

BOLLETTINO



A Novel Approach To Fundraising, ICF-style

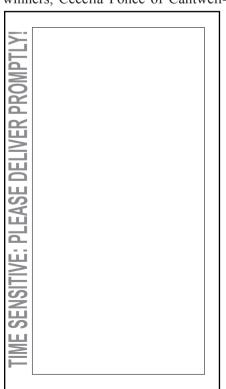
Karla Haynes Rivera, Branch 108

When it came time to brainstorm for a December fundraising event to support the parish's Adopt A Family program, the branch was temporarily stumped; then an idea was born. Rather than past years' luncheon to raise funds, members were asked to donate a bottle of wine from their cellars in order to put together a gift of 12 bottles to raffle off. ICF members were so generous that a total of 24 bottles of wine were donated in all, allowing for



Jacqueline Ficht of Holy Family

two prizes to award! A subcommittee oversaw development of a flier that went out by email throughout the parish to advertise the big event: a virtual wheel-of-fortune-style game where donors could see their name on a wheel representing the number of tickets they had purchased. Spaces were purchased via a button on the parish website at a cost of \$10 per space or three spaces for \$25. Donors tuned in to a live Zoom feed for a festive Christmas toast and to watch the wheel spin. Two lucky winners, Cecelia Ponce of Cantwell-



Sacred Heart of Mary and Jacqueline Ficht of Holy Family, each received a case of wine valued over \$180 to enjoy during the holidays or to spread over the coming year. Branch 108 was pleased



Cecelia Ponce of Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary

with the success of the modest event, which exceeded the fundraising goals. Branches that are limited in the types of fundraisers that can be held secondary to the pandemic could consider trying a fundraiser similar to this one. The time and effort required was minimal and the returns were great. Branch 108 was able to adopt two families and set aside the remaining funds for the next worthy cause.

Karla Haynes Rivera ICF Branch 108, Holy Family, South Pasadena

Happy Valentine's Day ICF

Nancy Corsi, Heritage Chairperson

Hoping everyone is staying healthy, well and engaged with family and friends. Though we cannot be together we can still be connecting.

When I think of our Heritage and what it means, it provides me such comfort with thoughts and wonderful memories of what makes us who we are and who we have become over the years. One of the beautiful components of the ICF is really getting to know our "other" family.

I have been a member of the ICF for 47 years. I guess you could say I grew up in the ICF, met my husband (member of ICF), we had our family and now our grandchildren all because of my Heritage.

Keeping in touch with our family members is so important even in these challenging times. Just a quick check in over a cup of coffee is so appreciated and truly a part of who we are.

Heritage translates as something transmitted or acquired from a predecessor, tradition, customs or the traditions, achievements, and beliefs that are part of the history of a group or nation.

Many of our members have varied heritages which makes it exciting to learn about each other and what makes us joyful about who we are. One of our sons had the opportunity to spend 6 weeks in Europe while he was in college and when he came home he said, "now I understand why we do what we do." When we asked him what that

meant, he said, "I felt so comfortable and at home when I was in Italy." It was the only country where I truly felt at ease and now I just get it. Everything that we did as a family, and in our home with meals, connections, respect and consideration for others is because of how we were brought up. It comes from our long time family connections.

As I think about connections, I urge each and every branch to reach out to your members, check in and see how they are. We are all more isolated now and the connections are of vital importance. Be creative when you can. I hate Zoom meetings......used to think they were fun, but no more and especially because not everyone is technologically connected.

BUT the phone, now we all get that concept. Now more than ever it has become more important. Celebrate what you can. We have a branch in Central Coast District that had an outdoor rosary at their parish to honor and remember their members. They included the priest and some taped music and was such a wonderful, appropriately distanced event and really meant so much for those that attended. The branch Heritage Chairperson shared this event update with me.

Please feel free to reach out to me or other members of the Heritage Committee: Andy Pappani or Russ and Louise Vento to share ideas to help keep all of us engaged with our family connections.

Nancy Corsi

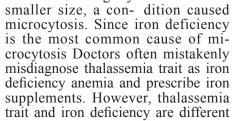
Thalassemia Cooley's Anemia Trait

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

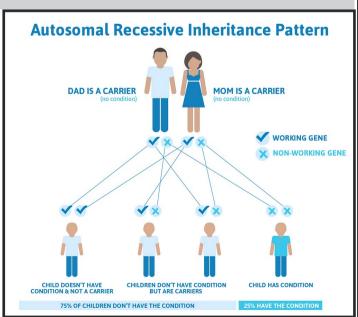
I halassemia is common in parts of the world where malaria is prevalent

because thalassemia trait (also known as thalassemia minor) has protective mechanisms against malaria.

Thalassemia trait causes red blood cells to be a slightly



Continued on Page 6









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 format. Those submissions not sent in an electronic format or those articles sent in the mail will not be used.

Finally, a reminder that ALL branch and district reports need to adhere to the 250 max word count requirement or they will be shortened or possibly excluded entirely based on editor judgement.

Limit photos to 3 or 4 and include captions. 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.

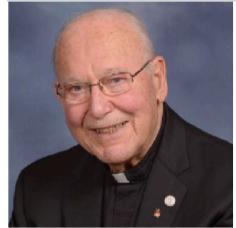
Please keep your submission positive and informative.

March issue deadline is February 10, 2021. Deadlines fall on the tenth of the month except for the combined August/September issue

Thank you!

No Need to Worry, Help Was Always Here!

Monsignor Daniel Cardelli ICF Spiritual Director



A vocation to the priesthood comes to each priest in a different way. Nobody gets a telegram directly from God. Each priest has a unique story to tell. Let me share my story with you.

I trace my call to the priesthood all the way back to before I made my First Communion. I was in St. Patrick's Church in Fall River, Massachusetts, at Mass. I was very little. I guess I was about five or six. I know I was so little because I couldn't see the altar except between the shoulders of two adults who were in the pew in front of me. I remember I could just see the priest at the middle of the altar. It was at the consecration of the Mass. I heard the bell ring. The celebrant raised the host and I, in awe, said to myself, "That is God."

From that time on, at various times throughout my childhood, I had the thought that I might want to be a priest. I didn't tell anyone, but eventually my family found out that I had leanings in that direction.

One day, my mother said to me, "Go down to visit your grandmother." She lived down the street from us, and all her children were grown up and married. So she was living alone in her "empty nest." What great memories her home had for me! Throughout the years her family, children and grandchildren, would come together for the major holidays. I remember my siblings and cousins and I all sat at the "children's table." What great feasts they were. So much delicious Italian food!

So, at my mother's suggestion that day, I trotted down the street and arrived at Nonna's house. I sat with her for a visit in her living room. She was born in Italy and did not ever learn how to speak English. Eventually, she asked me in Italian what all grandmothers usually ask their grandchildren, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" And I answered her with conviction, "Prete." (Priest) Then she smiled and leaned over and gave me such a big hug that

I can still feel it to this day! Her love and her pride was evident to me even at my young age. When our visit was over, I walked back home with such warmth in my little heart and then went on with daily life. It's a cherished memory that I relive often.

My four brothers and I all went to public school in Fall River, Massachusetts. When I graduated from the eighth grade, I asked my mother to send me to a Catholic high school so I might be able to discern whether I had a vocation to be a priest. Money was tight for a family with five boys, but my mother agreed that they would find a way. At that time, 1944, there was only one Catholic high school in the city and you had to know how to speak French to go there. So I enrolled at Monsignor James E. Coyle High School in Taunton, Massachusetts, a long bus ride away from our home. Then after my sophomore year, my family moved to South San Francisco, California. I enrolled in Serra High School in San Mateo, California, another long bus ride from home. It was a new school, and my class was the first class to go all four years and the second graduating

It was a perfect move for me to help me on my journey to be a priest. Every class at Serra was taught by a diocesan priest. It was just what I needed. I could almost feel God's grace guiding me. For some unknown reason, I knew even before we moved to California that I wanted to be a parish priest. I can't explain it. I just knew in my heart that, if I had a vocation, it was to be a parish priest. I had the example and guidance of the diocesan priests at Serra to help me make my decision

So, in my junior year I decided to go to the seminary. I didn't tell anyone. After graduation, my classmates were surprised at my answer when they asked me what college I was going to go to. I had been president of my class and captain of the football team, plus MVP in my senior year, so everyone was curious about my plans "for greatness."

"What are you going to do?" they asked. I answered, "I am not going to college. I am going to the seminary to be a priest." They were more than amazed! So as the saying goes, "The rest is history." However, it is not history. The rest is another story.

I thank God for my vocation. Being a priest was not always easy, but never did I want to be anything else. In my youth, I felt that the Blessed Mother guided me through the process; and when I was ordained on June 15, 1957, I imagined that Mary said to her Son,

Here he is, so you take over. I will pray for him and protect him as a mother should. But he is yours now!



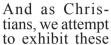
Grand President's Monthly Message

Vince Piro

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

We know these words of St. Paul well. We have heard them spoken at Sunday masses, wed-dings, funerals, and other occasions. They resonate with us.



qualities in our daily lives. I would also like to suggest that these are essential qualities of the ICF.

The Federation is first and foremost grounded in our Christian Faith and it is this faith that gives us hope in our ability to transcend our human failings as we join as a community of believers. How do we transcend? Through love.

This is the love we have for our fellow human beings because we see Christ in them.

In so much of what we do, our love of others motivates us at the Central Council, district, and branch levels. I know I have discussed this before. However, it never fails to impress me how much members of the ICF show their love for others, especially for those less fortunate.

Local branches run food pantries for those suffering from hunger, work with Catholic Charities to provide financial support for those suffering from poverty, and gather clothing and coats for the homeless without shelter during cold winter months.

At a national level, the Federation's Gifts of Love program provides financial assistance to developmentally disabled children and adults seeking to achieve greater independence in their lives to the Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia) program, we have donated over \$2 million dollars to date, providing for numerous outreach and other activities. Our love for others has done much to better the lives of others.

I bring this up because I feel it is important that we acknowledge the source of our strength: faith, hope, and love, the greatest being love. Let us continue to show love for each other and for those in our communities. And when someone asks what is the Federation known for...Let the answer be "love."

Robyn and I wish you all a blessed and wonderful St. Valentine's Day.

We also want to encourage you to attend the ICF Valentine's Day Celebration on February 12th. It will be held via Zoom. More details can be found in this issue, on ICF's website, and on the ICF Facebook page.

