Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director

Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year. We look forward to Christmas: new gifts, new toys, lots of sweets, the gathering of the family for Christmas dinner. What a happy time it is for them! Children also participate in preparing the Christmas nativity scene at home. I can remember as a child I looked forward to placing the infant Jesus in His crib on Christmas Eve to celebrate His birth. I also remember walking to church for midnight Mass so late at night. Everything was so quiet at that time of night (No street noise). All I heard was the crunching of the snow beneath my shoes.

What makes Christmas so special?
We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. His birth is a Christmas gift to us. He is the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World, He is God and Man at the same time.

It is a mystery but a wonderful doctrine that gives meaning to our lives.
Without Jesus we have nothing.
We are lost, we are like “The blind leading the blind.”(Matt. 14-15)
With Jesus we can see our way. His path for us is clear. His love for us is perfect.
His presence in our lives, especially in Holy Communion, shows us how to love Him and each other.

We celebrate his birth with Joy!
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

May the Christ child bring Joy to you and peace to the hearts of everyone in the world!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Celebrating 2 Years of Grand President Pappani’s Leadership of the Italian Catholic Federation

Deborah Rodondi, Chairperson

On November 2nd, a beautiful warm sunny day on the California Coast outside of Monterey, the Italian Catholic Federation celebrated the success of Andy Pappani’s 2 years as Grand President of the Italian Catholic Federation and Sid’s 2 years as First Lady. The event took place at the Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks.

The evening started with mouth watering appetizers then an opening prayer lead by Msgr. Cardelli. A delicious New York steak dinner followed. The evening's food was prepared by Chefs Eddie and Bella Leonard along with family/crew, including Central Council Life Member Dante Galeazzi. Wine was donated by the Moose Lodge and dessert was Andy’s favorite—Carrot Cake—donated by Layer's Bakery in Monterey. Head table flower arrangement was created by Stewarts Floral, Inc. (Grand Treasurer Franklyn Lopes Jr.) and table pumpkin centerpieces were created by Grand 1st VP Deborah Rodondi. During dessert, Deborah Rodondi started the program off thanking Andy for his years of service as a Central Council member and finally for his 2 years as Grand President. She stated, “The title of Grand President sounds and is prestigious, but it also comes with a lot of responsibility. It requires time, travel, hard work, which Andy embraced willingly. His duty does not stop here, going forward he will assist the current and future Grand Presidents. Thank you for being a friend to many.”

Continued on Page 6
Important Notice

The new email address for ALL Bollettino submissions is: editor@icf.org

All other email addresses being used for Bollettino submissions were terminated on December 31, 2018. This change was made to link the Bollettino directly to the Italian Catholic Federation for a more professional look and better management 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. To insure photos are always linked to branch, include branch number when naming photos such as Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Keep please your submission positive and informative. January issue deadline is December 10, 2019.

Thank you!

Members Make All the Difference
Membership Committee

The ICF Central Council created the Strategic Plan in 2017 to guide the Federation into the future with a clear vision and set of broadly defined goals and objectives.

Four Core Strategies define the plan:
- #1. Membership and Retention;
- #2. Leadership;
- #3. Community Connections; and
- #4. Finances.

The Task Force Committee of the Central Council has recommended Core Strategy 1, specifically Retention be the focus of the Federation for 2018-2020. Currently, the Federation attracts many new members (approximately 718 in 2018); however, it loses nearly that number of current members, with additional loss of 199 members due to death each year. This has created an overall loss of membership. Below are suggestions to encourage positive branch growth and retention.

Create a Warm Friendly Environment
- Treat every member as a first-time member; Welcome Them, Respect Them and Include Them.
- Remember that new members are evaluating whether they want to stay.

Recognize and Welcome New Members
- Share this responsibility with the entire branch.
- Introduce them at their first meeting.
- Assign them to a table of welcoming members.
- Initiate new members to make them feel a part of your branch.

Provide Plenty of Resources
- Membership Roster and/or Contact List
- Annual Calendar of Events
- Branch Newsletter
- ICF By-Laws Ritual Book
- Website Address

Create Amici di Cuore
- Buddy System
- Assign a mentor to each new member family.
- The mentor calls assigned member before a meeting to invite them to attend.
- Encourages new members to become a part of branch activities (fundraisers, church activities, trips…...).
- Explains the “ways” of the ICF to the new members.
- Invites new members to District events and the annual Convention.
- Acts as a liaison between new member and current membership.
- Start Small and Lead into Leadership Roles.

Accept New Ideas and Ways
- New members can reinvigorate a branch with new ideas and ways of doing things.
- Members will want to learn about traditions and “ways.”
- However, they will also want to put their own touches on things, making them become an integral part of the branch rather than just a worker.

Offer Family Activities
- Plan activities for the children at your branch meetings.
- Focus on family during special times of the year.
  - Christmas Party: Include the children. Have Santa Claus, La Befana, candy canes, small gifts, read the Christmas story, have the children sing carols.
  - Have a Giving Tree, where the children bring food for a needy family.
  - More activities can be found on the ICF website.

Plan Meetings
- Keep Business Meetings Short
  - Provide Written Agendas
  - Take Care of Day-to-Day at the Board Meeting
  - Email the Minutes and Treasurer’s Report for Review
- Make It Interesting
  - Heritage Presentations
  - Guest Speakers
  - Entertainment for Special Occasions
- Check the ICF website for additional ideas: http://www.icf.org/membership/members/

Hopefully, these suggestions will help your branch to grow and continue to retain your members.

A Joyful Wish for a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

National Branch Creates a Virtual ICF
Vince Piro – Grand President

No matter where you live, you can be an active member of ICF. Join the National Branch with its vibrant virtual presence. The Federation is launching an online branch to welcome new members as well as former members who may have moved away from a participating parish community.

Online members of the National Branch will enjoy many unique features and benefits to create an engaging virtual Catholic community. Members receive exclusive access to the National Branch Facebook page icfnationalbranch67.org. This site will offer cultural and heritage content that celebrates the varied heritage of its members as well as open message boards where they can post and connect with each other.

Members will also be invited to ICF special events and be able to attend the national convention. Of course, if they are also welcome to attend the activities of traditional branches when they are in the area. Sounds like a good excuse to do some traveling.

This an exciting opportunity to create a new branch as it develops over the next year. It provide opportunities for those who wish to shape the branch through leadership and service.

Those interested in joining the National Branch, or for more information, should contact Teresa Shaw at membership@icfnationalbranch67.org.
Grand President's Monthly Message

Vince Piro

I remember one of my first ICF conventions as clearly as it was yesterday. Pasquale Esposito was singing on Sunday night to a room full of Federation members. Pasquale was, as always, entertaining and delightful, but that’s not why I remember it. It was my granddaughter’s first dance with a boy! Gena, then only four years old, was so excited by Pasquale’s music that she took to the floor with a young Joseph Pachinger. I couldn’t help but smile.

Their dancing reminded me of one of the best things about the ICF, family and friendship. And I saw in these young ICF members the future of our federation. I envisioned the ICF many years in the future as a vibrant and growing organization.

Today, of course, the Federation faces many challenges, including a shrinking membership base, but the image of Gena’s first dance stays with me as a reminder that we must work to keep the ICF a growing and vital organization for future generations.

To do this, we must work on membership growth and retention (including marketing). This is, in fact, the Core Strategy #1 of the ICF Strategic Plan. As Grand President, I am asking that this be the focus of this year’s agenda on all levels.

At the national level, the Central Council is taking several actions:

(1) The Membership Committee is contracting with a professional film maker to create a promotional video that can be used to advertise the Federation on several media formats, including social media. This video will be designed to attract new members by focusing on family, faith, and fellowship. It will emphasize the many good works that the Federation does and the many charities to which we contribute. Its intent will be, in part, to encourage younger members, especially families, to join a branch. When completed, it will be available to local branches to use in their local parishes and communities to promote the ICF. It will also be used as part of a marketing strategy at a national level.

(2) The Public Relations Committee has begun and will continue to redesign the Bollettino so that it can be used as a promotional tool. The front page now features articles that will attract new members - concentrating on what makes the ICF an organization worth joining. (As part of that move, the President’s column, of interest mostly to members, has been moved to later in the paper.) It is hoped that you will take extra copies of the paper and place them in church vestibules and offices to promote the Federation.

(3) The Central Council has created a National Branch, Branch 67, for people who want to join the ICF and do not live near a local branch. This online virtual branch will have a members’ only Facebook group with exclusive content, including spiritual talks and sermons. We hope that you will encourage friends and others to join this branch. More information about Branch 67 can be found in this issue and on the ICF website.

(4) The Membership Committee will be working on a branding initiative that creates a consistent and modern image of the Federation: a promotional video, radio spots, parish bulletin blurbs, newspaper ads, and other promotional material.

(5) The Expansion Committee is working to open new branches. In fact, in the last few months, it has opened new branches in the Chicago, San Diego and Los Angeles districts.

(6) The Workshop Committee will be holding workshops on increasing membership and retention at District meetings. The strategies and information given at these workshops will be disseminated to local branches.

At the local level, there are many things you can do to increase membership and retention.

(1) You can implement an Amici de Coure program that creates hospitable and welcoming branches. This program creates a mentoring program for new members that helps integrate them into your branch and make them active members. The Membership Committee will be working with local presidents and districts to implement this program early next year.

(2) You can meet with your local pastor to discuss ways that your branch can support the parish and ways that he can help promote the Federation among parishioners.

(3) You can work with other Catholic organizations, such as Newman Clubs located at local universities and parish and diocesan schools, to encourage younger people to join the Federation. You can create young auxiliaries within your own branch.

(4) You can leave copies of the Bollettino in church vestibules and parish offices along with local contact information.

(5) You can contact Mike Rossi, the chairperson of The Expansion Committee, with the names of parishes that might be interested in starting an ICF branch.

The ICF Strategic Plan, which can be found in the Membership Area of our website contains many more ideas for increasing membership and retention. I encourage you to read it.

It is my belief that with a focused effort we can stabilize and then grow our membership base. You see it is my hope to be an old man someday watching my granddaughter dancing with her husband at an ICF convention.

Family Recipes

Deborah Rodondi
Grand 1st Vice President

Since my nephew, Tony, has started the Keto Diet (very low/no carb diet) I have been scrambling to find recipes that fit the profile of what he can or cannot have. It has been a challenge and the one thing he does is LOVE food. So I try and find alternatives that are tasty and leave you wanting to come back for more.

One day browsing Facebook I ran across this recipe posted by Diane Galeazzi, Branch 139 Manteca (thank you Diane for sharing). It is a vegetable dish and of course topped with cheese I figured it had to be good.

Little did I know that it would become a regular dish at our meals. Of course we have done some adjusting and probably never make it the same way twice.

It looks attractive and appetizing when it comes out of the oven and while cooking my nephew informed me it smells like pizza (of course without the crust).

This is a must have to wow your holiday guests.

Vegetable Casserole Dish

For a 7”x11” casserole dish

- 1 onion, thinly sliced; cut in half if too large
- 3-4 tomatoes, thinly sliced (I use kumato)
- 1 zucchini, thinly sliced diagonal
- 1 yellow squash, thinly sliced
- ½ eggplant, With a peeler I peel strips of the skin off- so about half the skin is left on, thinly sliced-cut in half (optional)

Stack in baking dish on end, so vegetables are standing up. I try to alternate in the same order all the way through till I get to the end. Then it is whatever I still have on the cutting board.

Depending on which direction you go in the baking dish you will have 3 or 4 rows.

- Drizzle with olive oil (3 Tablespoons)
- Sprinkle with Italian herb seasoning (1-1 ½ teaspoons)
- Sprinkle with sea salt-to taste (I don’t use any salt)
- Onion and garlic powder—instead I sprinkle 1 Tablespoon of minced garlic on top
- Top with shredded mozzarella ½ to ¾ cups—I have a Mexican blend shredded cheese or jack and cheddar—whatever is in the refrigerator. Can even add a little Parmesan cheese to the above cheeses.

As always, the seasonings and cheese is to taste. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes. For softer vegetables cook a little longer. For us, 30 minutes is perfect—the vegetables have blended yet keep their distinctive personalities.

Now the recipe said eggplant optional but I always put it in. Oftentimes I do not have the yellow squash, so I just use more zucchini.

I have added thinly sliced crimini mushrooms (baby portobellos), red bell peppers, of course thinly sliced, and even brussel sprouts.

What is great you can make it the day before, and of course refrigerate it for the next day. As a matter of fact I assembled one last night for tonights’ dinner. It also nice leftover, although I would not know about that as my nephew always takes it for lunch.

UPDATE: I received a message recently from Trish Thompson from Branch 217 in Redlands.

