



BOLLETTINO



A Magical Christmas Celebration

Laurice Levine and Pat Mages

The 2nd Annual Christmas party at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) was held on December 7th, 2018. "Christmas is Magic" was the theme of the party and magic was definitely in the air as 200 kids, families, Red Cell Staff, and ICF celebrated with a catered dinner/dessert, DJ, photobooth, facepainting, and arts and crafts. Two Clowns, a Magician and Facepainter brought a lot of laughter to all and the famous Chicken (played by the beloved Marie Antonowicz) led the crowd in a festive dance. Santa Claus was THE

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Welcome Back Branch 82!--St. Anne!

The Italian Catholic Federation is thrilled to announce the relaunch of St. Anne's, Branch 82, in Lodi, California. With the diligent work and perseverance of the Local Expansion Team of Lisa Fugazi, Mike Rossi, Marcie Rossi and members of the Church of St. Anne's they successfully rejuvenated this branch with an official inauguration date of December 1, 2018.

In keeping with ICF's dedication to promoting activities that build faith and family spirit, Branch 82 offers renewed inspiration for building membership and bringing men women and children of all ages together in the new year.

Michael Rossi, Grand Parliamentarian, Past GP acted as Master of Ceremony at the inauguration which was joyfully attended by Central Council members inattendance included: Grand President Andy Pappani, Grand 1st Vice President Vince Piro, Grand Treasurer Denise Antonowicz, Grand Parliamentarian and Past GP Michael Rossi, Grand Trustee Dante Galeazzi,

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Advice from New Branch President

Lisa Fugazi

Bringing Branch 82 back to life has been a challenging task. However, it has been a lot of fun. I have met many new people who are wonderful and very helpful. I am so glad that I decided to get Branch 82 up and running again because we have a great group of people who have signed up as charter members and who have some great ideas that will benefit our community and parish.

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Clockwise from upper right: (1) New Branch 82 President Lisa Fugazi; (2) Charter members of Branch 82; (3) Cerri and Leonar with Santa; (4) Lou and Nathan; (5) Pat and Denise; (6) Thalassemia Party Staff; (7) Christmas clowns at Thalassemia Children's Hospital Christmas party; (8) ICF Chicken and Handler.

Grand President's Monthly Message

Andrew Pappani

Happy New Year to all my Italian Catholic Federation family and friends. Here it is 2019! I am very excited heading into the New Year—so many things to do but never enough time to get all of them done. We all have our New Year's resolution set. Mine is to help our branches to grow. One branch at a time, hand in hand, we will be there to help rejuvenate branches throughout the Italian Catholic Federation and looking to open new branches. This last year we open three new branches, two were reopening older branches. "This is my goal."



In this last year, we have had devastation amongst our members including fires in northern and southern California. Please make it your promise to keep them in your prayers.

We are heading into Installation of New Officers at the Branch and District level. I want to take this time to thank the past officers for their commitment to our Federation over the last year and congratulate the newly elected officers for taking on the commitment for this upcoming year. Your hard work is greatly appreciated by all. We must always be looking for new members to recruit. This is how we can keep our branches alive and develop new leadership to take us into the future.

"The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize."

-Pope Paul VI

"Don't Make Assumptions. Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life"

-Don Miguel Ruiz

God Bless the Italian Catholic Federation!

Andrew J. Pappani, Grand President

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

BOLLETTINO

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Happy New Year All Year?

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director



Last year I wrote that 2017 wasn't such a good year, so I said let's make 2018 a happy New Year, all year. Alas, I don't think 2018 was such a good year either; too many disasters! All kinds of scary events took place. Floods, fires, drought, senseless massacres of innocent people, killings of police, killings by police, murders among gangs, opioid epidemics, more and more abuse of illegal drugs, sex trafficking, suicide bombings in various places throughout the world, the killing of innocent people in the Middle East. The list goes on and on. The television schedule

shows one crime show after another. Our government seems to be full of intrigue, scandal and political unrest. Misogyny is rampant. Xenophobia is rampant. Racism is rampant. Degradation of women continues to plague the world.
Our society is in one big mess! We have made such big advances in the fields of science, medicine and technology, and yet we seem to be stuck in a social muck. What's going on? The world seems to lack moral awareness. How can this be? Simply put, God has been expunged from our society. When God is left out, bold, self-serving disregard for humanity becomes the norm.

*So I'll say it again.
Let's make 2019 a good
year, all year.*

How do we do that? **We start with ourselves. Make Jesus a personal friend. Make Him the best of all our best friends. Bring Jesus into our families. Let every member of our families know that Jesus is a real part of our everyday life. Talk about Jesus as if He is present and involved with us.**

In our ICF family, too, make Jesus a



part of our meetings and events. He is a member of the ICF and everyone should know it: by prayer and by symbols. If we live with Jesus in our lives, EVERY DAY, we can create an avalanche of hope and love in the world. It would be life-changing! It would be world-changing!

Faith, Hope and Love! That's a recipe for a happy, healthy, holy New Year. If this is a contagious disease, I wish that the whole world would catch it. If this is wishful thinking, then I am wishing with all my heart.

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Important Notice

The new email address for ALL Bollettino submissions is:

editor@icf.org

All other email addresses being used for Bollettino submissions will be terminated on December 31, 2018.

We have made this change so that it will be tied directly to the Italian Catholic Federation for a more professional look and better managing of incoming email.

All image and article submissions need to be sent in an electronic format.

Those submissions not sent in an electronic format or those articles sent in the mail will not be used.

Finally, a reminder that ALL branch and district reports need to adhere to the 250 max word count requirement or they will be shortened or possibly excluded entirely based on editor judgement. Limit photos to 3 or 4 and include captions.

Please keep your submission positive and informative.

Thank you!

2018-2019 Central Council Contact and Committee Information

Listed below are email addresses for the current Central Council Members. Their email address will apply for all current positions held by the Central Council Members including any Central Council committee chairmanship positions indicated.



Name	Committee(s) Chaired	Email
Denise Antonowicz	Finance, Heritage	dantonowicz@icf.org
Robert Basuino	Ways and Means	rbasuino@icf.org
David Botta		dbotta@icf.org
Monsignor Daniel Cardelli		dcardelli@icf.org
Lisa Crudo	Hospitalization	lcrudo@icf.org
Jane Dianda		jdianda@icf.org
Steve Fuentes		sfuentes@icf.org
Dante Galeazzi	Scholarship	dgaleazzi@icf.org
Theresa Helfand	Gifts of Love	thelfand@icf.org
Roselynn Jarrett	Convention Directors	rjarrett@icf.org
Lauren Kilcullen	Apostolate/Charity, Workshop	lkilcullen@icf.org
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.	Live to Give	flopes@icf.org
Pat Mages	Membership	pmages@icf.org
Ken Marshall		kmarshall@icf.org
Andy Pappani		apappani@icf.org
Vince Piro	Mentor, Task Force	vpiro@icf.org
Frank Re		fre@icf.org
Deborah Rodondi		drodondi@icf.org
Leonard Rossi		lrossi@icf.org
Michael Rossi	By-Laws and Ritual, Expansion	mrossi@icf.org
Leonard Zasoski, Jr.	Public Relations	lzasoski@icf.org

Spiritual Director

Continued from page 2

This year, plan to do one good deed you have never done before. Give to a charity, heal a broken relationship, and volunteer to help where there is a need. If everyone did just one thing, It cannot help but make an impact on society.

May all of you in the ICF and all the people in our country and, yes, all the people in the world have this kind of a

Happy New Year
all year long!

Branch 82 Relaunch

Continued from Page 1

Life Member Rose Jarrett, new CC Member Frank Re.

During the ceremony, Robert Pachinger, Mentor Branch 82 presented the Branch Banner while GP Pappani initiated all charter members present. Officer Installation Marshals, Denise Antonowicz and Dante Galeazzi, assisted in the proceedings.

The branch will be led by the newly elected

Branch Officers:

- President: Lisa Fugazi
- 1st Vice President: Tony Vaccarezza
- 2nd Vice President: Julia Baumbach
- Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Patty Litts
- Financial Secretary: Elisa Moberly
- Treasurer: Donna Giacomina
- Orator: Deborah Fitzpatrick
- Trustees: Elizabeth Brusa, Linda Fugazi, Grace Puccinelli
- Sentinels: Lou Fugazi, Ron Fugazi
- Chaplain: Deacon Karl Welsbacher
- Mentor: Robert Pachinger, from Branch 413 Angels Camp

The inaugural meeting showed great promise. The branch already raised \$560 from raffle prizes at the event. Their next branch meeting is Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Dominican Hall.

For more information about the branch, please contact President Lisa Fugazi, lisafugazi@sbcglobal.net.

Branch 82 serves as an example of the all the good we accomplish when working together within the mission and goals of the Italian Catholic Federation.



President Lisa Fugazi receiving charter from GP Andy Pappani



CC members attending inauguration of Br. 82



Welcome cake from Br. 82



Branch 82 Officers with GP Andy Pappani

Plan to Incorporate Charitable and Apostolic Acts throughout the Year

Lauren Kilcullen
Apostolate-Charity Chair

The Italian Catholic Federation is known for its many charitable and apostolic works and this should be at the forefront of our calendars in 2019. Doing good works is one of the reasons the Federation was started in 1924 and joining an apostolate and charitable organization is one of the main reasons many members join the ICF.

On a Federation-wide level, districts, branches and members are encouraged to support our charities: Cooley's Anemia, Gifts of Love, Scholarships and the Providenza Fund.

Besides these Federation-wide charities, members can do much good assisting their local parishes and community organizations. Create a "Giving Calendar" for your branch and plan on at least one charitable activity per month. Some suggestions are:

January: Participate in a local "One Warm Coat" giveaway. Encourage members to bring coats to the branch meetings.

February: Have a blood drive. Laurice Levine is willing to assist branches in organizing a blood drive.

March: Send in your branch's donations for 1st year Scholarships and have an outreach program to your local high schools to encourage applicants.

April: Donate Easter baskets for children in local homeless shelters.

May: Purchase bouquets for mothers in local rest homes and deliver them on Mother's Day.

June: Donate a scholarship for an 8th grader in your parish school to attend high school.

July: Donate to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year scholarship program.

August: Send in donations for Cooley's Anemia to be given at the Annual Convention.

September: Sponsor a "Stuff a Backpack" program for local school children. Purchase backpacks and school supplies to fill them.

October: Donate to your District's Seminary Burse and the Providenza Fund. November: Host a dinner for veterans in your branch and local community.

December: Feed the homeless at a local shelter one day; collect toys for "Toys for Tots"; make your branch's end of year donations to your parish and school.

In 2019, please make a renewed commitment to continue the Federation's legacy of Apostolic and Charitable giving.

Help Yourself/Help Others

Christmas Party

Continued from Page 1

highlight of the night and there was certainly an abundance of gifts, in fact there were enough to use for patient birthdays for the year to come.

The CHLA Thalassemia Team and most especially the patients and families would like to extend their wholehearted gratitude to the ICF for making this event possible. Especially the LA District under the direction of district President Pat Mages. The hard work and dedication of the volunteers both for the wrapping party and the Christmas party was boundless. The evening was truly magical and memorable!

Special Thanks to the following:

- Joyce, Natalie and Liam Allesandro
Dianna Amper.
Marie, Denise, Germaine and Michelle Antonowicz
Connie Bohanon
RoseMary Brougher
Marianne Cannetti
Karen and Michael Cerri
Marty and John Cirone
Maria DeSalguero
LuAnne Donahue and Family
Rita Downey
Charlene, Steve and Mary Margrette Drobeck
Carol Eller
Annemarie Ellington
Ginny and Gary Ethier
Linda Fabry



Farrugia and Lacorte at the Christmas Party



Joy family at the Christmas Party

- Carol and Jerry Farrugia
Nancy and Ludwig Fraines
Anne Interrante
Kristine Kaiser
Eric LaBree
Aileen and Katie LaCorte
Andrea Linn
Pat and Lou Mages
Adriana and John Maggiora
Renee Mata
Ryuko, Helena, Amanda and Mickey Murano

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Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza
Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

RECEIVED AS OF DEC 8, 2018:

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
Barbara Torigiani	Officers/Members of Br. 403
Father Philip Ronan Brennan	Officers/Members of Br. 342
Josetta Matteri	Officers/Members of Br. 144
Lena Castiglioni	Officers/Members of Br. 21
Irene Kraus Danks	Antoinette and Angelo Pecora
Edward Sacca	Officers/Members of East Bay
District	
Rosalie De Santi	Officers/Members of East Bay
	District
Yvonne Borella	Millie Franzoni

GET WELL WISHES:	
Bob Dianda	Officers/Members of Br. 91
David Biggio	Officers/Members of Br. 161
Theresa Rosser	Officers/Members of Br. 161

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 2018 BISHOP’S DAY:	
Grand President Andy Pappani	Officers/Members of Los
	Angeles Archdiocese District

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:	
Alma Bonino	Joe and Julie Bonino

MERRY CHRISTMAS WISHES:	
Deacon Mark Ruiz	Officers/Members of Br. 342

*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

RECEIVED AS OF DEC 8, 2018:

1st Year
Carol Tacci
In honor of the 80th birthday of
Loretta Wilson
2nd - 4th Year
Giulia Gallego
In honor of the birthday of Loretta
Wilson

Cooley's Anemia
Donations

RECEIVED AS OF DEC 8, 2018:

Branch 13
Branch 54
Branch 432
Officers/Members of Br. 308
In memory of Jube Najarian
Officers/Members of Br. 308
In memory of Regina Sheldrake
Bunny Filice
In memory of Julia Viarengo
Officers/Members of Br. 213
In honor of Barbara Gabriel
Johanna Tacci
In honor of the 80th birthday of
Loretta Wilson
Charles P. Gullo, Jr.
In memory of Joseph Kuzinich
Charles P. Gullo, Jr.
In memory of Vincent Cala

Gifts of Love
Donations

RECEIVED AS OF DEC 8, 2018:

Branch 423
Officers/Members of Br. 403
In memory of Alberta Rizzato
Officers/Members of Br. 213
In honor of Deborah Rodondi
Toni Morsello
In memory of Mary Zadra
Joan and Jerry Delfino
In memory of Gus Mauroudis
Officers/Members of Br. 291
In memory of Marylou Halsteen
Officers/Members of Br. 291
In memory of Robert McLean
Officers/Members of Br. 291
In memory of Richard Quain
Evelyn Taravella
In memory of Gus Mauroudis
Officers/Members of Br. 213
In honor of Dorene Campanile
Marie Amoroso
In memory of Barbara Torigiani
Lorraine and Mike Nunziata
In memory of Constantin “Gus”
Mauroudis
Bob and Elaine Osorio
In memory of Gus Mauroudis
Officers/Members of Br. 342
Merry Christmas wishes for Fr.
Michael Carroll
Officers/Members of Br. 342
Merry Christmas wishes for
Deacon John Sheehan

Welcome to Our New Members! (as of Dec 8, 2018)

