



# BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



## ICF Celebrates Keeping Italian Heritage Alive



ICF Participates in San Francisco's Italian Heritage Parade. On October 8th, our Heritage Committee gathered – Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and Bob Basuino Co-Chairs, along with Deborah Rodondi, Lisa Crudo, Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan, Andy Pappani, Lauren Kilcullen, and Maryann Friebe.



Br. 390, Logan Arnaudo and her two future ICF members.



Branch 291 recently held a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Shown here are our servers: Joanna Van Blaricom, Margi Carducci, Kate Payne (in back), Adriana Rodriguez, Amy Spain, Annie Subia and Anne Orlando.

## Grand President's Monthly Message

Denise Antonowicz

Dear Friends,

Thank You from the bottom of my heart for all of your prayers, flowers, plants, and donations to our Scholarship & Providenza funds in memory of Mom. She was ICF through and through, and she gave me the course to work my way up to becoming Grand President. She was so happy on Sunday morning when she found out that I was voted in. We were getting ready to attend Mass and Installation when our world changed dramatically. Thank you all for the support for our family. Your words of love for Mom are truly what we needed to get through this. Mom always told us with strong faith, family, and friends you can get through anything. Boy, was she right. So, I'm sharing with our ICF Family her obituary and please know how grateful we are for having all of you in our lives.



*A bright new star was made on September 5, 2023. God blessed us with 99 3/4 years of love, joy, and strength with Mom, then decided her life with us was over and He took her to her heavenly family. She gave us an example of how we should live life and how to be part of a strong family; that no matter what was given to you, belief in God and the love of your family and friends were what mattered.*

*She loved her family, her music, her many friends and everyone she met, and of course, she loved the Italian Catholic Federation. She loved shopping and traveling. Her first trip to Europe (or really anywhere) was in her 50's and there was no stopping her after that. For the last 10 years we drove across country visiting family and friends, and shopping in every Christmas store that we could find, because she loved DECORATING for Christmas.*

*Continued on Page 3*

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

# BOLLETTINO

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## Important Notice

The email address for ALL *Bollettino* submissions is:

[editor@icf.org](mailto:editor@icf.org)

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.

**Deadline for the December issue is November 10, 2023**

Include district name, branch number and branch name in all submissions.

*Thank you!*

## Message from our Spiritual Director

Dear Friends of the Italian Catholic Federation:

One of my favorite songs, that I used to hear my grandmother sing was... We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day. One of my favorite feasts of the liturgical year are the twin feasts of All Saints and All Souls, which are one two-day feasts. That is explained by the first word of both: "All." Everyone is there—we the living, all who have gone before us and all who will come after, variously described as "a great multitude," "a cloud of witnesses" and "every race, nation, people, and tongue." How comforting this is! All our families, friends, and all the great members of the Italian Catholic Federation. We will meet again in the joy of the resurrection.

There is a beautiful story about a secret garden: In the grounds of a country house there was a secret garden, once beautiful, now all overgrown with weeds. No one had entered it for ten years, not since the lady of the house had died there in an accident. The grief-stricken widower became locked in spiritual darkness, and his young son became paralyzed, absorbing into himself the wasting obsession of his father.

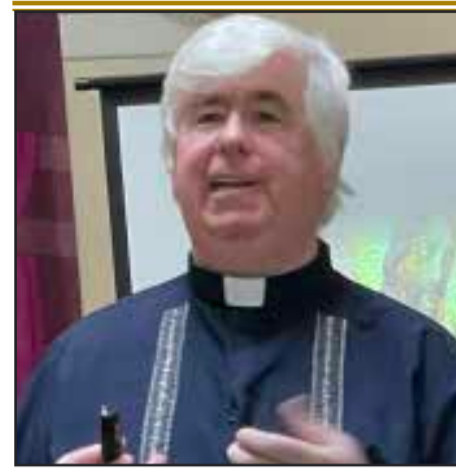
In this story, it takes the arrival of a niece, Mary, herself recently orphaned, to bring life back into the house. She refuses to accept the doom-laden atmosphere of her new

home and, with the help of a local lad, she discovers the secret garden, and together they restore it to life and loveliness. The paralyzed boy is brought in on the secret and when, for the first time in his life, he sees the beautiful flowers in bloom, he cries out, "I shall live forever! I shall live forever!" Finally, the grieving father, whose sorrow and obsession have nearly destroyed him, discovers the children in the resurrected garden, and his soul, too, comes back to life.

