



BOLLETTINO



ICF Christmas Celebration Online December 11, 2020



All ICF members welcome
Raffle
Prizes
Music
Games

More information at www.icf.org
and Italian Catholic Federation page on
Facebook

JOY
to the WORLD
THE LORD
is come let EARTH
receive her
KING



Grand President's Monthly Message

Vince Piro

Robyn and I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. If we could, we would have all of you over to our home for Christmas dinner—as you are part of our big ICF family. We could share food, friendship, and faith as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

As it is, we do want to invite you to the ICF Online Christmas Celebration to be held December 11 via Zoom. The event will include a raffle, prizes, music, and games and a chance for



us to visit with our ICF family. More information can be found at www.icf.org and on the Italian Catholic Federation Facebook page.

Last Christmas, Pope Francis left us with words of hope that I think are pertinent to our world today:

There is darkness in personal, family and social relationships, but the light of Christ is greater. There is darkness in economic, geopolitical and ecological conflicts, yet greater still is the light of Christ.

It is this light of Christ that sustains the work of the Federation—even in these difficult and challenging times. It is the light of Christ that brings us together as one ICF family and urges us to reach out in service to others.

As Pope Francis said, *May he bring his smile, through our poor faces, to all the children of the world: to those who are abandoned and those who suffer violence. Through our frail hands, may he clothe those who have nothing to wear, give bread to the hungry and heal the sick.*

As I sit here writing this column, just a few feet away from me sit several photographs of my grandparents, one of whom was an immigrant from Italy. His photograph reminds me of my family's immigrant past — as do the pictures of my great-grandparents. Their lives were filled with stories of family, fellowship, and faith. And their lives and stories tie my family to the stories and lives of present day immigrants.

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Membership in a Challenging Time

Perry Shurko
Membership Chair

Season's Greetings to you all. Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Perry Shurko and I am honored to be asked by Grand President Vince Piro to chair the Membership Committee. I would like to thank Pat Mages for her time and hard work as the outgoing chair.

Membership at this time in our organization, as we all know, has been dropping, and the Covid pandemic hasn't been kind to us either. But it's up



to all of us to fight on. Don't feel like we can't do anything. Many branches are still fundraising. Some are able to gather in person following all the safety guidelines, and most are using Zoom. We need to keep in contact with our fellow members. Keep sending letters or monthly news bulletins to your branch and district members. Emails and phone calls are also encouraged. If and when we can start to gather in person, it's going to be important that we start holding membership drives so that we can get our membership numbers back

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage Since 1924

BOLLETTINO

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Important Notice

The new email address for
ALL Bollettino submissions is:

editor@icf.org

All other email addresses being
used for Bollettino submissions
were terminated on

December 31, 2018.

This change was made to link the
Bollettino directly to the Italian
Catholic Federation for a more pro-
fessional look and better managing of
incoming email.

All image and article submissions
need to be sent in an electronic for-
mat. 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 require-
ment or they will be shortened or
possibly excluded entirely based on
editor judgement.

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

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Please keep your submission positive
and informative.

**January issue
deadline is December 10, 2020.
Thank you!**

What Do YOU Want for Christmas, Really?

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director



The other day, I was talking to a friend about how time flies the older we get. It seems that we just started 2020, and here it is almost the end of the year. Christmas is very soon upon us! Besides celebrating the birth of Jesus, it is also a time for us to give and receive gifts. So I asked my friend, "What do you want for Christmas?" "I don't want to be bothered," was his answer. I chuckled and replied, "What do you mean?" "I just want to enjoy life," was his comeback. "I'm tired of the anxiety. People seem to be on edge everywhere. Even on the road, people are involved in aggressive driving. There is some kind of unseen

anxiety and stress among people, young and old."

There are a lot of possible reasons for this kind of behavior. Let's face it. The Coronavirus has impacted everyone's life in some way. Our social life, parish life, ICF life, family life, work life, school life, business life, economic life, and sport life are all changed and restricted. We want to free ourselves, yet we don't know how or what to do! By our very nature, we are social creatures. We need to mingle and interact, yet we are "damned if we do and damned if we don't." We are kind of lost as if we are canoeing upstream without a paddle. What do we do? The virus is real and extremely contagious. We can't see it, so we are scared. Some people do the right thing and follow the medical and scientific advice. Some people ignore it and pretend it isn't real, so they spread it and infect all the more people. So what do you want for Christmas?

Well, I'll tell you what *I* want for Christmas, both for me and for you. I want an end to the pandemic. For this to happen we each need to do our part: WEAR MASKS, WASH OUR HANDS and maintain SOCIAL DISTANCING, at least six feet! If everyone gave this



gift to each other for Christmas (starting now), it would definitely have an effect on the virus. What a wonderful Christmas gift to give everyone, especially to the ones we know and love.

Another thing we can do, *and this is the most important of all*, is **PRAY** for an end to the virus and LOVE GOD and our NEIGHBOR! If everyone in the world would do this, most of the world's problems would disappear and my anxious friend could relax (and enjoy his new shirt).

So, this is what *I* want for Christmas! What do *YOU* want? Don't *YOU* want this, too?

May the love of the Christ Child be with you and your family during this Holy Season.

Merry Christmas!



Dr. Thomas Coates, the thalassemia team at
Children's Hospital Los Angeles; patients and families,
Laurice, 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.

Literature Review: Children's Books - Part 2

Vince Piro
Grand President

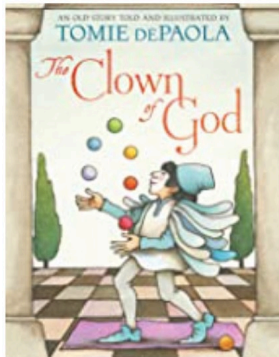
As members of the Italian Catholic Federation, the greatest gift we can share with our children and grandchildren is our faith. The books below are great ways for us to share our faith with the children and teens in our lives. These titles would make great Christmas gifts.

All of these titles can be found on online book retailers or by ordering through your local bookstore.

The Clown of God

by Tomie dePaola

This beautiful new edition of Tomie dePaola's 1978 classic retelling of a French legend stars a little juggler whose unique talent leads him to what might be a Christmas miracle. Little Giovanni is poor and homeless, but he can do something wonderful: he can juggle. The people of Sorrento marvel at his talents, and before long, he becomes famous throughout Italy for his rainbow of colored balls that delight the nobility and townspeople alike. But as the years pass, Giovanni grows old, and his talents begin to fail him. No longer a celebrated performer, he is once again poor and homeless, begging for his food. Until one Christmas Eve, when Giovanni picks up his rainbow of colored balls once more. And what happens next just might be a miracle...

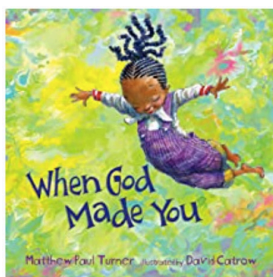


When God Made You

by Matthew Paul Turner

From early on, children are looking to discover their place in the world and longing to understand how their personalities, traits, and talents fit in. The assurance that they are deeply loved and a unique creation in our big universe is certain to help them spread their wings and fly.

Through playful, charming rhyme and vivid, fantastical illustrations, *When God Made You* inspires young readers to learn about their own special gifts and how they fit into God's divine plan as they grow, explore, and begin to create for themselves.



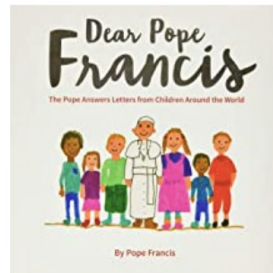
Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World

by Pope Francis

If you could ask Pope Francis one question, what would it be?

Children have questions and struggles just like adults, but rarely are they given the chance to voice their concerns and ask the big questions resting deep in their hearts. In *Dear Pope Francis*, Pope

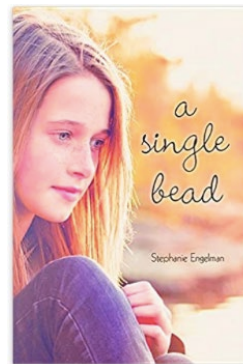
Francis gives them that chance and celebrates their spiritual depth by directly answering questions from children around the world. Some are fun. Some are serious. And some will quietly break your heart. But all of them are from children who deserve to know and feel God's unconditional love.



A Single Bead

by Stephanie Engelman

On the anniversary of the plane crash that took the life of her beloved grandmother and threw her own mother into a deep depression, 16-year-old Katelyn Marie Roberts discovers a single bead from her grandmother's rosary--a rosary lost in the crash. A chance encounter with a stranger, who tells Katelyn that a similar bead saved her friend's life, launches Katelyn and her family on a mysterious journey filled with glimmers of hope, mystical events and unexplained graces.



Continued on Page 6

Grand President Piro

Continued from Page 1

Last Christmas, Pope Francis offered a message of hope to immigrants around the world. During his annual Christmas Day address, he prayed:

May the Son of God, come down to earth from heaven, protect and sustain all those who, due to these and other injustices, are forced to emigrate in the hope of a secure life . . . It is injustice that makes them cross deserts and seas that become cemeteries. It is injustice that turns them away from places where they might have hope for a dignified life, but instead find themselves before walls of indifference.

I know that our ICF family also prays for immigrants around the world who flee injustice and seek a new home. We remember that the inn keeper denied the Holy Family a room at the inn and that Herod forced the Holy Family to flee for its safety. We remember the immigrant stories of our own families as well and stand in solidarity with today's immigrants.

As members of the ICF, we believe that the love, generosity, and hospitality that are prevalent during the Christmas season are values that govern our Federation and our lives.

We wake up every day of the year filled with the spirit of Christmas.



Mother Cabrini Shrine

Carmelo Sabatella
LA Archdiocese District

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, a co-patron saint of the Italian Catholic Federation, was born in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano in the province of Lombardy, northern Italy, on July 15, 1850. She was a major benefactor for Italian immigrants in the U.S., and the first naturalized US citizen to be declared a saint (July 7, 1946).



In 1916 Mother Cabrini built a small chapel in honor of the Blessed Mother atop Mount Raphael, for the residents of the San Fernando Valley. She made daily mediation visits to the chapel.

For decades, the chapel attracted thousands of pilgrims who made the

steep climb every December to honor Mother Cabrini. In 1973, the chapel was moved down the mountain to St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank where it was restored.

SAVE THE DATE: This year's ANNUAL MOTHER CABRINI PILGRIMAGE, MASS AND LUNCHEON will be held in Mother Cabrini's honor on Sunday, December 6, 2020, VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.



ICF Chapel President Carmelo Sabatella with ICF Member Eugene Salandar



For more information regarding the event or to make a donation contact, please call 626-372-7812 or visit the Mother Cabrini Shrine at www.icf.org. All contributions will be used to help the Chapel continue with the annual December Pilgrimage event in Burbank and to maintain the Shrine Facility.

Thank you for your continued support! ICF LAADC Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee: cas1810@aol.com



ICF Chapel President Carmelo Sabatella with Chapel visitor Father Mark Villano



<http://eepurl.com/bLaMFb>

Family Recipes

Deborah Rodondi

Grand 1st Vice President

Hope you are continuing to stay safe and healthy.

If you have a sweet tooth this is the recipe for you. This comes from a relatively new member, Thelma Scott, who joined the Novato Branch #332. She shared with me that she can't help too much with projects, but she can still bake, which she loves to do. She loves the ICF, attends the meetings with others widows, enjoys the companionship, a night out and the meals.

When I saw Thelma's recipe, I recognized it as one in my mom's recipe file, so I pulled that one out to compare. Here is Thelma's recipe:



Chocolate Éclair Dessert

- 1 Box Graham Crackers
- 2 small packages instant vanilla pudding
- 3 ½ cups milk
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate (I used 1 ounce, which was 4 small squares)
- 3 Tbls. butter
- 3 tsp. clear corn syrup (Karo)
- 1 cup sifted powdered sugar
- 3 Tbls. milk
- 1 8 ounce tub of cool whip
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the pudding and milk as directed on the pudding package. Layer the graham crackers in a 9' X 13" buttered cake pan or pyrex.

Pour half the pudding mixture over the crackers, then a layer of cool whip. Repeat the layers and top with graham crackers.

TOPPING: Melt butter and chocolate, add powdered sugar, corn syrup, vanilla and enough milk to make a smooth frosting. Pour (or spread) over the top and smooth to the edges.

Refrigerate covered until ready to serve.

