

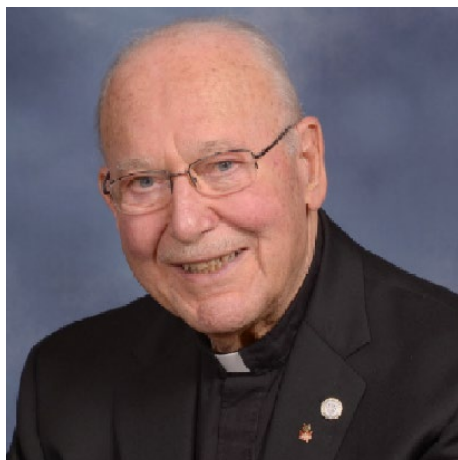


BOLLETTINO



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. Children especially can't wait for 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**

Keep Your Traditions Alive

Nanette Scarpellini Metz

The Christmas season highlights the critical role traditions play within families as they grow and change over the years. By looking to the past, we connect to our history which influences who we are today.

From La Befana to special observance of La Vigilia di Natale - Christmas Eve, these traditions, and others like them, help build enduring memories for our families and friends.

As members of the Italian Catholic Federation we are in an ideal position to explore our heritage, learn from these experiences and share them with others.

The Italian American Museum of Los Angeles (IAMLA) is giving members of the ICF the opportunity to share some of these traditions with museum visitors. The IAMLA is planning a new temporary exhibition dedicated to St. Joseph's table.

Continued on Page 6

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

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage Since 1924

BOLLETTINO

Official Publication of the
Italian Catholic Federation

(ISN 0745-256X)

Published Monthly
(except for combined Aug./Sept. issue)
by the Italian Catholic Federation

8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621

Readership as of 10/01/19: 5,650

Subscription Rate: \$7.20/year for members

\$20/year nonmembers

Editor: Nanette Scarpellini Metz
editor@icf.org

Office Staff: Charlene Kramer
admin@icf.org
Patty Smith
accounting@icf.org

Phone: (510) 633-9058
(888) ICF-1924

Fax: (510) 633-9758

Website: www.ICF.org

Information: info@icf.org

Periodicals postage is paid at Oakland,
CA., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

BOLLETTINO
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621

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 man-
aging 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 short-
ened or possibly excluded entirely
based on editor judgement.

Limit photos to 3 or 4 and in-
clude captions. To insure photos
are always linked to branch,
include branch number when
naming photos such as

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Please keep 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.
 - o Encourages new members to become a part of branch activities (fundraisers, church activities, trips.....).
 - o Explains the "ways" of the ICF to the new members.
 - o Invites new members to District events and the annual Convention.
 - o Acts as a liaison between new member and current membership.
 - o 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.
 - o Christmas Party: Include the children. Have Santa Claus, La Befana, candy canes, small gifts, read the Christmas story, have the children sing carols.
 - o Have a Giving Tree, where the children bring food for a needy family.
 - o More activities can be found on the ICF website.

Plan Meetings

- Keep Business Meetings Short
 - o Provide Written Agendas
 - o Take Care of Day-to-Day at the Board Meeting
 - o Email the Minutes and Treasurer's Report for Review
- Make It Interesting
 - o Heritage Presentations
 - o Guest Speakers
 - o 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!*

Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.

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](https://www.facebook.com/icfnationalbranch67). 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 able to engage in spiritual enrichment from sermons and 'talks' given by clergy and other religious members.

While creating a new online vision for Branch 67, the new national branch will have a base at St. Peter's Italian Church, Los Angeles.

National Branch members will be able to be involved in the ICF Charities, such as the Providenza Seminararian Fund, Gifts of Love, the Scholarship Program, and the official ICF National Charity, Thalassaemia (Cooley's Anemia) support and research. Members will also be able to join the Federation's Hospitalization Fund.

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 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 youth 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 on 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 also used 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 tonight's dinner. It is also great 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

2019 - 2020 CENTRAL COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OFFICERS:	
Grand President	Vincent Piro, Br. 39
Grand 1st Vice President	Deborah Rodondi*, Br. 19
Grand 2nd Vice President	Denise Antonowicz, Br. 184
Grand Secretary	Lauren Kilcullen, Br. 52
Grand Treasurer	Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Br. 227
Grand Parliamentarian	Robert Basuino*, Br. 191
Grand Trustee	Lisa Crudo, Br. 343
Grand Trustee	Patricia Mages, Br. 380
Grand Trustee	Leonard Zasoski, Jr.*, Br. 281
Grand Sentinel	Kenneth Marshall, Br. 103
Past Grand President	Andrew Pappani*, Br. 28
Spiritual Director	Rev. Msgr. Daniel Cardelli, Br. 352

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:	
Nancy Corsi, Br. 91	
Jane Dianda*, Br. 91	
Steven Fuentes*, Br. 213	
Dante Galeazzi*, Br. 139	
Teresa Helfand, Br. 392	
Roselynn Jarrett*, Br. 72	
Leonard Rossi, C.L.J.*, Br. 343	
Michael Rossi, O.L.J.*, Br. 391	
Perry Shurko, Br. 362	
(*denotes life member)	