This world of ours is like that country house. A beautiful place, it knows too well the sorrows of suffering, the pain of loss, the doom of death. Children can only see the Secret Garden, and in our life, it is the grace of spiritual childhood that will enable us to see flowers in bloom, where once there were only weeds, to see life restored where life has been sadly ended.

The church invites us to pray for the souls of the faithful departed and to prepare for our own death. It is important that we maintain a relationship of love and faith with the deceased and that we view death and the afterlife in the light of the Scriptures. By remembering those who have gone before us, we relate to the history of human existence. At the end of life, death can deprive us of what is mortal, but it can never deprive us of what is divine. Having been stripped of mortality we will be clothed in a robe of immortality.

The feast of All Souls allows us to



Father Christopher Bennett  
ICF Spiritual Director

be grateful for the life we have been given, for the people who have shared our lives and who have loved and supported us throughout our lives. Saint Ambrose wrote: "We loved them in life, let us not forget them in death." Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Remember... We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day.



*Your Brother in Christ,  
Fr. Chris*

## Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of October 10, 2023)

- Branch 130
- C.C. Spouses' and Family Association (Convention Donation)
- Joan and Jerry Delfino  
In Memory of Oscar Leyden
- John and Camille Orlando  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Post Secondary Program CVUSD  
In Honor of Irene
- Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fuentes  
Get Well Wishes for Roberta Franchini
- Joanna Van Blaricom  
Staying Healthy Wishes for Peter Palmarozza
- Anne and Richard Interrante  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Teresa and Cory Helfand  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Giovanni and Nancy Corsi  
In Memory of Aldo Corsi
- Officers/Members of Br. 285  
In Memory of Gail Rocca
- Eva Stern  
In Memory of Bice Corbellotta



## Viva L'Italia--God Bless the USA!

Franklyn, Lopes, Jr., Grand First Vice President



Our day started on Sunday Morning, October 8th. Our Heritage Committee gathered – Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and Bob Basuino Co-Chairs, along with Deborah Rodondi, Lisa Crudo, Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan, Andy Pappani, Lauren Kilcullen, and Maryann Friebe. We knew Louise Vento was at home sending her support, and a very special THANK YOU goes to Jim Friebe for driving the trailer for us.

This group of ICF decorators met at our spot #47 to start creating the design of our float. It is this time of year that San Francisco really comes alive, with the Blue Angel Dignitaries driving past

our float, getting ready for their performance with Fleet Week. Seeing the different nationalities coming together to enjoy each other's company, saying hello and "THANK YOU" for your service to our military sons and daughters walking about, and of course the sidewalks of North Beach, filled with energy, enjoying food and wine.

The Parade began at 12:30 p.m. at the foot of Jefferson and Powell Streets in Fisherman's Wharf, proceeded south through North Beach on Columbus Avenue and ended in Washington Square in front of Saints Peter and Paul Church.

The Committee misses our long-time supporters and members, Russell Vento and Marie Antonowicz.

Until we meet again, let's keep our Italian Heritage Alive!!! Come join us next year as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary and be a part of this parade.

## Time to Think of Christmas Messages

Dear Branch President,

As you know, many Individuals, Districts and Branches traditionally place Christmas and New Year's messages in the December issue of the *Bollettino*. These can be sent in, already designed and sized, or the text may be provided and we will create the design. These are the choices and prices for the ads:

- 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" (one column square) \$25
- 2 1/2" x 5" (vertical or horizontal) \$35
- 4" x 5" (horizontal) \$50
- 6 1/2" x 5" (horizontal, quarter page) \$70

To place a message, please send in your ad by e-mail, either finished or just the text you want, size selection, and your check made out to the I.C.F. (noted Christmas ad), to:

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

Please send all ad files electronically to [info@icf.org](mailto:info@icf.org).

The deadline is November 10th.