My mom's recipe is for half the above recipe. It folds the pudding and cool whip together. The topping is almost twice the amount and the instructions are as follows for the topping: 1 ½ cups sifted powder sugar, 2 Tbls. cocoa, 2 Tbls. corn syrup, 3 Tbls. milk, 3 Tbls. butter, 1 tsp. vanilla.



Several members have shared recipes with me—you have not been forgotten; I look forward to sharing with you in the near future. Be safe and call friends---it can be lonely sheltering in place.

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!



Membership

Continued from Page 1
up again.

I want to let you know that an updated ICF trifold hand out has been created and is now available from the Central Council office.

I also want to let you know that a video is being created that will be used as a promotional tool. This will be a short video that can be sent to potentially new branches so that pastors or bishops can see what the ICF is all about. Another subject that needs to be addressed is dues. Many members are falling behind, most likely due to the effects of the pandemic.

Let's help out our fellow members who are behind. If you can afford to pay it forward by paying someone's dues for them—let's do it! Anything we can do to retain members is vital right now. Think of it as an early Christmas gift.

One last thing, don't forget that we have a National/Virtual Branch. You can be a member of the ICF without belonging to a parish based branch. You might know someone who wants to belong, but doesn't live near a branch. They can still join in. Direct them to our website which will direct them to the National Branch.

My motto for 2021 is ***The ICF is still alive and it's time to thrive!***

Let's all do our part and keep the faith that we will get stronger.

God Bless you.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Perry Shurko, Membership Chair.

Thank You to the Gifts of Love Program

In the Spirit of Christmas and Giving we wanted to share a sampling of Thank You Notes that we receive in response to our Gifts of Love Awards. These awards bring help and hope

to so many Individuals, Families and Agencies. We are extremely grateful to our Districts, Branches and Members for your donations to this worthwhile program which make these grants possible.

God's Blessings to you and your families at Christmas and in the New Year.

Teresa Helfand, Chairperson, and the Gifts of Love Committee Members

We wanted to send our gratitude for your Gift from the Gifts of Love Committee. It is a tremendous help for our household and our son's disability expenses. It is our privilege to be members of such a wonderful organization.



Dear Members of the Italian Catholic Federation,

Thank you so much for your generous gift from the Gifts of Love program. It enabled me to get my P-Pod positioning chair. It's so comfortable and it's nice to spend time hanging out with my family friends not always in my wheelchair. What a wonderful program you have!

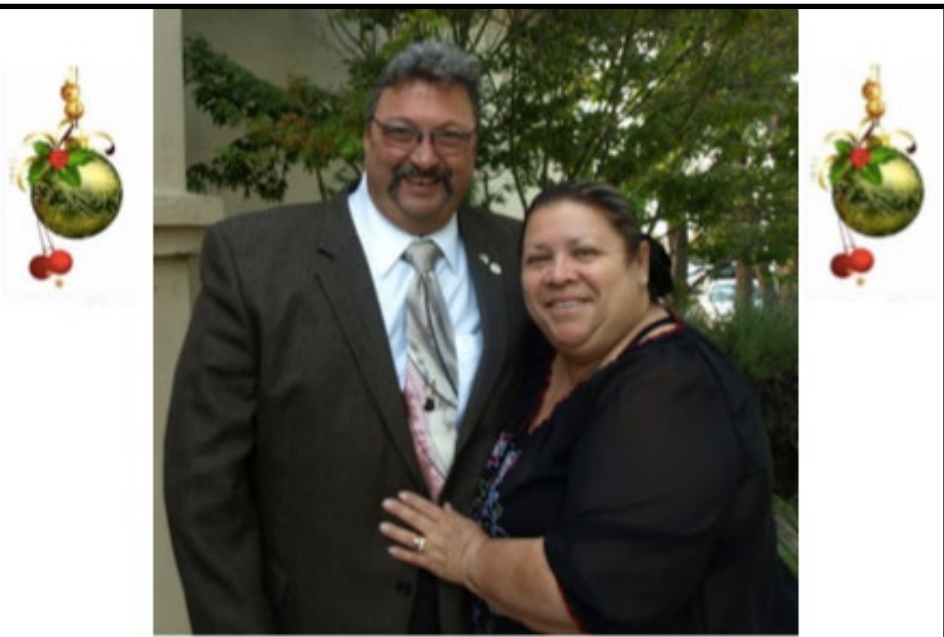
Dear Italian Catholic Federation, Board members, Chairmen and the Donors of the Gifts of Love Program,

I would like to thank the Federation for the generous monetary gift you have awarded me which has gone towards the purchase of my hearing aids. I appreciate your kind gesture of the Gift of Love, from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to being of help to others in any way I can, as that is what our Lord calls us to do.

I feel Blessed to have a Loving family and friends who are always there to support me and my family in any situation. I am also very thankful for the Love that this Federation has for others and in all that you do.

May God Bless us and our families always, and Heal those who suffer. For we know that Our Lord is above all and Only through Him do we experience His Miraculous work.


*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*
from
The Zasoski Family

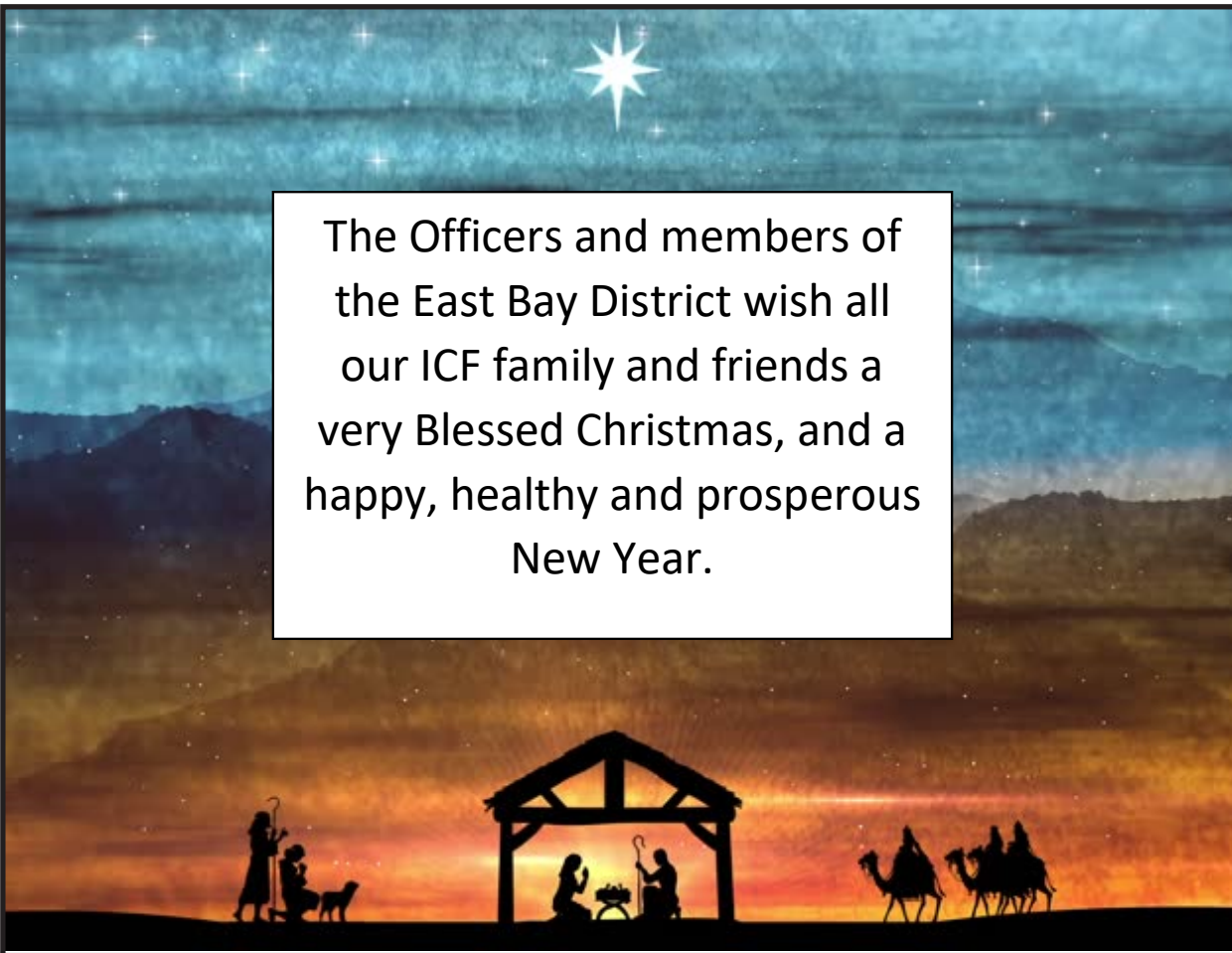


*Merry Christmas and Wishing
You a Happy and
Prosperous New Year!*

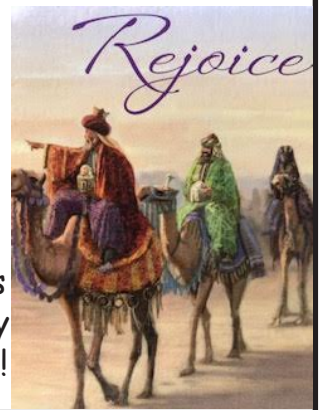


*The Pappani Family
Past Grand President Andy and
First Lady Siria (Sid) Pappani*

The Officers and members of
the East Bay District wish all
our ICF family and friends a
very Blessed Christmas, and a
happy, healthy and prosperous
New Year.



Officers and Members of
Branch 6
send
Wishes
and
Blessings
for a
Merry
Christmas
and Happy
New Year!



Buon Natale!

*The members of the Tracy Branch 390
of Saint Bernard's Church would like
to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year !*

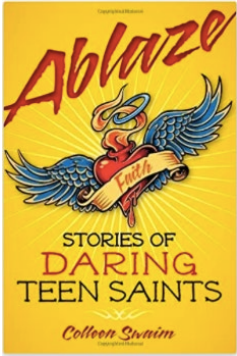


Literature Review

Continued from Page 3

Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints
by Coleen Swain

In *Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints*, Colleen Swain examines the lives of eight young men and women who were set fire with the Spirit and set free to live lives of extraordinary virtue. All became saints for the outgoing, against-the-current heroism of their teen years.



Read how Chiara Luce, an Italian high school student, faced cancer joyfully, inspiring thousands to throng to her funeral in song. Follow Kizito, a brand-new Christian, as his faith is challenged by a king and he is marched to his death for standing firm. From martyrdom to missionary life and from sickness to the silence of religious life, these teens show that we are all called to follow Christ in our own unique ways. These stories come alive with vivid storytelling and saintly challenges designed to inspire reflection and enflame your heart. Through prayers, images, and maps, catch a glimpse of a saint's world that carries lessons for our own--and discover how you can set our world

What Is The Apostolate Charity Program?

Carmen Kilcullen, Past Grand President/Life Member Emeritus From The Apostolate-Charity Committee

The Italian Catholic Federation has an Apostolate-Charity Committee chaired by Central Council Grand Secretary, Lauren Kilcullen. We have often been asked, “What is this program all about?”

Let’s start with the best-known part of this program—Charity. The Federation is committed to perform works of charity. All branches do this and it is a tangible item which can be measured in dollars and cents. The Central Council and the branches donate to a vast variety of charities. As a matter of fact, the ICF has become such a strong contributor to charities that this part of our ministry draws many people to membership. At the present time, with so much adversity in our world, donations to charities have become an essential and necessary part of our lives. Even though, right now, branches are experiencing a challenging time having fundraisers, there are still ways to earn

money. Reading branch articles in the *Bollettino*, we discover how creative branches have become in trying to earn funds. You can read some of these articles yourselves.

Now for the Apostolate. When we speak of the Apostolate, we are referring to the lay apostolate. As defined by Vatican II, the lay apostolate consists of living one’s ordinary daily life in the light of one’s Christian faith. This can happen in many ways—how we interact with others in our daily lives as Christians. Prayer, good deeds, helping those in need in a non-monetary way, mass and communion, spiritual and religious activities and living one’s life according to the precepts of the Church are good examples. I’m sure that you have many others. According to Vatican II, it is important that Christianity be lived in the secular world by the lay apostolate. This is a mission for all of us if our faith is to remain strong.

