



BOLLETTINO



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR ICF FAMILY!

ICF Promotional Video Available Online to All Branches



ICF members (clockwise) Kristen & Joey Zasoski, Bob Tyler, Anne Interrante and Jean Bridges are featured in our new promotional video.

Check out the first-ever ICF promotional video! Titled "We're the ICF," it is posted on the ICF website homepage for easy access at <http://www.icf.org>.

Richard Interrante of Branch 380 and his son Ryan worked with Grand President Vince Piro, Chris Velazquez of Violette Films, and the ICF Public Relations Committee to develop this promotional tool to help all branches. This video is just one part of the ICF's plan to reach new members through a multimedia effort using online social media, television and radio. The video highlights the ICF's commitment to faith, charitable works, heritage and family. The message is designed to connect with people and their desire to help and be involved.

Also, visit the official ICF YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvekmgDJ6RbyXrKJm715b5Q>. The channel is used for official video postings including events, award presentations, workshops, interviews with ICF members discussing the Federation history and more.

Subscribe to the channel and click the bell icon to stay up on the latest ICF videos.

Branches, districts and the Central Council's Expansion Committee promote the ICF in our parishes and dioceses. Use this tool to reach out even while we stay safer at home.

Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia): An Overview

By Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

In 1925, Dr. Thomas Cooley first described thalassemia in Italian children with severe anemia, an enlarged liver and spleen, and changes in bone formation. Several years later, Dr. Whipple named the disease "thalassa anaemia" or "anemia by the sea," because of its link to the Mediterranean region. The name later evolved to Thalassemia. With the large immigration of people of predominantly Mediterranean ancestry to North America, the devastating effects of this disease became known to the affected communities and their providers. Seemingly



healthy newborns became pale, sickly, with most dying by three years of age.

Largely due to strong support from Italian advocate groups, major advances have occurred in the treatment of thalassemia. The initiation of monthly blood transfusion enabled children to live relatively healthy lives until their teen years when they began succumbing to iron poisoning caused from the routine blood transfusions. By the late 1970's a medication was developed called Desferal, which is a medication that removes excess iron from the body. Unfortunately, Desferal needs to be administered through a needle infusion 12-15 hours every day.

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Grand President's Monthly Message

Vince Piro

The start of a new year is always a special time. While in some ways there is nothing special about the tick of the clock from one day to the next, David Ropeik of "Psychology Today" reminds us the start of a new year, "has always prompted us both to celebrate and to step outside the day-to-day activity we're always busy with to reflect, look back, take stock, assess how we did, and resolve to do better."



If you look back on 2020 to reflect and to take stock, it would be easy to focus on the challenges our society and the Federation faced due to the pandemic, social unrest, and a contentious presidential election. We probably want to throw up our hands and say, "Thank the Good Lord that it is over!" However, despite those challenges, the Federation was able to achieve several firsts. Here is a list of just a few.

1. We held our first ever online convention. Through online workshops, live Zoom sessions, and a virtual celebration of the mass, hundreds of Federation members were able to share ideas, socialize, and worship together. And while we hope to return to a face-to-face convention next year, what we learned from this experience will serve us well in the future. For example, we plan to record workshops and presentations at future conventions and make them available online so that we can reach more members.

2. We completed production of our first promotional video. This video highlights the ICF's active faith, charitable works, family and heritage. It will certainly be used by branches, districts and the Central Council's Expansion Committee to promote the ICF in our parishes and dioceses. However, it is our hope that it will be used to reach new members by using it to promote the Federation through media we have not traditionally used in the past, such as online social media, television, and radio. You can find the video at www.icf.org.

3. Several districts and branches learned to use technology to reach out to their members, holding online meetings and events so that they could continue to

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TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION
Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage Since 1924

BOLLETTINO

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Important Notice

The email address for ALL
Bollettino submissions is:

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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. Not all photos are able to
be used due to possible limitations in
space. Prioritize photos if possible.
To insure photos are always linked to
branch, include branch number when
naming photos such as:

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Include photo captions with your
article submission.

Please keep your submission positive
and informative.

**February issue
deadline is January 10, 2021.**
**Deadlines fall on the tenth of
the month except for the com-
bined August/September issue**

Thank you!

No Need to Worry, Help Was Always Here!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli
ICF Spiritual Director



Last year, 2020, was a tough year. Co-
vid-19 infected the whole world and did
a lot of damage. Millions of people were
struck by the virus and millions died
throughout the world. Close to a half a
million died in the United States alone.

Everyone's life was and still is affected
in some way. To help fight this pan-
demic, we are told to wear masks, stay
home, do not engage in social activity,
wash our hands often and carefully,
no family gatherings and do not go to
social events. It is difficult to believe
that an unseen force can do so much
damage.

There is not only a physical sickness but
also a psychological condition which
crept into our lives. People are getting
weary and depressed. It is a type of self-
imprisonment, much like a siege. We
are being attacked by an evil force we
cannot see. We feel trapped and don't
know how or when it will end. We have
some hope with the latest news about a
vaccine, but still there is no end in sight.

Yet, for us, as people of Faith, there is
no need to be afraid or worried. We have
a loving and powerful friend, Jesus,
who gives us the grace and courage to
deal with this trauma. His words relieve
the stress and tension, if we just lean
on Him. Jesus spoke these consoling
words:

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You
have faith in God; have faith also in
me. In my Father's house there are
many dwelling places. If there were
not, would I have told you that I am
going to prepare a place for you? And
if I go and prepare a place for you, I
will come back again and take you to
myself, so that where I am you also
may be. (Jn. 14:1-6)*



With a friend like that, there is no need
to be afraid. Jesus knows each one of
us, loves us and wants us to be with
Him. With His support, we know that
whatever happens, we will be safe here
on the planet now and safe and happy
with Him in heaven later.

**May you have a
Happy and Holy New Year
and a safe and healthy
year in 2021!**



Interested in learning more about the ICF's National Charity,
Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)? Have burning questions to ask?
You can still do this even during a pandemic!

Set up a phone call, WHATSAPP, FACETIME or ZOOM
Conference and have a personal conversation with Laurice Levine,
Thalassemia Program Consultant for
Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Contact Information:

360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com

Learn more about Cooley's Anemia and the great work the
ICF does for this cause.

Grand President Piro

Continued from Page 1

conduct the business of the Federation as well as socialize. The Central Council also held its meetings via Zoom and hosted several meetings and events, including our first online Christmas Celebration. With the ICF spread so far apart geographically, online meetings and events can become efficient and productive ways to supplement our face-to-face meetings, allowing members who cannot travel a chance to participate in the organization.

As the calendar changes from one year to another, we realize that the world is changing and the Federation needs to change with it. Of course, this does not mean throwing out our time-honored traditions, but it does mean that we can find new ways of doing things that will keep the Federation both relevant and strong in the future.

As we begin this new year, we have taken stock, assessed how we did, and resolve to do better. And because of our faith in Christ and our love for each other, we can see a future full of hope and promise.

I also want to address a practical matter in this column: district installations. It has been the consistent position of the

Central Council that local districts and branches should follow the regulations and guidance of their local government agencies in regards to gatherings during the pandemic. While there is hope on the horizon with a COVID-19 vaccine, at the writing of this column, it is unclear whether we will be able to hold District Installations at the beginning of this year. With that in mind, districts have a couple of options. First, as a few districts have already informed me, they plan to hold live online installations via services such as Zoom and Go to Meeting. I would be glad to attend these online events to install officers. Second, you can choose to cancel your district installation if local guidelines prevent you from meeting in person. Third, you can postpone your installation to a later date. Whatever you decide to do, please let Charlene at the ICF office know your plans and send in your officer lists. Thank you.

To close this column. Robyn and I want to wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year. Know that our prayers and love go out to each of you.

- Vince

Building Membership in 2021

Perry Shurko
Membership Chair

Happy New Year!

Wow! We made it through 2020 and what a relief. Cheers and prayers that 2021 will be better than last year.

So, as we begin the new year I want to remind you all that it's dues time. Yes, I know, but we all must do our part and get those dues in as soon as possible.

Remember that we are still in operation and there are many things that still need to be paid for, such as the *Bollettino*, staff salaries, and liability insurance among other things. I'm pretty sure that when you are getting this and reading it, we're still in lock down or at least still social distancing and wearing our masks. However, the hope of a vaccine is in our grasp. With any luck, we might be able to start gathering again soon. Let's hope so, because we need that

companionship.

We also need to think about finding new members for our branches and our organization as a whole. We don't want to see the numbers slip any further.

As you may know or may have seen, a promotional video has been made and is now available to be viewed on our website. Check it out!

Thanks to Anne and Richard Interrante and all of those who helped to make this video possible. I've seen it and it looks great. It's going to be a welcome tool for the ICF.

I leave you now with my theme for 2021 - *The ICF is still alive and it's time to thrive!* Keep up the great work that you all do and let's build up that membership.

Thank you.

Mother Cabrini Shrine

Carmelo Sabatella
LA Archdiocese District

Congratulations to Mother Cabrini Committee and members of the ICF for your support of the first-ever virtual 2020 Mother Cabrini Shrine Mass and Pilgrimage online. This event can be viewed for the next three weeks by going to the website link: ICFNB/Cabrini.



ICF will be working with Saint Francis Xavier Church in 2021 for a Novena to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini from November 1, 2021 and ending on Her Feast Day with a Mass and Pilgrimage. A luncheon will be included depending on the status of the present Covid 19 Pandemic at that time.

In 2021 please include the Mother Cabrini Chapel in Burbank to your pilgrimage of Mother Cabrini Shrines in New York, Chicago, Colorado and New Orleans. Visitors from other states have been coming to the Chapel in Burbank to continue their annual pilgrimage to pray to Mother Cabrini for strength and guidance and pray for special intentions.

Also DVD Copies of the movie "Frances Xavier Cabrini: the People's Saint" produced by Lucia Mauro are still available for sale in English and Italian.

Purchase a copy for your Branch and help support the Mother Cabrini Chapel. To order please call 626 372-7812 or email: cas1810@aol.com.

In 2021, the Cabrini Chapel and Library Open Houses will be scheduled by appointment only and allow limited visits as allowed by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Please add the Chapel to your Branch's list of places to visit in 2021 and bring your family and friends to learn more about one of the ICF's Patroness Saints and the Catholic Church's first American Saint.

For more information regarding the event or to make a donation, 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



Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

Received as of December 10, 2020:

IN MEMORY OF:

Joe Antuzzi
Reverend Monsignor Joseph Milani
John Rossi
Raymond Bouffard
Ricardo Romo
Chris Lunardi
Jerry Addy
Nellie Picolotto
Vincent Interrante
Joe Mikles
Ricardo Romo
Bernard Marinelli
Roger Van Maren

DONATED BY:

Esther Ramonda
Pat Botta
Pat Botta
Shirley Catania
Al and Deanna De Nurra
Al and Deanna De Nurra
Al and Deanna De Nurra
Al and Deanna De Nurra
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Mary Ann Mikles
Officers/Members of Br. 215
Officers/Members of Br. 215
Officers/Members of Contra Costa District

GET WELL WISHES:

Teresa Helfand
Vincent Picciola
Heidi Ambiel

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Pat Botta
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:

Reverend Monsignor Daniel Cardelli

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

MERRY CHRISTMAS WISHES:

Deacon Mark Ruiz

Officers/Members of Br. 342

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:

A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 447 - Manhattan Beach.

