



BOLLETTINO



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 Convention 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, 2014. 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 accom-

continued on page 8

Strategic Plan: “Moving the ICF into the Future”

Two Day Planning Session to be Held May 17-18

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.
Task Force Committee Chair
Grand 1st Vice President

The first meeting to start the planning process for our strategic plan was held on Saturday, February 15. One of the key components to a successful plan will be the input from you, the members. By the time you read this article, information will have been sent to the district and branch presidents with the details for obtaining the information necessary to plan for our future. There will also be information on the ICF website for a survey pertaining to the Strategic Plan. Please become involved

in this process by completing the survey provided, our success of the plan depends on the input from the branch level. We will be having a two-day meeting on May 17th and 18th to discuss the future of our organization. This meeting will include a representative from every district and region where the Federation has been established. These representatives will come together with members of the Central Council in this two-day planning session to discuss and map out our path to the future, growth and success of the ICF. Everyone has a voice in the process so please participate and we will all benefit from your input. Please keep the members working on this plan in your prayers, for with God all things are possible.

Calendar Sales Results Are In: The Winner Is...

Here are the results for prizes as of February 12, 2014:

Top Selling Branches in each of 3 categories receive Five (5) 2014 Calendars
Branches placing 2nd and 3rd in each of 3 categories receive One (1) 2014 Calendar
Top Selling Individual receives Five (5) 2014 Calendars
Individuals placing 2nd and 3rd receive One (1) 2014 Calendar

Category 1: 1 – 99 Members

1 st Place:	Branch 33, Bakersfield	Sold 50 calendars
2 nd Place:	Branch 408, Sunnyvale	Sold 40 calendars
3 rd Place:	Branch 91, Oakland	Sold 39 calendars

Category 2: 100 – 199 Members

1 st Place:	Branch 10, Alameda	Sold 48 calendars
2 nd Place:	Branch 191, San Jose	Sold 46 calendars
3 rd Place:	Branch 28, Gilroy	Sold 45 calendars
	Branch 161, Larkspur	Sold 45 calendars
	Branch 281, Bakersfield	Sold 45 calendars

Category 3: 200+ Members

1 st Place:	Branch 39, Merced	Sold 99 calendars
2 nd Place:	Branch 14, Crockett	Sold 65 calendars
3 rd Place:	Branch 391, San Jose	Sold 30 calendars

Individuals

1 st Place:	Carol Salmeri – Br. 39 – Merced	Sold 90 calendars
2 nd Place:	Louise DeTomas – Br. 14 – Crockett	Sold 61 calendars
3 rd Place:	B.G. Zasoski – Br. 281 – Bakersfield	Sold 44 calendars

90th Anniversary Gala

Don't forget to make your reservations for the ICF Anniversary Gala celebration near you. Here are the dates and locations:
The first gala will be in Chicago

on June 8, 2014.

The second celebration will be on June 22, 2014 in San Francisco.

The third celebration will be in Los Angeles on June 29, 2014.

Grand President's Monthly Message

by Bob Basuino

“It's raining, it's pouring, Grandpa is snoring! He went to bed and bumped his head and couldn't get up in the morning!” My clever grandsons were giggling and singing to me as I was dropping them off from our monthly pizza dinner. Yes, the rain has finally hit us in California, and it could not be more welcome. Hopefully, we will have a late wet winter and this drought we are in will be a thing of the past. This is happening as we prepare for the Festa di San Giuseppe. In the middle ages, God through St. Joseph's intercessions saved Sicilians from a very serious drought. Tradition tells us that he had the great honor to have died in the presence of Our Lady and His Son. This makes him the patron of holy death. Because he was given the great responsibility of caring for and protecting The Virgin –who is the Mother of all and her Son, St. Joseph is the patron and protector of the entire Church. As we celebrate his feast day, let us remember to thank him and ask him to continue to protect us as he protected Mary and Jesus. St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

As the rain comes down as I sit down to write this column, I cannot believe March is already here. These past six months have flown by. I knew when I accepted this position a lot of travel and time away from home was expected. Little did I realize that I would be leaving work on Friday for an Executive Committee meeting or for a mad dash to the airport. On Saturday I would be at an installation and another on Sunday. When I got home on Sunday night I would rummage through an empty refrigerator, upset I did not stop by the grocery store on the way home. As I got ready for bed, it hit me Monday morning was only 8 hours away and the weekend was over and another work week was ahead with another weekend of installations and meetings on my calendar. Hopefully I would have a few hours on the next Saturday or Sunday to catch up on something important, like a nap.

Then I begin to think about the wonderful weekend I had and the events I attended. I met so many great people and caught up with many old friends. It was through these visits that I realized what an honor it is to serve you and ICF as your Grand President. It is funny how you think you know so much about something until you share your thoughts and ideas with others. It is not until you step into someone else's shoes do you truly understand that you

continued on page 8

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

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UPCOMING:

2014 Bishops' Days:

- Mar. 16 Oakland
(Contra Costa & East Bay)
- Mar. 29 Stockton
- Apr. 27 San Francisco
(San Francisco, San Mateo
& Marin)
- May 4 Chicago
- Oct. 5 Las Vegas
- Oct. 12 Fresno
San Diego
- Oct. 19 San Jose
(Santa Clara Valley)
Santa Rosa
- Oct. 26 Blessed Sacrament
Monterey (Central Coast)

Fr. Efrem Trettel

The ICF office has received word that Fr. Efrem is now at Mercy Retirement Center. He would still love communication from members of the ICF. If anyone would like to write or call, here is his contact information:

Fr. Efrem Trettel

Mercy Retirement Center

3431 Foothill Boulevard

Oakland, CA 94601

2nd Floor

(510) 228-4032



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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.

Lent Is Just Around the Corner

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

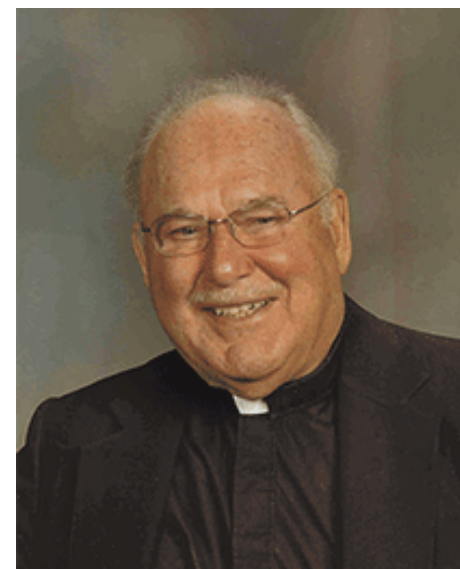
The New Year thrill has faded away. Now we start thinking about taxes. Not a happy thought. Then soon we begin Lent. This year Ash Wednesday is on March 5. Some people look at Lent as a sort of punishment, a curtailment of their lives. Yet it is a great time to step aside from the whirlwind of everyday living and start thinking about what Jesus has done for us. It is also time for us to reflect on the meaning of Easter and to unite ourselves with Christ.

There are several ways to observe Lent. We can give up something we like and do penance. We can say extra prayers; we can meditate and put ourselves in the presence of Jesus. We can talk to Jesus and let him talk to us. Some people worship at Mass every day or several times a week. Whatever way you choose to honor Jesus

in Lent, make it something personal.

One day, Father Kevin was talking with little Louie, a seven-year-old-boy. "What are you doing for Lent?" little Louie said, "I am eating a salami sandwich for lunch every day!" Father Kevin said, "A salami sandwich! That's not penance." Little Louie exclaimed, "Yes it is, I really hate salami!" Little Louie must not be Italian, but he really does have the true spirit of Lent.

During Lent we prepare ourselves for Easter. We walk along with Jesus during His time of extreme suffering. We offer our penance, our prayers, and our good works in thanksgiving for His great sacrifice. Then we rejoice with Him on the day of His resurrection. Rejoice in the Lord. Alleluia!



Organizing a Membership Drive

Nina Malone
CC Life Member
Membership Committee
Chairperson

Spring is just around the corner and before you know it, it will be time to uncover the backyard barbeque and dust off the bocce ball set. With that Spring cleaning you may have been putting off comes the time to seriously consider conducting a Membership Drive for your branch. Start planning it now so that your group will be well organized and prepared as the scheduled date arrives. Here are some easy guidelines to help you along:

1. Ask permission. Your pastor or parish administrator may already have a Ministry or Organization Fair scheduled for the year; gladly welcoming ICF participation. If not, find out which dates would work best with the parish facility schedule. Pick a weekend with the least conflicts.

2. Know the Rules. Your branch should be aware of any parish policies and procedures to be followed. For example, is it okay to set up tables in the vestibule, stuff flyers in the bulletins or make an announcement at the end of each weekend Mass using our two-minute short script? Knowing the rules ahead of time will maintain a healthy working relationship between your branch and the parish staff.

3. Get your members involved. There are plenty of jobs to go around, so delegate! The more people involved, the more excitement you will generate. Appoint a chairperson/committee to carry out the tasks listed below.

4. Develop a flyer/handout. It is a proven fact that a colored flyer will grab much more attention than a simple "blurb" in the church bulletin. If the parish allows, create a handout that simply explains the who's, what's, when's and where's of your branch. Remember to keep it simple yet informative; contact information, meeting times, location, membership eligibility,

High Five!

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

Contra Costa	+105
Santa Rosa	+49
Tucson	+10
Santa Clara Valley	+6
Orange	+6

what is the ICF, etc. This is an effective tool for all of your branch events; put out these flyers at your dinners and parish events too!

5. Coordinate with Parish Staff. If the parish allows for a bulletin insert, ask the office secretary how many flyers should be printed and when your branch members should be available to stuff the church bulletins. If you need extra help with this, consider asking the parish school or youth group if any of the children could use some extra community service hours. This is a great way to interconnect with other ministries within the parish. Make sure to print several extra copies for your Membership table.

6. Prepare an announcement. If the pastor will allow your branch to make a short announcement, use the two-minute script as a guideline. Appoint someone that is comfortable with talking in front of large crowds and has a clear speaking voice. If the pastor would prefer to do the announcement himself, supply information about the branch's accomplishments and where your team will be located for the membership drive after Mass.

7. Create an ICF Membership Board. Using the Membership Kit that is available on the ICF website, appoint a member to gather branch photos and the necessary supplies to create your ICF Membership Board. Make sure to highlight Bishops' Days, Joint Installations, Corporate

Membership Stats as of January 31, 2014:

10,573

Members as of July 1, 2013:

10,878 = 305 member semi-annual loss

New: 559

Reinstated: 7

Transfer in/out: 15

Deceased: 114

Cancelled: 419

Non-payment >12 mos.: -338

Communion Masses, religious events, fundraisers, youth activities, picnics, etc.

8. Set-up for success. Coordinate with the parish to set up a table in a well-trafficked area; a place that most everyone will pass by after each Mass. If the area allows, make a banner or large sign that is colorful and easy to read; drawing attention to your table. The table itself should include your Membership Board, ICF brochures, handouts, Bollettinos, posters, memorabilia, balloons; even some hard candies or small giveaway items. Everyone loves to get something for free!

9. Sign them up. Create an information worksheet for perspective members that includes their name, phone number, email address and mailing address. In turn, have something to give them; a business card, brochure or flyer. Invite them to be your guest at the next branch meeting; be sure to let them know the date, time and location. Let them know you will be in touch soon and thank them for their interest in a great organization.

Thoughtful planning is needed when organizing a successful Membership Drive, but the rewards that come back to your branch could be priceless! For more information and help from your Membership Committee, contact Membership Chairperson Nina Malone @ 916-759-3607 or musicalnina61@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Script for Mass Announcement

Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening,
My name is _____
_____ and I am the
_____ of Branch
_____ of the Italian Catholic Federation
here at _____.

The Italian Catholic Federation, or ICF for short, is an 11,000 member organization founded in San Francisco in 1924. The Federation has grown and presently has branches in California, Nevada, Arizona, and in the Chicago area. Our branch here was established _____ years ago and we are very proud of the role we play within the church and the parish community.

I'm sure you are wondering...do I need to be Italian to join. We are Italian in origin, but gladly accept Roman Catholics of all backgrounds and ethnicities, as we feel that our organization has thrived because of our diversity.

As a Catholic organization, our members enjoy faith and fellowship by supporting our pastor _____ and our parish with time and monies raised through fundraising efforts. We sponsor spiritual, social and heritage events, because we believe that community interaction is important.

The main focus and mission of our organization is the support of various parish and religious education programs. Each year a seminary burse is presented to Bishop _____ offering financial support for vocations to the priesthood and our seminarians.

Within the community, we assist those in need; providing grants to persons with developmental disabilities, and college scholarships to students graduating from our local high schools.

We are a family organization; where members of all ages are welcome. We have a family membership plan expressly for this purpose; encouraging the entire family, including your children and grandchildren, to join.

ICF members will be located _____.

We invite you to stop by our table to learn more about the Italian Catholic Federation. Please be sure to check out the flyer in your bulletin and drop by to see us directly after Mass.

From our family to yours, we thank you for your time and look forward to meeting you!

The Ways and Means Committee Announces the Theme for the
2015 Calendar as:
“Italian Recipes Through the Year.
Celebrating Holidays and Traditions.”

The Ways and Means Committee will be planning and designing the 2015 Calendar. Included in the calendar will be pictures, recipes and Italian traditions for holidays and other special occasions through the year.

We invite you to participate in several ways: First, share special traditions and recipes you or your family keep throughout the year. Pick a special time of year including, but not limited to, Christmas and Easter traditions. Include New Year’s, Valentine’s Day, St. Joseph’s Day, Carnevale, picnics, weddings, First Communions and other special religious celebrations or feast days.

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 An-niversaries (weddings, branch, priests’ ordinations, etc.)

You may include your Branch or District events as well.

The price schedule will be as follows:

\$10.00 for 1 name/event; \$15.00 for 2 names/events; and \$20.00 for 4 names/ events. Other numbers will be a combination of prices - for example 5 names/events will be \$30.00 (\$20.00 + \$10.00)

The deadline for the names and payments will be May 1, 2014.

Please mail your information with a check payable to the ICF to:

Italian Catholic Federation
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621

The calendars are a wonderful fundraiser for the Federation, and we encourage all members and friends to participate and purchase one.

For questions, please call the ICF office at (510) 633-9058 or Lisa Crudo (510) 861-9835

JANUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
1/1	Sharon Spinardi	39	Merced, CA	\$100
1/2	Branch 281	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
1/3	Bill & Maria Greco	4	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/4	Joe Medoro	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/5	Julie Guerrero	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
1/6	Mary Murphy		Merced, CA	\$50
1/7	Marie Belardi	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/8	Italo & Liliana Zarich	365	San Francisco, CA	\$30
1/9	Sharon L. Hromek	127	Petaluma, CA	\$30
1/10	Al Puccetti	47	Mountain View, CA	\$30
1/11	Patricia & Robert Prager		Long Beach, CA	\$30
1/12	Carol Lawson	14	Crockett, CA	\$30
1/13	B.G. Zasoski	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
1/14	Joan Perkins		Grover Beach, CA	\$30
1/15	Steven Fuentes	163	San Mateo, CA	\$30
1/16	Lonnie Swarringim	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/17	Rev. Nicholas Glisson	91	Oakland, CA	\$30
1/18	Mary Reiser	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
1/19	Denise Antonowicz	184	Los Gatos, CA	\$30
1/20	Josephine Del Papa	33	Bakersfield, CA	\$40
1/21	Nancy Dolci	118	Monterey Park, CA	\$30
1/22	George Concialdi	441	Des Plaines, IL	\$30
1/23	Pat Mueller	285	Livermore, CA	\$30
1/24	Mary Mendieta	365	San Francisco, CA	\$30
1/25	Katalin Antal		Covina, CA	\$30
1/26	E. Franchetti	161	Mill Valley, CA	\$30
1/27	Patricia Guerrieri	14	Crockett, CA	\$50
1/28	Maria Della Santina	161	San Rafael, CA	\$30
1/29	Rob Basuino		San Jose, CA	\$30
1/30	Norma M. Miller	395	Stockton, CA	\$30
1/31	Marie D’Asaro	163	San Mateo, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEBSITE: ICF.ORG

FEBRUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
2/1	Tina Rossi	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
2/2	Heidi Timko	198	Forestville, CA	\$40
2/3	Maria Steele	33	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/4	Natale Bavaro	441	Des Plaines, IL	\$30
2/5	Lisa Savio		Martinez, CA	\$30
2/6	Kerin Cavallero	27	Madera, CA	\$30
2/7	Donna Pfaff	184	San Jose, CA	\$30
2/8	Joan Silva	425	Green Valley, AZ	\$30
2/9	Thelma Cavazos		Merced, CA	\$30
2/10	Stephanie Giudici	21	Santa Cruz, CA	\$30
2/11	John & Emily Wood		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/12	Jeff Westman		Sebastopol, CA	\$30
2/13	Bettina M. Strongoli	161	Sausalito, CA	\$30
2/14	Diane Hecker	19	Troutdale, OR	\$100
2/15	June Anderson	351	Mesa, AZ	\$30
2/16	Claudia Leon		Monte Sereno, CA	\$30
2/17	Yvonne Nannini	121	Westmont, IL	\$30
2/18	Dale Bryan		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/19	R. Goodwin	161	Petaluma, CA	\$30
2/20	Dave & Sandy Mehrwein			
		258	San Francisco, CA	\$30
2/21	Antonette Kavanaugh	351	Atherton, CA	\$30
2/22	Barbara Levey		Merced, CA	\$50
2/23	Branch 39	39	Merced, CA	\$30
2/24	Janice Rimmer	33	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/25	Marian Zasoski	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/26	Mary Claire Walsh		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/27	Helen R. Richards	382	Valley Village, CA	\$30
2/28	Alyssa & Defrance Mclemore			
			Redwood City, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEBSITE: ICF.ORG

Jim Acitelli
Apostolate Chairman

We are often so busy with the demands of our daily life that we fail to listen to and follow the plan that God has for us. Out of all that we do each day, how much of this is God's plan for us? Do you ever think about the plan that God has for you or are you simply following what others are saying and doing? Are we so distracted by our own desires that we fail to listen to His voice?

Be careful how you listen; Jesus stated in Mark 8:18 "to him who has spiritual knowledge much will be given, from him who lacks spiritual knowledge what he thinks he has will be taken away."

Today we are bombarded by all kinds of things that drown out the voice of God and push Him into the background of all that we do. Don't ever think that you can run your life without God's help and direction. That is foolish and a waste of your time, for you will accomplish nothing in the

long run.

In order to walk in the will of God, take time to talk to Him, to hear from Him, and to follow His instructions. Remember, we pray "Thy will be done....."

Listen and allow God to be your guide, your teacher of truth, your counselor, your helper. Let go, let God. Let God be your constant companion in all that you do for yourself and for others. Remember, God tells us the way to go but we must do the walking.

The word of God is always for our benefit. Follow it and you will enjoy an exciting journey with Him every day of your life. Say yes to His ways and His plan will give you hope and a future.

Listen to the voice of God and you will see blessings pour into your life and you will have the delight of knowing that what you are doing is pleasing to God.

I want to thank my committee: Lisa Crudo, Michael Cannady and Vincent Picciola for their assistance.

