your reservation by calling Janine, 916-400-3283; please call by March 17. We invite all the branch 45 members to attend the meeting. Bring your ideas and opinions and let us know your

visions for 2015.

Upcoming in May will be Monte Carlo Games and Pasta Dinner Night to be held in Giovanni Hall on May 17. "CASINO 45" will feature a variety of games, Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Bingo, Bunco and Roulette with a cache of valuable prizes for the winners. The games will be followed by a delicious pasta dinner.

More information to come next month.

Buon Compleanno to Mindy Jung, our only March Birthday celebrant.

Dues are DUE! If you have any questions, contact Janine (916-400-3283) for more information.

See you all March 22 at our first dinner; we are looking forward to a busy and productive year.

Roseville**San Vito, Br. 73**

The officers of Branch 73 are the same as those who served last year; President, Robert Delpippo; Vice President, Bruno Novi; Treasurer, Marie Martin; Secretary, Jeanette Presti; Orator, Arlene Roe; Sentinel, Rosina Genessi; Trustees, Sherice Martin, Rosemarie Presti, Theresa Simone. On 24 January, four of these officers attended the Mass and Installation held at St. Clare's Church. These were followed by a very fine luncheon hosted by Branch 438.

It is the time if the year to again pay dues. These (\$34.00, plus \$25.00 if a member has hospitalization) may be paid at the meeting (the 17th of this month) or sent to Fred Terrio, 228 Skopas Court, Roseville 95661.

Buon compleanno e tante belle cose a tutti i soci della Sezione 73 nati nel mese di marzo.

Mark your calendars for 16 May, when Branch 73 will host its next dinner.

Robert Delpippo

Highlands**St. Lawrence the Martyr, Br. 236**

On Saturday, February 7, our general meeting was held at the Parish Center. Members enjoyed pizza, salad & dessert. Ten members were in attendance.

New for 2015 is a change to our monthly general meeting time from 12pm to 11am.

Congratulations to Natalie Malone who won the half and half drawing (finally)!

Joint Installation was held on Saturday, January 24 at St. Claire's Church in Roseville. Approximately 75 people attended. The Installation Ceremony was nice, the lunch was delicious and the event was an amazing success.

President Nina Malone will be meeting with Father Enrique to discuss the future of fundraising and the fiscal impact of not allowing organizations to have fundraisers has had on our small group.

Past President Dinner for Tina Flanders will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 5pm at the Thunder Valley Buffet.

Please continue to pray for our sick members and their families.

Belated Birthday wishes to Natalie Malone (January 10), Gloria Trapasso (January 21), Anita St. Denis (February 6), Josefina Stang (February 23rd), and Freida Mayers (February 27).

Happy Birthday to Pat Korf (March 6), Ann D'Antonio (March 15) and Virginia Becker (March 16).

Just another friendly reminder that annual membership dues are now payable.

Our next meeting will be held on March 11, 11am in the Parent Center. Hope to see everyone there.

Margie Burke

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

On Sunday, April 5, our branch will be hosting Hospitality Sunday at St. Teresa's Church. After the 8:00 and 10:30 masses, we serve refreshments to the parishoners and have a membership drive. If you can help out be either helping out after the masses or donating baked goods, please call Marisa at 889-2311. Thank you.

Please reserve Saturday May 16th on your calendars! We are very excitedly planning a Spring Luncheon at the Elks Lodge in Auburn. More details and ticket info will be sent out soon.

Pam Andersen

Bolletino Contributor

San Bernardino

Fontana**St. Joseph, Br. 210**

We had our February meeting on the 8th. It was a pretty good group. Our Substitute, Retired Priest, Father Pierre Stopped over to see what the ICF was all about. He Blessed our food and took a plate home. Since he is retired, our Bishop assigned him as Chaplain for Fontana Kaiser Hospital so he celebrates Mass occasionally at our Parish. Nan Judge did the decorations again, with a Valentine theme. At our meeting, we voted to fund another Scholarship this year and make a donation to Cooley's Anemia. Our Parish is participating in Pope Francis's Request for input for the Synod on "Marriage and Family" which will be held in October of this year. Our President encouraged anyone interested to participate. John Guerin, our Branch Deputy, informed us of the St. Joseph Celebration at his Branch on March

19th. Guest Speaker, Bradley James, will talk about his experiences working with (Mother) Saint Teresa of Calcutta. An Italian Dinner will be served prior to the speaker. After singing happy Birthday to members Angie Teal, Pat Grisafe and Pete Dente the Meeting closed at 3:45.

Have a blessed Easter Week God bless.

Jack Grisafe

Redlands**Sacred Heart, Br. 217**

On March 19, 2015 at 6:00pm, Branch 217 will be holding its second annual St. Joseph's Day Gala Dinner at The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community, 115 West Olive Avenue, Redlands, California. Our featured speaker is Bradley James, composer and performer. Bradley, a former choir director at Sacred Heart Church, will share his experiences working closely with Mother Teresa (now, St. Theresa of Calcutta) and the Missionaries of Charity for over a decade. Mother Teresa gave Bradley exclusive worldwide rights to write and record music to her words and prayers, and he will share some of his music with us that evening. He has worked with Mother and her Sisters in orphanages and AIDS care homes in Calcutta, Mexico, San Quentin and the South Bronx. Come and hear Bradley's beautiful voice and his inspiring stories of his wonderful experiences. A full course Italian meal will be served. Tickets are \$15.00 each. For tickets or more information, please call (909) 790-1553 or (909) 794-2244. Grazie!



The Italian Catholic Federation Branch 217
presents:
Bradley James



March 19, 2015
St. Joseph's Day Gala Dinner
The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community – Olive Hall
115 West Olive Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373
6:00 p.m. – Italian Dinner
5:30 p.m. - Gift Basket Raffle Opens
Tickets - \$15/person, in advance or at the door
Wine will be available for an additional charge.
Day Care will not be provided; Families are welcome.

Bradley James, composer and performer, will share his experiences working closely with Mother Teresa (now St. Teresa of Calcutta) for over a decade. Mother Teresa gave Bradley exclusive worldwide rights to write and record music to her words and prayers (his CDs also contain Mother Teresa's voice). Blessed with musical gifts and a heart formed by serving with Mother and her Missionaries of Charity in orphanages and AIDS care homes in Calcutta, Mexico, San Quentin, and the South Bronx, Bradley beautifully shares Mother Teresa's message of compassionate love with the world.

Bring your friends for an evening of hearty food and unforgettable music.

Please bring a sealed jar of pasta sauce and/or a package of dried pasta to further ICF's *Donare la Pasta* program to feed the hungry children of Redlands. *Grazie!*

For advanced ticket sales or information, please contact ICF:
909.790.1553 or 909.794.2244

4815-2245-8401.1



Branch 261 chefs relax after dinner.. Forrest Price '15 President; Don Chmiel '14 President..



Vera Covitt, Branch 261 Orator; and Rose Tallarida, Financial Secretary, at the branch picnic and Bocce Tournament..

San Diego

District Council

On Sunday, February 8, 2015, the Sa Diego I.C.F. District held its annual Joint Installation of Branch and District Officers at St. Therese Parish. The 11:00 a.m. mass was celebrated by Pastor and Branch Chaplain Reverend Michael Pham. Following mass, a luncheon, short program and the installation were held in the Social Center. A delicious luncheon was catered by Cupid's Catering. Grand 2nd Vice President, Andy Pappani conducted the installation and presented the Grand President's annual message. Master of Ceremonies was Forest Price, C.C. Emeritus. Chairpersons for the event were Christine (Chris) Murphy, San Diego District 1st Vice President and Prudence Price, District Trustee. Refreshments were handled by Jim Cardinal-Hill, S.D. District 2nd Vice President. Letters, program and hall decorations were prepared by Chris Murphy; the raffle was conducted by District Recording Secretary, Maria Tollefson, and District President Richard Barker, presented the district's message. Mary Alesi presented gifts to Andy and Silia Pappani. Maria Tollefson and Sherry Thurston were awarded certificates as deputies of the year during 2014. Life Member Emeritus and District orator, Jody Balestrieri, closed a happy and pleasant event with a prayer and the Federation Anthem.

For the photo on page 1 the persons in the picture from left to right are: Richard Barker, Jody Balestrieri, Andy Pappani, Maria Tollefson, Mary Alesi, and Forrest Price.

San Francisco

San Francisco

SS Immacolata, Br. 1

Just a few reminders. Our next District Council meeting will be on April 9, at the Taraval Police Station, at 6:00pm, and will be hosted by Branch 290.