*Named after the co-founder of the ICF, the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides ICF members a lasting way to memorialize and/or extend greetings to friends, relatives, and loved ones. Members' donations provide scholarships to seminarians studying for the priesthood in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.

Cooley's Anemia Donations

Received as of December 10, 2020:

Branch 447
Beverly Wildermann
Get well wishes for all those who are sick
Officers/Members of Br. 28
In memory of Chauncy Russo



In Loving Memory (Report as of December 7, 2020)

Frances A Regalia	Branch 007	Leonard Patito	Branch 218
Carolyn I Carlsen	Branch 036	Isabella A Virgilio	Branch 246
John M Flynn	Branch 036	Beatrice A Van Wetter	Branch 343
Vince Torrente	Branch 036	Therese Lieu	Branch 408
Bill Evans	Branch 218	Roger Van Maren	Branch 442

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)



Gifts of Love Donations

Received as of December 10, 2020:

Branch 391
Officers/Members of Br. 342
Merry Christmas wishes for Deacon John Sheehan
Fran La Torre
In memory of Ricardo Romo
The Hillstrom Family
In memory of Joseph Antuzzi
Guido and Emma Zan
In memory of Romano Zan
Maria Perna
Get well wishes for Teresa Helfand
Louie and Pat Cordich
In memory of Chauncy Russo
Ben and Paula Walkup
In memory of Joe Antuzzi

Scholarship Donations

Received as of Dec. 10, 2020:

Scholarship Donations - 1st Year
Officers/Members of Central Council
In memory of Theresa Dianda
Nettie Descalso-Del Nero
In memory of Theresa Dianda
Roger and JoAnn Dorn
In memory of Theresa Dianda

ICF is
Going
Green!



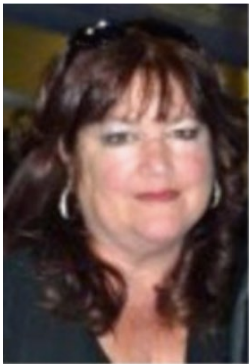
If you prefer to read the Bollettino at the magnification of your choice in full color on your computer or portable electronic device, and like the idea of saving a tree while helping us save printing costs, visit this link to sign up:

<http://eepurl.com/bLaMFb>

Family Recipes

Deborah Rodondi
Grand 1st Vice President

Hope you are continuing to stay safe and healthy. In the winter months we are craving comfort foods---this is one such dish, sent to me by Mary Lou Weidlich from Branch 227 in Capitola. She shares with us that her parents were refugees during World War I in Italy. They continued to live a frugal life after they arrived in America. This was a favorite Friday night dish during lean times. She still loves making it and her family loves eating it. She also stated that it is basically a cioppino of tuna.



Nonna's Tuna Ragu

- 2 cans of tuna, including liquid or oil, if oil packed
- 2 small cans tomato sauce (I used 1-8 ounce and 1-15 ounce can)
- 1 large bay leaf
- 1 small clove garlic, crushed
- 1/2 c. chopped onion
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 c. chopped Italian parsley
- 1/2 c. white wine (optional)
- 2 tbs. olive oil, if water packed tuna

Dump everything into a skillet and bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for about 1/2 an hour until it thickens. Serve it on top of polenta or as a pasta sauce. You'll be amazed at how good it is. Basically cioppino of tuna.

I made it and put over pasta. This recipe was enough for 3/4 to one pound of spaghetti. Simple and tasty-great left over for lunch.

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!



The Wonder of it all. LIFE LINE

By Msgr. Cardelli

Life starts, is born, and never ends.



Welcome to Our New Members! (As of Dec. 7, 2020)

Stephanie L Giudici	Branch 021
Rev Theophane Nelliparambil	Branch 033
Rev Fabian Nwokorie	Branch 144
Sonya C Dolor	Branch 230

Literature Review

Vince Piro
Grand President

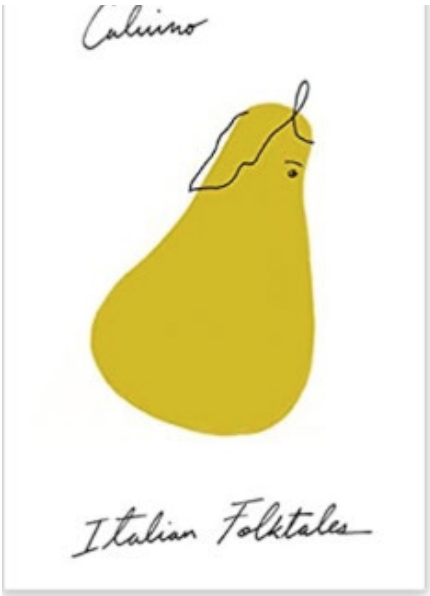
Italian Folktales
by Italo Calvino
Mariner Books (August 26, 2013)

Beneath the Moon: Fairy Tales, Myths, and Divine Stories from Around the World
by Yoshi Yoshitani
Ten Speed Press (September 1, 2020)

Italian Folktales by noted Italian author Italo Calvino collects 200 Italian folktales. Calvino began the project in 1954 and originally published the collection in 1956. This collection is an English translation published in 2013.

Although Calvino did not collect the tales by listening to storytellers, he expertly used the existing work of folklorists from the 1870s to the 1950s to compile this magical and important collection.

Calvino collected tales of various dialects and regions of Italy in order to bring to together what he felt were “the most unusual, beautiful, and original texts” in Italian folklore. As Vilma De Gasperin notes in her review of the book, “The stories display a dazzling array of motifs and characters: fairies and witches, talking animals, resourceful maidens, cunning youths, kings and saints, the wise and the foolish, the good and the wicked, weaving a colorful tapestry of human destiny.”



To appeal to the modern reader, Calvino often fused various versions of the tales and modernized the language. As the author noted, he used “a language never too colloquial, yet colorful and as derivative as possible of a dialect.” This translation by George Martin lives up to that spirit.

This collection is a delightful look into the folklore and life of Italy and should bring the reader many hours of pleasure.

I would note that before reading any collection of folktales to children, one should check to see that they are appropriate as many tales were written for an adult audience.

Italo Calvino was an Italian journalist and writer of fiction. His works include the *Our Ancestors trilogy* (1952-1959), the *Cosmicomics* collection of short stories (1965), and the novels *Invisible Cities* (1972) and *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler* (1979).

Admired worldwide, he was the most-translated contemporary Italian writer and was a contender for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Beneath the Moon: Fairy Tales, Myths, and Divine Stories from Around the World by Yoshi Yoshitani is another wonderful collection of folktales.

It retells seventy-eight divine stories, legends, and myths from around the world, each accompanied by a wonderful and delightful illustration by the author.



It includes *Sleeping Beauty* (Italy), *Rapunzel* (Germany), *Jack and the Beanstalk* (England), *Our Lady of Guadalupe* (Mexico), *Sun God Ra* (Egypt), the *Crane Wife* (Japan), and dozens more.

Lesser-known stories introduce characters such as the volcano goddess Pele from Hawaii; Mwindo, the wise and powerful king of the Nyanga people; and the strong and resilient Yennenga, mother of the Mossi people in Burkina Faso. As with most folktales, these stories involve conquering evil, overcoming adversity, and finding love and companionship.

Yoshi Yoshitani is a California-based artist whose vibrant illustrations draw on inspiration from across the globe, with a particular focus on multicultural identity. Past clients include Disney, DC Comics, Valiant, Image, Dreamworks, and Netflix. Yoshi spends time researching world mythologies, listening to audiobooks, creating fashion inspiration boards, and attending comic conventions and art expos across the country.

Yoshi spends time researching world mythologies, listening to audiobooks, creating fashion inspiration boards, and attending comic conventions and art expos across the country.

Cooley's Anemia

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In 2005, the first oral chelator, Exjade, was approved by the FDA. In 2011 a second oral chelator, Deferiprone, came on the market. Currently, three oral chelators are available along with the Desferal/pump and patients often take a combination of two or more in order to minimize side effects and assure for maximum protection against toxic iron.

Fortunately, with adherence to an intense medical regiment patients are surviving and often thriving into their adult years.

Quality of life now has become a major focus for patients and their families. People with thalassemia require specialized care needed to prevent complications. Each patient must be followed by a hematologist, endocrinologist, cardiologist, hepatologist, and a primary care physician. Nutrition, vision and hearing also need to be followed. Patients require access to specialized blood transfusions in order to avoid transfusion reactions. In the past, in order to monitor their iron levels, regular liver biopsies were necessary. However, now ferritometer (SQUID) and MRI technology (which started at Children's Hospital Los Angeles) is available to assess iron in the liver and heart. Marriage, fertility, employment and medical insurance are issues adults with thalassemia now face.

Specialized thalassemia programs were initially developed in the North East, especially New York, because of concentration of Italian communities. Now, with migration to the West Coast and immigration, thalassemia is now more prevalent across the U.S., especially in California. All 50 States have adopted newborn screening programs which diagnose thalassemia (and many other diseases) at birth, rather than waiting for symptoms to occur. Now there are ten hospitals in North America that specialize in thalassemia, the one at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is the national charity for the ICF.

Despite the increase in numbers, the needs of patients in general are not adequately being addressed by government and many health care providers do not have knowledge of Thalassemia. Thalassemia care costs approximately \$150,000 per year.

The special services needed for patients are often not available; therefore it is highly recommended for patients to be seen at least once a year at a specialty center. There is no universal cure for Thalassemia; however a bone marrow or stem cell transplant is a cure for some patients. It is recommended that a patient needs an exact match (a sibling) and it is a very high risk procedure. Currently, research in gene therapy is being conducted by bluebird bio, Inc., which is a one-time curative treatment. Gene therapy was approved by the European Medical Association (EMA), which is like the FDA in the U.S., in 2020 but procedures have been delayed due to COVID.

Thanks to the Italian Catholic Federation's generosity we have been able to improve care for people with thalassemia. Research, the expansion of clinical services, and the outreach program

are supported by donations by the Italian Catholic Federation. Patients know the support they receive from the ICF and consequently they feel for the first time the community really cares. Many no longer hide their disease due to feelings of shame and instead they are filled with a sense of hope.

On behalf of the entire staff at the Thalassemia Center at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and most especially the patients and families, we wish to extend our gratitude to you the ICF for your ongoing support of our Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia) Program. We realize there are many charities that you can donate to and we are grateful that you continue to support our program.

