

## **ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION (I.C.F.) AT A GLANCE**

### **WHAT IS THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION?**

The Italian Catholic Federation is a religious-social-heritage organization formed in 1924 to bring Italian Catholics back to the Church who were no longer practicing their religion. Today, the ICF promotes faith, charity, fellowship, heritage, and is a family organization where the entire family is encouraged to join and participate.

### **WHAT IS THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION?**

“Through families and fellowship, the Italian Catholic Federation promotes and supports the Catholic faith and its values, encourages apostolic and charitable works, and celebrates our Italian-American heritage and all the heritages of our communities.”

### **WHERE WAS IT FOUNDED AND BY WHOM?**

The organization was founded in San Francisco, in 1924, by Luigi Providenza, an Italian immigrant, and Father Albert Bandini, a pastoral priest and Italian literary scholar.

### **HOW IS THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION ORGANIZED?**

The organization is composed of branches which are located in parishes. Each branch is an entity that operates according to the By-Laws of the I.C.F. The organization has a Board of Directors, known as the Central Council, which guides the direction of the I.C.F.

### **WHO ARE THE OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION?**

The I.C.F. officers are as follows: president, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-presidents, secretary, financial secretary, treasurer, trustees, and sentinel. Officers are elected every year.

### **WHO CAN JOIN THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION?**

Anyone can join provided that they are practicing Catholics. Italians and non-Italians, to be part of our membership.

### **WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE A MEMBER**

The yearly dues are under \$40.00. The I.C.F. also has a Family Membership Program where all the children in the family can join for just \$10.00, regardless of how many children there are.

### **WHAT ARE THE PROGRAMS OF THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION?**

The organization, first and foremost, works with the parish, helping it in any way it can. The I.C.F. also has a Scholarship program, a national charity known as Cooley's Anemia, a Seminary Burse Program where donations are presented to the Bishop of the diocese every year for the education of seminarians, and *The Gifts of Love Program* where donations are made to developmentally disabled persons.

### **WHAT DOES THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION OFFER ITS MEMBERS?**

The organization has a hospitalization plan where members can join for \$25 a year and receive up to \$500 in medical expenses per year. We are also working on other benefits for our members.

### **WHO ARE OUR PATRON SAINTS?**

The patron saints of the organization are St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

### **DOES THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION HAVE A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION?**

The organization has a newspaper "*The Bollettino*" which is published 11 times a year. It gives information on I.C.F. areas of interest plus reports of branches throughout the Federation.

The I.C.F. also has a web site, [www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org), which details all about the organization and provides up-to-date information for the use of the members.

### **HOW MANY PERSONS ARE NEEDED TO FORM A BRANCH?**

It is usually required that there be 35 persons to start a branch. When this number is achieved the Expansion Team will instruct the members and provide in-depth information for this new branch.

### **WHERE CAN ONE OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION?**

One can access the web site at [www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org) or call our office located in Oakland, CA at 888-423-1924.