November Calendar Winners

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
11/1	Elsie Bottorff	27	Madera, CA	\$50
11/2	John Rimmer		Bakersfield, CA	\$50
11/3	Angela Bilich		San Ramon, CA	\$30
11/4	Carmen Kilcullen	52	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
11/5	Matt Luchetta		Arcadia, CA	\$30
11/6	Mike Chiarito		Fresno, CA	\$30
11/7	Cosmo Amato	50	San Francisco, CA	\$30
11/8	Darlene Buettgerbrel		Merced, CA	\$30
11/9	Steve & Peggy Simoni		Arcata, CA	\$30
11/10	Branch 82		Lodi, CA	\$30
11/11	Karen Harrington	10	Alameda, CA	\$50
11/12	Cookie Rendon	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
11/13	Norma Harris	342	Auburn, CA	\$50
11/14	Paul Emerick	217	Redlands, CA	\$30
11/15	Greg McDermott		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
11/16	Sue Della Santina	21	Santa Cruz, CA	\$30
11/17	David Kelly		Gardena, CA	\$30
11/18	Nancy Souza	48	Modesto, CA	\$30
11/19	Dave Pinto	368	San Jose, CA	\$30
11/20	Rita Saso	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
11/21	John & Cindy Iavarone		Mill Valley, CA	\$30
11/22	Connie Gatto	154	Richmond, CA	\$30
11/23	Glorinda Dobleman	213	Daly City, CA	\$30
11/24	Judy Mattias	352	Danville, CA	\$30
11/25	Phillip J. Pace	111	Montebello, CA	\$30
11/26	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.	227	Santa Cruz, CA	\$100
11/27	Ann Ferrante	36	Monterey, CA	\$40
11/28	Michael Federico	354	Paso Robles, CA	\$30
11/29	Teresinha dos Santos	308	Fresno, CA	\$30
11/30	Joann Sangiacomo	19	Daly City, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

Welcome to Our New Member! (As of Nov. 9, 2020)

Richard Johnson Branch 343

The Wonder of it all. LIFE LINE

By Msgr. Cardelli

A baby gave life to the world in Bethlehem.



Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

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

Dear Members:

Still no activity due to the ongoing of the COVID-19.

Stay safe and healthy!

Special thank you to Diana Cresci for sending my monthly reports via email to the ICF editor.

A Holy and Happy Christmas to all Branch 1 members!

Ciao!

Toni Morsello

San Francisco
St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

The Officers and Members of Br. 258 wish all of our I.C.F. members and their families a very Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

For 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.

We have received the 2021 calendars. Please let me know if you wish to purchase one. The price is \$25.00 and our Branch keeps \$5.00 for each calendar sold. The calendars make a nice Christmas gift for your friends. They may be lucky as there is a drawing held for each month of the year. Stubs are drawn for each day of that month!

I am still praying and hoping that we will be able to start our meetings soon. Please stay well. We need you!

Ciao,

Eva Perata, President

SAN MATEO

Burlingame
Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

I'm sure we are all happy not seeing so many advertisements on the TV, radios and newspapers regarding the campaigns. The results are important to us as we are proud of our country and want our stores, schools and businesses to make up for all of the problems caused by the virus.

With Thanksgiving around the corner we now can remind ourselves how lucky we really are and how fortunate to have our Faith. Since we have not been able to meet monthly we have decided to resume with Zoom meetings. They will be held the second Thursday evening of the month which will be November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 824 0061 0628.

Special Thank You to Helen Quilici who gladly stepped in to be the Calendar Chairperson to sell our calendars.

We do not want to forget our members who could use some extra prayers: Mary Bodisco, Elena Malta, Lorraine Rollandi, Jack Sherratt and Fred & Melanie Yeager's grandson, Elisha who has brain cancer.

God bless,

Roz Emery

Millbrae
St. Dunstan, Br. 403

Yuletide greetings to our ICF Br. 403 Officers, members and friends.

As the Andy Williams song goes: "It's the most wonderful time of the year"! We each anticipate this season filled with blessings, giving, love and cheer! "Tis the season to be jolly." "Joy to the world!"

Thinking back to where it started, the birth of our lord was roughly two thousand twenty years ago. For centuries, Jesus' birthday has been celebrated as the most significant of occasions. We know the story of Joseph, Mary and the manger.

This Christmas let's remember the down-to-earth beginnings. Put yourself in the place of Joseph and Mary. Ponder on how difficult it was to be rejected over and over until finally being allowed to rest in a place meant to hold barnyard animals. But, Mary and Joseph didn't complain and felt blessed to have this space.

During this Holy Season, let's remember how lucky we are and count our blessings. Even though a good number of us might find it hard to celebrate, due to hardships, hard times or loss of a loved one, there are always those in our community who have it much harder... and some of them still are very grateful for what blessings they do have. Mary and Joseph didn't complain and counted their blessings. Let's follow their example and remember our blessings too.

However you are blessed, no matter how small or big, I am sending my best seasonal wishes to you and your family for love, peace, health and happiness!

Buone feste e tanti auguri.

Ti auguro Buon Natale e un felicissimo Anno Nuovo!

From Paul Larson, your friend and ICF Branch 403 President



MARIN

Larkspur
St. James, Br. 161

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

Thank you to our members who donated unwrapped Christmas toys that were donated to the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, where our members Erin and Patrick Loftus-Sweetland are Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Marlene was looking for different holiday recipes and she came up with this one.

ELEPHANT STEW

1 Elephant Salt & Pepper to taste
 Brown Gravy 2 Rabbits

Cut elephant into bite-size pieces (this will take about 4 months). Cook over kerosene at 525 degrees until tender (about 5 months). Add salt and pepper then cover with brown gravy.

This will serve 3,800 people. If more is expected, add 2 rabbits. Do this only if absolutely necessary as most people do not like to find hare in their stew.

Since we will not be meeting until further notice, please continue to pray for our sick members and hope that everyone will be back to good health real soon.

During the past months we have learned and accepted to live in a safe and different life style, and since this Christmas Holiday Season will be different than the ones past, please wear your mask, please sanitize your hands frequently and please maintain proper distancing.

Buon Natale a tutti!

Anna Biggio

Recording Secretary

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE

Hello LA District! Well, we made it to the end of the year! 2020 was some kind of year. As Queen Elizabeth II once said "an Annus Horribilious." We didn't get many chances to get together in person but we did meet. We Zoomed District meetings, and had a virtual convention. Holy Family still held their annual Cooley's BBQ, and it was a success. We gathered in person at Whittier Narrows Park and held a socially distanced, mask wearing, in person meeting, and it was well attended. Our Bishop Day was cancelled as an in person event, but we went virtual instead. Although we didn't donate as much as in years

past, we still donated over \$4,000 and Central Council donated \$2,000.

As you may know the Children's Cooley's Christmas party is not happening this year, but donations are still welcomed. Please send donations or gift cards to Pat Mages. The ICF is planning on a Zoom Christmas party scheduled for December 11th. I'll send more info as it comes out. In closing, I'd like to thank you all for all of your hard work and dedication to the ICF.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Perry Shurko, LA District President.

Montebello
St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. Hello everyone. It was nice seeing many of you at our November 21st general meeting and Thanksgiving luncheon at the Taylor Ranch Park in Montebello. We hope you all had a memorable Thanksgiving.

We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of December: Mario Mauro, Sal Franco, Domenica Orofino, David Tarazon, and Linda Erickson. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

Due to the pandemic and in keeping with guidance of the Central Council, all our branch officers will remain in place in 2021. Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may God Bless you abundantly.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Salvatore Italian Restaurant in Montebello. We will have outdoor seating and people can seat separately or with their group or family. A flyer will be coming out with more details.

2021 ICF calendars are available for purchase. We are offering the \$25 calendars for \$20. You are not only getting a great calendar but a chance to win \$30, \$50, or \$100 every day of the year. Please call Frank Salomone at (323) 888-2074.

We are sad to report that our member Joyce Adragna passed away on October 25, 2020. Our prayers go out to Paul, her husband, and their family. Joyce, Rest in Peace.

We pray for Joyce and her family, our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Finally, we would like to wish all of you and your families a Blessed Christmas!

A Presto!

Frank Salomone

Branch 111 President

Phone (323) 888-2074

Deadline
January Issue
is December 10th.
Send articles and photos:
editor@icf.org





*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



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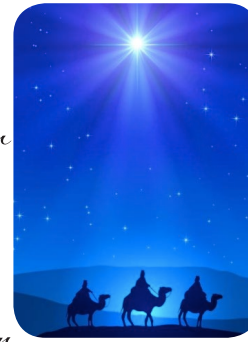
*The Officers and
Members of
St. Elizabeth,
Branch 258,
San Francisco
wish all of our
I.C.F. Members
and their
Families
a very Blessed
and
Happy Holiday
Season.*



*Ciao a tutti!
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Dalla famiglia ICF – Chiesa St. Dorothy
Branch 179
Glendora, CA*



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



From the Officers and Members
of Novato, Branch 332

Happy Holidays

From
the
Fuentes
Family



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



*The members of Branch 342 (Auburn) would like to wish their
fellow ICF members and
their families a Merry Christ-
mas and a wonderful New
Year full of health
and happiness.*



Get Your ICF 2021 Calendar Now

The ICF 2021 Calendars are great gifts, great raffle prizes and offer interesting stories about "Family Travel Memories" as well as an opportunity to win money. Please keep this in mind with the Holidays coming up.

This is a wonderful fundraiser for our Branches as well as way to fund many of our organization's programs. So, let's focus on selling our calendars!!! Branches have been sent their allotment of calendars.

Contact your local Branch if you are interested in buying one.

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

While this year has been challenging the good works of our branch continues. Donations have been sent to our parish, college scholarships, Seminary Burse, Little Sisters of the poor, St. Jude Children's Hospital, USC Norris Cancer Center and Cooley's anemia.

2021 calendars are available for \$25.00. This is a fundraiser for our branch. They make great gifts! The calendar provides a daily raffle. Please call Neal DiLeva to purchase 310 433-1044

Our branch would like to recognize and congratulate branch members Carmen Andreanelli, Libby Dibernardo, Lucy Dimeglio, Richard Hancsak, and Antoinette Mancini on celebrating their 90th birthday's this year. Happy Birthday to all!

As 2020 comes to an end I would like to thank each and every member of branch 115 for all that you have done for the ICF over the years. It's been a difficult year. I hope that our branch will stay strong and continue our membership. With that being said dues are now payable. Dues remain at \$39.00 and can be mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 W 8th St. San Pedro 90731.

Members of branch 115 wish all Federation members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anita Trujillo Treasurer

Arcadia Holy Angels, Br. 218

Hello all members. Hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. There is not much to report at this time. We are working on more fundraisers which will be announced in our monthly newsletter. The clothing fundraiser as I write this has not occurred yet. Hopefully it will be a success.

To everyone have a wonderful Christmas, keep safe and next year everything should return to normal.

Lolly M.

Claremont Our Lady of the Assumption, Br. 319

Merry Christmas to all.

We started a new year off on a high with all new ideas and expectations, just tone stopped by the Covid-19 virus. Our "normal" lives changed. We were told to stay inside and away from everyone but family, wear masks, wash our hands with soap and sanitizer.

All church functions stopped. In Sept we had a virtual convention. It was different.

On Nov 8 the LA district has a virtual Bishop's Banquet televised on Facebook and Zoom.

On Dec 6 the Cabrini pilgrimage will be televised via Zoom with some video



San Pedro Branch 115 member and kitchen worker Isidoro Amalfitano celebrated his 80th Birthday with his family. Tantissimi auguri!



San Pedro Branch 115 90th birthday celebrants

from the past. pray we can have somewhat a normal year to do our charitable works, go back to an old fashion church service, am just be a leader to see people face to face

(Even if a mask is required)

My Christmas wish is for all a healthy and joyful season

See you all next year

Andrea Linn, Pres.

Downey St. Raymond, Br. 362

Season's Greetings and Christmas Blessings to Branch 362. I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday. Hopefully by now those leftovers have all been used up. Last month we had a virtual version of our annual Bishops Day where we honor our Archbishop, regional bishops and seminarians. Monsignor Cacciapuoti celebrated mass from St Bede's and district members were able to live stream. Our branch was able to contribute \$500 again this year in spite of the pandemic. We're sorry to say that the St. Raymond Seniors annual Breakfast with Santa is cancelled this year. Also, the Cooley's Children Christmas Party is also can-

celled. The best Christmas present we can hope for this year is a vaccine and an end to this nightmare of a pandemic. Good news, I will be chairing the Central Council Membership Committee, where I'm hoping to be able to work with all of the districts in retaining memberships and somehow increase our membership. I want to wish each and every one of our fabulous members a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Let's pray that 2021 is the year for a recovery.