For questions or more information, please contact:
Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS
360-860-2023
LLevine430@aol.com



Winners of the ICF Blood Drive will be announced in the February Bollettino. Feel free to give again if you are able.

2021 1st Year Scholarship Program

Information on the 1st Year Scholarship Program that was sent to high schools in November, has now been made available to the Districts and Branches and has been posted on our ICF website www.icf.org via a link on the homepage as well as in the documents in the Officers' Portal.

The **Deadline** for Donations and Applications is **March 15, 2021**. Please discuss participating in the program by making a donation of a full scholarship of \$400.00, if possible, or a partial donation of any amount. Partial Donations do help to make other scholarships possible when that money is grouped together. Individual Donations are welcomed as well. Please encourage your children, grandchildren or anyone you know who is eligible to apply. They can contact their high school counselors about the Italian Catholic Federation 1st Year \$400.00 Scholarship or they can download the application using the link on the homepage of the ICF website.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

A High School Senior, a total cumulative GPA (3 ½ years) of at least 3.2 and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2:

1. Are **Roman Catholic** and of **Italian Descent** and live within the **Roman Catholic Dioceses of Arizona, California, Illinois and Nevada, only where Branches of the Federation are established**; or
2. Are **Roman Catholic** but **need not be of Italian Descent** or live where **Branches of the Federation are established** if either **Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent** is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" – **membership of a Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is mandatory for #2.**

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

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

Gifts of Love

Teresa Helfand, Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope and pray that the holidays were a time of grace and blessings for you and your families. Now a New Year is upon us and we would like to select recipients for our 2021 Gifts of Love Awards. We still continue to face many challenges in our world and our daily lives. We send our thoughts and prayers to everyone. We need healing in our world more than ever and so we are asking for help in finding the value in kindness, respect and helping others. We know these are difficult financial times, but we encourage our Branches, Districts and Individual Members to continue to contribute to the fund in any amount. With your help, we can continue the important work of this very vital program.



At this time, we would like to request applications from disabled individuals that may require special or specific aids or "tools" in order to complete their education, training or assist them in their daily lives.

In order to generate applications, the Gifts of Love Committee is asking each Branch President to mention the program at their next meeting and also to publish a request for applications in their respective Church and/or School Bulletins if possible. The application form is available on the ICF Website (www.icf.org).

Applications should either be mailed to the ICF Office at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621 or e-mailed to the ICF Office at info@icf.org.

Applications are evaluated on a regular basis by the ICF Gifts of Love Committee which decides who receives the awards and the amounts. We have a great Committee this year and we look forward to helping those in need! Our next meeting will be in February.

If you would like more information about the Gifts of Love program, please contact Committee Chairwoman Teresa Helfand at davia902005@live.com.



*Happy New Year and God Bless You,
Teresa Helfand*

December Calendar Winners

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
12/1	Melissa & Tony Ortega	342	Auburn, CA	\$30
12/2	Millicent Piro	39	Atwater, CA	\$30
12/3	Lisa Fornasero		Tracy, CA	\$30
12/4	Gennifer McClure	237	Carson, CA	\$30
12/5	Amy Corral	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/6	Nancy Navarini	285	Pleasanton, CA	\$30
12/7	Crystal Bianchi	36	Pacific Grove, CA	\$30
12/8	Alma Hernandez		Fresno, CA	\$50
12/9	Leroy Taddei	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
12/10	Stephen, John & Mark Neuburger		San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/11	Branch 115		San Pedro, CA	\$30
12/12	Carla Farber		Novato, CA	\$30
12/13	Allison McGuirk	214	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
12/14	Pat & Julie McDermott		Meadow Vista, CA	\$30
12/15	Deborah Rodondi	19	So. San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/16	Loraine Terra	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
12/17	Gabi Busco	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/18	Janay Chan		Fairfield, CA	\$30
12/19	Tom Hunt		Los Banos, CA	\$30
12/20	Marianne Bordogna	352	Danville, CA	\$30
12/21	Barbara Ebel	6	Redwood City, CA	\$30
12/22	Rev. John Tu Hoang		Gilroy, CA	\$30
12/23	Mary Vella Treseler	403	Millbrae, CA	\$30
12/24	Father Harrison		Bakersfield, CA	\$50
12/25	Lila Vezzolo	25	Salinas, CA	\$100
12/26	Lucy Olsen	354	Paso Robles, CA	\$30
12/27	Mauro Romagnoli	210	Jurupa Valley, CA	\$30
12/28	Dina Rio	439	Des Plaines, IL	\$30
12/29	Carmelo Sabatella	108	So. Pasadena, CA	\$30
12/30	Peter Pernarelli		Grants Pass, OR	\$40
12/31	Nadine Mattier	215	Fremont, CA	\$50

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG



Happy New Year
from the
Live to Give Committee!
Make a New Year's Resolution:
 Donate Blood, or
 Plan a blood drive with your branch.

You can donate blood every 56 days.

For More Information;
Laurice Levine: 360-860-2023
or LLevine430@aol.com

American Red Cross:
<http://www.redcross.org/give-blood>

Blood Centers of the Pacific
<http://www.bloodcenters.org/>

or search on Google for a local blood bank.

During this holy Christmas season,
we pray for those who are living in fear,
fleeing danger and seeking safety.
May those who are left with nothing
know that they are not forgotten.

We ask for the provision of resources
so that people's needs are met.

We ask for food, water,
hygiene and sanitation kits.
We pray that the most vulnerable
will be protected.

We pray for strength for those
who are caring and providing aid,
that they may know your help as
they help others.

We look with hope to the day
when wars will cease and there
will be eternal peace on earth
in the name of Jesus our Savior.

AMEN

Judy Bates from Branch 285 shared this
beautiful prayer from Catholic Relief Services.

Italian Catholic Federation
HOSPITALIZATION PLAN – FACT SHEET

Dear ICF Members:

One of the best kept secrets in the Italian Catholic Federation is the Hospitalization Plan; open to all members under 70 years of age. (Exception – if you are a New Member to the ICF who is over the age of 70 – you can enroll in the Hospital Plan as long as you enroll at the same time that you join and pay both membership and hospital plan dues.) The following information briefly outlines the benefits, conditions and costs:

BENEFITS

After ninety (90) days of membership in the plan, the fund will pay:

- **\$75.00 for the first day, \$50.00 for the second day and \$25.00 for the third day and any additional days thereafter.**

NOTE: A member must stay overnight in an acute care facility unless an outpatient surgery is performed. Stays in convalescent hospitals and rehabilitation facilities are not covered by this plan and do not qualify for reimbursement.

- **\$100.00 for the use of the operating room** during a hospital stay or outpatient procedure at a state-licensed surgical center.
- **\$500.00 per calendar year.**
- **\$500.00 lifetime maximum per illness.**



FEATURES

- Payments are made directly to you.
- No medical examination is required to join.
- Membership continues beyond age 70.
- All claims are accepted for up to one year after a hospital stay or outpatient procedure.

COST

- **\$25.00 per year** - paid to the Branch Financial Secretary

We encourage all members of the Italian Catholic Federation to consider these benefits and features and to take advantage of this very beneficial I.C.F. program.

*Teresa Helfand, Chairperson
 I.C.F. Hospitalization Committee*

Italian Catholic Federation, 8393 Capwell Drive., Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621 • Toll Free: 1-888-423-1924

Fax: (510) 633-9758 • E-mail: info@icf.org • Web site: www.icf.org

New Year Prayer

*Thank You Lord for
 giving me*

*The brand new year
 ahead.*

*Help me live the way
 I should*

*As each new day I
 tread.*

Give me gentle wisdom

*That I might help a
 friend,*

*Give me strength and
 courage*

*So a shoulder I might
 lend*

*The year ahead is
 empty,*

*Help me fill it with
 good things.*

*Each new day filled
 with joy*

*And happiness is
 brings.*

Amen

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.
 Vice President Construction Operations
 Director of Safety
 Cell: 661-978-5622



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SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco

Maria S.S. Immacolata, Br. 1

Dear Members:

Hope all are staying safe and healthy from this COVID-19.

Best wishes for a Happier year in 2021!

Ciao!

Toni Morsello

San Francisco

St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Felice Anno Nuovo to all of our ICF members and their families from the Officers and Members of Br. 258.

To our members celebrating a birthday in January - Many More Years of Much Happiness and Good Health. Have a Good Year.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Let us all hope and pray that 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

Please stay well as we need you and love you.

Ciao,

Eva Perata, President

SAN MATEO

Colma

San Vincenzo de Paoli, Br. 19

I know many of us are happy to have the year 2020 behind us. Because of the restrictions made on us in 2020, I have come to appreciate and enjoy more of the little things I took for granted, even the smallest moments---hearing a friends voice on the phone, an opportunity to see family, a meeting by zoom has become an anticipated social event. I do miss the gatherings, fundraisers, dinners and hugs and cannot wait for us to be able to meet once more. So stay safe and healthy and we will see each other soon.

I want to thank those that served as Officers of Branch 19 in 2020 and a BIG THANK YOU to all of them for taking office in 2021.

President - Deborah Rodondi
Vice Pres. - Donald Simon
2nd VP - Annette Novi
Secretary - Cheryl Simon
Fin. Sec. - Joann Sangiacomo
Treasurer - Christine Prudenciado
Orator - Marianne Petroni
Trustees - Donna Barnes, Joyce Harnett and Kathy Trevizo
Sentinel - Jackie Barnes

Sunshine - Norene Thurman

From everyone in Branch 19 to everyone in the Federation we hope your Christmas Holidays were special and we look forward to sharing events in 2021 with all of you.

Ciao!

deborah

Burlingame

Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

Well, this has not been our best year but have so much to be thankful for with good friends, roofs over our heads and as with many Italians enough to eat!

In our parish we have been fortunate to be able to see daily Mass virtually but are extremely anxious to be able to attend in person like before the virus hit.

Our club is holding zoom meetings on our same time frame of the second Thursday of the month. Our President's newsletter will give the Meeting ID and the passcode for all members to join.

We are happy to report and to thank Helen Quilici for taking on the duties of selling the calendars and she did sell all 12 of them. (Helen we all know what happens when a good job is done so you may expect a phone call for next year) You made an extra \$5.00 for each calendar sold for our club.

We want to wish Rina Cassanego a Happy 95th Birthday! While we have some happy celebrations with some of our members, others need our prayers: Mary Bodisco, Anita Cecena, Don Cervelli, Elena Malta, Lorraine Rollandi, Jack Sheratt, Elisha, Fred & Malenie Yaeger's grandson who has brain cancer and now on Hospice.

Healthy wishes and prayers for all of our members and especially those mentioned above.

God Bless,

Roz Emery

Millbrae

St. Dunstan, Br. 403

We want to take this opportunity to wish all ICF members a Healthy, Happy and Holy 2021 year. Hopefully, we may soon resume our meetings, as we miss our ICF family.

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.



We recently lost another longtime member of our branch, Ann Gardner. She and her husband Jack were active in our St. Dunstan parish for many years. May they both Rest In Peace together.

