

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

BRANCH BY-LAWS Including ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION



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ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

BRANCH BY-LAWS

Including

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION



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Branch By-Laws

MISSION STATEMENT

“Through families and fellowship, the Italian Catholic Federation promotes and supports the Catholic Faith and its values, encourages apostolic and charitable works, and celebrates our Italian-American heritage and all the heritages of our communities. (Amended 8/2014)

INTRODUCTION

This organization was originally established for practicing Catholics who were Italian by birth or origin. It is composed of various Branches, which shall operate in accordance with these By-Laws. Catholics from all cultures may be admitted as members. All members must express their willingness to accept the ideals and programs of the I.C.F. (Amended 8/2014)

OBJECTIVES

A. Religious

It shall be the purpose of the I.C.F. to uphold and develop the religious spirit among its members and to spread that spirit among all people outside of the organization.

Catholic members are to remain in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church. Every Branch is encouraged to have a Mass celebrated for its living and deceased members once a month.

B. Patriotic

The Federation shall keep alive the respect and love of its members for Italy and at the same time promoting respect and love for the United States.

C. Cultural

It shall encourage classes for instruction and lectures on religious, cultural, heritage and other subjects. It shall also distribute educational material among its members.

D. Apostolate/Charity

Branches shall have active Apostolate and Charitable programs and encourage their members' participation.

CHAPTER I

Name of Branch

A new Branch shall consist of at least thirty-five (35) members. It shall be progressively numbered and shall carry the name of a Saint or a religious title. The Executive Committee may waive the minimum number required.

(Amended 9/2015)

CHAPTER II

Membership

Article 1 - Applicants for Regular Membership are eligible at age 15 (See Chapter III for Family Membership). Applicants must be Roman Catholics in good standing as determined by the Roman Catholic Church (except the non-Catholic spouse of a Roman Catholic member and, for family memberships, non-Catholic children and grandchildren).

(Amended 9/2022)

Article 2 - A. - An applicant accepted for membership shall pay dues through the end of the calendar year. If joining after October 1st add the dues for the following year to the dues payment for October through December of the current year.

(Amended 9/2017)

Article 2 - B. - The application form shall contain statistical data concerning the new member. The original form must be sent to the I.C.F. Office within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of said application by the Branch Secretary and acceptance by the Branch.

Article 2 - C. - Applicants, if at all possible, shall present themselves for initiation within a year of their acceptance. (Amended 9/2017)

Article 2 - D. - A former member of any Branch who desires to reinstate membership shall make a new application and pay dues. (Amended 8/2014)

Article 3 - An applicant accepted as per Article 2 shall be considered a member in good standing with all the privileges of membership in the I.C.F. (Amended 9/2017)

CHAPTER III

Family Membership

Article 1 - Applicants for a Family Membership consist of parent(s) or grandparent(s) and all related unmarried children or grandchildren under the age of 23. The eligible applicants are non-voting members of the Branch until their 15th birthday. Only applicants paying Full Membership will be included in the Branch membership total when determining the election of Convention delegates. All family applicants are subject to conditions outlined in Chapter II, Article 1. (Amended 9/2022)

CHAPTER IV

Meetings

Article 1 - Branches shall hold at least nine (9) regular business meetings a year.

Article 2 - Special meetings may be called by the President at his/her discretion, by written request of three (3) officers or by written request of ten (10) members in good standing. The Secretary shall send notice of such special meetings to all members and at such special meetings only matters specified in the notification may be discussed.

Article 3 - At an ordinary meeting, regardless of the number of members in the Branch, a legal vote will be determined by the majority of votes of the Branch members present. (Amended 9/2005)

Article 4 - Officers' Meetings may be called by the President at his or her discretion, or by written request of three (3) officers. Officers' Meetings are open to Officers of the Branch and the President's invitees. Officers' Meetings are for planning purposes only, and decisions are not binding on the Branch until approved by the members at a General Meeting of the Branch. (Added 8/2019)

CHAPTER V

Dues and Rights

Article 1 - A. - Yearly dues for Regular Members are thirty-three dollars and sixty cents (\$33.60) for 2018; thirty-four dollars and eighty cents (\$34.80) for 2019; thirty-six dollars and no cents (\$36.00) for 2020. Each member shall be assessed two dollars and forty cents (\$2.40) per year for the Apostolate Fund. Dues are due and payable annually on January 1st of each year. New members, both regular and family, joining within the year will pay a pro-rated amount to the end of the year. (Amended 9/2017)

Article 1 - B. - All payments of dues made between meeting dates shall be recorded as of the date received by the Financial Secretary.