LIFE MEMBERS EMERITUS:	MEMBERS EMERITUS:
Robert Acquistapace, Br. 198	Gerald Delfino, Br. 368
Jody Balestrieri, Br. 229	Maria Di Paolo, Br. 379
David Botta, Br. 14	Frances Foglia-Teglia, Br. 19
Michael Cannady, Br. 154	Marco Galeazzi, Br. 139
Nettie Descalso-Del Nero, Br. 39	Angelina Iarossi-Armenio, Br. 218
James Jones, Br. 191	Forrest Price, Br. 261
Carmen Kilcullen, Br. 52	Louisa Russo, Br. 210
Nina Malone, Br. 438	Joseph Santello, Br. 358
Vincent Picciola, Br. 358	Frank Signorelli, Br. 291
Leroy Taddei, Br. 343	Helen Tatone, Br. 443
	Chris Valentini, Br. 14

(Revised 9/19)

Welcome to Our New Members!

Report date: November 8, 2019	
Branch 021 Franklyn J Lopes Jr	Branch 308 Stephen M Cantelmi
Branch 036 Scott J Clark Maria Di Girolamo Aimee McDonald Drew E McDonald Paige McDonald	Branch 342 James De Nardi Stacey De Nardi Branch 368 Roger J Bender Branch 391 Ann M Cote Branch 392 Nicolina Milito Branch 418 Clara E Cascella Angela Verbena Pietro Verbena Branch 432 Brian C Montone Mary E Montone Michael S Nilo Sheila R Nilo Peggy C Scalise Branch 444 John A Addeo Mary C Addeo Michael V Ciminera Carolyn L Meyer Tiziana Zulli
Branch 039 Julie M Giampaoli Ethan I Navarro Holly J Pellicano Mike J Pellicano Joan P Rodriguez Christine Serrano	Branch 052 Joyce M Munsell Branch 082 Luann F Casey Nada E Metcalf 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



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 Nurra
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 Datko	Branch 227
Frank U'ren	Branch 332
Liliana Izzi	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 Santa Clara Valley
Jan. 5th	Stockton
Jan. 11th	Marin San Francisco
Jan. 12th	Los Angeles Archdiocese
Jan. 18th	Central Coast Contra Costa San Mateo
Jan. 19th	East Bay
Feb. 1st	Santa Rosa
Feb 9	Fresno
Feb. 15th	Orange

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 Junkin Bob and Elaine Osorio In honor of the 96th birthday of Marie Antonowicz	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 Nunziata In thanksgiving for Andy Pappani Officers/Members of Central Council In memory of Eleonora Bertoli Mike and Marcie Rossi In memory of Eleonora Bertoli
--	---

Apostolate – Charity Shows How We Care

By *The Apostolate/Charity Committee*

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 par-

ticipates 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**, are **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



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

Officers/Members of Br. 161
Officers/Members of Br. 161
Officers/Members of Central Council
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD:

Fr. Paolo Gobbo
Father Paolo Gobbo

Officers/Members of Br. 191
Jim and Janice Jones

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.



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:

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 ____)

Pappani Testimonial

Continued from Page 1

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, Commander of the Order of St. Lazarus Leonard Rossi and Karen; Past Grand President, Life Member, Member of the Order of St. Lazarus Mike Rossi and Marcie; Life Member Dante Galeazzi; 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.



Family Recipe

Continued from Page 3

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!

Keep Traditions Alive

Continued from Page 1

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 IAMLA.

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

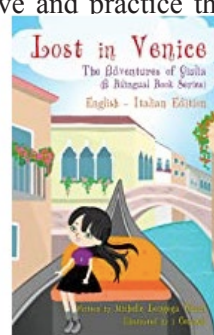
Publisher Product Description:



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

US edition September 19, 2015

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.



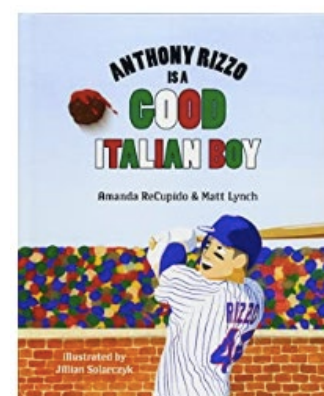
Anthony Rizzo is a Good Italian Boy By Amanda ReCupido and Matthew Lynch

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.



Continued on Page 9



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



Mother Cabrini Chapel Welcomes All Pilgrims

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



Dr. Thomas Coates, the thalassemia team at Children's Hospital Los Angeles; patients and families, Laurie, Matt, and Benjamin Levine would like to wish the members of the Italian Catholic Federation a Merry Christmas.