Archbishop's Day, hosted this year by the San Mateo District, will be held on April 12. Mass and dinner will be in Millbrae.

Ann Basuino, Dist. Secty

San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

Can you believe that our ICF Branch 38 hasn't had a meeting yet in 2015? We were displaced of our meeting room (Parish Center) in January, and we haven't had our regular February meeting yet. Our 1st meeting this year will take place this coming Saturday, February 14 on Valentine's Day. We can hardly wait...we are so far behind in getting the year started!

However, our branch Scholarship Program has already received a High School student inquiring about, "How do I apply." Plus, the ICF Annual Dues notices and our branch Meetings and Events calendars have all been mailed out (thank you Madeline Torre for all you do from home). I also understand from Madeline that the dues are coming in nicely. Thank you members for being so prompt and thoughtful. So, I guess we can say we have actually started the New Year! Yeah!

Just a reminder: February 1, ICF Br. 38 was established 82 years ago. I used to think 82 years is a long time ago...now it doesn't seem that long! Congratulations to all the ICF branches who will be soon celebrating an anniversary.

Since we have a little more space in the Bollettino this month, I would also like to thank two very nice ladies that work for the ICF and take time to help us when necessary. I don't know you ladies personally, but Charlene Kramer when I phone you you're always so helpful and kind. You make everything seem easy. The other person is Michelle Feldman, Editor of the Bollettino, for being so patient with my lengthy articles. I don't when to stop writing or where to look on the computer...sorry (I promise to ask)!

Ci vediamo sabato, il 14 di marzo!

10:30am -- Officers' Meeting, 11:30am Regular Meeting in the PC, & 12:30 am Lunch

We're celebrating: Mardi Gras, St. Patrick, St. Joseph *details by phone.

Ciao!

Mara Amato

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

It is not too late to say: Felice Anno Nuovo to all our members and their families.

It was nice to see Bev at our Christmas lunch.

The District Pot Luck dinner on January 8 was nice.

Our Installation of Officers was held on January 11. We had about 80 in attendance. It as held at the Italian American Social Club and the lunch was very good. Many Grand Officers were in attendance, whom we always enjoy seeing.

We are sad to report that Silvio Scocca passed away on January 18, 2015. Silvio was a member of Br. 258 for 48 years. He was a Charter and Past President of 258. Silvio was an active member up until a few years ago. Silvio, you will be missed. May the Lord keep you in His care.

Please keep our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Please remember these dates:

Officers Meeting: March 2

Mass: March 22

Meeting: March 23

Ciao,

Eva Perata, President

San Francisco

Corpus Christi, Br. 290

Dear Friends,

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19. Please remember that all future meetings will begin with lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by our meeting. The only exception will be the June meeting, which will be held in the evening to accommodate the annual dinner in honor of the ICF scholarship winners.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who attended our Crab Feed on February 7. Many thanks to everyone who worked to make this event such a great success.

Just a reminder that our first Champagne- Bingo luncheon of the year is scheduled for Saturday, March 7. For the price of \$25, those in attendance will enjoy a delicious lunch and will receive a free Bingo packet. For reservations, please call Mary Rowe(415) 333-7939 or Joyce Nuti (415) 586-7879. Hope to see you there.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Branch 290 member, Joe Smith. May he rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord.

Please continue to pray for all members who are not feeling well.

Finally, Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our Irish friends. We join them in celebrating the feast of this great saint.

Ciao,

Jeannette

San Francisco

St. Cecilia, Br. 365

To quote our Branch President George, La vita e' bella. La Federazione muove avante. Quando abbiamo speranza, abbiamo direzione, con direzione e spirito, abbiamo successo.

Elena Kelly was initiated into Branch 365 at our last meeting. Welcome, Elena. We are very happy to have you with us.

We joined Lois Maher in celebrating her 90th. Lois doesn't look a day over 60. Perhaps she will divulge her secret of youth at our next meeting.

District President, Debbie Major, was our guest of the evening. She suggested that it might be a good idea if some of our branch members would look into visiting and speaking at nearby Middle Schools that teach the Italian Language. This could be part of our Heritage Program.

We have set our goals for the year. First, increase our membership by 10 people and second, have more fundraisers in order to increase the amount

in our treasury.

Constance Mertes is ill. Please keep her in your prayers.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8, Serra Room, regular meeting.

See you then and God Bless,

Ann Basuino, Secty

San Mateo

District Council

Greetings! Many thanks to Branch 403, St. Dunstan's, Millbrae for hosting the 2015 Installation and thanks to Dan Capodanno for coordinating it. It was a very wonderful and uplifting event. Congratulations to all the elected Officers. Thanks to Branch 163 for hosting the delicious and fun-filled Christmas Party for the District.

Mark your calendars:

Lenten Night of Recollection at Holy Angels, 107 San Pedro Road, Colma. Monday, March 23, 2015. Hosted by Branch 19. Refreshments to follow.

Thursday, March 26, 2015 District Meeting at 7:30pm, Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame. Hosted by Branch 130, St. Pius, Redwood City.

Sunday, April 12, 2015 Bishop's Day, 10:30am. Mass at All Soul's Church, Miller/Walnut Avenue, South San Francisco. Lunch to follow at the Basque Cultural Center, Railroad Ave., South San Francisco.

A motion was made and passed at the District meeting to give one 1st year scholarship in Memory of Al Teglia.

SAVE THE DATE: September 19, 2015 will be the District's 50th Anniversary celebration mass at 2:00pm at Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame followed by dinner at St. Dunstan's, Millbrae. Cost will be \$25.00. More information later.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Anne O'Brien

South San Francisco

Sacro Cuore, Br. 7

Our February business/dinner meeting was held on the 4th and we would like to thank Jim Eli, Tony Parenti and all of the helpers who prepared the outstanding Italian Sausage dinner.

The Crab Feed Fundraiser was held on Feb. 21, and over 75 guests enjoyed the delicious dinner prepared by Bill Mangini, Jim Eli, and Tony Parenti. Also, thanks to all for helping to make this a successful event.

Our March dinner meeting will be on the 4th, and we will be having Pasta Alla Bonanno".

Sam Bonanno will be our guest chef and you know he always does an outstanding job! We will also have our Corned beef and Cabbage fundraiser dinner on March 21.

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The business/dinner meeting for April will be on the 1st. So don't be an "April Fool" and plan to attend the meeting.

Just to give you a "heads up", we will have a Pedro Tournament in the month of May. The date is currently TBD (To be determined). Please contact Norma for more information, 650-583-3643.

May 6 will be our last business/dinner meeting as we take a break for the months of June and July. Our first meeting after the break will be August 5.

So until next time... a little thought to ponder. "The same boiling water that softens the potato, hardens the egg. It's not about the circumstance, but rather what you are made of"!

Sempre Avanti,

Laurie Masetti

Colma

San Vincenzo De Paoli, Br. 19

Hello Everyone!

Looking at the Branch schedule for the year, it looks like it will be an exciting and busy time. The Officers have put together a great year for the Branch and hope everyone will come and help be a part of it.

Thanks to Cheryl Simon and others for starting off with celebrating Valentine's Day by making Valentine favors for those in rest homes.

The Branch started off Lent with Soup Night hosted by Kathy Trevizo and staff by serving delicious soups. This "tradition" started many years back and is an annual favorite.

Again many thanks to the hard working crew who put together the Champagne Bingo. The food was great and there were many happy winners.

Branch Schedule:

March 9: 7:00pm - Branch 19 Holy Angels in Colma wishes to invite you to the District annual Lenten Night of Recollection. The evening's presenter will be Sister Leonarda Montealto O.P of Holy Angels School. Refreshments will follow. Make your reservation with Cheryl Simon 650-755-0878 or cas94015@yahoo.com.

March 23: Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner hosted by Donna Barnes. Reservations to Cheryl Simon 650-755-0878 or cas94015@yahoo.com. March 5.

May you enjoy the four greatest blessings: Honest work to occupy you. A hearty appetite to sustain you. A good woman/man to love you. And a wink from the God above.

N. Thurman

San Mateo

St. Matthew, Br. 163

Greetings! Can you believe that the Lenten Season is about to begin. Ash Wednesday is February 18th and soon after spring will follow. How time flies.

Thanks and congratulations again to our officers for running again and recently being installed at St. Dunstan's, Millbrae. Thanks to Branch 403 for hosting this wonderful event and for the delicious luncheon that followed.