Continued on Page 6
OFFICERS:
Grand President
Grand 1st Vice President
Grand 2nd Vice President
Grand Secretary
Grand Treasurer
Grand Parliamentarian
Grand Trustee
Grand Trustee
Grand Trustee
Past Grand President
Spiritual Director

Leroy Taddei, Br. 343   Helen Tatone, Br. 443
Vincent Picciola, Br. 358   Frank Signorelli, Br. 291
Nina Malone, Br. 438   Joseph Santello, Br. 358
Carmen Kilcullen, Br. 52   Louisa Russo, Br. 210
James Jones, Br. 191   Forrest Price, Br. 261
Nettie Descalso-Del Nero, Br. 39  Angelina Iarossi-Armenio, Br. 218
Michael Cannady, Br. 154   Marco Galeazzi, Br. 139
David Botta, Br. 14   Frances Foglia-Teglia, Br. 19
Jody Balestrieri, Br. 229   Maria Di Paolo, Br. 379
Robert Acquistapace, Br. 198  Gerald Delfino, Br. 368
Perry Shurko, Br. 362
Michael Rossi, O.L.J.*, Br. 391
Leonard Rossi, C.L.J.*, Br. 343
Roselynne Jarrett*, Br. 72
Teresa Helfand, Br. 392
Dante Galeazzi*, Br. 139
Steven Fuentes*, Br. 213
Jane Dianda*, Br. 91
Nancy Corsi, Br. 91

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Past Grand President  Andrew Pappani*, Br. 28
Grand Sentinel   Kenneth Marshall, Br. 103
Grand Trustee   Patricia Mages, Br. 380
Grand Trustee   Lisa Crudo, Br. 343
Grand Parliamentarian  Robert Basuino*, Br. 191
Grand Treasurer   Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Br. 227
Grand Secretary   Lauren Kilcullen, Br. 52
Grand 1st Vice President  Deborah Rodondi*, Br. 19
Grand 2nd Vice President  Denise Antonowicz, Br. 184
Grand Treasurer
Grand Parliamentarian
Grand Trustee
Grand Trustee
Grand Trustee
Past Grand President
Spiritual Director
Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli, Br. 352

LIFE MEMBERS EMERITUS:
(*denotes life member)

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MEMBERS EMERITUS:
Gerald Delfino, Br. 368
Maria Di Paolo, Br. 379
Frances Foglia-Teiglia, Br. 19
Mare Galeazzi, Br. 139
Angelina Jarossi-Armenio, Br. 218
Forrest Price, Br. 261
Louisa Russo, Br. 210
Joseph Santello, Br. 358
Frank Signorelli, Br. 291
Helen Tatone, Br. 443
Chris Valentini, Br. 14

2019 - 2020 CENTRAL COUNCIL
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Bishops’ Days
Dec. 8th  Reno
2020 Bishops’ Days:
Feb. 15th  Orange
Oct. 17th  Monterey (Central Coast)
Oct. 18th  San Jose (Santa Clara Valley)

Scholarship Donations
Scholarship Donations: 1st Year
Al and Deanna De Nurr
In memory of John Peter Moglia
John and Noreen Gillio
In honor of Andy Pappani

Scholarship Donations: 2nd–4th Year
Aldine Grisenti and Family
In memory of Dick Beckett
Aldine Grisenti
In honor of the 70th birthday of
John Orlando

In Loving Memory
Report date: November 9, 2019
Deceased Members
John Moglia   Branch 010
Oreste L Macchi Branch 019
Arthur T Ghilarducci Branch 033
Blanche J Mendoza Branch 070
Mary Desideri Branch 198
Cecelia Lapera Branch 209
Ruth M Dukko Branch 227
Frank Uren Branch 332
Lianna Izi Branch 392
Lida Natalino Branch 392
Norma M Miller Branch 395
Rufus A Benbrook Branch 416
Kenneth D Harp Branch 417
Carol Cirrincione Branch 425

District Installations 2020
Jan. 4th   San Bernardino
Jan. 5th   Stockton
Jan. 11th  Marin
Jan. 12th  Los Angeles
Jan. 18th  Central Coast
Jan. 19th  East Bay
Feb. 1st   Santa Rosa
Feb 9     Fresno
Feb. 15th  Orange

Welcome to Our New Members!
Report date: November 8, 2019
Branch 021
Franklyn J Lopes Jr  Stephen M Candelini
Branch 036
Scott J Clark  Brianna Bella
Di Girolamo
Maria Di Girolamo  Rev. Jerry Maher
Aimee McDonald  Courtney McDonald
Drew E McDonald  Norah McDonald
Paige McDonald

Branch 039
Julie M Giampaoli  Chris D Navarro
Ethan I Navarro  Marcus J Navarro
Holly J Pellicano  Michael N Pellicano
Mike J Pellicano  Gabriel A Rodriguez
Joan P Rodriguez  Lisa V Rodriguez
Christine Serrano  David Serrano

Branch 052
Joyce M Munsell
Branch 082
Launn F Casey  Nada E Metcalfe

Branch 198
Linda M Galster
Branch 218
Betty J Davis  Ronald Magnolia
Branch 285
Mavis Mc Combs

Cooley’s Anemia Donations
Branch 343
Branch 368
Branch 379
Al Bronzini
Darlene Pasquini
In memory of Mary Correa

Gifts of Love Donations
Report date: November 9, 2019
Branch 423
Diane and Wayne Newhouse
In memory of Rosalie Campisi
Bob and Elaine Osorio
In honor of the 61st
wedding anniversary of
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Delfino
Eva Stern
Speedy recovery wishes for
Aldine Grisenti
Bob and Elaine Osorio
In honor of the 96th birthday of
Papa Guido Budelli
Officers/Members of Br. 403
In memory of Don Junke
Bob and Elaine Osorio

In memory of Eleonora Bertoli
Mike and Marcie Rossi

In memory of Eleonora Bertoli

Officers/Members of Br. 36
With prayers for the continued
recovery of Michelle Feldman
Joan and Jerry Delfino
Get well wishes for
Rose Arnaudo
Lorraine and Mike Munziata
In thanksgiving for
Andy Pappani
Officers/Members of Central Council
In memory of Eleonora Bertoli
Mike and Marcie Rossi
In memory of Eleonora Bertoli
The Apostolate—Charity Committee wishes all ICF members and friends a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

This year, in the Apostolate—Charity Report, we asked branches to include other, non-monetary activities in which they participate. If your branch is looking for a new charitable activity, please read some of the suggestions from other branches. Also, don’t be shy to say that you’re an ICF member when volunteering.

**BRANCH ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH**

In Marin County, Br. 161—Larkspur makes blankets and Br. 332—Novato does Christmas outreach for families.

In the Santa Clara Valley District, Br. 5—Santa Clara has a layette program. Br. 191—San Jose participates in the Altar society and ministry to the sick and homeless. Br. 368—San Jose participates in Marriage Encounter and Cursillo programs. Br. 408—Sunnyvale has food distribution. Br. 445—San Jose contributes to the Church clothes closet and does handyman and gardening work around the church.

In the Central Coast District, Br. 21—Santa Cruz participates in the Soup kitchen, arc Siena House Maternity volunteers and school carnival volunteers. Br. 25—Salinas volunteers at Dorothy’s Kitchen and the community Christmas lunch. Br. 36—Monterey is part of the homebound community ministry. Loaves and Fishes Ministry and hospitality ministry. Br. 291—Arroyo Grande teaches RCIA candidates and volunteers at Martha’s ministry, Outreach Pantry, People’s Kitchen and hospital ministry. Br. 354—Paso Robles purchases toys for Toys-for-Tots, tray favors for senior centers and cooks meals for the needy.

In the East Bay District, Br. 215—Fremont makes soup for the Lenten soup suppers. Br. 343—Castro Valley collects food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

In Stockton, Br. 139—Manteca volunteers at the Pregnancy Help Center, participates in funeral help, are school mentors and volunteers at a dental clinic. Br. 413—Angel’s Camp cooks a Christmas brunch for the parish and has a Graduation Mass for seniors.

In future articles, more suggestions will be listed. If your branch is wondering what you can do for your parish and community, hopefully, this gives you some ideas.

Merry Christmas!

Lauren Kilcullen
Chairperson

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**Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations**

**IN MEMORY OF:**
- Cardinal William Levada
- Diane Senestraro
- Ruth Datko
- Philip Oneto
- Renetta Parry
- Rosalie Campisi

**DONATED BY:**
- ICF Spouses’ Association
- Joe and Julie Bonino
- Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
- Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
- Officers/Members of Br. 21
- Officers/Members of Br. 21

**GET WELL WISHES:**
- Gloria Ghirarduzzi
- Lorraine Iavarone
- Michelle Feldman
- Michelle Feldman

**IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD:**
- Fr. Paolo Gobbo
- Father Paolo Gobbo

**IN HONOR OF:**
- The Love of God
- Vince Piro

**Anonymous Donor - Br. 21**
- Officers/Members of San Bernardino District

**IN HONOR OF THE TESTIMONIAL CELEBRATION:**
- Past Grand President Andrew J. Pappani
- John G. and Kim Filice

**CONGRATULATIONS:**
- Past Grand President Andy Pappani
- Mike and Marcie Rossi

**THANK YOU:**
- Past Grand President Andy Pappani
- Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District

**IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:**
A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 214 - Concord.

*Named after the co-founder of the ICF, the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides ICF 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.*

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**Calling all little artists!**

The Ways and Means committee will be sponsoring another little fundraiser featuring your children’s artwork.

We will be making packets of All Occasion and/or Christmas cards to sell. Please have your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews submit any kind of drawing that they wish.

It can be themed (i.e. get well, Happy Birthday, Christmas etc.) or just any design they wish to create. They can be as colorful and creative as they want and can submit more than one design.

Please have designs created on clean/unlined/unfolded paper and mail to the ICF office at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland CA 94621, attn: ways and means committee.

Our team will then transform their artwork into lovely note cards in packs of 8 for $10.00.

The deadline for submission will be May 1, 2020. The cards will be available for purchase at convention and by request to the office by September 4, 2020.

See form below to include with submissions:

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**Childs First Name:** ____________________________ **Age:** ____________________________

**Parent/Grandparent:** ____________________________ **Branch #:** ____________________________

(Please note: Child will be acknowledged by First Name and Age only if you wish to state other information, please note above (ex: Grandchild of ___ Branch ___))
Pat Cordich, a member of Andy and Sid’s Branch 28, talked about their friendship and how Andy was always willing to help in the kitchen. The Branch has missed him as there were times he was not able to help due to his commitment to the Federation. They are excited about having him back and are ready to put him to work.

Msgr. Cardelli presented Andy with a framed Papal Blessing, which was thanks to Robyn Piro’s visit to Rome this past summer and her determination that she was not leaving Italy without acquiring one.

Grand President Vince Piro presented Andy with a plaque and gifts. Joking with a step stool Vince hoped he could be half the Grand President Andy was. Vince stated that no matter what Andy was always a gentleman. With quotes from Xun Kuang and Ryan Adams, Vince shared with us why Andy was a gentleman in his eyes...a gentleman is forgiving, generous, tolerant and straightforward, therefore becomes a role model for others and once making the journey is as much of a gentleman at the end as he was in the beginning.

Andy thanked his family, special friends, branch members and everyone for attending. He informed the audience that any proceeds from the evening event will go to the Providenza Fund. He is looking forward to slowing down a bit and having more time to share with his family and branch.

Ninety people attended, including: Spiritual Director Msgr. Daniel Cardelli and Santa Clara District Chaplain Father George Aranha; Grand President Vince Piro and First Lady Robyn; Mistress of Ceremonies/Grand 1st Vice President, Life Member Deborah Rodondi; Grand Trustee, Past Grand President, Life Member Leonard Zasoski and BG; Past Grand President, Life Member Leonard Rossi and Karen; Past Grand President, Life Member of the Order of St. Lazarus Mike Rossi and Marcie; Central Council Member Nancy Corsi and Giovanni; Past Grand President, Life Member Emeritus Bob Acquistapace; Past Grand President, Life Member Emeritus Jim Jones and Janice; President of the Central Coast District Rosa Radicchi. Andy and Sid’s family were there and members from various branches, including a large group from Andy and Sid’s Branch 28 in Gilroy.

The evening closed with a prayer from Father George Aranha and Karen Rossi singing God Bless America and Noi Vogliam Dio.

Trish informed me that they made 25 Italian Almond Cakes one for each table at their Gala and it was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed them. Recipe was in January 2019 Bollettino.

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

Buon Appetito!

The Italian American Museum of Los Angeles seeks images, recipes, stories, and devotional and decorative items related to St. Joseph and St. Joseph’s tables.

Items could include prayer cards, hand-written recipes, photographs, traditional breads, hand-made decorations, and family histories, etc.

Did or does your family, church, or neighborhood construct a St. Joseph’s table? Do you make St. Joseph’s Bread?

The museum wants to hear from you!

Please send an image of the item(s) and a brief description to info@italianhall.org

Please do not mail or bring original items to the IAML.

Please email images of the item(s) or call 212.485.8432

Deadline: February 1, 2020

Exhibit opens March 2020.
Book Review: Ideal Gifts for the Young and Young at Heart

Vince Piro, Grand President

Every year in December, I write about a variety of books that you can give as gifts for Christmas to your children and grandchildren. Here have been some of my favorites from over the years.

Short Stories in Italian for Beginners (Teach Yourself Foreign Language Graded Readers)
by Olly Richards
November 13, 2018
Ages: Young Adult
Short Stories in Italian for Beginners has been written especially for students from beginner to intermediate level, designed to give a sense of achievement, and most importantly - enjoyment! Mapped to A2-B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference, these eight captivating stories will both entertain you, and give you a feeling of progress when reading. From science fiction to fantasy, to crime and thrillers, Short Stories in Italian for Beginners will make learning Italian easy and enjoyable.

Lost in Venice / Persa a Venezia (a bilingual book in English and Italian) (The Adventures of Giulia)
by Michelle Longega Wilson
May 25, 2015
Ages: Preschool - 3
Publisher Product Description:
Lost in Venice is the second of the series “The Adventures of Giulia” and it talks about Giulia, who goes to Venice for Carnival to visit her cousin Isabella. Isabella is a new character and she will be with Giulia during all of her adventures in Venice. Giulia and Isabella are complete opposites, as you know Giulia is never afraid and she loves adventures, while Isabella is always a little insecure. Luckily Giulia’s magical unicorn Sparkle will always be there to help her when Giulia’s sense of adventures goes overboard. In Venice, Giulia will visit many great places like Rialto, Murano, the famous Peggy Guggenheim Collection and more. She will discover amazing things hidden in plain sight and get lost in the beautiful city.
As always the book will give you a chance to learn things about culture and history and trust me, in Venice you can learn a lot! The book has been written by an 8 year old girl! The Adventures of Giulia / Le avventure di Giulia is a bilingual series with text in English and Italian. The books are written for English or Italian children as well as for students (or adults) who wants to improve and practice their second language.

Sean Wants to be Messi: A Children’s Book about Soccer and Inspiration.
Written by Tanya Preminger and illustrated by Elettra Cudignotto
Ages: 6-10
Publisher Product Description:
Winner of MOM’S CHOICE AWARDS 2018 - Honoring Excellence-Trusted Worldwide by Parents & Educators
Sean, an imaginative second grader, wants to be the great soccer superstar Lionel Messi, and he’s working hard for his goal. He battles fears, bullies, homework and bedtimes in pursuit of his dream to become the best soccer player in the world. An engaging, relatable soccer book about practice, inspiration, and never giving up. Beautiful illustrations by Elettra Cudignotto.

Anthony Rizzo is a Good Italian Boy
By Amanda ReCupido and Matthew Lynch
January 6, 2015
Ages: Preschool - 3
Publisher Product Description:
The Chicago Cubs’ Anthony Rizzo loves big family dinners, hitting home runs, and is even willing to share the last cannoli. Find out what else makes him a “good Italian boy” in this story.