Article 1 - C. - Annual dues for a Family Membership will be the same as outlined in Chapter III, Article 1 for either parent(s). An additional ten dollars (\$10.00) will be assessed

for all eligible children applicants under the Family Membership. This fee is due and payable on January 1st of each year. The disbursement of this additional ten dollar (\$10.00) fee will be divided with five dollars (\$5.00) toward per capita and the remaining five dollars (\$5.00) to the Branch. Family memberships taken from January 1st to June 30th will pay the full ten dollars (\$10.00). Family memberships taken from July 1st to December 31st will pay five dollars (\$5.00) for the remainder of the year. Fifty percent (50%) of the dues collected will be considered per capita and sent to the I.C.F. Office and the balance will remain with the Branch as dues. (Amended 9/2017)

Article 1 - D. Members in arrears of payment of dues for more than one (1) year will be dropped from the active membership roster.

Article 2 - A. - Members under the age of seventy (70) and applicants for Family Membership are eligible to enroll in the I.C.F. Hospitalization Plan for an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Benefits start after ninety (90) days of membership. (Added 9/2017)

Article 2 - B. - If a member remains active in the I.C.F. Hospitalization Plan, they may continue to be a member past the age of seventy (70). (Added 9/2017)

Article 2 - C. - Members in arrears of payment of dues for more than three (3) months will not receive benefits of the Hospitalization Plan.

Article 3 - A Mass for a deceased member shall be offered by the respective Branch. The amount of the stipend for the Mass is to be decided by the Branch in accordance with the directives of the Diocese.

Article 4 - A. - Members of the I.C.F. who enter active military service may continue to pay dues and continue to be members with rights and benefits or may request military leave of absence from the I.C.F., paying no dues, and having no rights to benefits during such military leave of absence.

Article 4 - B. - Any member who returns from active military service who took a military leave of absence from the I.C.F. may, within sixty (60) days from release of active duty and upon written application and dues payment to any I.C.F. Branch, be reinstated as a member entitled to all rights and benefits as of such date.

CHAPTER VI

Papers of Transfer

Any member desirous of transferring to another Branch shall apply to the Secretary of the Branch he or she wishes to join. The Secretary shall present the transfer request at the next Branch meeting. Upon approval of the membership, the Secretary shall initiate the transfer (Member Data form). The original form is to be sent to the I.C.F. Office and a copy to the former Branch stating the reason for the transfer. The new Branch shall obtain from either the I.C.F. Office or the former Branch a copy of the member's original membership application along with a statement concerning the dues status of the transferred member.

CHAPTER VII

Donations Made by Branches

The Branches may not make appropriations of more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in any one (1) year from the General Fund for purposes which are not directly provided for in these By-Laws. This provision applies only to the General Fund and does not apply to funds held in other accounts of the Branch.

CHAPTER VIII

Amendments to Rules of Branches

The Branches may adopt amendments to their rules, but such amendments must be approved by the Central Council or Executive Committee before they have any binding force.

CHAPTER IX

Emblem, Motto and Patroness

Article 1 - The emblem of the I.C.F. shall be the Crusaders' shield with the letters: F. (Fides-Faith); P. (Patria-Fatherland); I. (Italia-Italy); A. (America). The motto shall be "Ignem Veni Mittere." (I Came to Light a Fire.)

Article 2 - Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton are the Patron Saints of the I.C.F. All members are urged to invoke their intercession. Branches are encouraged to observe their feast days (Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini on November 13 and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton on January 4). All meetings of the I.C.F. shall be closed with the invocation “St. Frances Xavier Cabrini - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.”

Article 3 - The hymn of the I.C.F. shall be “Noi Vogliam Dio.”

CHAPTER X

Subordinate Associations Within a Branch

Subordinate associations within a Branch are permitted with prior authorization of the Executive Committee.