Donations received by Feb. 10, 2014.
The Greco Family Christmas Open House
Fundraiser
John and Lena Nunes
In memory of Carolina Fasano
Michelle Antonowicz
In memory of Bruce Atkins
Officers/Members of Br. 438
In memory of Mary Aliotti
Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley
District
Thank you to Bob Basuino for our 2014
District Installation
Aldine Grisenti
In memory of Carolina Fasano
Bev Maloney
In memory of Auntie Rose
Joan and Jerry Delfino
In memory of Toni Sunseri
Bob and Elaine Osorio
In memory of Antoinette Sunseri
Toni Guerland
In memory of Antoinette Sunseri
Bob and Kathy Acquistapace
In memory of Antoinette (Toni) Sunseri
Bob and Kathy Acquistapace
In memory of Virginia Zorio
Nettie Descalzo-Del Nero and Tom Pollicita
In memory of Don DeTomasi
Nettie Descalzo-Del Nero and Tom Pollicita
In memory of Toni Sunseri
Harold, Virginia and Steve Fuentes
In memory of Toni Sunseri
Officers/Members of Br. 5
In memory of Antoinette Sunseri
Bea Cunha
In memory of Antoinette Sunseri
Vic and Pat Arnaudo
In memory of Leo Sapienza
Yvonne Kuzinich and Family
In memory of Antoinette B. Sunseri
Officers/Members of Br. 291
In memory of Shirley Torres
Officers/Members of Br. 291
In memory of Robert Harris
Nina Malone
In memory of Louis Soria
Joan and Jerry Delfino
Get well wishes for Maria Di Paolo
Joan and Jerry Delfino
In memory of Virginia Zorio
Mrs. Joanna C. Van Blaricom
In memory of Mrs. Philomena Torquato
Eva Stern
Speedy recovery wishes for Rita Fraguglia

In Loving Memory

Report Date: 02/19/2014

LEO ROY SAPIENZA Branch 001
ANTOINETTE SUNSERI

TOM GALLI Branch 005
RAY A ANDROTTI Branch 007

FRANCES A ALONGE Branch 010
ANITA M TYLER Branch 115

VIRGINIA ZORIO Branch 127
JOHN SUSAN Branch 135

MARJORIE E AGOSTINI Branch 144
ARTHUR L CHAVEZ Branch 154

GLORIA BIANCHI Branch 154
CARMELA SPADARO Branch 163

FRANCO FRANCHINI Branch 206
DENNIS MARTINELLI Branch 213

DOROTHY M PFEIFER Branch 281
RUDY D'ANGELO Branch 285

CATERINA FOLINO Branch 290
JAMES MARINE Branch 358

MARCIA BAIER Branch 390
JOHN BORGES Branch 390

ANGELINA CECCHI Branch 390
JOYCE L SILVA Branch 390

GENEVIEVE R GARVEY Branch 391
FRANCO CIACCHELLA Branch 391

DANIEL B DARBY Branch 408
SAUNDRA ISAACSON Branch 413

ELIZABETH DIMAIUTA Branch 417
Branch 439

Cooley's Corner

Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia) Research Update

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS
Senior Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator
Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland

The thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia) program at Children's Hospital Research Center at Oakland (CHRCO) is one in seven Thalassemia centers of specialty in the U.S. To qualify to be a specialty center a program must provide high quality comprehensive care and support to patients and families; strive to be on the cutting edge of research and technology; achieve the means of improving treatment and the quality of life for patients; and work towards finding a cure. The following are two of the several medical studies currently being conducted at the Thalassemia Center at CHRCO:

Iron Absorption Research Study

The purpose of this study is to determine if the body absorbs iron with the same or varied efficiencies when iron is in different chemical forms. Individuals with thalassemia who do not receive regular red blood cell transfusions absorb iron from food at very high rates, even to the point of iron overload and organ damage. This occurs because premature death of red blood cells results in oxygen-deficient tissues that signal the intestine to absorb more dietary iron, which is then delivered to the bone marrow to make more red blood cells with iron-rich hemoglobin.

This study will compare how ferritin iron (in natural foods like legumes) versus ferrous iron sulfate (in iron-enriched foods such as cereal) affects the body and increases understanding on how the body absorbs iron specifically in individuals with thalassemia. Doctors will be able to then recommend dietary modifications that would decrease the risk for iron overload and improve care for all individuals with thalassemia.

A Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Gene Therapy:

There is no universal cure for thalassemia. For a small part of the thalassemia population, who are healthy enough to undergo this intensive treatment, and also have a sibling match, bone marrow transplant has proven to be a cure. However, the most exciting new treatment on the horizon is gene therapy.

The gene therapy study objective is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of treatment with LentiGlobin® BB305 Drug Product in subjects with Thalassemia major who receive more than eight blood transfusions a year. This represents a population with severe disease at high risk of morbidity and mortality from iron overload. Patients in this study will be given an autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation using LentiGlobin® BB305 Drug Product. In simpler terms, patients will undergo a type of chemotherapy to eliminate their own bone marrow then they will be administered a special drug that penetrates their gene and eliminates the thalassemia disease. While gene therapy is complex and is still in its infancy stages with regards to thalassemia, it does provide a promise for a cure.

For a complete research update please refer to:

<http://www.thalassemia.com/research-open-studies.aspx#Bluebird>

Along with federal government grants, the ICF has been instrumental in funding research for thalassemia, consequently improving the lives of thousands of patients around the world.

If you would like more information on research studies or have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Laurice Levine at 510-428-3885, ext. 5427 or LLevine@mail.cho.org.

Cooley's Anemia Donations

Donations received by Feb. 10, 2014.

Charles P. Gullo, Jr.

In memory of Carolina Fasano

Barbara Firpo

In memory of Franco Franchini

Officers/Members of Br. 308

In memory of Rosie Lencioni

Roger and Kathy Santos

In memory of Carolina Fasano

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

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](mailto:LLevine@mail.cho.org)

Live to Give

Why Seniors Make the Best Donors

Jim Acitelli

Live to Give Committee member

For the past eight years, Bette and I have served as volunteers for the Knights of Columbus Blood Drive at Our Lady of the Valley in Green Valley, AZ. We began serving as a way of repaying donors for the life-giving blood that Bette received during seven surgeries in five days; the result of a head-on car accident in Ohio in January, 2001.

I began as a blood donor and donated over 2-1/2 gallons of blood. Unfortunately, I had to stop giving because of my diabetes, so I now co-ordinate and run the canteen. Bette is not able to donate either so she helps by making appointments for others and checking in donors. Just a few of the ways that seniors have become involved! We see so many senior donors who are there every time that we run a blood drive, and they have continued to give until they can no longer do so. What a blessing they are to us!

In recent years, donors from older age

groups of 50 years or more increasingly contribute to a larger portion of the donor pool. People of this age group will gradually move to the recipient side of the supply/demand equation and who will replace them? The aging patterns of blood donors suggest the need for improved recruitment and retention in the young adult and middle-age groups as it is these groups who will become the returning donors and move into the senior grouping and still continue to donate blood.

If we do not do our part in becoming donors and repeat donors, where will the blood come from when we ourselves need it? A severe shortage of blood and blood components may be in the foreseeable future unless offset by a significant increased supply in blood and blood components.

Not only do we "Live to Give" but we feel the gift of life within us when we donate. I want to personally thank each one of you who donate blood, especially those who continue to do so. It is indeed the gift of life.

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

BOOK REVIEW
Robert Pachinger
Br. 413, Angels Camp

Killing Jesus: A History

by
Bill O'Reilly and
Martin Dugard
Henry Holt and Company,
LLC, 293 pages

How many of you, as Christians, know the life of Jesus in a historical context? We all have some knowledge of the life of Jesus as we learn about His teachings. Every Sunday, we listen to the Gospel and hear Jesus' words. However, many of us do not know a great deal about the world that He lived in. Knowing something about that world adds richness to the Gospels. It is true that His words are sufficient for us to be practicing Christians. Killing Jesus: A History is a book that fills in the historic perspective of Jesus' time.

Jerusalem, at the time that Jesus was alive, was occupied by Rome. O'Reilly and Dugard set the stage for this time by beginning the narrative with the assassination of Caesar. We come to understand the Roman way of life as the authors describe how the Romans expanded their empire. This is important to understand, since Jesus was born in a country that was occupied by foreigners. Jesus was also born in a Jewish religious tradition. As such, the authors describe the different players who controlled the Jewish world. There was Herod, who was not exactly a Jew by blood, but nevertheless, a Jewish king. There were also the Sanhedrin, Pharisees, temple priests and the populace. Understanding the role of each is important to understanding the time that Jesus was on earth. Once the stage is set, the story begins.

The authors' narrative is vivid. It is easy to picture the land that Jesus walked. One can imagine the pilgrimage that all Jews made to Jerusalem for the Passover. We have an example of that in today's world. Look to the annual pilgrimage of Muslims to Mecca. Once in Jerusalem, the people were required to purchase their unblemished sacrificial lambs. Who sold the lambs? Who made the money? It was the temple priests. This was a huge moneymaking business. Not only did the temple priests make money off the poor Jews, Herod and the Romans had their cut through their taxes. When Jesus went to the temple and overturned the tables from the moneychangers, He was attacking a corrupt system that directly affected the temple priests' pocket book. The poor populace cheered for Jesus because they found a champion from at least one oppressor, the Jewish hierarchy. Of course, this made the Jewish hierarchy plot against Jesus.

Many interesting questions are explored in the book. For example, we all know that the Roman centurions cast lots for Jesus' robe. This act was in fulfillment of the Scriptures; in this case, Psalm 21. Has anyone wondered why the Romans were so interested in Jesus' garment? I never thought about the significance of the garment. My thoughts were always on the

Romans irreverently playing a game for the robe while Jesus was dying on the cross. As stated in the Gospel of John, this garment was seamless. This made the tunic very unique, as most undergarments were made by stitching three pieces of cloth together. The seams would chafe and bind. Jesus' tunic was woven as one piece and was very valuable. This is why the Romans wanted it. The authors also describe the Roman team who was responsible for carrying out executions. These men were hardened soldiers. The team consisted of four men called quaternio who were responsible for the cruel work, with the fifth member called exactor mortis, who ensured that the rest of the team members were doing their utmost to mete out savage punishment. These examples are only two of many details that the authors provide to recreate the life of Jesus.

Since this is a history about killing Jesus, the Crucifixion cannot be omitted. But for those who may think that the book is a print version of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," they will be disappointed. The goal of the authors is to put the Crucifixion into a historical context. As such, more time is devoted to describing how Jesus went to His death. His interrogation was illegal by the legal standards of the Jewish court of the time. He was interrogated at night and was asked to incriminate Himself without a lawyer. The Jewish authorities that wanted Him out of the way were fearful that Jesus' followers would save Him. This is why interrogations were held at night, and the process was done quickly. When Pontius Pilate was asked if he should release Jesus, or Barrabas, the courtyard was full of temple priests and their followers. Of course, they asked for Barabbas to be released. Since Pilate did not want a revolt on his hands, he granted the crowd's wish. Pilate also did not want to do anything to displease Rome. The Roman establishment would not have been kind to Pilate if he caused a revolt. Ultimately, the authorities were successful in eliminating Jesus.

Killing Jesus: A History is written in a manner that captivates the reader. We all know the story from the Gospels. Yet, the authors' focus on the world around Jesus brings a new perspective on the history. Since I like history, I enjoyed this book and learning more about Jesus' time.

Scholarship
Donations

Donations received by Feb. 10, 2014.
Scholarship Donations - 1st Year
Officers/Members of Br. 191
In memory of Randy Peterson
Officers/Members of Br. 191
In memory of Theresa Spinler



La Celebrazione di Gioventu --
The Celebration of Youth
The Lenten Journey

Submitted by Roselynn Jarrett
Grand Treasurer

Jelly Bean Prayer

Using jelly beans, designate the various colors as follows:

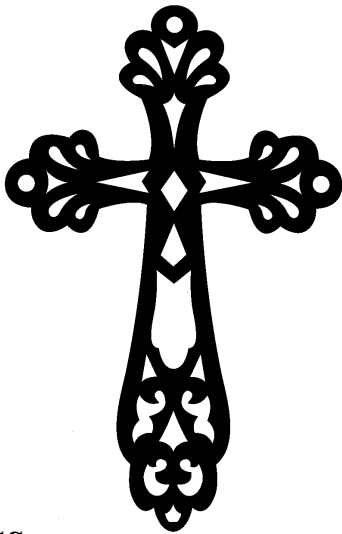
- red for the blood of Christ (making a sacrifice)
- green for the shade of the palm (doing a good deed)
- yellow for God's light (showing kindness to others)
- orange for prayers at twilight (good behavior during bed time prayer)
- black for sweet rest at night (behaving well when time to go to bed)
- purple for days of sorrow (apologizing to someone)
- pink for each new tomorrow (forgiving others).

Starting on Ash Wednesday, place a jelly bean of the appropriate color in a jar each time you do something that corresponds with one of these acts. On Easter, you will receive all the jelly beans you have earned during the 40 days of Lent.

To help focus on the prayer aspect of Lent, make a family mosaic cross. Two types of crosses can be made:

Fun Foam Cross

Using art foam, cut out a basic cross shape for the background. Then, using other colors of art foam (available at any craft or discount store), cut smaller pieces of "mosaic" and apply them to the cross background to create an overall mosaic effect. A fun variation of this project might be to make the cross background, and then apply small "mosaic" tiles when being helpful, loving, or of service around the home. Can you fill the cross with love "tiles" by the end of Lent?



Crayon "Stained Glass" Cross

Cut two identical cross shapes from waxed paper. Using old or broken crayons and a pencil sharpener, create shavings of various colors. Spread the crayons on one of the pieces of waxed paper in a desired pattern. Then place the second waxed paper cross over the top of the first cross and the shavings. An adult should complete the following step: Using a warm iron, press the two pieces of waxed paper together. Find a sunny spot to hang your creation and remember to offer a prayer of love and thanksgiving each time you lay eyes on your beautiful cross.



Happy
St.
Patrick's
Day!

2014 Convention in Oakland, California

Friday, August 29, 2014 to
Monday, September 1, 2014

Honoring The Past As We Envision Our Future

HOTEL AND TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICIAL CONVENTION HOTEL

Marriott Oakland City Center Phone: (510) 451-4000 /
Reservations: (800) 228-9290

1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607 -- Visit the link to hotel
reservations www.marriott.com on our website for ease in reserving
your room for the Convention.

► **Room Rate: \$119.00 Single Occupancy plus 14% (subject
to change) tax. \$119.00 Double Occupancy plus 14%
(subject to change) tax**

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

► **Complimentary Self Parking**

► **Transportation to/from Oakland Airport:**

Oakland Int'l Airport is approximately 10 miles southwest
from the hotel. For public transportation (taxi/shuttle services)
and rental car information, please visit www.oaklandairport.com

► **Transportation to/from San Francisco: San Francisco Int'l
Airport is approximately 20 miles west from the hotel. For public
transportation (taxi/shuttle services) and rental car information,
please visit www.flysfo.com.**

**Reservation Deadline is Monday, August 08, 2014. 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 website to make your reservations.**

AIRLINES - NO CONTRACTS - JUST GO ONLINE OR CALL

Here are a few:

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Airlines: 1-800-864-8331 www.united.com *fly into SFO*

Railroad Service *AMTRAK***** Our Amtrak Convention Fare
Code is X95R-987. It will give a 10% discount off the best available
fare to Oakland, CA between August 25, 2014 and September 4, 2014.
The reservation number is 1-800-872-7245 or call your local travel
agent. The Amtrak station is approx. 1 mile from the hotel. Jack
London Square - 245 Second Street - Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 238-
4322. *****Please note: This code is valid for reservations made by
phone only. It is not valid for reservations made online. There
is no shuttle service but there is taxi service (curb side) and city bus
service (Free B) - the bus stop is within walking distance (about 1
block). Visit www.meetdowntownoak.com for bus info and schedules.**

**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

Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

Report Date: 02/19/2014

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STEPHEN A RICOSSA Branch 005
ALAN LEVINE Branch 007
REV ROBERT CHINNAPAN

Branch 010
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EVAN J THOMAS Branch 014
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PETER TREBILCOCK Branch 052
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JIM LAUTERMILCH Branch 075
HARRY J MARTIN Branch 075
RANDI K MARTIN Branch 075
MARY L MILLER Branch 091
LEA RUBIN Branch 103

Branch 115
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MATTEO BUSCAINO Branch 115
MARIE CAPODANNO Branch 115
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CATHY DI BERNARDO Branch 115
CAROLYN DI LEVA Branch 115
JOSEPH M DRAGICH Branch 115
PHIL ANN F DRAGICH Branch 115
AMELIA GIOIELLO Branch 115
CHARLOTTE BARBIERI Branch 127
REV ALBERT MENGON Branch 154

Branch 173
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CLAIRE CURLEY Branch 218
EMILY CURLEY Branch 218
MARIA LUCHETTA Branch 218
NICHOLAS LUCHETTA Branch 218
MARY MARTINEZ Branch 218
MARIE RENNER Branch 218
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ANN M HENNING Branch 223
JOSEPH A ARIETTA Branch 229
LIGIA BRANNAN Branch 229
ANNA J GONZALEZ MARUCA

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YVONNE M POWELL Branch 380
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ROSEMARIE BACCHETTI Branch 390
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ELAINE E STEFFENS Branch 391
LORI ARENA Branch 395
PATRICIA BERTILACCHI Branch 395
MARY ANN PIANA CHAPMAN

Branch 395
SHIRLEY A DELFATTI Branch 395
GEOFF P LIN-CEREHINO Branch 395
ROBERTA GREENER Branch 408
LINDA CONDON Branch 413
CAROLE J LASKY Branch 416
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LAURA A CIRINCIONE Branch 425
KATHLEEN GIANIRACUSA

Branch 433
MARIANNE DAMICO Branch 439
MARIA IZZI Branch 439
MARIA IZZI-NERI Branch 439
SILVANA IZZI-NERI Branch 439
GIOVANNA SPUCIA Branch 439

Irish Blessings for St. Patrick's Day

May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a
dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door.

May you always walk in sunshine.

May you never want for more.

May Irish angels rest their wings right beside your door.

Grand President

continued from page 1

really don’t see the whole picture or grasp the entire concept or idea.

After each event I usually will sit down and compile my thoughts, ideas, concerns and suggestions. It is at this time I realize without a doubt that we are on the right road to pursuing our strategic plan. Everyone I have had the pleasure of talking with wants to see their Branch, District and ICF grow and prosper in the coming years. There is so much good we can do for our Parishes, Communities and Charities that a little hard work and weekends away from home are not that bad after all, so thank you for all your input. Your comments are being brought up at our Task Force Meetings to ensure this group we count on as family will grow in strength and numbers.

With Installations done, Bishops’ Days are in full swing. Our 90th Anniversary Galas are right around the corner. I will be attending each one. My father has been hinting hard that he has nothing planned for the weekend of June 8. Funny, that is when Chicago has planned their Gala. I wonder if he is looking for an invitation. I am looking forward to spending time with all of you at these momentous occasions. The other night my kids started asking about upcoming events at a family dinner. This reminded me of the many good times and dinners I have attended over the past six months. It is the quality of time that is spent with friends and family that truly count. It has been said many times that going to an ICF function is like going to a family reunion. There are not many organizations like ours that are still thriving after 90 years. This is something we should be proud of and take credit for. It is this belief in religion, community involvement and Family that has kept us going strong for 90 years and will continue going forward for the next 90.

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

Roselynn Jarrett
Grand Treasurer

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 2013 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 2013 is the following:

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or more will be required to file State Form 199.

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts less than \$50,000.00 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, 2014. 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, 2013. 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.

Thank You.

Bylaw Proposals

continued from page 1

panied by a well-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 Parliamentary 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.