FROM THE DESK OF VINCE PICCIOLA

October 21, 2019

Hi Bob,
I received my 2020 Cooking with Grandchildren calendar and could not be happier!!! What an honor!!! It’s humbling to know that my friends thought I was worthy of such an honor. I have great appreciation for all the committee members who thought of me for this recognition. I would like to say Hello and THANK YOU to all members of the Italian Catholic Federation. This is an honor I will never forget.
Sincerely,

Vince Picciola

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

As the Bollettino goes to press, we are saddened to learn of the passing of Life Member Emeritus, Past Grand President David Botta. More information, next month.
Join us in Celebration of Mother Cabrini in 2020
Carmelo Sabatella
LA Archdiocese District

On November 12, 2019, over 280 elementary school children from transitional kindergarten through 8th grade visited the Mother Cabrini Chapel in Burbank. Teachers said their students were very excited to visit the Chapel, many for the first time.

Several students indicated that they were visiting a special place, the Chapel that Mother Cabrini went to pray to “Our Lady Help of Christians” for guidance and inspiration. Some of the children were thrilled to realize they were “walking on the same ground that a Saint walked on” over 100 years ago.

On November 13, 2019, over 35 religious education students in grades 1st through 3rd grades and six adults also visited the Mother Cabrini Chapel on Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini’s Feast Day. Several students wondered where all the items in the Chapel Library came from and why. All were very excited to be in the Chapel and Library for the first time and said they can’t wait to tell their parents what they saw.

In 2020 please include the Mother Cabrini Chapel in Burbank to your pilgrimage of Mother Cabrini Shrines in New York, Chicago, Colorado and New Orleans. Visitors from other states are coming to the Chapel in Burbank to continue their annual pilgrimage to pray to Mother Cabrini for strength and guidance and pray for special intentions.

Also DVD Copies of the movie “Frances Xavier Cabrini: the People’s Saint” produced by Lucia Mauro are still available for sale in English and Italian. Purchase a copy for your branch and help support the Mother Cabrini Chapel. To order please call 626 372-7812 or email: cas1810@aol.com.

The next Cabrini Chapel Open House is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please add the Chapel to your Branch’s list of places to visit in 2020 and bring your family and friends 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 the annual December Pilgrimage event in Burbank and help maintain the Shrine facility, please call 626 372-7812 or visit the Mother Cabrini Shrine at www.icf.org.

Thank you for your continued support!
Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President
ICF LAADC Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee
E cas1810@aol.com
November Calendar Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>WINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Robert Cowan</td>
<td>Los Gatos, CA</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Diane Martin</td>
<td>So. San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Mary Peterson</td>
<td>Alameda, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Elvie Schriebman</td>
<td>Fairfax, CA</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Elsie Borgonovo</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>Renee Perkins</td>
<td>Fresno, CA</td>
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<td>Frank Calabrese</td>
<td>Vail, AZ</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>Most Rev. Patrick J. McGrath</td>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Troy Yonke</td>
<td>Richmond, CA</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>Frank &amp; Roseanna Cresci</td>
<td>Petaluma, CA</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>Theresa DeFrank</td>
<td>Madera, CA</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Rev. Msgr. Michael Braun</td>
<td>Bakersfield, CA</td>
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<td>Carmel Dufault</td>
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<td>David Prudenciado</td>
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<td>Brian Wagner</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>Peggy Dunn</td>
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<td>11/19</td>
<td>Rev. William Mason</td>
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<td>Thelma Cavazos</td>
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<td>Lillian Bayer</td>
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<td>Rosalind Crudo</td>
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<td>Donna Barnes</td>
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<td>11/24</td>
<td>Eleanor Andreotti</td>
<td>Fresno, CA</td>
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<td>Mary Gualco</td>
<td>Tracy, CA</td>
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<td>11/26</td>
<td>Carmen Kicullen</td>
<td>Santa Rosa, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Antonina Gagliano</td>
<td>La Mesa, CA</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Sister Lorraine Mugiie</td>
<td>Glenolden, PA</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Mrs. Elaine Cardelli</td>
<td>San Mateo, CA</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Prudence Price</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>$30</td>
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SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

December 2019

Becoming Joe DiMaggio
Written by Maria Testa and illustrated by Scott Hunt
Candlewick, 2005
Ages: 9-12.
Publisher Product Description:
It’s 1936, and the Yankees have just hired a star center fielder whose name sounds like music. What could be a better time for Papa-Angelo’s grandson to be born? Christened after the legendary ballplayer, young Joseph Paul learns much at his Italian grandfather’s knee - about holding your breath in front of the radio during a 3-2 count with the bases loaded and having the audacity to dream big dreams. After all, the boy’s ne’er-do-well father is out of the picture, and it is Papa-Angelo’s job to teach his grandson what it means to be a hero. In a poignant novel told in verse, Maria Testa paints a picture of a timeless bond between a grandson and his immigrant grandfather - and of finding his own place in a brave new world.

Penny from Heaven
By Jennifer L. Holm
Yearling Publishers, 2007
Ages: 9-12
Publisher Product Description:
It’s 1953 and 11-year-old Penny dreams of a summer of butter pecan ice cream, swimming, and baseball. But nothing’s that easy in Penny’s family. For starters, she can’t go swimming because her mother’s afraid she’ll catch polio at the pool. To make matters worse, her favorite uncle is living in a car. Her Nonny cries every time her father’s name is mentioned. And the two sides of her family aren’t speaking to each other! Inspired by Newbery Honor winner Jennifer Holm’s own Italian American family, Penny from Heaven is a shining story about the everyday and the extraordinary, about a time in America’s history, not all that long ago, when being Italian meant that you were the enemy.

But most of all, it’s a story about families—about the things that tear them apart and bring them together. And Holm tells it with all the richness and the layers, the love and the laughter of a Sunday dinner at Nonny’s. So pull up a chair and enjoy the feast! Buon appetito! This extraordinary tale is a Newberry Honor book.

Where do you find these books?
Most of these titles can be found at popular online bookstores, such as

Looking for the perfect holiday gift?
Consider giving the gift of life and donating blood in honor of your loved one. Donating blood is free and only takes about an hour. When you donate one unit of blood, you will help save three lives. For more information contact your local blood bank, or Laurice Levine, Live to Give, at 360-860-2023 or L.Levine430@aol.com. Contact the ICF office for a blood donation postcard and your gift will be mentioned in the Bollettino.

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

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco
Maria S.S. Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members:

Upcoming: Please note no meetings in January and February.

Special thanks to Doreene, John, Donna, Bea, and Bob from Branch 173 for attending our November Spuntino!

Thank you Judy for making the delicious Thanksgiving bags.

A Holy and Happy Christmas to all Branch Members and their Families.

Ciao! Toni Morsello

San Francisco
St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo from the Officers and Members of St. Elizabeth, Br. 258.

We all hope you have a very Blessed Christmas with your families.

I would like to thank my officers and members for all of their help during the year. It takes many hands to have a successful Branch. Tante Grazie!!

To all of our members celebrating a birthday in December - Many more years of Much Happiness and Good Health.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Please remember the following date:
Dec. 22nd - Mass
No meeting in December.

Ciao,

Eva Perata, President

SAN MATEO

Millbrae
St. Dunstan, Br. 403

Our officers for 2020 are as follows:
President - Paul Larson
1st. Vice President - Mary Treseler
2nd. Vice President - Annunciata Pessagno
Recording Secretary - Caroline Cannizarro
Corresponding Secretary - Rose Marie Morando
Financial Secretary/Treasurer - Eunice Morando
Corresponding Secretary - Anna Biggio
Recording Secretary - Eva Perata

We thank all our officers for their service in 2019 and their continuing service for 2020. Its with deep sadness we announce the passing of another one of our dear members, Joe Sigona. May he rest in peace.

We congratulate our President Paul Larson for being nominated as “Man of the Year” for the city of Millbrae. A celebration was held at Green Hills Country Club where many ICF members were in attendance.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party which will be held on December 3, 2019 in the Parish Center.

Rose Marie Morando
Corresponding Secretary

MARIN

Larkspur
St. Patrick, Br. 161

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!

Please continue to pray for our sick members, especially Gloria Ghirarduzzi, Lorraine lavarone and Joseph Pignati son of our Treasurer Anthony Pignati, and hope that everyone will be back to good health.

Congratulations to our Officers for 2020. They will be installed at our meeting on Saturday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. in Healy Hall at St. Patrick’s Church.

Contact Marlene Farber at 415 721-1999 X4 if you wish to purchase 2020 ICF calendars.

Buon Natale a tutti!

Anna Biggio
Recording Secretary

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members from four branches of the ICF Los Angeles Region of the LA Archdiocese District got together for a Pacific Coast Cruise on the Royal Princess. The cruise took them from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to Monterey, to San Diego and to Ensenda, returning to Los Angeles. The cruise was hosted by Branch 374, La Canada Flintridge, and included members from branches 374, 108, 111, and 67.

As 2019 comes to a close and we look back on this past year, our members can be proud of the many activities and events they have sponsored and supported throughout the year. All of our accomplishments are a result of the generous participation of our members and the dedicated service of several individuals, non-Officers, who every month create a welcoming evening for all of us to enjoy.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we recognize these special individuals and wish them all the blessings of this Holy Season.

We are able to enjoy delicious food and special friendship thanks to our kitchen crew, a family affair headed by our chef, Angela McDuffee, who oversee our dinners and is supported in the kitchen by her parents, aunts and uncles. Thank you Salvestrin and Raccanello families. Mille grazie to our bartenders Tom Lippi and Ken Valente, our musicians Dave Garbarino and Rick Jones, our raffle coordinator Don Perazzo, and our set-up guru Past-President Greg Erigero. And a special thank you to all our dessert volunteers who provide the wonderfully delicious treats we enjoy each month.

Our December celebration was, as always, a wonderful evening. The young people enjoyed a visit from Santa, and the Gourmet Basket raffle was a financial success, with proceeds going to our scholarship program. It was the perfect evening to celebrate the many blessings we, as a Branch, have enjoyed this year.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a Tutti!

Ciao! Toni Morsello

Novato
Our Lady of Loretto, Br. 332

As 2019 comes to a close and we look back on this past year, our members can be proud of the many activities and events they have sponsored and supported throughout the year. All of our accomplishments are a result of the generous participation of our members and the dedicated service of several individuals, non-Officers, who every month create a welcoming evening for all of us to enjoy.

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Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a Tutti!

Ciao! Toni Morsello

Br. 332 Christmas baskets
South Pasadena
Holy Family, Br. 108

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Members and Friends of ICF!

On November 10th Branch 108 Members attended the Ronald McDonald House Gala fund raiser in Pasadena supporting the efforts of the Ronald McDonald House with LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and State Legislator Antonio Portantino.

SAVE THE DATE(S):
- December 1st - Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage, Mass and Luncheon at St Francis Xavier Church, Burbank, from 12-30 pm.
- December 8th - ICF Branch 108 Christmas Party in Connolly Hall from 2 - 5 pm.
- December 15th - Children's Hospital Cooley's Anemia Christmas in Children's Hospital Los Angeles from 1 - 3 p.m.

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
ICF Branch 108
C 626 372-7812
E cas1810@aol.com

Montebello
St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. Hope you all had a wonderful & bountiful Thanksgiving celebration with your loved ones and are looking forward to Christmas! Thank you for joining our Thanksgiving potluck dinner & meeting. Remember the great times spent together, the delicious food eaten and thank God for our blessings!
Congratulate members celebrating December birthdays: Ezio Veneziano, Mario Mauro, Sal Franco, Domenica Orofino, Nancy Valdez, David Tarazon, and Linda Erickson. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!
Thank you for participating in this year's Bishop Banquet and Seminarians Recognition Mass & Luncheon held in October at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. 12 branch members attended the event. Thank you for all the charitable works and your generous support of vocation to the priesthood and religious life.
Congratulate all the 2020 ICF 111 officers nominated & elected at our October meeting. The 2020 ICF Officer's Installation will be at St. Peter's Italian Church & Casa Italiana, in LA, on Sunday, Jan. 12—mark your calendars, more details will follow.
Our Christmas party will be Dec. 7, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Salvatore's Italian Restaurant, at 125 North 5th St., in Montebello. It will be a great year-end party! To make reservations please call Frank Salomone at (323) 888-2074.
Pray for our sick members and those in need; keep them in your thoughts and prayers. May God Bless you abundantly. Finally, we wish you and your families every Happiness and Joy this Christmas and in the coming year!
May your life be filled with good health, love, peace and harmony!
A Presto!
Frank Salomone

Branch 108 Members attended the Ronald McDonald House

Br. 111, Bishop's Day Mass and Meal

Br. 111, October birthdays

Br. 108, 111, & 374 - Pacific Coast October Cruise
We have worked hard this year! With your help our branch raised and donated funds to our Parish, Elementary School, 2 college scholarships, Seminary Burse, American Cancer Society, Little Sister’s of the poor, St Jude’s Children hospital, USC Norris Cancer center, Fredric’s Ataxia Research and Cooley’s Anemia. Thank you all so much!

Thank you to all who participated in the pilgrimage to Mother Cabrini. What a wonderful start to the Christmas Season!

2020 calendars are available for sale $25 per calendar They make great gifts! Your donation supports ICF programs. Your name will also be entered in a daily drawing. There are 365 chances to win from $30 to $100.

Please join us for our branch Christmas Party on Dec 14th at 6 p.m. 2020 officers will be presented. Come and visit with new and old friends. Everyone has lots of fun! Free to members $10 for non members Call Nancy Donato for reservations 310 833 2584

Please plan on attending our 1st branch meeting Jan 16th at 7:30pm
Up for discussion will be tentative casino trip Jan 21st 2020
Neal will also be discussing upcoming fundraiser crab dinner in honor of St John Joseph of the Cross on March 7th.

Our Chaplain Father Diego is encouraging all to attend the 4pm Italian Sunday mass. Please support this mass.

2020 dues are now payable. $39 Dues can be brought to meeting or mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 W 8th St. San Pedro 90731

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Anita Trujillo

In place of having a meeting in October, Branch 179 sponsored the Italian Sandwich Booth at the St. Dorothy’s Oak Tree Festival, the weekend of October 18, 19, and 20. Our booth sold sausage, meatball, and vege sandwiches, and fresh made cannolis. Members signed up for a minimum of 2-hour shifts, some all three days! Lots of hard work, with most proceeds going back to the church.

In addition to our contribution in the booth, Branch 179 sponsored the Festival for a monetary donation, and in return, our banner was proudly displayed (see picture).