CHAPTER XI

Elections

Article 1 - A. - The elected officers of a Branch are as follows:

President	Financial Secretary*
First Vice-President	Treasurer*
Second Vice-President	Orator
Recording Secretary	Trustees (1-3)
Correspondence Secretary (optional)	Sentinel

Note: *The offices of Financial Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

Article 1 - B. Also serving as officers but not elected are:
(1) The Chaplain, who shall be a priest. If no priest is available, then a permanent deacon or professed religious may be the Chaplain. (2) The Immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio officer of the Branch. (Amended 9/2017)

Article 2 - A. - In October the nominating committee, appointed by the President, shall present a list of candidates for office. Nominations and elections will take place at the October meeting. An opportunity for floor nominations must be given for each office. Each office shall be voted on individually. Contested offices must be voted upon by secret ballot. If the October meeting date is changed, members of the Branch must be notified by U.S. Mail or E-mail fourteen (14) days in advance. The new officers shall assume office on January 1. (Amended 9/2012)

Article 2 - B. - The President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President cannot hold that particular office more than three (3) consecutive years. Other incumbent officers may be re-elected.

Note: (1) This rule took effect on January 1, 1995. Any of the above named officers on or after that date can serve in that particular office for only three (3) consecutive years. They may run for another office but cannot rerun for the office previously held until they have vacated that particular office for a period of one (1) year.

(2) Branches should not lightly excuse themselves from the obligation of this section of the By-Laws, however in certain circumstances it is impossible to fulfill this obligation due to the lack of available candidates. (Amended 9/2010)

Article 2 - C. - A member must be present to be nominated and elected. In the event the nominee cannot be present, a letter from the nominee declaring their intention may be accepted by the Branch. No person shall be elected to the office of President in an existing Branch unless that person has been a member of the I.C.F. for six (6) months and a member of the existing Branch for six (6) months prior to the election. (Amended 9/2013)

Article 2 - D. - If a chair becomes vacant it shall be filled by election, except in the case of the President. If the office of President becomes vacant the First Vice-President will become President for the remainder of the term or until he/she resigns.

Article 2 - E. - The President, Vice-President(s), Treasurer and Financial Secretary must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Article 2 - F. - At no time may a member be elected to office by proxy or absentee vote.

Article 2 - G. - A member cannot be elected to office if he or she is not in good standing with yearly dues.

Article 2 - H. - An officer who has not paid his or her dues in full by March 31st of the new year will automatically be suspended from office. The officer shall receive a fifteen (15) day notification, before March 15th, from the Financial Secretary that the officer must pay his or her dues to avoid suspension from office. (Amended 8/2019)

Article 2 - I. - An officer who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings without a good reason, forfeits his or her office.

Article 3 - Branch officers are subject to recall by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a meeting called by general notification stating the purpose of that meeting. The secretary shall issue such notice upon written demand of ten (10) members.

CHAPTER XII

Duties of Officers

Chaplain

Article 1 - The Chaplain shall assist the officers in keeping the activities of the Branch in harmony with the mission of the Roman Catholic Church. The Chaplain is likewise encouraged to promote and approve the work of the Apostolate and any and all efforts at Evangelization on the part of the Branch. (Amended 9/2010)

President

Article 2 - The President is the first officer of the Branch. He or she shall preside at every Branch and Officers' meeting, be an authorized signatory on all Branch accounts, see that every officer performs his/her duty and is responsible to see that the By-Laws of the I.C.F. are observed. Additionally, the President shall appoint all committees. In the case of a tie vote the President's vote shall decide. When a secret ballot is taken, the President is entitled to cast a vote. It is the duty of the President to examine and announce the results of all votes. The President shall not make nor second any motion nor take part in debate while in the chair and shall perform all the duties of his/her office in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedure.

First Vice-President

Article 3 - The First Vice-President is responsible for monthly Branch programs and in the absence of the President shall assume all of his/her duties and rights. Additionally, if there is no Second Vice-President, those duties shall be assumed by the First Vice-President.

Second Vice-President

Article 4 - The Second Vice-President is responsible for all Branch property and for arranging the meeting room. He/she may seek assistance if needed. He/she is also to carry-out the duties of the President or First Vice-President in their absence.