Julia Baumbach	Branch 082	John Kaehler	Branch 082
Elizabeth Brusa	Branch 082	Joseph Kaehler	Branch 082
Vincent J Contino	Branch 082	Mark J Kaehler	Branch 082
Deborah Fitzpatrick	Branch 082	Stephanie Kaehler	Branch 082
Angelina C Fugazi	Branch 082	Patty A Litts	Branch 082
Isabella M Fugazi	Branch 082	Carmelo Maggio	Branch 082
Linda M Fugazi	Branch 082	Mary Ann Maggio	Branch 082
Lisa M Fugazi	Branch 082	Elisa R Moberly	Branch 082
Louis F Fugazi	Branch 082	Anthony Moles	Branch 082
Ron B Fugazi	Branch 082	John R Mondavi	Branch 082
Viviana C Fugazi	Branch 082	Annette Murdaca	Branch 082
Greg Gerlomes	Branch 082	Jim Murdaca	Branch 082
Jeanette Gerlomes	Branch 082	Giuseppe Puccinelli	Branch 082
Donna J Giacom	Branch 082	Grace Puccinelli	Branch 082
Arianna A Gorbet	Branch 082	Lorenzo Puccinelli	Branch 082
Brian L Gorbet	Branch 082	John R Spagnola	Branch 082
Centhia A Gorbet	Branch 082	Anthony Vaccarezza	Branch 082
Johnathan R Gorbet	Branch 082	Anna M Vieira	Branch 082
Nathan G Gorbet	Branch 082	Deacon Karl M Welsbacher	Branch 082
Marie Grady	Branch 082	Thelma M Welsbacher	Branch 082
Nancy Jo Jensen	Branch 082	Christine L Whiting	Branch 082
Lorraine (Lori) Johnston	Branch 082	Francesca Taylor	Branch 102
Annette L Kaehler	Branch 082	Linda Frugoli	Branch 332
Bernadette M Kaehler	Branch 082		

In Loving Memory (as of Dec 8, 2018)

Deceased Members		Guy E Francoz	Branch 161
Mary Zadra	Branch 001	Robert Mc Lean	Branch 291
Alba Rigali	Branch 006	Richard E Quain	Branch 291
Evelyn M Hinckley	Branch 036	Gus "Music Man" Mavroudis	Branch 368
Domenico Mineo	Branch 036	Don Monteleone	Branch 374
Rosalie De Santi	Branch 040	Joe Vinci	Branch 374
Joseph Dellaquila	Branch 075	Olive Defrancisci	Branch 408
William Hartnett	Branch 075	Richard Defrancisci	Branch 408
Carmelo Di Vincenzo	Branch 111	Lydia Modugno	Branch 418
Josetta Matteri	Branch 144		
Vilma Costa	Branch 154		
Virginia M Davis	Branch 154		
Joseph Meneghelli	Branch 154		



2018-2019 Central Council Officers and Members

OFFICERS:

Grand President Andrew Pappani* (Siria), Br. 28	Steven Fuentes*, Br. 327 Roselynn Jarrett*, Br. 72 Kenneth Marshall (Elizabeth), Br. 103 Frank Re (Valerie), Br. 139 Leonard Rossi, O.L.J.* (Karen), Br. 343
Grand 1st Vice President Vincent Piro (Robyn), Br. 39	
Grand 2nd Vice President Deborah Rodondi, Br. 19	
Grand Secretary Lauren Kilcullen, Br. 52	
Grand Treasurer Denise Antonowicz, Br. 184	
Grand Parliamentarian Mike Rossi, O.L.J.* (Marcie), Br. 39	
Grand Trustee Dante Galeazzi* (Julie), Br. 139	
Grand Trustee Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Br. 227	
Grand Trustee Patricia Mages (Louis), Br. 380	
Grand Sentinel Teresa Helfand (Cory), Br. 392	
Past Grand President Leonard Zasoski, Jr.* (Betty), Br. 281	
Spiritual Director Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli, Br. 352	

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Robert Basuino*, Br. 191
David Botta* (Pat), Br. 14
Lisa Crudo, Br. 343
Jane Dianda*, Br. 91

LIFE MEMBERS EMERITUS:

Robert Acquistapace (Kathy), Br. 198
Jody Balestrieri, Br. 229
Michael Cannady (Donna), Br. 154
Nettie Descalso-Del Nero, Br. 39
Robert Dianda, K.S.G. (Theresa), Br. 91
James Jones (Janice), Br. 191
Carmen Kilcullen (Larry), Br. 52
Nina Malone, Br. 342
Vincent Picciola (Diane), Br. 358
Leroy Taddei (Stella), Br. 343

MEMBERS EMERITUS:

Gerald Delfino (Joan), Br. 368
Maria Di Paolo, Br. 379
Frances Foglia-Teglia, Br. 19
Marco Galeazzi (Diane), Br. 139
Angelina Iarossi-Armenio (Tony), Br. 218
Forrest Price (Prudence), Br. 261
Louisa Russo, Br. 210
Joseph Santello (Catherine), Br. 358
Frank Signorelli, Br. 291
Helen Tatone, Br. 443
Chris Valentini (Elizabeth), Br. 14

*denotes life member
(Revised 9/18)



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

If so, Laurice Levine, Thalassemia Program Consultant for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, would be honored to come and speak at one of your branch meetings or any special event.

Contact Information:

(360) 860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com

It does not matter how small or how large your branch is, the goal is to educate everyone on Cooley's Anemia and the great work the ICF does for this cause.

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

Vice President Construction Operations
Director of Safety
Cell: 661-978-5622



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General Contractors
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December Calendar Winners

Day	Name	Br	City	Amount
12/1	Nina Malone	342	Roseville, CA	\$30
12/2	Vic & Pat Arnaudo	1	Daly City, CA	\$30
12/3	Lauren Kilcullen	52	Healdsburg, CA	\$30
12/4	Robert Rodondi		So. San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/5	Josephine Lencioni	33	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
12/6	David Botta	14	Crockett, CA	\$30
12/7	Charlyne Pacini	135	Reno, NV	\$40
12/8	Marie Antonowicz	184	Los Gatos, CA	\$50
12/9	Henry Fleischmann	433	Tucson, AZ	\$30
12/10	Jody Balestrieri	229	Chula Vista, CA	\$30
12/11	Tina Souza-Dutra 5		San Jose, CA	\$30
12/12	Roger & Kathy Santos	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
12/13	Kathryn Acquistapace	198	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
12/14	Alice Rose	362	Downey, CA	\$30
12/15	Margaret Mariani	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
12/16	Ed & Amy Sarubbi		San Ramon, CA	\$30
12/17	Branch	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
12/18	Rosalind Crudo	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
12/19	Al Bruzzone	154	Richmond, CA	\$30
12/20	Joe Teresi, Jr.		Millbrae, CA	\$30
12/21	Branch	230	San Diego, CA	\$30
12/22	Laura Silva		Napa, CA	\$30
12/23	David Madej	91	San Leandro, CA	\$30
12/24	Veronica Peery	214	Concord, CA	\$50
12/25	Theresa Keaney		Livermore, CA	\$100
12/26	Marie D'Asaro	327	San Mateo, CA	\$30
12/27	Theresa Shaw	108	South Pasadena, CA	\$30
12/28	Lois Brenkwitz	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
12/29	Marie Martin	73	Roseville, CA	\$30
12/30	Damien Watlkins	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$40

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SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

District Installations

Jan. 5th	Santa Clara Valley
Jan. 6th	Stockton
Jan. 13th	San Francisco
Jan. 19th	Joint Installation of Br. 144, Arcata and Br. 145, Eureka
Jan. 19th	San Bernardino San Mateo Tucson
Jan. 20th	East Bay
Jan. 26th	Blessed Sacrament Contra Costa
Jan. 27th	Los Angeles Archdiocese San Diego

Intallations continued

Jan. 27th	Los Angeles Archdiocese San Diego
Feb. 10th	Fresno
Feb. 23rd	Central Coast Orange

Bishops' Days

Jan. 19th	Tucson
Feb. 23rd	Orange
Apr. 28th	San Francisco, San Mateo & Marin
Jun. 23rd	Stockton

Gifts of Love Program Ready for 2019

by **Theresa Helfand, Gifts of Love Chair**

Time to Send Applications to the ICF Office

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope and pray that the holidays were a time of grace and blessings for you and your families. Now a New Year is upon us and we would like to select recipients for our 2019 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 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. Web site (www.icf.org). Applications should either be mailed to the I.C.F. Office at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621 or e-mailed to the I.C.F. Office at info@icf.org.

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! Our next meeting will be in February.

If you would like more information about the Gifts of Love program, please contact Committee Chairwoman Teresa Helfand at thelfand@icf.org

Happy New Year and God Bless You,

Teresa Helfand

Gifts of Love Chair



2019 1st Year Scholarship Program

by **Dante Galeazzi
Scholarship Chair**

Materials on the 1st Year Scholarship Program were sent to high schools after Thanksgiving, have now been sent to the Districts and Branches in the January mailing and are available on our I.C.F. website www.icf.org via a link on the homepage as well as in the documents in the Officers' Portal.

The Deadline for Donations and Applications is March 15, 2019. Please discuss participating in the program at your meetings by making a donation of a full scholarship of \$400.00, if possible, or a partial donation of any amount. Partial Donations do help to make other scholarships possible when that money is grouped together. Individual Donations are welcomed as well. Please encourage your children, grandchildren or anyone you know who is eligible to apply. They can contact their high school counselors about the Italian Catholic Federation 1st Year \$400.00 Scholarship or they can download the application using the link on the homepage of the I.C.F. website.

These are the eligibility requirements for students:

A High School Senior, a total cumulative GPA (3 ½ years) of at least 3.2 and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2:
1) Are Roman Catholic and of Italian Descent and live within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Arizona, California, Illinois and Nevada, only where Branches of the Federation are established. or 2) Are Roman Catholic but need not be of Italian Descent or live where Branches of the Federation are established if either Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" - membership of a Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is mandatory for #2.

Please visit or call your local high schools where you would like to see applicants come from and make sure that they are promoting our scholarship program and have applications available.

If you have any questions or applications are needed, please call the ICF office toll-free at 1-888-423-1924.

Mother Cabrini Shrine

by **Carmelo Sabatella**

Thank you Members who staffed and supported this year's ICF Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage, Mass and Luncheon on December 2nd. Thank you also to Parishioners and members who supported this annual event again with another successful year where attendees were also given an added bonus: a first look at the newly produced movie "Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint". Copies of this film are available for sale on DVD in English and Italian.

The next Cabrini Chapel Open House is on Sunday, February 10, 2019 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and will be hosted by members of the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council. Please add the Chapel to your Branch's list of places to visit in 2019 and bring the family to learn more about one of the ICF's Patroness Saints and the Catholic Church's first American Saint. For more information regarding the above or to make a donation to help the Chapel continue with this annual event and help maintain the Shrine facility, please call 626 372-7812.

Ci Vediamo presto!

Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President
ICF LAADC Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee
E cas1810@aol.com



Want to Learn about Cooley's Anemia?

By **Laurice Levine**

As you know, the ICF's National Charity is Cooley's Anemia (also called Thalassemia). I am a 46-year-old patient living with Thalassemia and have been collaborating with the ICF since 1999 on educating the ICF community and raising awareness on Cooley's Anemia. Currently, I work with Dr. Coates at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (where the funds are donated to) and help oversee the annual ICF donation. When an individual or organization donates to charity, I think it is vitally important to know where your money goes and how it is spent. That is why I have been working to travel to branches and provide a presentation on Cooley's which includes what it is, who it affects, how the ICF got involved, and how funds are used. I also share my own personal story in an effort to put a face to the charity that you so generously support.

I have been to some branches countless time and others not at all, but my goal is to go to each branch at least once. If you and your members are interested in having me come speak (at no cost to you of course), I would be honored. It can be a regular branch meeting or a branch or district event--I am happy to speak to anyone --whether it is 5 people or 150 everyone is worth my time. I am fairly flexible with dates and times given notice, so please let me know if you are interested and when. Thank you for your continued dedication and support to Cooley's Anemia.

Contact Information:

Laurice Levine

360-860-2023

LLevine430@aol.com

Family Recipes

Deborah Rodondi
Grand 2nd Vice President



be trying it out at the February Branch dinner meeting. This would make a great Valentine Day dessert.

The first time I made it, I thought it was undercooked and too moist. So I thought I would cook the cake a little longer and maybe add a little more flour. Then I researched and found out that this is the way it is suppose to be. My nephew Tony (I have mentioned him many times before) was one of my first testers and he pronounced it perfect the way it was. Tony along with several others mentioned it tasted like a soft biscotti.

This is a must try, it is easy to make yet tastes like you picked it up from a specialty bakery. My opinion is the reason it has such great flavor is the amount of butter in the recipe.

ITALIAN ALMOND CAKE

- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup melted butter
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla extract

2 tsp. almond extract

½ tsp. salt

¾ cup shaved or sliced almonds

Blend sugar with melted butter, beat in eggs, add almond and vanilla extracts. Stir in salt and flour.

Spread batter into a 9 inch round greased pan. I use a tart pan or a spring form pan, as it has a removable bottom. Sprinkle with 1 tsp. sugar and the shaved almonds. I pat the almonds down a little, so it sticks in the batter better.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Cake will be a golden brown. Since it is a dense cake it is only about 1-1 ½ inches high.

Cool and remove from pan. Displays beautifully on a flat cake dish.

Cutting in about 1 inch slices will give you about 16 slices.

Try this recipe out, guaranteed you will wow your friends and be the talk of the town!!!

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@icf.org 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!

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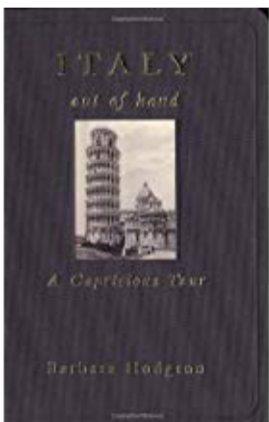
Literature Review: Eclectic Tour Books of Italy

Vince Piro
Grand 1st Vice President

This month I review two books that visitors to Italy will find both useful and fun. Italy is a country with a complex and, at times, confusing history that can leave the tourist baffled and bewildered. Two books, Italy Out of Hand and Little Facts about Well Known Place: Italy attempt to straighten out the facts and give the reader insights into this wonderful country where the unknown history is often more interesting than the official history.

Italy Out of Hand: A Capricious Tour
by Barbara Hodgson

Chronicle Books, 2005. 208 pp.



Little Known Facts about Well Known Places: Italy

by David Hoffman

Metro Books, 2008. 109 pp.

In Italy Out of Hand: A Capricious Tour, Barbara Hodgson writes a book that is not your traditional guidebook. It does not offer tourist information, such as tips for

travel, information on tourist attractions, or recommendations for hotels and restaurants. However, it is a fascinating guide to a fantastical country. In the introduction, Hodgson describes her book this way: “This is not a guidebook; it has no hotels, and few restaurants, and all the maps are at least 80 years old. Italy Out of Hand concentrates, instead, on oddities: long-lost facts, strange personalities, and unorthodox behaviors that erupted over the course of its nearly 3000-year history . . .”

Hodgson arranges the book according to various regions and cities throughout Italy: Genova, Milano, Padova, Pisa, Roma, Napoli, Sicilia and more. Each chapter gives the reader very brief essays on famous Italians, art, history, and culture, focusing not on the official history of Italy but on little known and unusual facts that make the country so interesting.

When “touring” Florence, Hodgson tells the terrifying tale of San Lorenzo. In 1791, the Grand Duke of Tuscany had 49 corpses of the Medici family interred in a subterranean vault of the Medici Chapel. In 1871, almost one hundred years later, the keepers of the church decided to open the vault in order to move the corpses into

the chapel proper. What they found was horrifying. Someone, possibly thieves, had beaten them there and they discovered “Rats scuttling in and out of shattered coffins. The bones of those not embalmed had been flung about. Those who had been preserved gazed upon their discoverers with dark and maniacal expressions on their wizened faces. Rings had been torn off fingers, and bracelets and necklaces off wrists and necks . . .” Giovanni delle Bande Nere’s corpse was trapped in his rusted armor and had to be extracted from his “metal sarcophagus.”