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

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

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT
Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Committee

Presents

SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
PILGRIMAGE, MASS AND LUNCHEON

"CELEBRATING THE 103rd YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
MOTHER CABRINI'S DEATH"

at

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
3801 Scott Rd
Burbank, CA 91504

DATE: December 1, 2019

PILGRIMAGE: 12:30 PM MASS: 1:00 PM LUNCHEON: 2:00 PM

COST: \$20.00 / Adults & \$8.00 / Children under 12

"Each paid Dinner includes one Raffle Ticket for a Special Raffle Prize"

MENU: BAKED CHICKEN, PASTA, SALAD, VEGGIE, COFFEE, TEA,
WINE AND DESSERT (Catered by Jouni's Catering)

RESERVATION(S) DUE BY: NOVEMBER 18, 2019

CONTACT: ANDREA LINN SEND CHECK TO: ICF c/o ANDREA LINN
T. 909-762-1392 4095 Fruit St Sp 342
E. andilinn@gmail.com La Verne CA 91750

I wish to reserve _____ dinner(s) at \$20.00 dinner; _____ Under 12 at \$8.00 dinner
Enclosed is \$ _____

"All proceeds to help fund the ongoing operations and development of
Cabrini Chapel and Library."

(Please make checks to the Italian Catholic Federation)
memo: Cabrini Pilgrimage 2019

Book Reviews

Continued from Page 7

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?

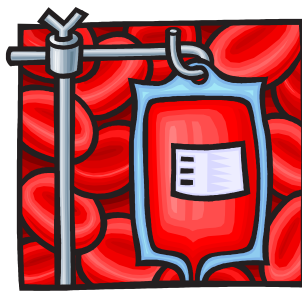
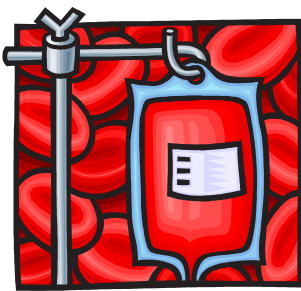
Most of these titles can be found at popular online bookstores, such as



November Calendar Winners

11/1	Robert Cowan	184	Los Gatos, CA	\$50
11/2	Diane Martin	7	So. San Francisco, CA	\$50
11/3	Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ		Oakland, CA	\$50
11/4	Mary Peterson	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
11/5	Elvie Schriebman		Fairfax, CA	\$30
11/6	Elsie Borgonovo		San Francisco, CA	\$30
11/7	Renee Perkins	308	Fresno, CA	\$30
11/8	Frank Calabrese	425	Vail, AZ	\$30
11/9	Most Rev. Patrick J. McGrath		San Jose, CA	\$30
11/10	Troy Yonke		Richmond, CA	\$30
11/11	Frank & Roseanna Cresci	127	Petaluma, CA	\$50
11/12	Theresa DeFrank	27	Madera, CA	\$30
11/13	Rev. Msgr. Michael Braun	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$50
11/14	Branch 39		Merced, CA	\$30
11/15	Carmel Dufault	327	San Carlos, CA	\$30
11/16	David Prudenciado		Daly City, CA	\$30
11/17	Brian Wagner	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
11/18	Peggy Dunn		Agoura Hills, CA	\$30
11/19	Rev. William Mason	40	Oakland, CA	\$30
11/20	Thelma Cavazos		Merced, CA	\$30
11/21	Lillian Bayer		Danville, CA	\$30
11/22	Rosalind Crudo	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
11/23	Donna Barnes	19	Daly City, CA	\$30
11/24	Eleanor Andreotti	32	Fresno, CA	\$30
11/25	Mary Gualco	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
11/26	Carmen Kilcullen	52	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
11/27	Antonina Gagliano	230	La Mesa, CA	\$30
11/28	Sister Lorraine Muglie		Glenolden, PA	\$100
11/29	Mrs. Elaine Cardelli		San Mateo, CA	\$40
11/30	Prudence Price	261	San Diego, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG



Looking for the perfect holiday gift?

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

Contact the ICF office for a blood donation postcard and your gift will be mentioned in the Bollettino.

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

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 Dorene, 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 1 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 Danli

Orator - Roy Fry

Trustees - Helen Habeeb, Gloria Borruso

Sentinel - Dorothy Semke

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



LA Archdiocese: Seated together for dinner were seated left to right: New 374 members Mike and Cammie O'Connor, Branch second Vice President Diane Restivo, Branch President and Region Vice President Al Restivo, and Montebello Branch 111 Secretary Crocetta Salamone.

Standing left to right: Branch 374 members Bernardo Volpe and wife Janice, Branch 67 National Branch President Carmelo Sabatella and wife Linda; Branch 374 members Nancy Bothe, Rae Anne Mertz, and 374 Secretary Mary Wyton. Also former 374 members Nancy and Vince Ammirato, and Branch 111 President Frank Salamone

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 Iavarone 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

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 sev-

eral 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 oversees 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!



Br. 332, Christmas baskets



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 Ensenada, returning to Los Angeles. The cruise was hosted by Branch 374, La Canada Flintridge, and included members from branches 374, 108, 111, and 67.



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 Portatino.