ICF Mourns Tragic Passing of Rev. Eric Freed

Legacy.com

It is with profound sorrow that I inform you of the tragic death of Father Eric Freed that occurred in the early hours of Wednesday, January 1, 2014 in the rectory of St. Bernard's parish, Eureka. The media and other means of social communications have kept people informed as to the nature of his tragic death. Father Freed was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Eugene and Laura Freed. He was raised in Covina, California and graduated from Northview High School in the summer of 1975. He attended Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles where he graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy. In the summer of 1979 he entered the Salesian Religious Congregation in Japan where he pursued his studies to the priesthood in the Salesian House of Formation, Jocti, Japan. He completed his studies in Theology at the Pontifical Salesian University, Turin, Italy from 1988-1990. On September 23, 1990 he was ordained to the Priesthood in Tokyo, Japan, by Archbishop Peiro Shiryayanagi Seiichi for ministry as a Salesian priest. He ministered in Salesian High Schools as a teacher and chaplain in Ikuei Kosen, Tokyo 1990-1995 and Seikosaki-un, Osaka, 1995-1999. Father Freed came

to the Diocese of Santa Rosa on April 1, 1999 and served as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph, Cotati until August, 2001, with a two month assignment at St. Francis Solano, Sonoma in the summer of 1999. On August 28, 2001, he was appointed Administrator of St. Mary's, Arcata where he ministered for one year. From August 15, 2002 until the summer of 2005 he was the Chaplain at St. Francis High School, Mountain View, California. Upon his return to the Diocese of Santa Rosa he was assigned as Chaplain at St. Vincent de Paul High School, Petaluma, and was in residence at St. James, Petaluma. In March of 2006 he was assigned as the Chaplain to the Newman Center for Humboldt State University, Arcata, and at the same time ministered as the Parochial Vicar at St. Bernard's, Eureka. Father Freed also taught Religious Studies at Humboldt State University, a course which was well received by the students. Father Freed ministered to the Japanese Catholic Community in San Francisco and Santa Clara County. He wrote the story of a Hiroshima bombing survivor who related her experience in the book titled "The Experience of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima in Poem." On January 10, 2001, he was appointed Pastor of St. Bernard's parish, Eureka and served in that office until his untimely death on New

Year's Day, January 1, 2014. Father Eric is survived by his father Eugene Freed and his stepmother, Donna and by his brother Will, sisters, Kari, Lisa, Anita and Melissa who live in various parts of the United States. He was preceded in death by his mother, Laura and two brothers, Gene and Michael. He is mourned not only by his own family but his spiritual family as well, especially by those he served in Japan as a Salesian High School teacher, by the Japanese Community of the Bay Area and by the parishioners he served in the various parishes here in the Diocese of Santa Rosa particularly the parishioners of St. Bernard's parish, Eureka. Father Freed was a compassionate, giving priest with a ready smile, a good sense of humor and he was a sports fanatic. Echoing the words of Jesus to the blind man Bartimeus - "What do you want me to do for you" was how Father Eric lived his priestly life and ministry. He will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

Letters of condolence may be sent to the Chancery and will be forwarded to the family.

Will Houston/The Times-Standard

Hundreds of mourners gathered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Eureka on Monday to attend their last Mass in the presence of the late Rev. Eric Freed of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Eureka.

Before the ceremony began, attendees consoled each other with embraces while others knelt in prayer.

After the opening prayer and readings, Bishop Robert Vasa spoke to the congregation as he had done the night before during a vigil at St. Bernard Catholic Church.

”Each time we gather, it seems that the grief becomes a little more manageable,” Vasa said.

During his homily, Vasa said that the community would share the grief of Freed's “untimely death,” but said that his teachings would still remain.

”The torch is passed to all of you,” Vasa said. “Do not lose faith, do not lose hope. The examples and teachings Father Eric gave you, these too remain.”

As a way to begin after such a loss, Vasa told the congregation to utilize a characteristic that Freed exuded on a daily basis.

”The commission here in Eureka is to love with the same joy that he possessed contagiously,” Vasa said.

Chicago

Calumet City

St. Victor, Br. 195

It's snowing again in Chicago. So far this year we had approximately sixty inches of measured snow fall! Time for our branch to do long range strategic planning for our future. We have made some plans for the year. One is that we will not host the largest fundraiser undertaking, the St. Joseph TAVOLA. Instead we will honor St. Joseph spiritually but in another fashion. The reason for this decision (our aging process) the tremendous energy and physical labor it involves along with a lack of the working facilities required to continue to produce this huge event successfully. We will host some smaller events (not so labor intensive) such as a bazaar and possibly other sale type events to provide funds for our current spiritual activities and some we wish to add. We'll have more information on this next month after our Activity Planners have a "Think Outside the Box" Session. Judy Longawa will have prayer cards with Father Tolton information at our next meeting. Other changes include Weekend Mass Schedule changes at St. Victor beginning March 8; Parish Ministry Fair March 1 and 2; launching the Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic Appeal; and Parish Leadership Day February 22.

We express our condolences to Judy and Leonard Longawa on the death of their sister in law, Joan. We send our get well wishes and pray for Dr. Michael Koller's recovery following surgery. Fr. Steve Kosinski, pastor of All Saints parish is organizing a trip to the Vatican to celebrate Pope Francis installation. Phone him if you are interested in joining his group. In the meantime, pray for us as we will for you.

God Bless,

Jo Merlo

Fresno

Madera

Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

Ninety members and guests enjoyed the brunch, Christmas cheer and raffle. We sang Christmas Carols to the delightful live accordion music played by Rick Logoluso. Chaplin Sister Thomas Marie Heavey decided to shake things up a bit with a conga line to the strains of the "Beer Barrel Polka." Monty Pistoresi was our Master of Ceremonies and, as usual, was as charming as he was entertaining. Thanks Monty for all you do for so many in the community. A great big thank you to the December Committee for a wonderful afternoon: Chairmen: Ray & Louise Chiarelli; members Mike Chiarelli, Carol Chiarelli, Jack, Jennifer & Juliana Chiarelli, Bill & Elsie Bottorff, Monty & Leona Pistoresi, and Ila & Tom Schoettler.

January found us all well with a great turnout for the first dinner meeting of the year. Many thanks to the January committee: Marilyn Rowe chairman, and her committee Rosemary Dockery, and Mary Contreras. The beef stroganoff, rice, salad and bread was just what we needed for a cold January night. Thanks so much. On February 1st two young members who are also Boy Scouts, Mark Cavallero and Thomas Keitz, were awarded the International Catholic Awareness Medal by Bishop Armando Ochoa, of the Fresno Diocese. The boys completed a list of requirements related to their Catholic Faith. Members are busy making preparations for the Diocese Installation of officers Mass and luncheon on Sunday, February 23rd. It is with great sadness that I report



(Above) Branch 27 from left: Mark Cavallero, Bishop Armando X. Ochoa, and Thomas Keitz.

(Right) Our wonderful Sisters of the Immaculate Conception from Left: Sister Clara, Sister Pilar, Sister Esperanza, ICF President Elsie Bottorff, Sister Ana Rosa.

the passing of our longtime member Violet Weaver.

Ciao,

Kerin Cavallero

Fresno

Our Lady of Victory, Br. 32

Branch No. 32 is pleased to report we initiated four new members at our January meeting. We welcome George Pisching, Kris Marschall, Beverly Follett, and Ashli Quidarte.

Chairperson Patricia Vivenzi is working on the Italian Dinner set for Saturday, April 26, 2014. We serve antipasto, salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, chicken a la cacciatore, and dessert all for a \$25 donation for adults. Children ages 5 – 10 are fed for a mere \$5. Dinner is served family style from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. We have take out dinners available from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. This huge undertaking can't be accomplished without all the industrious members from our branch. We hope you can join us. Call Elaine – 834 2278 or Patricia – 233 8150. Our proceeds benefit Cooley's Anemia, Gifts of Love, Seminary Burse, OLV Church and School, ICF Scholarships, Hinds Hospice, and Catholic Charities.

Our slate of officers are: Jim Clark – President, Michael Vivenzi – 1st Vice, Tom Marschall – 2nd Vice, Natalie Clark – Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Patricia Vivenzi – Secretary, Orator – Maria Guglielmino, Trustees Yvonne Saldebuhere, Eleanor Andreotti, and Claire Pisching, and Sentinel – Evelyn Nieto. This great group has many plans.



Members of Branch 39 eagerly awaiting the yummy February dinner meal.



Our dear sweet Rosie Lencioni has passed away. She was a member in the ICF for over 50 years. We have many fond memories of her cooking and baking talents. She is dearly missed.

Our chaplain, Msgr. John Moreton is on the sick list. We pray as he regains his health. Pray for peace in the world.

Merced

St. Cecelia, Br. 39

As I write this, it is raining. Thank the Lord. Our February dinner was great. Our chef, Maryellen

Mazzie and her assistant, Loretta Symes put together great meals. Fettucini with chicken marsala! A great salad and dessert to top it off. Our tables were decorated with a valentine theme and we all had a great time. We enjoyed a day at Chukchansi Casino. We had a raffle and bingo on the bus and everyone got a goodie bag. Some losers and some winners. Our member, Adrienne Lopes baked scones for everyone. Sister Thomas Marie, chaplain of Br. 27 in Madera joined us. She always has special jokes for us. We pray for our sick members and our members who are not able to get out. Welcome to our new members, Steven, Carlo and Natalie Del Real.

See you at our next meeting!

**"LIVE SIMPLY, LOVE GENEROUSLY,
CARE DEEPLY, SPEAK KINDLY.
LEAVE THE REST TO GOD"**



Maryellen Mazzei and Loretta Symes of Branch 39 are busy cooking the February Dinner meal.

Sanger

Sant' Antonio, Br. 70

On Feb. 11, 2014, our regular meeting was held at St. Mary's Hall. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a delicious polenta dinner. God Bless the cooks.

We thank President Kay and her mother Josie for decorating the tables so beautifully with hearts and flowers.

President Kay welcomed our guests, Virginia Larabee and her son Nick. The meeting was closed with a prayer by our chaplain, Father John Bruno.

We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend, Rosie Lencioni. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her family. We send our prayers also to our deputy, Fred De Renzio, who is recovering from surgery.

God Bless,

Orsolina Casella

Fresno

Sacred Heart, Br. 185

Belated happy new year to all our I C F members.

We opened our January meeting with enthusiasm, with special guest, Jim and Maryann Friemel, membership coordinator, (correct name and title please) from Hollister, to help with ways to increase membership, we explained our concerns, to keep Sacred Heart Branch 185, going.

Many thanks to Madera, Santissimo Crocifisso, Branch 27, for hosting the installation of officers.

At this writing we are looking forward to the District-wide Bocce Tournament, May 10, at San Joaquin High School, as well as the Italian Catholic Federation, 90th Anniversary Gala, June 22 in San Francisco.

Pray for the health of our members, Dolores Biehle, and Mary Kendrick were hospitalized, Ann Giorgini, fell after our last meeting, Vincent Giorgini had major dental work, most continued prayers for Jaye Boen, and very saddened to report, long time member, Albert Daniels passed away.

Member, Michael Caglia, is very proud of his cousin, Richard Caglia, who received the Leon S Peters award, from the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, 2014. An award to "honor a Central Valley leader who, over a period of time, who has clearly demonstrated in his or her personal or business life the values, ethics and character exemplified by Mr. Peters". Frank S Caglia, Richards father, received



Branch 250, Clovis - Bill Conatser enjoying a laugh at the Branch picnic. Bill passed away on January 16.

this award as well. First, Father, Son, to receive this award.

Educate, and Encourage your family and friends, on the benefits of becoming an Italian Catholic Federation Member.

Think Safety Always,

Report by, Flora DePasquale, and M.A.Caglia

Clovis

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Our Branch honored Jeanette Shriver who is stepping down after 10 years of leadership as president with a beautiful plaque and a gift certificate. Be sure to see the picture in this month's Bollettino.

A very dear member, Bill Conatser, passed away January 16. Bill and Madeline were active in the ICF, making jams and jellies together and a myriad of other items for the boutiques for a parish fundraiser and other parish activities. Bill was a man of honesty and integrity. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for Madeline and the family. We shall miss him and his wonderful down-home sense of humor.

Shirley Mitchell's son, Tom Pizzo, has moved to California from Pasco, Washington and now has a position as manager of all surgical services at Sutter Hospital in Tracy. Also, Shirley's grandson, Jacob Pizzo, will start the baseball season off by pitching for Bullard High against Clovis High.

Wes Johnson took quite a spill in the parking lot of a shopping center. He was present at the January meeting with his arm bandaged and his face black and blue. Please pray for his quick recovery.

Many happy returns to Julius Abate (2/14), Sherrie Attolico (2/16) and Frank Pimentel (2/25).

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." (Doug Larson)

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 Mole Team did a lot of work to make this another successful event. The Women's Guild attended mass together and then came to our breakfast. The ladies enjoyed themselves.

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, makes everyone who works this event feel good about whatever job they do. It is a great



Branch 250, Clovis - Jeanette Shriver retiring after 10 years of service as president of the branch.

day of fellowship, games, and shopping for treasures at Grandma's Attic. So many things to do and it takes hard work and lots of willing helpers.

Thanks to the members who were able to attend Fresno District Installation. The officers are excited to start their duties for the new year.

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 has desserts, and Boy Scouts has soft drinks. Stations of the Cross are at 5:30 pm and dinner from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and this is a good time to spend time with friends for a delicious dinner.

Please keep Susan Lemucchi and Mindy White and their families in your prayers as they have had family members pass away recently.

Fresno

St. Anthony de Padua, Br. 308

On Sunday, February 23, the St. Anthony de Padua ICF Board Members traveled north to Madera, California to Saint Joachim's Church for the Installation Mass with District and Branch Officers.

Our branch officers renewed their oaths, and met old friends and made new friends from our neighboring branches. Following the Mass and Installation there was a celebratory luncheon in the Holy Spouse's Hall hosted by St. Joachim's ICF branch.

We are happy to heard that Monsignor Cotta, Vicar General from St. Anthony de Padua has been chosen to be a Bishop in Sacramento.

Our Branch 308 held its planning meeting for this year's Lenten Dinners, starting Friday, March 7 from 5:00 to 7:30pm. We will be serving Fish & Chips which also includes a salad, beverage, wine and dessert.

On Wednesday, February 12 we had Barbecue Ribs and many delicious side dishes and desserts for our Dinner/Meeting. A big thank-you to all of our wonderful cooks.

Speaking of all the wonderful cooks that we have in our branch, we are still taking recipes for our Branch 308 Cookbook, which is part of our spring fundraiser. The deadline for recipes is February 28. They will be sold at a later date, but if you would like to reserve a copy let Pat Faragia or one of the Board Officers know.

Please pray for all our ill members and their caretakers.

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

God Bless,

Maria E. Juarez-Garcia



The ladies of Las Vegas Branch 367 gathered for a photo during a breakfast. Seen here are Philomena Consiglio and Jackie Donato standing; Clara Centrone, Norma Spagnolia, and Vee Speziale sitting.

Fresno

Holy Spirit, Br. 417

It is the new year and please remember if you attend our monthly meeting, we encourage you to bring friends.

Br. 417 yearly dues are payable and should be made out to ICF Br. 417. Our financial secretary, Rose Ann Allen will accept them. The 2014 dues are \$34.80. You may pay at the meeting or by mail.

Our Lenten dinners will begin on March 7 and continue for 6 wonderful Friday meals. Entrée for the first meal will be a cheese lasagna, and the soup will be a choice of red or regular lentil soups. We look forward to seeing you at our dinners.

Our branch will be hosting two events in April. The children's Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday and a dinner for the new Catholics through our church, Holy Spirit, RCIA program. If you would like to help, please contact Fred or Gerry.

We want to wish our members with March birthdays. Happy Birthday to Angel Lopez, Tom Nelson, and Gino Roberti.

Ciao,

Pat Duncan

Las Vegas

Las Vegas

St. Francis de Sales, Br. 367

Four of us "old-timers" jumped into Vee's car one day in January, and drove all the way to Henderson to have lunch with another "old-timer", Norma Spagnolia, and her daughter Joann Park, who happen to live in one of the far, far corners of Henderson. Norma doesn't drive anymore, so Joann kindly agreed to meet with us on her day off. We had such a nice visit over lunch at the buffet at Sunset Station. Norma used to be in charge of our bake sales in front of St. Francis de Sales Church when she lived nearby. She used to make so many cakes! Now, Joann seems to have taken lessons from her mom, 'cause she baked forty, (yes 40) cakes for a few of our bake sales. She delivered them the morning of our bake sale after her night shift at the Stratosphere. What a gal! And she's single too!

We were very fortunate to have three new members join our branch in January. Nelsy Skreta, a neighbor of Frances and Felice

Los Angeles

Los Angeles

District Council

On February 5, the first ICF LA Archdiocese District Council (LAADC) Board meeting was held at St Bede the Venerable Catholic Church in La Canada. District President Carmelo Sabatella opened the meeting. District Regional VP and Branch 374 President Al Restivo welcomed members to St Bede the Venerable Catholic Church in La Canada as the host Branch and followed with a prayer of encouragement. Members from many of the 18 Branches in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles attended and successfully worked through the Agenda.

On March 29, the LAADC General Meeting will be hosted by Branch 326 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall of Holy Angeles Catholic Church, 370 Campus Drive, Arcadia. Lunch will be served prior to the meeting from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

On February 9, the ICF Mother Cabrini Cha-



Congratulations to Branch 108 members Tad and Theresa Shaw on their recent Wedding Anniversary.



Happy Birthday wishes to the members of Branch 108 celebrating in February.

5:30pm.

April 13, 2014 - Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Open House hosted by the Villa Cabrini Alumni Association. Come visit and learn about the Patroness of the Italian Catholic Federation and America's first American Saint. Call 626 372-7812 for more information.

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

Carmelo Sabatella, Past President - ICF Branch 108

Email: cas1810@aol.com

Montebello

St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti,

Our February 13 Valentine's Potluck dinner meeting had a great turnout. The branch provided the chicken, drinks, and desert. There were lots of food, fun, and friendships to go around for everyone.

Congratulations to our January birthdays: Anthony DeLorenzo, Joe Volpe, Rose Mercuri, Cettina Mauro, Joey Wadzinski, Frank Salomone, Rita Estrada, Wendy Navares, and Carmelo Divincenzo.

Of course, we also celebrated our February birthdays: Congratulations to Lynn Enrico, Sandro Mercuri, Florence Terramani, Eileen Viera, and Christina Winans who celebrate birthdays this month. Delicious cake was eaten by all. Buon Compleanno a tutti!

On Sunday, January 19 Branch111 attended the annual Los Angeles District Officers Installation will be held at Casa Italiana at St. Peter's Italian Catholic Church.

Mark your calendars for March 15-16 we will be having our annual St. Joseph's table event at St. Benedict's Parish hall in Montebello..



Congratulations to the newly joined Las Angeles Archdiocese! Grand President Bob Basuino was on hand to help celebrate and install the new officers for 2014.



pel and Library Board held its first meeting of 2014 following the Open House earlier in the day. Several visitors from the region came to visit the Chapel for the first time with several having lived in the Burbank area most of their lives and never had the opportunity to see the inside of the facility. The next Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Open House is scheduled for April 13th from 9:00 am to 1:00 PM and will be hosted by the ICF LAADC (San Fernando Valley Region). For more information call 626 372-7812.

The District Board encourages all Branches to support each others' events wherever and whenever possible. Board members also wish to express how proud they are of all branches for their efforts in keeping the ideals and aims of the ICF alive.

Grazie to our members for your support of the ICF and its related events and your prayers for our sick and deceased members, friends and Parishioners who recently passed on to their eternal reward; they will be missed.

Please keep our troops in your prayers that they may be kept safe and from harm's way.

Carmelo A. Sabatella, AIA, President

South Pasadena, CA 91030

South Pasadena

Holy Family, Br. 108

On February 2, ICF Branch 108 held its Social and General Meeting in the Holy Family Church Galilee Room. President

Michele Silveri thanked staff for organizing the Branch Meeting, reviewed upcoming Branch events and celebrated the Birthday of member Jackie Fiske and 40th Wedding Anniversary of Tad and Theresa Shaw.

On February 22, the ICF Branch 108 11th annual Wine Tasting Event was held in the HF Parish Hall. This was the first time local amateur & professional wine growers, wine makers,wine club members, importers and suppliers from the San Gabriel Valley were invited to jointhis event where they presented their areas of expertise to members and parishioners.

Thank you members and parishioners for

supporting this event with a special thank you and congratulations to Co-Chairs Christy Shaw and Gina Sabatella for organizing and managingthis culturally significant, organic and successful fundraiser.

Thank you 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 Parishioners for a speedy recovery.