A few of the booth workers, pictured members Bob Carbone and Jim and Belinda Christensen.

Patricia Auriemma
Recording / Corresponding Secretary

Branch 115 on the road to Las Vegas on Veterans Day weekend. Full bus with 54 people for successful fundraiser.

Branch 115 at the Saint John Joseph of the Cross Dinner-Dance

Br. 115 adopted Seminarian Cole Buzon joined them.
Arcadia
Holy Angels, Br. 218

The planning for our New York New Year’s Eve party is in full swing. Reservations can be made at the Christmas Party on December 7. The details as of this writing are unavailable. Watch for Jeanne’s newsletters for full information. Also, as of this writing, the Christmas Boutique has not taken place, however, I am going to give a huge thank you to Linda Szerdehelyi and Aileen LaCorte for planning the event and everyone that helped out in one capacity or another. I am sure that it will be a huge success.

At our last meeting, the board members for the upcoming year were announced with quite a few changes. Jerry Farrugia will stay as president, Scott Carrano, 1stVP, Jenny Hauge – 2nd VP, myself – Recording Secretary, Jean Bernabei – Corresponding Secretary, Linda Sherman – Financial Secretary, Linda Szerdehelyi – Treasurer, Dan Apuzzo, JoAnn Hudson, Larry Rovarino and Jeri Gaudino – Trustees, Joe Lanera – Sentinel, Mary Rovarino – Orator. Our Junior ICF members, Gianni Carrano and Katie LaCorte gave a progress report on the programs. We have made a decision to donate the money for a sign outside of Holy Angels School.

We celebrated Thanksgiving Day with a great luncheon meal, thanks to Scott and Teri for organizing this and to the members who brought their favorite Thanksgiving side dishes.

Christmas season is upon us and from myself and the board we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Lolly M

Gardena
St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 237

Dear Members,

Saturday, October 12th Branch 237 celebrated its 50th anniversary of membership. The event was attended by Grand President Vince Pino, past Grand President Leonard Zasoski, trustee Pat Mages and their spouses.

It’s hard to believe it was that long ago and yet those of us who were there at the beginning can still see Angie Publico, her brother Frank Amorosino and their spouses show the youngsters of St. Anthony of Padua parish how to tear up a dance floor. Thanks to the tremendous support from our parish the event was a great success! New memories were created for this next generation of youngsters to recall at our 100th anniversary.

Next on the agenda is our Branch Christmas party on December 8th. Santa will make a special appearance, to the joy and delight of the young and young at heart. Perhaps we’ll see wishes made come true right before our eyes. Our Junior President, Johnny Rou will chair this event.

Diamond Bar
St. Denis, Br. 317

Hello,

Although the St. Denis ICF (Br. 317) has been “silent” in the Bollettino lately, we definitely have not been “silent” in our Activities.

In August we held a “Dining to Donate” night at Applebee’s to raise money for the Schmidt Family Legacy benefiting Lung Cancer Research through USC Keck Medical. We had a good turn out.

In August we also sponsored a Confirmation student to go to the City of Saint Conference at UCLA.

In October a few of us went up to St John’s Seminary to attend the Bishop’s Banquet. We held a fundraiser and presented a check for $300 to the Queen of Angels Center for Priests Formation for the Path Way to Priesthood Program.

We were also honored to have Perry Shurko, our District President, at our General Meeting. Thank you Perry for coming. You are always welcome.

October also saw our St. Denis ICF Arts & Craft Faire. The ICF sold sausage sandwiches, nachos and cannoli. Members of Boy Scout Troop 777 in Diamond Bar volunteered to help out with our table. (They have helped us with various other events over the past few years.) They also had a table and were selling chocolate bars to raise money for the 50th Anniversary Event. (ICF thanked them in an ad in their program book for all their help and support.)

On Dec. 1st, we along with the Knights of Columbus and Women’s Council will once again host Breakfast with Santa. All event proceeds go to the St. Denis Christmas Baskets.

In December we will also take part in the Children’s Hospital of LA; the Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage and various events at St Denis.

Our Big Cannoli sale is earlier this year. Presales start in early February and deliver the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. (One last “splurge” before Lent starts. Lol)

From All the Members of ICF Branch 317 in Diamond Bar, we would like to wish everyone a VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY and WONDERFUL Thanksgiving. GOD BLESS!!!

Pamela-Anne Roemer
President, Branch 317
Diamond Bar, CA

Claremont
Our Lady of the Assumption, Br. 319

Merriest of Christmas to you all.

I know with the weather in southern California you would think it was summer, however Christmas is just around the corner. Just a few dates to remember:

Dec 1 Cabrini Pilgrimage at her shrine in Burbank. Call me or see Bollettino for details
Dec 8 branch party at Foothill Terrace mobile home park
Dec 15 Children’s Hospital Christmas Party at noon
Jan 1 New Year’s day
Jan 12 Installation of Branch Officers
See you all there

God bless
Andrea Linn, President

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

The branch is fortunate to add two new members to the Board of Directors. Robert Barbera joins the board as Trustee and Chairman of the Evangelization Committee. His wife, Josephine, is Corresponding Secretary. Robert will head up the effort to enhance evangelization as a major objective of our branch. Robert is publisher of Italia-American, a national Italian American newspaper.

New branch officers elected for 2020: Phyllis Harb is 1st Vice President, Al Restivo will serve another term as president as will Diane Restivo as 2nd Vice President & Membership Chairman. Mark Mannarelli continues as Treasurer, Robert DePietro as Financial Secretary, and Mary Wynton as Secretary. Raul Acevedo continues as Sentinel and Ways & Means Chairman. Fiora Marcucci Murphy serves again as Branch Orator and Paula Chininni and Maria DelSalqueo as Trustees.

Several members of the Br. 374 as well as branches 108, 67, and 111 cruised from LA on the Royal Princess to San Francisco, Monterey, San Diego, Ensenada and back to LA for a fun-filled week on the high seas, enjoying the camaraderie, great food, and excellent entertainment.

The branch is busy with activities in December starting with the Mother Cabrini event, followed by a trip to the new Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove. We will enjoy the Sistine Chapel exhibit and then lunch together. This month we sponsored a parish-wide collection of baby gifts for the Pregnancy Center in Temple City.

We end the year with our wonderful, well-attended branch Christmas Party at the home of the Robert and Wende DePietro. Buon Natale a Tutti,

Al Restivo, Branch President

Thousand Oaks
St. Paschal Baylon, Br. 380

Branch 380 is having a great Fall season. We had a fantastic Thanksgiving dinner at our November general meeting. Jean Bridges was the winner of our pie baking contest. As part of learning about our Italian heritage, Remo Iezza presented a video about Cinque Terre in Liguria, Italy.

This is the season of giving and members of our Branch will be helping to prepare shoe boxes full of items for needy children around the world for Operation Christmas Child. We have also been collecting gifts for patients at Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles which will be handed out at a Christmas party there on December 15th.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 7th in our parish hall. It is always a joyous time for all. Santa will make a visit and we will have a Christmas raffle and a delicious dinner.

Wishing everyone all the blessings of the season.

Ann Scott, Corresponding Secretary

Blickenstaff's Buon Natale!!

Continued on Page 14
Rancho Palos Verdes
St. John Fisher, Br. 444

On November 14, we had a Friendsgiving Potluck, our ongoing Cooley’s Anemia Fundraiser and Toy Drive Collection for the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, and the ICF Branch 444 Officer Elections for 2020. Everyone brought and shared their favorite dishes and desserts. Members and their guests also brought new, unwrapped toys and items for the recipients to enjoy. We all had fun! Save the Date! We will be having our Annual ICF Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. in the St. John Fisher Parish Barrett Hall. All are welcome to join the festivities which include appetizers, dinner catered by Giorgio’s Restaurant, music, dancing, and raffles! The cost is $25 for ICF members, $30 for nonmembers, and children ages 12 and under are $15. Tickets are being sold after day time masses outside in the SJF church gathering area on Sunday, November 24, 2019. Also, you may purchase tickets by contacting Patty Hansen at (310) 541-3816 or by sending her an email to patty.hansen@verizon.net with your information. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions or need information about our branch events, please feel to send an email to icf444hrp@gmail.com.

Tonia Amalfitano
Recording and Corresponding Secretary

OAKLAND

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Even with the weekend power outage we were able to have a large turnout for our District Meeting and am proud to say that treats and raffle prizes were supplied by a substitute branch. Now that is the way the ICF works. Thanks everyone.

With this turnout we were able to have our elections of officers and even brought in some new faces. Election results are: President, Lisa Crudo; 1st vice Pres., Melody K.Lever; 2nd vice Pres., Dave Wellbeloved; Rec. Sec., Pat Grasso; Fin. Sec., Dave Madej; Orator, Jeanette Zugnoni; Trustees, Maria Raphael, Ralph Martinelli and Judy Wellbeloved; and Sentinel, Peggy Lubeck. Let’s support this new team.

Now we move forward with some fun and hard work between now and February.

Beginning with our Christmas party, Dec. 7th, then Installation of Officers, Jan.19th and then our Crab Feed, Feb. 1st.

With all of this Hustle and Bustle, let’s take some time to slow down and think about the “Reason for the Season”. It’s time to thank God for what we have and for those we can share with during this season.

May God Bless you with a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Pat Grasso,
District Sec.

Alameda
Nostra Signora
Delle Grazie, Br. 10

Our 2020 social calendar starts with our annual Polenta Dinner on Sat., Jan. 11 at Monsignor O’Brien Hall, High St. at Van Buren St., Alameda. Doors open at 6 p.m. for no-host social hour. The dinner of salad, polenta with chicken, dessert & coffee will be served at 7 p.m. Prices are $25 for adults and $12 for children 12 years old and under.

Reservations to Br. 10 2nd VP Jan Rosa at 510-523-1369 by 9:00 a.m. on Tues., Jan. 7. Send your check payable to ICF Branch 10 to Jan Rosa, 370 Victoria Bay, Alameda, CA 94502. Payment confirms your reservation.

Additional congratulations are in order for Antonio “AJ” Arevalo, the recipient of Br. 10’s 2019 Dave Rose Memorial Scholarship, for receiving the City of Alameda Community Service Award for Youth. AJ graduated from St. Philip Neri School in May and now attends St. Joseph Notre Dame H.S. AJ’s served Mass and volunteered with the Alameda Rec. & Park Dept, the Alameda Youth Committee and the Outreach Ministry of our parish. The Award honors individuals, nonprofits and businesses who contribute to Alamedan’s virtuosity and advancement. AJ was honored at a ceremony in Alameda on Nov. 7.

We lost a longtime ICF member, John Moglia, who died on Oct.14. John joined Br. 223 of Oakland in 1967 and transferred to Br. 10 upon the closing of Br. 223. The obituary which appeared in the East Bay Times noted his affiliation with the ICF.

John Zugnoni
Branch 10 publicity

Livermore
St. Philomena, Br. 285

We begin the month of November with an “attitude of gratitude” for all the many blessings from God in our lives.

Our October social/meeting included a very interesting and informative presentation from our member, Brenda Lainati, who spoke about cyber security and how to be watchful about keeping our private information secure.

Our slate of new officers for next year was presented and voted upon at our Oct. meeting. Thank you to the nominating committee and the members who have stepped up to taking a board position.

Our sunshine committee met and has begun reaching out to our members who are home bound. Many ideas have been implemented in ways to serve these members, including home visits, cards, small gifts, phone calls and bringing the Eucharist to them if requested.

Our Mass of Remembrance on Nov. 15th at St. Elizabeth Seton, is always well attended as we remember loved ones. A delicious turkey/ham dinner will be provided.

We were delighted to have Don & Mary Merucci as guests at our Oct. meeting. As former active members, we enjoyed seeing them since their move to Nevada.

Our Branch was saddened to hear of the death of Father Poon who was our Chaplin for many years. May he rest in peace. A donation in his name will benefit St. Michael’s Education Fund.

Several members will be involved in the Christmas Nativity Display Sunday on Dec. 8th in the Chapel at Saint Elizabeth Seton. This is always a beautiful way to remind us of the significance of keeping Christ in Christmas. The little children especially enjoy the display and receiving a holy card.

We look forward to a festive evening on Dec. 11th when we enjoy our annual Christmas dinner at a local restaurant.

Future plans for our branch are being discussed for 2020. In the meantime, we wish all of the ICF members a Happy Thanksgiving in this season of giving thanks.

Our prayers continue for members and their families who are in need of healing.

Until next time, Ciao

Judy Bates

CASTRO VALLEY

Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

It has been a busy time for our Branch! A big thank you to the Biscotti bakers and sales people for the outstanding job you each did to make this a successful venture. And an other thank you to those who donated nonperishable food items to donate to the OLG St. Vincent de Paul’s Society during our super, delicious soup (Lisa’s Minestrone) and salad meal.

We are still selling Raffle calendars, so everyone still has a chance to win next year.

Due to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and our meeting day being the same, we will be having Christmas in January this year. Just a few days past “little Christmas,” still so within the season.

During this joyful time for some, let us keep in our prayers and donations, those who are not as blessed as we may be. Perhaps just an extra smile or Merry Christmas will make someone feel special.

A blessed Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year to all.

Pat Grasso,
Branch Sec.

CONTRA COSTA

DISTRICT COUNCIL

It’s hard to believe that December 2019 is here. They say time flies when you’re having fun. We sincerely hope you all had a lot of fun this year and we wish you a Merry Christmas and very Happy and Prosperous 2020.

The Christmas season is upon us and, as Catho-lies, our focus is on celebrating the birth of God the Son, Jesus Christ.

Santa Claus, the Drummer Boy, Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer, etc. are all secondary and do not really matter when we think of the real reason for the season.

The District Night of Recollection on November 11 was a nice event. We thank our Richmond branch for hosting it, Walter Costa and Toni Reeder for serving a delicious Ravioli dinner, Father Larry Young for his very inspirational talk and all of you that attended.

The District Christmas party on December 2 at De Vinos Restaurant in Pleasant Hill was really a lot of fun.

The District Installation of Officers will be on Saturday January 18, 2020 at the Galileo Club in Richmond.

Contra Costa District Night of Recollection with Fr. Larry Young
Our Pittsburg branch will host it. Your branch President will be sending an invitation containing all the details. All members nominated/elected for office should attend this Installation. You do not have to attend the luncheon if it is not convenient. Family and friends are welcome.