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, October birthdays

Br. 111, Bishop's Day Mass and Meal



Br. 108, 111, & 374 - Pacific Coast October Cruise

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

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

**Glendora
St. Dorothy, Br. 179**

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 canolis. 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 Auriemmo
Recording / Corresponding Secretary



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



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



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 Jeane'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 Szerdeheli 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, Jeane Bernabei – Corresponding Secretary, Linda Sherman – Financial Secretary, Linda Szerdeheli – 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 proceeds earned from the donut sales. They 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 Piro, 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 Roa 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 Priestly 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



Central Council members at table at Br. 237 50th anniversary dinner



Vince presents a 50-year certificate to Branch 237.



Gardena Councilperson, Dan Medina, presented an acknowledgment from the city for Br. 237's 50 years of service to parish and community

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 *Italo-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 Clinnin and Maria DeSalquero 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.

Annie Scott, Corresponding Secretary



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 icf444rpv@gmail.com. Grazie!

Tonia Amalfitano

Recording and Corresponding Secretary

OAKLAND EAST BAY 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 election of officers and even brought in some new faces. Election results are: President, Lisa Crudo; 1st vice Pres., Melody KLever; 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 rosafam2@gmail.com or (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 business who contribute to Alameda's vitality 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 Lanuiro, 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 Chaplain 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," so still 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 Catholics, 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 (joe flores33@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 Poirier, 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 Mellus 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,



St. Catherine of Siena youth servers at Branch 13 recent Polenta Dinner. From left: Brandon Nice, Elisabeth Marks, Samantha McLean, Lena Nguyen, Jeffrey Marks, and Emma Hughes.



Our members from ICF Br. 14, Crockett who helped set up the hall for our successful Polenta Dinner.

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



Remembering the contributions of David Botta

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 in 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 BUONNATALE to You
from Branch 403 President Paul Larson
and all our Officers and Members!*



*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



*Merry Christmas
to All of Our
ICF Family and
Friends.*

Grand President Vince &
First Lady Robyn Piro



The Members of
Br. 327 of

St. Charles Church in
San Carlos, wish all a
*Happy and Holy
Christmas Season*



Buon Natale a Tutti!

Branch 395,
Stockton



FOR
UNTO US
A CHILD IS BORN
UNTO US
A SON IS GIVEN

*Buon Natale e
Buon Capo D'Anno*

From Branch 442
Christ The King Church
Pleasant Hill, CA



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*



*Buon Natale e
Buon Capo D'Anno!*



*Lauren Kilcullen,
Grand Secretary*



*Wishing You a
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,
Roselynn, Chris, Dana
and families

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



*Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno*
Branch 154, St. Raymond
Richmond, CA



*Wishing you
Peace and Joy
this Christmas
Season!*

From Branch #75, Cloverdale

*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

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. Carne

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



The Officers and Members of
St. Frances Cabrini Branch 191
Wish You All a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



*May the Blessings of this Holy Season Shine
Upon You and Your Families*

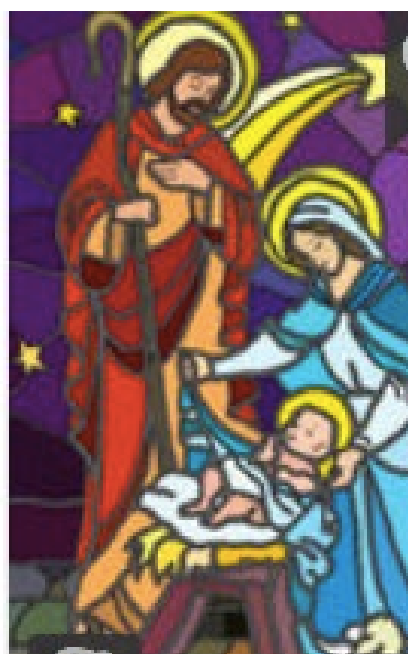
Buon Natale!



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*



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 Pfaff
Financial Secretary: Michelle Antonowicz
Trustees: Rose Arnaudo, Norma Buonaccorsi, and Joe Yurosko
Sentinel: Victoria Nguyen
Branch Mentor: Maria Greco



MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Happy
Holidays
From
The
Fuentes
Family*



From Branch 433 Tucson,
*Wishing everyone
a joyous Christmas and
a prosperous New Year!*



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!*



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 from Branch 14, Crockett



*Buon
Natale e
auguri per
un felice,
prospero
New Year*

From the Officers and Members of
Novato, Branch 332

Dear Brothers and Sisters
of the ICF:
Our wish for a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy New Year.
The Marsalli Family



The Officers and Members of
Branch 6, Redwood City send

*Blessings at Christmas
and throughout the
New Year 2020!
Buon Natale e Felice
Capo D'Anno!*

*Buon Natale e le
benedizioni di Dio nel
nuovo anno dal ramo
ICF 179.*



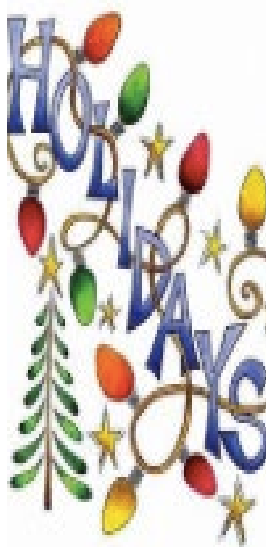
*Buon Natale
e
Felice Anno Nuovo*



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



GLORY
TO
GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE,
GOOD-
WILL
TOWARD
MEN.