Save The Dates:

April 6, 2014 - Bocce (1:00pm to 2:30pm) followed by Lunch SSocial and General Meeting (3:00pm to 5:00pm). Mass at



Branch 111 2014 Officers Installation.



Branch 111 members at 2014 Installation Dinner.



Branch 111 January birthdays President Franco Salomone and Carmelo Divincenzo.

Lots of free pasta will be served by Branch members. Table and food blessing will be at 12pm on Saturday the 15th. We will also be selling Italian sausage, canoli, and lots of food items at a nominal price. Come by! All are welcome to attend.

This month's I leave you with a quote from Bill Gates – "I believe that if you show people the problems and you show them the solutions they will be moved to act."

Thank you and God Bless,

Giuseppe Veneziano

San Pedro

St. John Joseph of the Cross, Br. 115

We had a great turnout for our potluck dinner held on Feb. 20. There was lots of food and fun was had by all. Thanks to Carmela Gioiello for coordinating the dinner.

On March 1 we celebrated the feast of San Giovan Giuseppe Della Croce with our annual Crab Dinner Dance. Many members had a hand in making this event a tremendous success. Details to follow in the April Bollettino issue. The delicious dinner was prepared by the talented kitchen crew led by Anthony Amalifitano. Appreciation also goes out to Pauline Iacono, Anna and Neal DiLeva. We want to thank all of our hard working

volunteers. Together we are a successful branch.

A Mass was celebrated on March 4 in honor of St. John Joseph of the Cross.

On March 7 our branch will be hosting the Lenten Meal Dinner. The poor man's meal consisting of Pasta and fagioli, fish and salad will be served in the auditorium after the 5:15 pm mass. All proceeds will be donated to our Christian Care Group.

March 11 the branch took a day trip to see the Palm Springs Follies.

March 25 -- Outing to Pechanga Casino. Members \$20 and non members \$23. Call Pauline for reservations 310 8320563

April 10 -- Monthly meeting 7:30pm please note change to 2nd Thursday of the month due to Holy Week. Please try to attend.

April 27-30th -- Laughlin Trip 3 nights 4 days stay at the Aquarius Casino \$135.00 per person double occupancy \$185.00/single Call Pauline Iacono at 310 8320563 for reservations.

The membership drive is going well. Ten new members have joined. Welcome to our I.C.F. family. If you have an email address, please send it to Neal at ndileva211@aol.com. This will be used to remind members of upcoming meetings and events.

Pray for all our sick and deceased members. Pray for the soul of the recently deceased members and past officer, Frances Alonge. May she rest in peace.

God Bless you all.

Anita Gioiello-Trujillo

Treasurer Br 115

La Cañada Flintridge

St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374

Members of the Board of Directors of the Italian Catholic Federation branch at St. Bede the Venerable Roman Catholic Church in La



San Pedro Branch 115 officers attended the Los Angeles District installation at Casa Italiana on January 19. This year Branch 115 will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on August 16

Cañada Flintridge, California were installed at the annual ICF Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council Installation Luncheon on January 19, 2014. The installation took place at Casa Italiana at St. Peter Church on Broadway in Los Angeles. Officers from eighteen branches of the newly consolidated district were sworn in by Bob Bausino, Grand President of ICF and installed by members of the Central Council who traveled from Oakland to install the new officers.

after the table is blessed and all day Sunday.

I would also like to welcome two new members to Branch 218, Mary Martinez and Linda Sherman.

Thank you again.

God Bless,

Kerri DiMichina

Heritage Chair

Diamond Bar

St. Denis, Br. 317

03/14 – General Meeting: Lenten Soup Meal

03/16 – Quarterly Mass for Deceased Members at the 10:30am Mass

03/22 – 12th annual Pastor's Leadership Awards Banquet

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten soup Dinner. The homemade soups were excellent. Thank you also to all who brought heavy warm socks for women and men to be donated to the homeless shelter event.

We shall hold our first quarterly Mass at 10:30am at St. Denis on March 16 for the deceased members of St. Denis Italian Catholic Federation..

On March 16 we will start our presale for our biggest fundraiser - Holy Cannoli's and thereafter on March 23 and March 30th. Distribution will be on April 6. We appreciate all the hard work and dedication of ICF branch members in the success of this endeavor.

San Gabriel Valley

Arcadia

Holy Angels, Br. 218

Hello All,

Our charitable donations totaled \$6,800 and this year has gotten off to a great start.

We were very excited to have our Annual Pancake Breakfast on January 26, 2014. Once again we were able to donate \$1000 to Holy Angels School.

A Sausage sandwich was held on February 8th and 9th.

It was the best one ever, we made \$708. Thank you to Karen Berardi and Jo Anne Howell for all their hard work cooking and everyone who helped come out and sell.

Our St. Joseph table is on March 15-16. A pasta dinner will be served on Saturday night



Board members of Branch 374 from St. Bede are shown here standing left to right: Fiora Marcucci Murphy, Financial Secretary; Masmiliano Leonida Bastone, Trustee; Mark Mannarelli, First Vice President; Al Restivo, Branch President and First Vice President of the District; Maria DeSalguera, Second Vice President; and Rae Ann Mertz, Trustee. Seated left to right are: Nancy Lieggi-Ammirato, Sentinel; Joseph Vinci, Treasurer; and Jack Kojimoto, Alternate Trustee.

Not pictured are Mary Wynton, recording Secretary, and Mary Liss, Corresponding Secretary.

ICF Photo by Tad Shaw



Members of Branch 218 both working and enjoying the annual Pancake breakfast.

Please purchase your dinner and raffle tickets for the Pastoral Leadership Awards Banquet. *God Bless,*
Roxanne Perry
President

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 26, 2014 at 7:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. The menu will be corned beef and cabbage, vegetables, rye bread, salad and dessert.

Our quarterly mass will be held on April 6th at the 8:00am mass. Breakfast to follow at Coco's on Baldwin in Arcadia.

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

Please continue to keep all of our ill members in your prayers, especially; Rose Costa, Anne Dandrea, Roberta Nangelo, Andy Bonura, and Ann Primising. And, let's not forget to pray for our deceased members. Please pray for George Zavala.

Happy March Birthday to: Salma Bishara, Angelo Capriotti, and John Perfetto.

Happy Anniversary to: Frances and Frank Scorsone (42 years)

True wealth comes from treasured friends that we hold dear to our hearts.

God Bless,
Jo Anne Disney

San Fernando Valley Burbank

St. Maria Goretti, Br. 102

March brings it's holidays too.

Blessed St. Patrick's Day on the 17th

Blessed St. Joseph's Day on the 19th

enjoy them both!!!

March 6-Board meeting

March 8-regular meeting in Cabrini Hall.

We will have a very special meeting because we will celebrate Ann Centoni's one hundred birthday too. Come and help us celebrate this remarkable lady.

Ciao,
Joy

Santa Barbara/ Ventura

Thousand Oaks

St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380

Our branch celebrated a successful February meeting with a Mardi Gras celebration. A good time was had by everyone. Our members are busy planning for our upcoming 28 annual St. Joseph Day festival which will take place at St. Paschal Baylon parish hall on March 16. We will have live music, an Italian Bake sale, excellent raffle prizes and a wonderful Italian dinner prepared by member Lindo Palliano and his wonderful team of helpers. St. Joseph Day is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we look forward to all of our members getting together and enjoying the fun, while raising money for the ICF!

It will be a lot of fun! Buy your tickets soon!

Ciao,
Jean Fontana Bridges
Corresponding Secretary



Installation of Branch 317 officers.



Members of Branch 317 at the District installation included Roxanne Perry, Judy Politte, Patty Lasko, Ann Fusano, Bea Yary, and Mary Schmidt.



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SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION



Monterey, Branch 36 enjoyed a bus trip to the horse races at Golden Gate Fields.

Monterey

Santa Cruz

Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

The Easter Season is upon us with all the remembrance and celebration of our Lord’s sacrifice. May the blooming daffodils, tulips, and iris also help us remember that hope springs eternal.

To catch you up: in January, Branch 21 officers attended the District Installation of Officers held at lovely St. Angela Merici Church in Pacific Grove. We want to thank the ICF host Branch 206 for their welcoming reception, beautiful mass, and tasty Mexican style luncheon. Those Branch 21 officers installed were: Roseann Costabile as President; Richard Puccinelli as 1st Vice President; Donald Giudici as Second Vice President; Rosa Radicchi as Treasurer; Norma Wilson as Financial Secretary; Patty Morelli as Recording/Correspondence Secretary; Geri Zabalos as Orator; George Kievlan, Cynthia Schuette, and Mary Jo Belli as Trustees; and Madeline Crews as Sentinel. Father Joseph Occhiuto will continue as Chaplain. Congratulations to this year’s Branch Officers and thank you for all you do.

Also in January, we had a calamari dinner with over 200 members and guests attending. The calamari, cooked by Dr. Don Slebir and his team, was excellent. Lena Silva and her group of ‘garlic peelers’ put together a wonderfully pungent Bagna Calda; and Rosalie Campesi brought two delicious appetizers. We want to thank everyone who worked so hard on this dinner. It made for a wonderful evening.

Still to come: As always, the Lenten Season starts our No Bake Sale. Remember, this is one of our biggest fundraisers and no one has to do anything but donate! Then on March 23rd there will be our annual St. Joseph’s Day Dinner at Holy Cross Hall. And, looking further ahead to May 9, we will be holding a Mother’s Day Dinner Dance. We have just too much fun!

In closing, something to think about: “The Resurrection tells us that the spiritual is higher than the material; that in this universe, spirit counts for more than matter.” H. P. Liddon, English Theologian

Patty Morelli
Recording Secretary
Branch 21 – Santa Cruz

Salinas

Nostra Signora Del Sasso, Br. 25

Our branch voted to once again sponsor a \$400 scholarship for a deserving high school senior. If you would like to nominate someone who qualifies and is of the Catholic Faith in either public or Catholic high schools, please contact a branch officer or go to the ICF web site, icf.org. Students must have a 3.2 GPA. Additional information as well as an application form can be obtained on the web site. Applications must be received by March 15, 2014.

November turned out to be a good time to have our Polenta Luncheon fundraiser. We will ask for a November date again for this year.

The District Picnic is scheduled for August 3, 2014. Mark your calendar as the event seems to get better each year.

Tickets to the convention raffle have been received and will be sold by branch members. Tickets are \$20 for 12 tickets.

The District Meeting will be held in Paso Robles on March 30, 2014. We would like to have a good representation from our branch, so contact a branch officer if you are interested in going. Some seating is available with other members; cost is \$5 for lunch.

The Lenten Season is upon us once more. Hard to believe it has been a year. A thought for Ash Wednesday: “Time to reflect and share our thanks; for this is the time we remember the greatest sacrifice”. Author Unknown.

Ciao,
Roy Frontani

Monterey

Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

By the time you receive this month’s Bollettino our Lenten dinners will be going strong, I am looking forward to all the wonderful dessert and seeing everyone, volunteers and those who support our dinners.

St. Joseph’s Celebration - this is always a memorable event, Mary Manuguerra and Beatrice Bonanno work very hard to make St. Joseph’s really special. The tickets to attend have to be pre-paid, so call Mary, 375-2009, or Beatrice, 649-3216, to reserve your table. If you are a baker and make bread please bring some to share, we would love to have a lot of home made baked bread to honor St. Joseph. There will be a beautiful Mass

with a visit from St. Joseph, delicious dinner, great band for dancing and/or listening, and you are with family and friends. What more could you ask for?

Our deepest sympathy to Joann Parent on the loss of her brother, Michael Maiorana.

We have many members who have had surgery, are ill, confined to their home, please remember them in your prayers, we all need prayers so please pray for all of our members.

Calendar

Lenten dinners March 7-14-21-28, April 4-11. Please bring or send a dessert each week.

April 20 - Easter. May the beauty and peace of this Easter comfort you and remind you of Christ’s promise of eternal life.

May 1 - 83rd Anniversary and Initiation of New Members Dinner - this is a free dinner to all of our paid up members and new members, come and enjoy!

Have a blessed Lenten Season,
Bettye Sollecito

Castroville

Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51

The January meeting was attended by Council Member, Jim Jones. He and our Deputy Geri Hrepich shared some ideas of how to attract members to our meetings and how to recruit new members. Jim explained some of the inner workings of the Central Council and what they hope to accomplish this coming year. Many thanks to Jim and we hope to see you again soon. Thank you to Geri for sharing stories regarding her early days with the I.C.F.

Our March 23 Polenta & Stew Scholarship Fundraiser is coming together. Our chefs Paul Cortopassi and Dave Pecci have added member D.L. Grier and friend Jeff Vezzolo to their kitchen crew. They are putting on their chef’s hats (wait a minute) is D.L.’s hat a mmm cowboy hat??? Great food will be coming out of our I.C.F. kitchen. The dinner will include Polenta & Stew, salad, bread, dessert and coffee. The date again is Sunday, March 23rd the time is 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The price is \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children under the age of 12. There will be a mass in Italian at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel next to the Parish Hall. Our very own Father Pedro (who is fluent in Italian) will be presiding.

Dear Jesus, as we begin our Lenten Journey, take away the darkness of selfishness and help us to make this day brighter for others. Thank you for the precious gift of water.

Ciao,
Leonora Barlow

Pacific Grove

St. Angela Merici, Br. 206

Our Branch successfully hosted the Central Coast District Installation Mass and Luncheon on January 18, 2014. Fr. Seamus O’Brien said the Mass, and Andy Pappani, Grand 2nd Vice President, was the installing officer. Nello Rossi led the members in a rousing rendition of Noi Vogliam Dio before we all headed down to the St. Angela Merici Church Hall. The Hall was beautifully decorated and everyone enjoyed our delicious enchilada lunch. It was a lot of hard work for the Members, but all in attendance seemed to be having fun, especially with the raffle prizes.

Blessings to all during Lent.
Marjorie McClure, Recording Secretary

Capitola

St. Joseph, Br. 227

Our Fish Fry dinners started on March 7 and will be served every Friday until April 11. Cost is the same this year: \$12 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5 through 12, children under five eat free. The rate for a family of two adults and two or more children under 12 is \$30. Thanks to all who have signed up to help.

Thanks to Vicki Howell for putting together the day trip to Graton Casino in Rohnert Park. Our condolences go out to the Airoidi family on the loss of their wife and mother, Barbara. Barbara joined our branch in 1999.

We also mourn the passing of Barbara Negro Walker, who was a charter member of our branch. Sincere sympathy to the Walker and Negro families.

At both funerals, our branch conducted its traditional ceremony with red roses and assisted at the reception. Our gratitude goes to Jane Kotila who coordinated the Walker funeral and to Barbara Schaarschmidt, who has volunteered to serve as Funeral Coordinator in the future, thereby relieving our busy President of that duty.

Your prayers are requested for Bob Candau, who has faced many health challenges recently.

We’d like to recognize the following folks, who are the longest members still living: Alice Ponza, Frank Locatelli, Kay and Ken Waldvogel, Heidi and Otto Ambiel, Sylvia Beccaria, Ida Lomazzi, Helen and Don Bonnel, Don Robinson, and Dolores McCartney. Thanks for your dedication all these years.

Blessings to all,
Deanna Musler, Secretary

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One of the original founding members of Branch 291, Mario Anecchini, is pictured here with President Pete Gallagher and longtime member Doris Wais during the 40th Anniversary celebration of Branch 291.

Arroyo Grande

St. Patrick, Br. 291

At our January General Meeting we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Branch 291! Congratulations to our dedicated members for 40 years of serving the St. Patrick's Church community and supporting local charities with our fundraising activities. We would also like to acknowledge three founding members who are still members of Br. 291 today—Mario Anecchini, Barbara Badasci and Mary Ann Zogata.

We are gearing up for our Lenten Fish Fries that begin on March 7. If you're in the area, please join us for a delicious dinner of fish, fries and homemade coleslaw—plus a large selection of desserts for a small donation—on the following Fridays during Lent: March 7th, 21st, 28th, April 4th and 11th.

It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the recent passing of two ICF members, Shirley Torres and Bob Harris. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved ones. Also, please keep in prayer Sr. Carol, Joe Franco, Stevie Hall, Jan Hilton, Trish Jimenez, Jean & Emil Minicucci, Marjorie & James Rodarte, Joe Slavin and Sonia & Jens Wagner.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Keely Sanchez

Recording Secretary

Paso Robles

St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

The January meeting with our newly elected president Irma Zanini at the helm was well attended. Opening prayers were offered by Assistant Pastor Fr. Marc. Discussions were held regarding the upcoming biannual pasta dinner on Saturday, March 1st. Proceeds will be used for high school and college students' scholarships.

On March 30 our branch together with Arroyo Grande Branch 291, will be hosting the Central Council District meeting. Further information will be provided when final plans are made. We look forward to having many district members attend.

A donation of \$550. was sent to Central Council for the Cooley's Anemia Fund in memory of Norma Brenton, who was a member very dedicated to promoting awareness for this disease.

Thanks to Sarah Jane Amoroso and her Branch 206 members for hosting the Central Coast District Officers' installation. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Seamus O'Brien after which we enjoyed visiting with friends over coffee and doughnuts. Grand Vice President Andy Pappini recognized our new officers: President Irma Zanini; First Vice President David Zanini; Second Vice President Alice Mastagni; Recording Secretary Mary Mazzo; Correspondence Secretary Theresa Sollazzo; Treasurer David Zanini; Orator Karen Kudjia; Trustees Muffy Banks, Missy Ellsworth & Tony Salvia; Sentinel Mary Ferry; Deputy Pete Gallagher.

With our new panel of officers, our goals will be to increase our membership, to provide assistance to various charities and to work together for success.

We thank God for the rain.

Theresa Sollazzo

Correspondence Secretary

Oakland

East Bay

District Council

Well it looked like a full house at the district Crab Feed last Friday Feb. 7. The food was plentiful and delicious, and the raffle baskets were overflowing with tickets. As a well fed participant I would say it was a success. Thanks to all who helped and those who just enjoyed themselves.

Next on the agenda is Bishop's Day which we will co-host with Contra Costa district on March 16. Mass will be at 3pm at Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley, followed by dinner in Stack Center at 5pm. Reserva-

tions are necessary, the cost is \$45.00, deadline is March 7.

Before the convention we will be having m-a-n-y meetings, please feel free to contribute any ideas you have to make this an interesting and fun time for all. We will also be asking each branch to participate in different ways, so it's time to put on your volunteer hat.

As Lent is fast approaching, it can be used as a time to reflect on the good our district can do with the help of many. Pray that we can all help one another to the best of our ability.

Good Works and Prayers,

Pat Grasso

Alameda

Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

Branch 10 looks forward to a busy middle of March. We will host our annual Irish Social on Saturday evening, March 15, in Saint Philip Neri Hall, Alameda. Four days later, on Wednesday, March 19, Saint Joseph's Day will be observed with a dinner, also in Saint Philip Neri Hall. Both events are always well-attended. For information, including time, menu and cost, please contact Branch 10 president Dave Rose, (510) 522-6004, buncle@earthlink.net or publicity chairperson John Zugnoni, (510) 523-8005, john@zugnoni.net.

Our activities in the past two months included attending the installation of district and branch officers of the Oakland District at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland on Sunday afternoon and evening, January 19, and hosting the District Crab Feed on Friday night, February 7. The installation itself followed Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Stan Zak of Saint Margaret Mary Parish of Oakland, the district chaplain, and Father (see below), and then a polenta dinner. Also present were the two priests of Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Parish of Alameda, Father Joy Kumarthusseril, mf and Father Robert Chinnapan, mf, who also belong to Branch 10. The installation coincided with but took precedence over the National Football Conference championship game. The San Francisco Forty-Niners boast Italian-American connections, having been founded in 1946 by the Morabito family of San Francisco and now being owned by the DeBartolo-York family of Youngstown, Ohio.

We were saddened by the death on January 27 of longtime branch member Salvatore Anthony "Sal" Spingola. Sal had reached the age of 90 last September. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years Betty and no children but four generations of other relatives.

