



BOLLETTINO



Buon Natale! Merry Christmas! ICF Members Busy with Bishops' Days



The ICF celebrated Bishops' Days in Santa Rosa (top right), Sacramento (top left and middle right), and San Diego (bottom left and bottom right).



Grand President's Monthly Message by Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

Today, November 10, I attended a funeral where I was asked to be a pallbearer for a member of Branch 33 in Bakersfield. The member was Mary Marchetti. Mary turned 100 years old just a little over a month ago. I don't think I have ever met an individual who was so full of life. She always had a smile and kind words for whomever she met. Mary and her husband, Reno, got to know my parents years ago while attending ICF functions together and they became good friends. Mary was ICF through and through, and she was very proud of her Italian heritage, being an ICF member, and helping others. Mary would always tell me how proud she was to know the Grand President, even though I didn't feel that it was a big deal, but to her, it was. Though she will be missed, I am so blessed to have known Mary, and her warm smile will always be with me.



While reflecting on what the ICF had meant to Mary for all those years, I started thinking of all that the ICF has meant to me. Where would I be if I had not been a member for over 25 plus years and being around the organization for 43 years? Would I have been as active in the church and our local community? Would I have learned to cook, organize an event, or meet so many wonderful people? Most all of what I have listed, probably would not have come to fruition.

We can get so distracted these days with all that is going on in our lives. If we listen to what God is telling us and follow his lead, He will always move us in the right direction.

For all the new members that have joined us this past year, please keep that fire alive in your heart for our organization. To those members who have been with the ICF for many years, always remember what brought you to the organization when you first joined. Think of all the good friends you have met and the enjoyable memories that have been made along the way.

The ICF is family; it is our family, which is one of our greatest treasures that we must share with others. During the Christmas season, may the warmth in your hearts be a glow for others to see.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Italian Catholic Federation members and their families a blessed holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Zasoski Family – Leonard, B.G., Andrew and Joey.

continued on page 4

October Central Council Minutes

Saturday, October 15, 2016
Castro Valley, CA

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

Opening Prayer: led by Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Salute to Flag/ICF Pledge: Salute to the Flag was led by Andy Pappani. Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr. led the ICF Pledge.

Roll Call of Officers and CC Members:
Excused: Msgr. Cardelli, Absent: Michael

Cannady, Mike Rossi, Steve Fuentes.
Central Council Life Members Emeritus and Members Emeritus present: Carmen Kilcullen, Jerry Delfino, Leroy Taddei.

Introductions: Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr. welcomed guests.

Central Council Meeting Minutes: Minutes for June 11, 2016 were approved as corrected. Page 2 – Grand Treasurer's report, Bullet 3 should state "which appears to be low" (instead of high).

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UPCOMING:

2016 Bishops' Days:

Dec. 4 Reno

2017 Bishops' Days:

Feb. 18 Orange

Feb. 18 Tucson

Apr. 23 San Francisco (San Francisco,
San Mateo & Marin)

Apr. 30 Chicago

2017 District

Installations:

Jan. 8 Stockton

Jan. 14 Central Coast

Jan. 14 San Bernardino

Jan. 14 Santa Rosa

Jan. 15 East Bay

Jan. 17 Marin

Jan. 21 San Mateo

Jan. 28 Contra Costa

Jan. 28 Santa Clara Valley

Jan. 29 Orange

Jan. 29 San Diego

Feb. 12 Los Angeles (includes San
Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley
and Santa Barbara/Ventura)

Feb. 14 Las Vegas

Feb. 18 Tucson

The Nativity Scene Speaks Volumes

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director
ICFspiritDir@aol.com

It's Christmas again! Lots of people, if not most Christians, display nativity scenes in their homes. Traditionally, all Catholic churches also display a manger scene during Christmas season. The nativity scene speaks volumes. It is a good way to teach us, and especially children, about the many wonderful truths of Jesus, Our Savior.

The infant Jesus, Christ the King, was born of a Virgin in a humble stable. His Mother "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger." Lk: 2

His birth, as Savior, was announced by an angel. "I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." Lk: 2

All across the sky angels sang out to the shepherds. "And suddenly there was a mul-



titude of the heavenly hosts with the angel, praising God and singing, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Lk: 2

Magi from the East brought royal gifts to the infant Savior, Christ the King. "They saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Mt. 2:11



The Church custom of waiting until Christmas Eve to place the infant Jesus in the manger highlights that Our Savior was born on Christmas. It is a time of JOY, CELEBRATION, AND PEACE.

May the Christ Child during this Christmas Season bring love, joy and peace to you and your families. May it be a season of hope for all people.

January is Membership Recruitment Month

Vince Piro
Grand 2nd Vice President
Membership Chairperson

During the month of January, the Federation would like to encourage each branch to hold a membership "drive." As you know, increasing the Federation's membership is vital to the strength of the organization and starting off the New Year

with a growing membership base creates a positive energy throughout branches and the organization as a whole. Of course, there are many more ways to recruit new members than the traditional membership drive. See a reprint of Nina Malone's article in this edition on various ways to attract new members. It offers many excellent ideas.

Also, to encourage individual recruitment of new members, the Central Council is offering \$30 to any current member who can

recruit five new members! It's a challenge you can't resist.

For more information on membership recruitment, please visit the Members Area of the ICF website for ideas and materials. Also feel free to contact Vince Piro at (209) 756-4817 for help with your membership drive. The ICF Office also has materials that can be useful during a membership drive.

Plan your branch's membership recruitment for January now.

Organizing a Membership Drive

Nina Malone
Life Member of the Central Council

Start planning 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, 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, Corporate Communion Masses, Joint Installations, 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 prospective members that include 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. Be sure to check out our "Branch Visitor" and "New Member" packets at www.icf.org for more ideas and resources. So before the "lazy days of summer" begin and everyone goes out of town on vacation, gather your branch members together and organize a Membership Drive. There is no risk and all reward, plus you will have fun in the process!

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Believe in the Magic of Christmas!!

David Botta and Carmen Kilcullen
Past Grand Presidents

Since this is the Christmas issue, we thought that we would highlight some of the Christmas events and traditions of many of our branches. Most branches do something for their Christmas meetings. Some of these ideas may inspire you to try something new.

- Have a fun Christmas dinner at the branch, possibly exchanging small gifts.
- Do a presentation of the nativity with the children of the branch.
- Hold a candlelight procession in the church to the nativity scene singing Christmas hymns.
- At the branch Christmas party, have Santa give gifts to the children present.
- Playing and singing Christmas music at the party.
- Sponsor a "giving tree" either at the branch or at the Church.
- Donate food to food banks and shelters.
- Schedule a Christmas party for people in shelters and retirement homes.
- Bring toys to children in hospitals.

• As a group, attend a Christmas show in your area. There are many local groups that do Christmas presentations.

- Have a Christmas piñata for the children at your party.
- Have the children (even the adults) make Christmas decorations for the party.
- Present the story of The Befana. Children could act out the story.
- Invite a local high school or community group to present a Christmas musical to the branch.
- Have a raffle for a Nativity set which can be purchased online.

We have now been doing this column now for about two years. Our intent is to present something of the history of the ICF. Many of our members are new and are not aware of our rich past and traditions. We hope that this column fulfills this purpose.

Both of us wish you and yours the most joyous and blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Buon Natale a tutti!!!

D. Botta/ C. Kilcullen

Gifts of Love Program Ready for 2017 Time to Send Applications to the ICF Office

Teresa Helfand

Gifts of Love Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The holidays are upon us, and we would like to select recipients for our Gifts of Love Awards. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Gifts of Love program, we have a fund from which we make awards to individuals with disabilities or agencies that assist individuals with disabilities. We do this throughout the year, in order to provide funds to individuals with disabilities to help them lead fuller, more independent lives, and to find greater inclusion within their communities. We also work with providing assistance to agencies whose goal is to do the same for their clients.

At this time, we would like to request applications from disabled individuals that may require special or specific aids or "tools" in order to complete their education, training or assist them in their daily lives.

In order to generate applications, the Gifts of Love Committee is asking each Branch President to mention the program at their next meeting and also to publish a request for applications in their respective Church and/or School Bulletins if possible. The application form is available on the I.C.F. Website (www.icf.org). Applications should either be mailed to the I.C.F. Office



at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621, e-mailed to the I.C.F. Office at info@icf.org or faxed to (510) 633-9758.

Applications are evaluated on a regular basis by the I.C.F. Gifts of Love Committee which decides who receives the awards and the amounts. We have a great Committee this year and we look forward to helping those in need!

If you would like more information about the Gifts of Love program, please contact Committee Chairwoman Teresa Helfand at davia902005@live.com.

Happy Holidays and God Bless You,

Teresa Helfand

The Breaking of the Oplatek

Denise Antonowicz

Heritage Chairperson

I want to share a tradition from my Polish heritage. I can remember my Busia (Grandma) always giving my dad the Oplatek every Christmas and we followed the tradition with him.

One of the most beautiful and most revered Polish customs is the "breaking of the oplatek." The use of the Christmas wafer (oplatek) is practiced not only by native Poles in Poland, but by people all over the world whose ancestors came from Poland.

The "oplatek" is a thin wafer, made of flour and water, put into a metal press with different religious Christmas scenes. Formerly, these were baked by religious and were distributed from house to house in the parish during Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the whole family gathers and waits for the appearance of the first star. With its first gleam, they all approach a table covered with hay and a snow-white table cloth.



The father or eldest member of the family breaks the wafer in half and gives one half to the mother. Then each of them breaks a small part of each other's piece and, after a warm kiss, they wish each other long life, good health, joy and happiness, not only for the holiday season, but for the coming year and for many years to come.

Now the same ceremony is repeated between fathers and their children, as well as among the children, then, with the relatives and even strangers, if they happen to be present. The ceremony over, they all sit down to a tasteful, though meatless supper, after which they sing kolendy (Christmas carols and pastorals) until the time for Midnight Mass, also known as "Pasterka."

Święta Bożego Narodzenia (Merry Christmas) from my family to yours!



NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

| DAY | NAME | BR | CITY | WINS |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|-------|
| 11/1 | John & Chris Romanowich | 281 | Bakersfield, CA | \$50 |
| 11/2 | Bill Nelson | 343 | Castro Valley, CA | \$50 |
| 11/3 | Tom Kingshill | | Belmont, CA | \$30 |
| 11/4 | Manuela Cavazos | | Merced, CA | \$30 |
| 11/5 | Lois A. Ernst | | Bakersfield, CA | \$30 |
| 11/6 | Gary & Ruth Maricich | | Crockett, CA | \$30 |
| 11/7 | Josephine Basile | 326 | Temple City, CA | \$30 |
| 11/8 | Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Dorn | | Alameda, CA | \$30 |
| 11/9 | Branch 135 | | Reno, NV | \$30 |
| 11/10 | Branch 213 | | SSan Francisco, CA | \$30 |
| 11/11 | Sandra Debrichy | 214 | Concord, CA | \$50 |
| 11/12 | Maria Baccari | 115 | San Pedro, CA | \$30 |
| 11/13 | Amy & Ed Sarubbi | | San Ramon, CA | \$50 |
| 11/14 | Elena David | 144 | Arcata, CA | \$30 |
| 11/15 | Joann Ormonde | 390 | Tracy, CA | \$30 |
| 11/16 | Dolores Rochester | 52 | Healdsburg, CA | \$30 |
| 11/17 | Greg Farber | | Greenbrae, CA | \$30 |
| 11/18 | Marla Kriech | 91 | San Ramon, CA | \$30 |
| 11/19 | Cathleen Pope | 358 | Oakbrook, IL | \$30 |
| 11/20 | Mike & Marcie Rossi | 391 | San Jose, CA | \$30 |
| 11/21 | Dwight McGhee | | Modesto, CA | \$30 |
| 11/22 | Donna Barnes | 19 | Daly City, CA | \$30 |
| 11/23 | V.A. Lona Bertoli | 209 | Santa Rosa, CA | \$30 |
| 11/24 | B.G. Zasoski | 281 | Bakersfield, CA | \$100 |
| 11/25 | Anthony Leary | 281 | Bakersfield, CA | \$40 |
| 11/26 | Cheryl Simon | 19 | Daly City, CA | \$30 |
| 11/27 | Sally Farinella | 326 | El Monte, CA | \$30 |
| 11/28 | John O'Brien | | San Mateo, CA | \$30 |
| 11/29 | Fr. Joseph Gordon | 28 | Morgan Hill, CA | \$30 |
| 11/30 | Anne Interrante | 380 | Moorpark, CA | \$30 |

CC Minutes

continued from page 1

Communications

- None

Reports

Grand President – Leonard Zasoski

- Grand President Leonard Zasoski attended the following events:
 - Strategic Plan Workshop at Central Coast
 - Santa Rosa Bishop’s Day
 - Finance Committee meeting
 - Executive Committee Meeting
 - Italian Heritage Day Parade in San Francisco
 - East Bay 80th Anniversary
- Grand President Leonard Zasoski will be attending the following events:
 - Santa Clara Valley Bishop’s Day
 - Fresno Bishop’s Day
 - San Diego Bishop’s Day
 - Executive Committee Meeting on November 11
 - Br. 210’s 50th Anniversary
 - Br. 209’s 50th Anniversary
- Vince Piro will attend the Blessed Sacrament District Bishop’s Day
- Andy Pappani will attend: Br. 47’s 80th Birthday and Los Angeles Bishop’s Day

Grand Treasurer –Deborah Rodondi

The 2016 budget is looking good. The Central Council has been keeping expenses down.

Deputy Chairperson – Andy Pappani

Andy Pappani emailed the committee regarding the possibility of changing the name “deputy” to something else. The committee will come back in February with a statute change, if we are going to change the name. The committee is also looking at the term limits of a deputy – how many years can they be at a branch. Right now it’s 2 years. Maybe it should change to 4 years for branch deputy and 7 years for the district deputy. The deputy workshop at the Convention was very good and generated much information. The deputies would like to have a get together on Friday morning instead of Saturday morning at the Convention. The committee is thinking about having a District Deputy Award that would be presented at the recipient’s District Installation.

Committee Reports

Apostolate & Charity – Nina Malone

The committee met and set some goals for promoting religious matters. The goals are: educating members on how to properly say the opening and closing prayers, encouraging our clergy to give some spiritual guidance at the meetings, encourage Days or Nights of Recollection or other religious activity. The Committee will be surveying the branches to discover which of these activities are already being done. The Committee is going to encourage branches and make them aware of the Providenza Fund. Donating for non ICF members opens communication about the ICF. The Committee also wants to open feedback with bishop’s and clergy about what they want from the Federation. Bob Basuino said that Msgr. Cacciapuoti asked if we could have a room at the Convention for the Blessed Sacrament. The priests can take turn to hear confessions. Roselynn Jarrett said we had the Divine Mercy Rosary at this Convention and no one attended. It would be a great way for the Apostolate Committee to get involved in the Convention. David Botta said that when we used to have confession, no one came, so we did away with it. **By-Laws & Rituals - Leonard Rossi** The proposed Central Council Statute changes were discussed: Chapter 6 – Article 7. Signatories on checks. Proposed change to increase the limit for one signature on a check to up to and including \$1000 and the signatory doesn’t sign a check made out to them. Motion from committee. Passed Add “Grand” to Parliamentarian. Motion Deborah Rodondi/Bob Basuino. Passed. Page 1, Chapter 1, Intro: Add 5a – Central Council members must remain active members of a branch and pay dues by March 31. Add 5b: Central Council Life Members must remain active members of a branch and pay dues by March 31. Motion Deborah Rodondi/Denise Antonowicz. Passed. Chapter 1 Intro. Add Article 6: If an issue is not addressed in the Central Council Statutes, then it defaults to the branch by-laws until the Central Council statutes are changed. Motion Deborah Rodondi/Rose. Jarrett Passed. Page 2 Chapter 2. Article 1, delete lines 3 – 8. There will be 20 members on the Central Council – 10 elected and 10 life members. Motion Deborah Rodondi/

Denise. Antonowicz. Roselynn Jarrett said to add about \$1000 to the budget for the additional 2 candidates. This year, we had no one else run for the Central Council. Discussion followed. Motion from committee. Passed. Page 5 Chapter 3: Add Article 4 and renumber all subsequent articles: A grand officer who has not paid dues by March 31 is suspended from being an officer. Motion Deborah Rodondi/Nina Malone. Roselynn Jarrett said that as we just voted that they would not be a Central Council member if they don’t pay by March 31, this would be redundant. Deborah Rodondi rescinded the proposal/ Nina Malone rescinded the second. Page 13 Chapter 4. Meetings: A Central Council member who fails to attend 2 meetings and is not excused from 2 successive meetings is considered resigned. A Central Council members must, in writing, tell both the office and the Grand President that they wish to be excused from a meeting. Asking to be excused does not automatically make them excused. Motion Deborah Rodondi/Rose Jarrett. Passed. Page 35, Chapter 8. Article 4: In an event of emergency, a Central Council member must submit in writing to be excused from the Convention. Add 4b: A Central Council member not in good standing will not be seated at the convention. Motion Deborah Rodondi/Franklyn Lopes Jr. Passed. We are looking at the Articles of Incorporation, as the articles we received from the state of California do not match what we have in the office. **Convention’ Director’s – Roselynn Jarrett** Fresno was a fantastic convention. Roselynn Jarrett thanked everyone who helped, especially the Fresno District. Roselynn emailed the surveys responses to everyone. All overall responses were good, very good and excellent. Roselynn Jarrett spoke about the Convention finances. Our contract was for 928 total room nights. To get all our concessions, we needed to have 747 room nights occupied. We only had 670 room nights occupied. Because we were under our total room night commitment, we lost most of our concessions and must pay a penalty to the hotel. Roselynn Jarrett negotiated the penalty down from \$8900 to \$3834. Roselynn has the list of the branches who didn’t stay the entire time and she will give the list to the Executive Committee to see if we want to charge those branches a one day fine. Nina Malone said we need some follow through and accountability from the Central Council regarding delegates leaving early. Motion by Bob Basuino/Denise Antonowicz that this year, as good will, send those branches whose delegates left early a letter reminding them that delegates are required to stay for the entire convention and next year they will be fined for leaving early. Motion passed. Roselynn Jarrett does see us making a profit on the convention. Several branches are still outstanding on paying for banquet, souvenir book ads, etc. She will have a full accounting at the February Central Council meeting. We need to work on having the branches pay for Convention items on time. Motion from the committee to increase the delegate registration to \$250 if paid by June 30. After June 30, there is a \$25 per delegate late fee. Motion passed. Anne Interrante asked about the donations on Sunday and eliminating the public display of giving the donations. It was listed on several of the surveys. She wanted

to know what the committee is doing to follow through on survey suggestions. Roselynn Jarrett said the committee will look at the surveys and take suggestions under consideration. The Awards Committee now falls under Convention Directors. A few administrative changes to the awards are being made and Roselynn will give the changes to the Executive Committee to approve. Roselynn Jarrett is working getting bids for the 2020 and 2021 conventions. She is looking at seeking two bids – one for a Convention that ends on Monday and one for a Convention that ends on Sunday to see what the pricing difference would be. Grand President Leonard Zasoski sent the branches who didn’t attend the convention a delegate packet along with a letter stating we missed them and hope they will attend in 2017. **Expansion – Anne Interrante** The committee’s goals are to follow up with the newly opened branches, this year. Another goal is to open three more branches by the 2017 convention. Update: St. Anthony of Padua, Casa Grande: by the end of October, we will know if they are going forward. Right now, there are 20 – 25 members and they are having another membership drive at the end of the month. St. William, Chicago: had their information meeting. There needs to be more interest to continue the process. There is a follow-up meeting this Monday. The pastor really wants the ICF. This would be a reopen of a previously closed branch. Potential new locations: St. Christopher, San Jose: will be researching in November. St. Anthony Almaden Valley in Santa Clara. St. Kilian Mission Viejo: this would be a reopen. The Orange District approached Anne Interrante. The Pastor is new but knows the ICF and is enthused. **Gifts of Love – Teresa Helfand** The committee plans to continue the work and further the goals of the program. They are looking at different ways to advertise the program. **Heritage – Denise Antonowicz** The Committee had a float in the San Francisco Columbus Day Parade. The Grand President drove the float in the Parade and the chicken danced her way through the parade route. It was great fun and great exposure. We received good press on sfgate.com. **Hospitalization – Denise Antonowicz** As of Sept. 30, there is \$870,754.95 in the fund. Motion from committee to give 4% - \$34,800.20 (round up to \$35,000) to the general fund. Passed. Roselynn Jarrett suggested marketing the plan to younger members in new ways. Maybe encourage family memberships to purchase the plan, as children have procedures, etc. **Membership – Vince Piro** The committee is going to focus on three areas: retention, recruitment, and expansion. Retention: Vince Piro and Andy Pappani have started a retention portion of the District workshops. They want to focus on Amici di Cuore, where new branch members would have a mentor, which helps us take a personal approach. We are meeting the Strategic Plan goal of 90% retention, which is too small. We possibly need to have a goal of 95% or so. The committee is going emphasize the Amici

continued on page 5

Cooley’s Anemia Donations

Donations Received by November 10, 2016

IN MEMORY OF:

Bert Berry
Trevis Berry
Josephine Deaver
Gloria Grimsley
Bert Berry
Rita Avila
Anna Barberi
Anna Barberi
D.V. Gullo

GET WELL WISHES:

Russ Vento
Kathy Santos

90th BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Bob Osorio

BRANCH DONATIONS:

Branch 220

DONATED BY:

Viola Carr
Viola Carr
Viola Carr
Roger and Kathy Santos
Roger and Kathy Santos
Roger and Kathy Santos
Garry and Louise Vita
Angelo Benassi
Charles P. Gullo, Jr.