When “touring” Milano, Hodgson gives the reader the history of the Ambrosiana Library. Founded by Cardinal Federico Borromeo in 1609, the library is assumed to be named after St. Ambrose, but “the distinctive and not unpleasant odor permeating the building suggests an alternative origin.” Even Dante commented on the fragrant aroma when he described the library, “With such an odor as ambrosia has.” Several famous visitors have been given permission to roam freely among the library’s many treasures, but by the time Mary Shelley, the famous writer of Frankenstein, visited, patrons were closely observed by the staff for fear of theft. In fact, a visitor had attempted to steal Petrarch’s annotated manuscript of Virgil.

In a brief side-bar, Hodgson also tells the reader about Leon Battista Alberti who wrote art appreciation books and how-to guides on subjects such as sculpture and architecture. “His Della Pittura,” on painting, included tips on making dead people look dead.”

Italy Out of Hand is a beautifully designed book, full of pictures, interesting side-bars, maps, and drawings, intended to capture

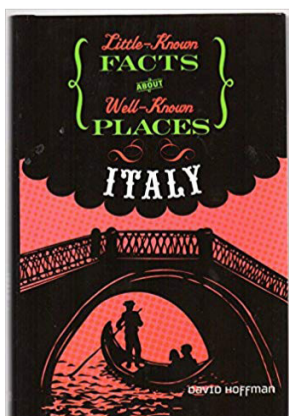
and please the reader’s eye. Compact and sturdy enough for a carry-on bag, it would make a fine companion for any traveler to Italy, but it is also attractive enough for a coffee table. However, what the reader will enjoy most is Hodgson’s “idiosyncratic tour of a country that is too overwhelming and extravagant for many of us to comprehend without a little assistance.”

Little-Known Facts about Well Known Places: Italy by David Hoffman is a follow-up volume to the author’s popular Little-Known Facts about Well Known Stuff. The author “goes beyond the obvious to reveal tidbits that we have yet to discover. Covering every aspect – from food, film, and fashion to people, history, and art – these collections of offbeat facts and figures are guaranteed to delight a first-time visitor or jaded local.” Little Known Facts is full of interesting facts and stories that the traveler to Italy would find interesting.

For instance, Hoffman explains that “Turin may produce more chocolate annually than France and Germany combined, but it is not the only chocolate center in Italy. A relatively undiscovered area of Tuscany, about 40 miles west of Florence, has recently been dubbed the Chocolate Valley *because of the high concentration of high-end chocolatiers* – including Amedei, Paul de Bondt, Roberto Catinari, and Luca Mannori – based there.”

Hoffman also explains that in Italy the average person eats 61 pounds of pasta per year. However, in Sicily that number goes up to 92 pounds per year! Did you know that there are 600 shapes of pasta and that it takes 6.5 billion gallons of water to boil all the pasta consumed in Italy each year?

Continued on Page 8



Order Your New ICF Brochures

A beautiful new ICF brochure is available now for use by all branches. This is a great marketing tool to distribute to guests at monthly membership meetings, information tables at branch events, and for membership drives. On the inside of the brochure, there is a reserved area to place your branch contact information. Please contact the ICF Office at (888) ICF-1924 to have brochures sent to your branch.



Literature Review

Continued from Page 7

Adults interested in Italy will appreciate Hoffman’s volume is a light, fun, fact-filled book. It is part of a series of books on different places, including Disneyland, New York, and Paris.

Both *Italy Out of Hand: A Capricious Tour* and *Little Known Facts about Well Known Places: Italy* are offbeat but valuable traveling companions. You might not want to throw away your Michelin or DK Eyewitness travel guides, but you’ll want to pack these books along as well.

Look for chances to take the less-traveled roads. There are no wrong turns.
-Susan Magsamen

Advice from Fugazi

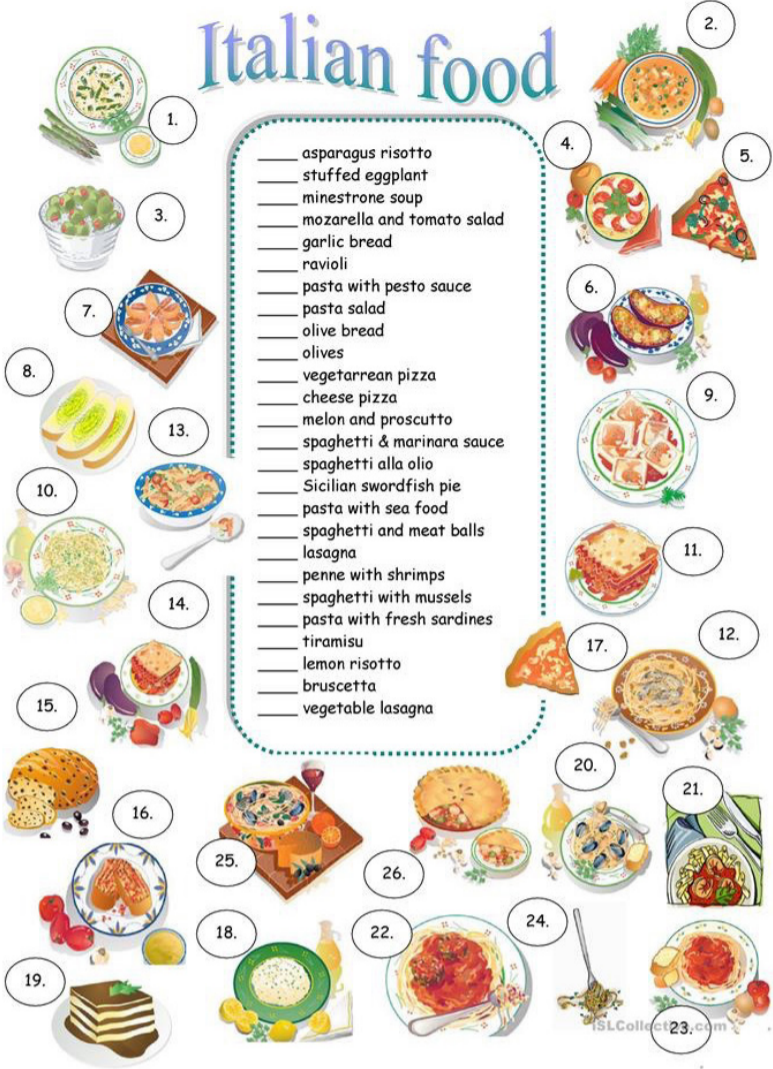
Continued from Page 1

After attending the Inauguration ceremony and seeing how much fun we had, I am super excited to get started with planning our next event. I love the fact that the ICF celebrates both the Catholic faith and the Italian heritage. I have always been proud to be Italian and it's just a lot of fun to celebrate the Catholic faith with other proud Italians.

One of the challenges I faced in getting the branch started was getting approval from my parish. I had to give a presentation before various groups who then had to vote to approve the reopening of our branch. I also had to agree to be a participant in our parish's petal committee. While I have had to expend a lot of my time and energy to get Branch 82 reopened, I do not regret it at all. My advice to anyone wanting to start a new branch is to be persistent, be willing to commit your time and energy, and make sure you have a great mentor, like Mike Rossi, who will guide you through each

step. I really wonder if I would have been able to get the branch reopened if I did not have the help I received from Mike and Marcie. They were so knowledgeable and wonderful. This has been a very exciting time and I look forward to many more fun experiences and adventures with the ICF,

Zona Divertimento



Source: en.islcollective.com

Italy

U	V	A	T	I	C	A	N	C	I	T	Y	R	E
I	T	A	L	Y	A	T	N	A	Y	M	V	O	O
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SAN MARINO
NAPLES
VATICAN CITY
ITALY
MEDITERRANEAN
PASTA
FLORENCE
VENICE
SICILY
PIZZA
SARDINIA
COLOSSEUM
MILANO
ITALIAN
PO RIVER
EUROPE
ROME

starting with the trip to England, Scotland, and Ireland in April.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!!!

Surround yourself with good people; surround yourself with positivity and people who are going to challenge you to make you better. -Ali Krieger

Source: <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9023>

The History of Live to Give

Laurice Levine

Live to Give Committee

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." ~Aesop

In 2011, under the direction of the ICF Grand President Jane Dianda, the Live to Give Committee was born. The Committee began with the mission to promote blood donation something that the late Past Grand President Richard Valli was also passionate about. Jane's intent in starting the Live to give Committee was to provide additional support, outside of the financial support the ICF gives, to patients with Cooley's Anemia who require routine blood transfusions to survive.

Long ago, the Irwin and Peninsula Blood Banks, now Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP), did specific blood banking for private organizations, however this process is no longer approved by the FDA. Therefore, while the ICF cannot have its own blood bank, we as an organization recognize that donating blood is vital, and therefore encourage our branches and members to plan blood drives and donate blood. The Goals of the Live to Give Committee are as follows:

- Raise awareness and promote the importance of donating blood.
- Dispel myths that exist about blood and blood donation the ICF community.
- Write monthly articles for the ICF Bollettino to educate the community.
- Pay it forward – give blood to replenish

the blood supply.

- Give blood in honor of someone, something, or a disease such as Cooley's Anemia or Cancer. Along these lines, designating donated blood for a specific individual is problematic and costly so what is recommended instead is donating blood in honor of a person or an occasion. We created the ICF Live to Give Post Card for this reason – to give blood in honor of or in memory of someone or to celebrate an occasion.

- Plan an annual blood drive at convention.
- Encourage and assist branches and districts in planning blood drives.

The Live to Give Committee thoroughly enjoys hosting the annual blood drive at convention and blood donation among ICF members has gained a lot of momentum over the past 7 years since the committee's inception. Since the first blood drive in 2012, 202 units of blood were collected. Each unit of blood collected saves 3 lives so in total 606 lives have been saved due to our efforts.

The Live to Give Committee would like to thank all branches and members who support our endeavors.



Grand President Andy Pappani was one of 41 donors who showed up at the 2018 convention blood drive

Interested in Planning a Blood Drive?

Please contact:

Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Central Council Member/Live to Give Committee Chair

Flopes@icf.org

or

Laurice Levine, Medical Consultant/Live to Give Committee Member

LLevine430@aol.com



Have You Purchased Your 2019 ICF Calendar Yet?



Reasons to Consider Buying an ICF Calendar:

- This calendar is an annual project of the Ways and Means Committee and provides funding for many ICF programs throughout the year.
- The theme for 2019 is "Festas Around the World," with fun and informative descriptions and photos of each festa, and recipes provided each month.
- They make great gifts and great raffle prizes.
- Calendars are only \$25, and branches get to keep \$5 from every calendar sold.
- There is a prize drawing for every day each month and the individual or branch whose name is drawn wins between \$30 to \$100, making 365 winners for the year. The name drawn goes back in the drawing immediately for the next day.
- Over 4,100 people have won since this effort began, with a grand total of \$12,400 to be awarded in 2019 alone.

At your next general meeting, please talk to one of your branch officers to learn more!

Arizona

Green Valley Our Lady of the Valley, Br. 425

November was a busy month for our branch. At our monthly meeting, we had members of the Arizona Honor Flight group, a non-profit organization that brings veterans to visit the monuments in Washington, DC. They presented information on how any veteran can apply to attend one of these flights. Several of our veterans in the branch were interested in applying.

Many of our members attended the annual Christmas play at Gaslight Theater in Tucson. This year they did a take on Scrooge with their annual Christmas sing-along. Always a fun evening for our members!

We also held our first major fundraiser of the year, our annual Pasta and Meatball take away dinner, was held Saturday, November 17th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Many hands made light work of the cooking, baking, packing and handing out of the dinners. This fundraiser has become a popular event in our community!

There will be more fundraising in December when we hold our annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale after masses on Sunday, December 16th. Always a sell-out!

And, of course, the annual Christmas Party will once again be held at our local casino, Desert Diamond. Members will enjoy their Sunday brunch buffet on Sunday, December 12th. An optional gift exchange is always fun!

From our branch to yours, Buon Natale a tutti!

Fresno

Madera Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

The November 13th meeting was Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Thanks to the November committee, chairpersons: Jim and Carol Espinola and committee:



Br. 27 Confirmation student Miguel Rodriguez helping ICF toss the salad while ICF member Cari Beveridge supervises.



Br. 27 From left: Miguel Rodriguez, Jennifer Valerosi, Elsie Bottorff, Lori Combs and Lou Janis!



Br. 27 Bake sale crew from left: Lori Combs, Cari Beveridge, Art Berryman and Jim Espinola. Front row Mary Conteras, Elsie Bottorff and Carol Espinola.

Rose Meister, Kathy Parrish, Theresa De-Frank, Marcia Valerosi and Jennifer Valerosi. You all did a great job!

November 17th found many of us helping out the Parish. The church was hosting the dynamic speaker, Patrick Coffin, and needed help with cooking and serving the traditional Italian lunch of pasta and salad. Jennifer Valerosi was in charge of the crew and did a wonderful job coordinating everyone.

The next day, November 18, many members braved the cold to stand outside the church and sell baked goods. The bake sale made over \$600.00 and was sold out by the 11:00 a.m. mass. Hope to see you at the January meeting on the 8th. Roger Rocka's is still in the planning stages for February. Please continue to pray for our ill and injured members.

Ciao,
Kerin Cavallero

Merced St. Cecilia, Br. 39

There was a festive group of revelers at our joint Lodge/ICF Christmas party. We ate a feast of roast chicken, tri-tip, rigatoni and other dishes. Bingo, Christmas music, children's crafts, and of course a visit from Santa added to the holiday cheer. A big thank you to chair Lori Sutton and branch officers.

Our biscotti/cookie sale was a complete success - every cookie crumb sold. We netted about \$2000! Thanks to chairs Janet Pugliese and Maryellen Mazzei, and their host of bakers, baggers, sellers and donations of ingredients. Welcome new helpers Monique Moore, Jan Lorenzi and Mabel Willmon. Everyone's help and effort are always appreciated.

Our dinner meeting is on Wednesday, January 9: 5 p.m. Social Hour. 6 p.m. dinner of homemade Italian sausage with grilled peppers and onions. 7 p.m. meeting. We will celebrate our amazing volunteers with a We Love Our Volunteers awards. Come

and applaud members who give their time and energy for our club. Also, pick up your copy of our branch activity calendar and purchase the 2019 ICF fundraising calendar from Carol Salmeri.

At our February 13 dinner meeting, Maryellen and crew plan to serve roast chicken with risotto. 5 p.m. Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting. We will celebrate our annual We Love Our Members awards night.

Please pray for Michael and Christine Krebs-Belluomini on the recent passing of her Mother. Pray for Carol successful knee replacement operation.

Tutti voi state bene in questa stagione invernale. Stay healthy this winter season!

Stephanie Lucich

Sanger, Branch 70

Happy New Year from Sanger Branch 70!

On Dec 9th we held our annual Christmas party. It was hosted by Ralph and Rosemary Wymenga, who were dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus. We all enjoyed a delicious luncheon of spaghetti and meatballs. Each of the attending members brought a side dish or dessert. We had a wonderful time.

President Kay Lopez announce that Branch 70 will host the installation of officers in Saint Mary's Hall sometime in February.

We send get well wishes, prayers and love to our dear, long-term member Blanch Mendoza, who lives in Anaheim. We hope you feel better quick!

God bless you all.

Orsolina Casella

Bakersfield Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281

Happy New Year!