Branch 10's own polenta dinner has been rescheduled from January 18 to Saturday evening, April 26, beginning at 6:00 o'clock. Ben Ratto will serve as chef. Cost is \$21.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 and younger. For further information contact Dave Rose or John Zugnoni.

All Branch 10 social functions are held in Saint Philip Neri Hall in Alameda. It is a very direct tip to the hall, which located at High and Van Buren Streets, approximately 1-1/2 miles west of the Interstate 880 (Nimitz Freeway)-High Street interchange in Oakland. We hope to see lots of out-of-towners at our upcoming festivities.

Oakland

Santa Rita, Br. 40

Happy St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day. If your ICF dues have not yet been paid please do so now. Have your check made out

to ICF Branch 40, and mail it to Catherine Kapper, 20700 Tuxedo Ct., Castro Valley, Ca, 94552. Thank you to those that have already remitted.

Upcoming:

March 6: Monthly meeting 7:00pm

March 5: Ash Wednesday

March 9: Day light savings begins. Spring Forward.

April 3: Monthly meeting 7:00pm

We wish a Happy Birthday to: Gloria Andrada, Rosalie De Santi and Aldo Innocenti. God Bless. Please remember in your prayers the sick and the convalescing members of our branch. Especially Elma and Leroy Casale, Bruna Gasparro, Aldo Innocenti and Clemence Zanata. God Bless You All.

Prayer: Jesus, Remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Ciao,

M.A. Francis, L. Francis

Oakland

St. Theresa, Br. 223

Saturday, April 5 is the date of our Spring Dinner. On the menu is Chicken Cacciatore, Soft Polenta, all the fixings, plus dessert from Dianda Bakery. There will be a raffle as well as a Silent Auction for baked goods. This event will take place at the St. Theresa Events Center, which is easily accessible to all, at 30 Mandalay Rd, Oakland. Everyone is welcome. Doors open at 6P.M. Adults \$18.00. Children 7-17yrs, \$10.00. Reservations by check to I.C.F. Br. #223 and mailed to Holly Raineri, 1074 Annerley Rd. Piedmont, CA 94610. Phone (510) 451-0608. Deadline is March 29. Many thanks to members Cecile Cuttitta, Marlene McShane, Carla Gaul, and Mary Anne Giuntoli, who volunteered to be chairpersons and to our chef Peter Nuti.

May 3rd and 4th will be our 1st Bake Sale of the year at St. Theresa Church, 30 Mandalay Rd., Oakland, after the 5pm Saturday and after the 9am and 11am masses on Sunday. Our wonderful bakers once again will be baking breads, cakes pies, biscotti, etc. Don't miss this occasion for home baked goodies!

We welcome our newest member-Ann Henning. Her dear mother-Corinne Henning, was our member for many years.

May God answer our prayers for Good Health wishes for our members who are not well.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring.

Spring; An experience in immortality

Yoli Moglia

Liverore

St. Filomena, Br. 285

Our Bingo Bash to benefit Children's Hospital Oakland, February 22, was a fun evening, with dancing between games, food, prizes and entertainment. We wish to thank all those who came, supported and helped make the evening a success. A special thanks to our chairpersons, Philomena and Joe Buonsante, and to the representatives from Children's Hospital who explained about living with Cooley's Anemia and how research is finding new treatments for this condition.

Twelve of our members and their guests enjoyed the East Bay District crab feed on February 7. The next District function will be Bishop's Day, on March 16, at Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley. Bishop Barber will celebrate Mass at 3:00p. and dinner will follow at a cost of \$45 per person. The East Bay District always does such a great job and we encourage as many members to



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participate in their functions as possible.

Congratulations to Nonna Phyl and Nonno Joe Buonsante on the birth of their first grandchild, Francesca Charlene Buonsante, on January 9. Parents, Patrick and Sarah, and baby Francesca are doing well.

Branch 285, welcomed two new members last month, Carol and Paul Christensen. We're so happy to see new faces and hope they enjoy the ICF. Members celebrating birthdays in March are: John Cardinalli, Joyce D'Angelo, Sarah Hansen, Cecilia Larsen and Ron Tujague.

Our next meeting will be a pot luck held on March 21st at St. Michael's in Livermore. We are asking all members to bring non-perishable food for our St. Joseph's Table, to be distributed to those in need through the local food bank. Gail and Ed Rocca, Pat Mueller and Ed Sacca will host. See you all there!

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!

Mary Merucci

Castro Valley

Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Well the teams playing on Super Bowl Sunday may not have been local teams, but the team effort for our Bake Sale certainly was there. A big thank you to all of our bakers, sellers and buyers, without you we would not have had such a successful sale.

Our Sweetheart dinner on Feb. 13 was also a success, nothing like romantic Italians! Also Mike Miraglia did all the cooking, so we could all enjoy ourselves. Thanks, Mike.

Coming in March is Lent, that will call on all of us to get more involved; in addition to our regular meeting, we will also provide one of the soup meals for the parish. And we will have a St. Joseph's table at our regular meeting on March 13. A big thank you to Betty Paterson for joining the coffee and donuts crew!

Looking forward to a good turn out for Bishop's day on Sunday, March 16, since it will be held here at OLG.

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John is an active member of Branch 332, Novato and serves the entire Bay Area.

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Time to think about what to do for Lent, not just what to "give up", but positive things we can do for each other.

Here's to a prayerful Lent as we prepare for Easter.

Contra Costa

Contra Costa

District Council

The Contra Costa District Branches wish to thank our Richmond Branch for hosting our Installation of Officers. It was so impressive! The effort that was put into the event was evident. Thank You

We are now looking forward to Bishops Day Celebration! Sunday, March 16. Mass at 3:00pm at Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley. Banquet to follow..\$45:00 per person. Please RSVP to your branch president by March 5.

March 5will begin our Lenten Season, and it reminds us that we do not need to give up something we like, but add on that special act of kindness A quote: "I can't do everything. But everything I do, I can do with love."

Would you believe that March 9th is the time to set your clock forward? Longer daylight for Bishops Day!

Pax

Joann

Martinez

San Martino, Br. 13

Bishop's Day this year being held on Sunday, March 16 honors Bishop Michael Barber, Bishop of Oakland. Thank you to those members who submitted Spiritual Bouquet offerings. Also, thank you to members who contributed to the Italian basket donated to St. Catherine of Siena auction. It was sure to bring a hefty contribution!

Tickets are now available for the Annual "Family Night Out" Spaghetti & Meatball dinner on Saturday, April 5. This is a family friendly fun event. (Say that three times fast!) Tickets are only \$10 each for those 12 years and older; \$5 for children 5 to 11 years old; children under 5 are free with a paying adult. Family Deal is \$25 for 2 adults & 2 or 3 children 5-11 years. Won't you join us? Call 925-229-2665.

We are collecting applications for this year's Marina Ellis Eighth Grade \$200 Scholarship from the students at St. Catherine of Siena Parochial School who plan to attend a Catholic High School in the fall. Submissions are due no later than March 31. Obtain the form from the school office for directions and

qualifications.

Who will consider serving the branch as Recording Secretary? or Membership or Heritage Chairperson? Would you consider coordinating a branch event? or the branch participation in any of St. Catherine parish events (if we choose to be involved in that capacity)? Pentecost Celebration on Jul 8? Oktoberfest on Oct 4? and/or Holiday Lane on Nov 29/30? Consider the opportunities and share your thoughts with the members at our upcoming meeting.

Ciao for now!

Mary Cook

Crockett

San Carlo, Br. 14

March! As I'm writing this in the first part of February in order to meet the Bollettino deadline, I hope that as you are reading, it is raining, and that it has rained so much in February that you are longing for sunshine.

We first offer condolences to Vonda Egan on the passing of her grandmother. May Pauline Egan rest in peace.

We once again enjoyed a very successful Polenta Dinner and now look forward to our March 8 fundraiser Corned Beef Dinner. Just a few short days later, on March 11th, we have our St. Joseph's Table and meeting. Remember, there is no mass, and the Blessing of Tables is at 6:00 (not 6:30) followed by a meatless pasta dinner. Please bring a meatless dish to share... dessert, torte, vegetables, fruit, etc.

Bishop's Day is in Castro Valley this year, on March 16.

Circle March 28 for the famous, fabulous St. Rose Fish Fry! Sure seems like our ICF lives revolve around food; first polenta, then a meatless meal, next corned beef, and finally, fish. Wonder what that says about our branch.

It will be April before we know it, so plan ahead for our April 8 meeting. Dinner is free, which is convenient, because on Friday, April 11, there is a bus trip to Thunder Valley Casino, and we all know how nice it is to have an extra couple of dollars in our pocket!

As we enter the season of Lent, we begin an important time of prayer, sacrifice and good works. May we trust the Lord to guide us, and may this time of solemn reflection be especially meaningful.

Blessings,

Diane Bottini Thomas



(Above) Group of members who served at the Polenta and Sausage Dinner for Branch 14 Crockett. Great Job ladies.

(Left) Members from Branch 14 Crockett who helped with the decorations and set up for the very successful Polenta Dinner the branch had in February.

Pittsburg

San Domenico, Br. 72

Everyone had a great time at our Valentines party and branch meeting in February. Stories were shared by members about how they met their Valentines. A big thank you to our new Deputy Peggy Aiello Hagerthy. She gave each member a box of candy. The members are thankful she is our deputy.

We had fun on the bus trip to the Graton casino. Joann did a great job!

We welcome new member Dixie Grossi. She moved to Bay point so she transferred to our branch from the Concord Branch.

Condolences to Connie Boschke for the death of another family member.

Upcoming

Sunday, March 9 - Soup Meal and meeting at 2pm followed by a Novena to St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Day party. Please bring a non-perishable item for the St. Vincent de Paul.

Sunday March 16 - Oakland Diocese Bishops day in Castro Valley. Mass will be celebrated at 3pm followed by social and dinner. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 925-228-0810.

Sunday, March 30 - Mass at Good Shepherd at 12 Noon.

Sunday, April 13 - Branch meeting at 2:pm. Spring Potluck. Convention delegate election.

Thursday, April 24 - District meeting at 7:30pm in Danville.

Remember dues are payable and should be sent to Treasurer Helen at 953 Veterans Dr. Martinez, CA. 94553

Condolences to Roselynn on the death of her beloved Dog-Daughter Frankie.

Happy St Joseph and St. Patrick's Day.

Helen Politakes

Richmond

St. Raymond, Br. 154

St. Raymond's branch started the New Year with sandwiches, Egg Nog and Spirits to welcome 2014 at the January 13 meeting.

Get well cards were sent to Joyce Peterson, Margery Augustini and Michael Cannady.

St. Raymond's branch hosted the District Installation at the Galileo Club, on January 25, 2014. After mass and the installation of new officers, a wonderful pasta and roast beef luncheon was served. Congratulations to all of the new officers!

Don't forget to save the date: March 22, 2014, for the Polenta dinner to be held at St Jerome's

Catholic Church, Parish Hall, in El Cerrito, Social hour, 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm. Adults \$22:00-Children: \$6:00. Please call 510-526-8749 for reservations. This is always a sold out event so get your tickets by March 7, 2014.

Don't forget to sign up for the bus trip to Cache Creek, March 31, 2014. The cost is \$30.00, sign up with Joe Meneghelli, at 510-234-2208.

Save your aluminum can tabs for the Ronald MacDonald House. Please give them to Joe Meneghelli at any meeting. Lori Framsted is still collecting the plastic tabs that come on the bread. These are going to help a worthy charity.

If you haven't paid your dues, please bring a check to the next meeting.

Please keep Gino Martinucci in your prayers. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

March 10 meeting: Mass followed by Corned Beef and Cabbage, \$12.00. Reserve with Dee Rosier.

Concord

St. Agnes, Br. 214

Including St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Bonaventure Church & Queen of All Saints Church

The Installation mass & lunch (delicious), were enjoyed by our branch. Congratulations to all New Officers.

We are still looking for new members. Our calendar of events includes our May Tea, May 17, more information

to come next month. We extend our condolences to the family of William Knuz a past member.

Prayers go out to our sick & elderly.

Ciao & God Bless.

Danville,

St. Isidore, Br. 352

Hello my fellow Branch 352 members, this is my first time as author of the branch Bollettino article, although I wrote the San Mateo District Bollettino article approximately eight year ago when I was President of that District.

This article was written in late January in order to meet the deadline for the March issue, so it may seem dated to some of you.

The Installation of Officers on January 25 was a great event, we celebrated a beautiful Mass with Fr. Larry Young, our District Chaplain. Grand President Robert Basuino did an excellent job. Many thanks to Walter Costa, David Botta and Roselynn Jarret for their management, also to all the members of the Central Council that attended the installation.

Our master Chef Angelo Travaglini and his crew will prepare a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner at our March 17 meeting. I hope to see you then.

Our Festa Primavera fundraiser is on Saturday May 3. I would ask all of you to support this event because united we stand. Your participation at our meetings and events is a very important contributor to the success of the branch.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of our member Diana Brasseur (Gordon's wife) who passed away in January of this year, may she rest in peace.

If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve the branch, please do not hesitate to e mail me at joeflores33@comcast.net

May God bless you all.

Joseph

Pleasant Hill

Christ the King, Br. 442

Branch 442 held with a Valentines-themed branch meeting on Feb. 16, complete with a sweet treats potluck. We also voted at our January meeting to join the Contra Costa District, with Carole Delucchi Prado and Judi Van Maren chosen as branch delegates and Maureen Bartlett, Paul Peterson and Ann Consul as alternates.

Fundraising chair Linda Del Vigna organized the branch's donation of three Italian-themed baskets to the Parish Silent Auction. The branch will also be hosting the popular salami toss booth at the annual Parish Festival in May.

Branch volunteers also will be assisting in preparing and serving meals for local homeless families as part of the the annual Winter Nights outreach program.

Please join us for our St. Patrick's-themed meeting in March. Details to follow via email, evite and phone tree.

Orange

Irvine

St. Thomas More, Br. 423

Top o' the March to You! Happy St. Patty's Day to you all! Erin Go Bragh!

Our new President, Mary Ann Profeta started the January meeting with a big thanks and appreciation to Frank and Rose Gianantonio for their leadership for the last three years as President and First Lady. The branch presented him with a basket of wine as a thank you gift.

We went over the year's agenda and committees. In addition, we reviewed our budget and charity donations for the upcoming year.

Installation of officers took place on February 15 at St. Bonaventure parish in Huntington Beach.

St. Joseph's Day table will be held the weekend of March 15 and 16. The Bishop of Orange County Bishop Kevin Vann will officiate the 11:30 am mass on March 16. He will bless our tables. Please bring homemade baked goods and other culinary specialties such as jams, jellies, sauces, and soups to the St. Joseph's Day table.

Cris Gianantonio read a heritage report on the Italian immigrant experience. She talked about Peppe The Lamplighter and American Too, two books written by Elisa Bartone.

Ciao,

Miranda Gibson

Reno

Reno

St. Albert, Br. 135

On a chilly, rainy Sunday pre-Valentine's evening of February 9, 28 members and guests enjoyed a terrific chicken cacciatore and polenta dinner with fixings put together by Joe Bear, Vonnie Ramos, and Frank Brunelli. Much thanks to the folks who prepared and served the food for their dedication, service and terrific food.

All our member deeply feel the recent passing on January 21, 2014 of Virginia Zorio, past President and a long time member who was dedicated to ICF during many, many years of service. Virginia will be truly missed, and the branch collectively extends our deep sympathy to her 2 sons and their families.

We also ask for prayers for the following folks who are sick or hurting – Eugenia Hovland's grandson is still in a coma from an accident; and Father Mike Malone is not feeling well and may have to undergo a heart procedure. Father God, we commend these two folks to your loving, healing touch.

At the meeting portion of the evening, the following items were voted upon: a) a YES vote to send \$100 to the Knights of Columbus of St. Albert's for their annual wine tasting event; b) a YES vote to give \$100 to buy an ICF engraved brick for the new Boy's and Girl's Club being built on Foster Drive in Reno; c) a YES vote for a \$600 donation to the Boy's and Girl's Club for allowing us to use their facilities for our Polenta Dinner; d) a YES vote to give two \$500 tuition assistance scholarships for two current year students of Manogue Catholic High School (total amount of \$1,000); and, e) a YES vote to give three \$250 tuition assistance scholarships (total amount of \$750) to each of three Reno Area Catholic Elementary Schools – e.g. St. Albert the Great; Our Lady of Snows, and St. Teresa The Little Flower.

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 9. Everybody needs to be there for the grand prospects of a "tasty corned beef and cabbage dinner".

We ask the Lord's blessing on all our members and their families.

Submitted by,

Tony DiGuglielmo

Sacramento

Sacramento

St. Mary, Br. 45

March greetings from St. Mary's Branch 45. We apologize for the change in date for our first dinner, as Giovanni Hall was not available; the GOOD NEWS is that the first dinner of the year has been rescheduled for MARCH 9. On the dinner menu is the ever popular chicken and polenta; cost is \$12.00 for members and \$16.00 for non-members and guests. Make your reservation by calling Bruna, 916-515-9380 or Janine, 916-714-6967; please call by March 4. Meeting time is 4:30pm and dinner at 6:00pm. All members are invited to attend the meeting; we welcome your input and suggestions.

Also on the March calendar is the annual district fundraiser, the Mangiamo Italiano Dinner (March 1), hosted by Holy Spirit, Branch 419; funds raised support the Bishop's Seminary fund.

Mark your calendar for

May 1 -- Ice Cream Social at Burr's Fountain on Folsom Blvd.

May 18 -- Chicken and Polenta dinner; more news on these events next month.

Yearly dues for 2014 are now due; payment envelopes have been sent to all members. Please return them as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so.

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

Happy St. Patrick's day & St. Joseph's Day!

Ciao,

Mary Jo

Roseville

San Vito, Br. 73

To begin, there is a correction to be made concerning the branch news in the February Bollettino. The amount donated by the branch

for the repair of the hall was \$1,000.00, not the \$500.00 reported last month.

For 2014 the officers of Branch 73 are the same as last year. They are: President, Robert Delpippo; Vice President, Bruno Novi; Secretary, Jeanette Presti; Treasurer, Marie Martin; Financial Secretary, Fred Terrio; Orator, Arlene Roe; Sentinel, Rosina Genessi; Trustees, Sherice Martin, Rose Marie Presti, and Theresa Simone.

Dues for 2014 are \$34.00, plus an additional \$25.00 for members enrolled in the hospitalization program. Payment may be sent to: Fred Terrio, 228 Skopas Court, Roseville, 95661, or made at the next branch meeting, 18 March at 7:00 pm in the Convent.

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

North Highlands

St. Lawrence the Martyr, Br. 236

In lieu of a general meeting, Installation of Officers took place on Saturday, February 1st at St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, followed by a reception and dinner in the hall. The rotisserie chicken dinner served that included mashed potatoes, spinach, salad, roll, dessert and coffee was ever so delicious! A sincere Thank You to all members who donated desserts and appetizers, as well as, assisted in the planning, set-up/take-down, decorating, serving, clean-up, etc., of this well executed event, what amazing display of team work! Happy Birthday to Patricia Korf (March 6), Ann D'Antonio (March 15), and Virginia Becker (March 16), Please continue to pray for all of our sick members, families and friends.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 5.

God Bless,

Margie Burke

Auburn

St. Joseph, Br. 342

It is with great sadness that we bid a final goodbye to charter member Bud Prociassi who passed away at home last month after a long illness. Bud served many positions within our branch and several postions within the district, including president. He was also the Bolletino contributor for our branch before the job was passed to me. Our condolences go out to his family. He will be missed by all who were priveleged to know him.

Congratulations to our recently installed officers. I look forward to a great year of working with you.

Ciao!

Pam Andersen

Bolletino Contributor

Sutter Creek

St. Katharine Drexel, Br. 428

Branch 428 of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Amador County began the new year by sponsoring the first of several Italian Regional dinners. We will have dinners which focus on the cuisine of one of Italy's provinces three or four times this year.