God Bless.

Perry Shurko, President BR 362.

Manhattan Beach American Martyrs, Br. 447

We miss meeting in person, Br. 447 gather on Zoom for Board and General Meetings. During our October General Meeting, we enjoyed a play, "Francis, Claire & The Rainbow Bridge," written by Sheila Walsh Vargas and performed by our members.

We filmed our first ever cooking video highlighting homemade pizza, hand-made fettuccini with carbonara sauce, Italian sausages with Rappini. We are



planning our next cooking video to highlight holiday favorites.

Every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. our very own Monica Rossi, a certified yoga instructor, leads a complimentary course called Yoga & Art w/Monica.

Joana Brown, Sentinel, took the lead to organize an American Red Cross Blood Drive, called the

"SleevesUp Campaign."

Joana says, "Let's save some lives during this time of separation with the gift that keeps on giving."

ICF Branch 447 is sponsoring a SleevesUp campaign to bring awareness to Cooley's Anemia (1). People fully recovered from COVID-19 may give blood if they are eligible to donate.

Campaign Dates:

Nov. 1, 2020 through Feb. 28, 2021. Schedule an appointment date and time that is convenient for you and near where you live, by doing the following:

Google: Italian Catholic Federations SleevesUp

Italian Catholic Federation - ARC | SleevesUp

Pledge to Give Blood

Enter your Zip Code (to view the nearest ARC location near you)

Schedule your appointment.

Each pint of blood helps save up to three lives and touches the lives of many more. Donate in honor of Cooley's Anemia, a birthday or anniversary, or in memory of a loved one. We'd love to hear from you, so send pictures to joanabrown7@gmail.com so we can share with our members your personal stories.

If you would like to be on our cooking video distribution list or would like to join Yoga & Art w/Monica, please contact Stephanie DeRaddo, President, Branch 447 at stephaniederaddo@gmail.com.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!

God Bless you,

Stephanie DeRaddo

OAKLAND

East Bay District

We are so thankful for electronics as we continue to ZOOM through our ICF life (meetings). It is one way to get to see each other once a month.

At our last meeting we learned the Fran L, after many years as our District Mentor, will only serve as a branch mentor beginning in 2021. Thank you Fran, for your time and guidance as deputy/mentor to our District. In the meantime, any volunteers for the District Mentor position???

So far the only District fund raiser scheduled is our Crab Feed to Go. Any other ideas are welcome.

We will miss our annual District Christmas party, which is always lots of fun. Hopefully by this time next year we will be able to party again. In the meantime.....

BUON NATALE! FELICE ANNO NUOVO! to all.

*Pat Grasso,
District Sec.*

Alameda

N.S. Delle Grazie, Br. 10

We thank Peggy Lubeck, who is stepping down after two years as our president. Peggy has served us as president, vice-president and convention delegate. She will now find additional time for visiting her three sons and their families.

Congratulations to first vice-president Gina Foster, who gave birth to her third son—all boys. George Timante Foster was born on September 20 and will soon become a member of Branch 10. Congratulations also to member Sheila Ewart. Sheila's recipe for ported pears, a perfect dessert for harvest time, featured in the October Bollettino. In September we served as a sponsor for the Saint Philip Neri School Fun Fair, which consisted of a drive-through pasta dinner.

We have started to distribute ICF 2021 calendars. Chair Sheila Doan reports that she is encouraged by the number of orders which she has received.

*John Zugnoni
Branch 10 publicity*

Fremont

St. Francis of Assisi, Br. 215

Happy December and Merry Christmas!! I hope this month finds you all healthy and happy. God bless you all as we look forward to God's gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, to the world on Christmas!

We had our second branch meeting on Zoom this past month! It was super to connect and begin to move forward with our branch business and potential activities!

And, please check out our NEW Branch 215 webpage at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/italian-catholic-fed-branch215/home>

Special prayers to all the front line workers and military!

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dio ti benedica,

James Francis McGee

Vice President

Livermore

St. Philomena, Br. 285

As we begin the month of November, we are mindful of God's many blessings to us. Even though our Thanksgiving celebrations may be altered this year, it will still be a day to give thanks.

Our Branch 285 is busy selling the Family Travel Memories ICF calendars again. For those of you looking for a nice Christmas gift, this may be your chance to give a very nice gift & someone may be a lucky winner!

We were saddened at the passing of one of our members, Eleanor Simi, last month. Several members were able to attend her beautiful services in the grotto at Saint Augustine Church on October 30, 2020. May she rest in peace.

Our Branch is currently assisting in the Adopt a Family Program with The Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Our Branch 285 is one of the ministries of CCOP and by our members donating to this cause along with 9 other parishes, we will be able to share with less fortunate this Christmas.

We will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance on November 20th at Saint Augustine Church. This is a special evening to remember those we love who have gone before us.

Our member Irma Giannotti, is the proud great-grandmother to Odin Bradley, born Nov. 1, 2020. We congratulate the family.

We keep in prayer all of our members who are dealing with health issues and pray for healing.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Until next time, Ciao

Judy Bates

Castro Valley

Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

So far the officers have joined the ZOOM group for meetings and we are awaiting a response from the Branch members to see if they would like to meet that way also. In the meantime our Pres. Mike M. has sent out letters to our members to keep them up to date on Branch happenings.

Thank you to all who have picked up calendars for next year. There are still a few left and they make great Christmas gifts x2, one for the recipient and one for the branch.

And a Grazie tante to those who have sent in donations to the branch. These dollars will help us to continue to support our charities even if we are unable to have fundraisers.

Life Tribute

Eleanor Simi Branch 285



It is said, "There is no love greater than that of an Italian Mother." It is true for us, our Mom was Italian and she greatly loved others. She was proud of her heritage and took any opportunity to talk about all things Italy! She loved to cook, and feed not only her family, but friends and neighbors too. To her food was not only nourishment, but an outpouring of her devotion and affection.

Eleanor Simi had many talents--she was not only a fantastic cook, but an excellent seamstress and enjoyed trying her hand at a variety of crafts and projects. She had an excellent eye for fashion and home decor--she was a natural!

She was also a social butterfly, always making connections everywhere she went. Lighting up any room she entered with her joy to see those she cared about, she always had a story to share about Italy, her adventures with Nedo, or the joys of her family--especially her grandchildren. She cherished them and talked about them to everyone. While Mom was passionate about many things, her biggest passion was always her family--her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grandnephews--they were all important to her and she loved each of them deeply. Mom had a will to live because she had a will to love.

You will be missed. Your passion, character and exuberance for life and the love you lavished on us will live on in our hearts.

A third thank you to the officers who have agreed to continue in their posts through next year. If you have any friends out there who are inquiring about the ICF encourage them to join us, we are still looking for new members.

In the Spirit of Christmas, a BUON NATALE! FELICE ANNO NUOVO! to our ICF family and friends.

*Pat Grasso,
Branch Sec.*

CONTRA COSTA District Council

The Officers of the Contra Costa District would like to wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas season.

We are having some of our district meetings via zoom and some in the banquet room at Legends Restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord. The banquet room is large enough for us to be socially distanced with only two to a table.

We are waiting on guidance from the Central Council on moving forward with our 2021 Installation of Officers. There is a possibility that we may have it virtually. Details will be sent to all of our branches before the New Year. Branches are encouraged to sell ICF 2021 Calendars with the daily raffle. Cost is \$25 and branches profit \$5.00 from each one sold.

Blessings to all!

Diana Mackinson, President Branch 442 Pleasant Hill

Martinez San Martino, Br. 13

It certainly has been a reflective year for so many. We've all experienced loss and love, agitation and moments of calmness. All the while God has been present. Let His grace flow through our very beings as we adjust through our woes and delights. Advent continues preparing our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Lord's birth. Our prayers of hope, love, joy, and peace resonate in all of us.

During this time of preparation, St. Catherine of Siena Church at 604 Mel-lus Street, Martinez, invites you to pray fervently for our priests on Thursday, December 3 at 6 p.m. with the "Beneath His Cross" apostolate; and, join us at any of the five weekend Masses having returned to serving parishioners in-person. We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8 with Masses at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. (nine months before her nativity on September 8); and in addition, a 4 p.m. Christmas eve and midnight Masses are added.

The anticipation of this holiday season is a great one for us. All our own families are given to us as a gift from God, and in return we are given to them as gifts. All our families are sacred and holy places; they are the places where ideally, we can truly be ourselves and still be loved.

From our family and our ICF family at Br. 13, we 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!

God bless you every day,

Mary Cook



Crockett San Carlo, Br. 14

Ciao Amici!

Most Italian-Americans are forever faithful to the traditions of their homeland, especially at Christmas time. Italians begin observing the Christmas season on Dec. 8, with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, followed by the Feast of Santa Lucia on Dec. 13.

While Babbo Natale (Santa Claus) is growing in popularity in Italy, the true Italian Christmas figure is La Befana. La Befana is usually depicted as a witch, and legend has it that this kind old woman was out sweeping when the Three Wise Men invited her to join them as they set out to visit the newborn King. Befana had too much to do, so she declined the offer. Once she realized Jesus was the Son of God, she regretted her choice, and now travels around the world leaving gifts for all the good children on January 6th.

While we celebrate the joy of the season, we also remember fondly those who are no longer with us. Our condolences to Ron Costa and family on the loss of Ron's brother Rich Costa, and also to Louise Choquette and family on the loss of Louise's husband Jim. We've also learned that Sandy Bowman's mother has recently passed away. Please keep them all in your prayers.

This Christmas will be a bit different for us all, and we'll miss our potluck, sitting on Santa's (Johnny V's) lap, and the musical stylings of Aaron Cargo. But remember that this does not excuse you from being naughty – La Befana and Santa Claus are watching!

Blessings and Buon Natale!

~Helen

Pittsburg San Domenico, Br. 72

Hello Members,

Hope this finds all of you well and happy.

I thought of all of you on our branch anniversary last month. We turned 74 years old. I thought about special memories made over the years. Things like, our annual St. Joseph's Day Mass, raffle and dinner, bus trips, Bingo games, our fabulous dinners and much more. I thought about our members who are no longer with us. Such as, Past President Eleanor Russo O' Loughlin. As you know, she went door to door throughout Pittsburg to sign up new members. I thought about Past President Larry (Buckie) Bastian and his wife Gerry. They were devoted to the branch for years and welcomed my family and I when we transferred to Br. 72. I can picture, Mike Leontini, Diz, Russo, Josephine Aiello, Josie Lucido, Connie Bochkie, Jenny Green and Anthony (Neno) Alimo. They are missed. A big thanks to our current members for keeping our branch going, as we start year 74.

The 2021 daily raffle Calendars are available for \$25.00. The branch profits

\$5.00 from each one sold. Your ticket stub is placed in the daily drawing for 365 days in the new year. Call Patty if interested.

That is all for now.

Merry Christmas to all. And as we say in Pittsburg, Sempre Avanti.

*Your President and friend,
Patty*

Richmond St. Raymond, Br. 154

We hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving in spite of the on going pandemic.

We usually hold our big fundraiser in October by hosting a polenta dinner. Instead, in November we teamed up with The Galileo club to hold a drive by polenta dinner. Over one hundred and forty dinners were served to hungry passengers. St. Raymond's also hosted its first drive by raffle!

Several board members held a Zoom meeting to discuss the officers for next year. It was voted and approved to keep the same officers with the exception of the second vice president, Carol Darling, who will be moving out of state. Lorraine Acuña will take the role of second vice president.

We are very sad to see Carol and Marilyn Darling leave us. They are moving to another state, hopefully one with an ICF chapter! We thank Carol for all of her help and hard work as our resident graphic artist. You both will be missed!

We wish you a happy holiday season as you safely celebrate. We pray that next year we can get back to a somewhat normal life and hold a meeting in person. We definitely miss seeing all of you!

Please check our Facebook Page to keep up to date with St. Raymond 154

Concord Todos Santos, Br. 214

Buon Giorno

This has been a difficult few months with the election and still rising cases of COVID 19. I hope you and your loved ones are well.

I hope you will enjoy Thanksgiving and be able to be with your family.

The weather has turned cold and we can make some of our relatives special recipes for the holidays.