Thank you.  
*ICF Office*



## OCTOBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
10/1	Eric & Ariana Hafemann	342	Lodi, CA	\$30
10/2	Father John Peter		Manteca, CA	\$30
10/3	Carmen De Guarra	403	Millbrae, CA	\$30
10/4	Terri Jenkins	198	Cloverdale, CA	\$30
10/5	Paula Reynolds		Gilroy, CA	\$30
10/6	Ricky Vannetti	209	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
10/7	Allen Sturtevant	395	Stockton, CA	\$30
10/8	Branch 390		Tracy, CA	\$30
10/9	Donna Smith	7	So. San Francisco, CA	\$100
10/10	Mike Soper	33	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
10/11	Greg & Pam Watt		Johnstown, PA	\$30
10/12	Joan Dal Porto	144	Eureka, CA	\$30
10/13	Elizabeth Van De Car	210	Forest Falls, CA	\$30
10/14	Vivian Hunt		Salinas, CA	\$30
10/15	JoAnn Lara		San Francisco, CA	\$30
10/16	Mary Capurro		San Francisco, CA	\$30
10/17	Barbara Puntillo & Wayne Alamao		Lincoln, CA	\$30
10/18	Sandra Siino		Danville, CA	\$30
10/19	Robert J. Tyler	39	Merced, CA	\$30
10/20	Joe & Michelle Marschall		Half Moon Bay, CA	\$30
10/21	Emily Grandon		Medford, MA	\$30
10/22	Irma Calabretta		Belmont, CA	\$50
10/23	Sharon Brunetti	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
10/24	Jonny Hoover		Long Beach, CA	\$30
10/25	Teresa Rimmer		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
10/26	Joyce James	213	Redwood City, CA	\$30
10/27	St. Anthony Church		Atwater, CA	\$30
10/28	Cathi Rovere		Fontana, CA	\$30
10/29	Colette Perine		Modesto, CA	\$30
10/30	Giulia Gallego	435	San Martin, CA	\$30
10/31	Tom Swertfager	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

## GP Message--Continued

Denise Antonowicz *continued from p. 1*

Everyone she met became a friend and when we'd return the following year, they were there to greet her.

She sang, loved all music, played the accordion, mandolin, and of course, the piano which she taught whatever child, grandchild or great-grandchild who would sit long enough to be taught. She loved a good theme and would dress as a Chicken, crab or whatever; she loved doing the Chicken Dance on floats, at conven-

tion or anywhere. She was an actress at heart. She loved to cook all of her family recipes, especially the traditional Italian cookies and her famous meatballs and share with everyone.

She left us with beautiful memories and though it's hard to say goodbye, we all have her in our hearts.

*Denise Antonowicz,  
Grand President*

## 2023 - 2024 CENTRAL COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

### OFFICERS:

- Grand President - Denise Antonowicz, Br. 184
- Grand 1st Vice President - Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Br. 227
- Grand 2nd Vice President - Lauren Kilcullen, Br. 52
- Grand Secretary - Deborah Rodondi\*, Br. 19
- Grand Treasurer - Lisa Crudo, Br. 343
- Grand Parliamentarian - Leonard Rossi, K.L.J., M.M.E.\* (Karen), Br. 343
- Grand Trustee - Rosemary Cook, Br. 13
- Grand Trustee - Dante Galeazzi\* (Julie), Br. 139
- Grand Trustee - Perry Shurko, Br. 362
- Grand Sentinel - Robert Basuino\*, Br. 191
- Past Grand President - Deborah Rodondi\*, Br. 19
- Spiritual Director - Rev. Christopher Bennett, Br. 445

### CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Steven Fuentes\*, Br. 213
- Teresa Helfand\* (Cory), Br. 392
- Roselynn McNeal\* (Aaron), Br. 442
- Andrew Pappani\* (Siria/Sid), Br. 28
- Vincent Piro (Robyn), Br. 39
- Michael Rossi, C.L.J.\* (Marcie), Br. 391
- Theresa Shaw (Tad), Br. 108
- Leonard Zasoski, Jr.\* (Betty/B.G.), Br. 281
- (\*denotes life member)