Our first regional dinner, "A Taste of Liguria," was well attended. By inviting the parish at large to participate and keeping the price of the dinner very low, we received a very positive response. Several inactive members, as well as, parishioners of Italian descent attended the dinner. The group enjoyed "Trenette al Pesto," "Pollo con Cipolle e Carciofi," and "Ravioli Dolci."

Central Council Representative Helen Pier-son greeted the diners and spoke about the origins of I.C.F. In the photo, I.C.F. mem-



At the Branch 438 January meeting, new Branch President David Brill honored Past President Paula Scarpelli.

San Bernardino

District Council

I would like to thank the members of Redlands Branch 217 who did a great job in hosting the San Bernardino District Officer Installation. The Mass, celebrated by our District Chaplain Father Jerry Ocetti, was well organized. We were honored to not only have Grand President, Robert Basuino from Central Council, but Roselynne Jarret Grand Treasurer, also assisted in the installation ceremony. I would also like to thank Central Council Member, Patricia Mages and her husband Lou for attending our event. The food catered by Corbett's Catering of Redlands was a good choice. The chicken and lasagna meal with salad and Tiramisu for desert treally satisfied the palette. Thanks to Sister Mary for coordinating and directing the youths that served us. All in all it was a great installation. I'm just disappointed that Branch 303 from Cathedral City disbanded leaving only 2 Branches in our District. Bob Foxx from 303 attended anyway.

Jack Grisafe

District President

Fontana

St. Joseph, Br. 210

We had a delicious main dish at this Month's meeting. Joe Battisti requested and donated the money, for someone would make Braciola. Ron Rovere and Tony Selvaggi volunteered and did a great job of creating it. I haven't had any since before my mom died in 1995. Of course all the side dishes and desserts provided by the other members added to a great meal.

We lost our main fundraiser, when Bingo closed in our parish. We would earn money for running the snack bar. To help raise funds, we raffled a basket at our meetings and at the local Council of The Knights of Columbus. One of the Bingo Players, Pauline Purcell was delighted when she won it. We also helped in the kitchen when they were short of help, so were offered two nights a month to staff the snack bar there at the Knight's Bingo. We again will have money to fund our good works. Any member that wants to work, talk to our President Mauro and he will assign you a night. Dan Venditti, Pete Dante, Nan Judge, Judy and Mauro Romagnoli, and my wife Pat and I have already worked a couple of nights.

Our next meeting March 9 we will celebrate St. Josephs Day with a nice Italian meal.



The installation mass and reception of the San Bernardino District occurred at The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church (formerly Sacred Heart) in Redlands, California on Saturday, January 18, 2014. San Bernardino District Members at Installation Dinner, with Grand President Robert Basuino, Grand Treasurer Roselynne Jarrett, and Council Member Patricia Mages.

Member be sure to attend.

Happy Birthday to all the March celebrants. Happy Anniversary to my Lovely wife, Patricia, that I married on April 4, 50 years ago.

Ciao!

Jack Grisafe

San Diego

District Council

On Sunday, January 26, 2004, the San Diego I.C.F. district held its annual Joint Installation of Branch and district officers. The event was hosted by branch 416, Santa Sophia and was co-chaired by Christine (Chris) Murphy and Irene Zens. This event was held at St. Therese Parish due to a recent fire at Santa Sophia. Father Bill Stevenson, Diocesan Director, presided at the 11:00 A.M. mass. Following mass a luncheon, short program and the installation were held at St. Therese's Social Center. Grand President, Robert Basuino conducted the installation and presented his state of the federation speech. Master of Ceremonies was Immediate Past President, retired Marine Lt. Cl. Clarence (Tony) Anthony who received the Deputy of the Year award from the Grand President. Tony was nominated by District Deputy, Forrest Price. District President, Richard Barker presented his state of the district speech. The luncheon was catered by Cupid's Catering. Sam Caeti and Don Chmiel handled the drinks and Maria Tollefson conducted the raffle and CC Life Member Emeritus, Jody Balestrieri concluded the event by leading the singing of the Federation hymn, Noi Vogliam Deo. Central Council Members present were: Grand Trustee, Franklyn Lopes Jr.; Grand Trustee, Lisa Crudo and her mother; Sargent at Arms, Marco Galeazzi and his wife Diane; Life Member, Dante Galeazzi; CC member Pat Mages and her husband Lou Mages; Life Member Emeritus, Jody Balestrieri; CC Emeritus Forrest Price and his wife Prudence; and CC emeritus Mary Alesi and her husband, Jim; plus all branch presidents and all branch deputies. Our special thanks go to Grand President, Bob and all the Central Council Members who traveled long distances to celebrate this special event with us in San Diego.

Forrest Price



Branch 210 President, Mauro Romagnoli with Bingo Player, Pauline Purcell, Winner of Basket raffled by Branch 210.

Chula Vista

St. Rose of Lima, Br. 229

Welcome to the new and improved Branch 229! We have an exciting year ahead with new leadership and an enthusiasm to serve the Lord through our fundraisers.

Congratulations to the Officers of 2014! We thank them for their dedication and willingness to serve on the Board.

President: Robert Maruca

First Vice President: Louis Pierotti

Second Vice President: Vince Dirckx

Recording Secretary & Corresponding Secretary: Karen Judson

Financial Secretary & Treasurer: Theresa Wilson

Orator: Maria Tollefson

Trustees: Michele Snyder, Esther Pierotti, Jody Balestrieri

Sentinels: Frank Anastasi, John Stassi, Carmelina Maruca

Branch Deputy: Sherry Thurston

Our first event of the year was the Super Bowl Pizza Sale, which was a great success! Thank you to all who worked so hard.

Branch 229 is planning for the St. Joseph's Day Table on March 16, 2014, with traditional dishes and a lovely table.

Planned upcoming events for 2014: Italian cooking classes, June Pasta Dinner, Christmas Party at the Parish Hall, and the Branch is bringing back the famous Chicken Barbeque.

The Board is asking the general membership to bring in new members. The Branch needs members!

Please pray for deceased members, those who



bers Garry Anderson and Susan Nannini toast to the success of our new year.

Roseville

St. Clare of Assisi, Br. 438

Branch 438 has great plans for 2014 and we are looking forward to continuing our good work and enjoying fellowship. David Brill chaired his first meeting as Branch President on January 17. He discussed upcoming events such as the Membership Drive and our Lenten Fish Fry dinner planned for April 11. The 2014 branch budget was presented to the members by co-treasurer, Michael Fuentes.

Outgoing Board members were honored and presented the ICF Certificate of Appreciation. Additionally, a \$100 donation was given to the Providenza Fund in their name.

Much to her surprise, Paula Scarpelli, our Past President, was presented a beautiful sterling silver ICF pendant at the January 17 meeting. Paula is so very much loved and respected as our first Branch President. She graciously took on the challenge almost three years ago and her service, dedication and hard work to make Branch 438 so vibrant and successful will never be forgotten! Also, Laurice Levine, Thalassemia Outreach Coordinator, sent a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Paula and a heartwarming letter of appreciation for Paula's leadership and devotion to the ICF national charity.

As we do quarterly, members gathered together at our Unity Mass on Saturday, January 18.

We are off to a fantastic start in 2014 and know that under the guidance of our new pastor, Rev. Tim Nondorf, and a new branch president, we will continue our good work with much love, many blessings and great success!

**Happy
St. Joseph's Day!**



San Diego District Installation

The San Diego Joint Installation of Branch and District Officers was held at St. Therese Parish on Sunday, January 26, 2014. Diocesan Chaplain Father William Stevenson conducted the mass. Co-chairs for the event were Christine Murphy (San Diego District 1st V.P. and Irene Zens. Immediate Past President, Ret. Marine Lt. Col. Clarence (Tony) Anthony was Master of Ceremonies and Grand President, Robert Basuino conducted the installation. Speeches were presented by Grand President, Robert Basuino and San Diego District President, Richard Barker.

Photo above depicts Central Council members and members emeritus. (back row left to right: Life Member, Dante Galeazzi; C.C. members Pat Mages; Grand Trustees, Lisa Crudo and Franklyn Lopes Jr.; S.D. District Pres., Richard Barker, Sgt. At Arms, Marco Galeazzi. First row C.C. members emeritus, Forrest Price and Mary Alesi; Grand President Robert Basuino and Life Member Emeritus Jody Balestrieri.

are sick, and those in need. When you see a man or woman in uniform, please thank them for their service to our country! God bless our military!

Ciao!
 Karen Judson
 Recording & Corresponding Secretary

San Diego

Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. 230

Cari Amici,
 Branch 230 had a General Meeting on Friday, January 17, it was preceded by a tasty pasta dinner. Thanks to our chefs, Theresa Cutri , Mary Lou Terramagra, and Pietro Vella. Thanks to our bartenders, Joe and Marcia Buompensiero, our set up crew foreman, Jack Battaglia and our Dessert Hostess, Annie de



Branch 246 officers being installed at the San Diego District installation.



Maria. It was good to see Donna and Jim Bregante back at our dinner-meeting. During the official proceedings we welcomed Rachael Bentley’s guest, Carl and we voted to donate two first year Scholarships to two worthy High School seniors who are college bound.

We shall be having our Annual Pancake Breakfast Scholarship Fundraiser on Sunday, April 6 from 8am to Noon in the Parish Hall, and we need everyone’s support to help us raise the monies needed to pay for the scholarships.

Father Louie encouraged our ICF Branch to be more engaged in showing our Catholic Faith and Italian Heritage by making a float for our local Columbus Day Parade, he also urged us to join in celebration as one of our parish’s own, Alex DePaulis will be ordained as a Diocesan Priest this May, 2014.

We need every one’s help in making our



Photo above depicts S. D. branch presidents with Grand President, Robert Basuino. Left to right Br. 246, Steve Walter, 416, Mary Alesi, 261, Don Chmiel, Grand President, Bob Basuino, 230, Sherry Thurston and 229, Pres. Robert Marucca.

Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser a success this Friday, March 7 2014 from 4pm to 9pm. All proceeds will go to Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Branch 230 will be attending the 7:30pm Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 14.

Please remember to pray for our lawmakers and our servicemen and women.

Pace di Cristo.
 Richard Barker

San Diego

St. Vincent de Paul, Br. 246

We ended the San Diego Chargers home schedule with an meatball sandwich sale. We have a terrific crew: Don Chmiel, Tony Anthony, Forrest Price, Vince Marcantonio, Bob Fischer, VJ Oliver, Bob Tallarida and the lady servers under the coordination of Kay Marcantonio and Robin Fielding.

Our branch hosted the San Diego Officers District meeting. Thanks the Forrest Price & Don Chmiel for assisting.

Our 2014 Installation of the San Diego area ICF Officers was conducted Sunday, January 26. We had a morning Mass. Our District Chaplain Father Bill Stevenson celebrated the Mass. There was a delicious luncheon followed by the formal installation. Tony Anthony, our Master of Ceremonies, introduced all the dignitaries. Our Grand President Robert Basuino conducted the installation followed by “The State of the Federation” comments.

Lou and Pat Mages sat at our table. Their son graduated from Notre Dame and then went on the UCSD on a full scholarship for his Phd. Also at our table Vera Covitt, Pamela Carrico, Bob & Vic Tallarida and two Our Lady of the Rosary members.

Our District President Richard Barker, from Our Lady of the Rosary Parish provided the final remarks.

Thanks to Mary Alesi and Tony Anthony for coordinating the event.

Two of our members Steve and Karen Fleury relocated to Billings, Montana. Moving from San Diego to Montana is a cultural shock -- the temperature hovers in the (-) area all the time. You guys are in our prayers.

Vic Tallarida



Branch 261 San Diego at the District Bocce tournament.

San Diego

St. Therese, Br. 261

Our Kitchen Crew: Thanks to them our Meatball Sandwich Sales are so successful... The recent SuperBowl Sunday sale was made possible by: Don Chmiel, Tony Anthony, Forrest Price & Bob Tallarida. They prepared the sauce and meatballs for the Sunday sale... Also we thank our ladies for selling the sandwiches in Murray Hall on Sunday... The coordinators of the Sunday sale: Kay Marcantonio ade Robin Fielding... Handling the Sunday “cash box” -- Vince Marcantonio...

The Branch conducts two major events every year - the April Spring Dinner Party and the December Christmas Party... Our goal is to have all members participate. ...to assist this cause Prudence Price generates and distributes an assignment sheet... Each member is listed in the assignment document... After 40 years the system seems to work well... Thank you pr.....

Congratulations to Don Chmiel and Bob Tallarida for completing the San Diego County Food Handling Course... This is a must course for restaurant food preparers... The certification is good for three years... Our dinner guests are truly appreciative....

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.



Branch 38 honored its 2013 Scholarship recipient Madeline Lopez, and she happens to be the niece of Patrick Ramsey and the cousin of Br. 38's two youngest members, Dominic and Matthew Ramsey.

San Francisco

San Francisco

Maria SS Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members: Please note these upcoming events:

March 23 -- Branch Mass, ICC, 10:30am

April 2 -- Monthly Meeting, 7:00pm. Host Paul Biagi

April 27 -- Archbishop Day Details TBA

Sadly reporting the loss of Member Leo Sapienza member since 2002. Condolences to his wife Margaret and family. He will be missed.

Keep well !

Ciao!

Toni Morsello

San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

Our January meeting was very nice. We didn't get to the Asti Spumonte because the day just flew by. Hopefully, we'll be able to share Valentine's Day with a little sip or two! We were happy to be able to meet our second 2013 Scholarship recipient. Her name is Madeline Lopez, and she happens to be the niece of Patrick Ramsey and the cousin of our two youngest members, Dominic and Matthew Ramsey. Maddie is a charming young lady very friendly, and our members present liked her very much. She even helped pass out the bowls of Minestrone Soup for



Branch 290 celebrated its 40th anniversary in December 2013.



Branch 290, and its installation 40 years ago. The original meeting, and then to tell them of the change of date. What would I do without the nice members in our branch?

our lunch! Maddie has been working at a Veterinary Hospital, and she said she would like to eventually become a Veterinary doctor or work in that field pertaining to the medical treatment of animals. She is currently enjoying the experience of working at a Veterinary Hospital and loves it. Also, accompanying her was her nice grandmother Diane Ramsey. Diane came from Sacramento to be with Maddie. Maddie, we wish you good luck in your future academic endeavors. Keep us posted on your accomplishments.

At our January meeting, our Heritage chairperson Maria Gloria told us about our ICF's beginnings in June 15, 1924 (90 years ago). She spoke about Rev. Albert Bandini, Sir Luigi Providenza, John Musso, Archbishop Edward Hanna, and the Church of the Immaculate Conception. It was all very interesting and appropriate.

Like last year, we had just made up our Branch #38 calendar and sent it to all our members when we had to already change our branch February 8 meeting date. Cosmo and I had to go to San Jose for a family member's funeral. Fortunately, we were able to get the PC on February 15. I want to thank Ines Massetani, our phone committee, very much for making all the phone calls...first, to remind them of

Please keep our sick and homebound in your prayers.

Ciao!

Ci Vediamo il 8 di marzo!

Mara Amato

San Francisco

Santo Stefano, Br. 50

Thank you to the officers who are continuing their service to our branch, and another thank you to the members who faithfully support our branch and its works.

Our monthly meeting in March was on Thursday, March 6, as the previous day was Ash Wednesday and parking was needed for church services. The remainder of our monthly meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month.

Branch members contributed dozens of gifts for the patients at Laguna Honda Hospital at Christmas, an act very appreciated by the patients. Thank you for bringing Christmas joy and spirit to those who are often forgot-



Branch 290 Charter Members celebrating the anniversary together were Joe and Louise Isola and John Consiglieri.



ten and lonely.

Archbishops' Day this year will be celebrated April 27 at the National Shrine of St. Francis, with luncheon to follow at the Italian Athletic Club. Contact president George for reservations and details (731-2537).

Please remember to contact Eleanor with news of anyone who is ill or who has suffered a loss.

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Jan. 12: Installation of Officers at the Italian American Social Club was very nice. There were 56 in attendance. We had several of the Council Members who came. It was great having Barbara Bottarini with us. The luncheon was delicious.

Feb. 7: Our trip to Thunder Valley Casino was nice. We always have fun with our group.

Apr. 7 to Apr. 11: We are looking forward to our trip to Palm Springs. The Follies will perform for the last time. The Nixon Library should be interesting. If interested call Florence Mangion for details at 415-468-1764. We will also visit Hearst Castle.

Please remember all our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Off: Meet. Mar. 3

Mass: Mar. 23

Meet: Mar. 24

Ciao

Eva Perata, President

San Francisco

Corpus Christi, Br. 290

Dear Friends,

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00pm. A catered corned beef dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who attended our Crab Feed on February 1.

Thanks to everyone who worked to make the event such a great success.

Just a reminder that our first Champagne-Bingo luncheon of the year is scheduled for Saturday, March 15. 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-

Valente Marini Perata
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7879. Hope to see you there.

Our good friend and long time Branch 290 member, Katy Folino, passed away in January at the age of 102 years. She will be greatly missed, especially at our Champagne-Bingo luncheons.

Please continue to pray for Al Oneto and John Consiglieri, and for other members who are not feeling well.

Finally, Happy St. Patrick's Day to all. Even Italians celebrate the feast of this great saint.

Ciao,

Jeannette

San Mateo

District Council

Greetings! Many thanks again to Branch 130 St. Pius, Redwood City for hosting the wonderful 2014 Installation and Mass followed by the delicious luncheon at the Elks Club. If you did not attend, you missed a very uplifting day. Thanks also to Branch 130 for hosting the fun filled Holiday Party at Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame.

Mark your Calendars:

Sunday, February 23, District Communion. Mass hosted by Branch 403, St. Dunstan's, 1133 Broadway, Millbrae. Mass 10:00a.m. followed by a reception in the hall.

Thursday, March 27, 2014 next District meeting at 7:30p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame.

Sunday, April 27, Bishop's Day hosted by the San Francisco District at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel in San Francisco. Luncheon to follow at San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. San Mateo District will charter a bus to take members to the event. Watch for more information later.

If you are interested in being a Deputy, call Donna Barnes at 650-991-0178. It's a great way to get to know the other Branches and Members in the District.

Remember in our thoughts and prayers Father Frank Murray, Tom Pollicita and Al Teglia.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! God Bless.

Anne O'Brien

South San Francisco

Sacro Cuore, Br. 7

Our February business/dinner meeting was held on the 5th and we would like to thank Frank Risso and all of the helpers who prepared the outstanding Ravioli dinner.

The Crab Feed Fundraiser was held on Feb. 15, and over 100 guests enjoyed the delicious dinner prepared by Bill Mangini. Thanks to all for helping to make this a successful event.

Our March meeting will be on the 5th, which is also Ash Wednesday. Just to give you a "heads up", we will have a Pedro Tournament in the month of March. The date is currently TBD (To be determined). Please contact Norma for more information, 650-583-3643. The business/dinner meeting for April will be on the 2nd.

May 7 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 7

So until next time...a little thought to ponder. "Ability is what you're capable of doing, Motivation determines what you do, and Attitude determines how well you do it!"

Happy Easter!

Sempre Avanti,

Laurie Masetti

Colma

San Vincenzo de Paoli, Br. 19

Many Thanks to Joe and Joann Sangiacomo and all their crew for the successful Pedro Tournament held recently. This fund raiser helps support our charitable endeavors.

Another Garage Sale is planned for late Spring. Deborah (650) 583-0805 or Kathy (650) 993-8336 will be happy to receive items from you or arrange pick-up. Please call Kathy if you are able to help with pricing, setting up and/or helping to sell at the event.

Upcoming dates:

March 10 -- St. Joseph's Table -- Potluck

Chair: Cheryl Simon (650) 755-0878 or e-mail cas94015@yahoo.com

Please contact her for reservations and what you'll bring for the potluck.

March 24 -- Easter favors TBA

April 14 -- Soup Night

Chair Kathy Trevizo Reservations to Cheryl by April 10.