The ICF calendars are for sale the next two months. We had three branch winners this year each receiving \$30 each. The calendar dedication is in memory of David Botta. To purchase your 2021 calendar please call Roberta Healy @ 925-689-1879. You can pick it up at her house or it can be mailed to you after your check is received. Please make check payable to Italian Catholic Federation. Thank you for your support.

I'm happy to report that Sandra Debrichy is recuperating well from her fall the beginning of October. We wish her continued recovery.

Our monthly meetings for all of 2020

have been canceled. Hopefully after the first of January 2021 we can resume our meetings and God willing resume to normal activities. We all miss being together to plan fun fund raisers.

Our branch president Roberta Healy celebrated many fun times with her family and friends for her 80th birthday. We all wish her many more years of good health and happiness.

I wish you all safe and healthy holidays.

Sincerely

Norene DeLuca

Correspondence Secretary

Danville San Isidore, Br. 352

Our Board meeting was hosted by Cathy & John Kedzie. Their backyard hospitality was much appreciated – as was the pizza provided by Russ. What a treat to meet in person! The nominations of members for our 2021 Board were reviewed & later presented to the membership, for a vote. The results:

2021 Board - President: John Kedzie & Kyle Vallone; 1st Vice President: Mari- anne Bordogna; 2nd Vice President: Marilyn Creighton; Secretary: Cathy Kedzie; Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Art Panella; Orator: Peggy McCarthy; Trustee: Russ Belleci, Joey Rago, Suzi Reynolds; Sentinel: Paul Cowell.

Standing Committee Chairpersons - Membership: Suzie Reynolds; Apostolate/Charity: Susan Cowell; Scholarship: Dick Reynolds

A big shout out to Monsignor Cardelli on the celebration of his 90th birthday! And while we remain prohibited from gathering in person & thus postponed your Branch celebration festivities, we did not forget – and wish you a very Buon Compleanno!

While we will miss our annual Christmas Potluck, we do have the mouth-watering memories of last year! And, please also continue to pray for our dear friend, Steve Gouig, and his family.

As we prepare for the coming of our Savior, we wish you, your family & friends the peace and joy of the coming Christmas season.

Buon Natale, Tutti!

Branch 352



Br.352, Msgr Cardelli turns 90!

Pleasant Hill Christ the King, Br. 442

Buon Natale! We are celebrating the holidays, but I'm sure in much different ways than traditionally with family and friends. Try to keep some of your Christmas customs by continuing to make the ravioli, bake those panettoni and all the biscotti and dolci that "make the season bright".

Our branch adopted the Bay Area Crisis Nursery as our Christmas charity this year. The nursery was so grateful and delighted to receive all that was donated. God bless all the Branch 442 members for their generosity!

The branch will continue to hold its monthly meetings via Zoom and look for fun ideas to incorporate as a social activity. December's meeting will be announced via email.

Finally, please remember to pray for those who are suffering in our community, in our state and in the world. Remember to leave "du' biscotti per Sani Clause" cosi' ti lascia qualche cosa speciale.

Looking forward to a brighter, healthier, more loving and prosperous New Year. Buon Anno!!

*Ci vediamo quando siamo piu' vecchi,
Teri Martinucci Hurlbut*



Br. 352, Christmas Potluck Carolers

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Auburn St. Joseph, Br. 342

Hello,

This month we would like to acknowledge Our Birthday All-Stars! We have many members over 80 and 90 who bring so much to our branch and they deserve a shout out!

Thank You For All You Do!!!

Ciao!

Pam Andersen

Roseville St. Clare of Assisi, Br. 438

Season's Greetings to our ICF friends and family! As 2020 comes to an end, Branch 438 eagerly awaits all the possibilities that will come our way in 2021. Maneuvering through this difficult year has been a challenge, but we made it through! We were blessed to have members step up to the plate on many occasions. Their can-do spirit was on display, whether it was by making and distributing hundreds of needed face masks, continuing the ministry of feeding the hungry, or making financial contributions. Everyone made a difference! On that note, our President, Joe Aguilar, recently volunteered as a Placer County Elections inspector and then turned around and donated \$500.00 of his earnings back to Br. 438. Thanks so much, Joe!

We have finalized next year's Board and we thank them in advance for their generosity in volunteering their time and talents.

On a personal note, it has been my pleasure writing the Bollettino articles over these last couple of years. I'll be passing the baton on to our new Recording Secretary, Flo Kurttila next month. ICF is a special community and it's wonderful keeping up with our extended family.

We continue to pray for a healthy and peaceful world and for the Lord's guidance as we get ready to navigate through 2021.

Wishing everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

Anne Finn

Recording Secretary

SANTA ROSA District Council

Finally a voice from the outside. So thank-full to hear from Lorene Vanetti telling me that donations received from our Santa Rosa District to our Seminary Burse amount to \$3150.00. In addition our Central Council (Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Fund) has donated \$1500.00 to the Seminary Burse. What



Branch 342 Members 90 and over: Dolores Aleccia, Norma Harris, Dixie Marino, Flo Mooneyham,



Branch 342 Members 80 and over: Bill and Marisa Borba, Frank Calabretta, Vito Carbonara, Ted and Maria Fregosi, Beverly Mendoza, Barbara O'Rourke, Harriet Salarno, JoAnn Swars, and Dino and Rosemarie Tribuzi .

a wonderful and deserving gift to all these young seminary students. Lorene has received a lovely missive from Bishop Vasa which I will probably be able to view soon.

No meetings scheduled for this year, but let up hope the New Year brings us some degree of hope. Stay in touch with relatives. We have so many modes of communication and above all let us all have a happy Thanksgiving even if we celebrate with very few this year. Small groups are good too!! It is an incentive.

Regards,

Marilyn Sylvestri

Recording Secretary

Healdsburg San Francisco Di Sales, Br. 52

As I write this, we are a week away from our first ever Chicken-A-Go-Go drive through dinner. Every indication says it will be successful! We thank everyone who helped and who came to support the branch. We especially thank Will Seppi of Costeaux Bakery whose paper supplier donated all the to-go containers. Thank you to Richard Passalacqua and crew for BBQing the chicken. Photos, next month.

We are looking for a volunteer to be our reservationist for our dinners. Please contact Pres. Teri if you would like to volunteer.

Bill Jones will be mailing your 2021 dues, soon. We encourage everyone to

renew their membership, promptly. Br. 52 has been an active branch for over 80 years and we expect to continue being an active branch for many more years. We can only do this with your membership and support.

Mass continues to be outside in the school patio at 5:30 PM on Saturdays and 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and Noon on Sundays. Wear a mask and dress warmly!

Continue to pray for an end to the virus.

Merry Christmas!

Lauren Kilcullen

Cloverdale L'Annunciata, Br. 75

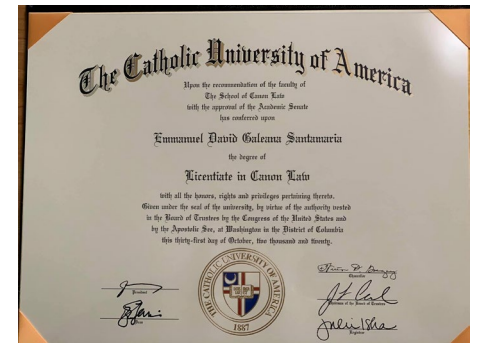
We have much to celebrate!

Every summer for the last few years we've lost our priest, Father David Galeana, as he went back East to Washington D. C. to study Canon Law! Yes, for the most part, in the summer, we've been an unpastored flock!!! Father may think that this hard earned, hard fought for, diploma is his, but, really, it's ours, too! Certainly, we welcomed and thank all the priests who celebrated Mass with us in his stead; we are an independent, strong laity, but, we missed him! I'm sure this Canon Law Diploma will shower him and us with many blessings and graces! Congratulations, Father!!!

I love our Masses out on the lawn and to date no one I know has contracted Covid-19. Some of us meet after Mass for brunch which is a nice break from social isolation. We have our little

safety routines and trust each other to be clear or not to be there! Love dictates that we use a great deal of common sense during these times.

We managed to take care of a few matters of ICF business at brunch since members of the board were present! We do still exist! We've taken a different structure, but, we exist!



Sonoma St. Sebastian, Br. 103

Greetings! What is new this month? Notable days this month include: end of daylight savings, ☐, on the 1st., Veteran's Day on Wednesday, 11th and Thanksgiving on Thursday, the 26th.

I certainly do not want to be accused of plagiarism BUT I do read all the other articles. Up to this point I have tried to be witty, informative and willing to communicate with others. Unfortunately our Sonoma Br. is very small so any comments from remaining members please contact me. (I know some of you are reading my articles). In this respect we can throw caution to the winds. No touching or breathing.

NO, I have not been able to conduct that luncheon with a few of the ladies from Petaluma but I have not forgotten. It is getting colder so outside contact is not possible. It's OK, I have a big "front room." I see no use in reminiscence because soon we will be on the road to normal and certainly we were never on the road to "perdition." My house will not be big enough but I know of a lady who does have a BIG house. Huh, Maureen? I will even help to clean up!!

Thanksgiving is almost upon us and it would be a sin to ignore. Small groups are as good and therapeutic as large ones. Hopefully I will be on somebody's list, hopefully!! How about it Bill, any room at your table for an orphan?

I will leave it to Louse (wheezy) Vicino to finish off the ending salutation. She says it all in her article which is almost adjacent to mine.

December will be better and January even greater.

Ciao a tutti.

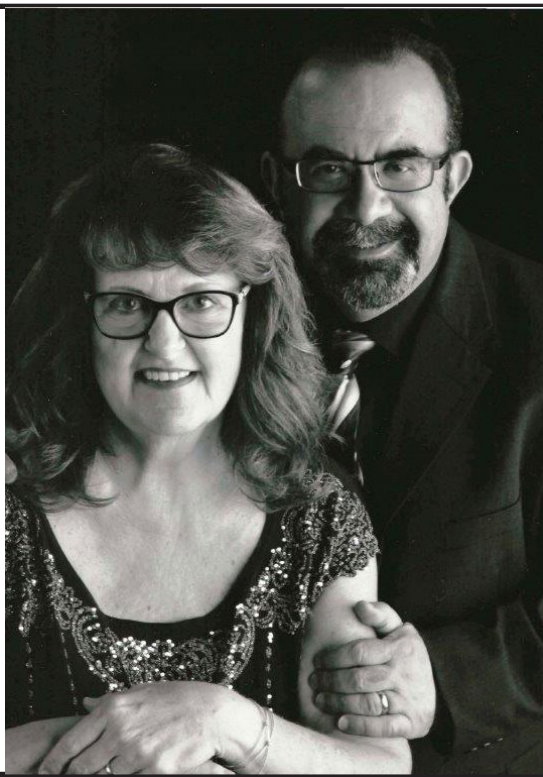
Marilyn Sylvestri

Recording secretary, Sonoma





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



*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

Greetings from your Friends in Fontana
I.C.F. BRANCH 210
"Buon Natalee Felice Anno Nuovo!"



*May you be granted
the glory of faith,
the blessing of hope
and the peace of His love
at Christmas time
and forever.*

*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

St. Francis Borgia, Br. 392
Chicago, IL

*Happy 96th Anniversary to the
Italian Catholic Federation*



Best Wishes
from
Central
Council
Member
Teresa
Helfand

*Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno*

Past Grand President
Bob Basuino



A festive BUON NATALE to you, from
Branch 403 President Paul Larson and
all our Officers and Members!



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



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



The Contra Costa District
extends greetings for a joyous
Christmas and a delightful 2021.



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



Petaluma St. Vincent's, Br. 127

Greetings from Petaluma!

Another month has gone and we are now have ice cold days. Entering a cold winter, I intend to stay home as I have been due to the pandemic. I hope all of you, dear friends, were able to enjoy Thanksgiving with some of your family. Thank God for watching over us, providing us with all our necessities, but mostly keeping us safe.

Hope that Sam Orlando had a nice one hundred year birthday this month. God bless you Sam and thank you for all your years of working so hard for the Branch.

Margaret Cordrey asked that I thank you for your donations to the Bakeless Bake Sale and said for those of you who have not sent one in, you still can. With no events we need to raise funds for our donations. This is one way! So send!

We still cannot meet, so until we can follow all the rules to stay safe from the flu and the pandemic.

Get well wishes to Margaret Cordrey and anyone else who is ill. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those celebrating.