Mark your calendars:

Thursday, March 12, 2015 – Soup supper. Come and enjoy delicious home made minestrone soup, so good on a cold March night. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Remember to bring your own soup bowl and spoon. Send check to Lena Venurelli at 33 13th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94402. Members: \$10.00 and non-members \$12.00.

Sunday, April 12, 2015 – Bishop's Day. 10:30 a.m. mass at All Soul's Church, 315 Walnut Ave., So. San Francisco. Lunch will follow at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., So. San Francisco.

Please remember our ill members in your prayers.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! God Bless!

Anne O'Brien

Burlingame

Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

We are starting out the year with our pizza and bingo meeting this month and looking forward to a fun and prosperous year. We have a Rummage sale on our agenda, a Ravioli Dinner, a Branch Picnic and maybe a bus trip to one of the casinos.

Also, Saturday, February 28 we have our semi-annual Communion Mass 5:00pm at our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Redwood City. Refreshments to follow. Please try to attend as a lot of effort goes into planning for the event.

For the month of March (12) we will be celebrating St. Joseph's Table and President Dorene Campanile will chair along with a potluck provided by our members.

March 22, 2015 we will be celebrating Mass and Brunch with our Millbrae Branch 403. Details for above events will be discussed at our February meeting.

Please keep Linda Mustachia who is recovering from hip surgery and John Watterson who will be having back surgery in your prayers.

God Bless,

Rosalind C. Emery

Millbrae

St. Dunstan, Br. 403

March 8 - Our 25th Anniversary will be celebrated in our Parish Center with no-host cocktails at 4:00pm and dinner at 5:00pm. A gourmet chicken dinner with all the trimmings will be served for \$25 per person. For reservations, due by March 3, 2015, mail check payable to ICF #403 to Dan Capodanno, 325 San Jose, Millbrae, CA 94030.

March 19 - Our annual St. Joseph's Table pot luck dinner will take place in our Parish Center. This is a Sicilian Tradition of offering thanks to

St. Joseph for his intercession during a drought.

March 22 - This is our annual joint Communion Breakfast with our neighbor Branch 173, Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame. Mass at 8:30am followed by breakfast at the Terrace Cafe in Millbrae.

April 12 - Bishop's Day with Mass at 10:30 at All Soul's Church in So. San Francisco followed by lunch at the Basque Cultural Center.

Rose Marie Morando

Corresponding Secretary

San Carlos

St. Charles, Br. 327

Our January meeting was well attended and our meal was exceptional. Thank you to Dede Masters-Waters

for the wonderful chicken piccata dinner and the even more wonderful home-made tiramisu.

Coming in March: Saturday, March 7, 2015 is our 38th Anniversary Dinner. We are celebrating with our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner to be held in St. Charles Borromeo Hall, 890 Tamarack Avenue, San Carlos. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. For reservations contact Barbara Borra, 650-593-4118. (catered by Harry's Hofbrau) Reservation deadline is March 2.

Save the date: Bishop's Day is Sunday, April 12, 2015, 10:30am Mass at All Soul's Church, South San Francisco, followed by lunch at the Basque Cultural Center.

Everyone should have received their bill for annual dues in the February newsletter. They are now due. Please remit payment to: Alma Brennan, 32 Chilton, San Carlos 94070.

KQED, channel 9/709 on Comcast, will be showing "The Italian Americans: La Famiglia" on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30pm.

Please keep Gayton DeRosa in your prayers. Get well soon, Gayton.

And on a sad note we lost two of our members this past month: Allan Porter and my brother-in-law, Bob Andreozzi. Our condolences to their families and may they rest in peace. They will be missed.

Ciao,

Virginia Malaspina

Marin

Larkspur

St. James, Br. 161

We would like to thank the Grand President, Robert Basuino and the Past Grand President, David Botta for installing the new officers of St. James Branch 161.

The new officers are:

President – Marlene Farber

First Vice President – Jeanne Asdourian

Second Vice President – Phyllis Rybensky

Recording Secretary – Anna Biggio

Corresponding and Financial Secretary – Mary Onetti

Treasurer – Catherine Biggio

Orator – Theresa Rosser

Trustees – Lucia Della Santina, Doris Warner-Mulligan, Guy Francoz

Sentinel – Diane Hollister

The Crab Dinner was very successful thanks to Debbie Ghiringhelli Catering. Also thanks to Guy Francoz for the table arrangements, Ed Leon (Monte's Chapel of the Hills) for the bar, Lorraine and Romolo Iavarone and Marlene Farber for the wine. Also thanks to everyone who donated money for the wonderful raffle baskets.

At our February meeting we had a speaker Nora Thompson who is Director of Matrix, a resource

center for parents with special needs children talk to the group.

Our next meeting will be March 17, the guest speaker that night will be Laurice Levine.

Upcoming events: April 12 – San Francisco District Bishop's Day

Our get-well wishes for a speedy recovery to all of you who aren't feeling well.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Easter.

Buona Pasqua a tutti!

See you next month,

Ciao,

Anna Biggio

San Jose

Santa Clara Valley

District Council

Denise Antonowiz continues to sparkle as she gaveled the SCV District meeting to order at the February District meeting. Host Branch 408 President Ric Shimshock with some of his branch members prepared the meeting room and served up refreshments.

Branch 4 Holy Cross and Branch 5 Santa Clara 5 planning a combined celebration of 90 years. Branch 28 confirmed 185 paid members and a Polenta Dinner on March 7. Branch 191 - Jim Jones sadly reported the passing of Yolanda Nails and Frank Bausino (Central Council Presidents' father). He invited everyone to the dinner dance "Under the Big Top" and that a carnival theme was emphasized especially for children. Branch 391 confirmed 155 paid members and celebrated their 20th Valentines Dinner Dance, Feb. 7. Branch 408 completed a successful Blood Drive and start of Lenten Soup Nights. Branch 435, Andy Pappani said they are planning a St. Joseph's day.

Fr. George underscored the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation being promoted by the Diocese of San Jose at all of the Catholic Churches during Lent this year. The series will run every week, every Wednesday. The series aims at equipping all the lay faithful with tools for their own spiritual health and the spiritual health of others.

Our Lady of Peace Mass – 11 am, June 14

Mike Nunziata

San Jose

Holy Cross, Br. 4

The Installation of Officers Mass was beautiful. Fr. George Arana officiated.

Officers for 2015 are hoping for a good year.

Each of us, as members, should do our best to help out and insure our fundraisers are successful.

Bring your family members and friends. These functions are what keep our Branch going.

We are now in the period of Lent. This is the perfect time to reflect on our personal and spiritual lives, and reaffirm our faith.

Have you paid your dues? Bring them to the meeting or mail them to Connie Barretta.

Thanks to those who purchased a calendar. All of our allotment were sold!

March 4- Mardi Gras fundraiser. Pasta Bar, Salad bar and More. Donation \$25.00

Feb 21- Santa Clara Valley District is hosting a day of recollection at Santa Teresa Church. 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Morning hospitality and lunch. Suggested donation \$10.00. Father George presiding.

April 1- Dinner meeting- Phone Committee will call.

Remember to pray for our sick members. A phone



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call or card will brighten their days.

Our deepest sympathy to our Grand President Bob Basuino and family on the death of the beloved Father, Frank. All of us that knew Frank will miss him. May he rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord.

“May your Faith be Greater than your Years”

Blessings to all,

Ann Fitzgerald

Gilroy

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

A large thank you to all those who helped with our Polenta dinner on March 7. Especially our wonderful chef Andy Pappani and his crew of hard working cooks.

Our spring scholarship breakfast will be on April 12. Remember this is a fundraiser for the scholarship program, and we give out 5 scholarships a year to High School graduates and St. Mary 8th grade graduates and one 2nd year graduate. So we need your support. Please come to our breakfast and bring friends and family.

Please note: The April dinner meeting is on April 20. Roger placed the wrong date in his newsletter. The calling committee will be calling you.

Please keep our sick and homebound members in your prayers.