Roger and Kathy Santos
Bob and Elaine Osorio

Roger and Kathy Santos

Review of the 2016 Convention Rationales

Roselynn Jarrett
Convention Director

to know what is working and how we can strengthen our annual meeting.

Thank you convention delegates and guests for providing your feedback regarding the recent convention and sharing ideas to help design future conventions. The Convention Directors' Committee has reviewed your surveys and shared your feedback at the most recent Central Council meeting. We appreciate your praises and criticism as it allows us

The 2016 convention received the following ratings from 129 individuals:

Overall score:

Excellent – 26.36%

Very Good – 62.02%

Good – 11.63%

Fair – 0%

Responses to the five most common questions and suggestions:

1. Charitable donations should not be announced on the microphone. – This suggestion is considered each year as many feel that the donations should be mailed in. To allow the opportunity for additional funding to our charitable programs, we will continue to set aside about 15 minutes at the convention for branches, districts and individuals to make a contribution if they wish. As always, the ICF accepts donations year round and one doesn't have to wait until the convention to donate.

2. Reduce the convention by one day. – We are currently in contracts for the next three years. Breaking these contracts would cost tens of thousands of dollars. Therefore, no changes will take place immediately. We are now in the planning stages of the 2020 convention and are soliciting proposals for a modified convention and also for our current format. By seeking proposals for both a shorter convention and a standard convention, we will be able to compare and see what the most economical solution will be for the Central Council and the branches.

3. Dinners cost too much. – Yes, hotel banquet dining is on the pricey side. This holds true for all catered meals. To help keep the price down, we look in the banquet pricing when we negotiate a contact a few years in advance.

4. Hospitality rooms: Some missed the evening hospitality rooms, while some liked the extended "Meet the Candidates." – To comply with the hotel's quiet time rules, the Central Council voted to change the hospitality format. It is likely that we will follow the same routine moving forward as most hotels have quiet times in place. In year's past Central Council candidates experienced having their parties shut down due to noise or violating fire code with many guests in their rooms. It is disappointing to have your party shut down after putting in the effort and finances to host convention attendees. Although fun, we have to consider the rules.

5. Can we have open seating during the sessions? – There is assigned seating for the General Sessions for attendance and voting purposes.

Thank you once again for your feedback. I hope you found these responses helpful in answering our most frequent questions.

CC Minutes

continued from page 4

program at the branch level. The committee is looking at maybe move to an automatic billing system.

Recruitment: January 2017 will be membership month. The committee will encourage each branch to have some type of membership drive / program.

Motion from committee: For every 5 new adult members, annually, that a current member brings ins, that members is eligible for a \$30 stipend, one stipend per person annually payable from the Central Council. Motion passed.

The committee will be working with the expansion committee.

Carmen Kilcullen said all branches have dinners and she encouraged all branches to have a membership table at the dinners. Anne Interrante suggested giving all branches a starter Public Relations/Membership kit with necessary forms, etc. to make it easy for branches to follow what to do to have a membership table.

Dante Galeazzi said branches need to have someone at the table to help fill out the application right there.

Roselynn Jarrett said that branch membership chairpersons need some instruction as what to do with the application and money from the new members.

Anne Interrante said we should advertise the perks to joining the ICF.

Grand President Leonard Zasoski is looking at a professional video about the ICF to use as a marketing tool. We have money under the Strategic Plan to cover the costs.

Public Relations – Lauren Kilcullen

Michelle Feldman and Lauren Kilcullen are committed to keeping the Bollettino on time and in homes the first week of every month.

The new ICF website is up.

The Public Relations committee is looking at the advertisement rates for the Bollettino. Do they need to be increased? The last increase was 2011. The committee is also looking at other ways to obtain new

advertisements, such as giving members a commission for bringing in new ads and offering a discount to advertisers in the Convention Souvenir book.

The committee is going to work closely with the Convention Directors Committee on other ways to promote the 2017 convention. The committee also wants to work on other ways branches can use public relations to promote them and their activities.

Scholarship – Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

The committee is re-evaluating the correspondence that's going out to branches and schools.

Branches are encouraged to promote the scholarships.

Task Force – Vince Piro

All Central Council members received the evaluation of the Strategic Plan.

This year, the committee is focusing on four areas: 1. Focus on retention of membership. 2. Discussion of district representation on the Central Council. 3. Continue with expansion of new branches. 4. Expansion of deputy program. To help work on these areas, the committee is working on better gathering of information from the office and strengthen community ties and leadership. The strategic plan needs to be evaluated and a new strategic plan needs to be created by the next convention.

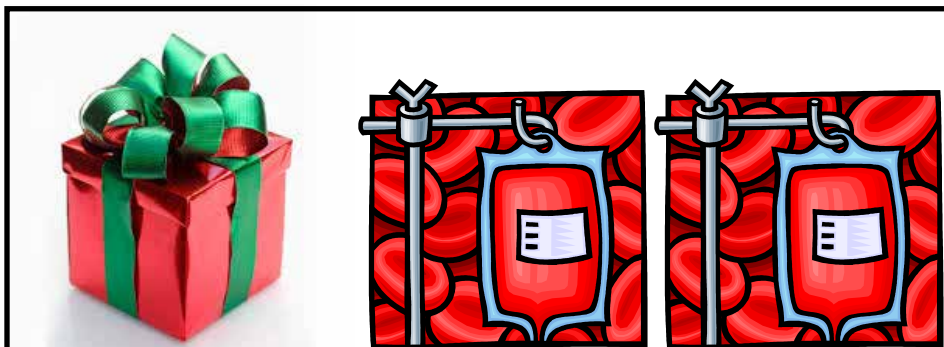
Grand President Leonard Zasoski wants By-laws and Rituals committee to work with Task Force to look at Central Council elections.

Ways and Means – Lisa Crudo

Late Nite Catechism – waiting for a final bill from the university for tech support. Lisa Crudo appreciates everyone who contributed donations for raffle, etc. As of right now, the receipts are: \$6180 and expenses are: \$6345.70, for a loss of \$159. She is expecting a bill from the university of \$1400.

The Golf Tournament and Night for Seminarians were not as well attended as in past years. They may be getting stagnant. Lisa Crudo thanked Monterey for hosting

continued on page 7



Looking For the Perfect Holiday Gift?

Consider giving the gift of life and donating blood in honor of your loved one. Donating blood is free and only takes about an hour. When you donate one unit of blood, you will help save three lives. For more information contact your local blood bank, or Laurice Levine, Live to Give, at 360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com. Contact the ICF office for a blood donation postcard and your gift will be mentioned in the Bollettino.

Merry Christmas from the Live to Give Committee and may you have a BLOODY good New Year!

Gifts of Love Donations

Donations received by November 10, 2016

IN MEMORY OF:

Phil Mages
Phil Mages

Phil Mages
Phil Mages
Phil Mages
Phil Mages
Anna Barberi
Anna Barberi
Chuck Tapella
Carl Armento
Marian Falconi
Helen Di Tullio
James Ybarra
Nicolino Pieroni
Delores Baima

DONATED BY:

Nettie Descalso-Del Nero
Officers/Members of Los Angeles
Archdiocese District
Officers/Members of Br. 362
Nina Malone
Natalie Malone
Joan and Jerry Delfino
Bob and Elaine Osorio
Dean and Jeanette Hudson
Patrice and Chirs Beard
Leonora and Larry Barlow, Sr.
Rosalie Campisi
Evelyn Taravella
Officers/Members of Br. 5
Adolfo and Carla Del Carlo
John and Kris Kaiser

GET WELL WISHES:

Lorraine Spargo

DONATED BY:

Joanna C. Van Blaricom

IN HONOR OF

58th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Delfino

DONATED BY:

Bob and Elaine Osorio

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza
Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

| IN MEMORY OF: | DONATED BY: |
|-----------------------|--|
| Rev. Frank Murray | Joan and Jerry Delfino |
| Phil Mages | Bob Basuino |
| Phil Mages | Mike and Marcie Rossi |
| William Faulkner | Officers/Members of Br. 215 |
| Phil Mages | Jim and Janice Jones |
| Maria Nguyen | Jim and Janice Jones |
| Fr. Frank Murray | Donna, Steve and Jackie Barnes |
| RoseMarie Sickel | Donna Barnes |
| Phil Mages | Giovanni and Nancy Corsi |
| Phil Mages | Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn Lopes, Sr. |
| Anne Guerin | Anna Nanna |
| Erminio Orlando | Juliana and Chuck Boccone |
| Phil Mages | Aldine Grisenti |
| Ann Frances Backensto | Forrest and Prudence Price |
| Phil Mages | Forrest and Prudence Price |
| Theresa Dunajski | Officers/Members of Br. 343 |
| Anna Barberi | Jim and Janice Jones |
| Maria Aiello | Officers/Members of Br. 215 |
| Fr. Frank Murray | Officers/Members of San Mateo District |
| RoseMarie Sickel | Officers/Members of San Mateo District |

| GET WELL WISHES: | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kathy Santos | Bob Basuino |
| Franklyn Lopes, Sr. | Bob Basuino |
| Marc Teglia | Donna Barnes |
| Robert Goodwin | Officers/Members of I.C.F. Br. #161 |
| Bob Goodwin | Lorraine Iavarone |
| Tony Armenio | Officers/Members of Central Council |
| Daniel Capodanno | Robert and Beatrice Tomasello |

| THANK YOU FOR OUR BISHOP’S DAY: | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Andy Pappani | Officers/Members of Los Angeles Archdiocese District |

| CONGRATULATIONS - FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD: | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Ric Shimshock and Family | Paul and Dolores Blefari |

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

Scholarship Donations

| | |
|--|---|
| Donations received by November 10, 2016 | Giulia Gallego In memory of Anna Barberi Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dianda and Jane In memory of Phil Mages Cosmo and Mara Amato In memory of Anna M. Barberi Joe and Yvonne Soracco In memory of Anna Barberi |
| Scholarship Donations - 1 st Year Bob Basuino In memory of Dr. Robert Ramonda Howard and Angela (Amato) Stockwell and Family In memory of Anna Barberi Karen Fortino In memory of Anna Barberi Brenda Fortino In memory of Anna Barberi Officers/Members of Central Council In memory of Phil Mages | Scholarship Donations - 2 nd - 4 th Year Deborah Rodondi In memory of Phil Mages Deborah and Robert Rodondi In memory of Fr. Frank Murray |

In Loving Memory

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Report Date: 11/10/2016 | CARL P ARMENTO DELORES BAIMA RICHARD RUSSELL JEAN BORTOLUSSI EVELYN L MOORE MARIA AIELLO PETE CORALLO WARREN (BUSS) M MITCHELL EDWARD BARTON | Branch 051 Branch 102 Branch 163 Branch 184 Branch 209 Branch 215 Branch 390 Branch 391 Branch 425 |
| JAMES YBARRA THOMAS J BERTOLDI EMMA BERTOLI ERMINIO ORLANDO JIMMY SUNZERI ROSALIE CASAS IRENE MIGLIAZZO CATHERINE L KAUER | Branch 005 Branch 007 Branch 021 Branch 021 Branch 021 Branch 036 Branch 039 Branch 047 | |

Earthquake Relief Donations Still Being Accepted

On August 24, 2016, an earthquake measuring 6.2 hit Central Italy. Its epicenter was close to Accumoli, in an area near the borders of the Umbria, Lazio, Abruzzo and Marche regions.

As of September 16, 2016, the death toll stood at 297 people. Many buildings and landmarks with cultural heritage significance were damaged or destroyed.

The Federation has started a relief fund for the people who were devastated by the earthquake in Italy. \$2,500.00 has already been donated from the Central Council funds. We encourage all Branches and Districts to donate to this relief fund to help the people of Italy who were affected. Individual Donations are also welcomed.

Please send your donation to: Italian Catholic Federation, 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621. Please make all checks payable to the Italian Catholic Federation and write Italy Earthquake Relief on the memo line. We will in turn gather all donations and send one check to Catholic Relief Services. The deadline for donations is December 31st, so we can forward the money on to help the victims and their families as soon as possible.

Catholic Relief Services is the relief and development arm of the Catholic Church in the United States and they are assisting a sister agency in Italy in coordinating the relief efforts. They are working to provide food, shelter, water and hygiene kits.

Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to pray for those who were impacted by this terrible disaster.

If you have any question or comments, please contact the I.C.F. office at 1-888-423-1924.



Benvenuti Membri Nuovi

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Report Date: 11/10/2016 | DAYNA L NIELSEN JACK K NIELSEN CHUCK GUGLIUZZA AL ANTUNA PATTY CAPPS LINDA M BETTI RICHARD D BETTI SUSAN RUDOLPH FRANCO CANNONE ALDO LENZI GRAZIA LENZI CHELSEA DAWN COLBERT-EVANS LIBBY A CAVATAIO VICTOR L CAVATAIO PATRICIA A PUCCIO CARLIN E RITTER BETTY VIERI BRUNO VIERI FRANK LA DUCCA ROBERTA LA DUCCA | Branch 352 Branch 352 Branch 362 Branch 368 Branch 368 Branch 413 Branch 413 Branch 413 Branch 439 Branch 439 Branch 439 Branch 442 Branch 444 Branch 444 Branch 444 Branch 444 Branch 444 Branch 444 Branch 445 Branch 445 |
| NANCY L BUONLAMPERTI | | |
| REV MANUEL RECERA | Branch 014 | |
| MICHAEL BANDONI | Branch 025 | |
| DEBBIE LACHINO | Branch 039 | |
| ANTONIO MUSCARDIN | Branch 040 | |
| LOUISE M SIMONE | Branch 040 | |
| JIM W KLUESENER | Branch 073 | |
| LIAM J KLUESENER | Branch 075 | |
| RORY M KLUESENER | Branch 075 | |
| SONJA M KLUESENER | Branch 075 | |
| DALE E DIAMOND | Branch 075 | |
| MARIAN DIAMOND | Branch 103 | |
| DONALD DUTIL | Branch 103 | |
| ROCCO A RAGONE | Branch 103 | |
| JOSEPH E BONELLI | Branch 210 | |
| EDWARD J BOYLE III | Branch 308 | |
| CECILIA A LUENA | Branch 308 | |
| DAVID K NIELSEN | Branch 308 | |
| | Branch 352 | |

Christmas Eve Prayer

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

-- Frank Borman, Apollo 8 space mission, 1968

BOOK REVIEW

Vince Piro

Grand 2nd Vice President
Branch 39, Merced



Children's Books

As has been my tradition over the last several years, I am reviewing several children's books that would make excellent Christmas gifts for members' children and grandchildren. The books listed below all center around the Italian-American experience often from a child or teenager's point of view.

I have provided the publisher's description under each title. These books are available, usually by special order, from your local bookseller, or they can be purchased from popular online retailers.

Kimchi & Calamari

by *Rose Kent*

There are worse things in the world than being adopted. But right now Joseph can't think of one. Joseph Calderaro has a serious problem. His social studies teacher has given him an impossible assignment: an essay about ancestors. Ancestors, as in dead people you're related to. Joseph was adopted, but the only sure thing he knows about his birth family is that they shipped his diapered butt on a plane from Korea and he landed in New Jersey. How do you write about a family you've never known and at the same time manage all the other hassles that middle school mixes in the pot? What Joseph writes leads to a catastrophe messier than a table of shattered dishes—and self-discovery that will change his life recipe forever. . . .

American Too

by *Elisa Bartone (Author), Ted Lewin (Illustrator)*

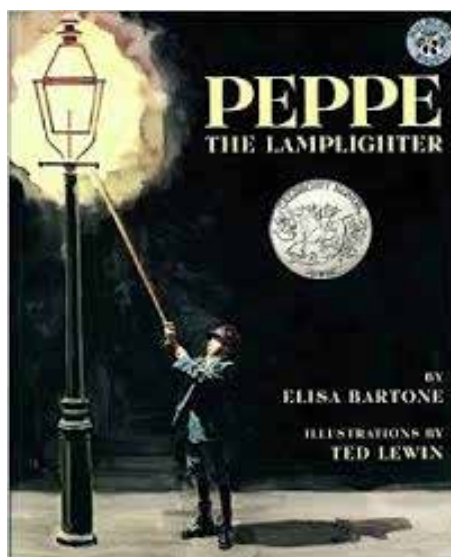
More than anything, Rosina wants to be a modern American girl. But how can she when everything around her on Mulberry Street is Italian. In this companion to Caldecott Honor book *Peppe the Lamplighter*, Elisa Bartone and Ted Lewin give modern-day children a special look at America just after World War I. *American Too* is based on the true story of how one young girl's imagination made her American dream come true. Full color.

Peppe the Lamplighter

by *Elisa Barton (Author), Ted Lewin (Illustrator)*

In the tradition of Lois Lowry and Paul Fleischman, Elisa Bartone's Caldecott Honor-winning book gives children a glimpse into American history and the immigrant experience.

This is the story of Peppe, who becomes a lamplighter to help support his immigrant family in turn-of-the-century New York City, despite his papa's disapproval. Peppe's family is very poor, and though he is just a boy he needs to find work. Being a lamplighter is not the job his father had dreamed of for Peppe, but when Peppe's



job helps save his little sister, he earns the respect of his entire family.

UnderCopp's Hill (American Girl History Mysteries)

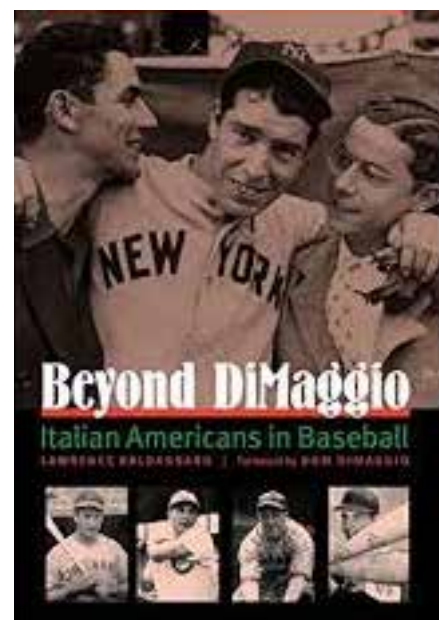
by *Katherine Ayres*

In 1908, eleven-year-old Innies Moretti joins the library club at a settlement house that serves Italian and Jewish immigrant families of Boston's North End, but when items and money disappear from the settlement house, Innies's past as a troublemaker puts her under suspicion. An afterword offers additional period facts with photographs and illustrations from the era.

Beyond DiMaggio: Italian Americans in Baseball

by *Lawrence Baldassaro (Author), Dom DiMaggio (Foreword)*

Lawrence Baldassaro tells the stories of Italian Americans' contributions to the game of baseball, from Joe DiMaggio, who transcended his ethnic identity to become an American icon, to A. Bartlett Giamatti, who served as commissioner of baseball, to Mike Piazza, considered the greatest hitting catcher ever. Baldassaro conducted more than fifty interviews with players, coaches, managers, and executives—some



CC Minutes

continued from page 5

the Golf Tournament. The Golf Tournament will be on the 4th Friday of July.

The committee encourages districts and/or branches to have a Day for the Seminarians, invite the Bishop and have food, wine, Mass or other spiritual activity.

Eleven people have booked the 2017 cruise. We receive money for each person booked from the travel agent.

Lisa Crudo presented options for a pilgrimage from Collette Travel. If we can have a priest willing to travel, it's an even better draw to have people go on the tour or we can book a regular tour. For everyone who books, 10% comes back to ICF. Let Lisa Crudo know where you want to go and if we have a priest, bishop, etc. who would be willing to lead a pilgrimage.

Theme for daily raffle (calendar) for 2018 will be Regions of Italy – their recipes and stories.

Anne Interrante suggested sending branches the raffle tickets for the Nite for Seminarians. That way branches and individuals can support the event without attending.

Workshop – Andy Pappani

The committee has sent out letters to the districts to promote workshops. A suggestion was made to videotape the workshops and put on the website.

Finance Committee – Deborah Rodondi
Deborah Rodondi discussed the 2017 budget. Motion from committee to approve the budget. Motion passed.

UBS said we're looking good, even with the volatility in the stock market.

We need to promote planned giving in member's estate planning. Lauren Kilcullen suggested creating a Legacy Society for people who leave money in their estates to the ICF.

The Finance Committee suggested the same amounts for the Providenza Fund for 2017. Final funds will be calculated on December 31. Motion from committee. Motion passed. Incoming checks not being processed in a timely fashion from the office. Motion from committee that the deadline is 14 business days to be deposited and processed. Motion passed.

The committee will be working on a possible dues change for 2018 and will have a discussion at the 2017 February Central

with careers dating back to the thirties—in order to put all these figures and their stories into the historical context of baseball, Italian Americans, and, finally, the culture of American sports.

Gridiron Gladiators: Italian-Americans in College, Semipro & Pro Football

by *Fausto Batella (Author)*

From 1920 to 1949, 473 Italian-Americans athletes played in college, semipro and pro football teams, men who get results: 4 PRO HALL OF FAME Members, 20 NFL Title Winners, 12 NFL All-Pros, 7 AAFC Title Winners, 41 Minor Leagues Title Winners, 12 COLLEGE HALL OF FAME Members, 39 All-Americans, 26 College All-Stars, 61 Various Colleges Hall of Fame Members, 20 All-Conferences, 5 College Bowls All-Stars, 1 College Top National Scorer of the Year. 10 of them was born in Italy and emigrated to America.

Council meeting. Please bring ideas to this meeting.