Vince

Membership Reflections Perry Shurko

Membership Chair

 ${f A}$ year ago this month, a group of ICF members from the Los Angeles district and Central Council spent the last weekend of February in Anaheim

attending the Religious Education Congress. They were not just attending, but networking from our booth trying to attract new members and gain new



We even had a new slide show to highlight our organization. We talked to seminarians who were delighted to see us there. They remembered us from the many Bishop banquets that have been held at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. We chatted with priests and pastors who were interested in a branch for their parish, and we even got a nice surprise visit from Archbishop Jose Gomez. We managed to sign up a few new members for our National Branch #67. Also, we met an interesting gentleman from Wells of Life, which inspired those of us there to nominate the Wells of Life founder for the Pope St. John XXIII award for 2020, which he won. The weekend concluded with a visit from an Italian priest who was visiting from Rome, not just Rome, but the Vatican. He's the official papal editor, and he donated a collection of Vatican books to the ICF.

Well, it wasn't long after that all Hell broke loose in the world, and everything shut down. Our organization had to figure out what to do, and we did. We discovered a new meeting format called Zoom. The Central Council and districts and branches soon began having regular Zoom meetings. Some branches got creative and were still able to have fundraisers. We were able to even have the Convention by way of Zoom. It's worked out, but as we know, we've lost some members. That's the hardship we're dealing with. The Membership committee and the Expansion committee were so looking forward to getting in contact with the pastors on our potential new branch list. Alas, we'll have to wait a while longer. There's definitely hope, and we all need to do our job by staying safe and pray that this all ends

Here we are, February 2021, a year later, and Religious Education Congress is going to begin in a few weeks. Like many events, the congress has gone virtual. The ICF won't be there this year, but I hope to be back again in 2022. Our flame has not gone out. It's still burning but maybe a little dimmer. So, it's all of our jobs to stoke that flame, keep that fire burning brighter than ever.

Perry Shurko, Membership Committee Chairperson

Mother Cabrini Shrine

Carmelo Sabatella, LA Archdiocese District

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 November 13, 2021 with a Mass and Pilgrimage. A luncheon will be included depending on the status of the 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 "Fran-

ces 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! Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President ICF LAADC Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee: cas1810@aol.com C 626-372-7812



I will go anywhere and do anything in order to communicate the love of Jesus to those who do not know Him or have forgotten Him.

-Frances Xavier Cabrini

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

Received as of January 10, 2021:

N MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:

Jim, Patty and Rose Jarrett Roger Van Maren Theresa Dianda The Antonowicz Girls Hank Scarpelli Officers/Members of Br. 342 Lady Theresa Dianda Jo-Ann and John Donivan Theresa Dianda Franklyn Lopes, Jr. Theresa Dianda Giovanni and Nancy Corsi Theresa Dianda Richard and Marilyn Graham

Hank Scarpelli Bob Basuino Lady Theresa Dianda **Bob Basuino** Jim and Janice Jones Theresa Dianda

Theresa Dianda Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn Lopes, Sr.

Theresa Dianda John and Delma Bulotti

Theresa Dianda Helen Dianda Theresa Mary Dianda Linda Boicelli

Rosalind Crudo Officers/Members of Br. 343 Officers/Members of Br. 343 Victor Pasquini Bea Van Wetter Officers/Members of Br. 343 Robert Hess Officers/Members of Br. 343 Mike and Marcie Rossi **Danette Curtis** Angela Cosentino Ed and Jo Bertaccini Angela Cosentino Denise Antonowicz Louise Vicino Denise Antonowicz Angela Cosentino Jim and Janice Jones Louise Vicino Al and Deanna De Nurra Theresa Dianda Diana Bacigalupi Nellie Picolotto Diana Bacigalupi

GET WELL WISHES:

Teresa Helfand Giovanni and Nancy Corsi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Reverend Monsignor Daniel Cardelli Officers/Members of East Bay District

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:

***A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 191 - San Jose. ***

*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.

In Loving Memory (Report as of January 8, 2021)

ı)	, · · ·	• '	
	Eyda Z Giachetti	Branch 007	Robert S Cowan	Branch 184
	Robert R Pallotta	Branch 014	Domenic B Norcia	Branch 184
	Rod Seigle	Branch 021	William J Cole	Branch 209
	Sylvia B Gomes	Branch 027	Mary Favuzzi	Branch 213
	Camille R Overstreet	Branch 027	Vincent Jura	Branch 250
	Eleanor Andreotti	Branch 032	Diego Santia	Branch 319
	Mamie Mortillaro	Branch 032	Helene P Santia	Branch 319
	Maria Favaloro	Branch 036	Robert Hess	Branch 343
	Josephine Rappa	Branch 036	Steven J Gouig	Branch 352
	Carol Tefertiller	Branch 036	Arline Norsworthy	Branch 391
	Maria Teresa Bravo	Branch 067	Rita A Sanchez	Branch 391
	Rita Castania	Branch 115	Ann M Gardner	Branch 403
	Louise F Vicino	Branch 127	Eleanor M Darby	Branch 413
	Danette Curtis	Branch 138	Vito Palella	Branch 418
	Yvonne Bonacorsi	Branch 184		

Scholarship Donations

Received as of January 10, 2021:

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS - 1ST YEAR

ICF Spouses' Association In memory of Theresa Dianda

Pat and Lou Mages

In memory of Theresa Dianda

B.G. and Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Carmen and Larry Kilcullen

In memory of Theresa Dianda Lauren Kilcullen

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Mike and Marcie Rossi

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Bob and Kathy Acquistapace In memory of Theresa Dianda

Ed and Amy Sarubbi

In memory of Theresa Dianda Diane and Michael Smahlik

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Rosemary and Ralph Costa

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Bob Basuino

In honor of the 90th birthday of

Josephine Bertaccini

Robert and Starla Chimienti

In memory of Theresa Dianda David and Roberta Madej

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Laurie Voisinet

In memory of Andy and Bea Bianco

Richard and Valerie Vote

In memory of The Rovera and Sarale

Families

Pat Botta and Family

In memory of Theresa Dianda Officers/Members of East Bay District In memory of Theresa Dianda

Martine Kapetanic

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Helene and Lonnie Chase

In memory of Theresa Dianda Officers/Members of Br. 91

In memory of Theresa Dianda

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS - 2ND -4TH YEAR

Joan and Jerry Delfino

In memory of Theresa Dianda

Angela and Anthony Bilich

In memory of Theresa Dianda and In honor of The Entire Dianda Family



ICF is 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**

Gifts of Love **Donations**

Received as of January 10, 2021:

Branch 213

Wil and Michelle Harmon In memory of Rudy Dell'Osso

Officers/Members of Br. 392

Get well wishes for Teresa

Helfand

Officers/Members of Br. 403

In memory of Ann Gardner Pat and Lou Mages

In memory of Hank Scarpelli Joan and Jerry Delfino

In honor of the 90th birthday of Jo

Donna Rossi

In memory of Arline Norsworthy Eva Stern

In memory of Angela Cosentino

Charles P. Gullo, Jr. In memory of Br. #4

Triant Varellas

In memory of Pauline Zouzounis Teresa and Cory Helfand

In memory of Theresa Dianda Ray and Judy Mattias

In memory of Louise Vicino

Cooley's Anemia **Donations**

Received as of January 10, 2021:

Branch 39

Branch 191

Branch 213

Roy and Chris Shackel

In memory of Phil Shackel

Family Recipes

Deborah Rodondi

Grand 1st Vice President

Happy Valentines Day! Hope you are continuing to stay safe and healthy. This past Christmas six of us at work decided to do a cookie exchange,



since so many of our usual celebrations had been cancelled. We thought this would make things feel a little more festive. Many of the cookies I sampled were very good. The first one I want to share with you came from my co-worker Jennifer. She calls it:

Crisp Little Lemon Cookies

1 (18.25 ounce) package lemon cake mix

1 cup rice krispies cereal (I made it heaping-heaping means the product is rounded up in the measuring cup-not level)

½ cup butter, melted

1 large egg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In medium bowl combine the cake mix and cereal. Stir in the egg and cooled melted butter until everything comes together.

Roll into 1 inch balls and place them 2 inches apart on an unprepared cookie sheet (I lined with parchment paper). Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool for one minute on cookie sheet before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

So simple and delicious. When I tasted them I could not figure out the rice krispies as an ingredient, I kept thinking it was lemon candy ground up.

Lorena Huang

The day Jennifer gave me the recipe, I intended to make them when I got home. I found the only cake mix in my pantry was yellow. That did not stop me. I adjusted the recipe to add the rind of one lemon and about 1 Tbls. of the lemon juice. It worked, since I love the flavor of lemon. I would probably add the rind and some juice to the recipe when using lemon cake mix. I also saw a devils food mix in my pantry and thought why not. So to that I added ½ cup finely chopped roasted almonds, 1 Tbls. almond extract and 1 Tbls. cocoa. I kept a few and sent the rest (along with other cookies) with my nephew to the duck club for their holiday celebrations---all I got back were empty containers!

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

A baby's smile heals a broken heart.

Welcome to New Members (Report as of January 8, 2021)

Petra Castiglioni	Branch 021	Ping S Huang	Branch 218
Michael Soper	Branch 033	Russell R Huang	Branch 218
Daniel J Turner	Branch 03	Mary A Fell	Branch 374
Theresa C Cetani	Branch 191	Christina R Balistreri	Branch 406
Brandon L Huang	Branch 218	Giuseppe C Balistreri	Branch 406
Giselle V Huang	Branch 218		

Branch 218

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

Apostolate-Charity Committee

Lauren Kilcullen, Committee Chairperson

As part of our apostolate works, we need to refresh ourselves on both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This article highlights the corporal works. Remember, back in grade school, the nuns would emphasize these works (at least at St. Brigid's in SF in the 1950s). On one expansion trip that David Botta and I made, we happened to discuss these works in relation to what we were doing. It was interesting to note that we could remember only a few of them. Maybe, it is time to review them in relation to our interactions with others in our daily lives.

The corporal works of mercy are the actions by which each one of us helps others with material and physical needs. They are the following:

Feed the Hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
House the homeless
Visit the imprisoned

Visit the sick
Bury the dead

You may not have realized it, but these are things most of us do often. We may need a little bolstering in some of them, but this could be a goal for us to work towards. Definitely, in our modern, confused world of today, practice of the corporal works of mercy should be a definite objective for all of us.

Carmen Kilcullen – Apostolate-Charity Committee member

ICF Annual Convention Blood Drive Goes Virtual

The **Live to Give Committee** would like to thank the following people for donating blood as part of the virtual "Sleeves Up" campaign facilitated by the American Red Cross. Lucky 13 units were collected. This means that 39 people will benefit from lifesaving blood components – red blood cells, platelets, and plasma.

Thank you for giving the gift of life!