Secretary

Article 5 - The Secretary shall keep a record of all the members of the Branch, showing the names, addresses, dates of birth and dates of admission. The duties of the Secretary shall include, but are not limited to, keeping a record of the proceedings of each meeting, the reading of all communications, assisting the President in preparing correspondence from the Branch and notifying applicants for membership of their election. Whenever a successor to this office assumes the duties of Secretary, he/she shall deliver to the successor all documents and properties of the Branch. (Amended 9/2017)

Financial Secretary

Article 6 - The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of the finances of the Branch and a record of all names and addresses of the members. The Financial Secretary shall give a receipt for all monies he/she receives. Copies shall be given to the Secretary for the record. It is the duty of the Financial Secretary to notify members who are about to become delinquent in their dues and liable to suspension according to the By-Laws. It is also the duty of the Financial Secretary to notify the I.C.F. Office of any new memberships to the Branch, address changes, etc., transfers, cancellations or deaths, by means of the membership application and data form so that the Branch roster is kept current and the membership is up-to-date. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Financial Secretary to contact the President when the quarterly reports are received from the I.C.F. Office, so that the Trustee(s) can call a meeting for the quarter. The Financial Secretary shall at the termination of his/her office deliver, to his/her successor, all properties of the Branch and obtain a receipt for said property. (Amended 9/2010)

Note: The office of Financial Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

Treasurer

Article 7 - A. - The Treasurer shall issue a receipt for all monies received, make authorized disbursements and keep an accurate record of all Branch finances. He/she shall not make any payment nor dispose of any property except upon proper authorization for same as duly recorded in the Branch minutes. He/she shall pay to the I.C.F. Office the per capita, assessments, fines and other bills that are received by the Branch from the I.C.F. Office. These must be paid by the Branch and are not subject to a vote of the Branch for payment. (Amended 9/2016)

The Treasurer shall at the termination of his/her office deliver, to his/her successor, all properties of the Branch and obtain a receipt for said property. The Treasurer's books and accounts shall be reviewed by the President, Financial Secretary and Trustee(s) quarterly. The Treasurer will attend the quarterly Trustee(s) meeting and have available all pass books, check books and bank statements for the quarter being reviewed. The Treasurer shall prepare a quarterly report showing detailed receipts and disbursements each quarter. At the Branch meeting following the quarterly Trustee(s) meeting, this detailed report will be read by a Trustee. (Amended 9/2010)

Article 7 - B. - On Branch checks that require two (2) signatures, the signatories shall not be related either by marriage or by birth or be co-habitants. (Amended 9/2007)

Orator

Article 8 - The Orator shall lead the opening and closing prayer of the Branch in the absence of the Chaplain. He/she shall work with the Apostolate Chairperson in promoting the religious program of the Branch.

Trustee(s) 1-3

Article 9 - The Trustee(s) shall meet quarterly with the President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer (see Chapter XII, Article 7) to examine all receipts, disbursements and accounts verifying that all is in order prior to sending the Quarterly Report to the I.C.F. Office.

Sentinel

Article 10 - It shall be the duty of the Sentinel to function as the greeter at all meetings, to notify the President of any guests, and to see that members are properly admitted when the meeting is in session. The Sentinel may be assigned the task of keeping the record of the members in attendance.

CHAPTER XIII

Standing Committees

Article 1 - The Standing Committees of a Branch are the Public Relations Committee, Membership Committee, Apostolate/Charity Committee, Heritage Committee and Scholarship Committee. The President shall appoint the chairperson of each committee. The chairperson may select other Branch members for assistance.

Article 2 - The Public Relations Committee shall publicize Branch activities to the members, the Central Council, District Councils and other Branches and in the Bollettino and other media.

Article 3 - The Membership Committee shall be responsible for promoting new members for the Branch. In cooperation with the Financial Secretary (see Chapter XII, Article 6), the committee should contact members who are delinquent in dues payments and shall present applications of new members at the meeting.

Article 4 - The Apostolate/Charity Committee shall promote the Apostolic/Charity work of the I.C.F., including but not limited to Branch sponsored visitations to the sick and shut-ins, religious functions, donations to charity (including the I.C.F. national charity), Seminary Burse and other charitable works. This committee shall work with the Orator to promote the religious programs of the Branch.