Deborah Rodondi went over changes to the Central Council accounting procedures. Motion from committee to accept the changes. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The time for the Central Council meetings will be moved back to 1:00 PM. It was suggested to have the February Central Council meeting at the ICF Office. Grand President Leonard Zasoski will look at this possibility.

The By-laws Committee is looking at a Central Council Statute change possible regarding having an option of emeritus members as committee chairpersons.

Teresa /Helfand is going to be awarded Christos Fedelis from the Cardinal in Chicago.

Good of the Order

Grand President Leonard Zasoski read the thank you letter, regarding the Pope Saint John XXIII Award, from Children's Hospital Los Angeles for the \$1000 donation.

Leonard Rossi thanked everyone for attending the 80th Anniversary for the East Bay District.

David Botta thanked everyone for their cards and prayers.

Dante Galeazzi said to send cards to Bishop Stephen Blaire who will be turning 75 years old on December 21. The new consulate general of Italy has been assigned to San Francisco.

Karen Rossi asked for extra prayers for the Mages family on the death of Philip Mages.

Closing Prayer: Led by Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm by Grand President Leonard Zasoski

*Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Kilcullen
Grand Secretary*

- Next Meeting: February 11, 2017 at 1:00 PM

34 Italian Americans: in baseball, basketball, boxing, bowling, football, golf, hockey, racing, soccer and wrestling Kindle Edition

by Fausto Batella (Author)

Joe DiMaggio was the greatest, but he was not the first, and he was not the last. Throughout the hundred years history of USA sports, thousands of Italian Americans went like him after the dream of a better life. Hundreds of them eventually made it, and in dozens even reached the highest points of their sports. Some of them were never to be forgotten. Other fell into oblivion by few years. But if the symbol Joe DiMaggio is enough to represent them all, their stories, often heartbreaking, always compelling, would need an entire book to be told. An ebook like this one.

Family Recipes

By Deborah RodondiGrand Treasurer

Hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Now is the time to take a deep breath and jump into the Christmas Celebrations. At the moment I am in the middle of decorating and baking...two of my favorite things to do at this time of year (of course being with family and friends tops the charts). Anyone who knows me, knows I am not a big fan of sweets (my downfall is appetizers), but I love to bake. I believe it is because one favorite memory for the members in my family was my maternal Nonie's cookies. Her name was Eva and as a young girl/lady she worked at the bakery on Main Street in the town of Pleasanton, California. She had the magic touch when it came to baking. As usual her recipes were a bit vague, and if you watched her bake she would use her hands to measure and know by the feel of the dough that it was ready to bake and the outcome would put a smile on all our faces. In her kitchen there was one cabinet dedicated to cookies and the minute we entered her house we ran to the cabinet to see if it housed our favorite delight (and we each had our special favorite). When she would visit us, she would have Nono carry in a box with 4 one gallon jars of cookies and with excitement we would reach for our favorite.

The recipe from my Nonie's kitchen that I want to share this Christmas Season is her Cornflake Cookies. This happened to be my mom June's and brother Bruce's favorite (well the truth is they also had another favorite that I will share sometime in the future).

Cornflake Cookies

- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups walnuts, chopped
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 cups corn flakes
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups sugar

Beat eggs well, add sugar and vanilla, beat again. Sift flour, salt and baking powder together. Add dry ingredients to egg mixture. Mix well. Gently mix (fold) nuts in. Fold in corn flakes. Drop by small spoonfuls onto a greased sheet (I use parchment instead). They spread out quite a bit when cooking, 3 across and 4 down on cookie sheet is safe (you learn by trial and error).

Bake in 325 degree oven for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden (I cook them in a 310-15 degree oven for 18-20 minutes). I find that cooking at a lower temperature and for a longer period of time guarantees them being crispy.

These are light and fragile. The recipe will fill 1 1/2 one gallon jars.

Through trial and many errors in perfecting the recipe for those of us that are not cookie Diva's like Nonie I can finally say I make them as good as I remember hers. As a child I would love hanging out with her in the kitchen and being her assistant. I was in awe of the fact that she could tap the bottom of the cookie sheet and the cookies would pop loose beautifully. As I got older and started baking on my own, with a sassy tap on those cookie sheets I expected to see the cookies break free in perfection. The joke was on me...one tap and I had ice cream topping not cookies; therefore, today I use parchment!

Nonie's tradition continues, during the holidays my brothers and their families look forward to the variety of cookies I bake and share with all of them. Merry Christmas to you and your family and wishing you a wonderful new Year!

Hoping you might like to share some of your specialties or the family recipes that have been handed down with the members of the ICF. Send them to me at drodondi@comcast.net or mail to the ICF office include a story if any. If you have questions send them also, I may not be able to answer them but we can put them out there for our readers and maybe find what you are looking for.

Buon Appetito!

La Celebrazione di Gioventu --
The Celebration of Youth

Submitted by Roselynn Jarrett
Central Council Life Member



Christmas Word Find

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| JESUS | HAY |
| MARY | ANGEL |
| JOSEPH | FAITH |
| WISEMEN | HOPE |
| MANGER | FRANKINCENSE |
| NATIVITY | MYRRH |
| BETHLEHEM | SILENTNIGHT |
| CAMEL | LORD |
| DONKEY | SAVIOR |
| STAR | CHRISTMAS |

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

Vice President Construction Operations

Director of Safety

Construction Company Inc.

(Ext. 11111111)

3211 Rio Mirada Drive

Bakersfield, CA 93309-4945

(805) 316-0100

Fax: (805) 316-0101

lzasoski@colomboconstruction.com

www.colomboconstruction.com

General Contractors

Construction Management

Design/Build Services

Sending Christmas Cheer from the Contra Costa District!



Branch 32, Fresno

**wishes you the Peace of Christmas
and may your New Year shine with possibilities!**



Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to all of our families
and friends.

May the birth of
Christ fill your hearts
with love and may the
New Year bring you
good fortune
and good health.

Members of Branch 39
Merced, California

*Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno.*

*Branch 154, St. Raymond's,
Richmond*



**May the Lord bless and keep
you and your families during this
Christmas Season and Always.**



**Your Brothers and Sisters of
Branch 28, Gilroy.**



**We wish you every
happiness for a
Holy Christmas
and for the New
Year.**

**Buon Natale E
Capo Di Anno From the
Officers and Members of
Branch 7,
Sacro Cuore**



Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno
from the Officers
and Members of
San Carlo,
Branch 14, Crockett



Buon Natale

From the Officers and Members of the Italian Catholic Federation,
Branch 439

Our Lady Mother of the Church, 8747 W. Lawrence Avenue,
Chicago

Anna Tamburello, President

Buon Natale e Buon
Capo D'Anno!



Lauren Kilcullen
Grand Secretary

Merry Christmas
From Branch 442
Christ the King Parish
Pleasant Hill, CA



Buon Natale
e auguri
Per un
felice,
prospero New Year
From the Officers
and Members
of Novato,
Branch 332

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from
The Zasoski Family



Wishing Peace and
Blessings for All
at Christmas and
the New Year.
St. Michael, Br. 209
Sebastopol

Wishing you Peace, Love
and Joy for the
holiday
season and
in 2017.

Deborah Rodondi,
CC Grand Treasurer



The Members of
Br. 327 of
St. Charles
Church in San
Carlos, wish all a
Happy and Holy
Christmas Season.

Buon Natale

The Beauty of the
Christmas season can
remind us of all
the beauty in life that we
take for granted.
Our family, our friends
and our faith.
Wishing all my wonderful ICF
family and friends a very Blessed
and
Merry Christmas
Much love to you all,
Lisa Crudo and family

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!



San Mateo
District

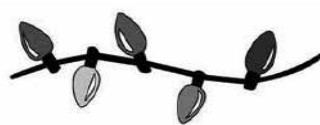


*Branch 218
would like to
wish
everyone a
Merry
Christmas and
Happy New Year.*

TANTI AUGURI DAI CUORI DI
TUTTI I MEMBRI DELLA SES-
SION 163, SAN MATEO, PER
UN BUON NATALE ED UN CAPO
D'ANNO SANA E FELICE.



*Merry
Christmas to
all our ICF
family and
friends.
Vince and
Robyn
Piro*



**BUON NATALE
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
FROM THE MEMBERS**



**OF SAN GIUSEPPE
Branch 12, Napa**

Auguri Di Buon Natale
e Felice Anno Nuovo
to All of My Friends!

Diana Petrolino



Buon Natale & Felice Capo D'Anno

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

CC Grand Sentinel

Branch 227, Capitola



Auguri Per Le Feste Natalizie Da Tucson



Fr. Eusebio
Kino,
Branch 433
Tucson,
Arizona

ON NATALE FELICE ANNO NUOVO

From
The Officers and
Members
of Branch 173 -
Burlingame



Merry Christmas
and Happy
New Year
from Officers
& Members of
Branch 130,
Redwood City, CA

The Members of Branch 342 (Auburn)
would like to wish all
I.C.F. members and their
loved ones



a very Blessed Christmas
and a Happy and
Healthy New Year.



Wishing You a
Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

Branch 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary
Brentwood, CA

Buon Natale and Buon Anno.



Officers and
Members of
Branch 391,
St. Martin of Tours,
San Jose, CA

*The Todos Santos Branch #214
Concord, Ca.*



*Which includes the surrounding churches:
St. Agnes, St. Bonaventure,
St. Francis of Assisi and Queen of All Saints*

*Wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

Seasons Greetings
From



The
Officers and
Members of
Br. 19, San Vincenzo
De Paoli, Colma, CA

ITALIAN CATHOLIC
FEDERATION
RENO BRANCH 135
AUGURI A TUTTI
PER UN NATALE BENEDETTO
E
UN FELICE E SANO 2017
BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY
2017



*Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno*
Past Grand President
Bob Basuino



*Merry Christmas and wishing you
a Happy and Prosperous
New Year!*
The Pappani Family

Wishing all members of the
Italian Catholic Federation
a Buon Natale and a Felice
Capo d'Anno!

May you have
a Christmas
filled with Love
and Joy and a
New Year filled
with Peace and
Good Fortune.

From the Officers and
Members of Santo Stefano,
Br. 50, San Francisco





The Officers and Members of Branch 6, Redwood City send Blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year 2017!



Buon Natale e Buon Capo D'Anno a Tutti! We are still here, thank God. Come up for a visit. All are welcome. The Officers and Members of ICF Branch 18, St. Rose, Santa Rosa

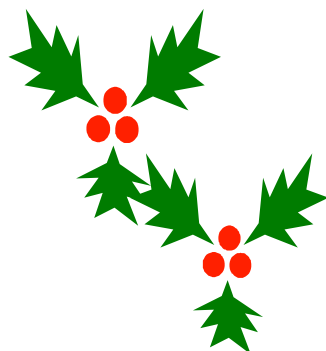
Dear Brothers and Sisters of the I.C.F.:

Our wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Larry and Elise Marsalli



May your Christmas Holidays be filled with Love and Peace



Officers and Members of Monterey Br. #36



We in Green Valley, Branch 425, wish the ICF family all of the blessings of the Christmas season.



Buon Natale e Felice D'Anno Nuovo

from the Officers and Members of St. Elizabeth, Br. 258, San Francisco



Merry Christmas!



Buon Natale from the Officers and Members of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Branch 184 - Los Gatos

President: Denise Antonowicz

1st Vice President: Julie Klem

2nd Vice President: Marie Stalleri Antonowicz

Secretary: Marie Yurosko - Corresponding Secretary: Lucy Amico

Treasurer: Donna Pfaff

Financial Secretary: Michelle Antonowicz

Trustees: Rose Ainaudo, Norma Buonaccorsi, and Joe Yurosko

Sentinel: Victoria Nguyen



Happy Holidays!



From The Fuentes Family

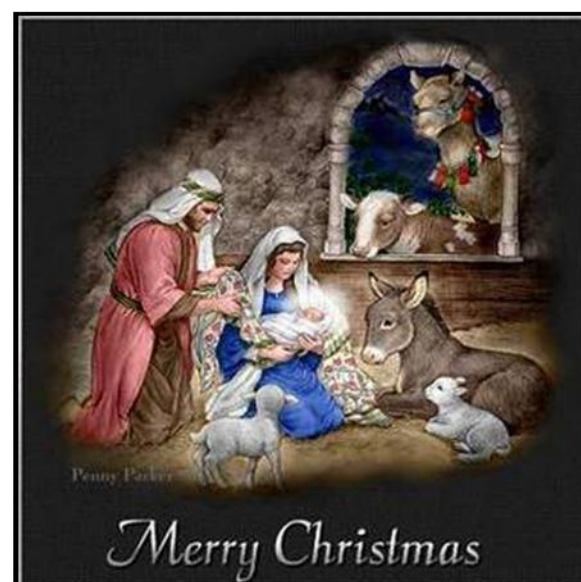
St. Francis Borgia, Br. 392 Chicago, IL

Happy 92nd Anniversary to
the Italian Catholic
Federation.



Best Wishes
from
Central
Council
Member
Teresa
Helfand.

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
ST. FRANCES CABRINI BRANCH 191
WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



MAY THE GLORY AND WONDER OF CHRISTMAS
FILL YOUR HEART WITH PEACE AND LOVE

Best Wishes for A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year.
From the Officers and Members
of Branch 213, St. Augustine,
So. San Francisco, CA



Wishing our ICF family a
Blessed Christmas and a
very Happy New Year!
Love from the officers and
members of Branch #343
Castro Valley

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!



The Officers and Members
of Branch 395, Church of the
Presentation, Stockton, CA wish a
Blessed Christmas to all in our ICF Family.

All our best Natale and
Nuovo Anno wishes to you

from Branch 403, Saint
Dunstan Parish, Millbrae, CA!



*From Our Family to Yours, May the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the
Gladness of Christmas which is Hope and the
Essence of Christmas which is Love,
be with you this Holiday Season.*



Jane Dianda
Past Grand President



Sir Robert & Theresa Dianda
Life Member Emeritus of C.C.



*Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from
the Officers and Members of the Santa Clara Valley District*

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| Br. 4 | Holy Cross | San Jose | Br. 191 | St. Frances Cabrini | San Jose |
| Br. 5 | St. Clares | Santa Clara | Br. 368 | Santa Teresa | San Jose |
| Br. 28 | St. Marys | Gilroy | Br. 391 | St. Martin | San Jose |
| Br. 47 | St. Joseph | Mountain View | Br. 408 | Resurrection | Funnyvale |
| Br. 181 | St. Marys | Los Gatos | Br. 435 | St. Catherine's | Morgan Hill |
| | | | Br. 445 | Transfiguration | San Jose |

Chicago

River Forest

St. Vincent Ferrer, Br. 358

September brought sorrow to the members of the ICF in River Forest, IL when our beloved Theresa Cairo passed away. She was president of the Federation, branch 358, for many years and was loved by all of us. We pray for her and for her husband Frank who is in poor health. Please remember both of them in your prayers. Please also pray for Marlowe Comisky, husband of our long time member Kay, who passed away in October.

Branch 358 members agreed to say prayers for members who are dealing with illnesses, stress, etc. The prayers are said by members at times they choose and the prayers are also their choice.

Our members have been busy baking. We had our mimosa Sunday in Sept. and we had our annual bake sale after all the masses on a Sunday in October. We will be attending a mass for our deceased members in Nov. and will also attend a mass in honor of Mother Cabrini later in the month.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. We have been blessed with beautiful sunny days, warm weather, and glorious colors.

This holiday is about family, reunions, and of course, food. This time of the year always reminds me of driving to my grandparents farm which was about 40 miles away. Traveling with ten children must have been a real test of endurance for my parents. Luckily we had an aunt and Uncle who could take some of us in their car. Those were the days before seat belts! There were the usual squabbles about who sat next to the windows, etc. Older sibs provided laps for the younger ones. Isn't it wonderful to have such good memories?

Please take time to reflect on the blessings we have received and remember to help those less fortunate.

Merry Christmas!

Happy birthday to John Corcoran, Nov. 2nd., and to Barbara Capazzoli on Nov. 22nd.

Submitted by Judith Schweickert

Itasca

St. Peter the Apostle, Br. 418

Our branch Christmas party will be on Friday, Dec. 16th, at the Alta Villa Banquets in Addison. An Italian Christmas will be celebrated starting with the children's candlelight procession with the Baby Jesus, followed by an "Abbondanza" buffet dinner, music, dancing and singing of Christmas carols, and a visit from Santa Claus for all the good boys and girls. Proceeds from this event will fund the "Make-A-Wish" foundation of the greater Chicagoland Area.

As many of our members will be heading for warmer climate after the Holidays, this will be our last event till spring.

Our entertainment committee is busy planning events for 2017.

The I.C.F. Bishop's Day dinner dance is scheduled for April 30th, 2017 at the Alta Villa Banquets in Addison. Please Save the Date for this important annual event for the whole Chicago District.

The officers and members of our branch wish everyone in the I.C.F. members and families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, and Blessed New Year 2017.

Please continue to pray for our sick members for complete and speedy recoveries.

Ciao,

Ria



(Top) Branch 27 spaghetti take-out. From left: Kenny Rosales, Art Berryman, Jennifer Valerosi, Mark Beveridge and Cari Beveridge.

(Right) Branch 27 new member Celeste Voyles and Mabel Willmon Branch Deputy.

Chicago

Our Lady Mother of the Church, Br. 439

On October 10th, ICF branch 439 participated in the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans' annual Columbus Day celebration. The day began with a mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and a wreath laying ceremony at the Columbus statue located in Arrigo Park. A parade followed which included over 150 floats, bands and marching units. ICF Branch 439 was proud to be a participant and march in the parade with our banner. Our 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner Dance held on Sunday, October 30th was a great success! Over 200 guests attended to honor Ms. Mel Gonzales from the Lydia Residential Treatment Program in Chicago. An evening of delicious food, fun and camaraderie was enjoyed by all while supporting a valuable program that helps children traumatized by abuse or neglect. On Sunday, November 20th, ICF Branch 439 will be hosting the District's St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Mass at Our Lady Mother of the Church. We are looking forward to this special event in honor of our patron saint.

Anna Tamburello

President, ICF Branch 439

Fresno

Madera

Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

The October 11 meeting was a potluck and members and guests were treated to many delicious home-made goodies. We are lucky to have so many great cooks. Thanks to the October committee, chairmen: Jim and Kerin Cavallero and the committee: John O'Meara, Jeff Dal Cerro, Dan and Nancy Prosperi, Gary Cavallero and J.B. and Camille Overstreet. An extra thank you to Gary Cavallero for the beautiful and festive table decorations. The spaghetti and meatball take-out dinner was held on October 23rd. We sold over 225 dinners. Many thanks to all who worked making meat balls, serving the dinners, selling tickets or baking treats. The Bishops Burse was held at St. Mary's Church in Sanger. Thanks to the ladies who represented the branch: Elsie Bottorff, Leila Meadows, Rose Meister, and Marcia Valerosi. Our Branch Deputy Mabel Willmon was present to initiate a new member, Celeste Voyles, into branch 27. Welcome Celeste! Members are making



plans for the upcoming bake sale and a ride down Christmas Tree Lane. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party! Please continue to pray for our ill and injured members.

Ciao,

Kerin Cavallero

Bakersfield

San Luigi, Br. 33

Branch 33 held its annual Spaghetti dinner fund-raiser in October. Kitchen supervision fell to Michael Cerri whose crew cooked a delicious traditional pasta sauce. Members volunteered to provide homemade deserts to complete the meal. Beautifully decorated gift baskets made up the silent auction table and added to the evening's success. Students from St. Francis School assisted in serving the dinner. This event honoring Christopher Columbus has become a parish tradition and is the branch's main yearly fund-raising effort.

Monsignor Craig Harrison, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Bakersfield and the recipient of the ICF Mother Theresa award, was the featured speaker at a recent membership meeting.

With Thanksgiving behind us, our members are looking forward to the Christmas holidays and traditional observances in our homes with family young and old. Once again, members will be collecting sweatshirts and gloves for donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Homeless Center. Branch 33 members are also among those who regularly volunteer to provide landscaping maintenance services for the Homeless Center as well as for Garces High School.

Branch 33 wishes all ICF families far and near a blessed Christmas. While we count our blessings, we continue to pray for peace in an angry world and an end to the violence which plagues our planet. God bless one and all!

Roberta Cerri Teglia

Merced

St. Cecelia, Br. 39



Dr. Thomas Coates, the thalassemia team at Children's Hospital Los Angeles; patients and families,

Laurie, Matt, and Benjamin Levine

would like to wish the members of the Italian Catholic Federation

a Merry Christmas.

May your New Year be filled with peace, good health and joy.

We are sincerely grateful for your friendship, generosity, and support.



Fresno Branch 250, Clovis, CA - New member, Rachel Bejarano (L), was initiated into our Branch by Deputy Flora DePasquale (in costume)



Fresno Branch 250, Clovis, CA - Our youngest member, Vincent Rodriguez, and oldest member, Vince Jura, celebrated little Vincent's 10th birthday very near St. Vincent de Paul's Feast Day.

Sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, carrot soufflé, green beans, cranberry sauce, home-cured olives, and roast turkeys with homemade giblet gravy, plus dessert made for an amazing and delectable Thanksgiving feast at our November meeting. Thanks to all the contributing chefs: Anne-Marie Bandoni, Michael Belluomini, Nettie Descalso, Dominic Giampietro, Debbie Giannone, Del and Maureen Kolda, Maryellen Mazzei, Millicent Piro, Paul Poncini, Janet Pugliese, John Rauschkolb, Terrie and Michael Rhodes, Jan and Jim Rosa, Carol Salmeri, Lori Sutton, and Loretta Symes. Thanks also to our helpers, new members: Ruth Redondo and Michael Bandoni.