Pray for our service people, the homeless, victims of crimes, our Country and the world. Pray for our new President Elect Joe Biden Jr. and Vice Pres. elect, Kamala Harris, so that our Country can benefit by this new leadership.

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

Ciao,

Louise Vicino

Arcata St. Mary, Br. 144

Greetings to all from behind the "Redwood Curtain!" My name is Judith Cardoza and henceforth I will be sending in the articles from our Branch for publication

Our recent Board Meeting held outside utilizing face masks and social distancing, we discussed ways to earn funds to maintain expenses and keep up with donations. Initially the idea of making polenta sauce and offering it for sale by the quart was discussed. That idea expanded to include a Chicken and Polenta Dinner" to go " during the third Sunday in February 2021. After extensive discussion we agreed to table this idea and give it some serious thought on how it could be implemented successfully.

November and December Birthday and Anniversary celebrants are wished many blessings during the coming year. Remember, the more birthdays you have, the longer you live!!

Take care and stay safe.

Hugs from afar to all, Judith



Life Tribute

Frank Cresci Branch 127

There is sadness in our hearts for the loss of Frank Cresci, Roseanne's husband. Frank was such a wonderful man, a good husband and father and suffered after his stroke many years past.

The Cresci Family gave much of their time and many donations to our many dinners, especially the St. Joseph Table Dinners. We cannot thank them enough. Frank really gave his all to help schools and organizations by cooking for them and donating most of the food. A most generous man and an intelligent one. He often sat with my Louis and told us stories about San Francisco. He brought back a lot of memories.

Rest in Peace dear friend and may your family and friends smile at the many memories they have.

Santa Rosa St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! President Bob Acquistapace sends a holiday thank you to the wonderful members of Branch 198. Bob was able to deliver boxes of food items to St. Vincent de Paul for their Thanksgiving Food Drive and a check for well over \$100.00. Also, you bought all the calendars we were sent.

Bob and Linda Sherman, our president-elect, will send out a newsletter in mid-December with some plans for 2021.

A quick trivia quiz:

I. He was once president of Cotati Branch 150

II. She was once president of St. Rose Branch 18

III. She lived across the street from the house where Bob Acquistapace was born

IV. He has been a supporter and a leader of the Boy Scouts in Santa Rosa

V. He served two years as a member of the 33rd Tank Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, US Army (1955-1957)

All the people are our branch members. Answers will be in the upcoming newsletter. May every member of Branch 198 have a truly Happy and Holy Christmas.

Buon Natale a tutti,

Gail Bongie-Azevedo

Sebastopol St. Michael's, Br. 209

As shelter in place continues our holidays are certainly looking very different this year. Despite this, I hope that this month of December finds you well. Some ideas I've heard for maintaining connection with friends and family during the holidays are: listening to the same music station during a meal. Share recipes so that you can enjoy the same holiday foods you're used to having together. If zoom or facetime aren't possible, have your phone on speaker and enjoy a conversation at dinnertime and some lively singing after dinner. Have a

cookie "recipe" exchange. Share photos of your holiday decorations or in your ugliest Christmas sweater.

Our ICF President, Pam McAlvaine has been busy behind the scenes speaking with board members and members alike. She and Lorraine Vannetti put together our 2021 Calendar with optimism that we will not remain in shut down for the entire year. That said, all activities are on hold for now.

A reminder that annual dues are due. Please mail checks to Leona Spadoni.

Please reach out and check on your fellow members either via phone or card; particularly those who are alone and isolated. Remember to pray for our sick members. Especially Bill Cole who is in Memorial Hospital and Gene Vannetti who is recuperating from surgery.

Remember to wash your hands often and wear your face mask when you're out in public or around people not in your social bubble.

Buon Natale,

Sharon Vannetti



Br. 27, One of the beautiful gift baskets raffled by Madera Branch 27 for our fundraiser

FRESNO

Madera Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

Greetings to all Members!

We look forward to a new year, and with great hope for the resumption of our monthly gatherings and other activities. While we are still unsure of what 2021 will bring us, the board of officers is putting plans in place for all of our regular activities, and is looking for suggestions for new ones. We will of course have to be flexible with this pursuit, as we have learned only too well during 2020! And speaking of this, unfortunately, our 2020 annual Christmas party must be cancelled due to COVID, but that will not stop us from planning next year's party!

Our themed gift basket fundraiser was a great success. The winning tickets were drawn during our November 10th Zoom meeting. The lucky winners are: Jim Barsotti - Holiday Basket, Cece Massetti - Italian Basket, and Bob and Ann Rolan - Homemade Basket. The branch raised \$716 from the fundraiser. Thanks to all who put together these baskets and those who purchased tickets.

Please pray for our member Paul Steve Accornero, who passed away recently, and for his family. May he Rest In Peace. Theresa DeFrank has moved from Madera to be near her family in the eastern states, and we will miss her greatly.

Wishing all members peace and joy during the Advent season.

Ciao,

Mary Keitz

Merced St. Cecilia, Br. 39

We continue to pray the pandemic will be tamed so we can meet and resume our dinner meetings and various events. We hope you are healthy and well. You are missed very much!

Available for holiday gift-giving and treats for your family is our homemade Biscotti. Janet Pugliese and Maryellen Mazzei, co-chairs, will sell biscotti on Friday, December 4, at the back door of the Lodge, 18th and U Streets, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$8 per dozen. Varieties include: biscotti with almonds, without almonds, anise with almonds, chocolate chips with almonds, cranberry with almonds, and brandy with almonds.

Pre-orders are required by Monday, November 30. Call or text Janet Pugliese at 209-704-0194 or janpug700@gmail.com to pre-order. Proceeds to support scholarships and local charities.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 13, 1-3 p.m. Join the fun with your children and grandchildren at our joint ICF and Italo Lodge Christmas event, "Winter Wonderland." Chair Janet Dal Porto's brilliant idea for a drive-through will be in the Lodge's parking lot. Santa will be there to give a gift and candy cane to each child. The Lodge will provide hot cocoa for all.

Congratulations to Carol Salmeri for single-handedly selling our 2021 calendars.

More congratulations extend to our branch for coming in second place for "Branches with most new members." We joined 3 other branches as the top 4 with 2 new family memberships. We thank new and current members for hanging in there with us during these challenging times.

*Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo.
Stephanie Lucich*



Br. 281, Crystal & Allen Watts have become grandparents! Their daughter and son-in-law Ashley & Luke welcomed baby Faye

Bakersfield, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 281

Unbelievable as it may seem we are already in the midst of the Holiday Season 2020! As challenging as this year has been to many we still see glimmers of hope all around us. There are many among us that see times like these to rise above their own needs and reach out to those who are even more vulnerable. Mindy White is one of our members who regularly reach out to some of our senior members. Whether it is a warm home cooked meal, cookies or a thoughtful phone call Mindy has a knack for making others feel special and not forgotten.

Betty Zasoski has been vigorously promoting 2021 calendar sales. They are always a hit with our members because not only do they have great recipes but \$5.00 of each calendar sold goes right back into our branch PLUS you have 365 chances to win your money back!

As I write this article Crystal & Allen Watts have become grandparents! Their daughter and son-in-law Ashley & Luke welcomed baby Faye November 11th @9:57 pm weighing 7lbs 11 oz. As if that weren't enough good news, Kristen & Joey Zasoski are also expecting their first bundle of joy in 2021. That will make Leonard & Betty Zasoski grandparents for the first time and Crystal & Allen their second grandchild. Congratulations & prayers for both families as they welcome their new additions.

We wish all our fellow ICF members a blessed and safe holiday season however different it may be this year.

Theresa Amarante

Sanger Sant' Antonio, Br. 70

Hello from Branch 70! Like most branches we have not had a meeting or a fundraiser since Covid-19 broke out. Our members seem to be doing alright healthwise and for this we are grateful.

Josie Lopez, our President, had cataract surgery and is doing well. Father John Bruno had a minor health issue requiring hospitalization, but is back to officiating masses and feeling fine.

We send our birthday wishes to our vice-president, Bob Merlo who just turned 80. We were to have our branch elections this month, but without meetings will continue with our current officers for the time being.

President Kay has received our shipment of ICF calendars. If any of our members want one, she can be contacted by phone.

*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Branch 70.
God Bless!*

Orsolina Casella

Clovis Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Hope this finds you all in good health, physically and spiritually. I wonder if this crazy pandemic is God's way of telling us to shape up!

Happy November birthdays to Dirk Charley, Sylvia Dalton, Cynthia Newton, John Rainaldi, and Rich Zonarini. As we continue to have little Branch news, we'll continue with our mini-trip through history- this time to recognize our members of Mexican descent. Mexico consists of 31 states and it's population is the third largest in Latin America

With over 100 million people; first known society were the Olmecs, followed by Mayans, Toltecs, and Aztecs; later conquered by the Spanish; diseases killed some 24 million between 1521 and 1605; Catholic missionaries arrived in 1523; has second largest population of Spanish speakers in the world and second highest number of Catholics after Brazil. Is world's leading silver producer; it's Metropolitan

Cathedral is largest and oldest in Latin America. The Basilica of Guadalupe, built between the 16th and 17th centuries honors Mexico's patron saint.

Future mini-trips will include Italy, Phillipines, Ireland, and ? Let your reporter know if your ancestral home has been overlooked.

*Lord, help me to look at life
Through a window, not
A mirror*

Have a happy, safe, and blessed Thanksgiving!

Gigi Giannoupolis



*May the Lord fill your life with his choicest blessings,
May you say blessed always in life,
Smile because it's the best time,
It's the Christmas time,*



MONTEREY CENTRAL COAST

Santa Cruz Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

Buon giorno, Tutti, e Buon Natale! We're almost at the end of quite an unusual year and we pray that all are still doing well. Just so you know, the ICF Board is still up and running and working behind the scenes to keep function and interest going during this pandemic. We are meeting every two months via Zoom, which is quite a novel experience for us novices! So please watch for informational mailings and/or e-mails as time goes by.

The Memorial Mass went very well; there was good 'distancing' attendance in Holy Cross Church while others watched virtually. The terrific response in contributions enabled us to make a generous donation to the church. We thank the ICF members and Holy Cross parishioners for their participation and donations.

As we continue to be isolated due to the Covid, some folks might like to communicate with friends and family via 'texting' or 'e-mail' but don't know how. If you are interested in learning how to be a 'techie', please call Roseann Costabile or Rosa Radicchi. They are both pretty savvy and willing to help you..

In closing, John Denver once said, "Things go up and down. If you can survive the down, everything will come back." This has been a quite a 'down' year for all of us, but we will survive. Our faith in God will help to make it so.

Patty Morelli

Secretary Branch 21

Monterey Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

We wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas. May the New Year 2021 bring you love, prosperity, peace, and good health. We hope to plan branch events very soon, as we sure miss seeing all of you and enjoying time together. We are planning a Christmas-related, socially distanced fundraising event; please check our website for details.

Congratulations to our Branch #36 Board of Directors for 2021:

- Father Ron Shirley, Chaplain
- Joe LoManto, President
- Elaine Valentine, 1st Vice President
- Ed Leonard, 2nd Vice President
- Sandie Russo, Recording Secretary
- Annamarie Stanton, Corresponding Secretary
- George Leonard, Financial Secty/ Treasurer
- Jane Gasperson, Orator
- Bob Bianchi, Trustee
- Turie Cavaliere, Trustee
- Antonia Ruccello, Trustee
- Elizabeth Panetta, Sentinel

Thank you to Robert Huffer, Elizabeth Grammatico, Antonia Ihnot, Jo Ann

Riso, and June Serrano for all the years of dedication and hard work as members of the Branch #36 board.

We are saddened to report that two of our long-time members recently passed away, Betty Lucido and Clara Foster. Our condolences to their families and may they Rest In Peace.

*Holiday Blessings,
Elaine Valentine
Financial Secretary
Branch #36*

Capitola



St. Joseph's, Br. 227

The following officers have been elected for 2021

President: Bob Montonye
1st V. President: Franklyn Lopes
2nd V. President: Vicky Howell
Recording Secretary: Deanna Musler
Financial Secretary: Marie Mugai
Treasurer: Jane Kotila
Orator: Ken Reaves
Trustee: Ken Olson
Trustee: Mary Montonye
Trustee: Dottie Smith
Sentinel: Loretta Reaves

Thanks to Dolores McCartney and Monica Crowley who conducted the election by e-mail and U.S. mail this year.