On Nov. 29th, our branch held its annual charity meeting—which is of vital importance as it centers around the heart of our

organization: giving. Thank you to our hostess, Kathy Scatena, for opening her home to us once again. Thankfully, our branch was blessed to be able to give financial support to many deserving organizations.

We decked the halls on December 1st for our annual Christmas party, and it was a lovely, intimate gathering. All the tables were pushed together for a single, huge, family-style dinner party, and the food was delicious! We also played the infamous saran wrap ball game and the laughter was contagious. We can't forget the cookie-decorating station and the visit from Santa! We were lucky to have the presence of both our long-time branch pastor, Msgr. Michael Braun, as well as the new OLPH pastor, Fr. Hector Lopez. The company could not have been better. Thank you to everyone who helped with the set-up and clean-up for the event, especially my parents, Allen and Crystal Watts, for all the extra work they do, and Teresa Amarante for preparing the cookie-decorating station, including baking all the delicious sugar cookies! It was definitely a memorable party.

Our next meeting will be on January 10—as has become traditional to our branch, we will have a potluck in the OLPH hall to ring in the New Year. Bring a tasty dish to share with our ICF family.

Baci e abbracci,

Kristen Zasoski

Los Angeles Archdiocese

District Council

December began with the annual Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage in Burbank. Highlighting the event was the presentation of the inspiring and beautiful film "Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint". Filmmaker and director Lucia Mauro introduced the film and answered post-show questions.

The 2nd Annual CHLA Thalassemia Christmas Party was a magical and fun evening. The patients and their families were entertained by clowns, magicians, music, craft centers and even a photo booth. And, best of all was having your picture taken with our very own Santa! Enough gifts were collected for all in attendance, the Day Clinic, raffle prizes and more. Laurice Levine, Dr. Coates and the CHLA Thalassemia Staff did an outstanding 'job' of providing a warm and loving place with good food, fun and entertainment. A huge Thank You to all the branches donating toys, toys and more toys!! We had over 60 volunteers from the District. Thanks to the Central Council members, the ICF Chicken (see photo on page 1) and friends who made the long trip to Los Angeles. ICF was at its best Friday night!

January 27, 2019 is the District Installation of Officers; 11am Italian Mass at St. Peter's Italian Church, in Los Angeles.

Lunch at Casa Italiana will follow the Mass and Installation. Contact Pat for more information, (805) 428-4623.

*A Joyous & Healthy 2019 To All,
Pat Mages*

**Los Angeles
St. Peter, Br. 67**

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 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 join St Peter Parishioners on the fourth Sunday of each Month this year.

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



Altar at St. Peter's Italian Catholic Church in Los Angeles, home of Br. 67

**South Pasadena
Holy Family, Br. 10**

Branch members enjoyed celebrating Christmas with family, friends and Santa Claus again this past holiday season. The food was excellent, games fun and gift giving joyous. Thank you to ICF Staff for putting together another successful event.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they may reach a speedy recovery. And to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

Ci Vediamo presto!

Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, Past President

**Montebello
St. Benedict, Br. 111**

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Tanti Auguri per un Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti! A heartfelt Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Joyful, & Prosperous 2019 to everyone!

Our Jan. General Meeting will be Thurs, Jan. 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Augustine



Br. 218 Pictured is Katharine La Corte (center), toy collection organizer, with several students from Alverno Heights Academy

House, 200 N. 12th Street, (corner of Cleveland Ave.) in Montebello. Come join us! Happy Birthday to all members celebrating January birthdays: Anthony DeLorenzo, Cettina Mauro, Kalem Woolum, Joey Wadzinski, Frank Gomez, Frank Salomone and Rita Estrada!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

The 2019 ICF Officer's Installation will be Sun., Jan. 27 at St. Peter's Italian Church in Los Angeles, starting with the 11:00 a.m. Mass, followed with the Installation of officers and luncheon at Casa Italiana. More details will follow.

Mark your calendars - our St. Joseph Table—March 16 & 17 at St. Benedict Parish Hall. The monies raised will allow us to support our parish, offer scholarships to St. Benedict Parish School graduating students, support our clergy and Seminarians, scholarships to graduating high school students, Cooley's Anemia, and other worthwhile charities. Everyone's support is needed to make this a successful event! Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may St. Joseph and God Bless you abundantly.

Pray for our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Happiness quote: *Happiness held is the seed; happiness shared is the flower. May your life be filled with love, peace and harmony!*

Ciao! A Presto.

Frank Salomone

**San Pedro
St. John Joseph of the Cross,
Br. 115**

San Pedro Branch 115 Christmas Party was celebrated with a free dinner to members that attended on December 8. The program included introducing the 2019 officers, playing various games, hitting piñata and a sing-along.

Anita Gioiello Trujillo, Treasurer

**Arcadia
Holy Angeles, Br. 218**

To support the Children's Hospital Los Angeles Thalassemia Holiday Party, one of our junior members, Katharine La Corte,

reached out to Alverno Heights Academy in Sierra Madre, California for assistance in the collection of toys. Alverno Heights Academy, an all girls independent Catholic High School, instills into its students a commitment to serve the community as based upon the Franciscan and Immaculate Heart philosophies. We are grateful for their support as the students collected toys at their November open house. Pictured is Katharine (center) with several students from Alverno. Thank you, Katharine and Alverno Heights Academy! I might add that Katharine is 13 years old and an inspiration to all of us.

A huge thanks to all that helped with our Christmas party, especially Joe Lanera as Santa Claus, and Katharine LaCorte on the flute, Gianni Carrano on the ukulele, and Mathew Scofield on the piano. It was a fun evening for all. Next on the agenda is our St. Joseph's Table – more on this later.

Lolly Magnolia

Gardena, Br. 237

Happy New Year! May this new year be the very best ever!

Our branch is very blessed to have so many contribute to our annual fundraiser, we are able to provide scholarships, and to help many charities with this event, thanks to all.

"for this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one



Br. 237 Junior member Julieta Roa with recent recipients of High School Scholarships. Congratulations to awardees!

*another." 1 John 3:11
Respectfully
Michael Bohannon Roa*

**Claremont
Our Lady of the Assumption,
Br. 319**

Happy New Year!

A new year with a lot of new adventures.

First is installation of new officers, January 27 at St Peters in LA. Thank you to all the outgoing officers for a great year. Congratulations to the new officers.

In February we will be doing coffee and donut plus sausage sandwiches

With the renovation of the church and all activities going on at the northern part of the grounds, we will have to adapt the preparation.

March is St Joseph's table, where to have it located and whether to add the Spaghetti Dinner. More information to follow.

Andrea Linn

Corresponding Secretary

**Temple City
St. Luke, Br. 326**

By the time January 2019 comes to pass, the active membership of Branch 326, will have their fill of festivities and festivals. This is strange for the Branch members, but all the holiday activities and all the eating does take a toll on all. In addition, the bathroom scale usually gets the New Year's resolutions to shed a few pounds going, if only until January 7th.

But what is in full force is our annual fundraiser—the Branch's pancake breakfast in February of the new year. The delicious and delightful pancakes, eggs and sausages, will further erode the resolutions made on New Year's Day. All proceeds go to St. Luke's Scholarship program.

Inspiration quote: *Even in dark times, God is still there. His light still shines.*

Little bit of humor: *You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.*

Tony Farinella

**La Canada Flintridge
St. Bede the Venerable, Br. 374**

Looking forward to 2019, thank you Jack DeZell, our youngest branch president.

Continued on Page 12

Br. 237 President Connie Bohannon and board member, Gerlita Roa, welcome new Pastor Msgr. Sal Pilato!



Irene Vallini

Sacred Heart Council Knights of Columbus

Branch Articles

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.

Thousand Oaks
St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380



Member Pat Mages also hosted a wrapping party where members from local ICF branches came to help wrap presents for a Christmas party at Children's Hospital Los



The Members of Branch
342 (Auburn) wish
their fellow I.C.F.
members and their
families
a Prosperous 2019.

All Our Best Nuovo Anno Wishes To You!



Angeles. Branch members also went to the hospital to set up, serve dinner, and spend time with patients and their families.

Jan. 11 (Fri.) General Meeting - Night of Magic at St. Paschal Hall

Ryan Interrante



Br. 380 family Christmas party, hosted a visit with Santa Claus



After our Br. 380 family Christmas party, kids were surprised with a snow machine

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

As you are aware, the IRS and Franchise Tax Board for the State of California require annual tax returns to be filed by our Districts and Branches.

It is important to remember that **all Districts and Branches now have two numbers:**

- a **Federal Tax ID Number** for any forms filed with the IRS and
- a **State Tax ID Number** for any forms filed with the State

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2018 is the following:

Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file IRS Form 990 EZ or 990.

Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or less will be required to electronically file IRS Form 990-N which is an e-Postcard.

The State limit for the tax year ending 2018 is the following:

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

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or less will be required to electronically file State Form 199-N which is an e-Postcard.

*****THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED*****

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2019. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

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

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

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2018. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fund-raisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

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

Thank You,
Denise Antonowicz, Grand Treasurer



Br. 444 Cristina Baldemor selling some raffle tickets at the Christmas party



Br. 444 Father Francis Aguilar, Associate Pastor (St John Fisher Parish) singing an Italian song for all the "Italians in the House!"



Br. 444 Patrick Payne & Bruno Vieri ready to check-in guests for the Christmas party

Rancho Palos Verdes Saint John Fisher Parish Branch 444

Happy New Year! On December 7, 2018, we had our annual Christmas Party at Saint John Fisher Parish (Barrett Hall). We all had a wonderful time with our fellow ICF members and guests. We listened and danced to music played by DJ Manny Avila. We had a delicious dinner catered by Giorgio's Restaurant which included appetizers, lasagna, eggplant parmesan, chicken, and salad. Desserts were made by our talented ICF members. We all sang along to the Italian and Christmas music.

We also had the honor of having our own Associate Pastor, Father Francis sing a song for us in Italian. It was such a nice treat! We also had many donated items from ICF members and local businesses on display for our Chinese Auction Raffle. ICF members and their guests had the opportunity to purchase tickets and try to win a prize. Win or lose everyone had a great time!

Here is an upcoming event occurring in January 2019:

January 10, 2019 is our General Meeting with an Italian DVD Presentation and Potluck

Ciao!

Tonia Amalfitano

Manhattan Beach American Martyrs, Br. 447

The General Meeting held on September Branch 447 held our First Annual Christmas Party on December 10, 2018. We are so blessed that the event was well attended and everyone had an amazing time.

We started the evening with a wine tasting, hosted by a professional sommelier. Our delicious Italian dinner and desserts were catered by Giuliano's in Redondo Beach. We had Italian music brought to us by Rich Romano and some of us even danced. After dinner we played exciting games of Bingo. Santa Claus even stopped by! Many thanks to our Board and all of our members who came together to help us plan the event, set up the room, decorate, and clean up. Many of us brought guests who joined ICF! Our Branch is growing strong and we are excited for all the events we have planned for 2019! Be on the lookout for our 2019 calendar of meetings and special events.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ciao!

Stephanie DeRaddo

Recording & Corresponding Secretary

Monterey Central Coast

Santa Cruz Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

Happy New Year! Someone once said: "New Year's Day is the first blank page of a 365 page book...so let each page be well-written." Our members strive to make each page a good one. We are proud to announce our Branch distributed almost \$10,000 in charitable donations in 2018. Thank you for the support and contributions for ICF. We hope 2019 is best year

ever for fun and inspirational get-togethers, so look for the Branch 21 Calendar of Events to be distributed soon.

If you didn't attend our annual Christmas Party, you missed a great 'get into the mood for Christmas' event. The turkey dinner was scrumptious, thanks to Gary and Pitra Castiglioni and Richard and Valerie Vote; all had fun singing Christmas Carols, thanks to Sister Noella; and the visit by Mr. and Mrs. Claus, aka Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Shaffer, delighted the children. Everyone was in good spirits, thanks in part to the wonderful Hot Tom and Jerry's provided by Ardilla Carmarlinghi. Of course, we have to thank those staple workers who always show up to help with every event: Ida Tarantino, Madeline Crews, Rosa Radicchi, Gene Ghio, Maria Reames, Dan Slebir, Sue Della Santina, Mary Jo Belli, Carmen Locatelli, and Roseann Costabile.

In closing, C.S. Lewis once said: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." ...a pretty good thought to start the New Year. May God's blessings continue to fill us, one and all.

Patty Morelli

Secretary

Salinas Sacred Heart, Br. 25

Our Polenta Luncheon & Bake Sale at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall netted approximately \$4K. Thank you for making our fundraiser a great success.

The Christmas Party was at JM Ranch on Dec. 9 with 24 members and guests. Branch Chaplain, Father Manny Recera, serenaded us with "Oh, Holy Night" and we sang carols. Seminarian Chris Arriaga, and Deacon Morten Zabala and his wife Carol joined us. Deacon Morten is in remission after undergoing cancer treatments and stem cell surgery at Stanford! Keep them in our prayers.

The meal was excellently prepared by member, Chuck DeBord, and Grand Knight of the Salinas K of C, John Cailato. Father Manny Christmas received checks for our Parish priests. Keep Kathy Bullene in our prayers. She had recent rotator cuff surgery.

We provided turkeys and food items along with kitchen help for the annual free-to-all

Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Day Luncheon.

Treasurer, Gia Ussey mailed dues and hospitalization renewal invoices. The slight dues increase was approved at the ICF 2017 Convention to cover increased costs of Bollettino production and web site services (20+ cents per member per month). Hospitalization plan enrollment is for any age in 2019. We encourage all members enroll in this program.

Our next Branch meeting is Tues., Jan. 8, noon, Knights Hall. We'll review the budget & prepare for the Central Coast Installation Mass & Luncheon to be hosted by Branch 25 on Sat., Feb. 23, at Sacred Heart Church & Hall.

Happy & Healthy New Year to all!

JoAnn Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Monterey Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Branch #36. Wishing you and your family the Gift of Faith, the Blessing of Hope and the Peace of His Love during Christmas. Enjoy this special time of year with your family and friends. May God Bless you a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

November 1, 2018, over 250 members and guests enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you Peter John Curatolo, our Executive Chef, and crew for an outstanding meal. Herb crushed Turkey Breast with roasted vegetable pan gravy, scallop p o t a -toes, fennel sausage and apple stuffing, orange cranberry sauce, Insalata di Rucola E Perra, and pumpkin pie.

We thank all members for donating can goods for the Saint Francis Xavier Food Panty. We wish a Blessed Thanksgiving with your family.

November 10, 2018: Branch #36 hosted the Central Coast District meeting. Thank you, Rosa Radicchi, President in conducting our meeting and thank you Eddie Leonard for preparing a wonderful lunch.

Our sympathy to Bud Johnson and family for the loss of Vicky Johnson. Vicky was a member for two years and loved coming to our dinner/meetings. May God comfort her family during this difficult time and may Vicky rest in Peace.

During the Holiday season, please keep all our members that are ill and are homebound in your prayers. We pray for peace and happiness throughout the world.

Merry Christmas – "Bless us Lord, this Christmas with quietness of mind: Teach us to be patient and always to be kind." Helen Steiner Rice

Love,

Elaine Valentine

Castroville Santa Caterina de Siena, Br. 51

Happy New Year Everyone!

This year our branch tried something new.



A busy holiday season at Branch 36, serving everything from pumpkin pie to turkey and stuffing, everyone needed to lend a hand.

Instead of having a Christmas party before Christmas, we had our celebration afterwards and called it our "Epiphany Party." It was a wonderful time of fun, fellowship and, of course, food. Thank you Chef Dennis Hibbs and all board members who prepared a wonderful meal. Everyone that attended had a good time.