Joseph Aguilar (donated twice) Pamela Andersen (donated twice)

Denise Antonowicz

Lou Mages (donated double red)

Nanette Scarpellini Metz (donated twice)

Andy Pappani

Melissa Rodriguez

Diana Vallorz

Judy Wellbeloved

Leonard Zasoski, Jr. (1 unit of red cells and two units of platelets)

All donors received a Starbucks gift card and the following three individuals were lucky raffle winners:

Joseph Agular Pamela Anderson and Lou Mages

Thank you everyone for your participation in last year's convention blood drive.

2021 Calendar Winners

We held off pulling the calendar winners to give everyone a chance to return their ticket stubs to the ICF office by the January 31st deadline. The winners' names for January 2021 and February 2021 will be printed in the March 2021 issue. The winners' names will also be available in the *Bollettino* highlights on the ICF website at www.icf.org beginning with the March 2021 issue.

Cooley's Anemia

Continued from Page 1

problems, therefore before prescribing iron supplements, doctors should rule out thalassemia trait and/or perform blood tests to evaluate iron levels. A person with thalassemia trait can also be iron deficient, but if he or she is not iron deficient, iron supplements may result in excess body iron, which over time can cause organ damage.

Testing for Thalassemia trait is easy! It involves having a blood sample drawn which looks at the following:

- Hemoglobin electrophoresis with quantitative hemoglobin A2 and hemoglobin F
- Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- Iron studies (free erythrocyte proto porphyrin and ferritin)

It is important for individuals to be aware if they have thalassemia trait, especially people of Italian descent. Again, since there may be no symptoms, an individual may not know they have the trait until they have a child born with thalassemia major, a severe form of the disease. If both parents have the thalassemia trait there is a 25% chance that their child could be born with thalassemia major, a severe form of the disease which requires blood transfusions for life.

If you find out you have thalassemia trait and would like more information, please contact Laurice Levine at LLevine430@aol.com or 360-860-2023



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.

These are the eligibility requirements for students:

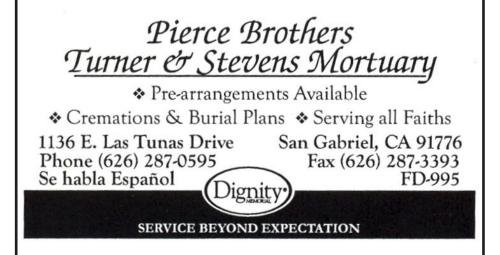
A High School Senior, a total cumulative GPA (3 ½ years) of at least 3.2 and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2: 1) Are Roman Catholic and of Italian Descent and live within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Arizona, California, Illinois and Nevada, only where Branches of the Federation are 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.

Lisa Crudo, Chairperson









Donate Love ~~ Donate Life ~~ Donate Blood

Happy Valentine's Day From The Live to Give Committee



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini's Name Graces a Post Office in Brooklyn

Cari Beveridge, a member of Branch 27 in Madera, shared the news of the recent honor for Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini. On December 22, 2020, community leaders met via Zoom to change the Dyker Heights Post Office at 8320 13th Avenue to the Mother Frances

Xavier Cabrini Post Office building.

Public Law 116–201 116th Congress

community members renamed the post office to honor Mother Cabrini who played an important role in offering aid and education to the immigrant community of New York

City (NYC). Mother Cabrini arrived in 1889 in NYC with six other nuns. The Pope sent them to the United States to help the sizeable group of Italian immigrants who were emigrating.

Legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Max Rose, New York's 11th congressional district, which includes all of Staten Island and parts of southern Brooklyn, sought to honor Mother Cabrini as an Italian immigrant and New Yorker. The legislation was signed into Public Law 116–201 on Dec. 3, 2020.

During her years in NYC, Mother Cabrini opened the Sacred Heart Orphan Asylum in West Park, N.Y. — later renamed to the St. Cabrini Home. In addition to helping the many orphans, she also organized catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants.

Mother Cabrini worked with Brook-

lyn Bishop Charles Edward McDonnell to create the St. Charles School. The school served the children of newly arrived Italian immi-

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. MOTHER FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI POST OFFICE BUILDING. grants.

The official onsite dedication will be in the spring.

The plaque will read, "This building is named in honor of Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini by an act of Congress Public Law 116-201, Dec. 3, 2020.

For the complete Brooklyn Eagle article about the event and pictures of the post office building, go to https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2020/12/21/ post-office-to-be-renamed-to-motherfrances-xavier-cabrini-post-officebuilding-on-tuesday/



Interested in learning more about the ICF's National Charity, Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)? Have burning guestions 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 <u>LLevine430@aol.com</u>

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

God has done it all: I have only been a spectator of God's work.

St. Frances Cabrini

Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

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

Dear Members:

Still no activity due to COVID 19. Hope all are staying safe and healthy. Please pay your dues for 2021. Happy Valentine's Day! *Ciao!*

Toni Morsello

San Francisco St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Felice Anno Nuovo – A Happy and Healthy New Year to all of our members from Br. 258.

To our members celebrating a birthday in February - many more years of Happiness and Good Health.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Our sincere sympathy to Rose Moisant on the loss of her brother, Ernie Campi. The cause of death was the virus. Rose, our prayers are with you and your family.

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

Please stay well as we love all of you and we need you.

You are in our prayers.

Ciao,

Eva Perata, President

SAN MATEO Burlingame Our Lady of Angels, Br. 173

Many of us will agree 2020 was not our favorite year but I received from a friend some inspiring words for 2021 which I would like to share:

Flight 2021. Hello and welcome to Flight 2021. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destructive devices; pity, anger, selfishness and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little Faith. There will BE NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our Captain has cleared us for take-off. Destination: New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY and new BEGINNINGS!



Br. 213, A memory of a recent officer installation lunch.

At this time it is sad to report the passing of long time member, Jack Sherratt and to acknowledge Brenda Wemiz's father and Donna Cervelli's father-in-law who recently passed away. (Don Cervelli)

Prayers are needed for Mary Bodisco, Anita Cecena, Elena Malta, Lorraine Rollandi, Fred & Melanie Yaeger whose grandchild, Elisha has brain cancer.

God Bless,

Roz Emery

P.S. Zoom meeting 1-14 07:00 PM

So. San Francisco St. Augustine, Br. 213

The members of Branch 213 individually and collectively wish all in the Italian Catholic Federation had a Merry Christmas and have Happy New Year!

We have been planning and discussing our activities for the upcoming year, following other branches in doing Zoom meetings and other ways to gather considering social distancing.

We also continue to pray for the end of the pandemic so that we may all gather again together!

Photo submitted is a memory of a recent officer installation lunch.

Ciao,

Victor Spano

MARIN

Larkspur St. James, Br. 161

Let's hope that this new year brings us hope, love and health to everyone and that we will be able to hug our grandchildren again.

Please keep Louise Vicino 's family of Petaluma, in your prayers. She passed away in late December. She will be remembered as a wonderful lady who was always full of life and also wrote articles in the *Bollettino* and Il Leone.

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.

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

Wishing everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day.

Anna Biggio Recording Secretary

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Hello and welcome to February. For being a short month, there's a lot of activity this month. Did the groundhog see his shadow? Is it six more weeks of winter or is spring right around the corner? We've got Super Bowl right on our tails. Good luck on your pool if you have a square or two. Then we have St Valentine's Day for all you sweethearts followed by Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday and Presidents Day. But most importantly we begin the season of Lent. We need to prepare ourselves by fasting, alms giving and reconciliation as we look forward to that glorious Easter Day. How are you going to get ready? How is everyone doing with your New Years resolutions? Did you break it yet or are you still going strong? We should plan on another district meeting again, whether it's Zoom, at the park, or a combo. I hope you continue to stay safe and healthy and keep up the good work. Let's continue to pray for all of those who are sick, who have passed away, are lonely, or struggling in any way. I do want to remind everyone to be sure to get your dues in. It's very important that we keep on top of that. God bless you all and we will see each other soon, I pray.

Perry Shurko, District President.

Los Angeles St. Peter, Br. 67

If you know someone who may be interested in joining ICF National 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.

Coved-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 E Cas1810@aol.com



South Pasadena Holy Family, Br. 108

On January 10th our branch held its first 2021 General Meeting on Zoom followed by online Bingo. Congratulations to the winners and members for continuing with their support of Charitable events as we start the new year. Congratulations also to January Birthday members: Patrick Grimaud, Aggie Dawes, John Maggiora, Joe Mantel, Michele Silveri and Elizabeth Dever.

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.

Parishioners interested in joining ICF please call 626 372 7812 or 626 403 6102 for more information. We are continuing our service to members, families and our communities and are beginning our branch membership expansion this month.

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

Montebello St. Benedict, Br. 111

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. We hope you are all doing well and are staying healthy. Since we still are not able to meet in person, our February General Meeting will be a Zoom meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Look for our February 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 February: Irena Scorcia, Carmelina Palmeri, Lynn Enrico and Christina Castello. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

Due to the continued health crisis, 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 we will be able to be rescheduled it sometime in the summer. We will keep you posted.

We are sad to report that the father of our Orator, Peter Revilla, Peter Revilla, Sr. passed away on January 9,2021. Our prayers go out to Peter and his family. May Peter Revilla, Sr. Rest in Peace.

We pray for Peter and his family, our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers. 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 soon.

Ciao! A presto. Frank Salomone

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

February is traditionally a month that is all about love and friendship. I believe the ICF is a place where friendships are made and we are always there for each other. During this pandemic I have come to appreciate and enjoy the little things in life. I do miss the monthly meetings, fundraisers and dinners and cannot wait for us to be together.

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership. If you haven't please reconsider. We hope you do! Dues are \$39.00 for the year and can be mailed to Nancy Donato 1718 Miracosta St San Pedro 90732

Due to the pandemic our traditional Crab dinner dance in honor of St John Joseph of the Cross has been cancelled. 8am mass will be celebrated on March 5th Please observe social distancing and wear your mask.

Scholarship applications for graduating high school seniors are now available online at www.icf.org. deadline to turn in application is March 15, 2021.

Many of our members are fighting this

virus. Please keep all of our members in your prayers. We wish all a speedy recovery. Continue to pray for an end to the pandemic.

Anita Gioiello Trujillo

Glendora St. Dorothy, Br. 179

Happy New Year! Branch 179 members have not met in months; however, we continue our ministry in support of St. Dorothy Parish Community. In 2020, we collected over \$13,000 in donated clothing. Therefore, we were able to help our parish through the COVID transition in contributing toward the additional expenses such as audio/ visual equipment, tenting, cleaning supplies, and heaters. We were also able to support our parish seminarian with a donation in his name to St. John's Seminary. And finally our Branch was able to award retention scholarships to several students returning to St. Dorothy's School for a total of \$5,000.