Pray for the quick recovery of our sick members.

In Closing: “And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive. If you have faith” Mathew 21:22

Joseph (joeflores33@comcast.net)

Martinez
St. Catherine of Siena, Br. 13

Branch 13 Officers 2020: Tom Cook, President; Mary Cook, First Vice/Recording/Corresponding Secretary; Anne Crisp, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Marylynn Rogers, Orator; Rosemary Cook; Robert Porier, Karen Glen, Trustees, and Paul Cook, Sentinel.

We have many to thank for helping make our annual dinner a success: members, friends, youth group, attendees, and donors. We couldn’t do it without your contributions of time, talent, and treasures. We are grateful.

As we journey through Advent together preparing our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Lord’s birth on Christmas, let our prayers of hope, love, joy, and peace resonate in all of us. At St. Catherine of Siena Church at 604 Melius Street, Martinez, you’re invited to pray fervently for our priests on Thursday, December 5 at 6 p.m. at the “Beneath His Cross” apostolate; attend First Friday Mass on December 6 at 6:30 p.m.; Communal Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, December 7 at 10am followed by breakfast with Santa. We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8 (nine months before her nativity on September 8) along with a complimentary fiesta honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe in parish hall at 2 p.m. The Communal Penance service is offered on Saturday, December 14 at 10 a.m.; and, Simbang Gabi/Las Posadas devotions begin on Sunday, December 15. Come to one: Come to all.

Our members of Branch 13 in Martinez wish all Federation members a blessed Christmas as we and the angels sing the songs of His birth and herald in the New Year! Hark!

Ciao for now,
Mary Cook

Crockett
San Carlo, Br. 14

Ciao Amici! As Thanksgiving and Advent seasons come around, we often pause to reflect on our many blessings.

We celebrate the holiday season by gathering together with our friends and families, like we did with our recent Polenta Dinner and November branch meeting. A big thank you goes out to Jim Thomas, the crew, and the committee for another successful fundraiser, and to Al DiPrima for treating us to a gourmet turkey feast!

But we are also reminded of the cycle of life; the autumn harvest, the change of seasons, and the birth of Christ. We welcome the newcomers to life, and fondly remember those who have passed. With this writing, we remember our dear friend David Botta.

David lived a life of passionate service to the ICF, the Church, and the community. His leadership and selflessness were unparalleled, and he leaves a legacy of good work that will continue to impact everyone he touched. He cared deeply about his heritage, and loved to tell stories about growing up in Crockett and all things Italian. David was a friend to everyone who met him, and could always be counted on to make you smile. He was a very good man.

We pray for peace for David and the Botta family, as well as all of our recuperating and grieving members. Know that you are surrounded with all our love and support.

May this Christmas season be a time of peace, joy, and promise for us all.

Blessings,
~Helen

Pittsburg
San Domenico, Br. 72

Dear Members,

Thank you for the nice turn out to celebrate our anniversary. The pasta party was enjoyed by all. So was the free raffle. At the meeting we held election for 2020 officers. Thank you to our newly elected officers. Watch for your invitation for our Christmas dinner party. Santa will pop in with lottery tickets.

At our Jan. meeting we will approve our calendar and confirm our apostolic work. Remember the District Installation will take place on Saturday January 18, 2020. It is our turn to host. We will have this at the Richmond Galileo club. You will receive a flyer with details. If you are apart of the committee, you will be notified of the meeting date.

A great big thank you to the Richmond branch for hosting the recent Night of Recollection. They made a ravioli dinner. What a feast! Father Larry Young spoke afterwards. His talk gave us a lot to think about. Father is a great speaker. We thank him. We also thank Joseph Flores for making a donation.

ICF Calendars are on sale. Each one comes with a stub. You will have 365 changes to win money. If you win your stub is put right back in the daily raffle. Great way to support ICF while having a chance to win money. Call Patty at 957-6457 if you want a calendar.

The District expansion committee will form in the new year. Let Patty know if you would like to be a part of it.

We will look into forming new branches in cities with no branch. Then give the information to the ICF expansion team. It is important to open new branches and gain and keep members we have.

See you at the Branch Christmas party and the District Christmas party. Celebration time.

Merry Christmas.

As we say in Pittsburg, Sempre Avanti, Patty

Concord
Todos Santos, Br. 214

The holidays season is upon us. How time flies.

For November, we are planning our Thanksgiving pot luck dinner. The turkey is provided by our president, Roberta Healy. We all bring delicious side dishes and desserts. During this meeting on November 21st. we will be holding our election of officers for 2020. We also bring Toys for Tots, headed by Terri Di Loreto, and the Marines. We have been so successful in donating a lot of great toys for children’s need. Our December brunch is planned for December 8th. We will have it at La Veranda in Clayton. We enjoy a delicious brunch and look forward to winning the door prizes. Many of our members enjoy this event.

In January we have a clothes drive with donated slightly used or new coats, scarves, underwear, socks, sweaters, etc. We have been very happy with the amount that is donated for the homeless.

We pray for our members with poor health and hope all have a healthy, blessed holiday season.

We are thinking of David Botta for a speedy recovery. He is in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Norene DeLuca

Continued on Page 22
A Festive BUON NATALE to You from Branch 403 President Paul Larson and all our Officers and Members!

Merry Christmas to All of Our ICF Family and Friends.
Grand President Vince & First Lady Robyn Piro

Buon Natale e Buon Capo D'Anno
From Branch 442 Christ The King Church Pleasant Hill, CA

May Joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope and Love be your treasures in the New Year
The Todos Santos Branch #214 Concord, Ca.
Which includes the surrounding parishes: St. Agnes, St. Bonaventure, St. Francis of Assisi and Queen of All Saints

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

Buon Natale a Tutti!
Branch 395, Stockton

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

Buon Natale and Buon Anno
Officers and Members of Branch 391, St. Martin of Tours, San Jose, CA
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from
The Zasoski Family

Merry Christmas and Wishing You a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
The Pappani Family
Past Grand President Andy and First Lady Siria (Sid) Pappani

Merry Christmas and Wishing You a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Branch 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary Brentwood, CA

Wishing You Peace, Love and Joy for the Holiday Season and in 2020.
Deborah Rodondi
CC Grand 1st Vice President

Merry Christmas from the Jarrett Family
Jim, Patty, Jimmy, Gail, Roselynne, Chris, Dana and families

Buon Natale e Buon Capo D’Anno!

Wishing you Peace, Love and Joy for the Holiday Season and in 2020.
Deborah Rodondi
CC Grand 1st Vice President

Unto Us a Child is Born
Buon Natale e Felice Capo D’Anno
Branch 154, St. Raymond
Richmond, CA

We wish you every happiness for a Holy Christmas and for the New Year.
Buon Natale e Capo D’Anno
From the Officers and Members of Branch 7, Sacro Cuore

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our families and friends.
May the birth of Christ fill your hearts with love and may the New Year bring you good fortune and good health.
Members of Branch 39, Merced, California

May the Lord bless and keep you and your families during this Christmas Season and Always.
Your Brothers and Sisters of Branch 28, Gilroy

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas Season!
From Branch #75, Cloverdale

Branch #32, Fresno
Wishes You a Very Merry Christmas

Open your heart at Christmas and not just for one day.
Open your heart at Christmas. Let this beautiful feeling stay.
For caring, generosity, and love, we treasure through the year.
Don’t wait until Christmas to share it with those you hold dear.
S.M. Care
St. Francis Borgia, Br. 392
Chicago, IL
Happy 95th Anniversary to the
Italian Catholic Federation

Best Wishes from
Central Council Member
Teresa Helfand

Buon Natale Felice Anno Nuovo
From the Officers and Members of
Branch 173—Burlingame

Buon Natale from the Officers and Members of
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Branch 184 – Los Gatos
President: Denise Antonowicz
1st Vice President: Julie Klem
2nd Vice President: Marie Stalteri Antonowicz
Secretary: Marie Yurosko
Corresponding Secretary: Lucy Amico
Treasurer: Donna Pflafl
Financial Secretary: Michelle Antonowicz
Trustees: Rose Arzadno, Norma Buonacorsii, and Joe Yurosko
Sentinel: Victoria Nguyen
Branch Mentor: Maria Greco

Buon Natale
Italian Catholic Federation–Tracy Branch 390
We at Saint Bernard’s Parish wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
May God bless and keep us safe as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Buon Natale
From the Officers and Members of the Italian Catholic Federation Branch 439, Saint Monica Parish
5136 N. Nottingham Avenue
Chicago, IL
Anna Tamburello, President

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
From the Members of Branch 342
(Auburn, CA)

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
From the Officers and Members of St. Elizabeth, Branch 258, San Francisco

Warm Wishes for
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!
Officers and Members of Br. 50, San Francisco

The Officers and Members of Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli in Colma, California
Rejoice in Celebrating Our 91st Branch Anniversary!
We Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Officers and Members of Branch 14, Crockett

Blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year 2020!
Buon Natale e Felice Capo D’Anno!
The Officers and Members of Santa Rosalia Branch #36 in Monterey

Wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo dai tuoi amici nel 210, Fontana

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your friends in 210, Fontana

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

Stockton District wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

May the Lord look down upon us and give us peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

Branch 48 - Saint Stanislaus—Modesto
Branch 82 - Saint Anne—Lodi
Branch 138 - Saint Luke—Stockton
Branch 139 - Saint Anthony—Manteresa

Branch 390 - Saint Bernard—Tracy
Branch 395 - Church of Presentation—Stockton
Branch 413 - Saint Patrick—Angels Camp
Welcome to December! Our 2020 officers were chosen at our November meeting. Official results will be announced in January but THANK YOU to all those that ran. We appreciate the hours it takes to run our branch. The more hands, the less work for each. Congrats to all.

December 2 was our district Christmas Party at Devino’s Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. We hope all those that attended had a fun and festive time. Thanks to the district for setting up the evening.

December 15 will be our next meeting. It will be a Christmas party, so very little business, just food and social! Hope all will be able to come. Watch for details by email.

January 12th we will have our quarterly Mass and Brunch. Please join us at the 10:45 mass. We sit in the front, to the right as you enter church. Brunch at Mr. Lucy’s after.

Items to remember: Canned food collection at each meeting for our parish pantry. Paper grocery bags with handles are much needed as well. 2019 Fall dinner rescheduled to March 28th, 2020. New, one-time menu is being discussed. DON’T FORGET TO BUY YOUR 2020 calendars for $25. 2020 DUES of $42 will be due in January!

Please keep the following members and their families in your prayers: Bob and David. And a huge Thank You for the answered prayers for Nancy as she is feeling good and has come back to our meetings!!!

Ciao! Juliette Cote

BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT

Auburn
St. Joseph, Br. 342

Due to circumstances beyond our control, our Annual Family Christmas Dinner has been rescheduled to Sunday, December 15th. We will still start at 4:00 p.m. Chefs Lynne, Lisa, Gary, and their apprentice James will be preparing a delicious meal for us and a special visitor will be making an appearance after we eat. We also will be presenting donations to church at community groups at this time. We hope you and your family will be able to join us for this wonderful event.

Tickets will be available very soon for our annual Polenta dinner which will be taking place on January 18, 2020.

Tickets will sell out quickly, so contact MaryAnn Mikles at (916)759-8466 if you will be able to attend.

We are also asking for monetary donations or raffle items for these two events. They are our biggest fundraisers of the year and we depend on our branch members to help us with donations. If you can help out or have any questions, please call MARYAnn, Pam (530-913-2041) or Dolores (530-823-9125). Thank You.

Ciao!

Roseville
St. Clare of Assisi, Br. 438

Our October meeting started off with a delicious Polenta dinner, hosted by Brad and Andrea Senges and family. What a special treat! Kathy Carajan, from St. Clare’s Art and Environment program, was our speaker for the evening. We all learned that there is so much work that goes into decorating the church for our different liturgical seasons. As always, the family heritage story was the highlight of the evening. Thank you to Angela and Frank Di Grande for graciously sharing their stories with us.

Everyone who traveled to Reno on our bus trip to the Italian Festival had a great time! The weather was perfect and the food and music were wonderful. Speaking of food….

Br. 438 members, Cathy and Art Rasmussen won the Judges’ Award at the sauce cook-off. Congratulations! We’re all hoping to get a taste of their delicious recipe at one of our future meetings.

Ciao! Juliette Cote

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT COUNCIL

This is my last article as district secretary. I am formally “retiring.”

The Santa Rosa District Installation will take place on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020 in Healdsburg, Ca. All branches have received information. We hope to have a full complement of officers present.

Please note all branch activities listed in the 2020 District Calendar. Let’s try to support each other and the work that we do.

We are finally in our rebuilt house and it is great. There are still things to do, but it’s wonderful to be home. We thank all of you for your prayers and good wishes. I know that they helped in the process.

Best wishes for the new year. Keep up your work on membership and apostolate-charity projects.

CARMEN

Healdsburg
St. Francis de Sales, Br. 52

We hope all members are back in their homes and have electricity and gas. The recent fire and evacuation, while scary, reinforces what a great community we have in Healdsburg!

We had a great attendance at our postponed polenta dinner on Nov. 22. Thank you to Richard Passalacqua and crew for stepping in and cooking the wonderful dinner.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 3: Branch meeting at the Rectory. 5:45 p.m.
Dec. 6: Christmas Party. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Price: $10. Children are free. Santa will be visiting from the North Pole! For tickets, call Mary Madden: 431-0438.

Raffle ticket sales for the Nativity set will be held after all the Masses during Advent. The raffle will be held after Masses on December 15.

Congratulations to our 2020 officers: President: Ter Rollyer, 1st VP: open, 2nd VP: Mary Lou Jones, Rec. Sec.: Lauren Kilcullen, Fin. Sec.: Bill Jones, Treasurer: Rick Norman, Orator: Barbara Thomas, Trustees: Jerry Arrigoni, Joe Felice and James Madden; 431-0438. Please support this great group of officers in 2020!

Remember to pay your dues.

We pray for the people affected by the Kincade Fire.

Merry Christmas!

Lauren Kilcullen

Buon Natale!
This is the time of year we give thanks. We are grateful for those who served on the board this past year. A special thank you to Mary Jean Dell’Aquila who has served as our President for the last three years. We are so grateful.