The 2019 board has been elected. Congratulations to the following: President- Cindy Stefani, 1st VP- Carrie Holbrook, 2nd VP- Vera Doris, Treasurer- Leonora Barlow, Secretary- Ashley Stefani, Orator- Toni Hibbs, Sentinel- Carlo Cortopassi, and Trustees- Linda Grier, Dennis Hibbs, Susan Carbonel and Kevin Cortopassi. They will meet in January to plan the upcoming fundraisers and branch activities.

Our January Charity project will be to collect socks and gloves for those who are in need. They will be distributed in our community during the cold months ahead.

Happy Birthday to our January babies: My aunt Leonora Barlow and my father Carlo Cortopassi. Buon Compleanno!!!

Please keep member Thomas Martinez and family in your prayers. They recently lost their aunt. Pray for the healing of Toni Hibbs' father (Matthew). May God lay his gentle hands on each of you and bring peace and comfort.

And as we travel on this journey called life remember to share your faith with one another keeping in mind the words of St. Francis, "share the Gospel always, use words only when necessary."

Blessings to all and wishes for a wonderful New Year,

Cindy Stefani

Capitola St. Joseph, Br. 227

About 100 members and guests enjoyed a roast beef dinner and a visit from Santa Claus at our Christmas party on Dec. 9. Many thanks to cooks and set-up workers Ellen Pauly, Mike Rios, Franklyn Lopes, Jean Dunn, Sherry Doubleday, Mary Christensen, Monica Crowley, Manuel

and Magdalena Martinez, Jane Kotila, Ken and Nancy Olsen, Mary Montonye, and Vicky Howell. Also, thanks to Jim Smith

and Bill Crowley for fixing the Tom and Jerrys and to bartender Rick Kotila and his young assistant, Connor Rodriguez. Last, but not least, kudos to Bruce Dunn who stepped up (with a little good-natured arm twisting) to serve as Santa Claus. He did a great job and the children (as well as many adults) were delighted.

New President Franklyn Lopes is off and running with the selection of new committees. Thanks to Dottie Smith and Mario Beltramo for heading the Heritage Committee.

Our branch is hosting the February 2 District meeting and we will need cooks, workers, and raffle prizes.

The first Fish Fry is March 8 and we are asking for workers. There will be sign-up sheets at the January 13 meeting.

A special note of recognition goes to Ellen Pauly, who served as President for the last two years and half-time President for two years before that. In addition to all her responsibilities as President, Ellen coordinates the Fish Frys and is very active in St. Joseph's parish. Thank you, Ellen, for your dedication and energy.

Happy New Year everyone!

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande St. Patrick, Br. 291

Branch 291 enjoyed a lovely Christmas party at the Madonna Inn on Sunday, Dec. 2nd. Joanna Van Blaricom, Kathleen Sullivan and Sylvia Nasholm did a wonderful job putting together our fun afternoon of food, entertainment and lots of raffle prizes! It's always a festive celebration to kick-off the Christmas season!

Our annual Lenten Fish Frys are quickly approaching! This year we'll start one week early with a Mardi Gras themed fish fry on March 1st, and all proceeds from this fish fry will benefit our Catholic School Registration Assistance Program! Our five Lenten Fish Frys will be held on March 8th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th and 12th. We invite you to join us for one or all of our delicious fish dinners! Also, we are selling Fish Fry Dinner raffle tickets to benefit our Registration Assistance Program. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and there



What a fun District Christmas party! It was also the 93rd birthday of one of the charter members of Branch #343, Rosalind Crudo, who was treated to a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday by the group, Christmas carols followed. Good Food, Good Fun, Good Friends!

Now it is time to get down to business. We have a very busy weekend coming up the 19th and 20th of January. First is our Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on Jan. 19th at St. Philip Neri Parish Hall. The branches will be busy with the Hors d'oeuvres table and supplying 2 raffle baskets.

The next day is Installation of Officers beginning at 3 PM with Mass at the Fratellanza Club. This is a very important function and all officers from all the branches as well as the District officers are encouraged to attend. Branches #40 and 91 are working hard on all the arrangements including a Ravioli dinner.

Speaking of District Officers, our election was held and the results are: President, Lisa Crudo; 1st vice-Pres., Melody Klever; 2nd vice-Pres., David Wellbeloved; Rec. Sec., Pat Grasso; Fin. Sec. Dave MAdej; Orator, Lei Genevieve Vanek; Trustees, Maria Raphael, Ralph Marinelli and Judy Wellbeloved; Sentinel, Mary Ann Francis. Thank you for volunteering and accepting the offices.

Have a safe and happy 2019.

*Pat Grasso,
District Secretary*

Oakland

East Bay District Council



Santa was a big hit with all Br. 291 Christmas Party

Alameda Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

On Dec. 8 we welcomed over 80 celebrants to our annual Christmas party. Maria Croft, the mother of our 1st VP Gina Foster, prepared the meal of pasta and meatballs. Santa Claus visited. Ken Haslam, our Treasurer, and Karen Harrington, assisted in presenting gifts to the 18 children who attended.

We are preparing for our annual Polenta Dinner—Sat, Jan. 12. If you decide to join us, contact Jeanette Zugnoni at (510) 523-8005 or jeanette@zugnoni.net to determine if a reservation remains available.

On Sat., Jan. 19, the annual East Bay District's Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed is at Monsignor O'Brien Hall. The feast is named in recognition of our President, Dave Rose, who died in June of last year. One of the young men he mentored, Keelan Doss, is expected to be selected in this year's National Football League draft following an outstanding career as a wide receiver for the University of California at Davis.

The East Bay District Installation is scheduled for Sun., Jan. 20 at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland. *Continued on Page 16*

New to our slate of officers are 2nd VP Jan Rosa and Trustee Ken Dorrance. Check District Council news for more information regarding installation.

Thank you Gina Foster for serving as acting President when Dave Rose became ill in March of last year. She was also caring for her two sons ages 3 and 1.

We also wish to acknowledge member Sheila Doan for, as of December 7, having sold 42 of our allotment of 50 ICF 2019 calendars.

Oakland Santa Rita, Br. 40

Happy New Year to all. We would like to welcome you to a Celebration of the Epiphany. On Saturday January 5th 2019 from 2p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Church Cafeteria. We will be having a Dessert Pot Luck Social. So if you like, bring a favorite dessert of you to share. Hot and cold beverages will be provided. Please RSVP by January 2nd, 2019 by calling Mary Ann Francis at 655-4971. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

On a somber note many of you may have heard that Rosalie De Santi passed away on November 25th. Rosalie and her husband Red were long time members and also officers of our Branch since 1970. We will miss Rosalie's endearing fun spirit and guidance not only in our Branch but also our Sacred Heart Church Parish. God Bless.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Mary De Vincenzi and Molly Grader.

Please remember in your prayers the sick and convalescing of our branch. Especially Anna Alberti, Ernestine Pernecco and Esemia Tabacco.

Thought: *There can be no Peace without Love.*

Ciao,
M.A. Francis and L. Francis

Concord Todos Santos, Br. 214

Our Christmas brunch was a festive event. January will bring our 2019 Board, many members remained and we welcome New staff. For those who stepped down, we thank them for their time in office.

We have our large Clothing Drive for the Homeless. We Thank member Gloria Schafer for coordinating this special project.

Thank you for remembering the Poorest of the Poor...the Homeless. "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Future events are our Tea on April 27th more to come and our Annual Wine event at Viano Winery slated for June, exact date to come soon.

Our members are also very supportive to the Blue Star Moms, donating for care packages & funds for postage were greatly appreciated for Troops at Christmas.

God Bless our Military, our sick and elderly also for the repose of the soul of William Bungard husband of Long standing member Diane Lorenzetti.

Happy New Year 2019

Christine Artale

Livermore St. Filomena, Br. 285

Our Mass of Remembrance was held in the chapel at St. Elizabeth Seton with Father Fili as celebrant. Nancy Fargas and Lenore Colarusso provided spiritually inspiring songs accompanied by Martha Peterson on the piano. Father Fili blessed those we have lost and reminded us of the importance of remembering and praying



Br. 214 Marine & Toys for Tots drive, members: Terri DiLoretto and President Roberta Healy(r)



Br. 214 Christmas brunch at La Veranda in Clayton; L-r Angie Monson, Allison McGuirk, MJ Murray, President Roberta Healy, Susan Giorghetti, Joanne Doorack

for them through the year. With a procession of red roses, we each put a flower in a container near personal remembrances of those loved and given up to God.

Dinner after the Mass of Remembrance is special and this year was no exception. Our thanks to Judy Wellbeloved and Christine Cardullo for the fabulous turkey dinner with the help of our Branch 285 Italian cooks extraordinaire. Our thanks to Elaine Meier and helpers for the festive table decorations.

Future events: Big Switch for Bingo Bash and our Polenta Dinner! Our annual Polenta Dinner Fundraiser will be on February 23rd. Our Bingo Bash is planned for June 1st. I think it's an old Italian custom, "eat first and play later."

Branch 285 was fortunate this past year to be blessed with several new members: Pat & Patricia Brick and Janet-Marie Petric. We welcome new members and are open to and encourage new ideas for this com-

ing year.

This is my last Bollettino article. The experience was spiritually and intellectually rewarding as my research on the backgrounds of our speakers and our celebrations provided new insights. But, alas, it's time to put down the quill for someone with an iPad.

Ciao,
Charles

Danville St. Isidore, Branch 352

Our Columbus Day—Italian Heritage Dinner Dance Fundraiser was the most profitable ever! Charities will benefit! The pasta & chicken parm, by Chefs Angelo & Russ, Italian accordion player, raffle & live auction "antics," with Ken Cooper's dance band made it a night to remember! Thank you volunteers (especially Marilyn Creighton & the Confirmation Class students) and donors of prizes & auction items that made the night a success!

November's election of officers for 2019: President: Marianne Bordogna, 1st VP: Peter Torchia, 2nd VP: Marilyn Creighton, Secretary: Cathy Kedzie, Treasurer: Steve Gouig, Trustees: Russ Belleci, John Kedzie, Joey Rago & Suzi Reynolds. Membership Chair: Suzi Reynolds, and Scholarship Chair: Dick Reynolds. Thank you to Len Salvemini, 'promoted' from Trustee to the important position of manning the bar at our monthly dinners & events!

Our Christmas Potluck was incredible! From appetizers, through farro soup, main dishes & sides, to yummy desserts...what a bunch of outstanding cooks! Spending time together & sharing the spirit of the holidays was great! We enjoyed a visit with our beloved Past President, Tony Rosellini! Raffle prizes of snowmen and lanterns were a bonus – and Ms. Rago won the 'guess the number of Hershey kisses' contest-and walked away with the chocolates! The festive Christmas carol sing-a-long, with John Kedzie on the piano, finished off the evening, followed by a group picture.

Save the Dates: Monday, Jan. 14th for our Crab Feed and Saturday, Jan. 26th for our Champagne Bingo. We're off & running in 2019!

Ciao,
Branch 352

Castro Valley Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Here's hoping that everyone enjoyed the branch Christmas party and the cookies

shared by the members. This year we decided to support one of our former members and past officer, who with her family lost many belongings, furniture and food to hurricane Florence. Hopefully we made their holidays happier.

Also as you read this we will be into 2019, so that means that Christmas and New Years have passed us by and we are working our way through January.

January is busy as we are helping to supply 3 hor d'oeuvres and 2 raffle baskets for the Dave Rose Annual Crab Feed on Sat. 1/19/19. We are reminding all elected officers to attend Installation of Officers on Sunday, Jan. 20th beginning with Mass @ 3 p.m. at the Fratellanza Club, installation and dinner to follow.

One Bake sale down, pre-Thanksgiving, and one to go, Super Bowl Sunday. Time to get out those special recipes to support our fundraising. If you can't make something, monetary donations are accepted.

Membership dues are now being collected as well as payment for the ICF Hospitalization Plan. Remember there is open enrollment through 2019 for members over 70 who wish to join. This is a one time offer.

Here's to a Happy New Year:

Pat Grasso,
Branch Secretary

Christ the King Pleasant Hill, Br. 442

We hope everyone had a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and New Year's celebration with family and friends.

We are happy to announce that Fr. Mario Rizzo will be our new Branch Chaplain. Although, he expressed some concerns when hearing that one of the duties of the Chaplain is to assist in keeping activities in harmony... What, keep Italians in harmony!? He is going to do fine. A big thank you to our pastor, Fr. Paulson Mundaamani, for all his support.

We also have a new Branch President. Diana MacKinson. Congratulations! We know she will easily move into her new

role and responsibilities. We want to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Matt Dallara, for three wonderful, exciting, challenging at times, years. Thank him for his leadership, dedication and most of all his great humor and friendship. Officer Installations will be end of January so more on our Officers later.

Several of our members attended the District Christmas party December 3rd at Divinno's in Pleasant Hill. It is always Branch 352 members enjoyed Christmas fun at their potluck party much fun to get together with friends from other branches.

Our Christmas pot luck get together was December 9. A nice spread of goodies. A little vino, a little dolce... We collected several bags of food items to stock our St. Vincent de Paul pantry. What a wonderful way to get everyone in the holiday spirit and end the year.



Branch 352 members enjoyed Christmas fun at their potluck party

Buon Anno! Welcome 2019.

Eileen McGauran

Contra Costa District Council

We welcome the new year with aspirations of happiness and prosperity as we look forward to making this year a successful one for each Branch and for the District. Participation is the key to fully enjoying your membership in this organization.

The next district meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24 at the "Legends at Diablo Creek" golf course in Concord at 7:30 p.m. Each branch should send their President and two other delegates. Installation of officers will be held on Saturday, January 26 at the Galileo Club in Richmond. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Installation and luncheon. Lunch tickets will be \$30.00 per person for adults and half price for children under 12. Please RSVP to your branch president by January 16. Be sure to bring the officer scarves to this event. If you have been nominated to an office, it is nice to be installed by the Grand President or his representative. You do not have to attend the luncheon if you do not have the time. I would ask each branch to please send their list of officers/elect to our district secretary no later than January 15. We need this list in order to have the names called during the installation ceremony. ICF 2019 Calendars are now available for \$25.00 each at your January branch meetings, or by contacting your branch president.

"Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take, but by what we give."

Edgar Allen

Joseph (joe flores33@comcast.net)

Martinez San Martino, Br. 13

Happy New Year Federation members! As we celebrate the Feast of our Patron, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton on January 4, the Epiphany and the Feast of La Befana on January 6, we also celebrate the 2019 newly elected Officers. President Tom Cook; First Vice and Secretary Mary Cook; Second Vice Paul Cook; Financial Secretary/Treasurer Anne Crisp; Trustees Bob Poirier, Karen Glen and Rosemary Cook; Orator and Sentinel Mary Lynn Rogers.

For Branch #13, our New Year begins on Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center Library. There are opportunities for members to volunteer to present an item, article, or story for the heritage portion of our meetings as well as contribute a snack for any of our nine meetings. Let's make it our New Year's resolution to lead one event, attend another branch event, and invite a friend to come to a meeting. Dues are payable the first of the year, so please bring your account up-to-date if you haven't already done so.

Mary Cook

Crockett San Carlo, Br. 14

Thanks to Al Di Prima and his hard working crew for a scrumptious November turkey dinner. At the meeting, we voted to donate nearly \$5,000 to philanthropic organizations. Thanks to those who support our fundraising events. Congrats to us on a successful Polenta Dinner. Thanks to those who worked countless hours to make the gathering appear effortless. Special praise to Dennis Hoffmann, whose ingenious motorized polenta stirrer made stirring by hand a thing of the past. Developer Extraor-

dinaire! Thanks also to Steve Buscaglia, Woodworker Extraordinaire! Steve fixed our flag stands, that are probably 100 years old and were badly in need of repair.