Branch 179 continues to do all we can to support our community. We pray for healing of all those afflicted with the virus and for the strength of their families. Stay safe all.

God's blessings.

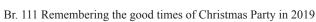
Patricia Auriemmo

Recording/Corresponding Secretary













Arcadia Holy Angels, Br. 218

As of this writing our board meeting has not occurred. At this meeting we will be discussing optional fundraisers as the St. Joseph's Table will not be held this year.

President Jerry has also mentioned having our meetings possibly in a park or some other venue where we can be spaced apart. Watch for Jeane's newsletter which should have more information.

Everyone have a nice Valentine's Day and hopefully we can all be together soon

Stay safe. Lolly M.

Gardena St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 237

Happy Valentines Day,

This past year has certainly been a different way of experiencing everyday living. We are praying for a kinder, happier and healthier New Year!

2019, our branch celebrated our 50th Anniversary. We were blessed to have President Vince and member of the council attend our annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance, this event is our annual fund raiser. This past year due to the pandemic, we has no opportunity to host the dinner. So with the support of our Pastor, Msgr. Sal Pilato, the branch called and e-mailed family, friends and sponsors and posted notice in the parish bulletin that the branch was requesting financial assistance to continue our scholarship program. It was more than we could of wished for. We collected over \$7200 in four weeks. We thanked all that participated and we again highlighted the good works of our branch. These were also recognized by Central Council awarding our Branch with First Place in the Charity report at the 2020 convention. Our branch continues to encourage others to join us and its mission "To Light a Fire".

Our calendar for this year is on paper, we are hopeful that we will have the opportunity to experience all that has been planned.

Saint Padre Pio, pray for us. From your place in Heaven, please petition the Lord Jesus to watch over, bless and protect me, my family and all my loved ones.....

Cordially,

Micheal Bohannon Roa

Downey St. Raymond, Br. 362

Hello branch members.

Well, we made it passed the holiday rush, and have moved right into February. I hope you all are doing well.

Usually at this time we would be planning our St Joseph day celebration, as you know, things aren't the same. I'm hoping we can have a mini version with some kind of altar at least. I will be discussing that with Fr John.

I want to wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Mardi Gras!

We begin our Lenten season too this month, so let's prepare ourselves so we can graciously celebrate Easter.

I want to remind you, if you haven't gotten your dues in to please do so as soon as you can, and if you can afford to donate any extra amount our branch would appreciate it since we haven't had or won't have any fundraisers.

I ask that everyone continue to stay safe and follow all COVID rules, and let's get back to normal soon. Have a great month. Perry Shurko, Branch President.

> Deadline for March Issue is February 10th. Send articles and photos: editor@icf.org



Br. 237 Celebration from 2019

Manhattan Beach American Martyrs, Br. 447

The Board has continued to meet on Zoom to conduct our monthly Board meetings. We are developing plans for engaging our members during the pandemic, as well as planning events for when we can return to meeting in person. At this time, we host Zoom events for members every other month. In the meantime, we stay engaged with our Members by offering free weekly yoga sessions with Monica (on Zoom) and recording and sending recipes and cooking videos.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we created Valentine's gift bags and delivered them to our members containing Valentine's surprises for our Valentine's Game Night on Zoom. We played the "Not So Newlywed Game," Valentine's Bingo, scavenger hunt and some other family fun games.

Branch 447 was formed in 2018 and we have been blessed with a very active Board and engaged members. We miss getting together and look forward the day we can finally meet in person, hopefully later in the year. In the meantime, our members will be contacted regarding our Membership dues and our new 2021 Membership Dues Program to keep everyone active and engaged with Branch 447.

Our Sleeves Up Blood Drive is underway and runs through April 30, 2021. 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.

If you are interested in joining our weekly Yoga with Monica sessions held every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom, or if you would like to be on our cooking video distribution list, please contact Stephanie DeRaddo, President, Branch 447 at stephaniederaddo@gmail.com or (310) 863-4597.

Peace & Blessings, Stephanie DeRaddo



OAKLAND

EAST BAY

District Council

Well here we are still "ZOOMing" into 2021! Sorry to say that we are still on lock-down and may be for quite some time. But life goes on, and we are looking forward to our first Instillation via ZOOM. We are pleased that our Central Council President Vince Piro will be able to join us. Now we are looking forward to a good turnout from each of the Branches. District Pres, Lisa has made all the arrangements.

In the meanwhile, please try to stay healthy and take your vaccine if you are eligible. Remember to wear your mask, keep your distance and wash those hands.

Wishing all you ICF sweethearts a Happy St. Valentine's Day.

Pat Grasso

District Sec.

Alameda Nostra Signora Delle Grazie, Br. 10

We again thank Peggy Lubeck for serving as our president for the past two years. Peggy and her husband Bob have given hundreds of hours to Branch 10 and to the East Bay District.

Peggy is being succeeded by James Mc-Gee, who will be our president for the second time. James previously served as president in the mid-1980's, when he had just graduated from Alameda High School. He delivered the eulogy at the funeral of our beloved Dave Rose in July 2018 and served as master of ceremonies for the 2019 District Installation. James also belongs to Branch 215.

Our other officers are continuing in the positions which they held in 2020: Gina Foster, first vice-president; Jan Rosa, second vice-president; Jeanette Zugnoni, secretary; Karen Harrington, financial secretary; JoAnn Dorn, treasurer; Sharon Brunetti, orator; Agnes Marcheschi, Betty Lupetti and Elena Serles, trustees; and Ernie Poggi, sentinel. Sandy Manzo will continue as "Sunshine Lady," and John Zugnoni will remain publicist.

John Zugnoni
Branch 10 publicity



Livermore St. Philomena, Br. 285

As we look forward to this new year of 2021, it is hard for us to even start to make our plans. But we must keep our faith and hopes that now things will be going forward to a new normal for us.

I am Judy Wellbeloved president of our branch. And I would like to introduce you to our board for 2021:

Patricia Brick 1st. Vice Carolyn and John Cardinalli 2nd Vice Carlotta Schauer Secretary Philamena Buonsante /Co. Sec. David Wellbeloved Fin.Sec. Elaine Meier Treasurer Kathleen Elm Orator Irma Giannotti Trustee Virginia Williams Trustee Patrick Brick Trustee Anna Yoacham Sentinel Ft. Filiberto Barrera Chaplin

We are hoping, as all of us are, that we will be able to plan our fundraiser this month to help continue our support of the very important High School Scholarship Fund. Our membership donated over \$850 to the Giving Tree project with our Oakland Diocese.

We will continue to have our monthly general meetings on Zoom. Zoom has been a saving grace for us. We look forward to our Installation of officers on January 25th and hope everyone will join us. More information is to come.

Membership renewal is now under way and I hope all of our ICF family will continue to support their branches. It will not be long before we can get back to socializing, having our great meetings and potlucks.

Keep well, God bless you all and God bless the ICF.

Judy Wellbeloved President

Castro Valley Our Lady of Grace, Br. 343

We are about to embark on the branch's first meeting/Zoom meeting of 2021. Since this article is due four days before our meeting, I cannot comment on the turnout but hopefully it is a good one. Besides saluting the New Year we hope to begin to work on some projects to raise some of the money we need to support our charities.

We are fortunate that Lisa Crudo has been able to set up these meetings for us, thank you Lisa.

Let's all try to remain healthy while on lock down and support others who may need our help. So onward we go, keeping our distance, wearing the mask and washing our hands. If you are able to get the vaccine, please do so ASAP.

Happy Valentine's Day to all our ICF sweethearts.

Pat Grasso,

Branch Sec.

CONTRA COSTA

District Council

We will have our annual ICF district installation of officers on Saturday afternoon, Feb 6, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 199 Brandon Rd in Pleasant Hill under the outdoor "worship tent." At this event, new branch and district officers for 2021 will be officially installed from all the branches in our district. The event will be held in a safe manner as are all masses at the parish: it will be completely outdoors, and all will be asked to stay socially distant (at least 6 feet) from one another. Also, everyone is asked to bring their own folding chair and wear a mask. The event will be a touchless ceremony and no scarves will be used in the ritual. It is customary to celebrate the Eucharist together before the installation, but instead, members can stay and participate in the regular Saturday evening parish mass at 4 p.m. after the end of the installation. This installation will not be followed by a luncheon as in the past because of Covid restrictions. New officers should inform their branch president as to whether they will attend.

Details about our next district meeting will be announced by email later. We wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day with lots of love to all!

Diana Mackinson, CC District First Vice President

Martinez San Martino, Br. 13

February is the month dedicated to love. Think about the unity and kinship we all share as we celebrate our love of God. Jesus encourages us to love, not just those who love us back, but also those who do not reciprocate. All of us have such people in our lives: family, friends, employees, etc. Our calling, as followers of Christ, is to love them and do good for them, not in order that they might respond, but so that we might live each day as beloved, faithful children of our Heavenly Father. As author Frank Clark writes, "Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.'

As we approach Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 17 and prepare ourselves for Jesus' resurrection on Easter, ICF members are asked to offer prayers for the intention of Bishop Barber of the Oakland Diocese. Annually the Contra Costa District tabulates members' intentions and presents them to our

Bishop. Intentions are in the form of an imaginary bundle called a Spiritual Bouquet together with a monetary burse for the benefit of Seminarians which is donated from combined branch funds. A Spiritual Bouquet is a personal offering and, therefore, anonymous. Names need not be on the paper you provide. Please submit to the president the number of Masses, Communions, Stations of the Cross, Triduum, Rosaries, and/or Novenas you would personally offer for the Bishop's intention with your love.

With the love of God, I ask, "Will you be my Valentine?"

Ciao for now, Mary Cook

Crockett San Carlo, Br. 14

Ciao Amici!

From hearts and flowers to chocolates and romantic gifts, there are many different ways to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. In Italy, St. Valentine's Day is called La Festa Degli Innamorati – meaning The Feast of Lovers, where tradition dictates this feast day is strictly for those who are romantically involved. For Americans, it's common to send a little card to someone you care about, or for children to send fun valentines to their parents and friends. No matter how you celebrate February 14th, be sure to reach out to someone and show them some love.

This month, we're making plans for our upcoming Corned Beef and Cabbage 'Drive-Thru' Dinner. This shindig will be held on Saturday, March 13th, and all dinners will include our world famous, mouth-watering, leprechaungood corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, roll, and butter. Dinners can be picked up at the Boy Scout Hall on 991 Loring Avenue in Crockett between the hours of 3:30 and 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person, and must be reserved in advance. For reservations, contact Donna @ (510) 367-5669, or email dhoffm3101@aol.com no later than March 8th.