The ICF calendars are for sale and they are fun and interesting to see photos and read stories of the wonderful trips that many ICF members were able to enjoy this past year.

Again this year, even though we were unable to hold any fundraisers, our branch donated Christmas offerings to our church, priests, St. Vincent de Paul Society and San Bruno Catholic Workers House.

Happy New Year,

Rose Marie Morando

Corresponding Secretary

MARIN

Larkspur

St. James, Br. 161

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, even though it was different than usual.

Let's hope that this new year brings us hope, love and health to everyone.

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.

Thank you to everyone for paying your dues.

Please don't forget to wear your mask, please sanitize your hands frequently and please maintain proper distancing.

Anna Biggio

Recording Secretary

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE

Happy New Year to you all.

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas, I know I did. Did Santa bring you everything you asked for? Well, I asked for a healthy 2021, so we shall see.

With this new year comes new changes. We have a new President and Vice President, and I hope a vaccine to get stop the spread of COVID. Let's all

keep doing our part to stop the spread. I'm hoping that we will be able to get together again in person. I know the last time we met was at a park and I really enjoyed that. We should plan on another district meeting as soon as possible.

I want to thank the Cabrini committee for a job well done on the virtual Cabrini Pilgrimage. Just to let you know, our final amount collected and sent to the Archbishop for the Seminary Burse was \$5,000.00. Great job LA.

Don't forget to get your 2021 dues sent in as soon as possible. We can't afford to let that lapse. Have a great rest of the month.

God Bless and stay safe.

Perry Shurko, President LA District

Los Angeles

St. Peter, Br. 67

Thank you to Msgr. Antonio Caciapuotti and ICF Branch committee members Tad and Theresa Shaw for facilitating the Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage and Benediction on December 6th. This year the Mass and Benediction was Live-Streamed from St. Bede the Venerable Catholic Church La Canada including a video of the 2019 Pilgrimage at the Chapel in Burbank. (See Mother Cabrini Article this issue).

If you know someone who may be interested in joining ICF Branch 67, please have them go online to ICFNationalBranch67.org and sign up. We are a virtual branch and reach out to members and nonmembers who do not have an ICF in their area and would like be a part of the ICF Family. We also would like to have your input as we continue to develop this branch online.

Covid-19 is a challenge and an opportunity to understand what is important in each of our lives. ICF may be just the place for you as we are multi culture-based focusing on Faith, Family, Fellowship and Food.

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

Keep safe and Stay healthy,
Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President
ICF National Branch 67

C 626 372-7812



South Pasadena
Holy Family, Br. 108

Our branch held its November General Meeting on Zoom followed by online Bingo.

Until the present crisis changes, we will continue meeting virtually to discuss and encourage participation and donations to help our various charities as we have done over the years.

If you need help joining us online, please contact your local parish for suggestions and ask your children and grandchildren to help you get online for these virtual meetings. We would like all members to participate online.

Our prayers go out to all Members, families and friends, with a big Thank You to all first responders who continue to help those suffering under the present pandemic.

Please continue to pray for the speedy Resolution of this crisis and to keep our sick members in your prayers for a speedy recovery; and to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

Keep safe and stay healthy,
Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, Past Presiden
ICF Branch 108
C 626 372-7812
E cas1810@aol.com

Montebello
St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Tanti Auguri per un Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti! A heartfelt Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Joyful, & Prosperous 2021 to everyone!

Since we still are not able to meet in person, our January General Meeting will be a Zoom meeting scheduled on Thursday, January 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Look for our January Branch 111 Newsletter with all the details about joining us at our Zoom Meeting.

We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of January: Anthony DeLorenzo, Cettina Mauro, Kalem Woolum, Joey Wadzinski, Frank Gomez, Frank Salomone and Rita Estrada. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

At this time we are not sure if our St. Joseph Table this year will be held as scheduled on Saturday & Sunday, March 20 & 21, 2021, or whether it will need to be rescheduled. We will keep you posted.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy. We wish all our ICF members and their families continued good health and happiness and we look forward to seeing all of you once we have the green light to gather again in person, hopefully soon. We pray for our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers.
Ciao! A presto.



Br.111.Jan November Meeting & Luncheon at Park



Br.111.Jan November Meeting & Luncheon at Park



Br. 111, October Mass for Living and Deceased ICF Members

*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



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



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

Ciao a Tutti

Heartfelt best wishes for a happy, healthy, joyful and prosperous 2021 to all.

I hope you all enjoyed the small token of our appreciation sent to you! With a little luck some of us could have a few more dollars in our pockets!

This pandemic has brought many changes to everyone's life. We will get through this. Let's not become discouraged. As we pray for a successful vaccine lets be mindful of what is in our power to do. This is a good time to take care of yourselves and to be kind to each other. In the words of St Padre Pio pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless.

There is so much to look forward to once this pandemic passes. We will soon be back to carrying out the good works of our branch.

Dues are now payable \$39.00 can be mailed to Nancy Donato 1718 Miracosta St San Pedro 90732

Our condolences to the family of Rita Castania branch member who passed away in December. May she rest in peace.

Save the date March 5 8 a.m. mass in honor of St John Joseph of the Cross.

Please continue to pray for a resolution to this crisis. Please keep our deceased and ill members in your prayers.

Anita Gioiello Trujillo Treasurer

Arcadia Holy Angels, Br. 218

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Our clothing drive was a great success thanks to everyone who donated either clothing or cash. Our approximate total profit was \$900.00. We will again have a drive sometime in the spring.

Jerry has scheduled a board meeting for this month and there will be more information coming out regarding future plans.

Watch for Jeane's newsletters.

Until next month,

Lolly M.

Claremont Our Lady of the Assumption, Br. 319

HAPPY NEW YEAR to All

It's a new year with new adventures. We are still fighting the Covid pandemic, praying it will end soon. Hopefully we can get some activities going for this year at the church, even I fit is just drive by.

We lost some members last year, Barbara and Tony Marino moved to sunny Florida to be closer to their children. We will miss them but wish them best of luck there. Also Helene Santia passed away and Dick her husband is not well. Keep him in your prayers.

The central council working on more virtual programs so we can keep up with them. I will communicate them to you as they come

Please keep well in this coming year, wear your mask and stay home when possible.

God bless.

Andrea Linn

President

Downey St. Raymond, Br. 362

Happy New Year to you all. Well, the Christmas rush is over, it's 2021 and I think it's gonna be great year. (cross my fingers). Lol.

If you haven't heard yet, our pastor, Fr John Higgins will be retiring at the end of June, but will remain at our parish as pastor emeritus. We will have a new pastor July 1.

It's hard to believe that it's January, but there are only 5 months left in our fiscal year and we haven't had a single fundraiser. Where will that leave us? Let's get creative and see how much we can raise. Everyone keeps asking me when will have Bingo again. Well, I just don't know but I hope it's soon.

Let's all stay safe and healthy and let's keep praying that we get rid of COVID soon.

Take care and God Bless.

Perry Shurko, Branch President.

Thousand Oaks St. Paschal-Baylon, Br. 380

Merry Christmas ICF Members!

As we get into the month of December we are all reflecting on what an unusual year it has been! We have really missed the camaraderie and friendship of our ICF Family!

We've missed our monthly meetings, events, parties, and our St. Josephs' Day fundraisers. The board came up with different ways to help the less fortunate during the holiday season.

The board has voted to give an additional \$250 to Saint Vincent de Paul from our branch funds. Another donation the board approved donation was \$150 to Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). We normally collect gifts and gift cards and participate in the Christmas Party for Cooley's Anemia patients - our ICF national charity.

After a lot of hard work Richard Interrante assisted in creating a new ICF National promotional video. Ryan Interrante helped in filming part of the

video. You will see some familiar faces in the ICF promotional video, too. It's really great and everyone involved should be very proud. Check out the new video at www.icf.org or by following this link:

<https://youtu.be/oOA5N3aEFRs>

The Board members gifted cannoli to all members in good standing as a Christmas gift. The cannoli were originally intended as a church fundraiser that was cancelled due to the pandemic. Members received the treat on Dec. 12.

We wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and wonderful blessings in the new year.

ICF Branch 380 Board

Manhattan Beach American Martyrs, Br. 447

Felice Capo D'Anno!

Br. 447 wishes everyone a Healthy & Happy New Year!

The Board is working hard to stay in touch with our wonderful members during these difficult times. On Dec. 5th, several Board Members met in the American Martyrs' parking lot to make gift bags for our members. We enjoyed working together to prepare gift bags and hand delivering the bags to members.

We celebrated Christmas at our General Meeting held on Dec. 19th on Zoom.

We felt blessed to have member John D'Isacco present on "The Nativity Story in the Gospels." He is a great joy to listen. He is extremely knowledgeable and engaging. The presentation was followed by a few Christmas Carols.

The gift bags included 5 free Bingo cards and a Bingo dauber. We played Zoom Bingo with the game winners receiving gift cards.

We also made our second cooking video, which we hope to edit and send to our members soon. In the second video we demonstrated penne pasta with sausages, mushrooms and tomatoes, a salmon in cream sauce with sundried tomatoes and spinach, and a caprese salad.

Our Sleeves Up Blood Drive is underway and will run through February 28, 2021, so there is still time to give the gift of life-saving blood. To schedule your donation, Google "Italian Catholic Federation SleevesUp" and make your pledge to give blood at a place and at a time of your choosing.

We have also continued Yoga & Art w/Monica sessions every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. 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.

Peace & Blessings,

Stephanie DeRaddo



Br. 447 Board Members making goodie bags for members.

OAKLAND East Bay District

Well we are ZOOMING into 2021! Hopefully by the time you read this we will be off of lock-down and be able to be outside and enjoy life a bit more.

Lisa Crudo reported that she sent the Spiritual Bouquet and Seminary Bursa from the East Bay and Contra Costa Districts to Bishop Barber; because of the Covid-19 restrictions we were unable to have a Mass and dinner.

Karen Rossi volunteered to become District Mentor and she encouraged others to think about taking on the role as Branch mentors as there is training available.

We are sad to learn of the death of Theresa Dianda, charter member of Br. #91, please keep the Dianda family in your prayers.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2021.

*Pat Grasso,
District Sec.*

Fremont St. Francis of Assisi, Br. 215

Happy New Year!!! I hope this month finds you all healthy and happy. God bless you all as we embark upon a fresh start for the year of 2021.

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

Unfortunately, we won't be attending the East Bay District Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed this year with our current restrictions, but I am looking forward to seeing all of you next year at this event. (I am so proud that it was named after my late father, David Rose, a wonderful man and dedicated ICF member!)

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 January and keep a positive attitude as we are all in this together!

*Dio ti benedica,
James Francis McGee
Vice President*



Livermore St. Philomena, Br. 285

I hope each of you had a blessed Advent in preparation for the holy season of Christmas. It may look very differently for your family's celebrations this year due to the Covid-19 shut down, but I'm sure each family will be able to welcome the Baby Jesus into their homes again this year.