Article 5 - The Heritage Committee shall promote the Branch heritage program by scheduling speakers, films, heritage days, cultural excursions and any other events with Italian heritage significance. It shall cooperate with the District Council and Central Council Heritage Committees.

Article 6 - The Scholarship Committee shall encourage Branch sponsorship of I.C.F. scholarships. The committee should be in contact with the local high schools to promote scholarship applications. The scholarship winner(s) shall be acknowledged at a Branch or District function.

CHAPTER XIV

General Dispositions

Article 1 - Either the English or Italian version of the Ritual is permitted, at the discretion of the Branch.

Article 2 - The administrative system of all Branches must be uniform. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of official receipt books for every payment by members.

Article 3 - All Branch funds must be deposited in federally insured financial institutions and must be in the name of the Branch. (Amended 9/2007)

Article 4 - The Dues Payment Record of each Branch, shall be sent to the I.C.F. Office not later than fifteen (15) days before the closing of each quarter. This report shall also indicate the receipts for the Hospitalization Plan. Hospitalization Plan dues shall be submitted with this report. Other reports are due after the per capita report has been received from the I.C.F. Office at the beginning of the quarter.

Article 5 - No communication concerning controversies within the Federation, comments on officers or statutory proposals shall pass from Branch to Branch, unless the Executive Committee has previously approved such communication, in its entirety. Members or officers disregarding this provision shall be liable to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee or the Judiciary Committee of the Central Council.

Article 6 - A. - No solicitation of funds either in person or by mail shall be made from one Branch to another without the previous approval of the Executive Committee.

Note: Part of the intent of this Article is to prohibit Branches and Districts from holding raffles in competition with Central Council fund raising activities. Raffles are in competition when the value of an award or prize exceeds two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). In any case, regardless of the value of the award or prize, sale and solicitation must be confined to the Branch or District that is sponsoring the raffle. The Bollettino cannot be used as a vehicle to announce or advertise such raffles.

Article 6 - B. - Donations from Branch general funds must have the approval of the Executive Committee except in the case of donations to the Pastor or Chaplain of the Branch, the parish and established charities. No such donations from the general funds shall exceed the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in any calendar year.

Article 7 - A. - No Branch shall vote to close on its own. If a Branch wishes to close, the Branch must write a letter of this intent to the Executive Committee of the Central Council, signed by the President and the Secretary of the Branch, before any vote to close. At this time, the Executive Committee will appoint a Central Council Member to work with the Branch to resolve the problems and/or challenges facing the Branch and administrate the Branch if necessary. (Amended 8/2019)

Article 7 - B. - Closed Branches shall send to the I.C.F. Office the balance of the General Fund, all records, officers' scarves and Branch banner.

CHAPTER XV

Rules of Order

Article 1 - Decision of the President on points of order shall not be subject to discussion. An appeal may be made by asking the members present: "Shall the decision of the Chair be considered as that of the Branch?"

Article 2 - No member shall have the right to speak longer than five (5) minutes on any subject, nor to speak again on the same subject, except when all other members who so desire have spoken. No member shall have the right to speak more than three (3) times on the same subject without the approval of the Chair or by the majority of members present.

Article 3 - No motion shall be discussed until accepted by the Chair and seconded.

Article 4 - When a motion is placed in discussion, no other motion is permissible except to postpone or amend the same or on points of order.

Article 5 - No member may be interrupted when talking, except to be called to order by the Chair.

Article 6 - If a member is called to order when speaking, he or she shall sit down until the point is determined. The member may resume his or her presentation only on permission from the Chair.

Article 7 - No member shall offer any motion or speak on any subject before obtaining recognition from the Chair.

Article 8 - Should two (2) members rise at the same time, the Chair shall decide which shall speak first.

Article 9 - Any member shall have the right to call for a vote.

Article 10 - All business shall be conducted in the order indicated by the Ritual, except by a decision of the majority of the members present.

Article 11 - The Chair speaking on a point of order shall have precedence over all members. On all other subjects, the Chair may not speak except to expose the facts in the case.

Article 12 - No member should leave the meeting except by permission of the Chair.

Article 13 - To rescind a motion, which was previously passed, requires a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members voting.

Article 14 - All bills, canceled checks, bank statements and records must be held for five (5) years before destroying. Communications may be destroyed after one (1) year. Minutes are to be maintained as a permanent record.