Once again we have an excellent Board: President, Donna Hoffmann; 1st VP, Nancy Botta; 2nd VP Dee Carone; Recording Secretary, Kathleen Thomas; Treasurer, Carl Heller; Financial Secretary, Roni Jimenez; Orator, Sylvia Smith; Sentinel, Derek Petersen; Trustees Tara Kajla, Vonda Lesti-Egan and Clorinda Smith Haisley; Chaplain, Fr. Leo Asuncion. Installation is January 26th at the Galileo Club, and our branch will host.

Get Well cards were sent to Lou Catalano, Roni Jimenez, Michael Kenney, Joe Macaluso and John Neihouse. Our sympathies to the families of Ed Sacca, Roni Jimenez (Bud Kenney passed recently), and Ray Austria.

Our first 2019 ICF meeting will be January 8th, where "comfort food" will be served: tortellini soup, salad and bread, and for dessert, traditional Pantone and hot egg nog.

May the New Year bring everyone peace, good health, a joyous heart, and wonderful times that become endearing memories.

Ciao,

Diane Bottini Thomas

Pittsburg San Domenico, Br. 72

Dear Members,

Happy New Year. You have received your dues slips and branch 2019 calendar. Let's have another great year. Our branch is small but we have fun. We are a family. Cheers to us! Dues check should be made payable to ICF Branch 72. Mail to treasurer: Helen Politakes 953 Veterans Drive Martinez, CA. 94553

It is not too late to buy your ICF Calendar (daily raffle) for \$25.00. You will have 365 chances to win cash. If you win, your name is placed back. You can win again. Contact Patty 925 228 0810



Members from #14, Crockett having fun on bus trip to Casino. Win win win!

Josie Leontini is back. Her health has improved. Thank her for hosting our Christmas party. Also, thank Jane Russo for hosting our November meeting and cooking dinner.

One of our officer elect's names was missing. Thank you to Donna Stone—future trustee.

Next District meeting—Thursday, Jan. 24

at 7:30 p.m. at Legends on Diablo Creek golf course in Concord. Delegates should attend.

The District Officer Installation is Saturday Jan. 26 at the Galileo Club in Richmond with Crockett Branch hosting. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by the Installation, Social and Luncheon. Contact Patty to reserve ticket and mail check to Helen by January 16. Lunch includes salad, bread, cold cuts, pasta, vegetables, roast beef, coffee and dessert. \$30.00.

Watch for your invitation to our January meeting and New Year party. In February we celebrate Valentines day and Chinese New Year.

That's it for now.

As we say in Pittsburg, Sempre Avanti, Patty

Richmond St. Raymond, Br. 154

The December meeting opened with a scrumptious polenta dinner. Thanks to Walter Costa and Toni Reeder for a delicious meal, and thanks to everyone who contributed their help to make this a festive holiday meal. It was great to see so many members and their guests.

It is not too early to be thinking about the next fundraiser which will be sometime in February/March. The date has not been confirmed. Raffle prizes needed, such as cash, gift cards etc.

Please pick up a calendar for the coming year if you have not done so already. The next scheduled meeting is January 14, 2019. Pizza and salad will be served. Eggnog and Spirits to follow the meeting.

Don't forget your dues are payable at the next meeting. Annual dues are \$35.00 and Hospitalization is \$25.00. Make your check payable to the ICF and give your check to Mike Cannady or Toni Reeder.

If you haven't attended a meeting in awhile consider joining us as part of your new year's resolutions. You'll be glad you did.

Felice Anno Nuovo!

Brentwood Immaculate Heart of Mary, Br. 432

Starting the year, we hope all had a blessed and joyous Christmas and are looking forward to a New Year filled with good health and God's blessings. Some of the more memorable moments from the past year:

The year started on a high note with Deacon John Kortuem as the new Branch President. He is the "Sir Thomas More" of the IHM Community, a man for all seasons. We were off to a heady start.

Then Judee and Jay Risso began as new first Vice Presidents with the start of adventures in meals. How about Cornel Sanders in three separate boxes? Box meals were just openers. They told us to

Continued on Page 18

bring soup bowls—they were filled with delicious soup. And so it went, great meal after great meal. The monthly meetings became a gourmet’s delight. We started a joint fundraiser with the Knights of Columbus—a crab feed was soon under way. As the ball got rolling, the Knights jumped ship and left ICF to go it alone. Behind the capable direction of Pat and Bob Hoffner, the June feed was a success. The crab feed, as a fund raiser, looks to be a winner down the road. The above were just some departures from the usual norms: a change of pace was refreshing, challenging and exciting. It was never dull.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!!!!

“Things turn out best when you make the best of how things turn out”
la vita è buona

Orange

Irvine
St. Thomas More Branch 423

Happy New Year! Wishing you all a blessed New Year!

We celebrated Thanksgiving at our November meeting. Tom and Joann Jordan brought in roast turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy. Members brought other sides and desserts.

Elections were held at the November meeting. Donna Stahl is staying on as President. Dave Melvold—VP. Tony Gonzalez remains as 2nd VP. Maureen Melvold remains as Secretary. Jerry Donaldson remains as Treasurer. Rose Giannantonio—Sentinel. Deana Donaldson—Orator. Trustees—Frank Giannantonio, Bev Leinbach, and Roberto Garcia.

The annual Christmas party was held on December 1 at The Groves Clubhouse in Irvine. Lupe Montejano and Maureen Melvold were chairpersons. Members dined on hearty appetizers and desserts. After dinner, we had the “bring a gift/steal a gift” festivity which heralded many laughs and conversations! The surprise gift this year was a football themed cowbell with a small stuffed toy. It might return next year! Next, three teams assembled to make a “Christmas tree” with assorted trimmings on one of team members. The winners were Bob Gibson and his team. To round out the evening, Vito sang an Italian Christmas song from his childhood. Shortly thereafter, we all sang “Silent Night” and “O Holy Night.” It was a beautiful way to end the fun evening!

Bishop’s Luncheon will be held on February 23 at St. Thomas More Parish.

St. Joseph’s Table will be held the weekend of March 16 and 17. Start thinking about the foods you will be making for the event.



Sacramento

St. Mary, Br. 45

Hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas filled with love, joy, family, and friends.

Branch 45 members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Lunch at Espanol Restaurant to end the year. Thank you to Bonnie Lally for great raffle prizes. We talked about each member bringing in a new member for 2019 to increase our membership.

Our branch will be hosting Installation of Officers for the Blessed Sacrament District on Saturday, Jan. 26th at 11:00 a.m. for Mass, followed by lunch in Giovanni Hall. Please make your reservation with Janine at 916-508-1199 by Jan. 21st for meal planning.

Election of officers was held during our November meeting. Congratulations and thanks to all slated for the upcoming year.

President: Janine Orsi
1st Vice: Tina Tallman
2nd Vice: Ted Georguson
Secretary: Bonnie Lally
Treasurer: Lisa Bandaccari
Trustees: Marie Leonard, Paul Rossotti, Frank Lienert
Sentinel: Arlene Gianatasio

Happy January Birthdays to the following members: Lee Bennett, Eric Bush, Barbara Davidson, Matthew Ebert, Dante Mazza, and Barbara Savarino.

Here’s to a healthy and happy 2019,
Paul Rossotti
Rancho Palos Verdes

Roseville
St. Clare of Assisi Br. #438

At our November meeting, the members enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. I missed out due to a nasty cold. As usual, I know that Joe and all his helpers put on a great meal.

Also in November, we had a small group of members who were so generous with their time by serving the homeless at our Gathering Inn Dinner. This year we had 56 adults and 5 children. A big thank you to Paula and Hank who were the organizers and all the members that made this possible. All of you have such giving hearts in remembering those in need.

On Dec. 21st. we will be having our Christmas Party which will be catered by Original Pete's. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.sharp. Mrs. Santa Claus and her elf will be passing out gifts to the little ones. Hope to see you there. This is the time for our I.C.F. family to get together and enjoy the festivities and each others company.

Please pray for all our sick members and all the needy people.

Happy New year to all of you;
Your Reporter, Yvonne Perry



San Diego

San Diego
Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. 230

Our Lady of the Rosary has been very busy: October 2019 elections, November preparation, for our Annual Christmas Party Dec 8th and preparing for our First Annual Italian Catholic Federation Recognition Day Festa. We would like everyone who can come, to do so and join us in our exciting celebration. We realize this can't be done every year, but since this is our first year we are hoping as many of you as possible will join us. We are including an invitation to everyone.

Our Annual Christmas Party was great and enjoyed by all in attendance. Each year we collect nonperishable food items and toys for the needy to be donated to specific charity. This year our Donation goes to Catholic Charities. Merry Christmas from all of us! Have A Very Blessed Holiday Season!

We hope to see as many of you as possible on Sunday January 27, 2019

Patrizia Vigili President Branch 230

San Diego
St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Br. 261

It is beginning to feel like winter. We had our last board meeting of the year. It was our incoming and outgoing of officers. We had it at Troy’s restaurant it was well attended. We were also celebrating our long time member Carrie Molinare on her 100th birthday. She still goes bowling and walks everyday. She has had some health issues but she is a fighter.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. Please keep our members in your prayers.

Peace,
Robin Fielding

San Francisco

San Francisco
St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Felice Anno Nuovo to our members and their families. We hope the New Year will be good to all of us.

Florence - we all say a big Thank You for all of our great trips during the year. We know it takes a lot of work.

I would like to thank my officers and all of you for your hard work during the last year. It is greatly appreciated!

To those who always think of us with beautiful raffle prizes, a big Thank You. This is the reason our raffles are a big success. Grazie!

A big 90th Happy Birthday to Elisabetta

Rossi on Jan. 9th. Many more years of Much Happiness and Good Health.

To our members who will celebrate their birthdays in January - many more years of Good Health and Much Happiness.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Remember the following dates:

Jan. 27th - Mass
Jan. 28th - Meeting

Ciao,
Eva Perata, President

San Francisco
Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 38

Our December 8th Mini Meeting/Christmas party was a very big success and a strong finish for the branch. Many of our members and friends were present. We had a great time talking and reminiscing about past meetings and events. Lunch, catered by the SFIAC, was delicious, for dessert Cosmo treated us to a yummy strawberry cream cake, and we each ended the party with a glass of CinZano Prosecco!

We had a lot of help in setting up and decorating the PC. Cosmo & I could never have done it alone! Dora Veracchi’s (long time branch Secretary & most faithful member)) nieces and nephew were a tremendous help. Their presence reminded us of their late mothers...Norma Tealdi and Lottie Peradotto (also long time Br. #38 members). Frank Lavin pleasantly surprised us. He joined us in memory of his late mother Mary Lavin. These wonderful guests made the party even more enjoyable! Dora you are #1!!

We were happy to see John (past Br. #38 Pres.), Yvonne Cardinale and her mother Emma attend and helped us very much, too. It would be wonderful if we could go back in time when these members were still with us!

Our District Deputies George Pagni, Joe Bassuino and their wives Nancy and Ann honored us with their presence. I’ll keep in mind George’s words of encouragement “Sempre Avanti!” Grazie Deputies, for watching over us these past few years.

Our Chaplin Fr. Al joined our meeting after he served a funeral...he is such a busy priest! His birthday was Dec. 19, and we all sang, “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow!” He had a good time at our party. We thank you Fr. Al for being such an understanding & caring friend to our members and Branch #38.

Thank you Maria Gloria (Br. #38 VP and Heritage Chairlady) for the monthly Heritage Reports...always interesting, always on current subjects, and for all the “goodies” you always spoil us with.

Rose Mangini’s ICF Convention trips were greatly appreciated by our members. You’re a good saleslady...you sold lots of ICF raffle tickets and Calendars...Grazie!

Ciao per ora!
Mara Amato, Past President, ICF Br. #38



Santa was well received by all during Branch 230's Christmas Celebration

Burlingame Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

We held our Pedro Tournament the weekend after Thanksgiving and special thanks to Dorene Campanile who chaired the event. Also those who assisted her were appreciated: Mary Ann Camacho, Roz Emery, Jean Watterson, Bob Tomasello and Luci Witherspoon.

We will hold our last meeting and Christmas potluck on December 13, 2018 and hope all members will attend.

January 10, 2019 will be our first meeting of the New Year and we are currently discussing plans for 2019. Any ideas on ways to improve our meetings or suggestions on events we may attend as a group should be given to the Officers'.

Saturday, January 19, 2019 will be our installation of officers, hosted by Branch 7, All Souls, SSF and more information to follow.

Please keep praying for our sick members and also keep love and peace in our hearts not only during the holidays but daily.

*God Bless,
Rosalind C. Emery*

San Carlos St. Charles, Br. 327

Our November meeting was courtesy of the Colonel at Kentucky Fried Chicken. The dinner was our annual toy collection for the less fortunate in our area. The toys and gifts go to the St. Francis Center in Redwood City and this year it took two cars to get all the donations down to the Center. Thank you everyone!

Our branch, with help from Tom Malaspina, sold 27 of the 30 ICF 2019 calendars. Thank you to everyone who purchased a calendar and good luck with the monthly calendar drawings. We had a lot of winners last year, so hopefully we will have more winners this year.

The branch extends our deepest sympathy to Ed Carnes and family on the passing of his wife, Lois. Ed and Lois joined the branch in 2001. After every dinner meeting you could find Lois in the kitchen, doing all the dishes and cleaning up...always

with a smile.

Saturday, March 2 is our annual Anniversary Corned beef dinner. Rose Beall will once again be doing the baskets for the raffle. Please bring food donations/gift items/gift cards to the January and February meetings. If you prefer, cash donations may also be made.

Upcoming events to write on your new 2019 calendars:

Saturday, January 19 - Installation Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center, 10:00am, contact Carmel Dufault

Saturday, March 2 - our Anniversary Corned beef dinner, details to come

Happy New Year to all. May everyone have a happy, healthy and safe 2019!

*Ciao,
Virginia Malaspina*

Millbrae St. Dunstan, Br. 403

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

We had a joyous Christmas Party with everyone singing Christmas Carols led by our incoming president Paul Larsen. Our treasurer, Eunice Danli, informed us of our Branch's Christmas donations for the year 2018. Members also contributed checks and gift cards for a needy family.

We have no meeting in January. Our District Installation of Officers will take place on January 19, 2019 at the Basque Cultural Center in So. San Francisco at 10:00a.m. followed by lunch. All are welcomed.

Our next meeting will be February 5, 2019, and we will be served Carla Del Carlo's wonderful soup.



Members of Branch #327 with toys for the St. Francis Center.

We wish all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Rose Marie Morando
Corresponding Secretary*

Marin Larkspur St. James, Br. 161

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas Season.

Our Orator Margaret DeRango reports that the Advent short retreat on the Beautitudes with Sister Margaret Diener OP was most inspiring for the members and guests who came on December 8. Please think about what you, the members, would appreciate the Orator and the officers planning for the coming year so more can be involved and enjoy another spirit filled event like this.

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming event:

Epiphany Dinner – Meet La Befana Italy's "Santa Claus"

Saturday, January 5, 2019

McGinnis Park Restaurant

5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Adults \$60, Children under 12 \$20

Please RSVP to Anna Biggio sonoioann@gmail.com or (415) 388-1998

This is a fundraiser for scholarships

Please continue your get well prayers for everyone who isn't feeling well.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year 2019!