If you have a chance to access on line the wonderful letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Oakland by Bishop Barber that was sent out in November, I highly recommend reading it. In it the Bishop offers many suggestions for worshipping in our homes, much like the early Christians, while our churches remain closed.

Our Branch continues to use Zoom as our form of communication. We are thankful that we can stay somewhat connected.

Our prayers continue for all health providers and members who are ill and house bound. We also offers prayers of thanksgiving for the Covid vaccine and all who contributed to the research and development.

This will be my last newsletter as I pass the baton to another member of our Branch. I have enjoyed writing this each month.

In closing, I pray each of you will be blessed this Christmas by your faith, family and friends and that the New Year will be one of PEACE.

*Ciao,
Judy Bates*

Castro Valley Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

Here it is 2021 and here we are hopefully emerging from our final lock-down. It has been a very long time since this Branch has been able to get together, but we are planning a ZOOM "Raise Your Glass" on Jan. 14, 2021!

Details were sent out to all members and we are looking forward to a nice turnout.

We were able to continue our support of Birthright by collecting new baby clothes and money for them and by Dorothy Cassi offering to by the drop-off point for collecting everything. Thank you Dorothy.

We would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership for 2021. Maybe we will get back to in person meetings and dinner soon.

We are sad to learn of the death of one of our members, Robert Hess, Sr., from Covid-19 complications. Please keep Maria and her family in your prayers.

Here's to a Healthy and Happy 2021 to all our ICF family.

*Pat Grasso,
Branch Sec.*

CONTRA COSTA District Council

Happy New Year from the Contra Costa District! Below is our list of officers for 2021. Members of CC District branches are welcome to volunteer if interested in one of the vacant positions. Thank you to those who served last year and welcome to those generous members who are stepping up this year!

Officers:

President: Patty Jarrett
First Vice President: Diana Mackinson
Second Vice President: pending
Secretary: Roberta Healy
Treasurer: Walter Costa
Orator: Deacon John Kortuem
Trustee: Dee Carone
Trustee: Toni Reeder
Trustee: Addie Beppler
Sentinel: Maria Catanesse-Helberg
Committee Chairpersons:
Convention: Rose Jarrett
Heritage: Mary Cook
Membership: Helen Politakes
Apostolic: pending

Information about the installation of officers as well as the details of our next district meeting will be emailed soon.

Please pray for our dear brother and former district apostolic chair, Roger Van Maren who recently passed away.

We wish you all a blessed New Year!

*Diana Letizia Mackinson, Branch 442
President, Pleasant Hill*

Martinez San Martino, Br. 13

The anticipation of the holiday season was a great one, as we had all four of us under one roof to celebrate the birth of Christ. It was a long time waiting for our children to return home from their different time zones. Now, we wish all a Happy New Year!

We celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1st, the Feast of our Patron, St. Elizabeth Seton on January 4th, and the Epiphany and the Feast of LaBefana on January 6th. We also celebrate the time we had together and bid a very fond farewell to our beloved parochial administrator, Fr. Anthony Huong Le, as he assumes his new Pastor's appointment at St. Joseph's Parish/old Mission San Jose in Fremont. St. Catherine of Siena has a revolving door. We seem to be a training ground for priests. We wish a warm welcome to Fr. Michael Nufable as our newest parochial administrator in Martinez.

Let's make it our New Year's resolution to wear masks, stay home as much as possible to minimize the spread of this virus so we can hug each other once again like Italian friends do, and continue to pray. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

—Jeremiah 29:11

Dues are payable, so please bring your account up-to-date if you haven't already done so. Thank you.

Ciao for now.

Mary Cook

Crockett San Carlo, Br. 14

Ciao Amici!

I'm sure that most of us are more than ready to put 2020 behind us, and are looking forward to returning to some aspect of "normal" at some point this year. While nothing is promised, we can still prepare for brighter days by rolling out one of our annual traditions...New Year's Resolutions. I've compiled a list of possible resolutions to get us started. No gym memberships, protein drinks, or diets required – I promise!

IN 2021, I WILL....

- 1) Offer to drive another ICF member to and from monthly meetings if they don't drive or don't drive in the dark.
- 2) Buy an ICF Calendar.
- 3) Attend at least 5 monthly meetings.
- 4) Invite and encourage someone to become a branch member.
- 5) Attend Mass before each of our monthly meetings.
- 6) Volunteer to help with at least 1 ICF meeting, project, or event.
- 7) Donate a prize/cash for one of our raffles or bingo.
- 8) Run for one of the officer positions (Really, we'd love to have you!)
- 9) Step up to be one of our Convention Delegates.

And most importantly,

- 10) Show grace and patience in my interactions with others during difficult times.

We also ask that you reach out to all our members who may be sick or in mourning. Simple cards, phone calls, and prayers mean the world to those in need.

Thank you to all our members and officers for your hard work and support in 2020.

Wishing you joy and peace in the New Year,

~Helen



Pittsburg San Domenico, Br. 72

Dear Members,

Here we are in a brand new year. May it be a healthy and happy year for all of us. We look forward to when we can have our regular branch events.

I hope you were able to attend the ICF Zoom Christmas party. It was enjoyed by all.

I am pleased to announce that the mentor program is back. And happy to tell you that Peggy Ailleo Hagerthy will return as our mentor. She gladly accepted the position. Thank you, Peggy!

There are a few branches in our district it in need of a mentor. If you are interested, contact Roselynn Jarrett.

The Central Council has advised branches that they may keep their same officers for 2021. If any officer wishes to step down, a new officer will be appointed. Otherwise, all offices remain the same.

No word on the 2021 Installation of officers. I will announce the plans once I receive them. Maybe it will be a Zoom installation. I will let you know.

I am pleased to announce that the mentor program is back. And happy to tell you that Peggy Ailleo Hagerthy will return as our mentor. She gladly accepted the position. Thank you, Peggy!

There are a few branches in our district in need of a mentor. If you are interested, contact Roselynn Jarrett.

We have a few ICF Calendars available for \$25.00 each. The branch profits \$5.00 from each one sold. You get 365 chances to win money. Call Patty if interested.

Many of you know Roger Van Maren from branch 442. Sorry to report he passed away last November. We offer Condolences to his wife Judie.

That is all for now, Stay tuned for more information as we move along.

And as we say in Pittsburg, Sempre Avanti.

*Your President and friend,
Patty*

Danville St. Isidore, Branch 352

As December drew to a close, we remembered our amazing Christmas Potlucks of years past, with all of their delicious homemade specialties, Bingo, entertainment and camaraderie. We are definitely blessed with a membership of great chefs – who love to cook! All of that pent-up energy will be on full display when we are finally able to celebrate together again in 2021! While we had great hopes of participating in our annual “sold out” January Crab Feed, we find that crab season has also been delayed. So, we’ll play that one by ear – and see if we are able to pull a rabbit (or crab) out of a hat, when restrictions are lifted. In the meantime,

the board will continue to explore ways to bring us together. Let us know if you have any creative ideas! Also, please reach out if you have any news to share or are in need of assistance.

Watch for your membership dues invoice, which will be mailed in January.

While we all sorely miss our monthly dinner gatherings and the friendships that we share, I’m sure we’ll cherish them even more when we are back together again. Here’s wishing our members, friends & families a very Happy New Year, filled with good health & happiness. Happy 2021!

*Ciao,
Branch 352*

Pleasant Hill Christ the King, Br. 442

Our Christmas meeting was held outdoors under the “Big Top” at Christ the King Church. Our president, Diana Mackinson, arranged for box lunches and several members joined in on the fun. It’s such a busy time for everyone so it was great seeing those who could attend.

The January meeting will be held on Sunday, January 10 at 1:30 pm. Bring a prayer to share for the New Year or what you hope for in 2021. You will receive an email as the date draws nearer.

If you still wish to purchase the ICF calendar, please contact Juliette Cote. Remember that \$5 of each calendar sale is realized as a profit to our branch. *Wishing you a healthy and happy 2021!*

*Buon Anno,
Teri Martinucci Hurlbut*

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Auburn St. Joseph, Br. 342

Happy New Year!! We hope that 2020 is filled with good health and happiness for all ICF members and their loved ones. We also hope the new year brings an end to the pandemic and that we will be able to gather soon.



Br. 342, Bridget, Adrianna, and MaryAnn show off the raffle baskets



Br. 52, Members with to-go bags for our Chicken-A-Go-Go dinner in November

In early December our branch held a drive through Pasta Dinner Fundraiser. We were able to serve over a 100 delicious dinners of pasta and sausage prepared by Chefs Lynne and James.

Thank you Lynne and James! We also want to thank MaryAnn, Colleen, Bridget, Adrianna, Judith, Sabrina and Lilly-Ann for helping out with this event. A special thank you goes to Norma Harris for sponsoring this event. Although we were not able to gather in person, it was a fun way to celebrate during these tough times.

Ciao!

Pam Andersen



Br. 342, Lilly-Ann was a great helper!



Br. 342, Sabrina and Judith directed cars through the drive through



Br. 342, Lynne and James prepare the sauce

SANTA ROSA District Council

Dear Members,

Thank-you Linda Sherman and Joe Bonino for submitting your Rosters and list of social activities for 2021, the list of activities subject to change. I enjoy hearing from all of you on our Board. I do keep in touch with our President Ken Marshall who contacts me often. He is always there to support and educate me. I am hoping that by January I will have heard from the other branches in our Santa Rosa District.

In the meantime, may I wish all of us as much joy that this season can produce, and looking forward to seeing all of you in the New Year.

*Respectfully yours,
Marilyn Sylvestri
Recording Secretary*

Healdsburg San Francisco Di Sales, Br. 52

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 12: Monthly Meeting. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Saturday, January 16: ICF Monthly Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Bill Jones has mailed the 2021 dues notices. We encourage everyone to renew their membership, promptly. The 2021 branch activity calendar and letter from Pres. Teri Rolleri are also included.

We are planning on having two Drive Through Dinners in the spring/early summer.

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

Continue to pray for an end to the virus.

Happy New Year! Let's hope 2021 is much better than 2020.

Lauren Kilcullen



Cloverdale **L'Annunciata, Br. 75**

Watching the joy of a child with her Halloween Hound flap its ears to "The Monster Mash" tune was a highlight of Oct. 31.

Then to see the same child delight in donning her Christmas pajamas as the tree lights turned bright, brilliant and magical. PG&E didn't light that tree. Her smile did!

Then this child was on a beach wrapped in coat, scarf & cap blowing the biggest bubble I've ever seen out to sea adding to the already glorious creation of God!

The first scene I saw in person. The other two were Facebook posts from my daughter and granddaughter! I'm there in spirit watching my 4th generation live and learn and love.

If I feel this connection to this child with my minuscule soul...with my infantile capacity to love and it nearly knocks me off my feet...just imagine how The Lord feels about us who has known us from all eternity! I can't begin to fathom it! Imagine the infinite capacity to love that is God!