Ciao,

Anna Barberi

Los Gatos

St. Mary, Br. 184

Like our President Denise likes to say, “Our Branch is small but we are mighty.” As we get ready for our next dinner dance, I want to tell you that we gave out \$12,032.72 in Charitable donations. They were given mainly to Scholarships, Cooley’s Anemia Research, Gifts of Love and Sacred Heart, in addition to other entities. That is the information that fuels us to work on “fundraising” projects. And, I might say “fun raising” as well! BENVENUTO, or WELCOME, to our Italian Trattoria, this year’s theme. On March 21 our loyal cooks and servers are preparing Polenta with Chicken Cacciatore. No host cocktails served at 6 P.M. and dinner served at 7pm. Dance to the live music of Reno di Bono in Howley Hall’s Trattoria. Please call Donna Pfaff at (408) 265 7902 for tickets and/or information. If possible, please bring an unwrapped layette item in size 0 to 6 months for the Diocese Layette program. Grazie a tutti!

Sunday, March 15 is the date for our next Quarterly Mass, at 7:30am. Join us at the Hickory Pit on Campbell Avenue after Mass for breakfast.

March also brings us St. Patrick’s Day, St. Joseph’s Day and Palm Sunday. This year seems to be off to a flying start. Let’s make sure we find time to pray for our friends and family, and to remember our loved ones who are no longer

with us. May the hope of the Resurrection be with all of you.

Peace, Lucy Amico

P.S. Our next meeting is March 12 at 7pm. All members and guests are welcomed.

San Jose

St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

WOW!! New President, new board, new Chaplain, New Deputy, New Year. Jo Bertaccini took over the reign as President at our last meeting and did a magnificent job. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year. Thank you to our Chaplain Father Paolo Gobbo and Deputy Joan Delfino, wife of CC Member Emeritus and District Deputy Jerry Delfino for your dedication and being there for us.

We were saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Past President, long time member, Frank Basuino, Father of our Grand President, Bob Basuino. The funeral Mass was beautiful with a special honor guard initiated by branch 191 members, a procession, and Father Chris Bennett as the Main Celebrant with ICF Spiritual Director Msgr. Dan Cardelli, Santa Clara District Chaplain, Father George Aranha and Branch 191 Chaplain, Father Paolo Gobbo Concelebrating. Goodbye Dear Friend. God Bless you and we will miss you.

Our Spring Polenta and Chicken Cacciatore Dance will be held March 7 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in San Jose. The theme will be “Under the Big Top” and promises to be a lot of fun. Debbie Piro (Vince Piro’s Sister) and Jaime Portillo will head up this dinner dance. Bring your entire family, especially your Grandchildren for carnival games, Balloon Lady, and Face Painting. I heard that Janice Jones, wife of Past Grand President Jim Jones is having her face painted. I may join her.

Happy New year to all the Branches in the Federation.

Jim Jones

PGP Emeritus

San Jose

St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

The evening started off with Penne in a meat sauce, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and valentine cookies for dinner and dessert.

Our new Chaplin, Fr. Abe, updated the branch on St. Martin’s Capital Campaign and the status of renovations. He said that the ICF member’s faith is contagious to the rest of St. Martin’s community.

Bob Osorio filled-in as deputy. He spoke in his relationship with many of the chair members and thanked them for their service. He also said we should be proud that our branch provides many scholarship opportunities and donations to charities!

John Lencioni thanked everyone for his

scholarship. He is putting it to good use! If you know someone who is eligible for a branch scholarship, make sure you contact Sal Lipari before the deadline.

Louise Vento gave the heritage report on a book she recently read about immigrants coming into America through Elis Island. Russ Vento announced that we need #391 members to chair St. Martin’s station of the cross in March. Contact St. Martin’s office to fill this role.

Make sure you welcome our newest member, JoAnn Schiro, to Branch #391, who was initiated at February’s meeting.

Ciao,

Bianca Vallorz

Sunnyvale

Resurrection, Br. 408

As we begin our Lenten Journey to a Blessed Easter, we pary for God’s guidance.

Branch 408 hosted it first Quartely Communion Mass and Breakfast after the 8:30am Mass on January 25. The 8:30am Mass Intention on the 18th of January was held for Alice Fritsch – a long time member and supporter of ICF.

Our 2015 Kickoff ICF Blood drive was held on the 8th of February. We hosted over 45 Donors and recruited one new member to ICF – congrats to Patricia Look, Violetta Daniels and MaryJoDimuccio.

Branch 408 will kick off the Parish Lenten Soup on Friday 20 February – We will need 10 soups for distribution to the Parish Community after the Stations of the Cross.

We look forward to the ICF/5th Grade PASTA Dinner to bve held on Sat March 14th.

Please remember to include our sick members in your prayers - especially for Monsignor Milani (who is walking now), Dori Blefari, Edith Novak, Al’s wife Syd, Carolyn O’Connor, Susie Quaglia, and Aldo Lucaratti.

Morgan Hill

Santa Caterina D’Alessandria, Br. 435

Last month our branch enjoyed a delicious meal of Polenta and chicken and sausage Cacciatore prepared by Jim Friebel and Syd Pappani. Thank you both for a wonderful feast.

Our next dinner meeting will be held a week earlier on Feb. 12, instead of the 19th. We will be having roasted chicken with stuffing, salad, bread and apple pie with ice cream. By the time you receive this in the Bolletino our dinner meeting will be over.

The Saint Joseph table will be held on March 21st with a collaboration project of the ICF and St Catherine’s Middle school Ministry. Everyone is welcome.

A special thank you goes out to Gail Wess, who did such a wonderful and creative way of doing our flyers for our dinner meetings. Gail went above and beyond the call of duty, besides being



Dante Coretta of Branch 18 presenting the President’s Award to Doreen O’Rourke.

our treasurer she put a great effort into making them so cute and original. Thanks Gail, we all appreciate your hard work.

Our branch is having our quarterly Mass on March 15 at the 10:30 Mass and following Mass we will be doing hospitality with doughnuts and coffee. Please try to join us.

Our prayers have been answered with the rain situation, let’s hope it continues, we certainly need more.

Keep in your prayers, the homeless, the needy and all the sick in our parish.

Donna Basilin

Santa Rosa

Napa

San Giuseppe, Br. 12

Our Branch attended the District Installation in Cloverdale on January 31. The District President’s Awards were presented. We are very happy that our 2nd VP Ken Marshall was awarded this Award. Ken has been an involved member of ICF in our Branch, a Branch Deputy to Petaluma Branch and is District Sentinel. His family attended the day too. We served a Chinese dinner at the monthly Developmentally Disabled Christian Ministry dinner meeting. It is so rewarding to be with these wonderful people.

Pauline Seago prepared a delicious chicken cacciatore dinner for our February meeting. An Irish dinner is planned for our March dinner meeting.

Our sympathy is extended to Gloria Garibaldi on the passing of her beloved husband William in January. He joined our Branch in 1976.

Ciao,

Juliann

Healdsburg

San Francesco Di Sales, Br. 52

Congratulations to our new members! At our January Polenta Dinner, we initiated 46 new

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
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Catholic Cemeteries... A Legacy of Faith



Saint Rose Branch 18 members at the officer installation in Cloverdale.



Youth Installation -- Branch 75, Cloverdale's youth group that served at the Santa Rosa District Installation.

members, 19 of whom are children. Welcome to Branch 52.

Upcoming Events:

March 3: Branch Meeting, 7 pm at the Rectory.

March 27: Our 1st Annual Fish Fry. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Please come and support the branch at this new event. Price: \$20.00 for adults. \$10.00 for children 6 – 12, under 5, free. Reservations are a must by calling Mary Madden 431-0438, Nancy Seppi 433-4708, or Karla Lippincott 237-1308.

We will also be hosting one of the Lenten Soup Suppers at Church. Please read the Church Bulletin to see which night.

In honor of Dad, Mary and Monica - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Lauren Kilcullen

Sonoma

St. Sebastian, Br. 103

President Margo Kosta and the officers of the Branch unanimously agreed to host a Bingo/ Champagne and Dessert party on Sunday, April 10 at the Seven Flags Club House, 1400 W. Watmaugh Rd., Sonoma, from 2-4 p.m. SAVE THAT DATE! Proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund of the Branch. For reservations, and price, please call Lila Boragno at 996-3448.

For directions call 996-9660 or consult Google maps and/or your GPS.

Since Father Roberts' Hall at St. Francis Solano Church is still under repair, the Branch has decided to have a potluck dinner on its regular meeting night of March 10 at the Seven Flags Club House. Members are asked to consult the Branch's monthly newsletter for more details. For reservations, call Lila at 996-3448.

Saluti,

Marie-Therese Denning

Petaluma

St. Vincent, Br. 127

Greetings from Petaluma!