*Anna Biggio
Recording Secretary*

Novato Our Lady of Loretto, Br. 332

As we eagerly anticipate a new year of opportunity to spend time with the members of our ICF family, and promote the goals of the Federation, we can be very proud of all that we accomplished in 2018. We had one of our best philanthropic years, and thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to provide several scholarships and donations to our local community. Also, we were delighted to welcome 17 new members to our Branch during the first 9 months of the year, and have several applications being processed at this time. Our members are doing a phenomenal job encouraging their family and friends to learn about and become part of the ICF.

The success of last year was due to the hard work of our Board, and the new Board is committed to maintaining the enthusiasm and standards set by our 2018 Officers. Congratulations to the 2019 Branch 332 Officers: Karen Raccanello, Robert Lemos, Rosella Piazza, Sandy Vasquez, Sylvia Reali, Connie Baczynski, Ron Lake, Jim Harais, and John Cutrufelli. Not formally on the Board, but working every month to help set-up the hall and coordinate our raffle, are Greg Erigero, Don Perazzo, and Dinah Matos. Special thanks to these exceptionally dedicated members, and to our kitchen crew, who treats us to fabulous dinners every month. (Pictures on Page 20.)

To all of our ICF brothers and sisters, we wish you good health and peace in this New Year.

Buon Anno a Tutti!

San Mateo District

South San Francisco Sacro Cuore, Br. 7

Happy 2019 South City!

This year marks our 94th year of existence and although we are the seventh ICF Branch to be founded only three other Branches are still operating that are older than us. Let's start off the year right by sending our dues of \$36 to Financial Secretary Dean Balestieri at 776 Almond Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080.

Thank you for everyone who attended the Christmas Party back on December 5 and our first meeting of the New Year on January 2. Your support of our functions is very important so please keep up the good work. Our next dinner meeting is Wednesday, February 6 and is hosted by Barbara Cavillieri.

Please continue to keep in your prayers Donna Pascone, the sister of our Past President Jim Eli, and all our members and their families who are ill. Almighty God, as we ask your help for our brothers and sisters

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Newly elected officers of Br. 332 Novato



Celebrating Christmas at Br. 332 Novato

who are ill, we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place. May your love touch others through us, and may we help all people to live in peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally, a very special Happy Birthday to two very special ladies, Betty Fontana and Lola Migliore. Count not the candles, but see the lights they give. Count not the years, but the life you live. Wishing both of you a wonderful time ahead. Happy birthday!

South San Francisco St. Augustine, Br. 213

Happy New Year!

Our Branch closed out last year with a wonderful luncheon in December at the Basque Cultural Center. It was fun seeing everyone and celebrating the Season.

Thanks to Joe who managed to get us to organize for our traditional member pictures and to Judy and Roberta that set up the wonderful tables and decorations.

We welcomed the new year with an organizational meeting to set up all our activities for the coming year. THANK YOU to Barbara Gabriel for leading us as President for the past two years. You did a wonderful job.

A special remembrance to all that are not well, keep them in your prayers.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2019 New Officers Installation at the Basque Cultural Center, January 19th. Please let Roberta know if you will be attending.

Your Branch support is much needed, don't forget to let us know if you will NOT be able to attend the monthly meeting. The dinner chairperson will always have a plate for you unless you notify her/him.

Happy New Year

Joyce James

San Jose

Santa Clara Valley District Council

Thanks to Jim Jones and committee for hosting the November meeting. Fr. George reminded us of the feast day of Mother Cabrini and in her spirit to remember those who are suffering in the recent fires and things we can do to help alleviate the situation. Branch 5 reports a full board elected and they are selling pens with ICF logo for \$2.

Br. 28 collected 413 pounds of food for St. Joseph's Center and \$588 for the fire victims. They also will donate a \$500 gift card for a needy family. Br. 184 will participate in the Hollister Light Parade and the Los Gatos Christmas Parade. And don't forget the Antonowicz's open house. All monies donated go to the scholarship fund.

Br. 391 held a Heritage Spaghetti affair with benefits going for the Church Rice Bowl. Tony and Alba's also donated 20% of each meal. Eileen Fritsch reported this was National Donor Sabbath Month where all churches will be talking about organ and tissue donations. She is available to speak on the issues. Gifts of Love awarded \$7900 to seven applicants. The program is open to any needy person and would like to have more applicants.

Marie Greco report a \$800 income from the Day at the Races. Elaine Osorio has set May 19, 2019 for Our Lady of Peace Mass.

January District Meeting ICF Branch 368 – Monday January 14, 2019

Mike Nunziata

Santa Clara N.S. Assunta, Br. 5

Thanks to everyone who brought new baby items for the Layette. It was much appreciated. The items were taken to St. Lucy's Parish Hall box to put in a storage container for distribution during 2019 year by the Public Health Nurse and the diocese. Members enjoyed cookies and coffee and raffle prizes in December.

Please remember if you have not paid your 2019 ICF dues, to do so as soon as possible. Please mail or bring to the Dinner/Meeting in January 2019.

The Installation of Officers was held at St. Clare Church with luncheon following in the Parish Hall. Thanks to everyone in Br. 5 and the District for helping make this event of the New Year successful.

Look for a January Agenda in the mail this month.

Hope your New Year of 2019 is a healthy and good year for all members.

*Ciao,
Marlene J. Rotolo*

Gilroy

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

Our Nov. 12th Thanksgiving dinner meeting again featured Dave Peoples and his board member crew providing turkey and trimmings for all. The table placement decorations, tastefully arranged by Trustee Peggy Fortino and company, added ambience to Holiday dinner meeting and past meetings. Thank you to all.

As this year comes to its end we look back retrospectively at Branch 28 accomplishments. Bake sales, Polenta Feeds, member provided raffle gifts, volunteering at the Garlic Festival and good old fashion passing the hat allowed our branch to contribute to worthwhile causes. Those worthwhile causes include our Saint Mary Parish, the Bishops Burse, student scholarships, Cooley's Anemia, people affected by the Paradise Camp Fire, and food and toys provided to St. Joseph's Family Center for those in need.

Any Branch 28 member who knows of others that may be interested in joining the Italian Catholic Federation and would like to participate in projects that benefit others is invited to a complimentary dinner at our January 28th and February 25th 2019 dinner meeting.

As I finish my year as the branch Financial Secretary I would like to share that the benefits provided to others provides a reflective warmth and glow that comes back to the giver. If any member knows of anybody interested in joining, please let the meeting caller know.

Mark your calendar as the next dinner meeting is scheduled for January 28th 2019. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

*Peace and God Bless,
Kim M. Filice*

San Jose Merced, St. Cecilia, Br. 39

There was a festive group of revelers at our joint Lodge/ICF Christmas party. We ate a feast of roast chicken, tri-tip, rigatoni and other dishes. Bingo, Christmas music, children's crafts, and of course a visit from Santa added to the holiday cheer. A big thank you to chair Lori Sutton and branch officers.



Roy Shackel and Vince Saso (Branch 28) preparing the turkey at the November 12th Thanksgiving dinner meeting.

Our biscotti/cookie sale was a complete success - every cookie crumb sold. We netted about \$2000! Thanks to chairs Janet Pugliese and Maryellen Mazzei, and their host of bakers, baggers, sellers and donations of ingredients. Welcome new helpers Monique Moore, Jan Lorenzi and Mabel Willmon. Everyone's help and effort are always appreciated.

Our dinner meeting is on Wednesday, January 9: 5 p.m. Social Hour. 6 p.m. dinner of homemade Italian sausage with grilled peppers and onions. 7 p.m. meeting. We will celebrate our amazing volunteers with a We Love Our Volunteers awards. Come and applaud members who give their time and energy for our club. Also, pick up your copy of our branch activity calendar and purchase the 2019 ICF fundraising calendar from Carol Salmeri.

At our February 13 dinner meeting, Maryellen and crew plan to serve roast chicken with risotto. 5 p.m. Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting. We will celebrate our annual We Love Our Members awards night.

Please pray for Michael and Christine Krebs-Belluomini on the recent passing of her Mother. Pray for Carol successful knee replacement operation.

Tutti voi state bene in questa stagione invernale. Stay healthy this winter season!

Stephanie Lucich

Los Gatos St. Mary Branch Br. 184

I love January! It's the beginning of a great, new year full of possibilities. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Season with loved ones, good friends, good food and importantly, good health. There were several members with health concerns, and we continue to keep them in our prayers.

Looking forward to our Branch Christmas Party at Harry's Hof Brau. It's always decorated so festively and the gift exchange is a lot of fun. We have a chance to eat, share and best of all, visit with each other.

As I write this, we look forward to the Installation of Officers at St. Clare's Church in Santa Clara. The Mass and luncheon are the beginning of good times to follow in all of our branches.

We next meet January 10, 2019. Until then, may the joyful Spirit of Christmas remain



Dave Peoples socializing with John G. Filice (Branch 28) after members enjoyed the Thanksgiving dinner.

with each and every one of you throughout the New Year.

Ciao for now, Lucy Amico

San Jose St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

Happy New Year to all the Branches and Members in the Federation.

Branch 191 had a remarkable year in 2018 and hope to have a better year in 2019. One major change that we made in 2018 and plan to continue in 2019 is more service to our homeless and our church. This year, many of our members plan to get involved with Village House, an organization dedicated to helping homeless women find shelter, meals, laundry service and transportation to local warming centers. We are also involved in our homeless family food ministry at St. Frances Cabrini. We provide meals to families in need, and the need is getting greater every year. Many members are involved with the Church Thanksgiving and Christmas giveaway program that our Church puts on every year.

These are very rewarding Charities that fulfill our Mission as Members of the Italian Catholic Federation.

James Jones

San Jose Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

Before our meeting on November 10, we enjoyed a fantastic Thanksgiving dinner provided by the work of Cheryl and Ron Sanchez, and Noreen, Susan, and John Gillio. Ed Wendler encouraged us to remember special Thanksgiving celebrations from our pasts and shared a story of his family surprising him by actually butchering at home a turkey and a duck to provide a really fresh Thanksgiving dinner.

Our branch is mourning the loss of another beloved member, Gus Mavroudis. Our own kind and loving "Music Man," who generously played his own CD's for us on many occasions and gave away many of them to our members, has passed away. We miss him terribly, but still we rejoice in our hearts that he is free of pain and in the arms of Our Lord. Big hugs and prayers for his dear wife Mary and the Mavroudis family.

The storage shed, our branch's donation to the parish from our fundraisers, is fenced, painted, up and functioning! An augmentation to our parish hall, the shed provides space for us to keep the tables and chairs that we use in the hall.

We want to thank Tina Souza Dutra for her loving service to us as our branch mentor. She has faithfully attended all our meetings and activities, enthusiastically supported us, and answered our questions. Good job, Tina! We thank you as you move on to mentoring your next branch.

*Wishing everyone a blessed 2019,
Judy Zahn*

Sunnyvale Resurrection, Br. 408

Felice anno nuovo!

Welcome to Br 408's new Mentor for 2019—Tina Souza-Dutra. We look forward to working with her.

We wish Mike Nunziata smooth sailing with his new posting

Thanks to all our Generous December Blood Drive Donors as there is always a Critical Need through the Holiday Season of year.

We will have a special speaker for our meeting on the 28th Jan 2019. Laurice Levine – a patient in the Cooley's Anemia Program at Children's Hospital LA will speak to us on the ICF National Charity Program—Cooley's Anemia and living and raising a Family with twice a month blood Transfusions

Please remember to include our sick members in your prayers – Bishop McGrath, and Paul and Dori Blefari.

May God Bless us all in the New Year!



Branch 408 Christmas Party: Branch Mentor Mike and Lorraine-Nunziata-Sandra

Morgan Hill St. Catherine of Alexandria, Br. 435

On November 30th we celebrated Thanksgiving all over again. Even though we had turkey, it was a much lighter fare. We had slices of roast turkey and turkey filets cooked on a plancha, a type of flat top grill placed on top of the burners. We also had sweet potatoes, stuffing and gravy and aspinach salad. The meal was prepared by Josh Siefert, the grandson of our president, Giulia Gallego, with some help from his family and friends—they did a wonderful job. Dessert was a variety of cakes and the traditional Italian panettone.

In November we elected our officers for 2019 - President Giulia Gallego, First VP Maryclaire Sampognaro, Second VP Michael Sampognaro, Secretary Catherine Ellis, Financial Secretary Gloria Subocz, Treasurer John Foggiano, Orator Loretta Wilson, Trustees Carol Tacci and Helga Brooks, and Sentinel Frances Scalzo. Our district mentor, John Gillio, officiated at the elections. Our membership has grown

and we now have 107 members in Branch #435. We have also been very fortunate in raising money during the year and will be able to donate to several charities including the St. Catherine's church renewal project, the Learning and Loving Center and St. Vincent de Paul Society, along with several other worthy groups. Thanks to all who helped to make this happen.

Our Christmas party dinner was at the Longhouse in Gilroy on December 13th so none of us has to cook. We wish everyone and Happy and Holy Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

God Bless!

Maryclaire Sampognaro

Santa Rosa

District Council

GBRR! It is cold out here in the valley. Nippy mornings.

District Installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at #209, Sebastopol, St. Sebastian's Church. Flyers and tickets have been mailed. All officers should attend this event.

Branch directories and calendars will be distributed at that time. Please send these to me before January 15, 2019 so that I can assemble them. Email at carmensk@comcast.net. Please note dates of events for each branch. Try to support each other as much as possible.

The February District Meeting is on Sunday, Feb. 10, at #127, Petaluma. Officers at 1:30 p.m.; regular meeting at 2 p.m.

Let's keep working on membership. There are many ideas on the website at icf.org.

Our house is getting there. There is much activity around the place as we wind down towards the finish date.

Remember all the fire victims in your prayers that they may have the strength and fortitude to cope as they go forward with their lives.

Peace and love to all. Pray, comfort and support each other always.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Happy New Year!!!

CK

Healdsburg St. Francis de Sales, Br. 52

Our Christmas Party was well attended and lots of fun! We had a special guest - Santa Claus. Thank you to Vince Dougherty for being our Santa Claus. Thank you to President Richard Passalacqua for cooking the delicious tri-tip.

At the Christmas Party, we distributed some of our charitable donations. Due to the support of our members and friends during

the year, at our dinners and fundraisers, we were able to donate to St. John's Church, St. John's School and the St. Vincent De Paul Society,

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 8: Branch meeting at the Rectory. 5:30 PM

Br. 52 Made our year end donations to St. John's Church, St. John's School and St. Vincent de Paul Society

January 19: Polenta Dinner. Happy Hour: The branch also made our year end donations to St. John's Church, St. John's School and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

5:45 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM. Price: \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. For reservations, call Mary Madden: 431-0438. This will be our last Polenta Dinner until November.

Jan. 27: Santa Rosa District Installation of Officers at St. Sebastian's in Sebastopol. Mass: 10:30 AM with Installation and lunch to follow. For tickets, call Carmen or Lauren: 433-1210.

March 22: Mark your calendars for our very popular Fish Fry. More details, next month. Remember to pay your dues.

Happy New Year!

Lauren Kilcullen

Cloverdale St. Peter, Br. 75

Our November "Thanksgiving" dinner meeting was very productive! We have much to be thankful for—We are providing Christmas gifts for 5 families in need from our parish. We also donated \$100 for the Ken Marshall fund to help the survivors of the Camp Fire wildfire.

Thank you to all who served on the board this past year. Congratulations to our board members for the new year. We are so grateful that you stepped up to help.



Br. 52 Healdsburg's Christmas Party. Santa Claus was a special guest for the youngest members. A fun time was had by all!