Presenting our new Board who have stepped up to the plate for this coming year: President: Claudia Cuneo 1st Vice President: Phyllis Chiaiano 2nd Vice President: DeeDee Bovone Secretary: Ron Brown Treasurer: Margaret Brown Trustees: Kristine Catucugeli, Christine Flaherty Orator: Ken Cuneo Sentinel: Diane Heckenberg

We will be together on December 19th for our Christmas Meeting. There will be prosecco and appetizers and we will bring the presents for the parish families we will be giving.

We are just beginning to plan for our big event Chicken and Spaghetti Dinner on February 15th. We will give an update of this annual event next month.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas full of peace and joy! Buon Natale!

Sonoma St. Sebastian, Br. 103

We had an informal meeting at Jo Grant’s home last nite. Our Vice -president Tom Wurst could not attend.

Not much to say except that our holiday party for Branch 103 will be on Monday, December 9. All are welcome! Bring your friends and we will celebrate! A great dinner will be served and all for $10.00. Fantastic--good food and family & friends!

Happy Holidays!!

Marilyn Sylvestri

Recording-Secretary

Ciao and ci vediamo presto!!

Petulama St. Vincent, Br. 127

Greetings from Petaluma!

Sorry I missed my entry in the Bollettino this last month, hope this one gets in.

We had a short meeting in October and the following members were elected to Office in our branch: President Lucy Spingola; 1st Vice Pres. Denise DiGrolamo; Recording Secretary Susan O’Connor; Financial Secretary Sharon Hromek; Treasurer Reno Iezza; Trustees Mary Ellen Higgins, Marilyn Lombardi, Louise Vicino; Sentinel Grace Herrold; and Orator Ann Cameron. Our Mentor is Dante Corsetti. Thanks to last years Officers for all their hard work and congratulations to our new Officers for the yr. 2020.

We had our Polenta/Stew Dinner, was unable to attend, but heard that everyone enjoyed themselves, the food was delicious and the dinner was successful. We want to thank Josephine Laviio, Giacco Manni, Angelo Leone and all who helped to make this dinner the success it was.

At this time we will have had Thanksgiving, so I hope that you enjoyed this special holiday with family and friends. We will be having our Christmas Dinner on December 8th. We hope that you will be able to attend. Marilyn and Louise are planning a nice luncheon after the 10:30 Mass at St. Vincent’s Church. Cost $25. The luncheon is at the Cottages of Petaluma.Send in your reservation form.

January 13th - Soup/Dessert Dinner 6 p.m. Rm. 9
February 22nd - All You Can Eat Crab Dinner

Get well wishes to Margaret Cordrey, Roseanna Cresci and anyone who is ill.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary wishes to all celebrating.

May you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas. shared with your family and friends. May the New Year bring you the blessings of love and happiness.

Remember to be nice to someone, you will always get it back in return.

Ciao,
Louise Vicino

Arcata St. Mary, Br. 144

Buonvenuto Autunno!

Yes, Branch 144 welcomed Fall with a couple of events. The first was a special Mass to honor our deceased members, celebrated by our I.C.F. Chaplain, Father Pacheco. Afterwards, we gathered in the Father Kelly Meeting Room to enjoy delicious minestrone soup prepared by our Branch President, Linda Spallino, with side dishes contributed by our members. What an enjoyable way to conduct a meeting when tummies are full!

And speaking of full tummies, we are planning to bake biscotti and other fantastic treats for our Bake Sale which is to be held on November 17. There are always so many treats to chose from, including fresh persimmons from the garned of a couple of our members.

We are also working alongside our Knights of Columbus to sponsor a free Advent Pancake Breakfast next month as a “Gift of Love” to all of our parishioners. This will prove to be a time of food, friendship and fellowship.

The Heritage presentation by our 4 members who traipeled around Italy together last month had to be put on hold until next month since 2 of the members were absent at the last meeting. All four of the travelers are rascals, so we wanted to be sure that only true stories would be shared! We can’t wait to hear about their adventures!

There are still a few calendars to be purchased. They make nice gifts!

Alla prossima volta.

Paula Proctor

Santa Rosa St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As this is the last article for 2019, President Bob Acquistapace wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanks every member for the success we had this year. We gave scholarships to ten deserving students; we gave $1,200 to support a room at the Catholic Charities Family Support Center; we donated tuition assis-tance to St. Eugene’s Elementary School; we gave food to the St. Vincent de Paul pantry; infant clothing to Life Pregnancy Services and toys to the children at the Catholic Charities Family Support Center for Christmas. A JOB WELL DONE!!!

Plan to attend our 54th Anniversary lunch meeting on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at Cattelmanns in Santa Rosa. Lunch will be at 12:30 and the cost is $10 for Branch 198 members and $15 for any guests. For more information call President Bob at 545-7376.

Pray for our sick members and also David Botta.

Buon Natale.

Ciao, Gail Bongi–Azevedo

FRESNO Los Banos Santa Lucia, Br. 31

Hello again from branch 31! Not much to report as we continue on towards the end of the year, but we hope you had a very blessed Thanksgiving! Our annual Christmas party is on December 3rd at 6:00 pm and will be held at the parish hall this year. It will be filled with delicious food, an abundance of raffle prizes and tasty desserts. Our next meeting will be held January 13th at 6:00 p.m. Round Table Pizza.

For all those who are struggling this holiday season, please know our prayers are with you and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless!!

Ciao, Giana Boffa

Mark your calendars for our Christmas Holiday Party co-hosted with the Lodge on Sunday, December 15, 12:30-3PM at the Lodge. Join us for hors d’oeuvres, desserts, the Bear Creek Ukulele Society sing-along, a craft table and a visit from Santa. Bring the kids, grandkids, family, friends and neighbors. It’s a PARTY! Don’t forget to visit the Merced Court-house Museum on “N” Street and view our Italian themed tree decorated by Maryellen Mazzei and crew. It’s open Wednesday-Sunday 1-4 PM.

At our January 8th meeting we will discuss our 2020 budget and hand out our branch calendar. Join us for Social Hour 5PM, Dinner 6PM, Meeting 7PM. See you there! Keep well until then.

Buone feste e tanti auguri,

Stephanie Lucich

Helping in the kitchen for our polenta fundraiser were Br. 39 members: (l-r) Ruth Redondo, Sandy Del Real, Robyn Piro, Jan Lorenzi, Loretta Symes, Lori Sutton, Janet Pugliese, Anne-Marie Bandoni and Sally Latorraca.

Continued on Page 24
Happy Holidays from Branch 70!
Our next meeting is on November 12. We are having our nomination of officers which is a formality as all our officers will remain in the same office for the 2020 year. We will also be having our Thanksgiving potluck during this meeting. Our branch is full of amazing cooks so there is no doubt it will be delicious and we will have a good time.
President Kay Lopez and her mom Josie Lopez will have a table decorated with pictures honoring our dearly departed.
We are saddened to inform you that we have lost our dear member Blanche Mendoza. She passed on Oct 7. Our condolences go to her family. She will be missed.
We send our get well wishes and prayers to Betty Massa for a peaceful and rapid healing.

Many thanks to those members who helped with our meatball sandwich booth during the recent Parish festival. The sandwiches are one of the favorite food items served during the festival.
Happy December birthdays to Isabel Ronzano, Cynthia Silva, and Glory Spatafore!!
We were saddened by the news that Flora DePasquales’s niece, Patricia Borders Gillett, 75, passed away unexpectedly. Patricia was formerly a member of Branch 185.
Here’s an expression that would make a good motto: “LUCEAT LUX VESTRA”.
Tune in next month for the English version.

**Ciao**
Lola Lamborghini

**Bakersfield**
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas gets shorter every year...as an adult that is! Our first pancake breakfast was a success due to the hard work of Kathy Scatena & her team. She provides doughnuts to fuel her team!
A new format was introduced at our November “Turkey Bingo” meeting. We conduct business first instead of rushing through a sumptuous meal. Now we have more time to enjoy a good meal and great company.
Our holidays would not be complete without our annual Christmas party. This event is a lively occasion for all to celebrate with food, games and possibly a visit from Santa!
Br. 281 is blessed to have members keeping the holiday spirit alive. For instance, Mindy White is a long time member of Cat People in our community. The worthy organization provides shelter for abandoned cats, spayed neutering vouchers as well as food and supplies for beloved cats of low income families.
Leonard & Betty Zasoski were successful encouraging participation in a recent run/walk for a prostate cancer cure at Cal State Bakersfield. A cause that’s personal for the Zasoski family.
Our president Allen Watts and his family put in many hours to make our branch strong and vital. They are present at nearly every event.

**CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Welcome ICF Central Coast Officers for 2020! And “Thank You” to all outgoing Central Coast and Branch Officers, and for all that you do to support the goals and spirit of the Italian Catholic Federation! Mille Grazie!
Early on this year, we were blessed when The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel E. Garcia, was installed as the Bishop of Monterey on January 29, 2019!
Hosted by an outstanding team from Monterey Br. 36, it seemed fitting that our last District event for 2019, was the Bishop’s Day Celebration, honoring Bishop Garcia, in support of the Seminarian Program. Bishop Garcia, celebrated a beautiful Mass, con-celebrated with Fr. Ommar Solis, Director of Vocations, Fr. Jerry, Fr. Ron, Fr. Pat, Dennis Hugo and other Clergy from the Diocese. The Mass was followed by presentations, and a wonderful lunch prepared by Chef PJ and his team at San Carlos Hall. Special thanks to ICF Grand President, Vince Piro, and Grand Treasurer, Franklin Lopes, Jr. & all who participated and attended this special event! It was a beautiful day!
It has been a blessing to be a part of the ICF Central Coast District! You are a wonderful, faith-filled, dynamic group of individuals, with such creative ideas and the strength of character to see them through! Hoping you all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving, and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year! Mille Grazie – Lots of Love & Blessings. rosa
Santa Cruz
Nostra Signora
del Soccorso, Br. 21

Ho ho ho!! Merry Christmas, Tutti! This is the loveliest time of year and to celebrate, we are having our annual Christmas Dinner on December 6th. Come one, come all! Dinner for ICF members is free, kids under twelve are free, guests will pay $15, and if you sign up as an ICF member that night, you too will get dinner free!

Please make your reservations with Norma Wilson or go online at icfbr21@gmail.com. Then come and enjoy a tasty Chicken Cacciatore and Polenta dinner!

Just so you know, we received a wonderful thank you letter from the Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles thanking Branch 21 for our contribution to the ICF National Charity, Cooley’s Anemia (Thalassemia). The total amount donated this year by all ICF Branches is $62,000. We, the members and supporters of Branch 21, helped reach that number. Thank you so much for your generosity.

There are two upcoming events in the year 2020. January 18th will be the installation of Branch officers in Hollister. Then on February 22, 2020, will be the Central Coast District meeting in Paso Robles. Everyone is invited to attend so if interested make a note on your calendar.

In closing, it is with sadness that we announce the passing of Renetta Parry. Renetta was one of our newer members whose infectious support for our Branch was wonderful to see. We send our thoughts and prayers to her family.

Remember: Jesus is the reason for this season!

Patty Morelli
Secretary Branch 21

Salinas
Sacred Heart, Br. 25

Branch 25’s annual Polenta Luncheon and Bake Sale was November 13 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Salinas from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advance sales have been going well and we hope to sell out. Several members attended the Central Coast District Bishop’s Day on Saturday, October 26, hosted by Monterey Branch 36. The Mass and Luncheon were both wonderful, as were remarks from Bishop Daniel Garcia. A brief district meeting was held following the luncheon, and Julie Richards was elected District President and JoAnn Sullivan was elected District Secretary for 2020.

Br. 25 hosted their first “Paint & Sip Class” Fundraiser on Sunday, October 27, at the Salinas Knights of Columbus Hall in Salinas. The class painted a fall themed water color design of pumpkins, taught by acclaimed local artist, Laurie Myers. The event was a great success, and another class is scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 2019, with a winter theme and the opportunity to create custom Christmas Cards.

Our regular November meeting was held during our prep day on November 13, at the Parish Hall, and our annual election will be held during that meeting. Please mark your calendar for our Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at JM Ranch.

We wish all of our ICF members and families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

John Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Hollister
Sacred Heart, Br. 26

At the Nov. monthly meeting, President Harry Hill introduced 2 of our 3 new members: Michelle Ramirez and her daughter, Alexandria. Her son, Diego, was not present. Thank you, Marie Peterson, for bringing them to our branch.

Andy Pappani gave the Deputy Report—new branches are opening in San Diego & Chicago. Growing membership is critical for ICF’s continued success.

Jim and Mary Ann Friebel were branch delegates to the ICF convention. Jim reiterated Pappani’s message to invite others to ICF. Jim recalled former Grand President speech given by Rosalie Campisi, recently deceased. She said “...we can do anything, if you will help me and I will help you!” Remember, if you make a reservation for dinner, honor it or the branch pays for the meal. We can’t supplement this activity. Mary Ann Friebel volunteered to replace Mary Edmondson as caller. She will also send greeting cards since Rosalie has passed.

Remember, if you provide a meal, honor it or the branch pays for the meal. We can’t supplement this activity. Mary Ann Friebel volunteered to replace Mary Edmondson as caller. She will also send greeting cards since Rosalie has passed.

Treasurer, Tony LoBue, requested a dues increase. The branch supplemented expenses by $55 for the last 2-3 years. A vote affirmed the 2020 dues increase. Our annual Christmas Dinner—Dec. 4. Dinner is at Paine’s.

On January 18, we host the Installation of Officers in Hollister; Branch is at 10:30 a.m. with Mass at noon by Fr. Rudy Ruiz. Jim and Mary Ann Friebel and Cheri Huntley will chair the event.

In March, Dominic Cosentino is chairing our Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. November Birthdays—Betty Brookshire, Enes Vallejo Pray for our sick and deceased members. Sick Members—Jon Vodanovich, Mary Edmondson, Charlie Gallegos. Deceased Member—Don Hart

Continued on Page 26
Continued from Page 25

Monterey
Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2020.

“Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.” —Pope Francis

October 26 - Bishop’s Day was hosted by Monterey Br. 36. Bishop Daniel E. Garcia said Mass at San Carlos Cathedral, with Deacon Hugo Patino, accompanied by musical director Elaine Miller on the piano, and Kim DiFranco sang “Ave Maria”.

After mass, 87 guests from Central Coast District branches joined Vince Piro-Grand President, Franklyn Lopes Jr.-Grand Treasurer, Fr. Omnar Solis-Director of Vocations, Fr Jerry Maher and Fr. Patrick Dooling-San Carlos Cathedral, and other honored guests for the presentation to Bishop Danny, followed by lunch, at beautifully decorated San Carlos Cathedral Hall.