A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
TO YOU.



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!*



*Blessings at Christmas and always
from the Contra Costa District*



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

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

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



**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 390 - Saint Bernard—Tracy

Branch 395 - Church of Presentation—Stockton

Branch 413 - Saint Patrick—Angels Camp

Branch 139 - Saint Anthony—Manteca





Br. 352 Fundraiser



Br. 352 Msgr. Cardelli wins!

Danville St. Isidore, Br. 352

Once again, our October Italian Heritage Dinner Dance Fundraiser was a roaring success – and a night to be remembered! Many thanks to Chefs Angelo & Russ, along with our member & student volunteers, for the amazing dinner, from the antipasti with shrimp cocktail, to the pesto pasta & chicken parmigiana.

At our November dinner meeting, members enjoyed pasta & meatballs, while deciding the 2020 Branch officers. Results to be announced. Don't forget-our December Potluck is early- and will be held Monday, Dec. 9th at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share! I hear there's a special Christmas program in the works-and maybe a little Bingo, too!

As we wind down 2019, we'd like to wish a very Merry Christmas to all, good health, and the happiest New Year ever!

Ciao, Branch 352

Pleasant Hill Christ The King Br. 442

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.

Our yearly Fall bake sale and fundraiser was, once again, a great success! We netted over \$1,500.00. We couldn't have done it without the generous support of our many bakers and volunteers, and especially Connie and Derryl Terry, who organized and worked tirelessly at this event.

We wish everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. May you all enjoy this special holiday surrounded by the love of friends and family.

Grazie,

Anne Finn

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.

January 11, 2020: Our next Polenta Dinner. More details, next month.

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 Rolleri, 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 Julie Tomasin.; Sentinel: Dee Rochester. 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!



Cloverdale L'Annuciata, Br. 75

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 Chiaino

2nd Vice President: DeeDee Bovone

Secretary: Ron Brown

Treasurer: Margaret Brown

Trustees: Kristine Caturegli, 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 gifting.

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 you 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!!

Petaluma 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. Dennise DiGirolamo; 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 Lavio, 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 Party 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

Benvenuto 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 choose from, including fresh persimmons from the garden 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 traipsed 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 assistance 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 Cattlemens 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 Bonggi-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, Giona Boffa

Merced St. Cecilia, Br. 39

Wasn't our Thanksgiving feast at the November meeting mouth-watering delicious! Thank you to our wonderful officers for presenting this gastronomic gift to us. We had several guests and initiated new members too. Thanks for adding to the festivities.

Applause is extended to Mabel Willmon who brought in 9 new members! Welcome Julie Giampaoli, Christine and David Serrano, Joan Rodriguez, her daughter Lisa Rodriguez and Joan's grandchildren Gabriel, Marcus, Chris and Ethan. We are excited to have you join and get involved in our family organization.

Our biscotti sale, expertly chaired by Janet Pugliese and Maryellen Mazzei, was a rousing success. Thanks to our bakers, baggers and those who donated cookies, ingredients or money toward this fundraiser to fund the many community and church organizations we support.

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 PARTAY!

Don't forget to visit the Merced Courthouse 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.

Gustine N.S. Del Pettoruto, Br. 54



Br. 54 President Diane Rebello and members Joe Rebello and Billie Jean Rocha represented ICF at the Hops and Bangers Fundraiser for the Gustine High School Athletic Booster Club.

Sanger Sant' Antonio, Br. 70

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 pot luck 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 out to her family. She will be missed.

We send our get well wishes and prayers to Enis Merlo Giovachini for a peaceful and rapid healing.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all!
God Bless, Orsolina Casella*

Clovis Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Branch 250 is keeping busy as usual. We just completed our annual pasta dinner and all indications it was very successful. The Zanarinis did their usual fine job of organizing and coordinating.

Betty Massa took a cruise to New York and Canada with three ex-classmates to celebrate their birthdays. Shirley Mitchell just celebrated her 88th birthday with family and friends, and Dirk and Mariateresa Charley celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on October 28. Dirk also celebrated his 63rd birthday November 4. Congratulations to all!!

The Grandchildren of Rueben and Cindy Silva have been busy. Kathy Silva is attending university and hopes to open a coffee shop, Arianna attends university and plans to become a police officer in a K-9 unit, and 14-year old Brandon has qualified for the 2019 Infantile Pan American Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico, for judo.

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

Lulu 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 all year. 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.