We voted in our 2017 officers: President Terrie Rhodes; 1st V.P. Lori Sutton; 2nd V.P. Gina Pugliese; Recording Secretary Debbie Giannone; Financial Secretary Randy Giannone; Treasurer Nanette Ontis; Trustees Anne-Marie Bandoni, Patti Simas, Janet Pugliese; Orator Michael Belluomini; Sentinel Carol Salmeri; Chaplain Sr. Rachel Monteil. We appreciate your holding office and working together to benefit our branch.

At Bishop's Day we donated \$902 for the Seminarian Burse. There are 231 seminarians in the Fresno District and it is an honor to assist these men financially as they pursue a vocation in the clergy.

November 20 Maryellen and her elves decorated our "Pasta" tree for the annual Courthouse Holiday Open House.

Our biscotti sale, expertly chaired by Janet



Branch 250, Clovis, CA - Deputy Flora DePasquale (rt) won 1st place in our Halloween costume contest. Cindy Newton (lft) took 2nd.

Pugliese, was a huge success. Thank you to all our bakers, assistants, baggers and those who donated cookies, ingredients or money toward this fundraiser to fund the many community and church organizations we support.

December 11 is our Christmas party with the Lodge from 12:30-3pm. Join us for delicious food, dessert, sing-a-long, and a visit from Santa.

*Buon Natale,
Stephanie Lucich*

Sanger St. Mary, Br. 70

Greetings from Branch 70, Sanger. At our last meeting on Oct 9th, we all enjoyed a buffet dinner.

President Kay opened the meeting with a prayer. Many issues were discussed, first planning our Bishops Day which was held in our St. Mary's Hall on October 23.

Bishop Armando Ochoa celebrated the 11:00 AM mass assisted by Father John Bruno, our chaplain. It was a beautiful day. After the mass, everyone enjoyed a luncheon in the hall, of tortellini and chicken parmigiana which was prepared by Fred DeRenzo, Elaine Lincioni, and Sue Merlo. Decorations were done by Pres Kay Lopez and her daughter, Josie Lopez. They did a beautiful job and we really appreciated it.

Bishop Ochoa gave a nice speech and thanked the Fresno District for a \$5,000.00 to the diocese and \$425.00 for the seminary. We had the honor to have our Grand President Leonard Sosochi and wife Betty present.

We send our get well wishes to Enis Giovacchini who had cataract surgery recently and to Jerry DeRenzio who had surgery. Both are recovering well at home. Our love and prayers are with you.

Our Christmas Party will be at the home of Ralph and Rosemary Wymenga.

*God Bless and Merry Christmas to all.
Orsolina Casella*

Clovis

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Our annual fundraiser dinner was held on Sunday, November 13 and went well thanks to all who worked hard selling tickets, preparing, cooking and serving. We're blessed to have such outstanding members.

Jennie Campopiano enjoyed the tours of the Convention in Fresno. She was amazed at what one man created at the Forrester

Underground Gardens, and she enjoyed the many historical facts Msgr. Patrick McCormick shared about St. John's Cathedral.

Congratulations to Rueben Silva who received the City and County award, Trailblazer Prosperity Award, on November 9 at a luncheon.

Also congratulations to Frank Pimentel who is expecting a new grandchild in December.

Our condolences to Mary Moss and Rich Zanarini whose mothers passed away recently. Please keep both families in your prayers.

Welcome to new members Rachel Bejarano and Andy Friend. So glad you joined us.

Be sure to look for pictures of the activities of our Branch in this issue.

Happy Birthday to our November celebrants: Rachel Bejarano (11/16), Sylvia Dalton (11/24), Cindy Newton (11/5), John Rainaldi (11/2), and Rich Zanarini (11/20).

A "Veteran", whether active duty, discharged, retired or reserve, is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to, and including his life." Thank you to all those who served to keep our country free and safe.

Merry Christmas!

Ciao!

LeAnne Lavagnino

Bakersfield

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281

'Tis the Season, ICF Community! Here at Branch 281, we are looking forward to our Annual Christmas Party, filled with delicious food, fun games and activities for all ages, and wonderful company. Members, please mark your calendars for December 10th—bring your family and enjoy this evening with us! Remember that Santa will be there—if you will be bringing children who would appreciate a gift from him, remember to include their gender and age in the RSVP. To RSVP or sign-up to assist with day-of tasks (wrapping presents, decorating, bartending, clean-up) please contact one of the event's chairs, Kristen Watts at kristen.nicole.watts@gmail.com or Crystal Watts, at (661) 706-2474.

Our November meeting was a great success, with many members and new friends in attendance. The meal was polenta with a Bolognese sauce created by chef Allen Watts, and it was delicious! Thanks to Gary Moles and Joey Zasoski for their help serving! Of course, no November meeting would be complete without our Turkey Giveaway Games. Winners received gift cars and pies, and all players had fun. Gobble Gobble!

As the end of the year approaches, it is also important to keep in mind your purchase of the yearly ICF Calendar! Please contact Betty Zasoski at (661) 872-8725 or zasoski@bak.rr.com to purchase—remember, the profits from the Calendar sales help keep dues down—order enough to share with you family!

Baci e abbracci,

Kristen Watts

Los Angeles

Archdiocese District Council

This is an exciting time of the year for all, most especially for Italians. We look forward not only to Christmas Day and the celebration



LA archdiocese Bishop's Day Camarillo November 6th, Deacon Charles of Encino and Jr President Johnny Roa of Branch 237, St. Anthony of Padua, Gardena, enjoy the day!!

Members are the Board of the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council gathered for a meeting after the Los Angeles Bishop's Mass and Banquet on Sunday, November 6th at St. John Seminary.

The Mass was concelebrated by Most Reverend Joseph Sartoris, retired Auxiliary Bishop from the San Pedro Pastoral Region, and Most Reverend Joseph V. Brennan, Episcopal Vicar of the San Fernando Pastoral Region. Anne Inrerrante, Central council Member was the Mistress of Ceremony. A check for \$13,000 was presented to Reverend Monsignor Marc V. Trudeau, Rector of St. John Seminary from the branches of the archdiocesan district.

of new life, but the preparations beginning with Advent to the Epiphany.

Our District began by the celebration of Bishop's Mass and Luncheon at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, November 6. We were blessed with a beautiful Autumn Day atop a hill overlooking the orange groves of Camarillo and Santa Rosa Valley. Monsignor Marc Trudeau, Rector of St. John Seminary, and the Seminarians opened their 'home', celebrated Mass and shared a meal with the LAADistrict Branches. Bishops Joseph Sartoris and Joseph Brennan joined us for the event, along with Grand First Vice-President Andy Pappani and his wife, Syd. Many of our branches had to travel across that great vast but crowded land called Los Angeles. Your presence was greatly appreciated, especially by the Seminarians. One of the highlights of the event is visiting with the Seminarians right there in their home. Special thanks to Mistress of Ceremonies, Anne Interrante, and to the Bishop's Day Committee for a successful event; and to all the Branches who made this an enjoyable day. We had over 100 ICF members and guests in attendance.

The next celebration with our District will be the Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage December 4, 12:30 pm, in the San Fernando Valley, at St. Frances Xavier Church grounds. A luncheon will follow the Mass. If you are in the area please consider joining us. This is the only shrine of St. Cabrini in California.

Our next General Meeting will be November 19, 2016, at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Montebello, St. Augustine House. Continental Breakfast: 9:00am; Meeting: 9:30 am to 11:30 am. We will be holding District Elections so it is very important we have all regions and branches represented.

On a personal note Lou and I want to thank everyone for all your prayers, special intentions, support and love you have shown our family, in the loss of our son Phil. There were so many people praying from all



Branch 108 members Jackie Ficht and Linda Sabatella at the Balloon Pop Fundraiser.



Members of Branch 108 at the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Bishop Day.

faiths..... This is something I never thought I would be saying in regards to one of my children. Never let a day go by without telling all your family members you love them. Don't forget the Hugs!! Bless You All!

And, from LAADistrict Family to our ICF Family and their families...

'Boun Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!!'

Pat Mages

LAADistrict President

Los Angeles

St. Peter, Br. 67

Buon Natale e Capo d'Anno a Tutti!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

ICF wishes all members and parishioners a very healthy and happy holiday season.

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

Please spread the word to friends, families and members that the Italian Catholic Federation Branch 67 and Padre Pio Society will attend the 11:00 am (Italian) mass and host a Brunch at the Casa Italiana lunch room on the fourth Sunday of each Month this year. Please call [626 372-7812](tel:626-372-7812) to RSVP.

SAVE THE DATES

- ICF LAA Communion Sunday Mass 11:00 (Church) and Brunch 12:00 pm to 1:00pm in Casa Italiana. Call [626 372-](tel:626-372-7812)

[7812](tel:626-372-7812) for more information.

Please let me know how you can help us keep the future alive for the next generations at Branch 67 in Los Angeles. We are asking for your ideas, prayers and support.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Carmelo Sabatella AIA

President Branch 67

Italian Catholic Federation

T. [626 372-7812](tel:626-372-7812)

E. cas1810@aol.com

South Pasadena

Holy Family, Br. 108

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

We wish all ICF Members a happy, safe and healthy holiday season and prosperous 2017.

On November 6th Branch 108 members enjoyed the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Bishop Day Mass and Luncheon with many other LAADC Branches along with Seminararians at Saint John's Seminary in Camarillo on November 6th.

On November 5th Branch Board members Carmelo and Linda Sabatella and Santo and Diana Plescia and member Jackie Ficht attended the annual Ronald McDonald House Gala Fundraising Event at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena with Ronald McDonald himself!

Jackie and Linda also Volunteered service hours for the Balloon Pop Fundraiser.

Thank you ICF Branch 108 President John Maggiore for your cooking expertise at the Holy Family Church Fair earlier this year and to all staff for your help including members who supported this important annual Church



Branch 108 Branch Board members Carmelo and Linda Sabatella and Santo and Diana Plescia and member Jackie Ficht attended the annual Ronald McDonald House Gala Fundraising Event.

Fundraising Event.

SAVE THE DATE

December 4, 2016 - Annual Mother Cabrini Mass. Pilgrimage and Luncheon at 3801 Scott Road in Burbank CA. Call [626 372-7812](tel:626-372-7812) to RSVP and/or information. \$15 per person includes visit to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Chapel and Library at 11:00 am before Mass at 12:30 pm.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they may reach a speedy recovery

And to our former ICF Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

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

Carmelo Sabatella, Past President

LAADC and ICF Branch 108

Email: cas1810@aol.com

Montebello

St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Hope you all had a wonderful & bountiful Thanksgiving celebration with your loved ones and are now looking forward to the holidays! Thank you to everyone who participated at our November 17th Thanksgiving potluck dinner & general meeting. Let us remember the great times spent together, the delicious food eaten and Thank God for all our blessings!

We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate



Members of Branch 111 celebrating their October birthdays.



Branch 111 Luncheon at San Antonio Winery.



Branch 115 attended Bishop Day at St John Seminary



Bishop Day at the Seminary with Branch 115 Adopted Seminarian Ian Hagan flanked by Branch President Neal Di Leva and First V.P. Anna Di Leva.



San Pedro Branch 115 finalist winner of the Bocce Ball Tournament sponsored by Branch 444, Rancho Palos Verdes. (L-R) Paul Baccari, Joe Caruso and Bob Hohman.

Secretary: Crocetta Salomone; Treasurer: Salvatore Sorce; Orator: Peter Revilla; Trustees: Eileen Viera, Carmelita Aguilera, & Rosemarie Melendrez; Sentinel: Alfred Viera; Past President: Vincenzo Veneziano; Branch Deputy: Nancy Dolci. The 2017 ICF Officer's Installation will be held at St. Bedes the Venerable Catholic Church in La Canada Flintridge on Sunday, February 12, 2017 - mark your calendars, more details will follow. Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may God Bless you abundantly.

Our Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016. This year we will again have the dynamic Duo Domino, a Professional Piano Bar type music, along with our traditional delicious Italian Buffet dinner from Eastside Market. Adult tickets will be \$25.00; Children (ages 6 to 12) \$12.50; Children under 6 and ICF 111 members - Free. It will be a great year-end party! Please plan on joining us and invite your family and friends for some great dancing and holiday cheer. For more information or to make reservations please call Frank at (323) 888-2074.

We pray for our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers. I leave you with the following quote by Tom Robbins: "Our similarities bring us to a common ground; our differences allow us to be fascinated with each other." Finally,

Donato 310 833-2584 for reservations.

There is still time to purchase a 2017 ICF calendar. Please see Neal if interested in purchasing one.

Dues for 2017 are now payable. \$36.00 payable to ICF Payment can be mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 W. 8th Street San Pedro 90731 Please join us for the 1st meeting of the New Year on Jan 19th at 7:30pm.

Upcoming events Jan 26 Trip to San Manuel Casino \$20.00 per members \$23.00 for nonmembers Casino will give \$10.00 in free play Call Pauline for reservations 310 832 -0563

Thank you members, families and friends for your support of the ICF and its related events. We pray for our sick members and those in need. Happiness and Joy this Christmas and throughout the coming year

Anita Gioiello Trujillo, Treasurer

Gardena

St. Anthony, Br. 237

October and November were busy with the annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance and LA Archdiocese Bishops' Day.

The Dance was a big hit again and plenty of fun for all. A special thanks to all of our table sponsors that made this event so successful. The scholarship fund is healthy and our many other charities will be having a great Christmas. Thanks to all that participated!!!!

Nov. 6th we traveled to St. John's Seminary for the annual Bishop Day Celebration. President Connie was joined by her husband Don, Special Events coordinator Rose and her husband, John and Johnny Roa, the junior president for our branch. It was a wonderful day, with the Bishops and the Seminarians.

December 18th is our quarterly mass and Christmas Party. Santa will make a special visit, remember he still checking to see who is naughty and nice!!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all.

"God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him"

1 John 4:16

Respectfully,

Micheal Bohannon Roa

Downey

St. Raymond, Br. 362

What time is it? Bingo Time! That's right everyone it's the last one in the year 2016. Please join us for extreme fun and great food! Bring all family and friends and we would be delighted to see new comers as they are always welcome to join us. As we say in Italian "Amico Per Un amico di tutti" meaning "Friend To One, Friend To All." We always appreciate your support and joining us in a great time especially with the Holidays rolling around soon. We hope to see you all there to celebrate with us. Thank You and God Bless!



Columbus Day Dinner with table sponsors, Pat and Mike Murphy and President Connie Bohannon.

La Cañada Flintridge

St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374

The past months have been very active for our branch. One of the highlights for the fall season was our Pasta Sauce sales event. Several members came forward to volunteer to prepare and bottle their favorite sauce and members of the parish community bought as much as we could produce. Our final total was \$828.00 and it could have been higher. We will do this again and hope that many more members will contribute their favorite sauce.

In November we elected new officers for 2017. This is highlighted by the election of our youngest yet president who is 38 years old. This election of Jack DeZell marks initial fulfillment of our objective to recruit younger members as we grow over the coming years.

President, Jack DeZell

1st Vice President and Orator, Al Restivo

2nd Vice President, Diane Restivo

Treasurer, Mark Mannarelli

Financial Secretary, Andrew Meli

Recording Secretary, Mary Wynton

Trustee, David Capurso

Trustee, Paula Clinnin

Trustee, Fiora Marcucci Murphy

Trustee Emeritus, Joe Vinci

Sentinel, Raul Acevedo

Our Christmas Party this year took us to the beautiful Flintridge home of members and hosts Robert and Wende DePietro, where we enjoyed an elegant Italian Dinner, topped off with Cannoli made by Paula Clinnin. Jim Celoni, a choir leader at St. Bede led us in our traditional Christmas Caroling. He was assisted by Mary Wynton.

Don and Betty Monteleone treated us to an interesting talk on their trip to China at our November meeting. Don and Betty had quite a story to tell. This followed our October meeting where the Director of the Los Angeles Alzheimer's organization provided a fascinating presentation. She offered must know facts for everyone about the disease and what is being done to get ahead of this devastating illness that affects so many people. For members who have not attended meetings, our branch strives to provide interesting and educational meetings each month. You should try to join us in January.

Our branch will host the Installation Mass and Dinner for the Los Angeles Archdiocese District on Sunday, February 12, 2017. Mass will at 11:00 AM at St. Bede. Our pastor Monsignor Antonio Cacciapuoti, ICF Archdiocesan Director, will be our celebrant. Dinner will be in the Parish Hall immediately after the installation of officers who will be installed from 19 Los Angeles branches. Ali Caterers will cater a great dinner featuring Rigatoni Bolognese alla Cacciapuoti, and more. All members are urged to attend to lend support to our ICF organization.

Che Dio ti Benedica,

Al Restivo,

Branch Orator and Los Angeles Regional Vice President

Ranchos Palos Verdes

St. John Fisher, Br. 444

As autumn emerged with slightly cooler temperatures and a promise of rain, Chapter 444 celebrated Columbus Day with a sausage and pepper dinner that delighted about 60 people. Patrick Payne treated us all to a historical summary of Christopher Columbus and his voyage to America. Special thanks to Dave Sassano for organizing the food from The Appetizer.



(Above) Branch 444's Bocce winners.



(Left) Members of Branch 444 enjoying the Columbus Day Dinner.

Diamond Bar St. Denis, Br. 317

Dec. 4th -Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage/ Burbank

Dec. 4th Christmas Tree Lane / St. Denis

Dec. 4th I.C.F. Donut Sunday / St. Denis

Dec. 9th - I.C.F. Christmas Dinner/ General Meeting

Dec. 11th - Quarterly Mass/ St. Denis Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!! to all our Italian Catholic Federation members thank all who hosted the dinner meetings in 2016. They are Julia ,Pamela, Barbara & Randy, Roxanne , Ann, Toni, Terry, Andrea, Josefina and Eliseo. Some of the fore mentioned hosted more than once. We also thank the members for all their love , dedication and support of Branch 317 at St. Denis. A successful branch is only possible by great members who are generous in a spirit of giving . Grazie!

Our Holy Cannoli fundrasier enabled us to Contribute and fulfill our goals - Seminary Burse, Scholarships, Cooliys Anemia and of course St. Denis special events- Breakfast with Santa, Christmas Tree Lane , Arts & Crafts Fair, etc.

God Bless Everyone. now onward to 2017!
Roxanne Perry- President

Claremont

Our Lady of the Assumption, Br. 319

Another successful year for our branch. This year we seperated our St. Joseph Table (in March) and Spaghetti Dinner (in September), due to illness and and surgeries. Both were very, very successful and profitable. It also made it easier o the members.

To raise more money this year we went to having local restaurants for help. we get a date for a dinner and open it to the parish and friends to go, have dinner and drinks, and we get a percentage of the of the meal. This has worked out great. Profit with little work.

November 6 was the Bishop's Banquet a St John's Seminary for the Los Angeles Archdioces District. This was the 2nd time we have held it there and as usual is was awesome. The seminarians were gracious, and the meal was heavenly. This year we prsented the Archbishop with \$8000.00 to help the seminary, with the CC adding \$2000.00 more. It was a wonderful day.

November 13 was our annual bake sale and boutique at the church. We have 2 member making fresh sfinge and pizzelles. The aroma brings in the church members to the wonderful gifts and bake goods. It is always a success.

December 4th is the annual Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage and luncheon. A day to reflect on all the good works and achievements of Italian immigrants and the good works of a fragile young girl would only wanted to the work of God.

December 18 will be the Christmas Party for all the members. we will have annual food and toys collection for the needy and Christmas ornament game/ story. Pot luck for dinner and fun and friendship for all.

May God Bless all the Member of all ICF Branch in the Joyous Time

Andrea Linn

Corresponding Secretary

Temple City St. Luke, Br. 326

Merry Christmas to all of our members!

Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was held on November 13th. Everyone had a good time on Mimi's Restaurant in Monrovia. It was a refreshing change not to have to cook and celebrate with good friends

Our Christmas Party will take place on December 11th in the hall at 1:00 p.m. There will be a short meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. and dinner at 2:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming.

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

As we remember the baby Jesus, may peace and love fill our hearts during the holidays.

"...May the happiness and joy of Christmastide invade the souls of all; upon good people the whole world wide I pray the blessings of the Lord befall. May the happiness of the Christmas holiday endure throughout the year. May you all enjoy, I hope and pray, good friends good heath, and good cheer." (Joseph Ferrara)

God Bless,

Jo Anne Disney

Santa Barbara/Ventura Region

Thousand Oaks

St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380

Our Branch had a lovely Thanksgiving dinner meeting this month. A yummy turkey dinner was enjoyed by all! We were so honored and pleased to have our branch 380 member Jack Dragatto's nephew give a poetry reading in his honor. Jack's nephew , Dana Gioia, is the Poet Laureate of California. The Poetry reading was a very special night that many of our members enjoyed!

Our Branch's Family Christmas Party will be on December 3rd in the St. Paschal Baylon Hall. We are looking forward to a fun night for the whole family. There will be a live



From Branch 380, Jack and his nephew, Dana Gioia, at poetry night.

band and dancing this year. Please come and have some fun.

Buon Natale Tutti,

Jean Fontana Bridges

Corresponding Secretary

Simi Valley

St. Rose of Lima, Br. 443

ICF Branch 443, St Rose of Lima, Simi Valley has a new board for 2017!

We want to extend our sincere thanks to the 2016 Board Members. Their efforts and hard work brought us through our first year as a new branch.

Congratulations to our new board. May they keep this wonderful organization alive and have as much fun doing it as they did in 2016!