Well we've gone from stormy skies and heavy rain to a most beautiful day today. Isn't God good to us. We should take advantage of the beauty of the winter season. We can take off and go to the mountains with all the beauty of the snow or take off to the beaches and watch the pounding waves as they hit the beaches or we can just stay home, turn on the gas fireplace, read a good book or watch a little television. We are all so lucky living in Petaluma, where at least we are not shoveling a lot of snow as they are back east and midwest.

Our thanks go to the Cloverdale Branch for the lovely day and dinner we had for the Installation. Glad to see that they are increasing their



Showing the wacky side of Br. 52 with our 2nd Annual Crazy Hat Contest. Even District President Dante Corsetti and Jackie Corsetti got into the fun.

membership and doing so well.

Our spaghettata dinner was great. We want to thank Denise DiGirolamo and Sharon Hromek for chairing the event. Denise made the sauce and everything was delicious. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to all who helped in any way.

I will give a report on the Crab Feed which is on February 21st in the next Bollettino.

We will be having our Quarterly Communion Mass for living and deceased members on Saturday, March 21st at 5:00 p.m., St. James Church, followed by the St. Joseph's Table Dinner in the Church Hall. Everyone who has attended a St. Joseph Table dinner knows how great it is and how good the food is. Cost is \$20 Adults \$10 Children under 12 yrs. Sharon Cresci is Chairperson and will need help to prepare for the dinner. For reservations call: Spence - 763-9082 or Louise - 769-7389.

March/April/May: Bakeless Bake Sale

April 13th: Regular Meeting

Welcome to our new members Madeline and Bob.

Get well wishes to Frank Cresci and to those members who are ill. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary wishes to those celebrating this month.

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

Ciao,

Louise Vicino

Arcata

St. Mary, Br. 144

Congratulations to our new officers installed in Eureka at a lovely dinner and evening hosted by Br 145. Our Anniversary will be celebrated on Apr. 18, beginning with 5:30 Mass at St. Mary's, followed by a Social hour and Dinner in Leavy Hall.

Barbara Vanni and Rosemary Melendy are planning our Meager Meal for March 6. Call them if you want to help. Larry DePeel and Mike DalPorto are in charge of our St. Joseph's Table for March 21 and 22. We would like a large display of goodies.....Plan ahead. Jacquie Aseltine and Marie LaBanca are in charge of the District Christmas Raffle tickets. Please support this project. Linda Spallino to gather the donations for the Raffle Basket.

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Elsie Pialorsi. Please pray for our ill: Kenneth David,



The newest members of Branch 52, Healdsburg, were initiated at their Polenta Dinner.



Laurice Levine accepts a \$4000 donation from Br. 52 President Nancy Seppi for Cooley's Anemia.



At a recent Central Council meeting in San Jose CC Member Marco Galeazzi, Grand President Bob Bausino, and CC Life Member Dante Galeazzi.



Photos taken at the Branch 390 January dinner meeting - captions are as follows left to right top row:

Joe Bacchetti cooking polenta, Mike Bacchetti in the kitchen, Eileen Morri and Pat Reeves.

left to right bottom row:

Anthony and Nance Jaques, Arvene and Jim Rinaldo; Annette Elissagaray and Lucy Orsi; William Ridolfi and Dante Galeazzi.

Lena DalPorto, Doris DeLashmutt, and Brantly Hemenez. Happy Birthday Joan DalPorto and Loretta Speziali.

How is your Lent progressing? Are you succeeding with your intensions to givr up something and/or adding a special "project" as a Lenten sacrifice? If you feel you've been a little lax...oh well! Our Lord still loves you. ep trying and be grateful all of the Graces, and things he does for us. Blessed Holy Week and Easter!!!

Ciao,

Linda

Eureka

St. Ambrose, Br. 145

Congratulations to all of our newly installed officers! They are as following: Joe Bonino, President; Vice President, Elise Furse; Recording Secretary, Marian Griffin; Duane David, Treasurer; Nancy Bruner, Financial Secretary; Orator, Suanna Rowell; Sentinel, Greg Griffin; Trustees are Gary Paoli, Lora Canzonieri, and Greg Griffin. Thank you for accepting these offices.

The new Eureka officers and the new Arcata Branch officers were also installed at our January 17 dinner. Thank you to Bob and Kathy Aquistapace for coming to Eureka to install all of the new officers. Also thank you to Joe and Julie and all who helped them prepare our dinner.

During our January 9th meeting we initiated members Mary and Ken Griffin. Congratulations to you both! Also at the same meeting Betty Senestraro introduced new members Marian and Ron DiMino. Welcome to you both.

New dates for your calendar are April 18th, our anniversary dinner, and of course February 10 for our next meeting, please plan to attend.

Remember to keep all our members and families in your prayers, especially those who are recovering from illness,

Many Blessings to you all

Santa Rosa

St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Brothers & Sisters

As we near the end of the Lenten season lets make sure that we stress the Catholic side of the Italian Catholic Federation.

End the 40 days with a special Mass remembrance for all the I.C.F. members who have gone before us marked with the sign of Faith.

Remember them on Good Friday and celebrate with your family members on Easter Sunday.

Mark Bisio is our new Trustee and we thank him

for accepting the job.

The Prime Rib & Pasta Fundraiser is on April 18th in the Becker Center with Mass at 4:30pm, cocktails at 5:45pm and dinner at 6:15pm.

The tickets are available from Clair Giampaoli (539-1443) for \$ 20.00, remember the ticket includes cocktails and dinner with wine.

Please remember our members who are ill or in need of our prayers. Especially Marie Lagomarsino, RoseAnne Sikes, Ezio Mangiantini and Caroline Vittelini.

Buona Pasqua a Tutti,

Lorraine Castelli

Sebastopol

St. Michael, Br. 209

Congratulations, once again, to our 2015 Branch 209 Officers!! The Installation of Officers was held on January 31 and hosted by Cloverdale Branch 75.

Our February meeting featured a "GIFTS OF LOVE" fundraiser. Pizza, Caesar Salad and Ice Cream Sundaes were served. A donation of \$5/ member was dedicated to the fundraiser.

By the time you read this article, Branch #209 will have hosted their February 21 Chicken & Polenta Dinner. No doubt it was our usual success. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped in any way.

Friday, March 13th is the date of our upcoming Fish Fry. This is a very popular event, so if you want tickets, please call ahead. Lona Bertoli (707-527-1021) will be taking reservations.

Please remember that dues are now payable - \$32.80/member. Please pay at the meeting or mail your check to: Gerrie Goin, 1883 Paradise Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Upcoming:

March 13 -- Fish Fry – 6:30pm – St. Sebastian’s Parish Hall

April 7 -- 6 pm – Board Meeting

April 14 -- 6 pm – Regular Meeting

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!!

Lona Bertoli

Stockton

District Council

Bishop’s Day is Saturday, March 28. Let’s show our support to Most Reverend Stephen Blaire at this annual event being held at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, 1200 Maze Blvd. Modesto. Mass begins at 12 noon with a dinner reception immediately following mass. The pork loin dinner is \$25/person, \$12.50 for children under 12. Call Ida Queirolo for your reservation by March 21. (209) 982-5710. Bishop Blaire will be presented checks from Central Council, Stockton District, and various Stockton District Branches to educate seminarians. A spiritual bouquet consisting of masses, communions, rosaries and special intentions, will also be presented.

The next District meeting will be May 3 at Church of the Presentation in Stockton. Mark your calendars. More details in the April edition.

Keep praying for rain.

Karen Rosson

Modesto

St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

This will be a very busy month for our branch beginning with our St. Joseph’s Table Celebration. It will be March 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm. It will be in the hall at 7th and K Streets. It is a potluck so bring your favorite dish, you family and friends and join us. The potluck always brings some of the best food. We will have our fun raffle after lunch, the proceeds of which go to St. Vincent De Paul.

Next will be the Stockton District Bishop’s Burse Saturday March 28, 2015 starting with mass at 12:00 noon at the new church at 1200 Maze Blvd. A social hour and a pork loin Luncheon will follow at the community center next door. Bring your family and friends and invite your parishioners to attend also.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sunday

March 1, 2015 and April 5, 2015 at the 8:00 am at the Maze Blvd. Church

Coming up:

Mar 11 - 7:00 pm - Meeting St. Stanislaus Hall 7 & K Streets Modesto

Mar 15 – 2:00 pm St. Joseph’s Table Stanislaus Hall 7 & K Streets Modesto

Mar 28 - Bishop’s Dinner Mass 1200 Maze Blvd – Dinner Community Center

April 8 – 7:00 pm – Meeting St. Stanislaus Hall 7 & K Streets Modesto

Cecelia McGhee

Manteca

Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

Because of a crew of hard-working volunteer cooks, working with donated ingredients and under the direction of Past Branch President

Anna Mello, we had a very successful biscotti sale before the holidays. Then came an excellent Christmas party hosted by Chef Tony at Cucina Queirolo.