We'd like to recognize the following members who serve St. Joseph's in various capacities at mass: John Adams, Andy Armanino, Mary Christensen, Bruce and Jean Dunn, Jane Kotila, Manuel and Magdalena Martinez, Mike Melville and Jolene Smith. Other members serving but not currently assigned are Tracy Armanino, Linda Beltramo, Ellen Pauly, Alice Ponza, Ken Reaves, and Jerry Shevenell.

Your prayers are requested for Alice Ponza who is recovering from a fall and for Franklyn Lopes to regain the hearing in his right ear. And please pray for all of our members in assisted living facilities who are currently unable to receive visitors.

We hope all of you have a loving, peaceful, happy and holy Christmas. In view of the pandemic, wishes for a healthy New Year are really meaningful this time around.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande St. Patrick, Br. 291

As 2020 comes to a close—a year that none of us will forget and will definitely go down in the history books—Branch 291 sends all our fellow ICF friends and family best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season and a happy, HEALTHY, safe and prosperous 2021!

We pray our communities and nation will be back to "normal" soon so that our parishes can fully reopen and ICF Branches will be able to meet again in person and enjoy all our social activities, plus the fellowship we all missed so much these past 9 months.

Our Branch recently lost a longtime member, Mary Pinoli, who lived her entire life here on the Central Coast. Please keep Mary's family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Once again, Branch 291 wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year! God Bless you all, and God Bless the ICF!

Keely Sanchez

Recording Secretary

Paso Robles St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

In honor of Teresa R. Sollazzo's 100th birthday we are continuing her thoughts on heritage, ethnicity, and the ICF.

These were "Depression Years" and employment was difficult for people with no professional skills. My family raised rabbits and chickens, and my mother sold eggs and turkeys. We grew our own vegetables. My father made his wine, beer, and sometimes root beer for me. Monterey, the "Sardine Capitol of the World" provided employment for the majority of the Sicilian and Spanish immigrants, and the fishermen prospered building larger purse seiners to accommodate their larger catches of sardines. My mother packed fish, as did most of the women of the Sicilian families. She would also travel to Salinas and Gilroy to work in the packinghouses and canneries while my father, not being a fisherman, took labor jobs as they opened. During the construction of the breakwater in New Monterey, he was fatally injured when I was twelve. With God's help and my mother's strong Catholic faith, we were able to proceed with our life.

Following midterm graduation from Monterey High School . . . and my mother's remarriage to a wonderful man, Louigi Menendez . . . I married the love of my life, Frank, a Sicilian who owned and operated the purse seiner "Ardito," which helped provide the canneries with sardines. Then came Pearl Harbor. I was classified as an "undesirable Alien" because I had not applied for U.S. citizenship.

(To be continued . . .)

Yvonne Maddalena

SAN JOSE SANTA CLARA VALLEY

District Council

Last month we were able to celebrate Bishop's Day with Bishop Cantu. What a lovely turnout for the mass. Along with many of the branches having representation, ICF Central Council President Vincent Piro and Santa Clara Valley District President Bob Basuino were present. Each made a Seminarian Burse to the Bishop, totaling some \$9,000. Surely, the Bishop was amply pleased.

Good news on the in-person mass situation We celebrated several in-person masses at Santa Teresa Church. We have some decent reasoning taking place. All protocols were observed about social distancing and following all the rules for covid-19 safety.

During these times, I rely on Santa Teresa's Prayer – "Let nothing disturb you, - Let nothing frighten you - All things are passing away - God never changes – Patience obtains all things – Whoever has God lacks nothing – God alone suffices".

SCV District Meeting – Cancelled until further notice.

Mike Nunziata



Gilroy Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

The membership winning ticket for a \$75.00 gift card to Garlic City Cafe went to Nicola Akerman and was drawn by Mario and Eileen Cavallaro.

Mario Cavallaro came to this country from Palermo, Italy with his sister in 1950 at 12 years old knowing no English and landed in New York City after a 12 day ocean voyage. In Philadelphia he met relatives for the first time that he recalls as a joyous occasion. He stayed with an aunt, with brother and sister waiting for the reunion with mom and dad who were still in Italy. In the meantime Mario took an English class consisting of students from many countries and fondly remembers the teacher Miss Glenn. Awaiting the arrival of mom and dad from Italy they learned that mom had passed away. Dad joined them in a purchased house in Philadelphia.

At 16, Mario joined the Pennsylvania National Guard even though he now admits he was underage. Attended Saint Joseph College in Philadelphia and in his own words met a beautiful girl named Eileen Myers, fell in love, and was married in his senior year. He did graduate work at Tuskegee University and went on to work for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a vocational counselor, then for the Federal Government as an investigator/conciliator in the Equal Opportunity Commission in Philadelphia and eventually the U.S. Army where he retired from the Presidio of San Francisco in 1993. Eileen and Mario have been married for 58 years. Thank you Eileen and Mario for your ICF commitment and loyalty.

*Peace and God Bless,
Kim M. Filice*

Los Gatos St. Mary, Br. 184

Buon natale e felice anno nuovo più sano e senza Covid-19! Merry Christmas and a better, healthier and COVID-19 free New Year.

What a year 2020 has been, a year of face masks, social distancing, self-quarantining, and no vacationing. Fundraisers, as we've known them, were a thing of the past as were parties, sports events, parades, singing and inside Church going, but that didn't stop us. We wore our masks, stayed home, and learned the fine art of Zooming and had virtual everything else! We had COVID-19 tests, and flu shots and learned the art of cleaning and organizing everything we could. The one thing that we also learned was to remember the good times and count the days till we could return to "normal, what ever that might be for you. We learned that our families and loved ones are what is important and whether we "attended" Mass on-line or in a tent, God is good, and He will take care of us. Most importantly, I'm grateful for the wonderful Branch members, who are constantly supporting our charities. You are an



Br. 28 – Christmas party 2019, left to right, Cathy Silacci, Mario Cavallaro and Eileen Cavallaro.

amazing group of people, I call family. We have gone through a lot this year, but my hope and prayers are that we see a brighter 2021. One filled with good health, love for our families and each other and a day when our Polenta and Chicken Caccatore will be cooking, and we can gather together again. So, I raise my virtual glass for a toast to all of you! May God bless you, the ICF and May God bless America.

Denise Antonowicz, President

San Jose St. Francis Cabrini, Br. 191

The holiday season is here. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Focus on what we have to be thankful for: We have each other, our lives, country, freedoms and blessings. A truly Thankful Menu.

Fundraising events for our Branch continue. Julie Midwin is selling Jade plants decorated with holiday flare in an 8 inch pot for \$25. Call Julie at (408) 371-4897 for details.

ICF Calendars are for sale as our annual fundraiser. Call Tony Spagnola to purchase and ICF Calendar for \$25 at (408) 877-8214. Our branch keeps \$5 for each calendar sold.

Our annual Layette Shower is canceled. However, there is still an opportunity to donate to new moms in need. The Layette Program needs new clothing (0 to 6 months), new sleep sacks, onesies, new born diapers, as well as monetary donations. Collections can be dropped off at St. Christopher's Church—Msgr. Allen Center or the school office By Dec. 6th.

Our basket raffle results were excellent. It was an illustration of Aldine Grisenti and Esther Ramonda's hard work, effort, and creativity. Our membership and other branches supported our raffle, and we are truly grateful. Thanks again to all who participated.

On Sat. Nov 21st, ICF and the St. Vincent de Paul organization participated in a food drive for the needy in our community. About 150 boxes of food were given, along with 20 turkeys donated by our Branch. A demonstration of a team effort to help our community.

Answer to Member Trivia : Aldine Gresenti

Peace on Earth Will Come To Stay...

When we Live Christmas Everyday

-Helen Steiner Rice

Holiday Blessings To All,

Shirley Catania , Sentinel



Br.191, Yummy time for treats



Br. 191, Christmas all around....



Br. 191, Ready for some shopping?.



Br. 28 - Mario and Eileen Cavallaro pulling the winning ticket for the \$75 gift card to Garlic City Cafe won by Nicola Akerman.

San Jose Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

Another month has gone by. We continue to stay home and to miss our potlucks and hugs.

According to our president Mary Ridi, recently our board members had a planning meeting in St. Mary's garden and discussed ways for our members to stay connected during these next few months. The board is planning a phone tree. The branch has purchased two memorial bricks, one for Father Bill Pegnam and one for Monsignor Joseph Milani, to be placed in front of our parish hall.

Because there is no parish festival this year, there can be no White Elephant booth. Rising to the occasion, our ICF members JoAnn and Jerry Opp have kindly been holding a White Elephant sale on their driveway three days a week. Unfortunately, winter weather has forced its discontinuation. All the money has gone to the parish. Thank you so much, JoAnn and Jerry, for so generously donating a lot of time and work to the project.

We continue to pray for the health of Joe Dyer, Bill Radzinski, Ron Sanchez, and for all of our members who are ill. Each one is precious to our branch family.

The pandemic cannot cancel Christmas; we just celebrate it differently this year. Maybe we are a little more aware of the peaceful spirit and heartfelt joy of the season. Maybe we have more time to be thankful for each person in our lives.

Thank you, Lord, for your many, many blessings.

Judy Zahn

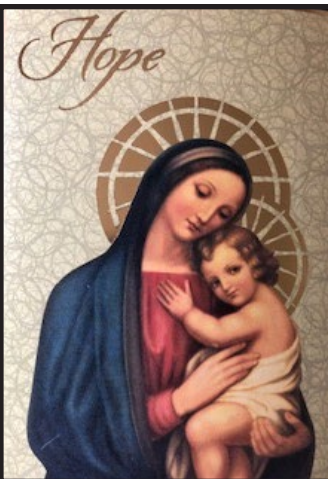




*Wishing you
Peace and Joy
this Christmas
Season!*

From Branch #75, Cloverdale

San Mateo District
wishes everyone
a Blessed Christmas
and
a Happy Healthy
New Year!



 **ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION**
Santa Rosalia Branch 36/Monterey



The Officers and Members
of Santa Rosalia Branch #36
in Monterey
Wish Everyone a Very Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New Year.
Buon Natale e Felice Anno
Nuovo a Tutti!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo from
the Members of Crockett, Branch 14.



Branch #32, Fresno
Wishes You a Very Merry Christmas



*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



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



San Jose St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

In November, President Mike Rossi reported that our branch grossed over \$4,000 from 199 dinners sold at the latest lasagna drive-up fundraiser held at Tony and Alba's. Mike stated that despite Covid, we have continued to support our charities throughout the year. Again, a big thank you to members, Al and Diana Valloriz who so generously donated their time, talent and facility to cook, and to Lynda Valloriz, Marcie Rossi, Linda Ochinerio, and Steve and Cathleen Lencioni for their hard work in making it a success.

2021 ICF calendars are still available for sale at \$25 each. Contact Tina Rossi before the new year!

Remember to visit St. Martin's website at www.stmartin.org for detailed information regarding updates on reserving a spot to attend mass in St. Martin's.

Wishing you all a healthy and Merry Christmas!

Janis Patellaro

Morgan Hill St. Catherine of Alexandria, Br. 435

The heat has finally given way to cool, even cold, autumn weather. I'm glad for the change but then think about those less fortunate who are living in their car or even worse, on the street. We can all do something to help, whether volunteering, donating or praying for our brothers and sisters suffering during these very trying times.

Nothing has changed and we seem to be going backwards regarding this pandemic. New cases are rising and some of our Bay Area counties have gone back to more restrictive protocols. In the meantime we do what we can to keep things normal. Thanksgiving is upon us and I want to do the right thing and keep everyone safe, but then I really want to have that big traditional dinner with all my children and grandchildren sitting around the table and sharing the good things we always have.

Since we aren't having meetings on a regular basis some news takes a while to trickle down. We learned that Frank Cannino, Br #435 Maria Palmer's father, passed away in late August. Please keep Maria and her family in your prayers.

I wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Joyful Christmas.

*Felice Ringraziamento e Buon Natale
Maryclaire Sampognaro*

San Jose Transfiguration, Br. 445

Just prior to this article being written, Joe Biden was named 46th President Elect of the USA and Kamala Harris the first woman Vice-President Elect. May we all go forward as Americans united for a better America for ourselves, our

children and grandchildren.

Branch 445 members continue to support each week our community in need through our Sandwich Ministry. During November, one of the local non-profit community agencies that received our 120 sack lunches was the Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen. They provide a hot nutritious meal to those in need. Our sack lunches were also given to the participants to take with them to have additional food to eat later in the day. A Blessing card was included in each sack lunch.