Our branch has dodged COVID-19. However, the need for repairs hit some of our members hard. Raul Arreguin and Margaret Brown are healing nicely, but, Roger Schandel is being monitored closely for a serious medical condition. Our beloved Madam President, Claudia Cuneo, is undergoing surgery to alleviate chronic back pain. Keep these wonderful people in your prayers.

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over, The New Year will be in and we should be in the middle of stamping out this pandemic. God is in love with us and we with Him so I'm sure we'll all get through this. I'll be anxious to get this ICF Show back on the road!

Patsy Buchignani

Sonoma **St. Sebastian, Br. 103**

Hello Faithful Members!!

Notable days last month include: Hanukkah, Winter Solstice on Dec. 21st., Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. WE must all enjoy these beautiful holidays whether we are with a few or a few more. This is why I stress more

personal contact, whether it be by phone or e-mail. We can still stay safe and healthy if we comply with current protocol.

Hoping that we will be able to retain a good supply of members for next year. Have patience and we will be together soon for another Fundraiser.

AS of a few days ago, I have been receiving the Rosters for our Northern California Branches. I have yet to receive several others but it is an incentive to realize that our members are interested in performing their current positions. I appreciate any help that you have to offer as I have had no contact with the Santa Rosa District Council Board since last March and so much has happened. I will try to stay focused as January approaches. Our President, Ken Marshall contacts me often and keeps me informed and always offers help and support.

To all our past members of Sonoma #103 who have decided not to return I hope to see you in the New Year. There is always time to reconnect. We will find ways to lure you back into our lair!!

Wishing you all a Holy Christmas!

Regards,

Marilyn Sylvestri

Recording Secretary

Buon Capo d'anno.

Petaluma **St. Vincent's, Br. 127**

Greetings from Petaluma!

What a beautiful day in Petaluma! Got up, the sun was shining, the sky was blue, my garden is beautiful with its red roses and Mother Nature is at its best at this. It's great to be alive and to be able to enjoy what we have in life. Too many of us do not appreciate what God has given us. With Christmas having come and gone, we look to the New Year with thoughts of a pandemic that ends, and that we can get back to normal. Let us pray for this.

I hope that you all had a nice holiday with lots of distant loving and caring. We must remember to stay safe, to not let our guard down, wear our masks and think of others safety as well.

Marilyn and I went to see Sam Orlando for his birthday of 100 yrs. He looks great and we had a nice visit.

Sad news to hear that our Father Michael Raimondi has passed away. May God rest his soul and our condolences to his family. Glad to hear that Mary Ellen Higgins is home from the hospital and doing well.

Best wishes to anyone who is ill. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those celebrating. May God bless each and everyone of you lovely members in the New Year. May you be blessed with lots of joy, love and happiness. May the vaccine that is coming end this pandemic. Happy New Year!

Winter time reminds me of so many who are living out in the streets and their cars in this cold weather.

Many are having a tough time feeding their families, paying their rent. Pray for them to be able to find food and shelter, and if you can help anyone, now is the time to do it.

Pray for our service people, the homeless, our Country and the World. Pray for our new President Elect Biden to bring love, dignity and unity back to us.

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

Ciao,

Louise Vicino

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

Warmest greetings! In spite of this wide spread "crud" we do hope your Holidays were as pleasant as possible under the circumstances. Hopefully 2021 will bring us to a more normal resolution whatever "normal" is.

In an attempt to keep our branch on an even keel, we did have a Nominating Committee meeting consisting of 3 of us in masks and social distancing observed of course. We had a successful outcome in a short amount of time.

We have not yet attempted a ZOOM meeting but the idea of having one is in the mix.

Wishing all of the Birthday and Anniversary celebrants happiness and prosperity during the coming year from all of us to all of you.

Blessings and Peace be with you,
Judith Cardoza, Sec.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to 2021 and the promise of re-starting our meetings, dinners and fund-raising activities. We should look forward with a positive attitude and the certainty that GOD ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE.

If you have not already done so, please return your dues envelopes to Nancy Azevedo. Your continued membership will define what we do this year.

Every month in 2021 we offer a Mass at the Cathedral for our living and deceased members. Below is the schedule for 2021. Please try to attend these Masses.

Jan. 13	8:00 a.m.
February 15	8:00 AM
March 14	7:30 AM
April 18	9:00 AM
May 9	7:30 AM
June 15	8:00 AM
July 11	9:00 AM
August 16	8:00 AM
September 11	8:00 AM
October 12	8:00 AM
November 7	9:00 AM
December 14	8:00 AM

As soon as we are able to meet as a group, Linda Sherman and her officers

will send out a schedule and a proposed budget for the year.

Buon Anno,

Gail Bonghi-Azevedo

Sebastopol **St. Michael's, Br. 209**

Welcome 2021! With the vaccine being distributed for Covid-19, I think we're all feeling a little more optimistic as the new year begins, that life will get back to normal this year. I think we are all looking forward to that first time we are able to attend our 2nd Tuesday of the month ICF meeting.

I was looking for some ways to boost our spirits, and I came across these: Begin each day with prayer and intention, even before you get out of bed. Get some sort of physical activity a few times a week. Make that to-do list and have the satisfaction of crossing things off as you do them. Stay hydrated. Open your curtains first thing in the morning and let the natural light in - it flips on our bodies wake cycle. Listen to upbeat music. Put on a happy face; smiling stimulates the release of endorphins which make you feel good. End your day with gratitude. Something as simple as listing 3 good things that happened today. Finally, be the sunshine in someone else's day with a kind word, or a note or phone call.

Time to send in your dues for 2021. They are \$38.40 per person plus \$25.00 per person for the Hospitalization plan if you are enrolled in it. Send your check to Leona Spadoni at 3956 Gravenstein Hwy. So., Sebastopol, CA 95472.

I am sad to report that our branch lost another member. Bill Cole passed away on November 27th. Bill was a lifelong "volunteer". Besides ICF, he was very involved with St. Vincent de Paul and instrumental in getting the Sebastopol Skate Park built. He also loved to play in our bocce tournament. Please keep his daughter Kristine & son Timothy in your prayers.

Buon anno!

Sharon Vannetti

Deadline
for February Issue
is January 10th.

Send articles and
photos:
editor@icf.org

FRESNO

Madera
Santissimo Crocifisso,
Br. 27

Greetings to all members and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year! May 2021 bring abundant blessings to all.

Our Branch will have a Zoom meeting on January 12th at 7 p.m. Please watch for further meeting information in the January newsletter. A topic of discussion will be our annual orange sale fundraiser, which is planned for February 21st, circumstances permitting. The day before is usually a busy (and fun) one for picking, cleaning, and bagging the oranges. Please keep these dates in mind as we move into 2021.
Looking forward to the days ahead!
Felice Anno Nuovo,
Mary Keitz

Merced
St. Cecelia, Br. 39

With a vaccine on the horizon, our spirits lift. Let's continue to pray for a quick end to the pandemic. In the meantime, know you are missed. We pray for you and your family's well-being and good health.

It was unfortunate but understandable our Winter Wonderland was cancelled. We thank Chair Janet Dal Porto for her time and work planning it.

The biscotti fundraiser was its biggest success ever! Because all the ingredients were donated and therefore no expenses, our profit was \$3,112. This included two generous monetary donations from members. The money will fund our end-of-the-year charitable and church donations plus 2021 scholarships. Co-chairs Janet Pugliese and Maryellen Mazzei thank all their bakers and helpers: Anne-Marie Bandoni, Michael Belluomini, Lillian Dal Porto, Sandy Del Real, Sally Latorraca, Jan Lorenzi, Chris Martin, Patrice Marvulli, David Mazzei, Sr. Rachel Monteil, Ruth Redondo, Estella Reta, Diane Rogina-Layhee, Carol Salmeri,

Nancy Silva, Loretta Symes, and Mabel Willmon.

We appreciate our current officers all agreeing to continue in their positions for another year. They are: Michael Belluomini, President; Chris Martin, First V.P.; Maryellen Mazzei, 2nd V.P.; Sandy Del Real, Financial Secretary; Sally Latorraca, Treasurer; Mabel Willmon, Secretary; Anne-Marie Bandoni, Pattie Simas, and Dena Medeiros, Trustees; Carol Salmeri, Sentinel; and Sr. Rachel Monteil, Orator and Chaplain. Thank you. You all rock!

As we enter 2021, an important gift to us would be your renewing your ICF Branch 39 membership. We hope you do!

Keep members in your prayers. Think of phoning one.

Felice Anno Nuovo, Stephanie Lucich



Br. 39, Co-Chair Maryellen Mazzei with member Estella Reta, time the biscotti's second baking so they won't burn.



(L-r) Jan Lorenzi, Patrice Marvulli, Michael Belluomini, and Chris Martin from Branch 39, lay out the biscotti before baking.



(L-r) Sally Latorraca, Nancy Silva, Anne-Marie Bandoni, Ruth Redondo, and Chris Martin from Branch 39 have an assembly line going for their biscotti prep.



(L-r) Loretta Symes, Sr. Rachel Monteil & Co-Chair Janet Pugliese of Branch 39, package almost 300 dozen biscotti of 6 varieties for sale.



(L-r) Lillian Dal Porto, Diane Rogina-Layhee, David Mazzei and Mabel Willmon cut the twice-baked biscotti for their Br. 39 biscotti fundraiser.



(L-r) Jan Lorenzi, Patrice Marvulli, Michael Belluomini, and Chris Martin from Branch 39, lay out the biscotti before baking.



(L-r) Jan Lorenzi, Patrice Marvulli, Michael Belluomini, and Chris Martin from Branch 39, lay out the biscotti before baking.

Clovis
Our Lady of Perpetual
Help, Br. 250

As we enter 2021, peace, and good health to you all!

Happy Birthday greetings to Verona Deluca, Isabel Ronzano, Cynthia Silva and Ron Travis.

We continue with our history mini trips visiting countries represented by our members, and today we visit Ireland:

Ireland won its independence from England in 1922; nicknamed the "Emerald Isle" for its lush green fields." The head of government is the "Taoiseach" which means "Chief." It is now considered to be Europe's second wealthiest nation. Catholicism is the main religion unlike Northern Ireland which is primarily Protestant. Leprechauns are a huge part of Irish tradition that can fit on your shoulder and are believed to have buried numerous pots of gold throughout Ireland. Though considered Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick was born in England, kidnapped as a teenager and brought to Ireland. In the 1800s, Ireland experienced the "Great Famine" due to several years of a failing potato crop, their main food source. This resulted in a vast migration to other countries, millions of whom came to the United States (And tis taint nae blarney!)."

And finally, in these days of worry and concern due to the pandemic, we close with the following thoughts:

"Look at the world through eyes of hope
See every day as a promise"
Search for the beautiful,
Seek out life's best,
Follow the path of the rainbow"
Rejoice in the Lord, and have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Angelo Lavagnino



MONTEREY CENTRAL COAST

Santa Cruz Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

Buon Natale, Tutti. This New Year will be a healthy beginning though it may take some time to get back to normal. When we do, Branch 21 will truly have something to celebrate; and we haven't forgotten how to celebrate and have a good time!