This was followed by an active January. Branch President Frank Re organized a social at Angelino’s Restaurant where couples spent the evening playing Pedro. New members were taught the rules of the game and a good time was had by all. Light refreshments were served.

We are already planning for our annual “All You Can Eat” Shrimp Dinner. Chair Ida Queirolo has set the date for May 2. Funds raised from this dinner, as well as from the sold-out biscotti sales, will be donated to the Bishop’s Burse and for scholarships.

Our Branch meetings continue to be well-attended, there being 34 present at our January gathering.

Tracy

St. Bernard, Br. 390

Happy to report new members are joining

Branch 390 just when we anticipated our numbers declining. Next month we will hold an initiation of these new members. February's monthly dinner meeting attendees were served Italian Roasted Chicken, Penne Pasta, Italian Green Beans, salad, and dessert prepared by our baking-specialist members. Annette Elissagary, our scholarship committee chairwoman, is gathering special spa basket prizes for our annual scholarship drive which has become a huge success. Tickets are being sold now with the drawing held at our monthly dinner meeting, Italian Heritage Night, on April 28th. Steve Ridolfi has taken over the reigns for this larger-than-life heritage celebration.

On Sunday, February 15, Tracy Branch 390 hosted the Stockton District meeting in Father Fleming Hall at St. Bernard's Church. The tasty menu consisted of Italian Breaded Chicken, Pasta Alfredo, Asparagus, Tossed Green Salad. A wide assortment of deserts finished off this gourmet meal. Lots of raffle prizes added to the fun of this event as well. On March 28th our branch members will be attending the Bishop's Burse celebration at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto for Bishop's Day Mass and lunch.

More sad mentions here regarding losses during the past month. Assunta Gaia, who was a charter member of our branch, passed away on January 14, 2015 at the age of 99. She was born May 5, 1915 in San Clemente, Italy, married Eugenio Gaia in 1950 and moved here in 1952. Assunta loved to garden and cook and happily shared many personal recipes with members. Our 2nd VP Alena Chappell is her granddaughter. Our branch family members also lost their father, Frank Bacchetti, 76, on January 21. He was the father of our fabulous cooking duo of Michael and Joe Bacchetti, and their sister Claudia. We send our heartfelt condolences to both of their families.

Ciao for now,

Betty Hollars

Stockton

Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

Branch 395 is very busy with the final planning of our annual Polenta/Chicken Cacciatore Dinner to be held on Thursday, February 12. We are also preparing for lent and our branch will facilitate the Stations of the Cross and soup supper on March 20 with homemade soups made by our wonderful cooks! Our branch will also have a booth at the upcoming Festa Italiana to be held this year in Lodi in May. Upcoming events:

March 12 – Thursday, Branch meeting - 6:00 pm

March 28 – Saturday – Bishop's Burse – Modesto hosting

May 3 Sunday – District meeting – Our branch to host, 1:30 Guadalupe Hall

May 31 Sunday Festa Italiana in Lodi

Many blessings.

Ciao,

Josephine Weber, President

Angels Camp

St. Patrick, Br. 413

Hello again from the Foothills of the Sierras. We have been a bit out of touch as we have many folks out ill. We hope to see them back at our meetings soon. We have a need for prayers for all of our members but in particular; Amy and Ron Schmid and Lorin and Pat Ramorini. Please remember them in your prayers.

Much thanks to our New President Annie Pachinger who conducted a great Feb meeting AND brought lunch for the group. We are off to a good start for the New Year. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 1 with lunch by Giovanni and Nancy Corsi. They have just transferred to our Branch from Br. 91 in Oakland. Special welcome to our newest member, Eddie Conrado!!!! We hope you will enjoy many years of fellowship

with the ICF.

Thank you all who helped make our Valentines Dinner Dance so much fun and a success. Great food and dance was enjoyed by all. Please join us every Friday during Lent for Soup or Pasta dinner, sponsored by our Branch, for the parish after Stations of the Cross which begin @ 4:30.

Ciao for Now!!!

Nancy Corsi

Tucson

Green Valley

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

Wow! We are still in the afterglow following the completion of another of our February Lasagna Dinner Fundraisers. We served nearly 400 meals, equally divided between sit-down and take out. We give thanks for hard work of more than two dozen members and friends.

We mourn the death of member Bill Dale following a stroke and a brief illness. His ready smile and quick wit will be missed. We seek ways to comfort Marilyn. More than forty members attended Bill's memorial mass and a goodly number journeyed to the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista to witness the burial with military honors. We are family.

Ten Branch 425 members spent a relaxing Saturday evening at a Branch 434 dinner dance fundraiser hosted by Mike and Donna Raffanti in memory of their deceased daughter. We are family.

Branch 425 is preparing to host Bishop's Day on Saturday, Feb. 21st with Tucson Branches 434 and 433 participating in the event. Undoubtedly we will "divvy up" a fair share of the Lasagna Dinner proceeds and we look forward to an informative and entertaining evening.

Most Sundays...some Branch 425 members...12 to 20 strong...gather after 9 AM mass...and proceed to a restaurant for breakfast. We are family.

Barbara Barton reporting.

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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 2014 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 2014 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, 2015. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

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

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

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2014. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

If you have any questions, or need help filing, please call the I.C.F. Office at 1-888-423-1924.

The Original **www.festa-italiana.com**



The Lodi Grape Festival and Harvest Fairgrounds

More Info:  **209.242.9970**

Sunday, May 31st, 2015
10 AM-6 PM

Bambini Zone ♥ Live Music ♥ Italian Dancers ♥ Bocce ♥ Italian Vendors
And of course **AWESOME LOCAL ITALIAN FOOD!**



Las Vegas, Get Ready for the ICF!

The Annual Italian Catholic Federation Convention will be here before you know it, and this year, it will take place in Las Vegas.

According to Wikipedia here are some things to see and do, aside from hitting the casinos.

To See:

Aquarium @ The Mirage. There is an impressive aquarium behind the check-in counter and a dolphin habitat. Not Free.

The Adventuredome at Circus Circus. America's largest indoor theme park with 25 rides and attractions for all ages. Individual tickets or all day ride passes are available.

The Auto Collections @ The Quad, 3535 S Las Vegas Blvd, [11]. Originally an auto museum at the Imperial Palace, The Auto Collections became the largest classic car showroom in 2000, selling, buying and trading more than 200 fully restored cars ranging in price from \$15,000.00 to several million. The collections spans 125,000 square feet and every car is one-of-a-kind.

BODIES... the Exhibition @ Luxor, 3900 S Las Vegas Blvd. 10:00am-10:00pm. The Exhibition showcases 13 whole-body specimens and more than 260 organs and partial body specimens. These real human bodies have been meticulously dissected, preserved through an innovative process. The bodies are respectfully presented, giving visitors the opportunity to view the beauty and complexity of their own organs and systems. The Exhibition provides an up-close look inside our skeletal, muscular, respiratory, and circulatory systems. Authentic human specimens illustrate the damage caused to organs by over-eating and lack of exercise encouraging healthy lifestyle choices. \$32.00 General Admission, \$30.00 Seniors (65 and over), \$24.00 Children (4-12 years), Free Children (3 & younger), \$29.00 Locals (with valid id).

Botanical Gardens @ Bellagio. Inside of the casino there is a tremendous flower garden, with displays changed every month or two.

Flamingo Garden, 3555 Las Vegas Blvd S. A 15-acre garden with Flamingos and other exotic birds, as well as koi and turtles.

Fountain Show @ Bellagio. The Fountains of the Bellagio perform a magnificent display (set to music) every 15 minutes in the evenings and also every hour on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Show times can vary on public holidays.

Fremont Street Experience - Viva Vision, 702 678-5600. dusk to mid night. A pedestrian mall just outside the downtown casinos. Multimedia shows are displayed on a giant canopy over the street nightly. Free.