Article 15 - When not otherwise provided for, “Roberts Rules of Order” will govern.

CHAPTER XVI

The Annual Convention

Article 1 - The Annual Convention, shall be held each year to coincide with Labor Day. The duration of the Convention shall be for three (3) days. The Central Council may, for good cause, extend the Convention to four (4) days.
(Amended 9/2017)

Article 2 - The Grand President of the Central Council shall preside at the Convention.

Article 3 - A. - The number of votes and delegates to which each Branch shall be entitled shall be based on the number of Individual Membership members in good standing as indicated in its Quarterly Report of March 31st. Those Branch members under the age of 24 who have either not paid adult dues or have not paid dues as of March 31st are not included in the total membership count. Delegates are elected in accordance with the following chart:

(Amended 9/2015)

No. Of Members	No. Of Delegates		No. Of Members	No. Of Delegates	
	Min.	Max.		Min.	Max.
1 to 100	1	2	126 to 175	3	4
101 to 125	2	3	176 or more	4	6

Note: No Branch shall be entitled to more than six (6) delegates. (Amended 9/2005)

Article 3 - B. - Members in arrears with dues payments are not eligible to run for or serve as delegates.

Article 3 - C. - The delegates to the Annual Convention shall receive from the General and/or Social Fund of their Branch a reasonable expense allowance to cover costs of meals, accommodations and transportation for the Convention days in which delegates participate. The Convention registration fee, which includes specified meals, shall be paid in advance by the Branch. Delegate expenses must be included as an operational expense of the Branch and take precedence over voluntary expenses. Deviations from these regulations must have the approval of the Central Council Executive Committee. (Amended 9/2022)

Article 3 - D. - The Branches shall nominate and elect their delegates and their alternates among those present at a Branch meeting during the months of April or May, as indicated on the Branch's calendar. The Branch President by right of office shall be the first delegate. Only members in good standing, who attended seventy-five percent (75%) of their Branch meetings per year, will be eligible for nomination as delegates to the Annual Convention. Attendance shall be determined by having members sign a register each time they attend meetings. The year of eligibility of delegates to the Convention shall be considered from the previous twelve (12) months. No one may be a candidate or delegate unless he or she has been a member of the I.C.F for one (1) year. (Exception: Newly formed Branches and in cases where no eligible Branch member accepts a Delegate or Alternate nomination.) When the number of nominees exceeds the number of delegates or alternates to be elected, as specified in the By-Laws, an election by secret ballot shall take place. Written notification of excused absence to the Branch President and accepted by the Branch will allow a nominated member to run for Convention Delegate. (Amended 9/2017)

Article 3 - E. - Delegates shall not have the right to present to the Convention any proposal voted down at a meeting of their Branch.

Article 3 - F. - The list of Delegates and Alternates, along with a check to cover the cost of the Convention registration fees, shall be sent to the I.C.F. Office not later than June 30th.

Article 3 - G. - Branches presenting new proposals and/or amendments to the By-Laws shall submit them in writing (signed by both the Branch President and Recording Secretary) to the I.C.F. Office not later than the 30th of April. All such proposals and amendments which are accepted by the Central Council shall be mailed to every Branch not later than the 25th day of June for discussion among the delegates and officers of the respective Branches. (Amended 9/2010)

Article 3 - H. - Delegates from Branches, which are not in good standing according to the By-Laws, will not be seated at the Convention.

Article 4 - All Branches are required to send at least the minimum quota of their delegates; otherwise, they are subject to an assessment of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) per day per delegate. A Branch, which desires to be excused from the Convention, must receive prior approval of the Central Council Executive Committee. When requesting to be excused, a letter stating the reason must be submitted to the I.C.F. Office by June 30th of that year's Convention. A Branch that is assessed by the Central Council Executive Committee shall pay the assessment to the I.C.F. General Fund within sixty (60) days of notice from the I.C.F. Office. (Amended 9/2022)

Article 5 - Members of the Central Council shall attend the Convention having the same rights as Branch delegates.

Article 6 - A. - No proposal, amendment or motion to increase dues, per capita tax, or to assess members of Branches shall be acted upon at the Convention, unless first presented to the Branches in the above specified time.