The 2017 ICF St Rose of Lima, Branch 443

St. Gianna Beretta Molla Board Members:

President: Rita Downey

1st Vice-President: Chris Fabry

2nd Vice-President: Barbara Tweedy

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Linda Fabry

Financial Secretary: Frank Saraceno Sr

Treasurer: Robyn Castillo

Orator: Fran Morley

Trustees: Rick Boerem, Rebecca Miller, Maryann Kenyon, Helen Le Donne

Sentinels: Marianne Boerem, Enza Pro

Carol J. Piccirillo

ICF Recording Secretary

San Gabriel Valley Region

Arcadia

Holy Angels, Br. 218

Thank you to Karen Berardi and all that helped with the Christmas Boutique. It again was a very successful event. Upcoming:

December 9 – our Christmas Party. If you have not RSVP'd , be sure to do so. The menu will be stuffed shells, meatballs, salad, drinks and desserts . The members are to bring the desserts. The music will be provided by Linda Herman and Santa will be showing up. The next event will be our New York New Year's Eve party. Matt Luchetta will again be the chairman. The band will be the same as last year. As of this writing, the menu has not been discussed. This is also a MUST on the RSVP's as we had a full house last year.

To everyone, from the branch and myself, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

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Santa Cruz Branch 21'ers in Halloween Costume!

Monterey

Santa Cruz

**Nostra Signora del Soccorso,
Br. 21**

It's December and J.M. Barrie once wrote: "God gave us our memories so that we might have roses in December." I'm sure Branch 21 members are remembering roses but also some past 'rosy' events. In October, we held a Polenta Feed and we want to thank Dr. Jerry Deck, Gary Castiglioni, and all those who helped make this delicious dinner. Then, in November, we had the annual ICF Memorial Mass which was followed by a lovely breakfast in Holy Cross Hall. This event gave us a chance to welcome our new ICF Chaplain, Holy Cross pastor Father Martin Cain. Finally, by the time you read this, the December ICF Christmas Party will have come and gone and, I'm sure it was a wonderful time. As always, thank you all who help with these events; we couldn't do it without your unique talents, strong backs, and willing hearts.

November is that month in which each ICF Branch elects a new Board, and I am pleased to announce our Board for 2017. President, Richard Vote; 1st Veep, John Barisone; 2nd Veep, Mary Jo Belli; Secretary, Patty Morelli; Financial Secretary, Norma Wilson; Treasurer, Gene Ghio; Trustees, Valerie Vote, Gary Castiglioni, and Madeline Crews; Orator, Rebecca Roser; and Sentinel, Rosa Radicchi. We send our new Board God's blessings for a happy, productive year. We also want to thank our retiring Board for the time, energy, and devotion they gave this past year. These leaders are essential to keeping our Branch organized and moving forward. Initiation of all Branches' new Boards will be on January 14th at St. Joseph's in Capitola.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Emma Bertoli and James "Jimmy" Sunzeri. Both were well-loved Branch 21 supporters; Emma had been a member for more than 34 years. We send our condolences to their families. It is said in Psalm 116:15, "Precious

in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones."

In closing, do you know where Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer was 'born'? He was 'born' in a poem written in 1939 by a Montgomery Ward Store ad copywriter in Chicago. And do you know who invented the Nativity Scene that is part of a Christian Christmas? In 1223, St. Francis of Assisi put together the first crèche by using live people to emphasize Jesus' humble beginnings. Merry Christmas to you all and the Happiest of New Years.

Patty Morelli

Secretary-Branch 21

Salinas

N.S. Del Sasso, Br. 25

Branch 25 hosted our Annual Polenta Luncheon and Bake Sale on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at the Sacred Heart Church Hall and it was a resounding success! Many of the diners and take out patrons reported in-person or by phone calls that this year's polenta and stew was the "best ever". Branch 25 Deputies, Edward and Bella Leonard, were in attendance and complimented District/ Branch 25 President, Julie Richards, and Members on the event, with special kudos to Linda Hoffman, the event Chair. Photos from the Polenta are found above, as taken by Joe



Branch 25 Trustee and Chair of the Polenta Luncheon Event, Linda Hoffman (far right), is congratulated on a job well done by President Julie Richards as Marilyn Portschy and Kathy Bullene look on.



Branch 25 President Julie Richards with Branch Deputies Ed and Bella Leonard at the Polenta Luncheon on November 9.



Branch 25 Orator, Joanne Cristafano (white shirt), speaks with a diner in the serving line at the Polenta Luncheon on November 9.

Truscot of the Salinas Californian.

Branch 25 held their election for the 2017 officers on November 8, 2016. The following officers will be installed at the Central Coast District Installation Ceremony on January 14, 2017, hosted by the Capitola Branch: Chaplain-Father Manual Recera; President-Julie Richards; First Vice President-Don Stoffey; Second Vice President-Thelma Frontani; Recording/Corresponding Secretary-JoAnn Sullivan; Financial Secretary/Treasurer-Gia Ussery; Orator-Joanne Cristofano; Trustee-Linda Hoffman; Trustee-Roy Frontani; Trustee-Rita Dominy; Sentinel-Ralph Cristafano; Branch Deputies-Edward and Bella Leonard.

The Branch 25 Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at the JM Ranch. Branch 25 members are reminded to RSVP to Julie Richards by December 5, 2016.

Monterey

Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

Our Thanksgiving Dinner Meeting was packed with members and guests (335 + volunteers), the kitchen crew did a fantastic job, the food was outstanding. All of our volunteers do a fantastic job, waiters, waitresses, student helpers, check-in people, Bella & Josephine - this is no easy job getting everyone paid and checked off the list, bar crew, set up people, clean up people, and to anyone I may have not mentioned, you are all the most valued assets Br. #36 has, always smiling, courteous, and, a joy to be with. I do not want to leave out our hard working Co-Presidents, Liz Grammatico and Carrie Griffin and the entire board listed below, each one of them work where they are needed.

Br. #36 slate of officers for 2017.

Co-Presidents, Liz Grammatico and Carrie Griffin

1st vice President, Ted Ursino

2nd Vice President, Robert Huffer

Recording Secretary, Susan Menendez Herbst

Corresponding Secretary, Josephine Favazza

Financial Secretary, Elaine Valentine

Co-Treasurers, JoAnn Riso and Barbara Lucido

Orator, Jane Gasperson

Trustees, Turie Cavaliere, June Surrero, Joe LoManto, and David Canepa

Sentinel, Antonia Ihnot

Very sad to report Rosalie Casas passed away, she worked Lenten dinners for many years and helped me in the Festa Italia Santa Rosalia Raffle Booth for years. Rosalie was so much fun to be with, she made the best enchiladas and she made fabulous rum cakes for everyone. Deepest sympathy to her family, she just had her first great-grandson and got to see him before she died, so we know she was happy, also, she will be with her beloved Tom.

Also, deepest sympathy to Jacquelyn Cerchi on the unexpected loss of her grandson, Nick Ono, who died in a motorcycle accident.

CALENDAR

December 3 - Adult Christmas Party

December 11 - Children Christmas Party

January 5 - Monthly Dinner Meeting

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus,

May we be adorned with His love,

Graced with His peace,

and, filled with His presence.

Happy Birthday Jesus

Bettye Sollecito, Br. # 36

Castroville

Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51

Merry Christmas- Buon Natale!

At the November meeting/potluck President Paul went over the information for the fundraiser and Christmas Party to be held on December 11th. Final details will be worked out at a meeting (date to be announced) before the event. Also, our Branch is adopting a family from the a provided by the church. More details will be forthcoming.

The following is a list of officers for 2017:

Co-Presidents- Paul Cortopassi/Leonora Barlow

1st Vice President- Diane Ausonio

2nd Vice President- Marie Tonus

Treasurer- Cindy Stefani

Secretary- Ashley Stefani

Orator- Linda Grier

Sentinel- Carlo Cortopassi

Trustees- Toni & Dennis Hibbs

Deputies- Bella & Ed Leonard

It is with sadness that I report the passing of our member Carl Armento. Carl also served as our Deputy for many years and prior to that, his wife Wilma was our Deputy. Both worked hard for the I.C.F. and our Branch and will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to their daughters Carrie Holbrook and Vera Doris.

To everyone we wish you a Blessed Christmas!

My sister, Anna, and to my granddaughter, Samantha (our little angel), we love and miss you so much, you both are always in our prayers.

Ciao,

Leonora Barlow

Capitola

St. Joseph, Br. 227

Many thanks to Ellen and Gene Pauley, Ken and Nancy Olson, Bill and Monica Crowley, and Manuel and Magdalena Martinez for preparing the roast beef dinner at the Christmas party. Dinner was followed by a visit from Santa Claus who distributed gifts to the young ones in attendance. Fun for all!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 14., when we are hosting the Central Coast District

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(Above) The kitchen crew worked hard all afternoon/evening during Br. 291's Fish Fry on a rainy and muggy day in October. Pictured here are some of our dedicated workers: Sylvia Nasholm, Peg and Bruce Hensley, Jim Scudder and Sandy Quintiliani.

(Left) Cristian Munoz, member of Br. 291, was the lucky winner of a children's Halloween basket at Br. 291's Fish Fry Fundraiser in October.



We held Officer Elections at our October General Meeting. Congratulations to our 2017 Branch Officers: President – Pete Gallagher; 1st V.P. – Jerry Quintiliani; 2nd V.P. – Sandy Quintiliani; Recording Secretary – Keely Sanchez; Treasurer – Joe Franco; Financial Secretary – Abby Gallagher; Orator – Kathleen Sullivan; Trustees – Rose Haupt, Sylvia Nasholm and Joanna Van Blaricom; Sentinel – Ellen Bavaro.

Our members are looking forward to our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Madonna Inn on Sunday, Dec. 4th. We want to thank our Christmas Luncheon Committee—Joanna Van Blaricom, Kathleen Sullivan and Sylvia Nasholm—for all their efforts and hard work they put into the planning of the party to make it a fun and memorable event for our members each year!

Please continue to keep our entire ICF Family in your prayers, especially those members who may be experiencing illness, pain or heartache at this time: Homer Clees, Dianne Clees, Stevie Hall, Jim Mitten, Lorraine Spargo and Jens Wagner.

A very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to you and your families!

Keely Sanchez

Recording Secretary

Paso Robles St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

Here comes the holidays and with it comes important events for our Branch. The ever popular Semi-Annual Pasta Dinner will be served on November 19th; proceeds will be used for a donation of one teacher computer and to purchase i-Pads for students at the Saint Rose Catholic Middle School.

We again will be celebrating Christmas on December 3rd with a luncheon at the beautiful Madonna Inn, always the highlight of our holiday season with family and friends.

President David Zanini submitted the names of next year's officers for approval. David Zanini-President; Karen Kudija-First Vice President; Yvonne Maddalena-Second Vice President; Mary Mazzo-Recording Secretary; Lucille Olsen-Financial Secretary; David Zanini- Treasurer; David Kudija-Orator; Melissa Ellsworth, Michael Frederico, and Joan Ryder-Trustees; Jorge Olveda-



Branch 91 group participated in the bishop's Chautauqua at St. Lawrence O'Toole/St. Cyril of Jerusalem on Oct. 8.

Correspondence Secretary; and Pete Gallagher-Branch Deputy.

A surprise 96th birthday luncheon at the San Antonio Winery for Theresa Sollazzo was celebrated with our Branch members, with thanks to President David, wife Irma, and Michael Frederico for pulling it off. Thanks to all-it was beautiful (T.S.)

Other birthdays celebrated in October-Mary Ferry, Austin Zanini, Brooke Ellsworth, and Jogena Cashmore.

Our members have been working hard all year to make holiday gifts for the Saint Rose Boutique Christmas Bazaar.

Yvonne Maddalena, Jackie Beato and Joan Ryder have offered to make Thanksgiving Day tray favors for patients at Vineyard Nursing Home to help brighten their day. Pray for those less fortunate than we are. "With a new day comes new strength and new thoughts" Eleanor Roosevelt.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas,

Teresa Sollazzo

Oakland East Bay

District Council

Jingle bells, Sleigh bells and Church bells herald in the Christmas season. It's that time of the year for sharing as well as being thankful for our many blessings. At our last meeting, we thanked those who shared our 80th Ann. party and enjoyed the branch parties that we have attended. This is ICF, sharing with each other.

And along that line we will be having district elections, more time to share with each other.

Hopefully many of you joined in welcoming the Christmas season by attending the district party @ Buon Appetito, always a great meal and lots of fun.

Looking forward into the new year, District Pres. Leonard Rossi, reminded all elected officers, that Installation is Jan. 15th, and that there is an expectation that you attend. There will also be a dinner at the Fratalanza club to cap off the event.

District deputy, Fran LaTorre, is presently co-coordinating a workshop in Feb. so that we all can learn about what a deputy is and what the duties involve. A new learning experience!

So as we tie up the loose ends of the old year and get ready for the new one, let us all take a deep breathe and say a prayer for what we are and what we will become in the new year.

Buon Natale! Felice Anno Nuovo!

Alameda

Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

We are looking forward to the branch's first function of 2017, our Polenta Dinner scheduled for Saturday evening, January 14. The event begins with 6:00 p.m. social hour. The dinner of polenta and chicken will be served at 7:00. The location for the festivities is Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. Prices are \$22.00 for adults and \$12.00 for young people 12 and under. For reservations and further information, contact Jeanette Zugnoni, jeanette@zugnoni.net ort (510) 523-8005

We welcomed a crowd of for our annual Ravioli Dinner on October 22. Everyone present enjoyed the meal prepared by Heidi Schmidt, which also included antipasto, salad, vegetables and dessert. Heidi was cooking for Branch 10 for the first time and has now been added to our regular roster of fine chefs. Representatives of Birthright attended and were presented with donations of infant and maternity items and monetary donations.

At the time of submission of this article we were planning for our December 9 Family Christmas Party. The program included a pasta dinner prepared by Maria Croft, a visit from Santa Claus and gifts for the children in attendance.

At our November 3 meeting we elected officers for 2017. They are: trustees, JoAnn Dorn, Betty Lupetti, Agnes Marcheschi and Elena Serles; sentinels, Larry Dunnigan and Ernie Poggi; orator, Sharon Brunetti; treasurer, Karen Harrington; secretary, Jeanette Zugnoni; second vice-president, Peggy Lubeck; first vice-president, Gina Foster; and president, Dave Rose. The one-person publicity committee will continue to be chaired by John Zugnoni.

Our deputy, Fran La Torre, reminded the officers of the obligation to attend the East Bay District 2017 Installation on January 15 at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland. We are co-hosting the Installation with Branch 343 of Castro Valley.

Also at our meeting we voted to donate monetary gifts for the Outreach Ministry of Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Parish and the three priests of the Missionaries of Faith who staff the parish. We also voted to purchase plants as Christmas gifts for members who are homebound or are residing in rest homes.

John Zugnoni

Publicity

Arroyo Grande

St. Patrick, Br. 291

Branch 291 had a busy fall season! We held our last two Fall Fundraiser Dinners with a Fish Fry in October and a Spaghetti Dinner in November. Veterans ate free at our November dinner, and it was well attended by our parishioners and local community! All net proceeds from our three Fall Fundraiser Dinners benefit our Catholic School Registration Assistance Program.



Members of Branch 91 working at the Branch's 91st anniversary celebration, which was also a celebration of the birthdays of founding members Sir Robert Dianda and his wife Lady Theresa.



Oakland

Santa Rita, Br. 40

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you and your family. Wishing you all good health and peace in the coming year.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for the 2017 year. President Vito Muscardin; 1st Vice President Rita Marie Dykes; 2nd Vice President Lawrence Francis; Recording Secretary Mary Ann Francis; Financial Secretary Anne Marie Grader; Treasurer David Rose; Orator Claire Ramirez; Trustees Esemia Tabacco, Rosita Gonzales and Kathy Kapper; Sentinel Betty Young; Jr Sentinel Molly Grader; and Chaplin Father Bill Mason.

Upcoming:

January 2nd: Monthly meeting, 7PM Sacred Heart Center

January 15th: Installation of officers at Fratellanza Club

February 6th: Monthly meeting 7PM

February 10th: District Crab Feed

Happy Birthday to David Avery, Anthony Cotroneo, Franca Duncan, Karen Garcia, Bruna Gasparro, Jean Infrerra and Esemia Tabacco. God Bless you all. Please remember in your prayers the sick and the convalescing of our branch. Especially Rita Avery, Irene Crosetti, Rosalie De Santi, Angela Rainero and Clemence Zanata.

Thought: "Not all of us can do great things, But we can do small things with great love" Mother Teresa

Ciao,

M A Francis and L Francis

Oakland

St. Lawrence O'Toole, Br. 91

We have been rather busy with our branch activities, lately. October was a huge month of celebrations for Branch #91.

Our group participated in the bishop's Chautauqua at St. Lawrence O'Toole/St. Cyril of Jerusalem on Oct. 8TH.

It was a large gathering & celebration of many cultures. There was a full mass and post gathering that included our table amongst the lunchtime offerings & music.

Then several of us participated in The Annual Italian Heritage Parade--aka Columbus Day Parade in San Francisco, CA. What fun to dance, laugh & share our culture under the guidance of Queen Galina, Marie Antonowicz and her court. There are plans to do this again next year!

Later in the month our branch celebrated it's 64TH Anniversary at SLOT with a fabulous meal & bar, great raffle prizes and 65 in attendance, including paid attendees & staff.

This event included members from Central Council, The East Bay District and other branch members. We also attracted some past

members and some new ones !!

During this celebration we were able to also celebrate founding member, Sir Robert Dianda's birthday with his wife, Lady Theresa. His nephew, Mike Covione, Lonni & Helene Chase, daughters Judy Felen, Donna Santich & Jane Dianda, sons Joe & Lou Dianda, as well as Jessica Gilliland & daughter in law Marianne Dianda, son in law Mike Santich & Jo-Ann Donovan helped to make up the kitchen crew.

The raffle committee, with Dave Madej, Maria Rapheal, Betty Tully and Jan Karp, made beautiful baskets and there were gift certificates from local businesses---Farmer Joe's, Sequoia Diner, and Mongehan's Grill on The Hill. Monetary donations came from branch members Annette Maggiora, Donna & Mike Santich, Jeff and Sabina Burns as well as The Honorable Mayor of Oakland Libby Schaff.

Mike Santich's famous card game was a big hit as well as a money raiser, with the main winner donating back her winnings!

All of our charities will benefit from this fine day.

In the future, we hope to repeat this fun event. Although it was a lot of hard work, it was wonderful to be a team and succeed!!!

As we gather together during the holidays, we send our prayers and love to all members of The ICF.

Respectfully submitted by Jo-Ann Maggiora Donovan, co-President of Branch #91

Fremont

St. Francis of Assisi, Br. 215

As I write this article in November's I'm reminded of how the year has so rapidly

gone by. It seems that we were just carving pumpkins and then preparing for our Thanksgiving feasts and now we're getting ready for Christmas and another New year.

A lot of changes have taken place including a new administration, which we can only hope will be guided to do the best for the American people and our country.

Welcome back to Genevieve Vanek and Judy Schiechl and hope for their continuing recovery. We ask all to offer prayers for Branch 215 members who are ill or are scheduled to have surgeries:

SAVE THE DATE. Nadine Mattier has been diligently working on our next fundraiser: Dinner at Chili's, where we get a percentage of dinner purchases. We are planning on January 17th (Tuesday) from 5-8 PM at Chili's Grill & Bar at 39131 Fremont, Fremont, CA 94538. More details to follow in next month's issue.

Branch 215's Christmas dinner will be held Tuesday, December 13th at Giorgio's in Milpitas. Cocktails at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM. Pre-paid reservations required and limited to 50 attendees. Check with Jack Navarra @ (510) 656-0258 for availability.

Merry Christmas to all and Happy Birthday and congratulations to all branch members celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this month.

We offer our prayers for those who are ill and to the safety of our first responders, military, and their families.

Ken Chiatello

Livermore

St. Filomena, Br. 285

The celebration of Jesus' birth is coming soon and so is our Nativity Display at St. Elizabeth Seaton, Sunday, December 11th, 9 AM to 8 PM. Christian historians all know that the crèche or Nativity Scene was made famous by St. Francis of Assisi on Christmas Eve, 1223, with a Bethlehem scene including live animals. But did you know it was his introduction of the crib into the scene that was the inspirational turning point? St. Francis wanted to remind all that the Christ Child was born in a manger, deprived of all the comforts babies enjoy. So, when you view your crèche the days before Christmas, remember St. Francis' reminder of the modest beginnings of our Savior and the modesty of St. Francis who never became a priest, preferring to remain a deacon all his life. If you have only been to Saints Peter and Paul Church in North Beach, San Francisco, for a service, you've not heard "the rest of the story." Several ICF Branch 285 members took a tour of the church led by David Burbank who has worked there for ten years. To hear the history of the church from 1923 and see the various pieces of art in marble and the beautiful stained glass windows is worth the trip. When you go upstairs, actually

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over the church, there is a grade school for about 200 children. And if you keep going up to the roof (by tour only), there is the most fantastic 360 degree view of San Francisco and the Bay. Give it a try and have lunch at Tony's Italian Restaurant nearby. We are saddened by the loss of our member, Carl Farrington. Carl was a man of many talents and interests and devoted to building a better world. He was a member of the Leadership Group (Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative) and a member of the Social Justice Committee of CCOP. He had an MIT degree in Physics, and master's degrees in Mathematics, Humanities, and English. His human caring and concern for others is a loss for those of us who remain.