April 26 -- Champagne Bingo -- Chairperson: Kathy and Deborah.

April 27 -- Bishops Day hosted by S.F. District --more info to follow.

See you soon at one of our upcoming events.

Ruth Lapachet

San Mateo

St. Matthew, Br. 163

Salutations! Can you believe that the Lenten Season is about ready to begin? Ash Wednesday is March 5 and the first day of spring will be March 20.

Thanks to the members for the delicious Pot Luck Dinner we had at our February meeting. The food was great and we all enjoyed the fun evening. As a reminder: All our dinners start at 6:00pm and meetings start at 7:00pm.

Mark your calendars:

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – Soup dinner 6:00pm, meeting at 7:00pm. Come and enjoy our delicious homemade soup. Remember to bring your own bowl and spoon. Send check to Anne Guerin at 3040 Del Ray Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403. Phone number is 650-341-7872. Members \$9.00 and non-members \$11.00.

Sunday, April 27, 2014 – Bishops' Day hosted by the S.F. District at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel in San Francisco. Luncheon to follow at San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. San Mateo District will be arranging a bus to take members to the event. More info later.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! God Bless!

Anne O'Brien

Burlingame

Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

This Valentine month we will have a Pizza and Bingo dinner along with our meeting. We have many events planned for the coming year so try to join us for a 2014 fun year!

We welcome our new member Rosalie Hare and hope to entice more members to join our ICF family.

Upcoming events:

2-23-14 ICF Quarterly Communion hosted by Branch 403 St. Dunstan - Millbrae Mass at 10:0am -Reception to follow in the Parish Center

3/12/14 OLA Renew Program 7:00pm St. Francis Room, Three Paths to Holiness. Led

by Sandra and Norm Bennett.

3/13/14 St. Joseph Table Potluck Dinner and Blessing of the St. Joseph Altar. 6:30pm A-G:Appetizers, H-Q: Salad or entrée R-Z: Desserts. RSVP: Dorene Campanile 650-344-7870

Hope to see Nerina DiBella and Jackie Son-tag back on their feet real soon!

God Bless,

Rosalind C. Emery

Branch 213 caption

Pres. Br. 213 St. Augustine

Pictured below at the Installation Lunch are the officers for the year 2014.

From left to right seated. Donna DeVoe, Steve Crisafi, Jackie Smith

Standing from left to right Gloria DeVincenzi, Barbara Gabriel, Judy Crosetti, Roberta Franchini, Joe Crosetti.

Missing is Glorinda Dobleman due to illness.

Millbrae

St. Dunstan, Br. 403

We invite all ICF members to our 24th Anniversary celebration on March 9, to be held in our parish center, 1133 Broadway, Millbrae.

The festivities will begin at 4:00pm, with dinner at 5:00pm. Dinner includes salad, antipasto, roast pork loin and vegetables, bread, dessert and wine for \$25 per person. For reservations send check payable to ICF #403 to 706 Clearfield Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030.

Our annual St. Joseph's Table will be held on March 25, with a pot luck dinner provided by our members. This Sicilian tradition of offering thanks to St. Joseph for his intercession during a drought, is one of our most popular events, as members take pride in decorating the Table with beautiful flowers from their garden.

Rose Marie Morando

Secretary

Marin

Larkspur

St. James, Br. 161

Last month we had the pleasure of having Central Council members attend our meeting. They were Grand President Robert Basuino, Grand Secretary Deborah Rodondi, Parliamentarian David Botta, Grand Trustees Lisa Crudo, Franklin Lopes Jr. and Herb Basuino. Grand President Robert Basuino with other Central Council members initiated the new officers of our branch. Thank you for coming.

Our Branch received a Certificate of merit for 100% Apostolic report participation for the Marin area.

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

Wishing everyone a Happy St. Patrick's and a Happy St. Joseph's Day

Our next meeting will be March 18.

Ciao,

Anna Biggio

Novato

Our Lady of Loretto, Br. 332

Co-President Greg Erigero welcomed over 130 members to our February Dinner Meeting. We were saddened to hear Mary Marinello had fallen and was in the hospital. We wish her a very speedy recovery.

Don Perazzo announced the winners of our Super Bowl Fund Raiser. Lucky winners were Dave Garbarino, Lisa Holmes, Rosa Fazio and Jim Raccanello.

Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Daughters served High Tea on February 23, 2014. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for graduating 8th graders who will be attending Catholic High Schools.

Financial Secretary George DeMartini told us that only 30 members have not paid their dues for 2014.

First Year Scholarship Applications are available and due by March 15, 2014. These Scholarships are awarded to high school graduates who will enter college in the fall.

A special raffle was organized by Karen

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Si Parla Italiano

Raccanello in celebration of St. Valentine's Day. Dan Halloran, Johanna Cullen and Pat U'Ren were winners of Valentine sweets.

Congratulations to Ginny and Don Perazzo on the arrival of their 8th Grandchild.

Ernie Giono and Ron Lake will be going on another cruise in March. Would you believe they have been on more than 50 cruises???

Thank you to our wonderful cooks and Dave Garbarino for his music.

Thank God for the rain.

San Jose

Santa Clara Valley District Council

The March district meeting will be held at Br. 186, St. Nicholas Church in Los Altos (not the school)– Monday, March 10.

The following are district and branch dates to mark your calendars and make plans to attend, a great way to support our charities and have fun too! Check with each branch's article or your branch president for details.

3/4/14 Br. 4, Holy Cross, San Jose - Mardi Gras Theme- details to follow 3/8/14 Br. 28, Gilroy Polenta Dinner -details to follow 3/8/14 Br. 408, Resurrection, Sunnyvale Pasta dinner - details to follow 3/8/14 Br. 186, St. Nicholas, Los Altos Hills, polenta dinner/dance \$25.00 Elaine Osorio (650) 493-5520

6/22/14 ICF 90th anniversary mass/luncheon/dance - details to follow 6/29/14 Our Lady of Peace mass and luncheon - details to follow

10/25/14 Br. 184, St. Mary's in Los Gatos, dinner/dance/auction to celebrate their 50th anniversary - details to follow

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Marcie Rossi

Santa Clara N.S. Assunta, Br. 5

Thanks to all members who have paid ICF dues for 2014. We have about 90 members paid -- good job. New members are always welcome.

Our branch was sadden to learn of the passing/death of Antoinette B. Sunseri. Our deep sympathies to Pat and Robert McLean. Toni Sunseri will be dearly missed by all the friends she inspired in the ICF and Branch 5. May Toni rest in peace in heaven forever. We sincerely thank God for her years of service.

The Dinner/Meeting for March is scheduled for March 27, 2014. Time: 6:00pm dinner and 7:00pm meeting. Menu is corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings. Price: \$10.00. Call Bea Cunha for reservations.

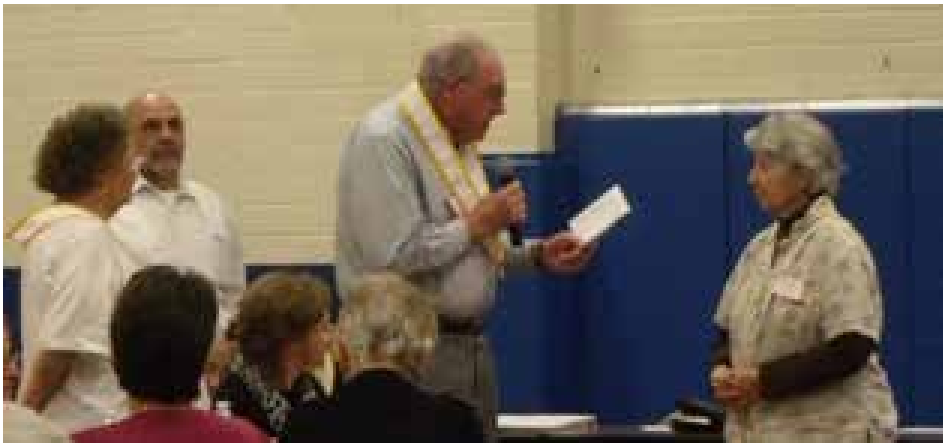
Day of Recollection by Father George Aranha is here at St. Clare Parish Hall on March 22, 2014 with lunch included. There will be hospitality in the morning. Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm with mass at 2:00pm. Call John Gillio for reservations at (408) 225-6372, or call St. Clare Rectory to be put on the list.

Dates to put on your calendar: June 22, 2014 the 90th anniversary of founding of the ICF in San Francisco. Buses will be provided, and more information will follow in the Bollettino and Branch Newsletter. June 29, 2014 will be the District Mass at Our Lady of Peace with lunch to follow at Michael's Shoreline. More information at the meeting.

Happy St. Joseph's Day to all members. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Ciao,

Marlene J. Rotolo



Gilroy

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

Well we got a little rain, but keep praying we need more.

If you get this issue after our Polenta dinner, thank you to Andy and the kitchen crew, the servers, and all who helped with our annual fundraiser. Thank you to Chris Andrade for handling the raffle.

Upcoming:

March 4 -- Ash Wednesday

March 7 -- Monthly mass for members 7:15 Chapel

March 16 -- Friendship Sunday, after morning masses in Cullen Hall

March 17 regular dinner meeting 6 pm Cullen Hall

March 30 -- Scholarship Breakfast 7am to 11:30am Cullen Hall

April 14 -- Host district meeting 7:30 Cullen Hall

Please help with the Scholarship breakfast. We give out 5 total scholarships during the year, and these fundraisers are used to fund them. Just a reminder, scholarship applications are due on March 15. If you know of any high school graduate, urge them to apply. The application can be downloaded from ICF.org.

Pray for our sick and homebound members.

Ciao,

Anna Barberi

Los Gatos

St. Mary, Br. 184

The Mad Hatter's Ball is turning out to be something quite extraordinary! In addition to our regular Polenta, Chicken Cacciatore and all the trimmings, there is going to be a Hat Contest. The committee wants you to decorate a hat, which will then be judged by the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts! A prize awaits the winner. There will be music for your dancing pleasure by the Reno Di-Bono Band, as well as those wonderful raffle prizes. Be sure to call Don Arnaudo at 354 4017 for ticket information.

Telling you way in advance, "Save the Date

of October 25, 2014," for our 50th Anniversary. More details to follow, but it will be special, catered, and more.

Quarterly Mass set for March 23 at 7:30am. Breakfast to follow at Effie's on Winchester.

Member Marcia Green is working on a slide show presentation of her recent trip to Viet Nam. While there, she brought vitamins and clothing to the children at St. An's Orphanage. We will post the date soon.

We ask your fervent prayers for Dina Flora, a long time member, and for Nicholas Norcia, grandson of members Lydia and Dom Norcia.

It would be great if each member could bring in one new member. This is the time to start thinking of growing our Branch. Many good things to follow this year.

Ciao for now,

Lucy Amico

Los Altos

St. Nicholas, Br. 186

Thanks to all who worked on the Polenta-Dinner Dance. It takes many hands to make events become successful. From the buying of supplies, setting up, selling tickets and most of all the kitchen crew. Kudos to all.

The social hour before our meetings, where members bring hors d'oeuvres to share, has been a nice addition to our meetings. Come and enjoy.

Applause to the members for being so prompt in paying their dues. You have put a smile on Andy's face.

Please keep Joan Freitas, Rita Fraguiglia, Chuck Tapella in your prayers. They continue to be in need of them.

Convention raffle books will be sent out soon. The branch keeps \$5.00 of the cost. Last year MaryJo Dorie was one of the big winners.

There are many activities scheduled at other branches. Read their Bollettino articles for dates and times. It's nice to visit other branches and meet new friends.

Happy Birthday to Gina Campi, Nella Lera, Chuck Tapella, Jack Boland, Richard Bur-



(Above) Marie Antonowicz did a presentation on how the Chicken Dance was created at the January Meeting. After her presentation, members joined Marie in doing the chicken dance. (Bottom photo)

(Top Left) New member Rosalie Wesley was initiated into Branch 191 by Branch Deputy Mike Nunziata and Grand President Bob Basuino at the January meeting.

guillos, MaryJo Dorie, Reni Felice, Glen Marcus, Bob Osorio, Martin Spangler who celebrated birthdays in January, February, March.

"The most memorable people in life will be the friends who love you when you weren't very loveable."

Happy St. Patrick's Day,

Elaine

San Jose

St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

Our quarterly Mass and breakfast was held on January 19. Members met for the 8am Mass and then went to Cup N Saucer restaurant for breakfast. About 27 members attended the breakfast. Everyone had a good time. We are planning to return to the restaurant again for our summer quarterly breakfast.

At the January dinner meeting our menu was beef stew. The food was great and plenty of compliments were given to the cooks. Marie Antonowicz gave a presentation for the heritage portion of the meeting. Dressed in her chicken costume Marie told the group the history of the Chicken Dance. At the end of her presentation she had everyone stand and perform the Chicken Dance. Thanks Marie, that was a great presentation!

A new member was welcomed into our branch at the January meeting. Rose Wesley was initiated into the branch by Branch Deputy Mike Nunziata and Grand President Bob Basuino.

The final preparations for our March 8 polenta dinner/dance "All Aboard A Disney Cruise" were being completed by Debbie Piro. Jim Jones is making posters to decorate the hall. Since Jim is into Disney, I can't wait to see what he creates.

On March 27 our branch will be making soup for the weekly Lenten soup night. Everyone is welcome. We start serving at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Rosemary Janis

Make Your
Reservations for the
90th Anniversary
Celebration Near You!



Many Branch 391 members enjoy pasta and salad before decorating for the Valentine's dinner gala.



CC members having a wonderful time and fantastic dinner at Br 391 St Martin Tours annual Valentine Dinner Dance held in San Jose, California. CC member Theresa Helfand from Br 392 Chicago is the "life of the party" and is very much enjoying our California weather.

San Jose
Santa Teresa, Br. 368

As we begin a new year we have much to be thankful for.

Thank you for our newly installed leaders:

Noreen Gillio -- President

Phil Robba -- Past President

Mike Nunziata -- First Vice President

Mike Curulla -- Second Vice President

Paula Radzinski -- Recording Secretary

Barbara Ruffner -- Treasurer

Nancy Jolliff -- Financial Secretary

Ed Wendler -- Orator

Mike Nunziata -- Membership/Scholarship

Paul Butler -- Trustee

JoAnne Opp -- Trustee

Joyce Robba -- Trustee

Jerry Opp -- Sentinel

Fr. Chris Bennett -- Chaplain

Aldine Grisenti -- Branch Deputy

Thank you to John Janini for planning the Casino Bus Trips each month (by the way, the bus is full).

Thank you to Joan Delfino for her work with the district's "Gifts of Love" Program.

Thank you to Rose Noack for doing the Sunshine Program.

Thank you to Gus Mavroudis for the wonderful gift of music.

Thank you Lorraine Nunziata for her work with the layette program.

Lastly, thank you to all our members who



Br. 391 members prepare the yummy anti-pasta plates for Br. 391's Valentine's gala.



Cathleen Lencioni and her youngest son, TJ, are ready to direct people to their table at Br. 391's Valentine's Gala. A great time was had by all!!



Thank you, Tony and Lillian La Pres, for your continued support of our Valentine's dinner dance!!

make Branch 368 successful.

We want to take this opportunity to bid a sad farewell to John and Alice Czernik who are moving to Texas. We wish all the happiness in your new home. We will miss you.

Ciao,

Cheryl Sanchez

San Jose
St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

Our Valentine Dinner/Dance was a huge success, and all who attended had a great time. Thanks to everyone who participated and attended the event, especially Jessie Romero and Pete Sanchez for chairing the fundraiser.

For our meeting dinner, we had pizza and salad. Anna Iacomini Bernardi, daughter of Wilman and Torella Iacomini, presented the monthly heritage report about the life of Elena Pietrosanti Iacomini, November 4, 1912- December 26, 2013. The report focused on Elena's deep religious faith and the challenges of emigrating from Italy to the United States. Please be sure to contact Sal Lipari if you or someone you know is eligible for a scholarship. We also initiated two new members, Judy Donovan and Maria Egesia. Welcome to Branch 391! Two of our telephone committee members are ill and will not be able to make the monthly calls. Sister Jane will take the place of one of the callers, but we are still looking for a second caller. Please contact Marcie Rossi if you are available.

Upcoming events: Our heritage day fundraising dinner will be May 18. Hope to see you there!

Have a happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sunnyvale
Resurrection, Br. 408

As we prepare for our Lenten Journey, please consider taking part in some of our Branch and District Lenten Activities.

Our Branch will host the first Devotional Stations of the Cross followed by a simple soup supper on Friday, March 7. Stations begin at 6pm in the church and we will need a minimum of 10 soups to serve the Parishioners. Soups need to be in the Farana Center by 6pm.

Our PASTA Fundraising Dinner for the 5th Grade Science Camp will be held on Sat 15th March serving from 6-7:30pm. Come help serve or help us sell tickets at this important fundraiser.

Fr. George will lead the SCVD District and others in a Day of Recollection from 9am to (Mass at 2pm) on Saturday 22 March at St. Clare's Church. The theme of his presentation will be the Life with Grace in this Year of Grace.

Remember to include our sick members in your prayers and please pray especially for Virginia Mirrione (dialysis) Anne Lopez (pinched nerve) and Betty Deville (slowly recovering from surgery) and please say a special prayer for Mary-Clare Affonso as she deals with the death of her brother Fr. Alex.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Morgan Hill

Santa Caterina D’Allesandria, Br. 435

At our last dinner meeting on Jan. 16 we all enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Jerry Caravelli and delicious lentil soup made by Josephine Talamo.

We are happy to announce that Gail Wess is now our newly appointed treasurer. Thank you Gail for accepting this position.

On March 23 our branch will be hosting the 10:30 hospitality Mass. Please join us if you can.

Our 90th anniversary of the ICF will be held in San Francisco on June 22.

If you have not paid your yearly dues to the ICF, please do so and mail it to Giulia Gallego.

On April 5 our branch will be hosting a fund raiser serving spaghetti and sausage. Please put this on your calendar.

Get well wishes to everyone who is ill an recuperating.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine’s Day.

Donna Basilin

Santa Rosa

Napa

San Giuseppe, Br. 12

An officer’s meeting was held January 20. Our agenda, in part, was about fundraising events, dinner/meetings in the St. John’s Hall, and dates of monthly Masses for living and deceased Branch 12 members and Hall closet cleanup. These items were brought to our February meeting so all attendees could have input. A delicious baked chicken dinner was catered by Supptime, with Ernie Rota preparing a Caesar salad and Karen Maier serving two kinds of homemade cookies - yummy. We continue to encourage our members to attend the dinner/meetings and enjoy the camaraderie of our members and hear a message from our Branch Deputy Linda Sherman.

Ciao,

Juliann Fontana, President

Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa, Br. 18

We are celebrating our 86th year as ICF Branch 18 St. Rose, March 15, at the Scottish Masonic Center, Santa Rosa with a piping hot sit down dinner prepared by our friend and supporter, Bill Occhipinti, dance music by the ever popular Showcase dance band and experience the excitement of an all cash raffle. Tickets at \$20.00, call Doreen, 707/525-0295 as soon as possible for reservations, all tickets pre-sold. New members, we love to welcome them. If your dues have lapsed, we still love you, pay up and re- join us in helping with our many projects for church and community. Our sympathy and prayers to the family of deceased member, Delores Waaland. As is our custom, we have a memorial Mass said by Father Efreem Trettel, o.f.m. Please call Marie Canale if you have news of anyone in need of prayers. This is a most important function of our Federation.

Happy St.Joseph’s and St. Patrick’s Day!