Their tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Finally, our 2020 ICF calendar sales have begun. Betty Zasoski is selling them for \$25. They make great gifts and help to keep our membership dues low. Also, you might win \$30 in the monthly drawing! Contact Betty at (661) 872-8725 or zasoski@bak.rr.com

Wishing all a beautiful holiday season and a blessed New Year! Theresa Amarante

"It's Christmas every time you let God love others through you." ~Mother Teresa~



ICF Central Coast District Bishop's Day luncheon with Fr. Jerry & ICF Grand Treasurer, Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

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, Deacon 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,

Franklyn 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*



ICF Central Coast District Bishop's Day luncheon, in honor of The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel E. Garcia "Bishop Danny" with ICF Grand President, Vince Piro



ICF Central Coast District Bishop's Day event with Fr. Ommar Solis, Director of Vocations who spoke about the program for Seminarians of the Diocese of Monterey



What a blessing! The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel E. Garcia, "Bishop Danny" Celebrated Mass for the ICF Central Coast District Bishops Day event, in support of the Seminarians, Diocese of Monterey, at San Carlos Cathedral



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"



Br. 25's October 26, 2019 Paint & Sip Fundraiser was taught by acclaimed local artist, Laurie Myers.



Branch 25's October 26, 2019 Paint & Sip Fundraiser Group 1 participants



Branch 25's October 26, 2019 Paint & Sip Fundraiser Group 2 participants

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 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!

JoAnn Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Hollister Sacred Heart, Br. 26

At the Nov. monthly meeting, President Harry Hill introduced 2 of our 3 newest 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 Friebe were branch delegates to the ICF convention. Jim reiterated Pappani's message to invite others to ICF. Some people just need a personal invitation. The Friebeles enjoyed the workshops, es-



Br. 26, Former Central Council Member Jim Friebe with Past Grand President Andrew Pappani and Life Member Dante Galeazzi reminiscing and discussing the enjoyable past activities at the Federation's Branches events during our tenure.

pecially Fr. Chris' spiritual presentation. The business/finance plans were useful too. 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 Friebe 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 \$5 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: Brunch is at 10:30 a.m. with Mass at noon by Fr. Rudy Ruiz. Jim and Mary Ann Friebe 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. Ommar 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 Meeting with canned food donations to St Francis Xavier Church Food Pantry.



Br. 36, Elaine Valentine, Jo LoManto & Rosa Radicchi

-November 16: Scholarship Fundraiser-DiFranco Family Singers Dinner Show.

-December 7: Adult Christmas Dinner Dance (only \$35 each).

-December 15: Children's Christmas Party (fun for ALL).

-January 10: Monthly Dinner Meeting.

*Bless the food before us,
The family beside us,
And the love between us.*

Amen

Believe!

Elaine Valentine

Financial Secretary



Bishop's Day of Central Coast District



Br. 36, Seminarian Fiacre Fahey

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. They are:
Presidents – Ellen Pauly (first six months of 2020)

Franklyn Lopes (last six months of 2020)

1st Vice-President – Franklyn (first six months) Ellen (last six months)

2nd Vice-President – Vicky Howell

Secretary – Deanna Musler

Financial Secretary – Marie Mungai

Treasurer – Jane Kotila

Orator – Ken Reaves

Trustees – Mary Montonye, 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 Providenza Fund

\$500 St. Joseph's Stars

\$500 Sienna House

\$500 Meals on Wheels

\$250 St. Vincent dePaul

\$250 St. Joseph's Church

Welcome to returning member Craig Mortensen and new member Debra Rolinson.

Wishing everyone a Christmas filled with hope, peace, and joy.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande St. Patrick, Br. 291

Br. 291, along with the St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus Council, recently held a free dinner for veterans from our parish and their spouses, or widows of veterans. Each veteran in attendance received a raffle ticket for a chance to win a beautiful, handmade

fishing pole, made by ICF member Robert Reginato. The 7th and 8th grade students at St. Patrick School also made thoughtful cards to thank the veterans for their service. It was a well-attended event with good food, fellowship and much appreciation for our veterans.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Madonna Inn will take place on December 1st. Our Christmas Luncheon committee—Joanna Van Blaricom, Sylvia Nasholm and Beth Nakamura—have been busy planning this event. We appreciate all their time and energy to make it a fun and entertaining afternoon for all ages!

Our Lenten Fish Fry season begins on Feb. 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.

Congratulations to our Branch Officers for 2020! President Pete Gallagher; 1st Vice President Theresa Aston; 2nd Vice President Joanna Van Blaricom; Recording Secretary Keely Sanchez; Financial Secretary Abby Gallagher; Treasurer Joe Franco; Orator Kathleen Sullivan; Trustee Gayle Quain; Trustee Throck Scudder; and Sentinel Ellen Bavaro.

A very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to all!

Keely Sanchez, Recording Secretary

Paso Robles Saint 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,



Br. 291, Beautiful handmade fishing pole by Robert Reginato

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia, who gave a meaningful homily on the role of lay persons in promoting the priesthood, deacons, religious (both men and women) through prayer, verbal encouragement and example. Bishop Garcia and the seminarian present expressed their appreciation for the monetary contributions from each branch that support those in the seminary. Bishop Garcia, we welcome you and we are grateful for your service to our Diocese. Thank you Branch 36 for an outstanding lunch and program.