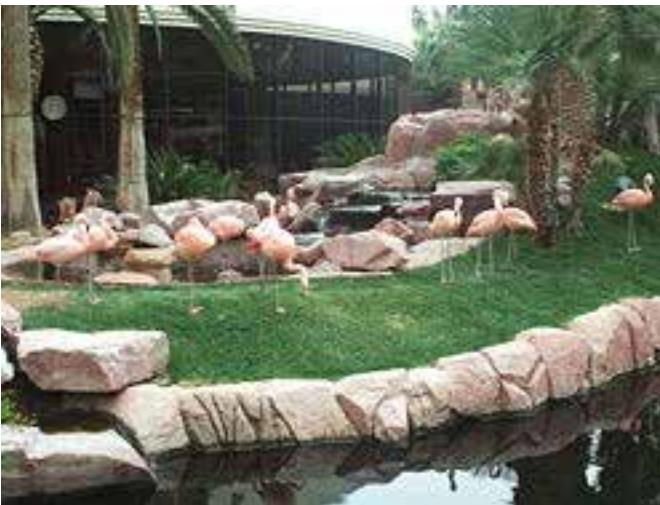
Gallery of Fine Art @ Bellagio. A fine-art gallery. Not free.

Las Vegas Chinatown Plaza, (about 1 mile west of Treasure Island, Take a westbound

CAT Route 203 bus from the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Spring Mountain Road between TI and the Fashion Show Mall). A place to experience Asian culture.

Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, 377 S Las Vegas Blvd, 702 862-7800. Madame Tussauds Las Vegas is a one-of-a-kind special events venue in which more than 100 of the world's hottest celebrities, politicians, athletes and legends are in attendance. Featuring seven highly themed rooms ranging from a Hollywood party with guests including Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears, and Eva Longoria to an exciting sports arena with interactive experiences featuring Shaquille O'Neal and Tiger Woods.

Mob Attraction @ Tropicana, 3801 S Las Vegas Blvd, 702 739-2662. 10:00am - 8:00pm Monday-Saturday. Mob Attraction Las Vegas is a one-of-a kind entertainment experience that immerses visitors into the world of the mob. It takes guests on a fun, exciting, interactive journey through the world of organized crime. Inside you become a part of the story



and go face-to-face with the mob. The attraction also features an extensive collection, artifacts, memorabilia, photos and videos. \$33.00 General Admission, \$30.00 Seniors (60 and over), \$18.00 Children (6-12 years), Free Children (5 & younger), \$18.00 Locals, \$30.00 Military.

The Mob Museum. 10:00am-7:00pm: Sunday-Thursday, 10:00am-8:00pm: Friday-Saturday. Located in the heart of downtown Las Vegas, The Mob Museum showcases both sides of the notorious battle between organized crime and law enforcement. With high-tech theater presentations, iconic one-of-a-kind artifacts, and interactive exhibits, you can finally discover the whole truth and nothing but the truth. \$19.95 General Admission, \$15.95 Seniors (65+), Military, Law Enforcement, Teachers, \$13.95 Children (5-17 years) & Students (18-23 years).

The Neon Museum Las Vegas, 821 N Las Vegas Blvd, +1 702 387-6366. An outdoor lot loaded with huge signs that once twinkled in front of the Silver Slipper, Stardust, and El Cortez. See the giant horeshoe made of thousands of gold-colored light bulbs! \$15.



Shark Reef Aquarium @ Mandalay Bay. The highlight is walking through a transparent tunnel with sharks, sea turtle, fish on all sides. \$16.

Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park. Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park has over 150 species of animals and plants.

World's Largest Golden Nugget @ Golden Nugget Hotel. The world's largest gold nugget is on display in the back of the casino. about 100m behind reception where you can also hold it.

The Tank @ Golden Nugget Hotel. A \$30 million complex complete with a shark tank, a 3-story water-slide and seven private cabanas. \$20.

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition @ Luxor, 3900 S Las Vegas Blvd. 10:00am-10:00pm. The 25,000-square-foot exhibit features numerous items from the Titanic, including luggage, the ship's whistles, floor tiles from the first-class smoking room, a window frame from the Verandah Cafe and an unopened bottle of champagne with a 1900 vintage. In addition, the exhibit features a piece of Titanic's hull, a full-scale re-creation of the Grand Staircase as well as a newly expanded outer Promenade Deck, complete with the frigid temperatures felt on that fateful April night. \$32.00 General Admission, \$30.00 Seniors (65 and over), \$24.00 Children (4-12 years), Free Children (3 & younger), \$29.00 Locals (with valid id).

Toilets @ Main Street Station. The urinals in the men's room are mounted on a piece of the Berlin Wall. If you're female, ask an employee to let you see it.

U.S. Route 95 At Night. This route climbs gradually northwest of Las Vegas so that the Strip's neon lights remain visible for a remarkably long distance, appearing as a luminous cloud from the furthest point.

Volcano @ The Mirage. Eruptions begin at 6:00 p.m. and

run every hour on the hour until 11:00 p.m. (nightly). The volcano in front of the casino erupts in a terrific light show.

Things to Do

Ride a Gondola @ The Venetian Hotel. Includes a visit to St. Mark's Square. \$15 for 4 minutes.

Indoor Skydiving @ Vegas Indoor Skydiving, 200 Convention Center Dr, +1 877-545-8093. 10am-8pm. Fly your body in a vertical wind tunnel. No experience necessary, all training and equipment provided. Safe for all ages. \$85.

Drive A Race Car On A Real Race Track, 7000 Las Vegas Blvd, +1 702-605-3000. 9am-5pm. Drive some of the most exclusive race cars in the world on a real race track also choose from the world largest selection of exotic cars to race. \$89+.

Shoot an Automatic Weapon @ The Gun Store, 2900 E Tropicana Ave, +1 702 454-1110. 9AM-6:30PM daily. Photo ID required. International travelers welcome. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are recommended. Packages including transportation, Glock, Beretta, AK-47, M249 SAW, Thompson, Barrett 50 Caliber and M2HB. Coupons and monthly specials available online. \$49 - \$999.

Play Pinball Games @ The Pinball Hall of Fame, 1610 E. Tropicana Ave, [29]. Old-style machines and newest ones from Stern are there, all in very good condition. Definitely worth a look. From \$0.25 per game.

Kayak Trips from Kayak Las Vegas, 1647A Nevada Highway, Boulder City, +1 702 293-5026, [30]. Paddle the Colorado River from the base of Hoover Dam to Willow Beach Arizona, hike to hot springs from the river. Paddle to island beaches for a swim at Lake Mead.

Helicopter Tours From Fly Maverick, 6075 S Las Vegas Blvd, +1 888 261-4414, [31]. Helicopter tours that will take you deep into the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon or soaring above the neon lights and mega resorts of the Las Vegas Strip, as well as helicopter tours that include rafting down the Colorado River. \$114-599.

The Hunt Las Vegas, (Las Vegas Blvd & Flamingo), +1 702 751-4868, [32]. Limo Scavenger Hunt throughout the City of Las Vegas. Thrills and visits to the cities Hotspots, both on the Strip and Downtown are included in The Hunt. 50+.

Sun Buggy & ATV Fun Rentals, 6925 Speedway Blvd Bldg #C106 (I-15 N to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. 3rd Right behind





Shelby's corner cafe), +1 702 644-2855, [34]. 7AM-7PM daily. Chase, tour, or explore on an ATV, UTV, or Dune Buggy at the Vegas Dunes, Valley Of Fire, or Amargosa. The Largest Off Road Adventure Firm in Las Vegas has been featured on over 30 TV shows internationally.

Exotics Racing School. After a training session, get behind the wheel of a Ferrari F430 F1 or other race car and go up to 130mph with an instructor in the passenger seat. From \$249 depending on the car and number of laps.

Vegas Horseback Tours, 2470 Chandler Ave Ste 11, +1 888 584-9059. Daily. Horseback Tours include a Sunset Dinner, Lunch or Breakfast horseback ride, an authentic cowboy meal and a visit to cowboy town and petting zoo. Free hotel pick-up. \$109-139.

The natural attractions of Las Vegas. Red Rock Canyon. Red Rock Canyon, on the western edge of the Las Vegas city limits. Features hundreds of traditional/gear and sport routes. Climbing is possible year-round, though Spring and Fall tend to be most comfortable. There are a couple of guide books that detail the routes. Though the area does not receive much precipitation, it is worth remembering that if the sandstone becomes wet (from rain or snow) it becomes brittle and you'd be wise to avoid it for at least two day before checking if it dried out. There is also a scenic drive through Red Rock Canyon, which will take you about 30 minutes to complete, though there are opportunities to park up and get out of the car. Entry is \$7 per car unless you have a National Park pass.