Article 6 - B. - Motions, proposals and other matters presented and accepted by the Central Council in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XVII, Article 3, E shall be placed on the Convention Agenda. After the discussion of all agenda items, any other matter may be discussed, if agreeable to the majority of delegates in attendance at the Convention.

Article 6 - C. - The order of discussion of proposals at the Convention shall be prepared in advance by the Grand Parliamentarian. Matters presented by the Central Council shall have precedence. (Amended 10/2016)

Article 6 - D. - The Central Council in pursuance of its duties in passing on proposals for presentation to Convention is authorized to eliminate:

(a) Proposals clearly unconstitutional, discriminatory (except as to age for benefits) or infringing on the fundamental principles of the I.C.F.

(b) Proposals defeated at the immediately previous convention, unless approved for presentation by the Central Council.

Article 7 - Amendments to Branch By-Laws may be made by an affirmative vote of a majority of those voting at the Annual Convention. The Central Council has authority to annul, at its first meeting after the Convention, any proposals or amendments passed at the Convention, which might be of an illegal or anti-religious character.

Article 8 - Any member of the I.C.F. is at liberty to attend the Annual Convention at the member's own expense, with no right to speak or vote during the General Session. A member who is a Non-Delegate running for Central Council, may speak at the General Session when called to give their Candidate's Speech. This Candidate, as a Non-Delegate, does not have the right to a vote. (Amended 9/2018)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The following sections contain the Articles of Incorporation of the Italian Catholic Federation and other information, which can only be changed by the Central Council.

Articles of Incorporation of the Central Council of the Italian Catholic Federation of California

I.

The name of the corporation is: “Central Council of the Italian Catholic Federation of California.”

II.

The corporation is organized under the General Nonprofit Corporation Law pursuant to Part I of Division 2 of Title I of the Corporations Code.

III.

The principal business address of the corporation is 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, California 94621. The principal place of business of The Corporation is in Alameda County.

IV.

The purposes of this corporation are:

A) To perpetuate the objectives for which the Italian Catholic Federation of California was organized as shown by its Statutes and By-Laws.

B) To carry out those objectives and purposes in accordance with the present By-Laws/Statutes of the Federation or in accordance with such By-Laws/Statutes as may from time to time be lawfully adopted.

C) Through its Branches to unite fraternally all males and females of good moral character between such ages as may from time to time be directed; to give moral and material aid to its members and to those dependent upon them; to educate its members socially, morally and intellectually; to provide relief in case of sickness or distress among its members.

D) To maintain a Reserve Fund to be used, according to the By-Laws, for charitable works of Federation members, or for other emergency relief.

V.

The Central Council of the Italian Catholic Federation of California shall be the source of all true and legitimate power and authority in the Italian Catholic Federation of California wherever any of its Branches are established. It shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction and power:

a) To establish Branches of the Federation within the State of California, and in all other states of America.

b) To establish revenue for the Central Council of the Federation by means of a per capita tax on all members.

c) To provide for an annual financial report.

d) To hear and determine through its Judiciary Committee and the Executive Committee all appeals or complaints from members of Branches.

e) To enact laws and regulations of general application to carry into effect the foregoing and all other powers reserved by its By-Laws/Statutes to the Central Council of the Italian Catholic Federation or its Officers.

f) To organize Branches in Districts/Areas.

g) To choose from its membership an Executive Committee, a Judiciary Committee and other committees as circumstances may require, with powers as provided by the Statutes of the Central Council.

h) To establish and change all forms, ceremonies, emblems and regalia.

VI

The Central Council of the Italian Catholic Federation of California shall be composed of a Spiritual Director and twenty members - ten (10) of them known as Life Members, not removable except according to the Statutes, and ten (10) elected yearly or otherwise chosen according to the same Statutes.

VII.

The Corporation shall have perpetual existence.

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Secretary of State
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District and Branch Mentors

Article 1 - A. - The representative of the Central Council in each Branch shall be known as the Branch Mentor.

Article 1 - B. - For the purpose of supervision and coordination of the activities of the Mentors, the Central Council may have District Mentors, to be appointed by the Grand President and Mentor Chairperson, who shall be in charge of all Branch Mentors in his/her designated District. Such District Mentors will be responsible to the Mentor Chairperson. In addition thereto, the District Mentors shall execute the orders of the Central Council or its committees as conveyed to him/her through the Mentor Chairperson.