Upcoming dates:

Pasta Dinner, 11/16/2019

Birthdays:

Robert Ellsworth, 11/06/2019

Michael Frederico, 11/10/2019

Yvonne Maddalena



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. I think he values the Spiritual Bouquet as well. ICF Branch 5 president Janet Glaubke and members hosted a wonderful Bishop's Day. Elaine Osorio sent an ICF information packet to the bishop explaining what the ICF is all about. This is important since some parish priests are not fully aware what the ICF does. District Mentor Jerry Delfino gave each mentor the "In Touch" flyer and said the latest By-Law changes were included.

Br. 435 President Giulia Gallegos reported the branch provided food for the Vento's and donated \$2000 to purchase a parish kitchen stove. Br. 445 President Jim Falcone reported his branch assembled "Blessing Bags" (Toiletries for the homeless).

District Orator Tina Sousa Dutra's reflected on the "Dash" between the Born & Died

dates on a tombstone. The Dash represented all the time spent alive and what matters is how we lived and spend our Dash time.

SCV District Officers Installation – ICF Branch 28 St. Mary's Gilroy – Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020

SCV District Meeting – ICF Branch 391 St. Martin of Tours – Monday, January 13, 2020

Mike Nunziata

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 Layette 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 mail box 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.

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.

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.



Br. 28 – Kim Filice presenting a check from the child playhouse proceeds to Father Michael Hendrickson for St. Mary Parish.



Br. 28 – Joe Fortino presenting a \$2,300 check to Father Michael Hendrickson for St. Mary Parish from Br. 28's fundraising efforts.



Br. 28 – Jeanette Hudson getting ready to start the raffle gift drawing at the Polenta dinner. She does a fabulous job of organizing event raffle drawings.



Br. 28 – Giulia Gallego (Br. 435) and Gennaro Filice (Br. 28) at our Polenta Dinner on Oct. 12th.

Continued on Page 28

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 Swarvingim, 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 Tillie 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 Jane 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 Jane! The sanctuary and all the rooms in the church have now been painted.



Br. 191; Nov 2019; Father Paolo Gobbo 25th year ordination Celebration

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

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 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, 8:30 a.m. mass. Also, Installation of Officers at St. Mary in Gilroy—January 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m. mass followed by ceremony and lunch.

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

Mike Rossi



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 lasagana and garlic bread and drinks. Please coordinate your potluck offering with Patricia. Come and spend some holiday 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 Jan. 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 ravioli, 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.

Our Christmas Potluck will be December 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish, family and friends and join us.

Mass for our deceased members will be Sundays December 12, 2019 and January 12, 2020 at the 8:00 a.m. mass at the Maze Blvd. Church.

We wish a Holy and Blessed Christmas to all of you and your families.

Coming up:

Dec 11, 6:00 p.m. Christmas Potluck and meeting

Jan 5, 1:00 p.m. Mass and Installation Of Officers 709 J Street, Modesto

Jan 8, 7:00 p.m. Meeting— J Street Hall 7 & K Street

Cecelia McGhee





St. Anne's Br. 82, Marie and Elisa at the Membership Drive

Lodi St. Anne's, Br. 82

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 Party, and Heritage presented the Christmas customs of Italy.

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!

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 Chimento 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



Br.139, Italian Counsel General in San Francisco Lorenzo Ortona meets and discusses concerns regarding Italian heritage plus Columbus Day events with Dante Galeazzi, Life Member from Branch 139 St Anthony in Manteca

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 by 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.icf-branch390.org Love seeing those great pics!

Warm wishes for a healthy, happy and safe Christmas to all.

Buon Natale!

Betty Hollars



Stockton Bishop Myron Cotta, Vicar General Ryan and Life Member Dante Galeazzi and numerous members of Branch 138 happily rejoice in her celebration.

Continued on Page 30

Continued from Page 29

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*



Branch 395 members giving back to the community.



Branch 395 thanks you Fr. Nguyen!



These young sons of Robert & Annie Pachinger, President Stockton District and active In Br. 413, Angel Camp, were the boys Joseph, Russell, and Sebastian who honorably and proudly served Mass for the ICF convention.

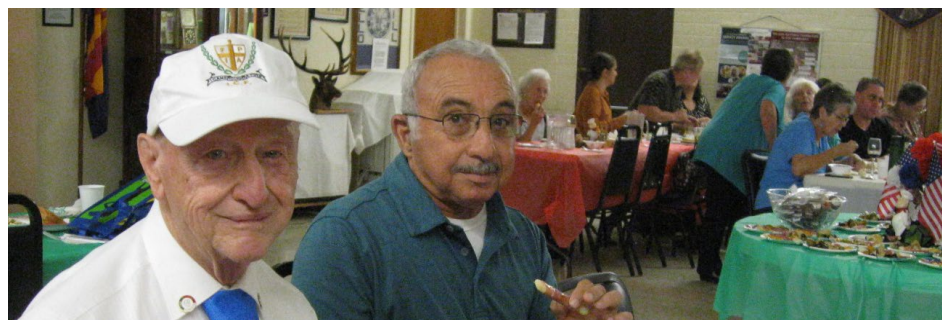


Branch 433 had a wonderful first inaugural Columbus Day Dinner. We had a packed house!!! We enjoyed some delicious home-made meatballs made from Jo Malkentzos' family recipe. While our new friends at the Elks Lodge made sure nobody went without drinks! Our members were able to not only fundraise but 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.