Sadly, we learned of the recent passing of two of our long-time members, Bob Pallotta and Pat Guerrieri. Both Bob and Pat were characters in their own ways, and we will miss seeing their smiling and friendly faces. Please remember Bob and Pat and their families in your prayers.

It's still not too late to get your 2021 ICF calendar -you could be a winner!

Blessings,

Helen

ICF MEMBERS' SPIRITUAL BOUQUET OFFERINGS:

Each year prayers are offered in various forms for the intention of our Bishop. It is a personal offering. The ICF Contra Costa District tabulates these intentions and presents them to the Bishop annually in the form of an imaginary bouquet called a Spiritual Bouquet along with a monetary burse donated from the branch. If you would like to offer any number of prayers in any different forms, please indicate the number on the list below and return to the branch President for submission. Since it is a personal offering we don't ask for any names. Thank you for participating in this annual gift for our bishop.

NUMBER OF MASSES

NUMBER OF MASSES
NUMBER OF COMMUNIONS
NUMBER OF STATIONS OF THE CROSS
NUMBER OF TRIDUUM
NUMBER OF ROSARIES NUMBER OF NOVENAS

Pittsburg San Domenico, Br. 72

Dear Members,

Hope this finds you well. The new year is going by fast. Let's pray it's a better year for all of us.

As you know, we will take part in the District Installation of officers. It will be held on Saturday February 6, 2021. We will meet at Christ the King church in Pleasant Hill under the large tent outside. The Installation will start at 2:30 p.m. and end by 3:30 p.m. Mass will follow at 4 p.m. We will not use our scarves this time. Please bring a chair to sit on and wear a mask. We will not have a luncheon due to Covid restrictions. A big thanks to Pleasant Hill branch 442 for hosting this in a safe way for all of us.

Remember 2021 dues are due. You should have received your dues ship from our treasurer. So, unless you have done so, please mail your check made payable to ICF Branch 72. Send it to, Helen Politakes 953 Veterans Drive Martinez, CA, 94553.

We will discuss how to move forward with our meetings this year. We can have phone conference meetings. We can also discuss zoom meetings. If you have suggestions, let Patty know.

That is all for this month. Until next time, Keep well and happy.

And as we say in Pittsburg, Sempre Avanti.

Patty

Richmond St. Raymond, Br. 154

As we enter February, we pray for a much better year than 2020. We continue to miss our friends in ICF and the camaraderie we shared. We miss the fabulous dinners put together by Walter Costa and Toni Reeder.

Membership dues are payable now! If you haven't mailed them in by the time you read this, your heading to delinquency. Please mail your dues to Toni Reeder.

Calendars are still available contact Toni for a calendar.

We are sad to announce the passing of Joyce Peterson. Joyce had been a member since 1989. She will be missed! We send condolences to her family. Please keep her in your prayers.

Please add attending a meeting to your New Year's resolutions for 2021, when it is safe to do so of course!

Happy Valentines Day!



Pleasant Hill Christ the King, Br. 442

The February meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6 prior to the District Installation of Officers. Our branch is hosting the Installation during this time because our site's facilities and accommodate this event.

Our meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. with a box lunch of Chinese cuisine (more details via Evite), followed by the Installation at 2:30 p.m. For those who would like to stay for Mass, that will be celebrated at 4:00.

There are not any events or projects slated right now. Please be safe, wear your masks, wash your hands and practice social distancing. The hug that you don't give now will be there waiting for you when the surge is behind us.

Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day!

Ci vediamo quando siamo piu' vecchi, Teri Martinucci Hurlbut

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Auburn St. Joseph, Br. 342

A big thank you to all who have agreed to serve as a 2021 Branch Officer! Our Slate of Officers for 2021:

President: MaryAnnRobert_Mikles Vice-President: Sue Tidball Secretary: Pam Andersen

Financial Secretary: Barbara O'Rourke

Treasurer: Adriana Jensen Orator: Bridget Piziali

Trustees: Adele Valdez, Patricia Putkey,

JoAnn Swars

Sentinal: Florence Mooneyham Sunshine: Colleen Andersen Chaplain: Deacon Mark Ruiz

Ciao!

Pam Andersen



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

Santa Rosa District Remembers Louise Vicino

Louise Vicino, long time member of Branch 127 in Petaluma, recently passed away. Louise joined the branch in August of 1993 and quickly became very active. During her years of membership, Louise served as President, Vice-President and Trustee for the branch. For a number of years, she was also a mentor to Branch 18.

Louise served as trustee and heritage chair for both her branch and the Santa Rosa District. As heritage chairperson, she always had a pertinent and often humorous presentation. She took great joy in relating to us significant events of Italian heritage.

When her husband, Lou, became both branch president and district president, Louise was always at his side helping in any way she could. Jointly, they received the Santa Rosa District President's Award.

Louise was known for "working the room". She went around the room and greeted members and guests at various ICF events. She had a kind word and a smile for everyone. Her infectious personality had positive effects on all who met her. Louise befriended everyone she met and truly cared about their well-being. She was a dear, sweet lady in the greatest sense and we will all miss her greatly.

Ciao, Louise!



Louise Vicino and her ICF "crush" David Botta.

SANTA ROSA District Council

We are now facing a New Year and right now I am assembling the 2021 Packets. As soon as I receive the last of the 2 Officer's Rosters from Arcata and Cloverdale I will start to copy and then mail. Quite an experience. Ken Marshall keeps me updated so I can depend on him for help and guidance.

Unfortunately I have no knowledge of anyone on our Board initiating a Zoom meeting. But above all, I want to wish all of you a very prosperous New Year from all of us on the Board.

Blessings to all!! Marilyn Sylvestri Recording-Secretary

Healdsburg San Francesco Di Sales, Br. 52

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, February 9: Monthly Meeting. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Sunday, February 7: ICF Monthly Mass, 10:00 a.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. So far, response from our members has been good.

The officers are starting to plan our springtime Drive-thru-Dinner. Read the email blast for more information.

Mass continues to be outside in the school patio at 4:30 PM on Saturdays and 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and Noon on Sundays. Wear a mask and dress warmly!

Continue to pray for an end to the virus. *Happy Valentine's Day.*

Lauren Kilcullen

Cloverdale L'Annunciata, Br. 75

Masked in plastic and protecting themselves and Food Pantry clients with distance, Patrick Houston and MJ Dell'Aquila served up smiles and bags of groceries on Friday, January 8th. It was a smooth operation as men loaded cars and women packed bags with milk, eggs, bread, meat products and other goods donated by the food bank and other members of the community. Past President, MJ, has been doing this for over fifteen years in cooperation with other Churches and Service Groups in Cloverdale.

We're so sad to hear of the death of beloved Louise Vicino from Petaluma. We could always count on her to bring her group of friends to our events as well as her silly jokes to our district meetings! Be sure to read her last Bollettino article in the January issue and know we have another friend in Heaven!

Two of our members contracted CO-VID-19 but battled and won. Our Priest was recently exposed but is quarantining and closing his Church events awaiting test results. We love our outdoor Masses on Sunday and limited Masses during the week.

We are canceling dinners and Branch events until further notice as we await the safety of a vaccinated population and the return to relative normalcy.

Happy New Year! Patsy Buchignani

> Deadline for March Issue is February 10th.

Send articles and photos: editor@icf.org

Sonoma St. Sebastian, Br. 103

Notable days this month are:

Valentine's Day, President's Day...Let us honor all our past Presidents despite your party affiliation. Lent begins early this year on February 17th. Looking forward to lighter skies and less social restrictions. Unfortunately this is a day to day existence.

Right now trying to assemble 2021 packets for our next meeting of the Santa Rosa District Council members who know we may not meet sooner than anticipated. I still hope to see many members attend. You are all welcome. Looking back a few years I was always eager to attend many meetings and support all the social activities while a new member.

I regret deeply losing a cousin (Louise #127) who I did not know existed until she heard my last name at a ICF meeting. I was born late in life so many distant relatives had filtered out to other areas. She knew I was contemplating a move out of Sonoma and quickly volunteered to "squire" me around Petaluma in hopes of finding a suitable abode to rent. It will be difficult to fill her shoes. Regrettably, I never found out how closely we were related. She would simply say, "hello cousin."

I am happy to celebrate the end of 2020 like many of you with real hope for 2021 to be a year of healing and return to normalcy. Happy to realize the successful rollout of 2 vaccines..a real miracle.

Hoping that all our members are staying safe and well, sopra tutto!!

Ciao e ci vediamo presto. Marilyn Sylvestri Sonoma 103



Arcata St. Mary, Br. 144

Eureka!! Those of us behind the" Redwood Curtain" beat 2020 and if you are reading this, you did also!! We are ready, willing and able to face 2021 with much gusto and enthusiasm and positive thinking that this virus will finally come to a screeching halt and we will return to normal, whatever normal is

On a lighter note, our "fearless leader", President Linda Spallino has presented us with a 2021 calendar of events that will keep us busy and on our toes. Of course we have not had a meeting as yet to discuss or implement any of the suggested activities but with time and patience we will have the opportunity. Thank you Linda for your efforts.

We want to wish all of the Birthday and Anniversary folks for January many blessings during 2021and to wish all a Happy and Fruitful New Year!

Do take care, wear a nose and mouth covering, and practice social distancing.

Blessing from Judith Cardoza

Santa Rosa St. Eugene, Br. 198

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

President Linda Sherman reminds us that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. In addition to what we may give up, Linda suggests adding something. She asks that each of the six weeks of Lent you call a Branch member or a friend to see how they are doing and to let them know you are thinking of them. This is a positive action for 2021.

As this article is being written, there is still no timeline for groups to meet and restart their activities. Please don't forget the many good things our Branch did when we met together as a group. Please, God, may this year see the end to this terrible pandemic so we can once again be together, resume our meetings, enjoy each other's company, and continue the good works of our Branch. Pray for an end to Covid-19 and a new start for our ICF family.

A reminder – if you haven't paid your 2021 dues yet, it's not too late. Please send your dues to Nancy Azevedo.

Celebrate Valentine's Day in your own home and share your love.

Ciao

Gail Bongi-Azevedo



FRESNO

Madera Santissimo Crocifisso, Br. 27

It is a new year, and time to think about how we as the ICF can achieve it's mission to promote our Catholic faith and values. The foundations of America are surely being tested in the current times and events. The very origins of our country began with the faith of our wise forefathers and great patriots, and it is this same faith that will carry us through these times as one nation under God.

Our Branch board members continue to meet monthly via Zoom to attend to various business matters, and all members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please see the monthly newsletter for further details. Thanks to all officers, who have agreed to continue in their roles in 2021. The continued support of all members for our Branch through payment of your 2021 dues will be appreciated.