Article 1 - C. - The District Mentor shall meet with his/her Mentors at least once a year.

Article 1 - D. - The District and Branch Mentors shall be ex-officio voting members of their District Council. The District Mentor shall be given recognition with a distinctive insignia and be given the honors due to Central Council members at all meetings.

Article 1 - E. - The Branch Mentors shall be appointed by the Grand President and Mentor Chairperson upon the recommendation of the District Mentor.

Article 1 - F. - District Mentors shall remain in office for a maximum of a seven (7) year term and Branch Mentors for a four (4) year term with an assigned Branch or until his/her successor has been appointed. Mentors are subject to removal for cause.

Article 1 - G. - A Mentor shall counsel with his/her District Mentor and he/she in turn with the Mentor Chairperson on the foundation of new Branches or the means advisable for moral and material progress of the Branch.

Article 1 - H. - When called upon for the Mentor Report he/she shall speak on an appropriate subject(s).

Article 1 - I. - The Branch Mentor shall be the installing officer, but may yield this function to the District Mentor or any Central Council member.

Article 1 - J. - The Mentor shall define points of order when called upon by the President and may end the meeting when apparently unseizable controversies ensue.

Article 1 - K. - Appeals from his/her decision must be made in writing to the Executive Committee, but in the meantime, his/her decision shall be in effect.

Article 1 - L. - All Branch difficulties or complaints shall be presented first to the Mentor, except if such complaints are against the Mentor. In this case, the matter should be taken up with the District Mentor.

Article 1 - M. - A member cannot be a Branch Mentor to his/her own Branch.

*Mentor Title Adopted at 6/2017 Central Council Meeting.

District Councils

A. - Three (3) or more Branches may form a District Council. (Once a District has been formed, it may remain active as long as two (2) Branches wish to continue.)

B. - The purpose of the District Council shall be to coordinate activities in the District, to promote District activities and to cooperate with other Districts in Diocesan programs.

C. - The District Council shall have administrative but not legislative power. It shall confine its activities within the scope of the Articles of Incorporation and Statutes of the I.C.F.

D. - The original By-Laws of the District Council, and any amendments thereto, must be approved by the Executive Committee before they are effective.

E. - When a Branch wishes to either join or withdraw from a District Council, notification of said vote is to be sent to all Branch Members ten (10) days in advance of the meeting when the voting will take place. Voting must be by secret ballot. A majority of those voting will rule.

Federation Anthem (Inno Ufficiale)

*Noi vogliam Dio ch' Ei ci protegga
Ch' Egli ci guidi sul buon sentier,
Se nella lotta Ei ci sorregga
Sarà del male vinto il poter.*

*Sorge da queste squadre-il grido della Fè
Noi vogliam Dio ch' è nostro Padre
Noi vogliam Dio ch' è nostro Re.*

*In questa terra libera e forte
Portiamo il fervido nostro vigor,
Pronti a difender, nobil coorte
Di Cristo il nome che ci sta in cuor.*

Sorge, ecc.

*Dinanzi al nostro simbol crociato
Sparisca l' odio e la viltà:
Uniti e stretti sfidiam l' agguato
Del mondo folle, dell' empietà.*

Sorge, ecc.

*Su noi risplende santa la luce
Che vien da Roma e il Suor Pastor:
La Chiesa è guida e Cristo il Duce
Che insegna a noi dovere e onor.*

Sorge, ecc.

Federation Anthem (Official Hymn)

*O we want our God to protect us,
And to guide us in the best way.
If in the struggle He will aid us,
From evil shall we win the fray.*

Refrain...

*Rise up all you faithful,
Uphold the Faith and sing:
O we want God Who is our Father;
O we want God Who is our King.*

*In this Land of strength and freedom
We gave our vigor from the start;
Quick to defend, O noble people,
The name of Christ that's in our heart.*

Refrain...

*Before our symbol of the Cross,
Hate and evil are dispelled;
United and strong we meet the challenge
And worldly folly shall be felled.*

Refrain...

*On us shines the Light so holy,
Which comes from Rome and Holy Father;
The Church our guide, and Christ our Leader;
They teach us all duty and honor.*

Refrain...