Ciao, a presto

Chuck Meier

Castro Valley
Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

"Tis the season to celebrate good times and good people, and to add a prayer of thanks for those who are there for each other. Along this line, let's begin with a Grazie Tante, for the nonperishable food items brought to our Nov. meeting to help restock the cupboard of St. Vincent de Paul and to all who contributed to our bake sale. Also on the list, probably close to the top, are all who are giving time to serve as officers for the ICF. The branch officers for 2017 are: Co-presidents, Karen Rossi and Melody Klever; 1st Vice Pres. Lisa Crudo; Record.Sec. Pat Grasso; Fin.Sec. Al Proletti; Treas. Rosalind Crudo; Orator, Maria Ruggeri; Sentinel, Stella Taddei; and Trustees, Mike Miraglia, Dorothy Cassani and Kathy Condeff. Congratulations! See you all at installation, Jan.15,2017.

Our belated Christmas party will be held at our Jan. meeting 1/12/17. Once again we will be collecting baby items for Birth Right.

Good luck to all who have bought calendars for the upcoming year.

It is with sadness that we note the death of branch member, Carla Spalasso, may her soul rest in peace.

To all members out there, please take a moment from the shopping, wrapping and card sending to think of all those who do not have anyone to share with, this most Wonderful, Blessed holiday.

A Buon Natale! and Felice MMXVII!

Contra Costa
District Council

At our last district meeting at St. Isidore's Danville Oct. 27, we had election of officers

President -- Patty Jarrett

First Vice -- Joann Thilgen

Second Vice -- Roger Van Maren

Secretary -- Roberta Healy

Treasurer -- Walter Costa

Orator -- Peggy Aiello Hagerthy

Trustee -- Judy Van Maren, Toni Reeder, Dee Carone

Sentinel -- Paul Schepis

The year has gone by so quickly and time to plan our district Christmas party. Our party this year will be at Black Bear Rest. in San Ramon. Dec 5th at 7 PM A great time to get together with our friends.

It is once again the season that we will all meet together at His crib We will kneel before Him, and bring our gifts of love, our effort to please Him With His soft smile He assures that He is still running His world, and gives His gift of love in return A peaceful Christmas to all

Crockett
San Carlo, Br. 14

We look forward to an energetic Branch 14 under the leadership of our 2017 officers: President, Donna Hoffman, First Vice President, Nancy Botta, Second Vice President Janice Burnett, Recording Secretary Kathleen Thomas, Treasurer, Carl Heller, Financial Secretary, Clare Alvarado, Orator, Joe Macaluso, Sentinel, Derek Petersen, and Trustees, Tara Kajla, Vonda Lesti-Egan and John Valentini.

Our October Polenta Dinner was both a social and financial success, enabling us to substantially donate funds this Christmas season to the following: Meals on Wheels, Crockett Boy Scouts, St. Anthony's Dining Room, St. Vincent de Paul, Sisters of Mercy, Crockett Fire Dept., Crockett Museum, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Children's Hospital (Los Angeles Cooley's Anemia Unit), Father Leo, and Crockett Christmas Baskets. We are also donating \$500. to the Italian Earthquake Relief Fund and \$2,500 to St. Rose of Lima.

Thanks to Lena McCrossen for sending Get Well cards in September, October and November to Laurie Taylor, Alice Romao, Bea Leal, Bill Valli, Inez Foley, David Botta, Pino Pagni, Mary Regalia, Julie Contestable and Ace Canetta. We hope you are all doing better.

Special blessings to our members who have been unable to attend events this year. We want you to know that you have been missed, and wish you all a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2017.

Christmas shopping on your "To Do" list? Attend the St. Rose Christmas Boutique on Sunday, December 11, from 11:30-3:00. The St. Rose Church Hall will be filled with imported and handmade items. We hear even Santa, Mrs. Santa and their elves will be there, ready to smile for lots of pictures with the children.

December 13 is our annual Christmas Social! There is no mass or meeting, but holiday cheer begins at 5:30, at 6:00 P.M., jolly old St. Nick (and this year, maybe Mrs. Santa, too) arrives, bearing gifts for excited children/grandchildren (provided by parents/grandparents), and a pasta dinner follows, free of charge. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Singing Christmas songs, watching bright-eyed little ones tell Santa their wants, and visiting with friends is a fun tradition during this festive season. We promise you will leave filled with Christmas spirit.

May the essence of Christmas live in your hearts and guide you through a new year filled with love and peace. Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

Joyful Christmas blessings,

Diane Bottini Thomas

Pittsburg
San Domenico, Br. 72

We had a great time at our October meeting and Halloween Party. Thanks to everyone for bringing food and treats. We thank Josie for decorating. John Kreslake was our guest. Roselynn won the costume contest. She was a skeleton in the theme of Day of the dead. She gave us a report on how Day of the dead is celebrated. It was interesting.

We also held elections for 2017. All officers will be the same with one new officer. Jim Jarrett will be sentinel.

Our Deputy, Peggy Aiello Hagerthy was in Italy. She will give us a heritage report on her time there. We look forward to that.

On November 28 we will go to dinner to celebrate our branch anniversary. Our meeting will be held after dinner.

We will also have our Christmas party in Dec. Watch for your newsletter with details.



Our Turkey cooks at branch 14, Crockett at our Thanksgiving Dinner. Great Job.



Dee, Sylvia, Clo and Helen from Branch 14, Crockett preparing the chicken for our polenta dinner

On November 16, we joined the District for the annual Night of Recollection. It was held in Martinez. Afterdinner, Our District Chaplin Father Larry Young gave us a spiritual talk.

Save the date of Monday December 5 for the District Christmas party. It will be held at the Black Bear Diner in Danville. Dinner will be at 7: PM. RSVP to Patty.

Another important date to save is Saturday January 28. That is the date for our District Installation of officers. Mass will be celebrated at 11:AM followed by the Installation, social and lunch at the Galileo club in Richmond. Patty will send a newsletter with details, lunch cost and deadline to RSVP.

We have ICF calendars for 2017. Our branch has a article featured in it. Which makes a nice keep sake.

See you soon.

As we say in Pittsburg,

Sempre Avanti

Patty

Richmond
St. Raymond, Br. 154

The November meeting opened with a mass for our deceased members. Mass was followed by a dinner of salad and soup expertly cooked by Walter Costa and Toni Reeder. Thanks to everyone who set tables, served and cleaned up. Thank you Diana and Fred De Simoni our Sentinel and Bartender..

New officers were elected. They are as follows:

President: Alicia Treviño



Members serving the Thanksgiving Dinner at the meeting at Crockett, Branch 14.

First Vice President: Lorraine Acuña
Second Vice President: Laura McAllister
Recording Secretary: Dee Rosier
Financial Treasurer: Lori Framsted
Treasurer: Toni Reeder
Trustee: Domenica Yonke; Julian Acuña; Ruben Trevino

Congratulations to our new officers! Installation of Officers will be held on January 28th, 2017, in Richmond at the Galileo Club.

Donna De Simoni will continue on as Sentinel and Walter Costa will continue in his role as Orator.

The District Christmas party will be held at the Black Bear Dinner in Danville on December 5th. No host dinner at 7PM. More information to follow,

December 12, 2016, is our annual Polenta Dinner. Free to members, \$12.00 for guests. Reserve with Toni Reeder.510-472-9646.

Lorraine Acuña

Concord
Todos Santos, Br. 214

Includes: St. Agnes, St. Bonaventure, Queen of All Saints & St. Francis of Assisi parishes.

We had our election of new officers for 2017, & enjoyed our "turkey" dinner with trimmings. Our charity of the month was Toys for Tots; we also received a visit from a Representative of the U.S. Marine Corp. We look froward to our 50 Anniversary - which all are invited, we will celebrate on March 11, 2017; more details will come in January.

Prayers for our Elderly & Sick members &



Branch 72 Pittsburg had a Happy Halloween.

always God Bless our Troops.

Felice Navidad

Christina Artale

Corres. Secty.

Danville

St. Isidore, Br. 352

Our Fall Harvest Dinner was a very special night! Who said you can have too many cooks in the kitchen? That's where the best stories are shared and memories made! Among the fun, food & camaraderie of the evening, we also raised funds for our Branch's annual charitable donations.

At our November meeting, members enjoyed a fabulous spaghetti & meatball dinner – those home cooked meals are always a treat! The election of 2017 Branch Officers was also conducted and the results will be posted in next month's article. Our featured speaker was Laurice Levine, who provided an inspiring update on the Coolie's Anemia Program. We thank her for her years of continuous coordination and outreach efforts in regard to Thalassemia.

Reminder! Our Branch Christmas Pot Luck will be held on Monday, December 12th at 6pm in the St. Isidore room. Members are to bring

a favorite appetizer or main dish to share. A special Christmas dessert & beverages will be provided. Plan to come and share the spirit of the season with members, friends & family. In lieu of a business meeting that evening, be prepared for some Christmas Bingo instead! You won't want to miss it!

Buon Natale, Tutti!

Ciao

Branch 352

Brentwood

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Br. 432

Belated but still noteworthy:

Another successful "FESTA d' ITALIA", It didn't get any better than Branch 432's 7th annual "Concourse d' Elegance." A cavalcade of automotive excellence. With over 30 cars on display to be viewed and savored, classic automobile enthusiasts walked up and down the rows enjoying the cars and exchanging stories with the owners.

Early evening saw a pasta and sausage buffet with all the trimmings rolled out for all participants and visitors to enjoy. Coupled with wine and other beverages, the meal was the beginning of a fitting end for a great day, enjoyed by all who attended.



Branch 214's recent Reno trip: l-r: Nick Peery, Mom Veronica Peery, Denise Brunamonte, Jim & Yvonne Farrington, Joanne Doorack, Allson McGuirk, Sue Georgetti, MJ Murray, front: Ed McGuirk, Ray Doorack, Pres. Roberta Healy, Ron Artale, Chris Artale.



Members of Branch 352 preparing the Harvest Dinner. Seen here are Ron Gatti, Peter Torchia and Angelo Travaglini.

The FESTA was a glowing success and is growing in popularity every year Thanks to the many Branch members who donate their time and effort. Time and space prevent singling out those who had a hand in this year's event. Chances are, if you went to the meetings you were active in the FESTA.

With our last official Branch meeting of 2016, officers for 2017 were nominated and voted into office.

Congratulations to our new Officers for 2017:

Chaplin: Deacon John Kortuem

President: Gene Simonetti

First Vice President: Anita Camera

Second Vice President: Ken McCoy

Secretary: Beverly Silva

Financial Secretary: Linda Kortuem

Treasurer: Linda Kortuem

Orator: Lilly Beatty

Trustees: Philomena Sawko, Frank Silva, Jay Risso

Sentinel: Marilyn Simonetti

la vita è buona

Orange

Irvine

St. Thomas More, Br. 423

Our annual Mother Cabrini Mass was held on November 12 at St. Thomas More Parish in Irvine. Frank Gianantonio read the readings in Italian. Members carried the baldacchino during the procession in and out of the church.

ICF nominations for new and returning officers were discussed at the October meeting. Elections to be held at the November meeting.

For our October meeting, we invited Laurice Levine, one of the oldest patients in the U.S. living with thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia), to be our guest speaker. Mrs. Levine spoke about living with and managing thalassemia. She brought her young son Benjamin. She talked about the history of the disease, the medical breakthroughs during her lifetime, and how day to day management of the disease. She has been involved with ICF since 1999 and speaks at the annual ICF meeting.

Her courage and optimism was an inspiration to all of us at the meeting.

Pizzas and Caprese style sandwiches were sold at the St. Thomas More Annual Family Fun Faire on October 30. Kids attending our booth made and decorated popsicle frames.

Our Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 4 at Working Wardrobes in Irvine. More details to come.

Congratulations to member Lucia Trozzi who recently got married to her fiancé Chuck Hynek. We wish you lots of love and many years of wedded happiness!!

Miranda Gibson

Reno

Reno

St. Albert, Br. 135

At the October 16th meeting the members of the Branch voted to host an informational table at the Diocesan Conference held January 6 & 7 at the Sparks Nugget, in hopes of finding new members.

On November 5, 2016 the Branch held its annual Polenta and Chicken "fundraiser" dinner. We had a great crowd of approximately 250 people who enjoyed the food and the entertainment provided by Don Rea, accordionist, Nancy Barker on the keyboard, and singers Lydia Abersturi and Larry Horning. Many thanks go to all our members who worked very hard to make the dinner a success. Thanks also go out to Rachael Ferrari, Bob Ferrari, Bob Capurro and ALL the committee members who did the planning.

We look forward to Sunday, December 4th, when we will celebrate a special dinner with our Bishop Randolph Calvo. We will be presenting him a check for the education of the Seminarians of the Reno diocese. Members are asked to bring non-perishable food for St. Vincent's Pantry.

Carolyn Smith, our past President, had surgery in October. We pray for our Lord's healing touch for a speedy recovery.

Our next meeting will be January 8, 2017.

Buon Natale e Capo D'Anno a Tutti!

Charlyne Pacini

Sacramento

Sacramento

St. Mary, Br. 45

An amazing night was enjoyed by all last month at our Polenta and Chicken Dinner on November 13th. Over 150 guests enjoyed the feast prepared by Chef Andrew and his crew and Janine Orsi and volunteers that helped set up, serve and clean up. Accordion music was provided by Jim Shoemaker and Taffy Steffen. Thank you to everyone that made the evening a huge success!

At our branch meeting preceding dinner, we elected our new and incumbent branch officers. We would like to congratulate our 2017 officers!

President: Janine Orsi

1st Vice President: Tina Tallman

2nd Vice President: Ted Georguson

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie



Bishop Day in Sacramento. Bishop Myron Cotta and District Chaplain Deacon Marinko Kraljevich presiding.



Lally

Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa Bandacarri

Orator: Maria Keller

Trustees: Marie Leonard, Arlene Gianatasio, Paul Rossotti

Sentinel: Mary Ann Heinen

We would like to welcome our newest branch member and active parishioner, Pina Noto!

For all branch members, save Sunday, December 11 for our Christmas Luncheon at Espanol! Festivities start at 2pm! Please make your reservations with Mary Ann Heinen at [916-568-2324](tel:916-568-2324)

Buon compeanno to our members celebrating in December: Bill Boruff, Concetta Isola, BB Leveroni-Wright, Robin Mazza and Siena Mazza!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!!

Roseville

San Vito, Br. 73

The evening of 12 November was supposed to be a convivial one, with those attending the dinner mingling with friends and acquaintances and enjoying good food and various beverages. But due in part, at least, to the snail-paced bureaucracy of the Sacramento Diocese, the renovation of the flooring in the hall, which should have occurred during the relatively inactive summer, was delayed until early November. When its completion could not be guaranteed by the aforementioned date, the dinner had to be canceled. It is hoped those planning to attend it who are members of Branch 73 will be able to enjoy the Christmas festivities 3 December. And all those disappointed by the cancellation, whether or not members, may look forward to the next polenta/chicken dinner on 25 February.

Buon Natale a tutti i soci dell sezione 73 il 25 dicembre. Che il Bambino

The Blessed Sacrament District's Bishops' Day was held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament of the Diocese of Sacramento. Presenting Bishop Cotta with our Seminary Burse is District President, Paula Scarpelli and the check from the Providenza Fund is 2nd Grand Vice President Vince Piro.

Gesu ci benedica con buona salute e molta felicità!

Buon compleanno e tante belle cose a tutti i soci della sezione nati nel mese di dicembre.

Robert Delpippo

Auburn

St. Joseph, Br. 342

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make our annual Christmas dinner a success! The food was delicious, the tables were beautiful, and everyone had a great time. At the dinner, our branch was able to present a donation to representatives from St. Teresa's Religious Education Program, St. Teresa's Youth Group, St. Teresa's St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph's Religious Education Program, St. Joseph's St. Vincent de Paul, and the New Bathroom Fund at St. Joseph's Church.

Please make sure to get your tickets for our world famous Polenta Dinner that will take place on Saturday, January 21st at St. Teresa's Hall. Chef Rico and his crew will once again be preparing a delicious dinner of polenta, chicken, sausage, salad, and dessert. Drinks will be sold at the bar. Fantastic and fun raffle prizes are being gathered and the musicians have been booked. Tickets will once again be \$20 per person and can be purchased from either MaryAnn at [916-759-8466](tel:916-759-8466) or Dolores at [530-823-9125](tel:530-823-9125). This event is always a sell-out, so be sure to get your tickets as soon as possible.

Our branch would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Pam Andersen

Bollettino Contributor

Roseville

St. Clare of Assisi, Br. 438

We had some pretty busy members working at the voting polls which were set up in Morris Hall. Michael Fuentes was the organizer. We held two precincts. Several members brought food for three meals for these hungry busy workers. A big thank you to all that participated. Last month we held our 2017 election of officers. Congratulations to all the officers. It is so good to see some new officers along with the old ones. Where has the time gone. Here it is time to celebrate the holidays. It is so hard to believe. Are you all ready for the hustle and bustle of busy shoppers? Our Christmas Dinner will be held Fri. Dec. 16th. Al and Janet Smith volunteered to

do the cooking. Watch for the sign up genus. Santa Claus will be coming. So bring all your little ones. We always have a lot of fun.

Connie Terry will chair the bake sale on Dec. 17th. & 18th. So all you elves bake, bake, bake. Connie will need a lot of goodies to sell. Also the cook books will be for sale that day. Please pray for all our sick members. Please say a special prayer for Betty Nicolai who is recuperating from hip surgery. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your Reporter,

Yvonne Perry

San Bernardino

Redlands

Sacred Heart, Br. 217

Branch 217 in Redlands really knows how to celebrate Columbus Day. We held our bi-annual sausage sandwich sale that weekend and were warmly received by the parish. A few of our members flew to Italy and shared in the Canonization Mass of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We brought back numerous memories and souvenirs which were displayed during the sausage sandwich sale. Branch 217 has been serving our parish and local soup kitchens through our "Donare la Pasta" program, which began in 2014. Our parish is promoting the ICF's Donare la Pasta program by encouraging pasta and sauce donations as a corporal act of mercy: Feed the hungry. The first half of October we collected 250 bags of pasta and 175 jars of pasta sauce. (See photograph) The items have been donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Redlands, A.J.'s Kitchen and The Blessing Center, three of our local charities which prepare hot Italian meals for the hungry in our city. God bless all who donated and God bless the hungry citizens of Redlands. Finally, our 50th anniversary is rapidly approaching (February 2017), and we will be celebrating it during our 2017 Gala dinner on March 23, 2017. Hope to see everyone there. Looking forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving and blessed Advent/Christmas this year.

San Diego

San Diego

Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. 230

As we prepare for the Christmas Season may the blessings of Advent be with us all. The last month has been busy with our members working and attending the very successful Our Lady of the Rosary Annual Spaghetti Dinner on November 5th, Bishop's Day on November 6th, a general meeting on November 18th, and the District Workshop present by several Central Council members on November 19. The branch will hold its annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the OLR parish hall. As always, it will be night of merriment and warm camaraderie. Members are asked to bring an unwrapped toy and food items for Catholic Charities.

Congratulations to the following officers for 2017: President Patrizia Vigili; 1st V-P Jim Cardinale-Hill; 2nd V-P Theresa Cutri; Secretary Maria Tollefson; Financial Secretary Amanda Morris Cassidy; Treasurer Mary Lou Terramagra; Trustee Martha Cardinale-Hill; Sentinel Christopher Forte. A big thank you to all of the officers, especial outgoing President Delfina Centanni, who contributed to the successful 2016 year.

God bless,

Maria Tollefson



From Branch 261, Tony Anthony and his wife Rosemarie.

San Diego

St. Therese, Br. 261

"The Odyssey of a Cross"

In 1913 the first cross was erected on Mt Soledad in the La Jolla area of San Diego... It was constructed of wood and called the "Easter Cross." In 1923 it was stolen... After again being erected it was destroyed by fire ... In 1954 a concrete cross was erected. It stands 29 ft high – a 12 ft arm spread – and a base of 43ft. In 1989 the avalanche of litigation started... Many - including atheists – were relentless in questioning the legitimacy of a religious symbol on public land. Judges have voted against the cross multiple times.

In 1998 the City of San Diego sold the memorial to the Mt Soledad Veterans' Memorial group.. The land was given to the federal government... In 2013 a federal judge ordered that the cross must be removed. In 2014 Congress authorized the Department of Defense sell the cross and land to the Mt Soledad Veterans Memorial people – with conditions... The estimated selling price \$1 million...

The large concrete cross is the key part of the memorial... The base of the cross is surrounded by a myriad of photos and their stories of our service people that have represented the USA in our many wars... This is a place of pride and inspiration. The site is truly unique... Our ICF 'er Tony Anthony (Marine - Lt Col Ret) is a member of the team that long fought for this noble cause... Tony is 1st VP Br 261 Long stand this historic memorial to those who have died for our flag and to all the men and women who proudly serve our flag.

Vic Tallarida

Branch 261

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Branch 50 President George Bacigalupi, his wife Diane, together with Anstell Ricossa and husband Ronald with the WARRIORS TROPHY! A wonderful event at the Salesian Boys and Girls Gym at Saints Peter and Paul Church.

San Francisco

San Francisco

Maria S.S. Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members:

Due to a printing error (Oct) the following items were omitted: Belated get well wishes to Ollie de Micheli. Condolences to Paul Biagi and family on the loss of his mother -- Rose Vallergera -- a long time member of ICF Br 1.

Our November Spuntino was enjoyed by all!

Upcoming events:

Dec. 11 -- Branch Feast Day Mass 10:30 am ICC.

Please note there will be no meetings in January or February.

Thanks to Judy Matranga for accepting the office of Trustee for 2017. Please continue prayers for Mary Zadra -- now recuperating from a fall.