### LIFE MEMBERS EMERITUS:

- Robert Acquistapace (Kathy), Br. 198
- Michael Cannady (Donna), Br. 154
- Nettie Descalso-Del Nero, Br. 39
- James Jones, Br. 191
- Carmen Kilcullen (Larry), Br. 52
- Nina Malone, Br. 438
- Vincent Picciola (Diane), Br. 358
- Leroy Taddei (Stella), Br. 343

### MEMBERS EMERITUS:

- Gerald Delfino (Joan), Br. 368
- Maria Di Paolo, Br. 379
- Angelina Iarossi-Armenio, Br. 218
- Patricia Mages (Louis), Br. 380
- Kenneth Marshall (Elizabeth), Br. 103
- Frank Signorelli, Br. 291
- Helen Tatone, Br. 380
- Chris Valentini (Elizabeth), Br. 14
- (Revised 9/23)

## Announcing Expansion Committee

Perry Shurko, Expansion Chairperson

Greetings one and all. For the past two years I have been chairing the Membership Committee, and now, I will be chairing the Expansion Committee. Please give all of your support to our new Chairs, Andy Pappani and Vince Piro.



National Branch, from Ohio: David Doyle, Fr. Mancini and Fran. After a lot of discussion, we will be exploring the areas of Dayton, Cleveland, Akron and Cincinnati.

Wow!! Wouldn't it be great if at our next convention, we presented some new branches from a new district! Discussions are under way and updates will be posted as they come up.

Please pray for growth and expansion in the Italian Catholic Federation as we approach our Centennial Celebration.

Thank you.

*Perry Shurko,  
Expansion Chairperson.*

Expansion is definitely something we need in the ICF. Continued growth in all aspects is necessary and we are always on the lookout for new areas and branches. One such area that has arisen is in the state of Ohio. We have some members of Branch 67, our

## MAUI WILD FIRES RELIEF FUND



Districts, Branches and Individuals are encouraged to donate to our relief fund. Donations will be accepted until December 31, 2023. Please send a check to the ICF office made out to Italian Catholic Federation. On the memo line, write *Maui Wild Fires Relief Fund*. Donations currently total \$2207.

## SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Br. 446 celebrates the Feast Day of Padre Pio at St. Peter's Church



Br. 446 Ice Cream Social



Br. 446 President Tony Santorufo presenting donation check to Fr. Gerry Vidar and Lori Munoz, Director of Religious Education

## Heritage -- Veterans Day

Louise Vento

Veterans Day commemorates the courage and patriotism of men and women who served in the United States armed services. It is celebrated on November 11th each year. Other countries, like Great Britain and France, celebrate November 11th as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I.

Veterans Day celebrations in the United States include parades and speeches, special services are held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, VA. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day to remind Americans of the tragedies of war. A law was adopted in 1938 to make it a Federal Holiday. In 1954, Congress



changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor veterans of all wars.

My husband, Russell, was in the Korean conflict. It was not considered a war. Last year, it was changed to the Korean War to honor the veterans who fought in Korea.

While tracing my family history, I discovered a draft registration for my Grandfather Manuel George. The record showed he was married and worked as a miner for the Guadeloupe Mines in New Almaden, California. He was not drafted because he had eight children. My Father Joe George was drafted in 1944 but did not serve because the war ended. My son Dan was born on Veterans Day in 1955.

*Let us not forget the brave men and women who have fought for our freedom.*



## Scholarship Donations

(Received as of October 10, 2023)

### 1st Year Scholarships:

- Elaine Valentine  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Elaine Valentine  
In Memory of Bettye Sollecito
- Theresa and Tad Shaw  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- Janet Glaubke  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Jo-Ann and John Donovan  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Nancy and Karl Seppi  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- John G. and Kim Filice  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Bob Basuino  
In Honor of the Birthday of Kathy Acquistapace
- Roselynn and Aaron McNeal  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Giulia Gallego  
In Appreciation of Diana Berry Officers/Members of Br. 435
- Joan and Jerry Delfino  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Monika Besancon  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- Marie Butler  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- Peter and Mary Beth Smiderle  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- Anonymous  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- Charlene Drobeck  
In Honor of Marie Antonowicz
- Aldine Grisenti  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Lou and Pat Mages  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Lou and Pat Mages  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
- Richard and Donna Pfaff  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Shirley Catania and Frank Rando  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Bob and Elaine Osorio  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Officers/Members of Br. 227
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Officers/Members of Blessed Sacrament District
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Jan Stumhoffer  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Officers/Members of Br. 36
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Officers/Members of Br. 342
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Joyce and Phil Robba  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Officers/Members of Central Council
- In Memory of Jody Balestrieri
- Officers/Members of Br. 73
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- The Schuster Family  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz

## ICF 2024 Calendar Are Here

The ICF 2024 Calendars are great gifts, great raffle prizes and offer wonderful stories, fun facts and recipes which remind us about our theme "Celebrating the 1920's" as well as an opportunity to win money.

Please keep this in mind with the Holidays coming up. This is a wonderful fundraiser for our Branches as well as a way to fund many of our organization's programs.

**So, let's focus on selling our calendars!!!**

Branches have been given their allotment of calendars - contact your local Branch if you are interested in buying one.

## Father A.R. Bandini -- Great Writer

Deborah Rodondi, Grand Secretary/Past Grand President

Recently I received some personal items of Father A. R. Bandini, from his great nieces. While looking through the books, some he wrote, I found an article cut out from a *Bollettino* that a San Francisco ICF member, Alma Rosellini, cut out and sent to Father Bandini's family.

### Federation Co-founder

*A. R. Bandini, Great Writer*

"While browsing through the 1977 issue of *Columbus*, the historical issue of the magazine commemorating Columbus Day, an article entitled "New Vibrations in the Italian-American Literary Scene" caught our attention.

It was written by Cecilia Ross, Ph.D. of the University of California at Berkeley, Italian Language Department, and recounted some of the accomplishments of Italian-American writers.

She had spoken to Teresita Piccirillo, an outstanding patron of the arts of anything Italian and also a prime mover, with her husband Louis, of establishing the Italian Chair for visiting Italians at Berkeley.

To quote from the article: "Teresita Piccirillo spoke to me about an author who, in her opinion, should not be omitted (among famous Italian-American writers)". Since she had known him for a long time, I asked her to write to me about him. This is what she sent me:

A. R. Bandini was a writer for whom I had deep affection and admiration on account of his rare intellectual qualities and genuineness of his heart. He was modest and unassuming, loved Italy and recognized the importance of the great civilization. He came to the US in 1907 as a professor of Greek and Latin in a Catholic College in Rochester, NY, whence he moved first to St. Paul, Minnesota, then to California where he arrived at the time of the 1915 International Exposition. He was one of the very first to defend the Italian images in the US standing for the recognition of the Italian Immigrant as a strong ethnic force. He attained many of his goals

through his writings which appeared in the best national magazines, such as *Harpers* and *Catholic World*. In Stockton he founded the weekly *Il Sole*; in San Francisco he wrote for *L'Italia*, *La Voce del Popolo* and *L'Eco d'Italia*.

A. R. Bandini's lighter accomplishments were both in the field of prose and poetry. At fourteen he wrote his first verse; in later years the *Bride of Carmel* (1947), and *Fray Junipero of California* (1949). His play *Catherine of Sienna* (1932) is set in a true medieval atmosphere. He dedicated his book *Life is Too Short* (1936), written in a lively and witty style, to his many friends. But his most outstanding literary achievement was, in my opinion, his translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (1929). He was the first to render in English Dante's terza rima. A. R. Bandini was also a good lecturer. In the forties and fifties he gave a series of *Lecturae Dantis* for the *Leonardo da Vinci Society* of San Francisco, of which he was a member, and for other organizations. He was a co-founder of the Italian Catholic Federation, a very active member of several lodges of the *Figli d'Italia*, always ready to vindicate the Italian immigrant."

What Teresita Piccirillo did not mention is that almost every day, except Sunday, Father Albert R. Bandini, after attending his priestly duties, would retire to his study to read and write. He was revising his translation of *Purgatory* when the Lord called him to his rest.

What Cecilia Ross also did not mention was the fact that she was a scholar in her own right and was the niece of Father Bandini.