Good news....all the ICF Calendars have been sold. Remember, with each calendar sale, our branch gets half the amount to put in our coffer. So we want to thank those who bought the calendars and also wish them good luck with the raffle.

Also, we send congratulations to our Branch 21 President Rebecca Rosser and all the board officers. It does take time, creativity, and lots of hard work to keep our Branch up and running. We thank the Board for their dedication and continued support.

We thought we would try to congratulate those who have birthdays each month as a little pick-me-up. So, for the month of January, we wish a Happy Birthday to Sue Della Santina, Gladys Cox, Rosa Radicchi, Carol Ghio, Johnnie Ghio, Martha Meuldijk, Angelo Raffaelli, Elizabeth Rafietari, Janet Wellersdick, and Roseann Costabile. God bless you and keep you well.

In closing, it is with sadness that we announce the passing of Ida Mungai, a longtime member and supporter of ICF and Branch 21. We extend our condolences and prayers to Don and his family. Emily Dickinson wrote: "Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality."

Patty Morelli
Secretary Branch 21



Br. 36, Holy rosary dedicated to deceased members

Monterey Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

ICF Br #36 Board would wish you a Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family with prosperity, good health and happiness in the coming year. We hope the New Year will bring us back together with our dinner/meetings hopefully this summer or sooner.

On November 24 we had Holy Rosary at San Carlos Cathedral (outdoors) dedicated to our 14 deceased members who passed away in 2020. Thank you, Jane Gasperson, Orator for organizing this Blessed even for our members and their families.

December 18, we had a Holiday Turkey take-out dinner at the Moose Lodge. Thank you, Peter John Curatalo and team who prepared our take-out dinners.

January 15, 2021 we will be having another take out dinner at the Moose Lodge. Please see website www.MontereyICF.org for details. The Board also are planning to have our Lenten dinner at Moose Lodge. These dinners too, will be take-outs.

We are saddened to report we recently lost three more ICF members, John Flynn, Carolyn Carlsen, Vincent Torrente. Our condolences to their spouses and families.

"With God all is possible" Matthew 19.26

Elaine Valentine
1st Vice-President, Branch 36



Br. 36, Carolyn Irene Carlsen



Br. 36, Vincent Torrente

Capitola St. Joseph's, Br. 227

Your prayers are requested for a speedy recovery for Carl Schaarschmidt, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Heidi Ambiel is recovery nicely at home after suffering a small stroke following hip surgery.

As we welcome 2021 we remember our members who passed away in 2020: Ken Waldvogel, Ida Lomazzi and Marilyn Beck.

A big thank you goes to our outgoing President/Vice-President Ellen Pauly for all her years serving on our Board, and to our Sentinel Monica Crowley for all her years of cooking and greeting each of our members before the meetings. Last but not least, to outgoing President/Vice-President Franklyn Lopes for all his work for our branch and the District.

I asked a few members about their New Year's resolution and here's what they replied:

Mike and Kathi Melville: *To clear our clutter.*

Bruce and Jean Dunn: *To spend more time together, although we have probably spent more time together than all of our years put together.*

Mary Lou Weidlich – *To maintain my sanity after 9 months of incarceration here at the Oaks.*

As for me, I resolve to have faith that God will bring us the end of this pandemic and I'll never ever have to wear a mask again.

May God bless all members of ICF.
Deanna Musler, Secretary



Br. 36, John Flynn

Paso Robles St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

It has been an honor and a privilege to report Teresa R. Sollazzo's thoughts on her heritage, ethnicity, and the ICF. This week we follow Teresa's life after the passage of a class in Citizenship and the Constitution, and proudly becoming a U. S. citizen.

Frank continued fishing. He sometimes travelled in the off-sardine season to the southern tip of Mexico for tuna, and as far north as Alaska for salmon.

We were blessed with three beautiful daughters, Catherine, Rose Anne, and Sara, who inherited our ideals, and determination. They married fine young men and combined our Italian heritage with German and Irish. Our eight wonderful grandchildren are successful as teachers, engineers, Army officers and business owners.

I am so proud of my Italian-American heritage, and I thank God for giving me 100 years of good health and happiness. As an ICF member for 14 years in Monterey, and 12 years in Paso Robles, I have filled my retirement life with friends, memories and charity work. My Catholic faith has become stronger and more meaningful.

I offer this biography in an effort to instill the continued benefits of our traditions, faith and heritage, which plays such an important part in shaping the lives of our families and the love which holds us together. Also, I hope to remind our younger generation of the lives we lived in order to be able to provide for them.

Yvonne Maddalena
Recording Secretary



Br. 354, Teresa R. Sollazzo celebrates 100th birthday

SAN JOSE

Santa Clara Valley District

How wonderful it is to see people respond with such generosity when the need is greatest. The Layette program is a fine example of that. Lorraine Nunziata coordinates the Branch 368 Layette Program and she collected hundreds of Layette items from branch members and some \$200 in donations. All of this was delivered to the Diocese of San Jose Layette Ministry Program on Sunday, December 6. Many needed newborns will benefit from the volunteers that gave into the program. Lorraine also was meeting weekly for the Santa Teresa Church Layette group (that Arlene Lopez coordinates). That was before Covid 19 shut it down. They also collected an array of layette items which were delivered to the Diocese Layette Ministry. The collection process was extremely curtailed but non the less accomplished. The only thing missing was the hot drinks and home-made cookies and of course the entertainment.

Not much going on at the district level. We did manage a zoom session for our Christmas Mass thanks to Fr. George.

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

Branch 28 member Frank Angelino drew the membership winning ticket for the \$75 gift certificate to Mama Mia's Italian Restaurant in Gilroy that went to member Christine Shackel.

Frank is a born and bred Gilroyan who has been a Br. 28 member since 2007 and has been involved in civic organizations over the years as both trustee and board member. Among those organizations are St. Louise Regional Hospital, Gilroy Foundation, Gavilan College Educational Foundation, Rebekah Children's Home and Gilroy Elks Lodge. Also, he is an active parishioner of St. Mary Parish and past president of St. Mary's Men's Club. He also serves as chief beverage coordinator at Br. 28 events.

Frank retired after 36 years from his position as Sales Manager/GM of KBAY-KEZR Radio in San Jose. His high position in the organization was always brought home when during the Holidays he was one of the people that would over the airwaves extend Happy Holiday wishes. Frank knew well the



Br. 28-Left to right: Pat Cordich, Chris Filice and Chris Shackel



Br. 28-Frank Angelino drawing the membership drawing winning ticket for the \$75.00 gift certificate to Mama Mia's Restaurant in Gilroy.

much loved and respected radio personality Lissa Kreisler from KBAY whom he says was the same on the air as off the air. Thank you, Frank.

Chris Shackel the winner of the membership drawing has been a Br. 28 member for 10 years. Chris Shackel along with Chris Filice and Pat Cordich in the adjoining photograph are three of our Br. 28 members who are always ready and willing to lend a hand in branch efforts, and in difficult times when it is all hands on deck it is wonderful to know that they are there.

Peace and God Bless,
Kim M. Filice

Los Gatos St. Mary, Br. 184

Denise Antonowicz, President

What a year, who would have thought that 2020 would have been a year so fraught with fear, anxiety and uncertainty. What we did have was a show of our faith that all will be OK (eventually) and that our lives may have changed but our strength is our belief in God and our families. I found this poem from the website 30 Seconds and thought it was so appropriate.

Happy New Year! May this year finally bring us peace, good health and being together with our loved ones. And thank you so much for your generosity in supporting our Scholarship Fundraiser! As always may God bless you and the Italian Catholic Federation.

San Jose

St. Francis Cabrini, Br. 191

A Happy Holiday and Season's Greetings to all our ICF members and their families. May we continue to stay safe and healthy during the COVID crises.

In the month of December, our Branch bestowed special honors to two of our members. Our Recognition Award was given out during our Zoom Meeting in December. The award began in 2008, by then President Aldine Grisenti. Aldine stated the award is nominated, discussed, and voted upon by the Board. The award is to recognize outstanding dedication, performance, and commitment to our Branch. The award can be to a single member, multiple members, or couples.

Our First Award winner of 2020 was Bob Basuino. There are so many positions Bob has held, including President of Branch #191, chairing dinner dances, cook, raffle master, bocce tournament, and anything else to lend a hand. He is currently President of our SCV District, on the Central Council, and Past Grand President. In each office, Bob has demonstrated the skill and knowledge of getting the project accomplished. He is our "Go To Person". Congratulations to Bob for many, many years of service.

Julie Midwin, our current Orator, was our other award winner. During the pandemic Julie provided our branch members with a spiritual Up-Lift. Each and Every Day, there is an E-Mail message of encouragement, hope, and enlightenment. She is quick to notify us of a sick member, or one who has gone to be with the Lord. Julie, yes, you have kept our members out of the darkness during this stressful time.

My Best Wishes for a Christmas filled with love, peace, and sincere joy.
Shirley Catania
Sentinel

Welcome, 2021!

Since the calendar is always changing
And our priorities keep re-arranging,
Hour after hour, week to week
It is extra time that we seek.

Though the end of 2020 is near
Ahead of us is a brand new year.

Let's catch up and spread some cheer,
Get our goals and life into gear.
Banish anxiety and fear,
Make opportunities appear,
Maybe change our career?

Whether it's April, June or December,
It is special people we want to remember.
This message should be loud and clear.
In 2021, hug, albeit virtually, someone dear.

Sure, no one can make time stand still,
But we get another 365 days to fill
With joy, peace and laughter
So we can live happily ever after!



Br. 191, Time to get to work....



Br. 191, A bounty of good treats



Br. 191, Shirley Catania and Frank Rando spending time at Andy's Orchard

San Jose
Santa Teresa de Avila,
Br. 368

Happy New Year, everyone! May you receive many blessings during 2021, and may the pandemic be banished. May God rain many graces upon you.

Joyce Robba, our first vice-president, and her crew of parish helpers, many of them our branch members, collected 170 turkeys to help 324 adults and 300 children enjoy their Thanksgiving dinners. The workers distributed 106 food boxes. Joyce faithfully spearheads the campaign every holiday, overcoming the special challenges of a year like 2020. What an enormous job! Thank you, Joyce, and all who helped her, for your faith and your goodness.

Thank you also to Ron and Jackie Morton for the beautiful quilts that they make by hand and donate to our branch for our fund-raisers and to the layette program. A seamstress since she was 8 years old, Jackie uses patterns for her quilts, but Ron makes his own designs. Working independently from each other, they donate about 25 quilts a year to our parish and various other charities through Piece by Piece Quilters' Guild. Jackie says it takes about a week to produce a quilt from start to finish.