Please pray for repose of the souls of our members J B Overstreet and Camille Overstreet, who passed away in December, together with their families. Please continue to pray for an end to the global pandemic and all who have been affected by it.

Ciao,

Mary Keitz

Merced St. Cecilia, Br. 39

Saluti cari vicini. Hello dear members. The months continue with our sheltering-in-place orders. No ICF events are currently scheduled. We embrace our dilemma with fortitude, focus and faith. May we soon know a welcome change from these past 10 months.

It is with much sadness we share the passing of three members: Thelma Silva, an involved member for 42 years, Joe Barroso, a faithful member for 31 years, and Frank Muratore for 40 years. Frank passed after a brief illness of cancer. He was active in our branch including presiding as President. He last represented us as a reader at a Mass in April at St. Patrick's. Please keep their families in your prayers.

You should have received your dues' notification from Financial Secretary, Sandra Del Real.

We appreciate your prompt membership renewal. Fill out the sheet according to the number of members under your name (adult and family including grandchildren). Then add up the amount owed including hospitalization and mail your check in the enclosed envelope. Please include your email address so we can contact you quickly when branch events resume. Your renewed membership is an important contribution and gift to us to continue the benefits of being a member and continue our faith, heritage, and charitable works.

Again, we thank our current officers for continuing their respective positions for 2021.

Pensando a tutti voi e pregando per la vostra sana salute e il vostro spirito forte. Thinking of you and praying for your sound health and strong spirits.

Blessings (Benedizioni), Stephanie Lucich

Sanger Sant' Antonio, Br. 70

Happy New Year to all! We hope it will be a good year. Of course anything will be better than last year!

Our President Kay Lopez has informed me our officers will remain the same for this coming year. Our dues have all been paid and we sold out of all our fundraising calendars.

We don't have much to report on. Everyone is staying home and seems to be doing well. None of our members have contracted Covid, so we are pleased with that.

We look forward to when things return to normal.

God bless you all and stay safe. Orsolina Casella

Clovis Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Br. 250

Another new year, and let us hope and pray for a healthy, happy, year of spiritual renewal in 2021.

Happy birthday greetings to Sherrie Attolico and Frank Pimentel!

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Vince Jura. Vince was a member since 1974 and was deeply involved in, and supportive of, the ICF and other Parish activities. He was preceded in death by his wife Thelma, who had also been a long-time member of Branch 250. Vince had been ill for some time and had contacted the Covid19 virus shortly before his passing. His wit, energy, and devotion to church and community will be missed.

Our weather continues to be quite pleasant, however, we still need rain, and a lot of it. So keep praying for that precious commodity. Perhaps we can find someone like Moses, who as described in the Old Testament, struck a rock with his staff, and "water poured forth". We have plenty of rocks around here, now where is Moses?

Let us pray that our new President, Joe Biden, can heal the divisions in our nation, and restore peace and tranquility throughout the land.

Given the events of the past several weeks, I believe the following poem is appropriate:

His love shines

Beyond time's distant, vast horizon, past yesterday, today, and tomorrow....

Though joy grows dim and sunlight fades to shadow,

His love shines on, Within our hearts, beyond our sorrow.

May God bless America and each and everyone of you!

Ciao,

Francesca Fillapon

CENTRAL COAST

Santa Cruz Nostra Signora del Soccorso, Br. 21

Hello! Well, onward we go as time continues to fly by. Soon we will celebrate St. Valentine's Day and right after that begins the Lenten Season. Did you know that February 14th is the official start of the bird mating season? So I guess it's true when they say that love is in the air! Speaking of love, we also send out love and best wishes to those members with a February birthday. They are Linda Aliberti, Mickey Aluffi, Katherine Aspesi, Donna Moro, Margaret Hartman, Claudio Locatelli, Dan Locatelli, Marie Locatelli, Don Mungai, Marie Netto, Alverda Orlando, Pauli Pappas, Clarence Prado, and Allen Reames. Have a Happy Birthday filled with good fun and good health.

Our President Rebecca (Rosser) Hernandez continues to conduct both General and Board meetings to keep Branch 21 members informed even during this time of so many limitations. The next General meeting is scheduled for March 2nd at 5:30 on Zoom. Information about access will come to you via an e-mail or you can call Roseann Costabile for information. January's meeting included the installation of Branch 21 officers and we want to thank Franklyn Lopes for officiating over the proceedings.

Finally, we sadly announce that Dorothy Sunzeri has left us to join Heaven's angels. She was a long time ICF Branch 21 member and will be missed. We extend our thoughts and prayers to her family.

In closing: remember, God's gift of Spring is just around the corner; a time of rebirth and longer and warmer days.

Patty Morelli

Secretary Branch 21

Monterey Santa Rosalia, Br. 36

During this Lenten Season, we ask our Lord to nourish us with HIS word of life and make us one with HIM in love and prayer.

On Friday December 18, we held our first event since last February, a takeout dinner/fundraiser at the Moose Lodge. Thank you to all of the crew and volunteers, as well as the Moose Lodge folks, for preparing ~225 turkey dinners with all the trimmings, and to all that made this a successful event. Donations to San Carlos Cathedral, Carmelite Monastery, and San Carlos Cathedral priests were made from the proceeds, and from generous donations from members

We held another take-out dinner event on Friday, January 15, also at the Moose Lodge. We're thankful to all of our members and friends for their support.

Lenten Dinners are being planned from the Moose Lodge, beginning Friday, February 19, for seven weeks through Friday, April 2. Please check our website for more information, menus, and to pre-order your dinners (www.MontereyICF.org).

Scholarship information and applications for 2021 senior graduates are available on our website (Monterey-ICF.org). Contact Antonia Ruccello (831-594-1895) more information and details.

Please pray for all our members that are ill, home-bound, and that have been affected by the pandemic.

We are saddened to report that longtime members Maria Favalora and Josephine Rappa recently passed away. Our condolences to their familiesthey Rest In Peace.

"Let all you do be done in LOVE" – 1 Corinthians 16-19

Elaine Valentine First Vice President Branch #36



Joann Risso Branch 36

Castroville Santa Caterina da Siena, Br. 51

Happy Valentine's Day!

Let us all wish a big "Happy Birthday!" to our February babies: members D.L. Grier, Dennis Hibbs, Franca Rossi, Amber Souza, and Gregory Stefani!

It is with a heavy heart, we announce the passing of ICF Branch 51 member, Carlo Cortopassi. Carlo was a member for 8 years, and served as Sentinel on the board. He loved to lead us all in song with his favorite instrument, the Ching a ling". Carlo also loved to share stories of his hometown Massarosa, Italy. He even sponsored his friend, Rosella Salarpi from Massarosa. She is also a member of our branch, thanks to Carlo and his warm and welcoming hospitality and passion of sharing his Italian heritage with others.

Carlo will be dearly missed by all those who he touched and inspired.

Our branch sends our love, thoughts, and prayers to Carlo's family at this time.

Lord,

I would like to send a prayer to anyone who is in need of Your love, thoughts, and prayer.

Please send them the strength and guidance they need as we continue through this new year.

Amen

With much love. Natalie Carbonel

Capitola St. Joseph's, Br. 227

Financial Secretary Marie Mungai has mailed dues information to all current members. They are due by February 15 and should be made out to ICF Branch 227 and returned to ICF, c/o Stewart's Floral, 1658 Soquel Drive, Suite A, Santa Cruz, CA 95065.

The dues are \$43.20 per member. For those with hospitalization, it is an additional \$25 per member. Please consider rejoining. Even though we are still sheltering in place, we will eventually have meetings and Fish Frys again.



Joe LoManto and Antonia Ruccello Branch 36



Peter John Curatolo Branch 36



Antonio Cricelli Branch 36

The dues keep the Federation and the branches going and they help in publishing the Bolletino.

In response to a request from Good Shepherd School Principal Richard Determan, the Board voted to donate \$250 to cover extra costs incurred in reopening the school COVID-safely. Because of the pandemic lockdown, Board members conducted the vote by e-mail.

Happy Birthday to the following members who will be celebrating birthdays in February: Mario Beltramo, Linda Beltramo, Patrick Kretsch, Nancy Olson, Bryan Stow and Janice Shevenell

I can't think of a better Valentine's Day blessing than this from John 13.34: Love one another as I have loved you.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande St. Patrick, Br. 291

Branch 291 encourages all ICF members to continue to pray our communities and nation will be back to "normal" very soon so our parishes and their facilities can fully reopen and ICF members will be able to meet again in person. However, we are very blessed living here on the Central Coastwhich offers beautiful weather most of the time—allowing our parishioners to enjoy outdoor Mass each Sunday. But rain is greatly needed, so please pray for some rain, preferably to arrive Monday Saturday!

With Lent quickly approaching, we are sad to announce that our very popular Lenten Fish Frys are indefinitely postponed. Board and General Membership Meetings are canceled until further notice. However, we may hold a safe, socially distanced Board Meeting in the near future. Stay tuned, Br. 291 Board members!

We recently lost a longtime member, Rose Renna Guzzetti. Rose passed away at the age of 101, but up until the pandemic hit, she stayed active playing Bridge and Rumikube with her friends. Once she was unable to be with her friends, she slowly went downhill. Please keep Rose's family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of this lovely lady.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers as most of California continues to remain under stay-at-home orders. It seems to be very difficult for our seniors during these isolating times. Think about reaching out with a phone call to someone you haven't talked to in awhile. It just might make their day!

Happy St. Valentines Day! "But for now, these three remain: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Keely Sanchez Recording Secretary

Teresa R. Sollazzo Teresa peacefully left this world in the arms of God's angels — January 7. 2021 May our hearts always remember



Paso Robles St. Rose of Lima, Br. 354

The members of Paso Robles Branch 354 wish to thank the following for their continued participation as newly elected officers:

Fr. Rodolfo Contreras--Chaplain David Zanini--President & Treasurer Karen Kudija--First Vice President Irma Zanini--Second Vice President Yvonne Maddalena--Recording & Corres. Secretary

David Kudija--Financial Secretary Jackie Beato--Orator Jogina Cashmore--Trustee Joan Ryder--Trustee (optional) Lucille Olson--Trustee (optional Michael Federico--Sentinel Pete Gallagher--Branch Deputy Yvonne Maddalena

SAN JOSE SANTA CLARA VALLEY

San Jose Santa Clara Valley District

We made it to the new year but somehow nothing seems to have changed. We are still under the mandatory quarantine and still unable to resume our daily routines. I do not fret about adults as, much as young people especially school age ones.. Depending on your age we made it through much tougher times that this pandemic. But the younger generation faces something they never have had to cope with. I think barring them from face-to-face schooling is not good.