Vince Piro presented the Bishop with a $4500 donation from the Central Coast District for seminarians, and Franklyn Lopes Jr. presented him with beautiful district Spiritual Bouquet, representing the many thoughts and prayers and rosaries to be offered by our members. Our kitchen crew prepared a delicious lunch of Pumpkin Shrimp Bisque, grilled chicken Caesar Salad with rolls, and sorbet for dessert.

We thank our Bishop’s Committee and all of our outstanding volunteers and cleanup helpers for doing such an outstanding job for this wonderful event.

Upcoming events:

- November 7: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- December 7: Adult Christmas Dinner
- November 16: Scholarship Fundraiser
- November 28, and we’ll once again have a pre-Lenten “Mardi Gras” Fish Fry on Friday, Feb. 21st. We are currently selling Fish Fry Raffle Tickets through Feb. 21st for a chance to win FOUR fish dinners each week during our five Lenten Fish Frys! Raffle tickets are $10 each and you can purchase them from any Br. 291 member. All proceeds benefit our Catholic School Registration Assistance Program.

Capitola
St. Joseph’s, Br. 227

The Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 15th. Roast beef is on the menu and we’ll be serving our traditional Tom and Jerrys. For the little ones, Santa Claus will be there to distribute gifts and candy canes. Thanks to Ellen Pauly for chairing the event and to Mary Harrison for handling reservations.

Over 80 members enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner at our November meeting thanks to cooks Monica Crowley and Sharleen Hedgpeth and their crew. Rick Kotila carved the turkey, and Monica’s family were servers. Lovely table settings and decorations added to the occasion.

Officers for 2020 were elected at the meeting:

- President - Ellen Pauly (first six months of 2020)
- 1st. Vice-President - Franklyn Lopes (last six months of 2020)
- 2nd Vice-President - Vicky Howell
- Secretary - Deanna Musler
- Financial Secretary - Marie Mungai
- Treasurer - Jane Kotila
- Orator - Ken Reaves
- Trustees - Mary Montanye, Ken Olsen, Dottie Smith
- Sentinel - Monica Crowley
- Branch Deputy - Rebecca Hernandez

In keeping with ICF’s mission of charity, the members voted to make the following donations:

- $500 Good Shepherd School
- $500 St. Francis Soup Kitchen
- $500 Providence Fund
- $500 St. Joseph’s Stars
- $500 Sienna House
- $500 Meals on Wheels

Bishop's Day of Central Coast District

Pacifica
St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

Tomorrow is Veterans Day, a holiday held every November 11 to honor all men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Veterans Day was originally called “Armistice Day.” The date was chosen to commemorate the signing of the armistice with Germany that ended hostilities during World War I. The day is meant to honor all veterans of foreign wars who risked their lives on the battle field to secure the freedoms of all Americans. Thanks to our veterans—living or dead—who give us the precious gift of freedom.

Branch 354 celebrated with hot dogs, apple pie, and special prayers for those who serve and have served.

Another celebration, Central Coast District Bishop’s Day, San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey, was well attended by members of Branch 354. The Mass was exceptional as it honored our new Bishop,
**CHICAGO DISTRICT**

River Forest, IL
St. Vincent Ferrer, Br. 358

Attendance at our monthly branch meetings have increased since changing it to a Sunday early p.m. We are striving to come up with ways to increase our finances. Bake sales have been good in the past but members getting older can’t contribute their time & talents as in the past. This past 6 months we have had 6 members hospitalized. Let’s pray that 2020 will be much better for them. We did have our mass for deceased ICF members in November and was looking forward to the District Mother Cabrini Mass but none was scheduled.

Marilyn Marine has a birthday in December - best wishes from all the members of the branch.

Everywhere people seem to agree that giving is what makes the Christmas season bright. It is a universally tried and true way of making the holiday season joyful for you and for those around you. So often, you get more than you give. Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone. Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than the whole world.

Whatever your list includes this holiday season, may you find much happiness and may there be many moments of unexpected joy. Anything is possible at this magical time of year.

Have a joy-filled and very Merry Christmas! We wish everyone good health and much happiness in 2020.

Leonora

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

We gave Andy & Sid Pappani a well-deserved “Thank You” for two wonderful years of leadership of the ICF at the testimonial dinner in Monterey. Many dignitaries were present. Now Andy & Sid can sail-off into the proverbial sunset.

No rest for District President Bausino as he needed to conduct the district meeting. Foremost the excellent results of our recent Octoberfest. Treasurer Steve Lencioni reported a profit of $1410.00, this helped make a monetary donation for the Bishop. Members who attended our October 21st dinner meeting enjoyed a fabulous potluck dinner.

On November 4th Dave Peoples and crew prepared our “Thanksgiving Feast” at our scheduled dinner meeting. There was plenty of turkey and trimmings that ended with a slice of pumpkin pie.

Our annual Polenta dinner was held on October 12th and was a sell-out event. Co-Chairs Diana Berry and Pat Cordich again did a fabulous job in making this event a success. As one of our main fundraisers, this event raised $4,214 to help with our mission of ICF.

On November 4th we were able to present Father Michael Hendrickson two checks for St. Mary Parish. Joe Fortino presented a check in the amount of $2,300 and Kim Filice presented a check in the amount of $375 from our child playhouse raffle. At the 11:00 a.m. Sunday mass on November 3rd Bishop Oscar Cantu installed Father Hendrickson as the pastor of St. Mary Parish with a reception following.

On November 2nd, members attended Andy Pappani’s testimonial dinner as Past Grand President. We are very proud of his accomplishments during his two-year term as ICF’s Grand President.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming District Installation of Officers which will be held at St. Mary Church in Gilroy on January 4th with Mass at 9:30 a.m. and luncheon following at Old City Hall restaurant.

December 16th – ICF Christmas Dinner at the Old City Hall Restaurant.

**Santa Clara**

**N.S. Assunta, Br. 5**

A big thanks to all officers and members of Br. 5 who made 2019 a Good Year. Please help us in any way you can to continue to support Br. 5 in the New Year 2020.

The Lafayette was a wonderful High Tea Event at St. Christopher’s Parish Hall. A lot of baby clothes were donated from around the diocese. Cookies were wonderful and enjoyable.

Let us continue to donate these items which are much needed year around by the Public Health Nurses.

May all members and families have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2020.

Watch your mailbox for the latest information and news in 2020 for ICF Br. 5.

If you have not paid your dues for 2020, please do as soon as possible.

*God Bless all,* Marlene J. Rotolo

**Gilroy**

**Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28**

Members who attended our October 21st dinner meeting enjoyed a fabulous potluck dinner.

On November 4th Dave Peoples and crew prepared our “Thanksgiving Feast” at our scheduled dinner meeting. There was plenty of turkey and trimmings that ended with a slice of pumpkin pie.

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**Peace and God Bless,**

Kim M. Filice

**Santa Clara Valley Bishop’s Day luncheon, with members of Branch 5, Host Branch, in the foreground and Bishop Cantu at the head table.**

**Santa Clara Valley Bishop’s Day luncheon, with members of Branch 5, Host Branch, in the foreground and Bishop Cantu at the head table.**
San Jose
St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

Our fall season has arrived with the election of our new officers: Debbie Piro, our new President Elect will have a Board as follows: 1st Vice Pres. Jo Bertaccini; 2nd Vice Pres Emily Corral; Recording Sect Jim Jones; Financial Sec. Camille Orlando; Treasure Aldine Grisente; Orator Julie Midwin; Sentinel Shirley Catania; and our Trustees Tony Spagnolo, Lonnie Swarr-ringim, and George Midwin. We look forward to new and fulfilling activities from our Board.

On Oct 23rd we had a very lovely celebration for Father Paolo Gobbo’s 25th year Ordination. A pork loin dinner with all of the delicious trimmings was prepared by Traci DiMiceli. Father Paolo was then honored with a Burnt Almond Cake, which was ohhh so delicious. Father Paolo was most humbled for the celebration and the love and support of his “ICF Family.”

Fall also brings us to calendar sales. Make sure you purchase yours soon, as Tony and Tiliie Spagnolo are having very brisk sales. They may be gone by December!! Make the sales a success for our Branch...

Some events in the coming weeks are as follows:

Turkey Dinner/Bingo/Nov 20th @SFC
District Christmas Party Dec 9th @ Tony & Alba’s
Installation of Officers: Jan 4, 2020; 9:30 a.m. Mass St. Mary’s Gilroy, Luncheon to Follow: Old City Hall Restaurant
We Thank You, Lord, for food and friends And for all of the joy this holiday lends; It’s Thanksgiving Day and we can see The blessings you’ve provided our family. Thanks to You, Lord, for another good year; When you watch over us, there is nothing to fear.

—By Karl Fuchs

Shirley Catania
Sentinel

San Jose
Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

Many thanks to Noelia Chiono, Sylvia Ernani, and Joyce Robba for the tasty Thanksgiving feast they organized for us. Our members demonstrated their culinary skills with home-cooked treats, including three turkeys and a ham. In addition to the scrumptious food, we had much to be thankful for and much to pray for, especially the health of our members and their families. The health of our precious friend and president, John Gillio, ranks high on our prayer list.

Now that our parish hall is completed, we are concentrating on renovating the church. Ed Wendler, our branch orator, and his wife Janet sent an email to our parishioners asking them to volunteer as removers of everything in the church. Of course, our branch members came forward and helped. Thank you all, especially Ed and Janet! The sanctuary and all the rooms in the church have now been painted.

San Jose
St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

President Mike Rossi thanked Al and Diana for the delicious meal of lasagna, sausage and garlic bread at our November meeting. He also thanked our servers and hospitality group who set up tables.

We were saddened in November at the passing of charter member Sal Lipari who served Br. 391 for many years as Membership, Scholarship, and Scholarship Chairperson, cook, Branch officer, and Branch Deputy. Rest in Peace.

It was good to see Louise and Russ Vento at our November meeting. Louise continues to enrich our meetings with her wonderful heritage program.

Seven of our members attended Bishop’s Day in October. The district and Central Council presented Bishop Cantu with prayers and checks for $8,500 dollars in support of the education of our seminarians.

Our November Ravioli/Meatball dinner was a success. Thank you to all the cooks, servers, ticket sellers, set-up helpers, clean-up helpers, and to those who provided home made goodies.

Don’t forget to purchase the 2020 ICF Calendars from Tina Rossi. It is a fundraiser for the branch and the ICF. They make great Christmas gifts!

December events: Branch #391 Annual Christmas Dinner (no meeting)—December 3; and Quarterly Communion—December 8, 3:30 a.m. mass. Also, Installation of Officers at St. Mary in Gilroy—January 4, 2020, 3:00 a.m. mass followed by ceremony and lunch.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Rossi

Our branch contributes to the parish activity which distributes food for families requesting help. Phil and Joyce Robba chair the program, sorting food donations in the pantry all year long. They organized the Thanksgiving food distribution, directing volunteers who set up tables, loaded the tables with cans, boxes, and jars of food, and filled grocery bags for families in need. Phil and Joyce have been chairing this activity for many years, and we thank them.

We are looking forward to our catered Christmas buffet dinner.

Have a calm, peaceful Advent and a blessed Christmas!

Judy Zahn

Sunnyvale
Resurrection, Br. 408

We look forward to seeing you all for the Branch Christmas Potluck which will be held on Monday, 2 December in the Farana Center at 6 p.m. The Branch will supply the lasagna and garlic bread and drinks.

Please coordinate your potluck offering with Patricia. Come and spend some time with your friends. Sandra and Patricia once again plan to provide a very festive celebration.

Our Next Parish Blood Drive is planned for Saturday, 7 December 2019 from 8 a.m to 1 p.m in the Farana Center. During this holiday season, donations drop as folks are busy and may be under the weather, while those in need of blood remain constant.

Please pray for a good turn-out of donors. We heard a rumor that Stanford has heard our plea for a Sunday Drive and we may be offering Sunday drives in 2020.

Patricia will be selling tickets for the Large Creche to raise funds for our Diocesan Seminarians.

Installation of Officers will be held at St. Mary’s in Gilroy on Saturday, 4 January 2020 with a Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by Lunch @ Old City Hall Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m.

Please remember to include our sick members in your prayers especially Paul and Dori Blefari.

STOCKTON DISTRICT

Modesto
St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

Our Annual Mass and Breakfast was enjoyed by all the members that were able to attend.

The Stockton District Installation will be held January 5, 2020 with mass at 1:00 pm and the Installation after mass in the St. Stanislaus Church at 709 J Street. Lunch will be served at approximately at 2:45 pm.

The menu is vatsioli, roast beef, green and fruit salads, green beans and dessert.

Reservations should be in no later than December 30, 2019. If you have to cancel your reservation please do so by January 2, 2020 or you will be asked to pay for your dinner.

Cost is $20.00 per person and $10.00 for children under 12.

A reminder that we still have convention calendars to sell. Please try to sell at least one calendar.
December 2019

St. Anne's Br. 82
Lodi

Buone Feste, ICF Famiglia!

We’re looking forward to an exciting season…anticipating new ICF members, anticipating our one year anniversary, anticipating successful first Polenta Feed…most of all anticipating the birth of Jesus. At our October meeting, we feasted on scary eats, such as deviled egg eyeballs and hot dog mummies. Then, members were treated to a visual trip to Italy! Thank you, Carl and MaryAnn Maggio, for sharing the photo diary of your recent travels. Snacks were provided by our new officers for the November meeting, members brought toys to donate to the CHLA Thalassemia Christmas celebration.

The weekend of Nov. 9th and 10th, we held a membership drive. Members spoke at the masses explaining the ICF mission and promoting our Polenta Feed, proceeds benefiting the St. Anne’s Youth Ministry. After mass, our speakers enjoyed conversation with prospective members. December 1st was our branch’s first anniversary! To celebrate that day, we attended mass together. Afterward, we chatted, over donuts, about our branch’s accomplishments. We’ve come a long way in one year! Our Polenta Feed committee is ready to roll out our first major fundraiser on Sat., December 7th in St. Anne’s Hall. There’s still time to purchase tickets! $25/adult, $10/children 12 and under. No host bar at 6:30, dinner at 7:30. Accordion tunes, dancing with DJ Reyes. Raffle prizes, dessert auction, and plenty of activities for the kiddos. Come join us!

