

IN TOUCH

Italian Catholic Federation

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District Mentor Newsletter

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A MESSAGE TO ALL MENTORS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your dedication and service to the I.C.F. this past year. 2019 should be an exciting year for the Federation.

What can you do as a Mentor to help the Federation?

- You can help Branch Presidents and their officers conduct business smoothly and efficiently by offering your support and knowledge.
- Give a Mentor Report, highlight ways that the Branch can support the I.C.F. Strategic Plan. The plan can also be found on the I.C.F. Website under the Membership Area.
- Submit a Branch Report to your District Mentor once a month, or if you are a District Mentor submit your report to me in a timely fashion. You can email them to me at vpiro@icf.org.
- Let me and the Grand President, Andy Pappani, know of any challenges a Branch is facing asap, such as declining membership, difficulty recruiting officers, and problems with their parish.
- Remind Branches that if they are considering closing they must inform the Central Council one year in advance, so that we can attempt to assist them with any problems they are having and hopefully avoid closure.

Mentoring is a great skill and can be an enjoyable experience.

Please remember to be a POSITIVE influence and don't forget to send in your reports to me in a timely manner.

BISHOPS' DAYS 2019

Again this year, I want to encourage all Districts and Branches to start early preparing for their Bishops' Days, which often occur in the Fall.

Plan special fundraisers to increase the Bishop's Burse donations from the Branches.

Andy has given this information before regarding the cost of educating seminarians but I think it bears repeating. Our I.C.F. Spiritual Director, Monsignor Daniel Cardelli, has explained the financial challenges faced by the Bishops in educating a seminarian.

The Diocese pays for the seminarians. Most come from other countries and don't have the ability to contribute to the cost of education and formation. Here's a summary of the cost per seminarian per year

Tuition	\$12,795
Room and Board	\$10,532
Medical Insurance	\$ 5,028
Books/Retreat	\$ 950
Personal Living	\$ 1,575
Total	\$30,880

Start early to encourage more members to attend Bishop's Day. Our presence shows our Bishops respect, support and appreciation.

COMMITTEE REQUESTS

The **Convention Committee** will soon be asking that the Branches start early to submit names for the 5 awards to be given out at Convention: Pope Saint John XXIII, Grand President's, Family of the Year, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Young Adult Leadership Awards.

When you receive the application forms, please read them completely. The Central Council needs all of the required material for the packet to be complete.

The Deadline to submit nominations for all of the Awards is May 1, 2019.

New Deadline for Convention Yearbook Submissions Reminder: In order to help with the timeline for the production of the Convention Yearbook, the **Deadline for Submissions has been moved up from July 1st to June 1st**. The materials for the Convention Yearbook are part of the documents, for the Quarter ending 12/31/18, that are now available on the Website in the OfficersqPortal. Please make sure that you point this out to the Districts and Branches, so that we can all meet this new deadline.

WORKSHOPS

Your I.C.F. Workshop Committee is ready and Available NOW for a presentation to your District. They will demonstrate any 60 to 90 minute presentation on many of the I.C.F. Programs. Your District President should discuss this with the Branches and select at least two or three topics for a presentation by the Workshop Committee. The topics include Spiritual Activities, Membership Growth, Retention of Members, Awards Program, Heritage/History, Financial Reports, Fundraisers for Charitable Programs, OfficersqMentorsqDuties or any other topics of interest. The Workshop Committee would like to schedule your workshop during the months of March, April or May. Contact the I.C.F. Office for contact information.

WANT TO BE A MENTOR?

Please keep an eye out for individuals who can serve as a Branch Mentor. Many members will not come forward and volunteer to be a Mentor. However, I have noticed that when a member is asked to serve as a Mentor he/she more than likely accepts the invitation. For more information, please contact Vince Piro at vpairo@icf.org or 209-756-4817.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MENTORS TO SPEAK ON AT BRANCH MEETINGS

Membership Retention and Payment of Dues.

Make sure that a list of the newly elected District/Branch Officers is sent to the I.C.F. office.

Make sure each Branch has a published yearly calendar of events that has been given to every member and encourage each President to have Chairpersons for all Branch Committees.

Encourage all Branch members to attend the District Installation of Officers. Insist that all Officers, or a Representative, attend the District Installation of Officersq Ceremony.

Encourage Members to join the Hospitalization Program.

Information on our Scholarship Program has been mailed to all of the high schools where the Federation is located. Encourage Branches to contribute at least one full scholarship if they have the means. Partial scholarship donations are also accepted and encouraged. Encourage

members who have children or grandchildren who are high school seniors and meet the criteria to apply. March 15th is the deadline for donations and applications.

Encourage Branches to increase donations to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year and Italian Studies Scholarships this year. The need is great for our advanced Scholarship Program.

Encourage members to make contributions to the Providenza Seminary Fund, Cooleyq Anemia, Gifts of Love and Scholarship Programs. Donation cards are available through the I.C.F. office.

Remind Branches to: pay the Per Capita Tax when the bill is received. Consider now how to have sufficient funds (try fundraisers) to send their Delegates to the Convention this year over Labor Day Weekend.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/18 BY DISTRICT

Gain/Loss since
6/30/18

Central Coast	1,324	- 20
Santa Clara Valley	1,045	- 46
Fresno	914	- 2
Santa Rosa	680	+ 4
Contra Costa	733	+ 1
San Mateo	559	- 14
Los Angeles	550	- 5
Chicago	369	- 20
Blessed Sacrament	356	- 1
Stockton	464	+32
East Bay	385	- 16
San Diego	288	- 4
Santa Barbara/Ventura	221	- 21
San Francisco	157	- 16
Marin	226	+ 4
San Gabriel Valley	226	- 1
Tucson	90	- 8
Orange	108	+ 1
San Fernando Valley	16	- 37
San Bernardino	85	- 1
Reno	40	+ 0

Total membership as of 12/31/18	8,836
New Members	223
Reinstated	13
Cancelled/Non Payment	318
Deceased	88
Dues Not Paid 6 – 8 months	1
Dues Not Paid 9 – 12 months	300

**Wishing you God's Blessings
in this New Year!**