Br.433 Columbus Day Dinner--first annual event



Bilingual Staff
Information • Referrals
Social Service Coordination
ITALIAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY
SERVICES AGENCY
 providing services to the
 Italian-American
 community since 1916

CASA FUGAZI

678 Green Street, San Francisco,
 CA 94133 • (415) 362-6423

Pierce Brothers Turner & Stevens Mortuary

❖ Pre-arrangements Available

❖ Cremations & Burial Plans ❖ Serving all Faiths

1136 E. Las Tunas Drive

San Gabriel, CA 91776

Phone (626) 287-0595

Fax (626) 287-3393

Se habla Español

FD-995



SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

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



COLOMBO
 CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

Lic. # 191788

3211 Rio Mirada Drive
 Bakersfield, CA 93308-4945
 (661) 316-0100

Fax: (661) 316-0101

lzasoski@colomboconstruction.com
 www.colomboconstruction.com

General Contractors
 Construction Management
 Design/Build Services

Zona Divertimento

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 practice 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 on Nicholas day's eve. Sometimes even a St Nicholas visits the homes of children. Then children sing a Christmas carol or recite a poem.

If the children have been good children throughout the last year, they will get some fruits, nuts and sweets from St Nicholas, the naughty ones get usually also a sweet, but one looking like coal.

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)

Il panettone (fruitcake)

Bombardino (a popular drink similar to eggnog)

Esta dei 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 American than it is in Italy!

Common types of fish eaten in the feast include *Baccala* (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.

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.

Buon Natale

Bon Natali (Sicilian)

Bon/Bun Nadèl

(Ladin--spoken in some parts of the northern Italian region of South Tyrol)

Merry Christmas!



Neapolitan cribs, is that they always have extra 'every day' people and objects (such as houses, waterfalls, food, animals and even figures of famous people and politicians!). Naples is also the home to the largest crib scene in the world, which has over 600 objects on it! <https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml>

Sources:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/italy/christmas-day>

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/christmas-in-italy.html>

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml>

Christmas In Italy Word Search

Learn about how Christmas is celebrated in Italy, with this hard (includes diagonals) word search. Learn the Italian name for Santa as well as the country's traditions.

Size: Large (20x20)

Difficulty: Hard (Add Diagonals)

Words List

LaBefana
BuoneNatale
Novena
UrnofFate
CelebrationFeast
VaticanSquare
Shepherds
Panettone
Spaghetti
Chocolate
Epiphany
Presents
BabboNatale

C I G R V S T N E S E R P F K K T U B D
M L S D P A X Q C P P S U R Y C V I C V
E D I G L P T Y H R Z A I K T K O G V G
J L E A A W U I O R V W G N D Z E I H C
R O O G M F F V C P Z G D H C F N C K P
N P P N L Y J E O A H G R K E F O A R H
R G V X T N B D L P N Q D L L T T V U J
X F Z L U A O Y A G S S A Y E D T N E V
X K V P R H N W T H N T Q L B L E I P O
O F F S A P A B E Y A F A U R A N J A P
I G O L U I S P G N S T D B A I A V P E
I A U X P P H Z E D A H A D T R P I Y J
J I J Z Q E Q N N N B A K G I I E D J K
L E Z P R N O Z O J K O N J O N W J R F
I A O D Q U K B N G A B I A N L H Q O Q
B Z S U B A B N O V E N A P F H A Z S O
I G K R X A Q A Y E Q I S X E E J T F U
B W I R B X I M Y Y U Y X N A N B F T Y
X R O X P T O Y L L H F R B S H N A K Y
L U R N O F F A T E T L J R T F I O L S

<https://www.freewordsearch.net/puzzle/Christmas-In-Italy/>

Games Italians Play for Christmas: Tombola!

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.



Neapolitan Tombola board

Source: <http://www.grandvoyageitaly.com/piazza/games-italians-play-for-christmas-tombola>

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

Italian Catholic Federation
Reno Branch 135

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

*Best 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:

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Nickname _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

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



Step Right Up and Join Us for a

CARNIVAL

**To Celebrate The 3rd Annual
Thalassemia Christmas Party**

When:
Sunday, December 15, 2019, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

Where:
Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA)
Stauffer Conference Room
4650 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90027

RSVP:
By December 1st to
Kelly Russell
323-361-3269, or, krussell@chla.usc.edu

**Please let us know the names of everyone in your group and
ages of guests age 18 and younger.
We Hope You Can Join Us!**



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, I-Tunes, 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, teething, 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, Chess/Checkers, Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Simon, Trivial Pursuit, Jenga, Taboo, Hi Ho Cheerio, Operation, Scrabble.
- ❑ Barbies, 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.
- ❑ Cars/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!!!

Join the Hospitalization Plan!

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

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

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

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

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



Officer Training Available

Attention ICF Officers!

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

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