During this continued time of Covid it is great to have photos of past in person Branch events. They bring to mind the friendship and camaraderie that we long to share in person again.

Buon Natale Tutti - Merry Christmas everyone!

State al sicuro e state bene - Stay safe and stay well.

Fino al prossimo anno - until next year

Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer



Br. 445 Festive Memories of 2019 Holiday



Br. 445 Recent Sandwich Ministry Recipient holding sack lunch and Blessing card

STOCKTON

Modesto St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

We did well enough with our Bakeless Bake Sale that we will be able to meet some of our commitments. Fund raising is very hard right now but if we keep trying we make a little each time. The next fund raiser is in convention



Br. 445 Festive Memories of 2019 Holiday Dinner

calendars. I hope all of our members will buy a calendar and sell one. Remember we keep five dollars from each calendar sold.

Thanks to our branch officers who have agreed to keep their offices for another year. We look forward being able to have a meeting where we can discuss the matters at hand, enjoy having a snack and visiting with each other. We will miss not having our Christmas Potluck together. We always have such great food.

As things stand now we will not be able to have an installation dinner in January 3, 2021. If things should change and we are able to have the dinner if we have enough notice we will get it done.

I hope you and all your families have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Cecelia McGhee

Lodi St. Anne's, Br. 82

Buone Feste, ICF Famiglia!

Tis the season of caring, sharing, and giving. With our restrictions due to Covid-19, this year more than others, it's imperative that we reach out to others, to send warm greetings, to reconnect with someone from your past.

Our branch is doing just that by trying to keep members connected through a

Secret Pals program. Fill out the survey that was emailed, and you'll be matched with a member. Then, find little ways to secretly bring a smile to your Secret Pal's face. This is a wonderful way to stay in touch.

Break out those holiday albums, and choose festive photos of your children or grandchildren to enter into our parish-wide Bella Bambino/Hermosa Bebe raffle. ICF and the Mexican Catholic Federation are partnering on this fundraiser. No photos to share? Then, enter the contest to match our ministry team members with their baby picture. Prize drawings occur on the Epiphany. Look out for details in the church bulletin and member emails.

The Boon Supply online fundraiser proved to be a success. Thank you to members, friends, and families who supported our branch in this endeavor.

Worldwide, the Covid-19 cases are increasing causing a return to tighter restrictions for churches, businesses, schools, and social gatherings. We pray for all affected by this virus.

May you have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of Jesus, and may you experience a peaceful, healthy new year!

Patty Litts, Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Tracy St. Bernard's, Br. 390

Our 2021 Board of Directors have been chosen and are as follows: Chaplain Deacon Pete Ryza, President Anita Ridolfi, 1st Vice President Chuck Tusso, 2nd VP Art Dykzeul, Recording Secretary Lucy Orsi, Correspondence Secretary Betty Hollars, Financial Secretary Annette Elissagaray, Treasurer Serena Martocchio, Orator Sandra Zepeda, Trustees are Mary Gualco, Marilyn Tusso, Suzanne Dykzeul, and Sentinel Stephen Ridolfi.

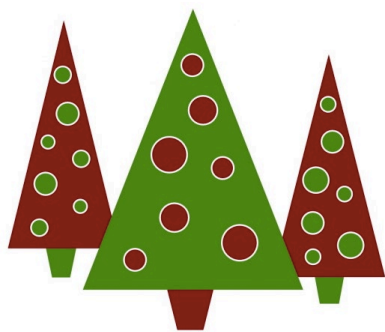
As our year 2020 comes to an end, truly a very challenging year, our spiritual advisors starting with Pope Francis, encourage us to have faith and trust that God is the source of all that is good and holy. We look forward to new opportunities to change what we can and accept what we cannot. As we prepare for the 2021 activities ahead, we take a moment to pray for the grace we need to do what needs to be done with the strength we all have to get there.

We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas this year. More than ever, we wish you a Happy New Year!

Steve Ridolfi continues to treat you to seeing yourselves on our Website: www.icfbranch390.org

Hope everyone stays healthy, happy and safe,

Betty Hollars
Branch 390



Branch 390 Members of a year ago. Now missing the fellowship of our meetings.

Stockton Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

Hard to believe we have made it to the end of 2020, a year that no one could ever have imaged. But even with all of the uncertainty we did it, and our catholic faith had a lot to do with it.

There now seems to be a sense of hope, optimism and peace as we enter 2021. We thank all of our officers who are willing to stay on for another year.

Grazie mille to the following:

President Mary Ann Piana Chapman
1st VP Marilyn Ramacher



2nd VP Bob and Linda Langone
Recording Secretary Josephine Weber
Financial Secretary Mary Fry
Treasurer Pat Beglou
Orator Karen Rosson
Trustees Becky Vergano, Bernice Nickols and Paula Watt
Sentinel Pat Bertilacchi

We won't be having our traditional holiday party this year, but all of our members and their families will be in

our hearts. This year more than ever, the biggest gift you can give the ICF and the Branch is to renew your membership!

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

"Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much."

-St. Catherine of Siena

Alla prossima, Mary Ann



Merry Christmas from Branch 395! (Dec. 2019)

*Buon Natale e
Buon Capo D'Anno*

From Branch 442
Christ The King Church
Pleasant Hill, CA



*Wishing you Peace,
Love and Joy for the
Holiday Season
and in 2021.*

Deborah Rodondi
CC Grand 1st Vice President



Warm Wishes for a Blessed
Christmas and New Year!
We are thinking of all of our ICF
members and hoping you are
doing well.
Our prayers are with you until
we can see each other again.
Officers and Members of
Br. 50, San Francisco



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2021

*From the Jarrett Family,
Jim, Patty, Jimmy, Gail, Roselynn, Chris, Dana and Families*



*Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
from
Branch 395,
Presentation
of the BVM
Stockton*



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

*Buon Natale and Buon Anno.
Officers and
Members of
Branch 391,
St. Martin of Tours,
San Jose, CA*



*Best Wishes for A Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year*

From the Officers and Members of Branch 213,
St. Augustine, So. San Francisco, CA



Buon Natale Felice Anno Nuovo

*From the Officers and
Members of
Branch 173--Burlingame*



**Angels Camp
St. Patrick's, Br. 413**

It is hard to believe that the holidays are upon us. This is usually a time for great family gatherings. This year will be quiet. Hopefully, this will give everyone a chance to reflect on all the good things that we have received.

We are looking forward to a New Year with renewed hope that we will soon be together. Regardless of how the current events upended all of our plans, we hope to continue our tradition of having a Christmas give away. We usually fill the hall as parishioners join together for the free breakfast. This year we intend to have it as a drive through. We usually hold the event on the second Sunday of the month. We need to let the parish know that the ICF is still viable and a relevant part of the community.

Branch 413 wishes all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May He give you health and His peace in these days ahead. God bless all our ICF Family!

Ciao,
Annette Pachinger
Correspondence Secretary



Advancing our Legacy:
Italian Community Services

Italian Community Services continues to assist Bay Area Italian-American seniors and their families navigate and manage the resources needed to live healthy, independent and productive lives.

Since Shelter-in-Place began in San Francisco, Italian Community Services has delivered over 240 meals, over 900 care packages and made over 2000 phone wellness checks for our seniors.

If you know of any senior of Italian descent in San Francisco needing assistance, please contact:
ItalianCS.org | (415) 362-6423 | info@italiancs.com



ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Preserving Our Culture. Serving Our Community.

ORANGE

**Huntington Beach
St. Bonaventure, Br. 379**

Members of the Huntington Beach branch held their October Zoom meeting on the 22nd and encouraged members to dress up for Halloween. However, since it coincided with a presidential debate, attendance was lower than usual.

St. Bonaventure Church has completed its church renovation and is beautiful with its stained glass front and center over the altar and on the surrounding walls. Branch members were invited to attend mass together on Saturday, October 31st, as St. Bonaventure Church was open for up to 100 parishioners, and additional seating was outside under canopies with livestream of the mass. The branch also signed up for Adoration on November 7th for one hour.

The next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Wishing all our ICF members safe, healthy and happy holidays, and a blessed new year. God bless America!

Best,
Karen Kocvara



Branch 379 Huntington Beach members on the October "Halloween" Zoom call (clockwise from upper left): Mike Geraci, Karen Kocvara, Barbara Scott, Viva Palumbo (no photo), Jane Wescott, Donna Meade



Branch 379 Huntington Beach members in front of the St. Bonaventure statue in an alcove of the renovated church (left to right): Karen Kocvara, Connie Meinke, Robert Meinke, Irene Scalise, Donna Meade, Mike Geraci



**January Issue
Deadline
is December 10th.
Send articles and photos:
editor@icf.org**

**From the Entire
ICF Central Council
and Office Staff,
We Wish You A**

*Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year!*

ICF TRI-FOLD BROCHURE

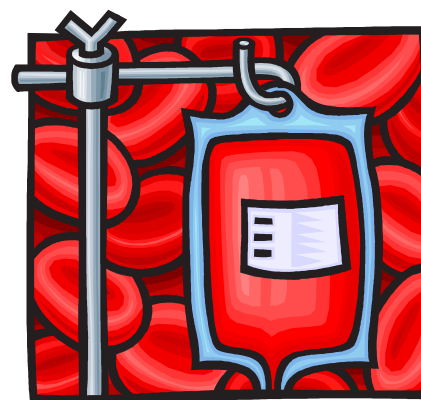
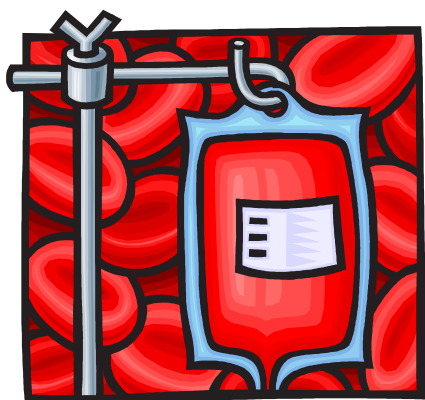
This informative brochure (updated in 2020) can be a great part of your ICF Visitor Packet and is available from the ICF office in Oakland, CA. Contact (888) ICF-1924 to order copies for your branch.

(Outside)



(Inside)





Looking For The Perfect Christmas 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!

Workshops Are Available On Our Website

Workshop:
**SUCCESSFUL
BRANCHES**

**Progress During
a Pandemic**

**Presented by: Rose Jarrett
Central Council Life Member**

**"DON'T LET
WHAT YOU
CAN'T DO
STOP YOU
FROM DOING
WHAT YOU
CAN DO."**

JOHN WOODEN



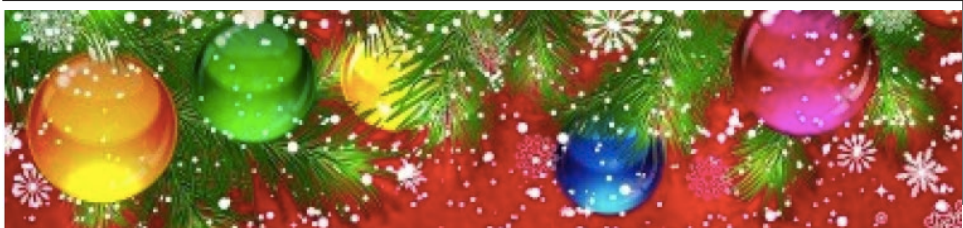
Buon Natale & Felice Capo D'Anno

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

CC Grand Treasurer

Branch 21, Santa Cruz

Branch 227, Capitola



*May the miracle of
this holy season bring
peace and love to all!*



*From the Officers
and Members of
St. Frances Cabrini
Branch 191,
San Jose*

*Buon Natale e
Buon Capo D'Anno!*



*Lauren Kilcullen,
Grand Secretary*

The Officers and Members
of Br. 19, San Vincenzo De
Paoli in Colma, California
Rejoice in Celebrating Our
92nd Branch Anniversary!

*We Wish Everyone
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*



**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 390—Saint Bernard—Tracy

Branch 82—Saint Anne's—Lodi

Branch 395—Church of Presentation—Stockton

Branch 138—Saint Luke—Stockton

Branch 413—Saint Patrick—Angels Camp

Branch 139—Saint Anthony--Danteca

*Dear Brothers and Sisters
of the ICF:*

*Our wish for a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy New Year.
The Marsalli Family*