There are some bright spots in our District. Our District board is still in place ready to commence as soon as things clear. Fr. George Aranha (Central Council Chaplain) continues to provide

his face-to-face masses from Tuesday to Friday and parking lot masses on the weekend. Fr. Chris Bennett (Br. 445 Chaplain) sends a Spiritual Care Package periodically and we can take solace from them. Following is a prayer snippet from the Spiritual Care Package:

"Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy."

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

SCV District Meeting – Cancelled until further notice.

Mike Nunziata

Gilroy Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Br. 28

The monthly membership drawing winner was pulled by member Viola Carr with the winner of the \$75.00 gift certificate to the Milias Restaurant in Gilroy going to Julia Cardoza. Julia and Joe enjoy the food from the Milias Restaurant and thank you for being such, willing to help, Branch 28 members.

Viola was born and raised in Gilroy and was married for many years to Tom Carr who was a Past President of Branch 28 and who was very active in community affairs. Viola has been a member of Br. 28 since 1978, and in those 43 years has been a trustee and is currently a caller. She organized the branch Christmas dinners and would make her favorite Pasta Piselli for member dinners. She was introduced to ICF through her mother Angelina

Filice and in her subsequent 43-year membership she describes Br. 28 as a family of old friends while constantly meeting new friends. She describes an ICF convention in Los Angeles where the elevator got stuck which provided the opportunity for the party to really get started. Viola has 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Viola has hosted a weekly Thursday dinner at her home for 12 to 14 family members for 30 years until last March. Her generosity to the branch is epitomized in the raffle basket fundraiser which she donates twice a year for a two-night stay at her beach house in Capitola, CA. With our deepest gratitude, thank you Viola.

Dues statements should have been received. We miss you.

Peace and God Bless,

Kim M. Filice



Br. 28 - Viola Carr posing with her bouquet of flowers which expressed Branch 28's appreciation and gratitude for her many years of dedication and her outstanding generosity.



Br. 28 - Viola Carr drawing the winning membership ticket.



Los Gatos St. Mary, Br. 184

Our beautiful matriarch, Marie Antonowicz, now dressed as Santa's Elf, removed her mask so I could snap her photo! The Antonowicz family held their annual Open House for their scholarship fund on December 13. They were gracious enough to make the take away bags of wrapped goodies for attendees. It was so nice to have some event familiar and welcomed in these unprecedented times.

On a much more somber note, our branch mourns the loss of two members in 2020, but not to Covid. Dom Norcia and Bob Cowan, two men who were always eager to work for our Branch, will be sorely missed. Our love goes out to their families.

The holidays have passed and we have done our best to stay in relative isolation. Now we can only hope that the vaccine will prove to be successful, so we can once again plan and work together. *Until then stay strong, stay safe, e Dio vi Benedica,*

Lucy Amico



Br. 184, Marie Antonowicz as Santa's Elf

San Jose St. Frances Cabrini, Br. 191

The New Year brought our Branch the first Zoom Board Meeting of 2021. Thank you Father Paolo for joining us, and hope to see more of you in our future Zoom meetings.

In our first meeting of 2021, discussions wrapped up old business. Our branch donated 20 hams, and 150 boxes of food to needed families at the SFC food give away. Also, donations were given to the Layette Program.

Looking to keep our branch active involves each and every member. To reach that goal, President Debbie Piro will have a General Meeting on Zoom. Please take a moment, and consider participating. We cannot afford to lose our very valuable members. We need each and every one of you to survive! Get the kids/grandkids to help you with Zoom. It will be a fun evening to reconnect. More details coming. Make this a New Year's Resolution.

Speaking of reconnecting, we thank the Phone Committee in continuing to call our members. Checking on all of us has been its goal. We are happy to hear their voices, exchange a few stories, and have some well-deserved laughs.

Let us pray for our dear Br. 191 member, Angela Cosentino, who went to her eternal resting place on Dec 24. Angela, and her husband Sal (deceased) were Charter Members of our Branch. Angela was a very active member, with dances, dinners, and her devotion to St. Joseph, and the St. Joseph's Day Table. May we keep her family in our prayers at this difficult time.

Buon San Valentino Shirley Catania Sentinel

San Jose Santa Teresa de Avila, Br. 368

Only a little while longer, dear friends. We have had great help in getting through these last eleven months. Father George sings and reads to us on Wednesdays, the phone committee cheers us, Ed and Jane send us help. The live-streamed masses help a lot, too. We all have hope of being able to share hugs again.

We hope February finds you healthy and safe. We think about our members who are having health problems, worry with them, and pray for them.

We have a wonderful phone tree committee who has contacted each member with loving greetings and reassurances. Hearing a warm, friendly voice of a fellow member was such a blessing to me. Joyce Robba, a committee member, said, "We were excited to be involved in reaching out to our members." Thank you to all the callers, Avis Erkel, Cathie Orlowski, Mickey Sanitate, and Robyn



A hopeful fall harvest, Branch 191



Time to harvest Branch 191

Schlice, for uplifting our spirits. Well done, good and faithful friends!

Jane and Ed Wendler found a lovely video on YouTube to usher in 2021, "Auld Lang Syne" by Sissel. They thought of our members and sent the link on to us, providing us another source of beauty and encouragement. Thank you, folks!

Regarding our slate of officers, our president Mary Ridi said, "The officers stay as they are for now since we were not able to hold elections."

So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day, everyone!

Love you, Judy Zahn

San Jose St. Martin of Tours, Br. 391

In January, President Mike Rossi thanked members for their generosity and for supporting our Branch 391 and St. Martin of Tours during this past year. Mike reported that, despite a year of Covid, we managed to donate over \$11,000 to our charities in 2020. He also reminded us of the many kindnesses of Al, Diana, and Linda Vallorz, who organized two special fundraisers for our branch.

Thank you to our 2021 officers of Branch 391 who volunteered to remain in their same officer positions this year-President Mike Rossi, 1st VP Marcie Rossi, 2nd VP Doug Schenk, Secretary Susan Busco, Financial Secretary Tina Rossi, Treasurer Steve Lencioni, Orator Sr. Jane Garrison, Trustee Mayme Abbott, Trustee Donna Rossi, Trustee Lynda Vallorz, and Sentinel Linda Ochinero. Also, thank you, Mayme, for continuing to be our "Sunshine Lady"—she is always there when sending out prayers and cards to our members.

Thank you, Tina Rossi, our calendar chairperson, for being proactive and doing a great job in selling 2021 ICF calendars (another fundraiser).

Tina and Steve Lencioni have mailed dues renewal notices for 2021—please send in your checks as soon as possible, since we need your support at this time.

Mike stated that our membership numbers came down in 2020, due to deceased members and to those who moved or did not renew their membership.

We pray that you all stay safe and healthy, and we look forward to sharing prayers and joy in the coming months. Janis Patellaro

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

There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Several vaccines have been approved and are already being administered to many first responders and senior citizens. Please keep doing your part to keep this virus at bay and let us all get back to "normal" soon. Some of our members have been affected by Covid-19 but thankfully, they are doing well and recovering.

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership in the ICF by sending in their dues for 2021. Please remember that we will be doing all the things we were doing before in a few months and we are looking forward to gathering together once again.

Some of our members are continuing to support the local community through volunteering and donations to St. Catherine's ReachOut and St. Vincent de Paul programs. You can always go online to contribute to this program as well as many others in our parish.

We hope you all had a happy and safe holiday.

Take care and stay safe, Maryclaire Sampognaro President, Br #435





Br. 435 Board from 2020 Installation Ceremony

San Jose Transfiguration, Br. 445

As I write this article, it is January 6th the Feast of the Epiphany which is celebrated throughout Italy and the world. Many children awakened joyously to the gifts left by Italy's La Befana. Yet, it is a dark day for American history as our Nation's Capitol was stormed by rioters. It is our hope and prayer that our nation will go forward with a peaceful inauguration of President Elect Joe Biden and Vice President Elect Kamala Harris.

From the start of Covid to the end of the 2020, our Homeless Ministry distributed over 4,000 sack lunches to those in need. We are thankful to the YarnSpinners of S.J. Elks Lodge #522 for their Christmas donation of knitted hats, scarves, shawls and blankets to our ministry.

Our continued thanks to our many members who volunteer their time in support of this project. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love".

Although "Carnevale" will be much different this February, photos of times shared bring joy that we may soon be able to meet in person again. Stay safe and well.

Submitted by, Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

STOCKTON

Modesto St. Stanislaus, Br. 48

The dues for 2021 were due in January. Please pay them as soon as you can since our income is very limited and we need to cover our expenses.

If you have a member of your family or a friend that is applying for a scholarship please remind them the applications have to be in by March 15, 2021.

Thanks to all our members and friends that bought convention calendars. Some members took some for gifts which helped a great deal. I was unable to reach some of the contacts this year that have always bought calendars but some called to see if we were selling them this year. Indeed we are was my answer and they met me at my door to pick up their calendars.

Our event calendar for the year has not been okayed by the parish yet for the use of the hall and the church. When we are able to gather at an event they will let us know since so far we have had to cancel everything.

Most of our business has been taken care of by text message. We still have some that have to be called or a note dropped to them.

God's Blessings to all of you, stay Safe and Healthy.

Cecelia McGhee



Br. 445's "Babbo Natale" (Andy La Scola) with lunches for others in need.



Br. 445 Jan Stumhoffer and Loretta Miller



Br. 445's LaBefana memories



Br. 445 Memories of Carnevale

Lodi St. Anne's, Br. 82

Saluti amici di ICF!

In Jan., our 2021 officers met virtually to discuss plans for this year's membership meetings and fundraisers. Please check your email for our branch newsletter, the quarterly district newsletter, and correspondence regarding upcoming membership meetings. Thank you, Elisa Moberly, for creating both the branch and district newsletters.

Due to the pandemic, our branch has not been as active as it once was, but rest assured, we continue to support our church and its programs. Your renewed membership is very much appreciated. For the 2021 year, dues are \$42.00/individual and \$52.00/family. If you haven't done so already, please mail your renewal to Elisa Moberly.

So much has changed in how St. Anne's holds mass services, confession, adoration, daily rosary, and private prayer in the church. Face to face Bible studies and prayer groups are rare. If you miss learning and reflecting on the scriptures, our Fr. Brandon suggests Ascension's The Bible in a Year podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz. This program is inspired by Jeff Cavin's Great Adventure Timeline. Fr. Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible in 365 (20-25 minute) episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way. Check it out and register at ascensionpress.com/ bibleinayear.

Lent is approaching. During this Lenten season, let us be hopeful and respond to any suffering with love, just as Jesus did, by demonstrating charity, service, and sacrifice.