Lorraine Nunziata and the layette ladies collected hundreds of items for newborns, plus \$200.00 in donations, to donate to the Diocese of San Jose Layette Ministry Program on December 6. Lorraine and her group have been preparing items to give to new mothers for many, many, years. Thank you, ladies!

Felice Anno Nuovo from Branch #368!
Judy Zahn

San Jose
St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

Happy New Year to all our dear members and friends! In December, Branch 391 presented a donation to St. Martin's toward the purchase of a canopy for holding celebration of mass outdoors. Fr. Saju thanked all of us for "our generosity and goodness" and wanted to share his gratitude to our members.

Although we did not have a Christmas celebration with members, our branch presented our annual donations to the following: St. Martin's Parish and Food Box Program, ICF's Gifts of Love, St. Vincent de Paul, Layette Program, and Sacred Heart Nativity School. We also presented gifts to Father Saj and Father Gener for their continual love and support.

Thank you, Marcie Rossi, for sending out the zoom invitation to Santa Clara Valley District's online mass. It was appreciated by all.

Looking forward to sharing prayers and laughter in the coming months. *Wishing you all a Blessed and Healthy New Year!*

Janis Patellaro



A sampling of the layette items that Branch 368 has donated to the Diocese of San Jose Layette Ministry.

Sunnyvale
Resurrection, Br. 408

Wishing a Blessed and Happy New Year to all our Members!

We ask the Lord to Bless us and Keep us in the New Year.

Thank you to all our Generous Blood Donors for Winter Blood Drive. We welcomed 29 Donors to the Stanford Bloodmobile which was once again parked in the Farana Center Parking Lot on a rather chilly morning. Stanford Hospital's need for units of whole blood continues despite of the Pandemic. We also thank Al Chanteloup and Kate Shimshock for spending their Saturday helping coordinate the Blood Drive. ICF hosts its first blood drive of 2021 on Saturday, 6 March.

We held a Zoom Christmas Get together which Sandra Coordinated for us – Thank you Sandra! A good time was had by all.

We look forward to a vaccine and a year of relaxing COVID rules.

Please Pray for our sick Members: Dave O'Hara, Steve Richey, Patricia Look, Paul and Dori Blefari

Morgan Hill
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Br. 435

As I am writing this we have gone back to the shelter-in-place scenario. This will be in effect through the end of the year and after the New Year. A vaccine is ready for approval and hopefully, this will be the beginning of the end for Covid-19. In speaking with some of our members we are all feeling the same emotions and we long for things to get back to normal. Please keep doing the right thing and we will get there soon.

We had a smaller gathering at Thanksgiving and will probably have the same for Christmas. Still, we are all in good health and doing the right things to keep staying that way.

Many of our other branches are having fundraisers and we hope many of you will support these efforts but we really need all of our members to be current in their membership dues and renew their membership for 2020 and 2021. We will be out of this situation soon and get back to our monthly meetings. So, please keep the faith.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year (2021 can't get here soon enough)

Felice Anno Nuovo!
Maryclaire Sampognaro



Br. 445 Bill and Barbara Howell pitch in to make sandwiches for the homeless.



Br. 445 John and Loretta Sellarole ready to hand off their completed sandwich kit for distribution to Br. 445 Pres Jim Falcone



Br. 445 Chic Cannon and Loretta Miller doing their part to support our Sandwich Ministry.

San Jose
Transfiguration, Br. 445

Our continued appreciation and thanks to our many Branch members who regularly support our weekly Sandwich Ministry for the Homeless.

Many thanks to all who participated in Branch 445's Sees Candy Winter Fundraiser. Total sales came to approximately \$2600 with a profit of just under \$600. A big THANK YOU also to those members who made monetary donations outside of the candy sales to help make our fundraiser a success! A special shout-out to Jen Nisich who has consistently been our top Branch seller through the years. Jen usually accounts for at least 25% of sales and profits all by herself!!

Many thanks to Br. 445 President Jim Falcone who summarized this fundraiser report, designed and distributed the Candy sale flyers, spearheaded the candy orders and was our own Santa delivering the candy senza a sleigh and reindeer!

Buon Capodanno a tutti!!

May La Befana bring you gifts, candy (and not coal) on January 5th the Eve of the Epiphany!

Stay safe and stay well.

Submitted by
Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

STOCKTON

Modesto
St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

We are starting out the New Year with all our activities being canceled. We are still finding other ways to do a little fund raising. We are hoping and praying that we will be back to normal soon. I should say our new normal because things have changed. I hope by May, when we usually have our bake sale, things will have change enough that we will be able to have the Bake Sale.

On November 13, 2020 our member Caterina Bertolotti passed away. She was born June 1, 1916. She was 104 years of age. Her daughters Marie and Patty took very good care of her the past few years. She was a member of the ICF since March 24, 1963. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

On November 26, 2020 Antonia Holguin passed away, she was the mother of our member Ermelinda Zamora and grandmother of the Zamora children who are all members of our branch. Please keep the Zamora family in your thoughts and prayers.

On a happier note I became a Great Grandmother on November 16, 2020. I now have a beautiful great grandson.

I hope you and all your families have a healthy and safe New Year!

Cecelia McGhee

Lodi St. Anne's, Br. 82

Felice Anno Nuevo, ICF Famiglia!

Finally, it's 2021! We're still dealing with some 2020 issues, but with the grace of God, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

With the new year, comes new officers for our branch. Appreciation goes out to our past officers for guiding our branch through a difficult year. Deacon Karl Welsbacher, we are grateful for your continued spiritual encouragement. Congratulations to the following, and thank you for accepting your positions. I look forward to working with you from a new perspective. President – Patty Litts; 1st Vice President – Tony Vaccarezza; 2nd Vice President – Julia Baumbach; Secretary – Pat Martinelli; Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Elisa Moberly; Orator – Stephanie Kaehler; Sentinel – Lou Fugazi; Trustees – Lisa Fugazi, Carl Maggio, Grace Puccinelli.

Our first online fundraising experience through Boon Supply was a success, raising \$227. Grazie to those who supported the branch. Enjoy your purchases!

ICF 2021 "Family Travel Memories" calendars are available for \$25, of which \$5.00 stays with our branch. Remember, this also includes a raffle ticket for monthly cash prizes. To purchase, contact Elisa Moberly.

Hopefully, we will see each other soon at a branch meeting either through Zoom or in person. In the meantime, if the need arises, please reach out to our officers. We are here to help you and to serve ICF, our church, and our community.

Alla tua salute!

Patty Litts, President

Tracy St. Bernard's, Br. 390

We want to say a very big thank you to Branch 390 member Elaine Thornton for her donation, in memory of her late husband Melvin Thornton, who passed away on April 9, 2019. We greatly appreciate that she thought of us during these trying times we are living through right now.

Our ICF drive-through Holiday Take Out Dinner brought big numbers. On Thursday, December 10th, we had over 225 dinners delivered to happy eaters! Another very big thanks to all the members and their friends who donated their time - especially Mike Bacchetti and crew - to make this a huge success. Our menu: Italian Roasted Chicken, Pasta Pesto, Salad, Roll and even Dessert! We have missed you all and appreciate your support.

Quote from our branch's own Chuck Tuso offers encouragement to all:

Jesus was the ultimate affirmer. Too often we focus on the bad or on how we can improve and on how others should improve. But Jesus affirms and encourages us all the time. How can you encourage or affirm others...?

and

Imagination....is the eye of the soul.

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*

Stockton Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

As a branch, a church, a city, and a nation, we've all been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent health and economic crisis. 2020 was a challenge, but as we enter 2021 there is a new sense of hope; a lot like the Epiphany, when we celebrate the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and also celebrate Jesus' birth.

Our 2021 officers will be officially installed a little differently this year, but their commitment to their positions is the same. Thank you all again for retaining your positions for another year.

On behalf of the members of Branch 395 we wish you a buon anno that is safe and healthy for all.

*When you're at the end of your rope,
tie a knot and hold on.*

-THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Alla prossima,

Mary Ann

Angels Camp St. Patrick's, Br. 413

Happy New Year to all our ICF Family!! May God bless us all with His peace and joy!

We have put together our calendar of events and meetings for this new year, and with God's grace, we plan to keep moving forward.

This year has been a very difficult year for many of us in the ICF. Branch 413 has had its share of these difficulties. On Sunday, November 29th, God took home another one of the long time members of Branch 413, Eleanor Darby. She was Treasurer for the branch for many years. We will miss her presence at our monthly meetings and all of our events. May God rest her soul in His peace.



A collage of pictures from Br. 390 walk-up dinner. First picture is our President Anita Ridolfi selling calendars to one of the customers. 2nd Picture is of Chief Mike Bacchetti and helper getting the cooked half chicken from the roaster. The 3rd picture is of our volunteer members making up the takeout containers. The 3rd picture is of our members putting the containers in bags and giving them to our customers.



Br. 217, Zoom chat with Santa



Branch 413, Eleanor Darby

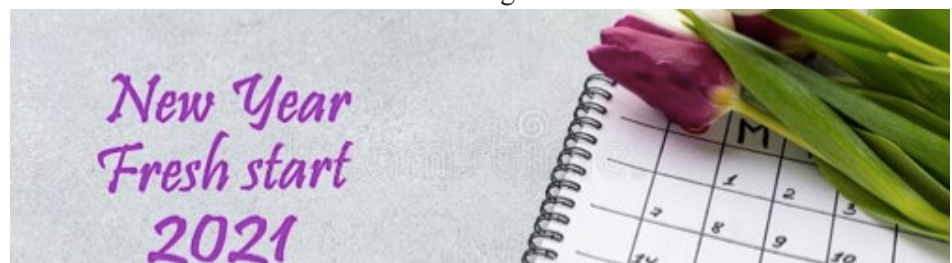
Please keep Eleanor and her family in your prayers, and all of our ICF members and families. Thank you.

*Ciao, Annette Pachinger
Correspondence Secretary*

SAN BERNARDINO

Redlands Sacred Heart, Br. 217

Branch 217 of the Italian Catholic Federation had its first ever Virtual Santa via Zoom. We had over 20 children attend the Zoom video conference, and each had a chance to meet with Santa and tell him what they would like for Christmas. Santa (Paul Behrens, Branches 217 and 210) chuckled several times his jolly "Ho-Ho-Ho!" while the children laughed. Santa told them about his humble beginnings and how the Lord sent him to earth to make toys for little girls and boys. There was a period of question and answer afterwards. We are grateful for our Santa and his gift to the Italian Catholic Federation.



Officer Training Available

Attention ICF Officers!

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

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



DEADLINE

January 10th for
February Issue of the ICF Bollettino
Submit your articles and photos to
editor@icf.org

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

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

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

It is important to remember that all Districts and Branches now have two numbers - a Federal Tax ID Number for any forms filed with the IRS and a State Tax ID Number for any forms filed with the State.

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2020 is the following:

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

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

The State limit for the tax year ending 2020 is the following:

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

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

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

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2021. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

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

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

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2020. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

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

Thank You,
Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Grand Treasurer

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