A special thank you to Pat Arnaudo who translates my reports to "Computer Language" during the year. A Holy & Happy Christmas to all Branch 1 Members and their families. Happy New Year!

Ciao

Toni Morsello

San Francisco

Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

At this time our branch hasn't had our November meeting yet, we are all looking forward to this coming Saturday. We'll be

celebrating Thanksgiving! Cosmo will be the chief cook! Of course we'll have Turkey, yams, stuffing, all the trimmings, and Apple Pie too. I'm sure there will be other munchies! Now, doesn't this make your mouth water with anticipation! Dora Veracchi will be making the Green Beans. Grazie in advance!

At our October meeting, we were not able to get all our new 2017 officers nominated and elected because we did not have enough members present. The members that were present are eager to remain officers and continue to the New Year. Hopefully, at our November meeting we'll accomplish this task...if not, oh my! We're keeping our fingers crossed! At this coming meeting, we'll decide on our Christmas donations too.

Mary Gloria, our Heritage Chairlady, spoke and prepared us for All Saints & All Souls Days. Maria also told us how "Trick and Treat" came about. Interesting...I didn't know!

An unexpected surprise happened at our October meeting. While we were eating lunch, after our meeting, a Priest walked into the Parish Center. We quickly offered him lunch (raviolis), and he accepted our offer and sat down at the table with us. Fortunately, George Pagni and Joe Basuino were with us because they immediately recognized him. He was our ICF Spiritual Director Msgr. Daniel Cardelli...what a co-incidence for him to walk into the PC on our ICF meeting day. We enjoyed his unexpected visit very much. He stayed, and we talked for over a half hour...I felt he was very pleased to meet us too!

Our December luncheon plans have not been made yet, but Cosmo's working on them! I'm sure the 2 Varacchi sisters will think up a few surprises! All our members have to do, to get ready for the party, is: practice singing Christmas Carols...how easy is that! We know we can do it...right, Choir Leader Dora!

One final note...my sincerest condolences

to BR#28 on the death of one of their very active members, and my dearest cousin Anna Barberi. Anna, may you Rest in Peace.

Branch #38 officers and members wish "tutti il membri" del ICF un BUON NATALE. We hope everyone has a happy, joyous, and healthy BUON ANNO NUOVO!

Ciao, ci vediamo il 10 di Dicembre in the PC at 12:00 noon.

Mara Amato

San Francisco

Santo Stefano, Br. 50

Our last meeting was held Nov. 2nd, and called to order by our Pres. George Bacigalupi. Opening prayer was led by our Pastor Father Ken Westray.

After the minutes were read and approved, our Treasurer, Annette Farrel read the financial report. It was moved and seconded our bills be paid. Diane Bacigalupi invited us all to attend the upcoming Christmas Party. It will be December 6th, at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. Cocktails at 11:30 a.m. with Lunch following at 12:30 p.m. Reservations, \$45.00 to be made to George Bacigalupi. This is a very festive event, held in the private upstairs room of the S.F.I.A.C. with music by George Campi. All guests are asked to bring a donation of small personal items, unwrapped, which will be donated to the St. Anthony's Gift Drive.

It was moved and seconded that our same officers be reelected for the year 2017, and there will be no meeting in January 2017. Meeting adjourned and then a delicious dinner was served with salad, bean soup, chicken and polenta, and pumpkin pie for dessert. As always we have to thank Louis Massante, Mimi Ysturiz Dougherty, Father Ken, and all the volunteer workers for the delicious dinner.

Many wishes for a most joyous holiday season to all, with "Tanti auguri per un Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo"!

Anstell Ricossa

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo to our Officers, members and their families. December 8th: Our Christmas luncheon. Menu: Ham and all the trimmings. Members \$12.00; non-zmembers \$16.00. For reservations fivers ancall Mary Perata at 415-237-5936. This takes place at Cantwell Hall. On January 23rd we have a trip planned to Thunder Valley. We hope Vince Todoni is doing better. We have missed you and Rose at our meetings. You are in our prayers, Vince. For all our December members having Birthdays, we wish you much Happiness and good Health in the coming year. The Officers and Members of Br. 258 wish all our friends and their families. In the Italian Catholic Federation a very blessed Christmas and a Happy and Heathy New Year. A big Thank You to all Officers for their help during the year. It is greatly appreciated. To Florence, thanks for all the trips you planned during the year. It is a lot of work and appreciated by all of us!! Remember these dates: Officers Meeting: December 5th. Mass: December 18th

Ciao:

Eva Perata, President

San Mateo

District Council

Congratulations to the newly elected District

Officers for 2017.

President: Barbara Firpo

1st Vice President: Dorene Campanile

2nd Vice President: Sylvia Row

Secretary: Deborah Rodondi and Jean Tomatis

Treasurer: Bea Tomasello

Orator: Virginia Fuentes

Trustees: Bob Tomasello, Kathy Trevizo, Caroline Cannizzaro

Sentinel: Harold Fuentes

District Deputy: Donna Barnes

Many thanks to the outgoing District Officers.

Chaplains Night, November 4 was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Branch 7 All Souls Church, South San Francisco for hosting this fun night. Kudos to the Chaplains for greatly entertaining us.

Mark your calendars:

Thursday, December 15, next District meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame. Hosted by Branch 19 (Colma).

Saturday, January 21, 2017, San Mateo District Installation of Officers for 2017. Hosted by Branch 327, St. Charles, San Carlos. Mass at 9:15 a.m. followed by Installation and lunch at San Mateo Elks Club. Price: \$40 per person.

Thursday, January 28, 2017 District Holiday party hosted by Branch 213, St. Augustines, South San Francisco. Barbara Gabriel, President, will contact branches about potluck.

Remember in your thoughts and prayers Marc Teglia, my beloved son John O'Brien and the family of Father Frank.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year 2017! God Bless!

Anne O'Brien

Colma

San Vincenzo De Paolo, Br. 19

Hello Everyone!

Congratulations to the newly elected Officers of Branch 19; they are

President -- Deborah Rodondi

Vice President -- Kathy Trevizo

Treasurer -- Christine Prudenciado

Secretary = Cheryl Simon

Orator -- Annette Novi

Sentinel -- Joseph Sangiacomo

Let's us support them this coming year!

Monday, December 12: Annual Branch #19 Christmas Party at Sharp's Park. Chair Person -- Donna Barnes -- (650)-991-0178

Sunday, December 18: Hosting Simbang Gabi at Holy Angels Church with soup and sandwiches. Help needed!! Contact Cheryl Simon or Kathy Trevizo.

January 9: Polenta dinner meeting - hosted by Kathy Trevizo and Deborah Rodondi. Reservation to Cheryl Simon by 5th (650)755-0878 LEAVE MESSAGE or email cas94015@yahoo.com for reservations.

NOTE CHANGES AS OF JANUARY 1st, 2017: All regular meetings/socials will be held at 7:00 p.m. and all dinners will begin with no host cocktails at 5:30pm with dinner to be served at approximately 6:00pm, meeting to begin at 7:00pm unless otherwise stated. Cost of dinner for members is \$10, non-members \$12

Buon Natale.

N. Thurman

Valente Marini Perata
& Company FD-100

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San Mateo

St. Matthew, Br. 163

Congratulations to the elected Officers for 2017.

President: Harold Fuentes

1st Vice President: Eda Rossetto

2nd Vice President: Open

Recording Secretary: Anne O’Brien

Corresponding Secretary: Jim Loman

Financial Secretary: Virginia Fuentes

Treasurer: Frank Venturelli

Orator: Marie D’Asaro

Trustees: Lena Venturelli and Anna Nanna

Sentinel: Marie D’Asaro

Many thanks to those accepting an office again and special thanks to Jim Loman and Marie D’Asaro for accepting the offices of Corresponding Secretary and Orator left vacant by the loss of two of our beloved members, Aurora Bini and Rose Marie Sickie. May they rest in peace. We would also send may thanks to Michele and Jim Loman for cooking and donating to delicious Enchilada Dinner in October.

Our 54th Anniversary Dinner was a great success and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Virginia Fuentes and the helpers for the work they put into making it a success. Thanks to Frank Venturelli of serenading us with his beautiful music, and to Michele and Jim Loman for a great job handling the raffle and prize distribution.

2017 calendars are now for sale, price \$25. The Branch keeps \$5 for each one sold. They make great gifts and a good fundraiser for the Branch.

Remember the District Installation of the 2017 officers, Saturday, January 21, 2017, hosted by Branch 327 at the San Mateo Elks Club.

Remember in your prayers Lena Venturelli and my son John

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year 2017!

Anne O’Brien

Burlingame

Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

For those of us that attended Chaplain’s Night on 11-4-16 we had a great meal at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco and had exceptional entertainment from our various priests.

We held elections of officers and the two newly elected are Carmela Gigliotti, Orator and Donna Cervelli, Treasurer. Thanks for stepping forward and to all of the other officers who volunteer to make our club successful. Special recognition to Dorene Campanile who has once again agreed to be our President. Also, special thanks to Jean Watterson, Bob Bacich, Lucy and Jim Witherspoon who meet early before

each meeting to set the tables and make sure all is in order before our dinner/meetings.

November events:

Our 53rd Anniversary dinner celebration will be held at the Basque Cultural Center on Tuesday, November 15 6:00 P.M. cocktails, dinner: 7:00 P.M. Pedro Tournament Sunday, November 20 Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL and keep our sick members in your prayers for full speedy recoveries and those in other branches who also need our prayers!

God Bless,

Rosalind C. Emery

South San Francisco

St. Augustine, Br. 213

Special thanks to Barbara Gabriel and Donna De Voe for this month’s wonderful dinner. Our social dinners are always enjoyable, giving us time to socialize with one another before our business meeting. Thank you to all the members who have volunteered thru the year providing our monthly dinners.

Welcome to our new members, Kathy Amiot, sponsored by Roberta Franchini and Joanne Wallace sponsored by Donna De Voe.

We look forward to their participating in our branch activities. Our Day at the Races Fundraising event in November was a success thanks to all that supported this event. We enjoyed an exciting day at Golden Gate Fields, eating a great lunch and very successful winnings. We are ready to do it again.

Chaplain Nite at the Basque Center was a great ICF event. Dinner was excellent and being entertained with jokes and singing by the Branch Chaplains made the evening program very special. We are very fortunate to have wonderful dedicated chaplain’s supporting our branches.

Happy Birthday wishes to our November and Decembers members.

We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving Day enjoying holiday celebration with family and friends.

See you all at the December Christmas Party.

Joyce James, Branch 213

San Carlos

St. Charles, Br. 327

Thank you to all the members of our branch who attended Chaplains Night.

It was reported to be a very lovely evening – enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Donna McKay, Christine King and Rose Beall for the wonderful pork tenderloin dinner served at the October meeting. It was a delicious meal!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 20. This meeting will be our annual Christmas get-together with food and drink provided by your board. There is no charge for this meeting, but we hope you will consider a small donation for our scholarship fund.

Please plan to attend the Installation of Officers on Saturday, January 21. Mass and lunch will be at the San Mateo Elks Club. This event is being hosted by our branch.

Mass is 9:15am; installation at 10:00am; introductions and happy hour 11:00am; and lunch is at noon. Choices: Chicken Piccata, Sole Dore and Pasta Primavera. \$40.00

May you all have a joyous holiday season.

Buon Natale,

Virginia Malaspina

Millbrae

St. Dunstan, Br. 403

Our officers for 2017 are as follows: President- Mary Vella Treseler; 1st. Vice President- Paul Larson; 2nd Vice President- Al Morando; Treasurer-Eunice Danli; Recording Secretary-Lois Agresti; Corresponding Secretary-Rose Marie Morando; Orator-Roy Fry; Trustees-Gloria Borruso, Helen Habeeb and Maria Swanson; Sentinel-Ann Gardner. Installation and Mass will both be held on January 21, 2017 at the San Mateo Elks Club, beginning with Mass at 9:15AM. Our next meeting, Tuesday, December 6, 2016, we will celebrate Christmas with a dinner preceding our meeting. Again this year we will assemble a gift basket for a needy family with donations from our members.

Happy Holidays!!!

Rose Marie Morando

Corresponding Secretary

Marin

Larkspur

St. James, Br. 161

Marlene Farber still has 2017 calendars for purchase. They make great gifts for hospitality, birthday or Christmas. Daily raffle winners range from \$30 to \$100, it is quite a bargain for \$25 and the branch gets to keep \$5 for each calendar sold. Call Marlene Farber at 415 461-1119 if you would like to buy one.

Mark your calendars for The Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 3 from 11:30am to 2pm. Mr. & Mrs. Santa will greet the kids with a gift. Cost is \$30 per person over 14 and \$10 per person under 14. Call Jeanne Asdourian or Lucia DellaSantina for reservations.

At our January meeting Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr. will be installing the new officers.

Our deepest condolences to Terry Rosser on the passing of her husband Myron. Our thoughts and prayers are with Terry and her family.

Please continue your get-well prayers for Maria DellaSantina, Doris Onetti and Bob Goodwin and to everyone who isn’t feeling well.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017 to all of you.

Buon Natale a tutti.

Anna Biggio

San Jose
Santa Clara Valley

District Council

District President Denise Antonowicz thanked Todd MacDonald and his committee for hosting the October district meeting. A motion was made to present the Bishop \$7200 for the Seminary Burse at Bishop’s Day. Branch 47 St. Joseph celebrated 80-year anniversary. With (Of course) a Polenta Dinner. Marie Antonowicz reported the great time they had entering a float and marching in the San Francisco Parade. She was entertaining everyone dressed in her Chicken Costume.

Louise Vento gave a heritage report on an Italian icon Christopher Columbus, outlining his four voyages to the new world. Donna Pfaff (new Grandmother) reported on the successful initial

Octoberfest fundraiser for Br. 445.

Giulia Gallego and Joan Delfino reported the new officer nominees and they were subsequently elected. President – Bob Bausino, 1st VP – Anna Gonzalez, 2nd VP – Ric Shimshock, Secretary – Marie Yurosko, Treasurer – Steve Lencioni, Orator – Jo Bertaccini, Trustees – Donna Pfaff, Emily Corral and Giulia Gallego, Sentinel – Eva Stern.

Resurrection Church’s new pastor, Fr. Noel was installed October 22. Branch 408 hosted the event with up to 500 people. He is very supportive of the ICF. Jim Jones outlined the November 13 - St. Frances Cabrini Pilgrimage. Five communities from the Parish are invited. John Gillio told of a poignant moment when a seven-year old assisted a parishioner during communion.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15 at Branch 4, Holy Cross.

Mike Nunziata

Santa Clara

N.S. Assunta, Br. 5

Thanks and congratulations to all Officers and Members of ICF Br. 5 for a successful year 2016.

We are once again thriving and coming back from almost closing. Let us continue in 2017 for another big and successful year.

The Membership Dues are currently due for 2017. Dues are \$38.40 per person and \$76.80 for Man and Wife. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. Letters will be mail to all members.

Upcoming Event – Dinner and Show with the Swingin’ Blue Stars of the USS Hornet.

Information will be mailed to all Members. Date: January 14, 2017 at St. Clare’s Parish Hall. Costs \$35.00 per person. Menu is: Prime Rib or Salmon with trimmings. Doors open and 5:00PM and Dinner at 6:00PM. Seating is limited to 125 Reservations. Call Bea Cunha.

Please pray for the soul of Ben (James) Ybarra who passed away on October 7, 2016. May he rest in peace.

May all Members and their families have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.

Ciao,

Marlene J. Rotolo

Gilroy

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

Branch Officers for 2017 were confirmed at the October meeting. Gennaro Filice will continue as President. Our October meeting dinner featured a delicious apricot chicken served up by Dave and Marianne Peoples and crew. Our Scholarship Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale was held on November 6th with 194 breakfasts served. The bake sale in conjunction with the breakfast was a big success. Thanks so much to our members for their contributions and time. Our next dinner meeting will be held on November 14th. The Board will be cooking a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The holidays are upon us and our Christmas Dinner Party will be held on December 19th. This dinner will be catered so that all members, family and guests can enjoy an evening of celebration and fellowship.

As I finish my initial submission of I.C.F. Branch 28 activities, events and accomplishments I would like to reflect on the person from whom I have taken on this responsibility. Anna M. Barberi was a lifelong member of I.C.F. Branch 28 and undertook many positions along the way. From past president, recording secretary, secretary to the district president, attendance caller, cashier for monthly meetings, and attendance monitor at branch events. She was a true inspiration to my husband and myself who was a trustee this past year. Barriers that would have put most off were surmounted in her efforts to help in any way necessary Branch 28 in its activities and programs. It is oft said but never so true that Anna will be greatly missed.

Peace and God bless,

Kim M. Filice

Los Gatos

St. Mary, Br. 184

President Denise Antonowicz was elected as one of the Grand Trustees at the Convention. In addition, she and her family together with members of the Italian Catholic Federation, participated in decorating a float for the San Francisco Heritage Parade.



(Above) Branch 184's men working to prepare the delicious sauce and polenta for the branch's recent dinner. (Joe, the camera "caught" you!). Left to right, Larry Vollman, Rich Buonacorsi, Joe Yurosko, Bob Cowan, Romano Buonaccorsi, Dave Romero, and Ed Russo.

(Left) Eileen Fritsch from St. Mary 184 and Jim Jones from St. Frances Cabrini 191 really got into the spirit!

Love that story.

Be sure to go see the Christ Child at Christmas.

Jim Jones

San Jose

Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

We have our slate of officers for the coming year, a slate very similar to that of this year. Mike Nunziata will again be president, Mary Ridi first vice-president, and Joyce Robba second vice-president. Paula Radzinski will be recording secretary, Barbara Ruffner treasurer, and Robyn Schlice financial secretary. Ed Wendler will continue as orator, and Ron Sanchez will continue as our sentinel. Trustees are Joanne Opp, Paul Butler, and John Gillio.

Our Monte Carlo fundraiser on October 29th was a smashing success! With our parish Filipino-American Society, affectionately known as the Fil-Ams, we served finger foods, mostly made in the kitchen of our new hall under the direction of our branch's Olga Vasquez and her buddies. Over 170 people enjoyed the gambling and raffling activities, ably planned by chairwomen Joyce Robba and Pat Cordich.

Two of our members deserve special recognition for their generous donations of time and talent: Ann Schlice and Jackie Morton. Ann always donates her leadership ability and her time in gathering pot luck dishes for parish funerals, helping with food distribution around the holidays, and just being present as an all-around helper for our parish events. Jackie Morton is a talented quilter, sauce-for-polenta maker, and cooperative volunteer. Thank you so much, ladies!

Another talented member is our layette chairperson, Lorraine Nunziata, who joins her committee of knitters and crocheters in preparing baby items for needy mothers of newborns.

Have a blessed Christmas,

Judy Zahn

San Jose

St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are now ready for Christmas!

In November, we returned to St. Martin's for our dinner meeting—it was good to be home due to the completion of the kitchen remodel.



The ladies of Branch 368 with their layette goodies.

Again, thank you to Al and Diana Vallorz and the spectacular cooks and servers for the wonderful ham dinner.

Louise Vento presented a report on the Santa Clara District and Central Council and reminded us to represent our branch at other ICF activities. We are so fortunate to have so many branches in our valley, and it's great when we can get together to share our mutual love of our heritage.

Also in November, we had a fun time at our last fundraiser of the year! Great job on the Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner!

Save the Dates: On December 4, 2016 at 3:00, the Annual Layette Tea will be held at Holy Family Church on Pearl Avenue. Infant items and donations are always welcomed. St. Martin's is looking for a Layette Coordinator for our parish.

Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for December 6 at St. Martin's. Come and join us for some singing, laughter, and holiday cheer. There will be no meeting that night.

On December 11, at the 8:30 mass, we will be meeting for our Quarterly Communion.

The annual installation of officers will take place on January 14 at St. Catherine's in Morgan Hill. More details to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Janis Patellaro

Sunnyvale Resurrection, Br. 408

Buon Natale!

Congratulations to our new 2017 ICF Branch 408 Officers ! God Bless you for your willingness to serve and God Bless all our Members in the New Year.

Don't forget to buy your 2017 ICF Calendar to support our Branch. This is a great fundraiser—Please contact Ric, Dori, Violetta, or Patricia Look.

Our Christmas Potluck will be held at 6 PM on Monday Dec 5th. Chef John Parker will serving Lasagna once again. Please contact Jackie Anderson to let her know which side dish or desert you can bring.

Our next Blood Drive will be held Sunday Dec 4th in the Farana Center. Please pray for Donors.

Br 408 hosts the Santa Clara Valley District (SCVD) 2016 Christmas Mass and Dinner on Monday 12 December. Mass will start at 6 PM followed by a catered supper. Fr. George will be our Presider.

SCVD Installation has a new date – It is now scheduled for Saturday 28 January 2017 @ St. Catherine's in Morgan Hill. Mass starts at 10:30 AM followed by lunch at Momma Mia's @ Dunne and Butterfield.

Please remember to include our sick members in your prayers – especially for Anne Lopez, Betty Deville, Susan Colon, Dori Blefari, Edith Novak, and Carolyn O'Connor.

Morgan Hill

Santa Caterina D'Alessandria, Br. 435

Our branch celebrated Christopher Columbus day with a dinner prepared by Alex Lawson and his crew. We started with a wonderful array of Antipasti followed by fresh pasta, big meatball made in house. For dessert we enjoyed a small Tiramisu in a cup. Very yummy and a nice ending to our meal. Louise Venti gave a wonderful and informative talk on Christopher Columbus with a great display of the ships etc. We learned some new and interesting facts about this famous man. Our yearly Italian American calendars are ready to purchase. Please consider buying one, because some of the price goes to our branch.