Patty Litts, President



Stockton St. Luke, Br. 138

The members of ICF Branch #138 were devastated to learn of the passing of Danette Curtis, Recording Secretary, and dear friend, on December 21, 2020 due to COVID.



Danette was born and raised in Stockton, California, graduated from Edison High School in 1981, and earned her Bachelor of Art in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She worked in the Diocese of Stockton for nearly 20 years, starting as a teacher for St. Luke School in 2001, and then transitioning to the Office Manager and 8th grade religion teacher where she stayed until 2019. In 2019 she began working for St. Mary's High School where she was the Accounts Payable Manager for one year and then Registrar.

Danette used her talent for teaching and inspiring people in adult religious education (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA), and she sponsored many people into the Catholic faith. She liked being outdoors, entertaining her family and friends, decorating for the holidays, and doing arts and crafts. She also loved attending her students' sporting events.

Danette was instrumental in reinitiating the ICF Branch #138 in St. Luke Parish. She was vivacious, witty, intelligent, beautiful, kind, compassionate, and she is sorely missed by those who knew her. Please keep her husband, Joe, their three daughters, and her family in your prayers. Pray for end to COVID.

Tracy St. Bernard's, Br. 390

The take out dinner planned for January 2021 was postponed by the board members due to the recent increase in hospitalizations bringing the lockdown back to California residents. We rescheduled the next take-out dinner for the month of February, date TBD. It was a tough decision for the board since the December take-out dinner brought over 200 folks to our door and provided our branch with greatly needed funds to keep us going in our endeavor to provide scholarships and donations in the future

We continue to offer our prayers to those of you who have family members and friends who are ill and struggling with both health and financial issues. We should try to remember it's God's plan, not our plans, that affect us when we are trying to join family members and friends...with masks and social distancing, knowing that we Italians are a 'hugging' bunch. Praying God plans to end this soon.

Just a heads up, you will soon be receiving your bill for your annual dues. The life of our branch and Federation depends on its members, so when you receive your dues envelope, please enclose your check and mail it back. Please continue your support to our branch--it is vital, especially during these trying times. Thank you in advance

Our condolences and sympathy go out to the family members and friends of branch member Deolinda Mattos, who passed away in December.

When you need a little pick-me-up, don't forget Steve Ridolfi continues to post the life of our branch though pictures on our Website: www.icf-branch390.org.

Hope everyone stays healthy, happy and safe,

Betty Hollars



Stockton Presentation of the BVM, Br. 395

Last year at this time our Branch was getting ready for our Polenta dinner, an annual tradition that hundreds of individuals from all faiths and ethnic backgrounds looked forward to. Our first Polenta dinner was held about twenty years ago in our modest Guadalupe Hall. Our members did all of the cooking and a little over hundred were in attendance. Fast forward to 2020; we held that same dinner in Presentation's Community Center that holds over 500 people. The event is now catered and consists of raffles and silent and live auctions. Last year we were fortunate to hold our Polenta dinner just before everything shut down. This year will mark the first time we haven't held our polenta dinner, but we will be back in 2022 and have lots to celebrate!

One of our caterers were our own ICF members, Joe and Danette Curtis. It is with great sadness that we lost Danette due to COVID. Danette was a member of our branch for several years before reopening Branch 138. She will truly be missed and our prayers go out to her family.

I think it is fitting to conclude with the following Prayer of Solidarity:

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

alla prossima,

Mary Ann

Angels Camp St. Patrick's, Br. 413

A Happy and Blessed Valentine's Day to all from Branch 413!!

This is the month that we usually hold our Valentine Day Dinner/Dance, but that isn't in God's plan for us this year. Last year, we had a wonderful dinner and there was dancing to happy music, raffles and prizes. Weren't those the days?!! Well, last year at that dinner, our wonderful priest, Fr. John Paul Pasala, offered to be raffled off as a chef for one dinner. He would cook one Indian style dinner for a group of people to enjoy. Suddenly the virus struct, and all was put on hold until later in the year when our county was in the yellow. Then Fr. John Paul cooked the meal, the families who won the dinner raffle said it was delicious, and our branch made \$1,300. When Fr. John Paul volunteered to be a chef, his intent was to raise the money so as to be able to give it to the Bishop at the Bishop's Burse. The branch will honor that request, and hold the money for the future Bishop's Burse. A big thank you to Father and the families that won the raffle!!

In this year, we pray for all our ICF Families and ask God to give you health and His peace. Please be safe and keep us all in your prayers.

Ciao.

Annette Pachinger Correspondence Secretary



I travel, work, suffer my weak health, meet with a thousand difficulties, but all these are nothing, for this world is so small. To me, space is an imperceptible object, as I am accustomed to dwell in eternity.

-Frances Xavier Cabrini

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)



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:

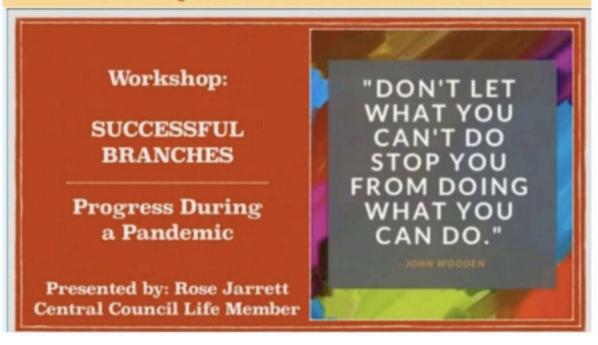
ItalianCS.org | (415) 362-6423 | info@italiancs.com



DEADLINE

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

Workshops Are Available On Our Website





ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION **CONVENTION AWARD CATEGORIES**

Review the five award opportunities and complete the application. There is one shared application available for all categories. The deadline to submit applications and supporting documents is May 1. Previous year's nominations are eligible for resubmission.

POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII AWARD

The highest award bestowed by the I.C.F. is presented at the Saturday Night Convention Banquet. The recipient may be of any religious denomination and shall exemplify the spirit and tradition of the late Pope Saint John XXIII. The nominee must demonstrate achievements in one of the following areas: 1. Community Betterment of Civic Endeavors 2. Ecumenical Spirit in Furthering the Brotherhood of Man 3. Charitable and/or Religious Activities. A \$1,000 donation will be made to the award recipient's charity of choice.

The Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award was created to acknowledge and honor a Catholic Priest, Brother, Deacon or Nun who exemplifies the spirit of Mother Teresa in the performance of works to better the human condition. The recipient will receive this award at the Saturday night banquet. A \$1000 donation will be made to the award recipient's charity of choice.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD

GRAND PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This award will be presented during the Sunday General Session to an outstanding lay member of the Federation. Nominees must have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to furthering the goals of the Federation. A \$500 donation will be made to the award recipient's I.C.F. charitable program of choice.

The I.C.F. Family of the Year is recognized during the Saturday General Session. This award honors an I.C.F. Family which has made a significant contribution to their branch, district, parish and/or community. A \$500 donation will be made to the family's I.C.F. charitable program of choice.

FAMILY OF THE YEAR **AWARD**

LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes a member (39 years or younger) who has YOUNG ADULT demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and possesses the enthusiasm, talent, energy and vision to become a leader who will guide the Federation in the decades ahead. The recipient will receive this award during the Saturday General Session. A \$500 donation will be made to the award recipient's I.C.F. charitable program of choice.



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION AWARD NOMINATION

Nomination Year: 20	
Award:	
Pope Saint John XXIII	
Saint Teresa of Calcutta	
Grand President's	
Family of the Year	
Young Adult Leadership	

Nominations must be postmarked on or before May 1.

Please include with this application:

- -A maximum of three letters of endorsement.
- -Copies of awards or publications, if available, to support the nomination.

The Central Council will vote on one finalist for each award at the June meeting. The Grand President will notify the winners of their achievement and invite them to attend the I.C.F. Convention to receive their award. Transportation, one night lodging, and admission to the Saturday night banquet will be provided. Central Council Members, Members Emeritus, Life Members Emeritus or Members of their immediately families are not eligible for nomination.

Nominee: Name:	
Address:	
City:	State:
Zip: Pho	ne: ()
E-mail:	
Branch #/City: For the Family of the Year award, please indicate names of parents, children and other family members being nominated within the body of your biographical sketch.	

Nominated By Individual, Branch or District:
Contact Person:
Phone: ()
E-mail:

Statement of Endorsement:

Qualifications Summary:

Please summarize the major accomplishments of the nominee. If known, include offices and chairmanships held (within the I.C.F., parish and community) along with information on any significant contributions. You may attach additional sheets of text.



DATE:

Italian Catholic Federation Twenty First Annual



GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021

SAYE THE DATE

(TENTATIVE)

JOINUS IN THEWINECOUNTRY

FOR OUR
21ST
YEAR
EVENTS



MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW. START MAKING
YOUR PLANS TO SHARE IN THIS NEW GOLF VENTURE
AND MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE
21ST ANNIVERSARY EVENT!!!



ICF, 8393 Capwell Drive, # 110, Oakland, CA 94621 • 888-423-1924 • FAX: (510) 633-9758 • Web Site: icf.org • E-mail: info@icf.org

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 <u>Gross Receipts</u> of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file IRS Form 990 EZ or 990.

Branches or Districts with <u>Gross Receipts</u> 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 <u>Gross Receipts</u> of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file State Form 199.

Branches or Districts in California with <u>Gross Receipts</u> 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 <u>Gross Receipts</u> 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



The Ways and Means Committee presents the 2022 "Daily Raffle" theme:

"Coming To America"

We need your participation. So how can you help?

Share the story of your FAMILY'S JOURNEY to AMERICA!

- Share RECIPES that your family brought to America with them.
- Share PICTURES that hold fond memories of your Family's Heritage.
- Sell! Sell! Sell! The "Daily Raffle" is a great fundraiser for the entire Italian Catholic Federation, since a portion of every sale goes directly to your Branch!

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP

List special family occasions such as Family Birthdays, Anniversaries or Graduations...Branch and District events.

PRICE SCHEDULE

\$10 – one name/event; \$15 – 2 names/events; \$20 – 4 names/events

(Additional numbers will be a combination of prices listed above.)

Example: \$30 - 5 names/events @ \$20 +\$10 or \$40 - 8 names/events @ \$20 + \$20

Deadline for names and payment is: June 1, 2021

Mail information and checks payable to:

Italian Catholic Federation 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110 Oakland, CA 94621





The Committee thanks you for your continued support. Chairperson: Bob Basuino Members: Lisa Crudo and Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Advisor: Leonard Rossi, C.L.J.

For further questions, call the I.C.F. office at (510) 633-9058