Marie Canale

Healdsburg

St. Frances di Sales, Br. 52

February continued to be a busy month for Branch 52. We had our successful Ravioli Dinner on February 15. Thank you to

Santa Rosa District Installation

Branch 52, Healdsburg hosted the Santa Rosa District Installation on January 19. Over 100 members and guests attended this fun event. Fr. Thomas Devereaux said the 10 AM Mass, which was followed by the Installation and a delicious ravioli lunch. Grand 2nd Vice President Andy Pappani conducted the Installation. Other Central Council members attending were Life Member Jim Freibel and his wife, Mary Ann, Central Council Member Vince Piro, Past Grand President Robert Acquistapace and his wife, Kathy, Santa Rosa District Deputy, and Past Grand President Carmen Kilcullen and her husband Larry, and wife of the 2nd Grand Vice President Syria Pappani. Also in attendance was Fr. Fergal McGuinness, pastor of St. Peter’s in Cloverdale, who agreed to be the Santa Rosa District Chaplain!

District President Dante Corsetti presented the 2013 District President’s Award to Randy Apel of Br. 198, Santa Rosa. Randy helps many branches in the District and is very deserving of this honor. Dante also presented outgoing District Financial Secretary /Treasurer Lydia Camozzi with a small gift in recognition of her 15 years of service to the District. Dante also presented Andy Pappani with a gift in thanks for his coming and officiating at the Installation.

everyone who came to make the dinner a success. It’s our largest fundraiser of the year. We slow down a bit in March only to gear back up in April.

Upcoming Events:

March 4: Branch meeting in the Rectory. 7:0pm. All members are welcome to attend.

March 19: St. Joseph’s Table. Details are still being finalized for this event.

April 1: Branch meeting in the Rectory. 7:00pm. All members are welcome to attend.

April 5: Polenta Dinner. This is our last Polenta Dinner of the season until November. Call Dee 433-5454 or Carol 433-2007 for your tickets. Price: 15.00 for members.

April 13: ICF Breakfast after the 8am and 10am Masses. More details, next month.

If you haven’t paid your 2014 dues, please send them to Susan Matheny, as soon as possible. Our branch has close to 300 members and is in the top 3 branches for the entire ICF!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Lauren Kilcullen

Cloverdale

L’Annunciata, Br. 75

A special thank you to Carmen Kilcullen and Rpbert Aquistapace for all their counsel and encouragement in the reorganization of our Branch. We are making progress and recently put together our schedule of events.

Our officers, Patch Guglielmino, President Patsy Buchignani, First Vice President Sal Casciaro, Second Vice President Cecelia Casciaro, Secretary Louis E. Guglielmino, Treasurer Fr. Fergal McGuinness, Chaplain attended their first Santa Rosa District Installation on Jan. 19. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed the day. The lunch was delightful from the appetizers to the dessert. Thank you Branch 52.



(Above) District President Dante Corsetti presents Grand 2nd Vice President Andy Pappani with a gift.



(Top Right) Dante present the 2013 District President's Award to Randy Apel.



(Right) Outgoing District Financial Secretary /Treasurer is presented with a gift for her 15 years of service as an officer.

Sonoma

Name, Br. 103

Happy St. Patick’s Day to all. Our kitchen crew will be going all out with a full dinner of corned beef and cabbage, including great wine and desserts made by our new volunteer committee. For reservations, contact Lila at (707) 996-3448.

On March 9 the Branch will have its quarterly Mass at St. Francis Solano Church at 9 a.m. with breakfast following at The Palms Restaurant.

Scholarship applications have been sent to Sonoma High School, and our members are urged to also submit an application if they have eligible children and/or grandchildren.

Saluti,

Marie-Therese Denning

Petaluma

St. Vincent, Br. 127

Greetings from Petaluma!

RAIN! What a welcome sight arriving in Petaluma and all over California. Also, the beauty of the leaves and tree branches with the glistening of the drops of rain, that look like diamonds giving their beautiful sparkle as the light hits them. A beautiful sight for which we must thank God for and for all he gives us...

It looks like Branch 127 will be having a busy year. We’ve already had our soup/dessert night in January, a crab feed in February



New officers of Branch 103 at the District Installation.



Branch 103 officers Bill Scinto and Tom Wurst inducted two new members: Tina Wolfenden and Carol Witson.

and St. Joseph's Table in March. The Cresci and Orlando families will once again chair the St. Joseph's Table on Saturday, March 22. Quarterly Communion/Mass will be at 5:00pm. Dinner will follow in St. James Church Hall. There will be o'erderves, salad, pasta and fish, dessert, wine and coffee served. Cost is \$16 for adults \$5 for children under 12 yrs. of age. Make your reservations with Spence - 763-9082 or Louise - 769-7389.

A report on the Crab feed will be in next months Bollettino.

March 10 - Regular Meeting

Mar./Apr./May - Bakeless Bake Sale Fund Raiser

April 14 - Regular Meeting

It is so nice to hear that so many of the members support our President Bruno in attending the services for our deceased members. We lost two of our most respected members Estelle Moretti and Anita Morris Tyler in the past few months. We will miss them.

Glad to have Louis Vicino feeling much better after his hospital stay. Get well wishes to our sick members.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those celebrating this month.

Happy Valentines Day to all!

Remember be good to others, you will always get it back in return.

Ciao,

Louise Vicino

Arcata

St. Mary, Br. 144

Paula gave us a very cute and informative presentation about Valentines. Our Installation was very nice. Dante Corsetti, his lovely wife, and Marie Canale did a fine job of installing our officers, and giving us inspirational talks. We sent a Certificate of Appreciation to John Susan. Thank you Larry, Rosemary, and Dena, for so beautifully putting together the certificate an nomination for the President's Award. We donated \$200 to the Cemetery Repair Fund. We are in danger of losing our Bocci court if it isn't used more. We also need more people to help with the maintenance.

Upcoming: 3/5 Meeting 3/7 Meager Meal 3/7-8 St. Joseph's Table NO St.Patrick's Dinner 4/2 Meeting 4/5 Anniversary Dinner in Eureka 4/6 Group Communion 8:30am.

Please pray for Peaceful Repose for John Susan, whom we so greatly miss. Happy Birthday Joan De Peel. Happy Anniversary Joan and Mike Dal Porto.

Our Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, 3/5. This is a good time to begin examining our conscience, and our relationship with the Father. Do I lie, cheat, steal, gossip, or intentionally hurt others? More importantly, when were the times I have failed to live up to my full potential in showing Christ-like love to those I met? Lord help me to share your Grace with all those around me.

Ciao,

Linda

Eureka

St. Ambrose, Br. 145

Our new president Joe Bonino called the January 14 meeting to order.

A big thank you to Marian Griffith for her years serving as president. Thank you!

Fr. Allen joined us to discuss suggestions for future projects. He reminded us that it is

always better to concentrate on only a few projects at a time for the greatest success.

Jerry Colivas presented his heritage talk for this month. His presentation was about the life of Leonardo DaVinci. He was a great artist, sculptor, engineer, and mathematician.

His inventions were an enormous contribution through out the world. Thank you Jerry for another informative talk!

Marian reminded us that the 2014 calendar will be sent by e-mail.

The installation dinner was on January 25 at St. Marys after 5:30 mass. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

We were also reminded that Betty Chin is in need of peanut butter and jelly for sandwiches she serves to the homeless. If you are interested in donating any of these items let Marian know or just bring items to our meeting.

Our March meeting will be on the 11th. Please plan to attend.

Please continue to pray for all members especially those who are ill.

Peace and Good Health to all,

Nancy Paoli

Cotati

St. Joseph, Br. 150

Our February dinner meeting was hosted by Tom and Carol Saksa. It was a very nice dinner.

John and Katie Fomasi are celebrating 70 years of marriage Feb. 12. Katie turns 90 in March. Happy Birthday and to Lydia Comazzi on Feb 14, celebrating the big 8-0!

Happy Happy Birthday!!!!

A message from our wonderful Past President:

It is with a heavy heart that we the active members of the Branch 150 Cotati wish to make it known that we no longer have the support or energy to continue our existence of our branch. Those concerned members who participated in last months meeting are once again called upon to join Mistrs David Botta and Bob Acquistapace and Branch Deputy Mrs. Louise Vicino in the transfer of property and funds as prescribed by the Central Council.



President Bob Acquistapace presents a check to Barbara Gasparini, Principal of St. Eugene Elementary. The annual donation to the school took place at Branch 198's 48th anniversary dinner in January.

-- Thomas Andrew Saksa.

Please keep our members who are ill or recuperating in our prayers.

Blessings to ALL!

Susan Daly

Santa Rosa

St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Bothers & Sisters

2014 is off to a great start. Following our successful 48th Anniversary dinner we had a very successful cookie exchange for Valentine's day. When everyone got their fill of our corned beef and cabbage dinner prepared by Ernie Giampaoli and his helpers we are now moving on to our annual Prime Rib and Pasta Fundraiser Dinner.

It will be held in the Becker Center on April 5, 2014. Tickets are on sale from Claire Giampaoli (539-1443). The price is \$20 per person and includes cocktails and dinner.

Many of our branch members are in need of our prayers.

Please remember Victorio Torchio Sr., Frank Castelli, Pat Costaglio RoseAnne Sikes in particular and all of us in general.

Here are the major upcoming events.

Mark your calendar for all of these:

March 16 -- 9:00am. Mass for living & deceased ICF

April 5 -- 4:30pm. Mass for living & deceased ICF



Arcata St. Mary's, ICF Branch 144 Officer Installation was held on January 25, 2014. Far left is Santa Rosa District President Dante Corsetti.



Branch 198 secretary Kathy Acquistapace presents deputy Lorraine Vanetti with a Christmas gift from the branch in appreciation of all her time and dedication.



Ryan McCalmont, grandson of Robert Acquistapace, Br. 198, recently received the rank of Eagle Scout. Celebrating with him are his parents, Loretta and Mike McCalmont. All are members of Branch 198 in Santa Rosa.

April 5 -- 5:45pm. Prime Rib & Pasta Fundraiser

April 7 -- 7:00pm. Meeting, dessert & bingo

May everyone have a happy St. Patrick's Day
Ciao,

Lorraine Castelli

Stockton

Stockton
District Council

ANNUAL BISHOP'S DAY SATURDAY MARCH 29 - Did you know that it costs about \$30,000/year to educate a seminarian? With your help, we are currently educating eleven Stockton Diocesan seminarians. It's that time of year and St. Anthony's Manteca will be hosting the Bishop's Burse celebration on Saturday, March 29. The event begins with mass at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony's Church, 505 East North Street, Manteca, CA, followed by Tony Queirolo's fabulous Italian dinner. Honored guest Bishop Blaire will be presented a generous burse as well as a spiritual bouquet. Sr. Wanda Billion, Director of Vocations and guest speaker, will introduce you to the eleven men currently on their faith journey. Make your reservations now by calling Ida Queirolo at (209) 982-5710. The dinner remains at only \$25 and this year, ALL of the \$25 will be donated directly to the education of our eleven seminarians. Don't miss out!!!

PRAY FOR SNOW IN THE MOUNTAINS, RAIN IN THE VALLEY.

Karen Rosson

Modesto

St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

March is going to be a busy month starting with our meeting, St. Joseph's Table Celebration and the Bishop's Burse.

The St. Joseph's Table will be March 16, 2014 at 2:00pm. It will be at St. St. Stanislaus Hall at 7th and K Streets, in Modesto. Mark the date on your calendar and join us for some great food and fun raffle. It is potluck so

bring your favorite dish, family and friends.

Our members are encouraged to attend the Bishop's Burse. Ask your family and friends to join you. It will be in Manteca so if you don't want to drive alone get some members and car pool together

Mass for our deceased members will be Sunday March 2, 2014 and April 6, 2014 8:00am at the Maze Blvd. Church

Coming up:

Mar 12 7:00 pm Meeting – St. Stanislaus Hall 7th and K Streets

Mar 16 2:00pm St. Joseph's Table Celebration St. Stanislaus Hall 7th & K Streets

Mar 29 11:00am Bishop's Burse – Br. 139 St. Anthony's Manteca

Apr 9 7:00pm Meeting - St. Stanislaus Hall 7th and K Streets

Cecelia McGhee

Manteca

N.S. Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

Our branch will be hosting the Stockton District Bishop's Burse on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at St. Anthony's Church at the corner of Fremont and North. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon to follow in the school Gym. The tickets are \$25. each and can be purchased by calling Ida Queirolo at 209 982 5710 or Anna Mello at 209 982 5458. We would love to have lots of members and their families in the District attend.

Our next fundraiser will be an "All you can eat" Shrimp Dinner. It will be held on Saturday, April 26, in the St. Anthony's School Gym. Tickets are available now for \$35. each. Make your reservations by calling Marilyn Amoral, 209 823 5859 or Ida, 209 982 5710.

We will be providing the Lenten Soup on Monday, March 10, in the cafeteria.

Our next meeting is March 25. in the school cafeteria. Dinner is served at 6:30pm at a cost of \$6. Hope to see you there.

Pray for all our deceased members and ill members.

Ida Queirolo

Tracy

St. Bernard, Br. 390

Our monthly dinner meeting was very well-attended - chicken cacciatore and polenta was amazing and everyone said we should have it more often.

The new 2014 elected officers were sworn in and they are: Lucy Orsi, President; Joe Bacchetti, 1st VP; Annette Elissagaray, 2nd VP; Mary Gualco, record secretary; Betty Hollars, correspondence sec. and orator; Alena Chappell, financial secretary; Serena Martocchio, treasurer; Rita Baretta, trustee; Letty Fornasero, trustee; Sandi Corallo, trustee; Al Tarabini, sentinel; Marilyn Amoral, branch deputy; Karen Rosson, district deputy.

ICF Branch 390 hosted the Stockton District Meeting on Feb. 16. Dinner featured chicken, homemade stuffed pasta shells and more, and was enjoyed by all.

February dinner meeting on Feb. 27 featured tri-tip, Italian green beans, roasted potatoes, salad, bread and dessert, and honored Wedding Anniversaries of its members in keeping with the Valentine theme.

Saturday, May 17 has been set as the date for our 2014 Annual Gala, which is the major fund-raiser for the New Church Site Building Fund. All ICF members participate in the many hours of work decorating, cooking, promoting and arranging both live and silent



Grand President Bob Bausino standing with the Stockton District's CC Sergeant of Arms Marco Galeazzi and Life Member Dante Galeazzi at the all day Federation meeting in February held in Los Gatos, California.

auctions for the event. The theme chosen this year is "The Vatican."

Angels Camp

St. Patrick, Br. 413

We had a great time at our Valentine's Dinner Dance on February 8. We had prime rib and roasted potatoes with asparagus. For dessert, we had Mary Kingshill's famous, delicious lemon cake. We danced to romantic music provided by Rich Rinaldi. For this event, our servers were high school kids from the Rite of Passage School. This school is a special school for kids that got into some trouble. The boys that served dinner were all very well mannered and well liked by all. Since they could not accept the donation that was collected for them, they asked that we donate the funds to the Bishop's Burse. We are very grateful for their help and look forward to having them come again. I hope that this interaction helps them learn that they are valued in our society.

I must thank Tony and Ida Queirolo, who made the trip from the valley, to be with us. It is rare when members from other ICF Branches, other than our District Deputy, grace us with their presence at our events. The night was rainy (thank God for rain!), but we had amore at our event.

Ciao,

Robert Pachinger

Correspondence Secretary

Tucson

Green Valley Branch 425 and Tucson Branches 433 and 434 Bishops' Day and Installation of Officers

On Saturday, February 1, 2014, Branches 425, 433 and 434 celebrated Bishop's Day and Installation at Tucson's Ss. Peter and Paul Parish with Branch 433 as the host. At the 5 pm Mass, each Branch entered the church, behind their ICF banner, carrying candles for Candlemas. The procession was led by Grand 1st Vice President Leonard Zasoski and wife Betty, and on behalf of the Central Council of the ICF Leonard presented Bishop Gerald Kicanas with a monetary gift for the Seminarians Fund followed by the president of each Branch (Joan Silva for 425, Melissa Rodriguez for 433 and Kathy Gatto for 434)

also presenting the Bishop monetary gifts for the Seminarians Fund.

Following the Mass, the Installation of Officers took place in Gramer Hall. The theme of the evening "An Italian Picnic", had Branch 433 providing sausage and pepper sandwiches, soft drinks and wine, Maria Fleischmann's crème puffs; 425 provided a pasta salad; and Branch 434, the Italian buns for the sandwiches and assorted bundt cakes for dessert.

This is the first time 433 has been host for this event and were especially honored to have Bishop Kicanas join us for the festivities as well as addressing us prior to the dinner and then giving the blessing. Branch 433 Chaplin, Fr. Patrick Crino, was also present and gave the closing prayer.

Following the dinner, Grand 1st Vice President Leonard conducted the installation of officers assisted by CC members Jim Acitelli, Pat Mage and Vince Piro.

Bette Acitelli, Reporting

Green Valley

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of Branch Charter Member Nick Del Corso on February 2. For many years he served as our Branch Orator and with his wife, Yolanda, was very active in the Branch. He and Yolanda had been married for 66 years.

Recently we celebrated Bishop's Day and Installation of officers with Branches 433 and 434 at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Tucson. We began by celebrating Mass with the other Branches and at the end of the Mass, we presented Bishop Kicanas with a monetary gift from our Branch.

Our new officers are busy planning events for us and right now all members are in full swing preparing for our February 15 "sit-down Lasagna Dinner" which is always a sell out for us. We also have some fun things on the horizon.

We are getting ready for our St. Joseph's Table in March. This is always a real "taste" experience for the Parish as we do so many different types of foods and desserts. It is donation for admittance to the Hall and all proceeds go our local Food Bank.

Bette Acitelli, Reporting

Pope Francis' 2014 Lenten Season Message

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis' Message for the Lenten season 2014 was released at a Vatican Press. The theme of the Message is drawn from a Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, "He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (cf. 2 Cor 8:9).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean to us today?

Christ's grace

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: "though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...". Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and

glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15). God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus "worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin." (Gaudium et Spes, 22).

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says "that by his poverty you might become rich". This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it

to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by his poverty. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph 3:8), that he is "heir of all things" (Heb 1:2).

So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road (cf. Lk 10:25ff). What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being the Son; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor. When Jesus asks us to take up his "yoke which is easy", he asks us to be enriched by his "poverty which is rich" and his "richness which is poor", to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the firstborn brother (cf. Rom 8:29).

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.

Our witness

We might think that this "way" of poverty was Jesus' way, whereas we who come after him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world through the poverty of Christ, who makes himself poor in the sacraments, in his word and in his Church, which is a people of the poor. God's wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ.

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. Destitution is not the same as poverty: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual. Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help, her diakonia, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.

No less a concern is moral destitution, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members – often a young person – is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography! How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners, and by lack of equal access to education and health care. In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the spiritual destitution which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. If we think we don't need God who reaches out to us though Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save and free us.

The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelization and human promotion.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.

May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are "as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything" (2 Cor 6:10), sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.



Branch 413 members at the Valentine Dinner Dance: Karalee Canham, Dee Sheldon, and Mary Vera.

Tucson

Fr. Eusebio Kino, Br. 433

The Branch hosted a very successful Bishop's Day and Installation at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish on Saturday, February 1, 2014. It is the first time we have been able to be the host and, thanks to Fr. Patrick Crino and Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, we were able to show off our new home and to show how well we work together and with the other Branches.

We were honored not only to have Bishop Gerald Kicanas present and speak to us but also to have Fr. Crino with us as well. ICF Central Council was represented by Grand 1st Vice President Leonard Zasoski as well as Council Members Jim Acitelli, Patricia Mages and Vince Piro who assisted 1st Grand Vice President Leonard with the Installation of Officers.

Our Branch banner was carried by President

Melissa Rodriguez and 1st Vice President Debby Gomez-Rasadore. Our gift to the Bishop was presented by President Melissa.

The dining hall was decorated in an Italian picnic theme. Member Mark O'Hare had a wonderfully informative display regarding Fr. Kino and passed out literature regarding him.

President Melissa held a Branch Board meeting immediately following the evening's "clean-up". Plans are underway for several fund raising activities as well as increasing membership. We wish all of our new officers the very best and our wholehearted cooperation.

Bette Acitelli, Reporting

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