We welcomed John and Toni Foggiano as new members to our branch. At our dinner meeting we had a very good attendance with many promising new members. Let's try to continue this upward growth.

In December our Christmas dinner meeting will be on Dec. 16. We are so lucky to have Dave Bozzo for our chef and he will be making Prime Rib. More details later.

Please keep Nancy Morabito, Sylvia Sorci and Fran Scalzo in your prayers. God bless and a happy and blessed Thanksgiving,

Donna Basilin

San Jose

Transfiguration, Br. 445

Newly installed Branch 445 at Transfiguration Church has been busy discussing possible programs and activities. It decided on the "Adopt a Seminarian" program and the Branch has now formally adopted Michael Scott who hopes to attend our Christmas potluck on December 1. We hope to see all our members at the potluck.

In addition, the Branch is hosting Msgr. Craig Harrison, winner of the Mother Teresa Award at the recent ICF convention in Fresno. He will be speaking on "Our Advent Journey" at Transfiguration Church on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00pm. All are welcomed.

Saturday, January 14th is the installation of all officers of our branch.

Onward & Upward,

Richard Pfaff

Santa Rosa

Napa

San Giuseppe, Br. 12

Santa Rosa District Bishop's Day

Santa Rosa District Bishop's Day was held on September 18 at St. Eugene's Cathedral. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Vasa. Lunch flowed at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Santa Rosa. SR District Financial Secretary Linda Sherman conducted a fine program as Mistress of Ceremonies. The Spiritual Bouquet was presented by Louise Vicino. The Seminary Burse from the District was presented by Linda Sherman. The seminary burse totaled \$2100.



The Providenza Donation was presented by Grand President Leonard Zasoski and totaled \$2000. In acceptance, Bishop Vasa thanked the ICF for our donations and prayers and spoke on the good works the ICF does in the Diocese. Linda Sherman and Bill Scinto handled the arrangements for the event.

Central Council members in attendance included Grand First Vice President Andy Pappani and his spouse Sid, Grand Trustee Lisa Crudo and her mother, Rosalind, Grand Trustee Denise Antonowicz and her mother, Marie, Past Grand President Robert Acquistapace and District Deputy Kathy Acquistapace and Past Grand President Carmen Kilcullen and her husband, Larry. ICF First Lady Betty Zasoski accompanied her husband, Leonard.

Healdsburg

San Francesco di Sales, Br. 52

The branch has had two successful fundraisers these past months. In October, we held our 2nd Golf Tournament. Thank you to John Torres for organizing this fun event! We also had a great attendance at our polenta dinner on Nov. 12. Thank you to Scott Cavallo and crew for the wonderful dinner.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 6: Branch meeting in the rectory. 7 PM.

Dec. 9: Christmas Party. Doors open at 5:45 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM. Price: \$10.00. Santa will be visiting from the North Pole. For tickets, call Mary Del Monte or Mary Madden.

Dec. 11: We are hosting the Santa Rosa District Meeting. Time: 2:00 PM for meeting. Lunch to follow. All are invited to attend.

Jan. 14: Santa Rosa District Installation of Officers at Petaluma. Mass: 11 AM with Installation and lunch to follow. For tickets call Carmen or Lauren: 577-7304.

Raffle ticket sales for the Nativity set will be held after all the Masses during Advent. The raffle will be held at the Christmas Eve Mass.

Due to the generosity of members and guests at our events this past year, we are able to donate to the following charities: St John's School, Catholic Charities Family Support Center, Share Ministries Food Pantry, Gifts of Love, ICF Italy Earthquake Fund, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Living Room. In addition, we are purchasing the statue of St. John the Baptist for the Church and having cupboards built for the school's



Branch 52, Healdsburg's Golf Tournament on October 9 was a success. In the first photo are John and Janice Torres taking a rest in between holes (above). John was the chairman of the successful tournament. (Left) Pres. Nancy Seppi and husband, Karl, look to see where their shots landed. The photo at the top shows golfer enjoying the delicious dinner prepared by Teri Roller and Richard Passalacqua.

sports equipment

Merry Christmas!

Lauren Kilcullen

**Sonoma
St. Sebastian, Br. 103**

Branch 103 members unanimously elected the following officers for the coming year: Chaplain: Deacon David Gould

President: Tom Wurst

1st V. President: Ken Marshall

2nd V. President: Josephine Grant

Recording Secretary: Marie-Therese Denning

Financial Secretary: Lila Boragno

Treasurer: Marilyn Sylvestri

Orator: Josephine Grant

Trustee: John Boragno, Maureen Mignacco-Dutil, Carol D'Agostini

Sentinel: Mary Hollis

Deputy: Bill Scinto

Eleanor Berto, our former treasurer for many years, is thanked for her dedicated service to our branch.

Coats were collected for the needy under the direction of Jo Grant and members will also donate food products to St. Vincent de Paul.

Dinner reservations for December should be made by phoning Lila at (707) 996-3448.

Buon Natale e Felice Capo D'Anno,

Marie-Therese Denning

**Petaluma
St. Vincent, Br. 127**

Greetings from Petaluma!

We are approaching the end of 2016, and we have had a great year with a lot of activities and fundraisers.

We have held our election and the following is our new slate of Officers: Pres: Denise DiGirolamo, 1st Vice Pres: Lucy Spingola; Rec. Secty: Linda Cordoni; Financial Secty: Sharon Hromek; Treas: Reno Iezza; Orator:



Rita Boynton; Sentinal: Grace Herrold; Trustees: Mary Ellen Higgins, Rose Lavezzo, Louise Vicino; Past Pres: Bruno Fomasi. Congratulations to all and wishes to the Branch for a successful year in 2017.

Our Polenta/Stew Dinner was a great success, thanks to Charlotte Barbieri and her husband Paul, who chaired the event. We also want to thank our cooks Giacco Manni, Angelo Leone, Josephine Lavio and her daughter, who made a delicious dinner

Our next Communion Mass for the deceased and living will be on December 10 at St. Vincent's Church at 5:00p.m., followed by our Branch Christmas Party which is being held at the Boulevard Cafe. Call Kathleen: 763-7354 for reservations.

There is no meeting in December. Our new year will start out with a soup/dessert meeting on January 9 at 6:00pm in the St. James Church Hall. The cost is \$5. Please attend and make your reservations with Louise: 769-7389.

My thanks to all who read my articles and enjoy them. Also I want to thank all of you for your friendship and love. It has meant a lot to me for the ICF is my second family. I wish all of you and your families a very warm and Merry Christmas full of love and much happiness. Enjoy all your precious moments with each other. And most of all, may the coming year bring a coming together of all in our Country, with peace and hope for all.

Ciao,

Louise Vicino

**Arcata
St. Mary, Br. 144**

The meeting was opened by Judy Cardoza with an update and review of projects.

There was a moment of silence given in respect for the recent passing of Ken David, husband of Elena David. Our sincerest condolence to Elena and her family. A donation was mailed to Providencia in memory of Ken.

Judy gave us an update of Convention bylaw changes and other informational news. Paula Procter gave an update on the Women's Retreat held here at St. Mary's on November 5th. The Presenter was Sister Christine Hilliard. It was well attended by 50+ women from our parish, as well as surrounding local parishes. Thank you, Paula, for bringing this experience to our area.

Plans were made for the Christmas Dinner



(Above) Orator Jo Grant and President Tom Wurst, Branch 103

(Top left) Branch 103 members Fran Mc Natt and Carol D'Agostini

(bottom left) Fran McNatt and Mary Hollis filling District raffle basket

for our Branch in December and Breakfast with Santa being done in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus.

The adoption of the 2017 Calendar was presented and approved by the branch. Thank you, Judy, Rosemary Melendy, and Toni Green for taking care of this.

Plans and dates included Befana, and Group Communion, in January. Chicken Polenta Dinner Fund Raiser in February was mentioned on the adopted 1917 Calendar.

Shar Evans continues to mend; thoughts and prayers are sent her way for a recovery soon.

Belated birthday wishes to Dina McDonald and Joe Rodrigues celebrated in November.

Larry De Peel

**Santa Rosa
St. Eugene, Br. 198**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We should congratulate ourselves for an outstanding 2016 year. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary, held two very successful fundraisers, awarded eight scholarships (tops in all the ICF), donated large amounts to both our parish and our elementary school, supported a very successful Bishop's Day and enjoyed each other's company throughout the whole year. Plus, we held some really great meetings which were highlighted by super heritage presentations from Ernie Giampaoli.

We plan to continue into the New Year with enthusiasm under our new slate of officers:

Pres: Gene Zingarelli; 1st VP: Bob Acquistapace; 2nd VP: Mike Milano; Rec. Sec: Margie Milano; Fin. Sec: Nancy Azevedo; Treas: Bill Scinto; Orator: Mary Desideri; Trustees: Marc Bisio, Carol Saksa, Tom Saksa; Sentinel: William Pisenti, Jr.

Mark your calendar for our Christmas Party, which starts at 5:30 PM in the Brinker Room on December 5 and our 51st Anniversary dinner in the Brinker Room, 5:30 PM cocktails and 6:00 PM dinner on January 9, 2017.

Continue to pray for Kathy Acquistapace, Louis Azevedo, Frank Castelli, Marie Lagomarsino, Dolores Neil, Vic Torchio Sr, Marlene Scinto and other who may need our help in 2017.

May you all have a happy and holy holiday season.

Buon Natale!

Bob Acquistapace



Members of Branch 138 at Father Ramon's Installation Dinner.

Sebastopol

St. Michael, Br. 209

Many thanks to Roy and Leona Spadoni, Don Becchetti and everyone who helped with our Thanksgiving Dinner. The food was delicious and the pumpkin pies topped it off!!

We are pleased to announce our new officers for 2017. They are as follows:

President – Barbara Bidia; 1st Vice President – Pam McAlvain; 2nd Vice President – Yvonne Watson; Recording Secretary – Lona Bertoli; Financial Secretary – Leona Spadoni; Treasurer – Lorraine Vannetti; Orator – Jackie Corsetti; Trustees – George “Bud” Polley, Pete Peters, and Nancy Stedman; Sentinel – Judy Segale; Branch Deputy – Spence Burton. Congratulations and thanks to those who accepted these offices.

Various donations were approved to the following charities: Italian Earthquake Fund, and to various local charities.

We are finalizing our plans for our 50th Anniversary celebration on December 3rd and look forward to having our ICF members and friends join us. By the time you read this, the celebration will be over but the wonderful memories will linger on!

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Ciao,

Lona Bertoli

Stockton

District Council

It was a beautiful fall day at Queirolo's Kitchen for the November 6 District Meeting. A delicious polenta/chicken cacciatore dinner prepared by Tony and Ida was enjoyed by all. Thank you for welcoming us and preparing a great meal. How about that homemade butter by Tony....the best!!!!

The District officers for 2017 are: President, Robert Pachinger; 1st VP, Frank Re; 2nd VP, Mary Kingshill; Rec. Secretary, Betty Hollars; Corr. Secretary, Anna Mello; Financial Secretary, Serena Martocchio; Treasurer, Ida Queirolo; Orator, Mary Ann Piana Chapman; Trustees, Josephine Weber, Tom Silvaggio, Lucy Orsi; Sentinels, Joe Curtis. Congratulations to all and thank you to the outgoing officers for your service.

The Installation of the District and six branch officers for 2017 will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at St. Stanislaus Church, 7th and J Streets, Modesto. Mass begins at 1 p.m. followed by the installation and dinner. Roast beef, pasta, salads, veggies, bread and desserts will be served. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12.



People enjoying Branch 138's Paint Nite Fundraiser.

Branch Presidents please call Ida Queirolo (209) 982-5710 with the number of persons from your branch that will be attending and mail your check to the following address no later than December 30: Ida Queirolo, 18424 Queirolo Road, Lathrop, CA 95330.

The Stockton Bishop's Burse Day will be held on Sunday March 12, 2017 at Church of the Presentation in Stockton. Bishop Stephen E. Blaire will preside at the 10:30 a.m. mass followed by the banquet and program. More details to come in January.

As we enter this Advent Season, take time each day to reflect on the birth of Christ. Pray for all of our sick members.

Merry Christmas

Karen Rosson

Modesto

St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

Our annual mass and breakfast was enjoyed by many of our members. We had one slight change this year. Instead of going to a restaurant we attended the altar servers breakfast to support them and it was very good breakfast.

We will have our Christmas Potluck December 14 at 6:00 pm in the hall at 7th and K Streets. Bring your favorite dish, your family and friends and join us.

We will be hosting the Stockton District Installation of officers January 8, 2017. Mass will be at 1:00 pm in Old Stanislaus Church at 709 “J” Street. The Installation will follow in the Church and the luncheon at approximately 2:30 pm in the hall. It will be a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings.

Branch 48 will be celebrating their 80th anniversary July 8, 2016. Please save the date on your calendars. Details for the dinner will be in the bollettino as the time approaches.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sunday, December 11, 2016 and January 15, 2017 at the 8:00 am at the Maze Blvd. Church.

To everyone and their families we wish you a Blessed Christmas!

Coming up:

Dec 14 - 6:00 pm Christmas Potluck and meeting - Hall at 7 & K Street

Jan 8, 2017 Installation of officers Mass at 1:00 pm

Feb 8 - 7:00 pm Meeting - Hall at 7th & K Streets

Feb 12 - 1:30 pm District meeting Br. 390 Tracy

Cecelia McGhee



Branch 413 Gio Corsi at the Columbus Pasta Dinner.

Stockton

St. Luke, Br. 138

Branch 138 since re-opening in July has been busy planning and holding fundraisers as well as getting involved in our parish. In September, we helped cook pasta for the installation of Fr. Ramon Zarate, as Pastor of St. Luke Church, it was a beautiful event with over 400 people in attendance. October was our first fundraiser, a pasta feed. We sold a little over 100 tickets to our parish and community members. We are hoping to turn this into an annual event that will continue to grow in number. In November, we held a “Paint Nite” as another fundraiser and enjoyed painting a picture of the Italy coastline. We were blessed to have two Branch 395 members support our fundraiser and enjoyed the evening painting, eating Italian desserts and sipping some wine. A good time was had by all! We are looking forward to a December pancake breakfast for our members to socialize and celebrate the Christmas season. Merry Christmas from all of us at Branch 138.

Manteca

Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

Branch officers for 2017 were elected at our October meeting, with the following voted in: President - Dr. Elizabeth Demichelis; First Vice-president - Attilio Mussi; Second Vice-president - Lori Pellegrino-Jackson; Secretary - Michelle Harmon; Financial Secretary - Anna Mello; Treasurer - Marilyn Amoral; Orator - Lillian Pauletto; Sentinel - Cary Posz; and Trustees - Rosemary Hekl, Yvonne Chimenti and John Pesta. They will be installed, along with officers from the other branches in the Stockton District, at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto on January 8.

Chair Anna Mello and her bakers were busy each Saturday last month making over 6,000 biscotti. The almond/cranberry/anise-flavored cookies have been a very popular item for holiday sales in our parish each year.

Our annual Christmas party was held at Tony's Kitchen (aka Cucina Queirolo) on December 11. Members brought canned goods which will be donated to our parish's St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Buon Natale a tutti,

Mariano

Tracy

St. Bernard, Br. 390

Thanksgiving dinner was served at the November meeting. Our thanks to everyone who brought food to support our efforts for their generosity. As always, many wonderful raffle prizes were offered in case anyone wanted to start shopping early. We were blessed with a tasty turkey dinner, complete with all the homemade trimmings. Brothers Mike and Joe Bacchetti and crew are as always the greatest cooks around!

2017 Board members have been re-elected

for our branch and are as follows: President Lucy Orsi, 1st VP Joe Bacchetti, 2nd VP Alena Chappell, Recording Secretary Anita Ridolfi, Correspondence Secretary and Orator Betty Hollars, Financial Secretary Annette Elissagaray, Treasurer Serena Martocchio, Trustees Mary Gualco, Letty Fornasero and Nancy Schlemmer, Sentinel Stephen Ridolfi and Branch Deputy Marilyn Amoral.

Our last dinner of the year 2016 will be held Thursday December 22 and will feature ravioli, tri-tip, vegetables, salad, bread and lots of desserts!

Getting a little ahead of things, just wanted to let everyone know that our Stockton District quarterly meeting will be held at St. Bernard's Father Fleming Hall on Sunday, February 12.

Hope everyone stays healthy, happy and safe during the Christmas holidays making wonderful family memories!

Stay well and be happy!

Ciao for now,

Betty Hollars

Angels Camp

St. Patrick, Br. 413

Greetings from Angels Camp and Branch 413. In my last report, I indicated that we were struggling to keep the branch afloat. Our message for help reached heaven because since that time, we have started to turn in a positive direction. Deacon Fred Ybarra has adopted us and will be providing us the spiritual direction that we need. Just to have his presence for opening prayer is a tremendous positive influence on our group and proceedings. Branch 413 had a Family Style Pasta Dinner on October 22nd. Giovanni and Nancy Corsi and Marco and Diane Galleazzi worked hard to cook the dinner. This was a special treat as the Corsi's had previously won the Boss of the Sauce competition in San Francisco. The dinner was well attended. We promoted the dinner as a membership drive. When the night was over, we signed up six new members. Support at our fund raisers helps us to support the parish in turn. In that regard, we are providing funds, along with other parish organizations and individuals to host Patrick Madrid on November 5th. Annette Pachinger, President, administered the Initiation Rite for Susan Rudolph. It is a beautiful ceremony. We are looking forward to December 11th when we will be hosting a breakfast for all, after Mass.

Ciao.

Robert J. Pachinger

Correspondence Secretary

Tucson

Tucson

Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

Our initial fundraiser of the season was a huge success! We served over 400 Take Out Meatballs and Pasta dinners in 2 ½ hours. Many thanks to our volunteers. At tonight's meeting we hosted a number of the Amado Youth Group...a grass-roots drug awareness program that we support. We also were advised of lessons learned regarding our participation in the annual community-wide parade. We have our dedicated cookie bakers preparing for our Holiday cookie sale...anticipating selling more than 120 dozen! We are providing more than a dozen turkeys and food coupons for distribution to needy families at Thanksgiving.

We are planning for our annual pilgrimage to the Gaslight Theater to learn how Santa and his elves save Christmas 2016. The following week is our Christmas Party at the Desert Diamond Casino...complete with gift

Buon Natale a Tutti!



Taken at the Fleischmann's home, at the branch's November meeting and hosting of "Our Lady of Fatima's Pilgrim Virgin Statue." They all said the Rosary and prayed in front of the Statue and listened to a short CD about America needs Fatima. Of course, they fitted in a baked pasta and BBQ sausage meal in between.

exchange with "trading up" allowed...always good fun. After all...we are family...close knit...caring...prayerful...above all ever thankful.

Tucson

Fr. Eusebio Kino, Br. 433

In October the Branch celebrated their 10th Anniversary at an event held at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Tucson. Members Wayne and Maria Corso graciously offered their studio for not only this even but for the Branch Christmas party which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11th.

Election of officers was held and Melissa Rodriguez was re-elected president; Vice president will be Debby Gomez Rassadore; Treasurer, Julie Horton, Secretary; Wayne Corso, Secretary and Trustees will be Henry Fleishmann, Frances DeChaine and Mary Pellegrino.

A sausage sandwich sale was held by the Branch at the Knights of Columbus annual rummage sale in October and it was successful as we also sold Maria's famous cream puffs and chocolates!

On Sunday, November 6th, Henry and Maria Fleishmann hosted the Branch meeting as well as Our Lady of Fatima's Pilgrim journey which was a well presented program. Branch members also enjoyed lunch at the Fleishmann home.

Julie Horton won the door prize of a chocolate plaque of the Virgin Mary and child.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 12, 2016 at 12:30 PM at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio.

Bette Acitelli, Secretary



Members of Branch 433 celebrating it 10Th. Anniversary party at one of its newest members business, The Fred Estaire Dance Studio.

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4. Cover monthly expenses and hold on to other assets while their value continues to grow.
5. Cover monthly expenses and avoid selling assets at depressed values.
6. Pay for health insurance during early retirement years until Medicare eligible at 65.
7. Pay your Medicare Part B and Part D costs.
8. Combine life-tenure payments with Social Security and income generated by assets to replace your salary and continue a monthly routine of paying bills from new income.
9. Pay for your children's or grandchildren's college or professional education.
10. Maintain a "steady" cash reserve to get you through the ups and downs of investment markets and provide more flexibility.
11. Combine proceeds with the sale of your current home to buy a new home without a mortgage and monthly mortgage payments.
12. Pay for long-term health care needs.
13. Fill the gap in a retirement plan caused by lower than expected returns on your assets.
14. Pay for short-term in-home care or physical therapy following an accident or medical episode.
15. Pay for a retirement plan, estate plan or a will.
16. Convert a room or basement to a living facility for an aging parent, relative or caregiver.
17. Set up transportation arrangements for when you are no longer comfortable driving.
18. Create a set aside to pay real estate taxes and property insurance.
19. Delay collecting Social Security benefit until payments are needed.
20. Eliminate credit card debt and avoid building new credit debt.
21. Cover monthly expenses between jobs without utilizing other saved assets.
22. Cover expenses and avoid capital gains tax consequences of selling off other assets.
23. Purchase health-related technology that enables you to live at home alone.
24. Help your adult children through family emergencies.
25. HAVE FUN! Buy a new car, take a dream vacation and enjoy your retirement.

*These are suggestions and not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Please consult your financial advisor for more information.



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