Strip Gun Club, 2233 Las Vegas Blvd. South ((Sahara and Las Vegas Boulevard)), 702-777-GUNS, [38]. 10am to 8pm. This 4500 sq ft range located on the Strip at Sahara & Las Vegas blvd, offers rentals of automatics, rifles, handguns and shotguns. Packages start at \$99 for the Deuces Wild Free which includes a t-shirt, 1 rifle/1pistol 1 target, eye and ear protection and can run as high as the let yourself go wild package; The Buffet \$1,999 which includes eleven guns, free tee, free hat, two targets, eye and ear protection.

Rides

The Roller Coaster @ New York New York Hotel, 3790 S Las Vegas Blvd. 11:00am - 11:00pm Sunday-Thursday, 10:30am - Midnight Friday & Saturday. The Roller Coaster will lift you up 203 feet, drop you down 144 feet and leave your pulse trying to catch up to 67 mph. Simulating a jet fighter's barrel roll, you'll turn 180°, hang 86 feet in the air, take the famous "heartline" twist and dive. Individual Tickets: \$14.00; Scream Pass: \$25.00 (includes: all day ride pass, \$2.00 off 5x7 photo); Family Fun Flight for Four: \$60.

oo (Includes Four individual ride tickets and 2 5x7 close up photos).

Rides @ The Stratosphere Hotel, 2000 S Las Vegas Blvd. There are 3 intense rides on the top of the tallest hotel on the strip: Big Shot - Shoots passengers straight up 160 feet at 45 mph (over 4 Gs) until they are 1,081 feet above the Strip. X-Scream - A giant teeter-totter that propels you 27 feet over the edge of the Tower, 866 feet above the

ground. Insanity, the Ride - A massive mechanical arm extends 64 feet over the edge of the Tower and spins you at a force of 3 Gs for a truly mind-bending experience. For the people who do not like rides but still want to do something at the top, there are shops and a great view. Tower Admission: \$18.00 Adult, \$10.00 Groups/Parties over 20; Rides: \$15.00 each, \$34.00 Tower Admission + All Day Unlimited Rides, \$33.00 Tower Admission + 3 Rides, \$28.00 Tower Admission + 2 Rides, \$23.00 Tower Admission +1 ride, additional \$10.00 Express Pass.

SkyJump @ The Stratosphere Hotel, 2000 S Las Vegas Blvd. 10:00am – 1:00am Sunday–Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00am Friday–Saturday. SkyJump is a controlled free fall, similar to a vertical zip line. The launching pad is located on the 108th floor, 855 feet above the Las Vegas Strip. Jumpers are harnessed in and attached to a cable that is connected to a descender machine. Guide wires keep the skyjumper on course and on target. Just before reaching the rapidly approaching ground, the skyjumper is slowed down for a controlled and safe landing. \$109.99 Per Jump, \$119.99 Jump/Photos, \$139.99 Jump/Wristcam Video/Photos.

The Adventuredome Theme Park @ Circus Circus, 2880 S Las Vegas Blvd, 702 794-3939. 11:00am - 6:00pm Monday-Thursday, 10:00am to 12:00am Friday-Saturday, 10:00am - 9:00pm Sunday. America's 2nd largest indoor theme park with 25 rides and attractions for all ages. \$16.95 Day pass (under 48 inches tall), \$27.95 Day Pass (over 48 inches tall), Premium Rides - \$8.00 each : FX Theatre featuring SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer, Disk'O (Spinning Ride), Canyon Blaster (Roller Coaster), El Loco (Roller Coaster), Sling Shot (Tower Ride), Chaos (Spinning & Tilting Ride), Inverter (360° Counter-Rotation Ride), SimEx Extreme Ride Theater, Happy Feet: Mumble's Wild Ride, Lazer Blast (Laser Tag Adventure); Large Rides - \$5.00 each: Canyon Cars (Bumper Cars), Sand Pirate (Swinging Ship); Junior Rides – \$5.00 each: Frog Hopper (Jr. Tower Ride), Miner Mike (Jr. Roller Coaster), Thunderbirds (Jr. Plane Ride); Family Rides - \$5.00 each: B.C. Bus (Bus Ride), Circus Carousel (Merry-Go-Round), Drifters (Ferris Wheel), Road Runner (Mini-Himalaya Ride).



MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

1. ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

The I.C.F. is generally good at attracting new members

Bring your family - children, grandchildren

Bring your friends

Pay first year dues for your children and grandchildren

Have a guest night at a meeting

Your Pastor, Chaplain or other religious can help spread the word

Support your parish and school and let them know you do

Keep I.C.F. information readily available - example: church entrances

I.C.F. sponsored coffee and donuts after mass

I.C.F. sponsored free dinner for parish anniversary

Active membership committee

Information table at mass

Two-minute mass speech

Advertisement in parish bulletin

Encourage family memberships

I.C.F. is the only family-oriented group at in most parishes

Schedule events and meetings for families with young children

ICF Hospitalization Plan

Annual Cost – Only \$25

Eligibility – ICF members who join before their 65th birthday

Benefits

- \$75 per use of operating room in hospital or surgical center
- \$50-1st day, \$25-2nd day, \$10 each day thereafter per hospital stay
 - \$500 per calendar year/\$500 per illness

Features

- Membership continues beyond the age of 65 yrs. old
 - Payments are made directly to you
 - No medical examination is required to join
- Claims are accepted up to 1 year after hospital stay and/or surgical procedure

To apply now, visit our website

www.icf.org or call

1-888-ICF-1924

The Ways and Means Committee announces
the Theme for the 2016 Fundraiser Calendar as:

“ Famous and Infamous Italian Americans Who Have Contributed to the Shaping of America”

The Ways and Means Committee will be planning and
designing the 2016 Calendar.

Included in the calendar will be pictures, biographies and
anecdotes about famous, (and infamous), Italian Americans.

We invite you to participate in several ways: First, share
special stories or biographies of your favorite Italian
American in history. You can research and provide
information and pictures if you wish, or just submit a name,
and we'll do the research! We will pick the most popular 12
names submitted.

We also invite you to participate in the listing of not only
birthdays

(yourself, your children, grandchildren, parish priests and
chaplains, or even friends) but also anniversaries (weddings,
Branch founding, Priest's ordinations, etc.) You may include
your branch and district events as well.

The price schedule will be as follows:

\$10.00 for one name/event; \$15.00 for 2 names/events;
and \$20.00 for four names/events.

Other numbers will be a combination of prices;
for example, 5 names/events will be \$30.00 (\$20.00 + \$10.00),
but keep in mind that 8 names/events would be \$40.00.

*The deadline for the names and payments will be
May 1, 2015*

*Please mail your information with a check payable to the
I.C.F. to:*

*Italian Catholic Federation
8393 Capwell Dr., Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621*

The Committee thanks you for your continued support!

Chairperson: Lisa Crudo

and Members: Franklyn Lopes Jr., and Leonard Rossi

For questions, please call the I.C.F office at (510) 633-9058 or Lisa
Crudo (510) 861-9835



Save The Date

5K to benefit
Cooley's Anemia
(Thalassaemia)

What: 5K

Walk or Run

Where: UC Berkeley

When: Sat., April 25, 2015

Contact: Laurice Levine
Thalassaemia Outreach
Coordinator

for more information
510-428-3885, ext. 5427
llevine@mail.cho.org

Important Announcement!

**You Might NOT Qualify for a Reverse Mortgage
after March 2, 2015!**

Starting March 2, 2015, HUD, the governmental body that regulates Home
Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) also known as a Reverse Mortgage
insured loan, will require a Financial Assessment of all applicants.
This will include a review and analysis of your income and credit status.
This Financial Assessment could result in less cash available at closing
or possibly not qualifying at all.

Currently, a HECM has minimal income and credit qualifications.
The basics require you to be at least 62 years of age, own and occupy
the home as your primary residence.

Qualify for a Reverse Mortgage before March 2, 2015

Call me today at **408-297-0000** before the new Financial
Assessment requirement takes effect. I can answer all your
questions about a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM),
these new requirements, and assist you with the application
process. There's no obligation, just the opportunity to unlock the
equity in your home and make the most of your life.

Dan Casagrande
Local Reverse Mortgage Expert



CALL ME Today
408-297-0000

www.ReverseManDan.com
dan.casagrande@S1L.com

ICF # 227 - Member



NMLS#561104 NMLS#107636

A Division of Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc.
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the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act #4131074