Br. 52 also made our year end donations to St. John's Church, St. John's School & St. Vincent de Paul Society. A fun time was had by all!

President: Mary Jean Dell’Aquila
1st Vice President: Claudia Cuneo
2nd Vice President: DeeDee Bovone
Secretary: Ron Brown
Treasurer: Margaret Brown
Trustees: Kristine Caturegli, Christine Flaherty
Orator: Ken Cuneo
Sentinel: Barbara Covello

We started planning for our big event Chicken and Spaghetti Dinner on February 16th. The co-chairs of this special event are Nancy McKean and Phyllis Chiaino. We will give an update of this annual event next month.

We are having a breakfast meeting on December 15th to plan the events of our upcoming year.

Our next regular meeting is our Christmas meeting on December 20th. There will be prosecco and appetizers and we will bring the presents for the five families we will be gifting.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas full of peace and joy!

Buon Natale!
Margaret Brown

**Sonoma
St. Sebastian Br. 103**

Finally, but soon, we will welcome another New Year. To several of our Sonoma members who could not attend our monthly dinner meeting I have to say, mi dispiace tanto because you all missed a great party with great appetizers and a delicious honey glazed ham dinner. We were also graced by the presence of Bob and Kathy Acquistipace traveling from Santa Rosa. So proud to have Kathy by my side to help mentor our short business meeting, but also important the presence of our President Ken Marshall who suffered the loss of his new family's home in Paradise. This year highlights many of our faithful members: Fran and sister Carolina, our interior decorators, Tom Wurst, our favorite bartender and author of our Newsletter and of course our Pirate baker who wants to remain anonymous. Sorry, Maureen, the devil made me do it! Looking forward to OUR Installation in January and hoping as many as possible can attend from #103.

Buno Natale, Buon Capo d’anno!
Marilyn Sylvestri, Recording Secretary

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

Our Dec. 5th Christmas Party meeting began with a delicious potluck enjoyed by all. A parish Advent breakfast was held Dec. 2. The breakfast was co-sponsored by ICF 144 and the Knights of Columbus. Pancakes, sausage, biscuits & gravy, and scrambled eggs were served....Yum!! Thanks to all who attended and to the many helping hands. Treasurer Elena is collecting our 2019 dues. Please return the envelope with \$37.20 enclosed as soon as possible. It is with great sadness that we announce

the loss of our charter member since 1959, Josetta Matteri. She was a hard worker and shared with us many Italian traditions. She was a great asset to our branch. Her friendless and beautiful smile will be greatly missed.

Branch 145 will host the Installation Dinner on Jan. 26. Watch your emails for details. Come join us!

Linda Spallino delivered our Christmas basket to Santa Rosa for the District Christmas Party/Meeting. As incoming President, she is asking if anyone has suggestions for projects, etc. to please call her at 822-0295. Our Befana Potluck will be held on Jan 6 from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Fr. Kelly meeting room.

Hope to see you there.
January Birthdays are: Roger McDonald, John Gai, Elena David and Mitchell Monge. Happy Birthday! Enjoy your special day!
A healthy, prosperous and Happy New Year to all!!

Rosemary

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Can you believe we celebrated the 53rd anniversary of Branch #198 on January 7th? Our history has been marked by our support of seminarians, St. Eugene’s Elementary School, Catholic Charities, and most of all, our scholarships to high school seniors. We have much to be proud of.

Officers: plan to attend the District Installation on January 27, 2019 in Sebastopol. Mass at 10:30 a.m., lunch to follow at 12:30 p.m.

Our next meeting will be in the Parish Life Center at 6:00 p.m. on February 4th. Bring your favorite cookies and be ready to play Bingo.

Our monthly Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, February 4th. Please try to attend.

Pray for Mary Desideri, Mike Milano, Lorraine Baptista, and all our members who might be ailing.

Happy New Year to all!

Fraternally,
Gail Bongi-Azevedo

**Sebastopol
St. Sebastian, Br. 209**

We had a fun evening at our December meeting, enjoying appetizers and desserts provided by members in attendance and as always festive homemade Tom & Jerry’s by Lorraine Vannetti & Lona Bertoli. The evening was topped off with a visit from Santa Claus bringing his bag of toys filled with presents for children and grandchildren of our members.

A reminder: your annual ICF dues are payable this month. There is also an opportunity to participate in the ICF Hospitalization plan. The plan is open for the first time, to members over the age of 70, and the cost is only \$25 per year! ICF’s

Hospitalization plan entitles you to collect up to \$500, if you are hospitalized for any reason or if you require outpatient surgery. Please send \$25 in addition to your dues payment this month.

On January 27th, our branch will be hosting Installations for the Santa Rosa District. Join us at the 10 a.m. mass at St. Sebastian’s Parish. Installations will begin after mass, at the Parish Hall, with a luncheon to follow. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Reservations are required. For members of Branch #209 who are not being installed as officers, but would like to attend, please contact: Lorraine Vannetti at 707-527-9552. For other branch-es, please send one check for all attendees to Lorraine Vannetti, 311 Burlwood Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

February 23 is our Polenta and Chicken Dinner. Call Lona at 707-527-1021 for tickets.

Buon Anno 2019!
Sharon Vannetti

Stockton

**Modesto
St. Stanislaus, Br. 48**

We held our election of officers at the November meeting. Our officers are as follows: Pres. Mary Jennings, 1st VP Antonella Turchetti, 2nd VP Thomas Silvaggio, Rec. Secty. Cecelia McGhee, Fin. Secty. Carla Wagner, Orator Nancy Souza, Trustees Kathleen Ostorero, Analisa Zamora, Ermelinda Zamora, and Sentinel Marie Bertolotti. Our branch Mentor is Frank Re.

Thank to our officers that remained in their positions and out members that stepped up to fill our vacant slots.

Thanks to all the branches for helping with the dessert for installation and setup. Our Branch Calendar for 2019 has been accepted by the Parish for use of the facilities and will be distributed to members.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sundays, January 13, 2019 and February 10,2019 at the 8:00 a.m. mass at the Maze Blvd. Church.

Our Bank Night winner was Cecelia McGhee.

We wish all our families and friends a Happy and Blessed New Year!!

Coming up:

- Jan 9—7:00 p.m. Meeting in the Hall at 7th and K Street
- Feb 13—7:00 p.m. Meeting in the Hall at 7th and K Street
- Mar 13—7:00 p.m. Meeting in the Hall at 7th and K Street
- Mar 17—2:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Table Celebration and Potluck

Cecelia McGhee

**Manteca
Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio,
Br. 139**

Our annual branch Christmas Dinner and Party was held at Cucina Queirolo in Lathrop on December 9, with Chef Tony in charge of a delicious meal of prime rib, ravioli, beans, salad and dessert. There were numerous guests present including Chaplain Father Chris Varghese’s parents from India. Other guests included Sister Ann Venita Britto F.C., who will be leaving our parish, having been assigned to join her Daughters of the Cross order in England. She was given a gift by the branch.

Several new members were initiated by Past Grand President Leonard Rossi and Central Council member Dante Galeazzi.

“Multi grazie” to Anna Mello, who was in charge of our annual holiday biscotti baking and sales. She, with her corps of bakers, made and sold out on nearly \$6,000 worth of Christmas cookies. The biscotti are a very popular item in the community.

Colleen Alfieri was elected to join our group of 2019 branch officers as Orator.

Even though our annual “All You Can Eat” shrimp dinner is several months off, tickets are now available for this very popular event. Lori Pellegrino-Jackson, Cary Posz and Barbie Ratto will be the chairs. Michelle Harmon will chair the Silent Dessert Auction again.

2019 looks to be a busy and exciting year for our branch.

Felice Capo d’anno,
Mariano

**Tracy
St. Bernard, Br. 390**

November dinner was another winner with great turkey and great fun with our regulars and some added friends who joined us. Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes—again bringing in over \$340!

Memberships are at a constant 175 so far this year. We expect a large crowd at our December 20th dinner meeting since Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to add to the festivities. Dinner will be Tri Tip and ravioli and appetizers and desserts aplenty!

New officers have been elected and they are Anita Ridolfi President, Chuck Tusó 1st Vice President, Nancy Schlemmer 2nd Vice President, Alena Chappell Recording Secretary, Betty Hollars Correspondence Secretary, Annette Elissagaray Financial Secretary, Serena Martocchio Treasurer, Joe Schlemmer Orator, Steve Ridolfi Sentinel and Lucy Orsi, Mary Gualco, and Marilyn Tusó Trustees. We thank all of you for your generous time and efforts on behalf of our branch. Your service through the years has been appreciated and we don’t say it enough.

Installation of the Stockton District officers will take place Sunday, January 6. Modesto Branch is hosting the Mass and luncheon. Then, on Thursday, January 24 we will have our first dinner meeting of the year with new officers. Dinner will be the ever-popular polenta and chicken cacciatore prepared by Mike Bacchetti and his talented crew of cooks.

Don't forget to look for yourself on our website: icfbranch390.org.

*Ciao for now,
Betty Hollars*

Stockton Presentation, Br. 395

Buon anno and Happy New Year from all of the members of Branch 395. We are looking forward to a year with lots of new members and many opportunities to give to charity.

Our new officers were officially installed on January 6 in Modesto and everyone is excited to get started in their roles. It is always special to get the District together. We kicked off our first meeting of the year with a pre-polenta dinner prepared by members Pat Beglau and Bob Langone. We thought, what a better way to get focused on our annual Polenta fundraiser which will be on Thursday, February 7.

This fundraiser will be held at Presentation Church in Stockton. No reason to cook that night when you can enjoy a delicious polenta, chicken and sausage dinner. Did I forget to mention dessert too? This will be a sellout event, so call today for tickets—Jo Weber at 209.481.0006.

We are also planning a membership drive during the first quarter and are so grateful to Central Council for their support.

*Alla prossima,
Mary Ann*

Angels Camp St. Patrick's, Br. 413

Feliz Navidad! Merry Christmas! And Feliz año Nuevo! Happy New Year!! We held our annual Free Parish Breakfast (Wendell's Giveaway) at St. Patrick's—fun and festive with St. Nicholas joining in pictures. The seasonal music was happy, the food (pan-



Br. 395 Eric Chapman, home from college, staffs check in with a little help from Pope Francis!



Br. 395 members look and mark where they are from on the giant Italian map.



Br. 395 Christmas Party with members, family and friends.

cakes, eggs and sausages) delicious, and the crowd a pleasure. We had a good turn out!

The Stockton District Installation of Officers is Jan. 6th at St. Stanislaus Church (7th and J Streets) in Modesto. Let the District Treasurer know who is attending, so no one misses a good Italian meal! Installation starts with Mass, Officer Installation, and then a wonderful meal in the hall. My family looks forward to it every year. My four children know most who come since all ICF members are their extended family.

We are planning for our Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. We invite members to give of their time and talent to chair, set-up, cook, serve, eat, mingle, dance, and clean-up the big event.

Please keep our Secretary, Sharon Dunn, and member, Joann Winters in your prayers as they work through their illnesses. We pray for all our ICF Family that God in His mercy will grant all of us the grace to carry



Br. 413 St. Nicholas, Elf President Pachinger, Elf Sebastian and Reindeers

our crosses and help one another each day of the new year.

The foothills are turning a beautiful green again. If you are looking for a fun event, consider getting tickets to our Valentine Day Dinner Dance with more information in next month's Bollettino.

Ciao for now!

*Annette Pachinger,
Correspondence Secretary*

**Happy
New
Year!**



Br. 413 Free Christmas Pancake Breakfast

The book is called
Opportunity
and its first chapter is
New Year's Day.
-Edith Lovejoy Pierce

**ICF is
Going
Green!**



Did you know that you can receive the monthly Bollettino by email?

Benefits:

- Save a tree
- Read text at higher magnification
- Read all pages in full color
- Receive earlier than printed version

Visit this link to sign up:

<http://eepurl.com/bLaMFb>

ICF Branch Expansion: Seven Ways YOU Can Help!

Did you know that the ICF has an expansion team that works to start several new branches each year?

Our emphasis on faith, family and heritage still resonates strongly with many Catholics even now in 2018, 94 years after our founding.

There are seven great ways you can get the ball rolling to help us start a new branch:

1. If your previous pastor has been re-assigned to a parish without ICF, reach out to him about starting one.
2. If your branch supported a seminarian that is now ordained and assigned to a parish without ICF, reach out to him about starting one.
3. If you are in a parish that is without ICF, reach out to your pastor about starting one.
4. If you know of a parish nearby that is without ICF, reach out to pastor about starting one.
5. If you know of a parish that previously had ICF, and would be ideal to re-open the branch, reach out to pastor.
6. If you have friends in a parish without ICF, reach out to them about starting one.
7. Volunteer to be part of an expansion team to get a new branch started.

Contact Mike Rossi, ICF Expansion Committee Chairperson, at mrossi@icf.org for more information.

Join the Hospitalization Plan!

You've heard of the AFLAC duck? Well, we have the ICF Chicken!

Extra money in your pocket when you're hospitalized or have surgery.

We will be holding an Open Enrollment period where ANYONE, regardless of age, can enroll in the plan. From January 1 to December 31, 2019, members in good standing may join.

So remember, when you pay your dues for 2019, add that extra \$25 per year for extra peace of mind. See the Hospitalization Plan section of the Members' Area page on the ICF website at <https://www.icf.org/membership/members/> for more details, or feel free to call the ICF Office at (888) ICF-1924 with any questions.

After one year the limitation to age 70 will go back into effect, with the exception of NEW incoming members. Brand new members, even if over the age of 70, may enroll and pay the Hospitalization Plan fee at the same time they pay their dues when they join.



Officer Training Available

Attention ICF Officers!

Officer training slides are available on our website for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Sentinel and Orator.

See the Officer Training section of the Members' Area page on the ICF website at <https://www.icf.org/membership/members/> to download the slides.



Visited the ICF Website Yet?

If you have a computer, tablet or smartphone and haven't had the opportunity to visit the ICF's national website at www.ICF.org, you are missing out!

Here are some of the many things you can do:

- Read current and past issues of the Bollettino newspaper will all pages in full color
- Access materials that you can use at a membership drive
- Read about some creative general meeting theme ideas
- Find out the calendar winners before the mailing arrives
- View training modules to learn about ICF officer positions
- Find your nearest ICF branch based on city or zip code
- Download a membership application
- Learn about the ICF's history and organization
- Learn about the ICF's charitable programs and scholarships
- Nominate a candidate for an ICF award
- And much more



Are You Fluent in **ITALIAN**?

Before you answer YES, we may not be asking the question you think we are. Using the letters of the word **ITALIAN** is a great way to remember how to maintain a path toward a successful, healthy and growing branch:

- I** **Inform yourself.** Make sure you know all about the ICF and what makes us special so that you can tell others.
- T** **Transform your branch.** Talk to your board about how you can make your branch more welcoming with music, hospitality, kids' areas and decorations.
- A** **Amazing meetings and events.** Keep business meetings short, and ensure every interaction with members is amazing with well planned spiritual/social/service programs and great food.
- L** **Leadership growth.** Invite others to lead, and mentor them.
- I** **Inform others.** Spread the word, and promote your branch in bulletins, newspapers and social media.
- A** **Ask for help.** Visit the ICF web site for ideas, speak to ICF officers or members in other branches, work with other ministries in your parish, etc.
- N** **Nurture your membership.** Show you care by reaching out if members miss meetings, visiting them if ill, encouraging them to share their talents and become more involved.

So, share the meaning of **ITALIAN** with your members and officers, and ensure your branch becomes fluent!