

October 1, 2022

Dear Branch President:

I am honored to have been appointed as Chairperson of your Central Council Heritage Committee for the 2022-2023 year. Heritage is at the very heart of our Federation; traditions influence our lives every day in the way we eat, live, love, laugh, sing, play and pray!

I would like to thank this past year's Heritage Committee Members and a special thank you to the family members who were also a big part of support for this committee.

Please provide me with your Heritage Chairperson's contact information, including e-mail, if possible, address and phone number. Remember that Heritage is such an important part of each and every meeting.

To assist your Heritage Chairperson, the Heritage Committee continues to add more materials online. At www.icf.org, one can find information about the organization and the founders - Sir Luigi Providenza and Fr. Albert Bandini.

I urge your Branch to host at least one big Heritage Program or event per year. Given the world as we know it today, we do have some challenges with having our gatherings.

I encourage you, and your Chairperson, to honor a member at each virtual or in person meeting and ask them to share a part of themselves with the group such as - Where in Italy is your family from (or any ancestral heritage)? - What special customs did you grow up with? - What foods were unique or special to your region of your homeland? It is always wonderful to hear the stories of our varied heritages, and I know everyone loves to feel special and share something about themselves.

We also hope to resume our St. Joseph's Day Tables, a Columbus Day Celebration, an International Heritage Day or a special Christmas Program, etc. The possibilities truly are endless - and lots of fun.

Each year at the Convention, this year virtually, we make available material and information to help provide ideas for your Heritage Programs. I hope your Branch considers using these great ideas for meetings and fundraisers, so that members and all who attend our functions will develop a deeper appreciation for where we come from and who we are as an organization.

If you and/or your Chairperson have any questions or want to share ideas, feel free to contact me at stewartsfloral@aol.com or 831-588-9839.

I look forward to working with each of you in our continued efforts to support the Italian Catholic Federation.

Mille Grazie,

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Heritage Chairperson and Grand 2nd Vice President of the Central Council