A auguro a tutti voi un Natale Sereno.
Fino al prossimo anno,
Patty Litts
Corresponding Secretary

Manteca

Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio, Br. 139

Our annual biscotti baking and sales activity, with Anna Mello and Cary Posz in charge, is well on its way to being yet another successful financial and social event. This project, along with our “All You Can Eat” shrimp dinner, are our branch’s main annual fundraisers. The always-popular shrimp feed for 2020 is set for April 18 in the St. Anthony School gym. Circle the date on your calendars.

Elections were held for our 2020 officers. The following were elected to Branch 139 positions: President – Jim Alfieri; First Vice-president – Birdie Nieri; Second Vice-president – Ida Queirolo; Secretary – Michelle Harmon; Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Lillian Pauletto; Sentinel – Ed Fichtner; Orator – Colleen Alfieri; and Trustees – Linda Bertuccio, Yvonne Chiemente and Paula Beck. These officers-elect will be installed on Sunday, January 5 at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto. A Mass and luncheon will follow.

We are bringing canned goods, to be donated to the poor, to our December 8 meeting at Cucina Queirolo in Lathrop. Chef Tony and wife Ida will be in charge in the kitchen. Another delicious dinner is anticipated. Buon Natale a tutti, Mariano

Tracy

St. Bernard, Br. 390

The parish sent their thanks for the $1,000 donation we made for the annual St. Bernard’s Festival. Not only did we have a very busy booth during the 3-day weekend celebration, we sold lots of pizza and lemonade Icees. We will return next year!

Nominations are in for the board of directors for 2020 - time flies, doesn’t it? We will happily welcome newcomers to the board and announce who they are in the next issue.

Thanks to all who donated to the annual canned food drive at our November 21st meeting. Sometimes we contribute more than any other organization because we have such a great turnout for our Thanksgiving feast prepared my Mike Bacchetti and his loyal crew of cooks. Thanks guys and gals for your continued hard work in the kitchen. This month features ravioli and tri-tip with all the trimmings - and a possible surprise visit from Santa and the Mrs. Dues for 2020 will increase to $43. Members still consider this a bargain considering the nice discount for the monthly dinner meeting with the fabulous meals that you can’t buy anywhere for that price! We are looking forward to increasing our memberships this year too - the city of Tracy is growing and so should our numbers, right? Invite your friends, new and old, to join our warm family of members.

Steve Ridolfi continues to treat you to seeing yourselves on our Website: www.icfbranch390.org Love seeing those great pics! Warm wishes for a healthy, happy and safe Christmas to all.

Buon Natale!
Betty Hollars

Continued on Page 30

Stockton Bishop Myron Cotta, Vicar General Ryan and Life Member Dante Galeazzi and numerous members of Branch 139 happily rejoice in her celebration.
Stockton
Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

On behalf of Branch 395, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Buon natale e felice anno nuovo a tutti!

Our Christmas Luncheon was Dec. 7. This annual tradition is an opportunity to thank our members for all of their support, hard work and generosity each the year. We had a fantastic turnout, delicious food and delightful company. We brought back the HUGE laminated map of Italy. As people checked in we gave them stickers and asked them to place them where their families originated. It was fascinating to see all the regions that members represent. This year we added a gift exchange, sort of a white elephant. Each member was asked to bring a wrapped gift that was either Italian, religious or both. It was great fun and may be a new tradition.

We thank Fr. Joe Nguyan for being our branch chaplain for the past two years. He was recently reassigned to Branch 390’s parish and has been a great new supporter of ICF. He will truly be missed.

We are also busy preparing for our annual Polenta fundraiser on Thursday, February 13 at Presentation Church. Mark your calendar, grab your friends and join us in Stockton for an evening of great food, amazing raffle prizes and lots of fun. For tickets to this sell out event call Jo Weber at 209.481.0006.

As the year comes to a close, may we pray that 2020 will be filled with good health, peace and hope for all.
Alla prossima,
Mary Ann

TUCSON

Tucson
Sts. Peter and Paul, Br. 433

Branch 433 had a wonderful first inaugural Columbus Day Dinner. We had a packed house!!! We enjoyed some delicious homemade meatballs made from Jo Malkentzos' family recipe. While our new friends at the Elks Lodge made sure nobody went without drinks! Our members were able to not only fundraise but enjoy each other's company as well. We look forward to doing this again next year for year two.

Special thanks to our Chairperson, Tim Eubanks and the rest of the Committee and to Mike and Donna Raffanti for shopping and cooking!

Our next outing will be on December 4 to the Gaslight theater for the Secret Santa Show with Branch 425.

We wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season.

Branch 395 members giving back to the community.

Branch 395 thanks you Fr. Nguyen!
Br.433 Columbus Day Dinner--first annual event

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December 2019

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December 2019
What Do People Do in Italy to Celebrate Christmas?

Christmas in Italy is celebrated over several weeks as Italians celebrate from early December, depending on the region, until the day of Epiphany, on the 6th of January. It is common for Italian children write letters to Babbo Natale (Father Christmas) asking for Christmas presents.

There is a festive atmosphere during the whole of December. Christmas markets with various stalls with typical food, Christmas sweets and gifts can be visited in many towns especially in Italy’s northern Alto-Adige Region.

St. Nicholas Day
On 6th of December, many families celebrate St Nicholas Day. Children write letters to St Nicholas asking for gifts and they hang up either a sock or put a plate on the table for gifts and they hang up either a sock or put a plate on the table for presents to the good children. In parts of Italy, the naughty ones get lumps of black sugar sweets. The arrival of ‘La befana’, an old lady, comes in search to the houses for search of the Christ Child. Children hang up their stockings, so that la befana can bring presents to the good children. In parts of northern Italy, the Three Kings might bring you present rather than Befana. The naughty ones get lumps of black sugar sweets. The arrival of ‘La befana’ is celebrated with a presepe, a ‘pre-sepe’, is usually put up in churches, town squares and often in houses and is for many the most important parts of Christmas decorations.

Did you know that the nativity scene display with a crib filled with straw, originally stems from Italy and is now common in many countries around the world. It is said that the crib scene was first used, when San Francis held his Christmas mass in front of a nativity scene and the people were admiring the beauty of the miracle of Christ’s birth in a manger.

The Nativity scene is popular custom that has spread across to many countries.

Zampognari (Bagpipers)
In the Abruzzi region, there is a tradition that bagpipers, so called ‘zampognari’ come into the towns and play their flutes and bagpipes for the people. They symbolize the shepherds who come in search of the new born Jesus baby.

On Christmas Eve, as in the old Catholic tradition, often no food is eaten during the day as this is a fast day. The festive celebrations start after midnight mass. Nowadays, ‘Babbo Natale’, the Father Christmas, brings presents to children on Christmas eve.

In true Italian style, gifts are exchanged only on January 6 that is the day of Epiphany. Then ‘la befana’, an old lady, comes in search to the houses for search of the Christ Child. Children hang up their stockings, so that la befana can bring presents to the good children. In parts of northern Italy, the Three Kings might bring you present rather than Befana. The naughty ones get lumps of black sugar sweets. The arrival of ‘La befana’ is celebrated with traditional Christmas cake, the panettone, a sweet yeast cake.

Sources:
https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml
https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml

Christmas Meals Include:
- Lo zampone (skin of a lower pig leg filled with minced meat)
- Il cotechino (sausage, similar to salami)
- Turkey
- Lamb
- Tortellini (ring-shaped pasta)
- Panettone (fruitcake)
- Bombardino (a popular drink similar to eggnog)

Está deis Sette Pesci (The Feast of the Seven Fishes)
For many Italian-American families a big Christmas Eve meal of different fish dishes is now a very popular tradition! The feast seems to have its root in southern Italy and was bought over to the USA by Italian immigrants in the 1800s. It now seems more popular in America than it is in Italy!

Common types of fish eaten in the feast include Bacalao (salted Cod), Clams, Calamari, Sardines and Eel.

There are different theories as to why there are seven fish dishes eaten. Some think that seven represents the seven days of creation in the Bible, other say it represents the seven holy sacraments of the Catholic Church. But some families have more than seven dishes!

You might have nine (to represent the Christian trinity times three), 13 (to represent Jesus and his 12 disciples) or 11 (for the 11 disciples without Jesus or Judas)!

The Christmas celebrations start eight days before Christmas with special ‘Novenas’ or a series of prayers and church services.

Presepe (Nativity Scene)
During the festive season and Christmas in Italy, a nativity scene, a ‘presepe,’ is usually put up in churches, town squares and often in houses and is for many the most important parts of Christmas decorations.

Did you know that the nativity scene display with a crib filled with straw, originally stems from Italy and is now common in many countries around the world. It is said that the crib scene was first used, when San Francis held his Christmas mass in front of a nativity scene and the people were admiring the beauty of the miracle of Christ’s birth in a manger.

The Nativity scene is popular custom that has spread across to many countries.

The Urn of Fate
The Urn of Fate is a popular Christmas activity. Presents are put into a lucky dip and there is one gift per person. However, gift-exchanging also occurs on Epiphany.

The Ceppo (a Yule log)
The ceppo is also burnt during Christmas and must stay lighted until New Year’s Day.
Tombola is a game that is very similar to bingo in the States where numbers are picked from a drum and called out, and players have to cover an entire row to win. It is played pretty much all over Italy from Christmas Eve to the Epiphany while the little ones are waiting for La Befana to come with their presents. More modern sets come with chips or blots to cover the numbers, most people play the traditional way—covering the numbers with torn pieces of orange or tangerine skins or beans or lentils.

The boards are similar to bingo boards, but in Naples the boards are very different. Numbers range from 1 through 90, but the interesting thing is, each number on the board also contains a picture, usually with the name in Italian, Neapolitan dialect and some even have an English translation.

Tombola’s roots lie in a fortune telling game that was used hundreds of years ago to predict the future or help understand the meaning of dreams. Each number is represented by a symbol or picture with a particular meaning. The really strange thing is—at least to us Americans—is that many of the pictures are downright rude or sexual. Even stranger is the fact that a religious picture might be right alongside a very naughty one!

Played casually in the home, people may play for small change or Euro coins, but they may also play just for fun... and offer toys, cookies or other dolci as prizes, usually letting the children win. When they do play for money, things can get pretty heated and loud. After all, these are Neapolitans, after all. The peel their oranges, eat the oranges, place pieces of peels on the numbers and laugh and talk for hours on end. It’s all in fun and a great way to start the Holiday season on Christmas Eve, or to finish it off when playing on New Year’s Eve. There are even television shows that play the game and offer prizes.
Buon Natale & Felice Capo D’Anno
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
CC Grand Treasurer
Branch 21, Santa Cruz
Branch 227, Capitola

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
San Mateo District

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

Br. 5 St. Clare Santa Clara
Br. 28 St. Mary Gilroy
Br. 47 St. Joseph Mountain View
Br. 184 St. Mary Los Gatos
Br. 191 St. Frances Cabrini San Jose
Br. 368 Santa Teresa San Jose
Br. 391 St. Martin San Jose
Br. 408 Resurrection Sunnyvale
Br. 435 St. Catherine Morgan Hill
Br. 445 Transfiguration San Jose

Auguri a Tutti
Per Un Natale Benedetto
e Un Felice e Sano 2020

Beau Wishes For A Blessed Christmas And A Happy And Healthy 2020
The Italian Catholic Federation
Way & Means & Heritage Committees Present

A Letter from La Befana

Send your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews
a Special Christmas greeting and small gift from "La Befana"
(The Italian equivalent of Santa Claus)

Wouldn't the children you love be thrilled to receive a personal letter and small gift from La Befana? The Ways and Means and Heritage Committees will prepare a surprise holiday greeting to the important children in your life, using the information you provide to make each letter unique and personal.

Letters will congratulate children on accomplishments, suggest rewards that may be received at Christmas, encourage Acts of Kindness and Charity and express a message of Love and Good Cheer from their family and from La Befana herself (naming you as her friend and the "sponsor" of the letter).

To order a message and small gift from La Befana, please provide the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nickname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>City/State/Zip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child's special interests, talents, favorite, foods, toys, activities, movie or TV characters

Recent Activities, Events, Accomplishments

What does the child want for Christmas? (We will not reveal it!)

Special Message from You

Your Name and Relationship to Child

Br. # Your Phone & E-Mail

Use additional sheets to provide information on other children

Send this form with your check made out to the ICF for $10 for 1 letter and additional letters for $7.50. Please put "La Befana" in the check memo.

**Deadline for orders is Friday, December 5.** Letters will be mailed no later than Dec. 15th.

Italian Catholic Federation, 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621
Toy Donation Guidelines for Children’s Hospital
Los Angeles Thalassemia Christmas Party

This is the 3rd Christmas Party that we will be having at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles with the help of the Italian Catholic Federation. We are estimating that approximately 250 patients and families will attend. Gifts are also distributed in the hospital and clinics for children who cannot attend the party. Please consider helping us for the holidays by donating or running a toy drive.

Due to hospital policy, fire hazard, and the prevention of infectious disease, we ask that all donations be brand new and that you please adhere to the following guidelines:

Suggested donation items:
- Gift cards to: Target, iTunes, Amazon, Gap, Old Navy, Forever 21, Barnes and Noble, Movie Theater Passes, Starbucks, Peet’s Coffee, See’s Candies.
- Legos.
- Infant Toys: mobiles, musical toys, rattles, teethers, cause-and-effect toys.
- Books for all ages – hard cover preferred, board books for infants-preschoolers.
- Board Games for all ages: Life, Monopoly, Clue, Sorry, Trouble, Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Simon, Trivial Pursuit, Yenga, Taboo, Ho Ho Cheerio, Operation, Scrabble.
- Barbie, baby dolls.
- Hand held video games.
- Sports equipment.
- Make up kits and nail polish.
- Jewelry.
- Art supplies including pens, crayons, coloring books, paper, glitter pens, gel pens.
- Art kits/craft sets.
- PlayDoh and modeling clay.
- Toy cars, match box cars.
- Model airplanes.
- Lego sets.
- Action figures.
- Care Trucks/Trains.

We are unable to accept the following:
- Guns or toys that promote violence.
- Ceramic dolls.
- Clothing of any type
- Used baby blankets
- Used toys and games – including board games and puzzles
- Used books
- VHS videos

If you would like to make a donation, please contact:
Laurice Levine at 360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com

All Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!!!