I never had the privilege of knowing Father Bandini, but reading this article and seeing some of the things he saved--like play bills from plays and operas when he was in New York and a few of the books he must have loved, including *Pinocchio*, he had to have been a fascinating person and we are blessed that he was part of our founding 99 years ago. His writings and prose may have been forgotten but he lives on in us the Italian Catholic Federation.

## Welcome New Members (Report as of October 9, 2023)

Branch 021	Christina R Pavot	
Branch 036	Arianna L Elves	Elizabeth S Elves
	Anne (Andi) Olacta	
Branch 045	David Elboom	Joshua H Elboom
	Liz D Elboom	
Branch 285	Juanita M Berlo	
Branch 291	Josephine Brullo	Patricia B Fairbanks
	Maxrina T Lawyer	
Branch 332	Teri Guy	Connie Lazzaretto
	Donald Lazzaretto	Toni Pellegrini
Branch 352	Harva Kendrick	
Branch 374	Mary Natalizio	Matthew Natalizio
	Jennifer Weissmuller	
Branch 390	Lili Boccanfuso	Neil Boccanfuso
Branch 391	Cheri Gorini	
Branch 442	Jeanann Davis	
Branch 438	Irene C Schrag	Rev George Snyder

### Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations\*

Received as of October 10, 2023:

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Joe Sangiacomo  
Marie Antonowicz  
Marie Antonowicz  
Russell Vento  
Carol Barcelos  
Tom Favazza  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Marie Antonowicz  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Marie Antonowicz  
David Profio  
Jeannie Gregorio  
Marie de Jesus Cantú  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia

Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Russ Vento  
Marie Antonowicz  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Marie Antonowicz  
Jody Balestrieri  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Marie Antonowicz

Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
George Jebian  
Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Marie Antonowicz

Barbara Jean Di Grazia  
Jody Balestrieri  
Lee Berning  
Jody Balestrieri  
Jody Balestrieri  
Jody Balestrieri

**IN HONOR OF:**

Joan Lueke  
Br. 408 - 1st Prize Pasta Donations

**GET WELL WISHES:**

Sid Pappani

**THANK YOU FOR BEING MC AT OUR ANNUAL BISHOP'S DAY:**

Leonard Zasoski, Jr.

**HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:**

Carmen Kilcullen  
Carmen Kilcullen  
Carmen Kilcullen

\*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.

**DONATED BY:**

Robert and Beatrice Tomasello  
Mike and Marcie Rossi  
James Jones  
Eugene and Anne D'Angelo  
Mike and Marcie Rossi  
Elaine Valentine  
Bob Basuino  
Roselynn and Aaron McNeal  
Officers/Members of Br. 362  
Officers/Members of Central Council  
Officers/Members of Br. 191  
Officers/Members of Br. 191  
Officers/Members of Br. 191  
Denise Antonowicz  
Officers/Members of Br. 285  
C.C. Spouses' and Family Association  
Giovanni and Nancy Corsi  
Giovanni and Nancy Corsi  
Giovanni and Nancy Corsi  
Bob and Elaine Osorio  
Nina Malone  
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.  
Leroy, Stella and David Taddei  
Officers/Members of Contra Costa District  
Louise Vento  
Antoinette and Angelo Pecora  
Joan and Jerry Delfino  
C.C. Spouses' and Family Association  
Mike and Marcie Rossi  
Mike and Marcie Rossi  
Joe Bonino  
Louise Vento  
Viva Palumbo  
C.C. Spouses' & Family Association

Charlene Drobeck  
Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

James Jones  
Mike and Marcie Rossi  
Nina Malone

## Life Tribute Josephine (Jody) Grace Balestrieri

January 6, 1931 – September 21, 2023

After 92 years of devotion to her faith, family, and friends, Josephine Grace Balestrieri passed quietly with rosary in hand, at her home surrounded by her three loving children. Her life was one of faith filled service to all. She was preceded in death by her Sicilian immigrant parents Pietro and Giuseppa Bozzo. Shortly after graduating from San Diego High School where she was a marching majorette, she married Thomas (Tom) A. Balestrieri on October 23, 1949. Together, they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1999, only to suffer the passing of her beloved husband on March 14, 2000. Their lifelong love affair began when Josephine was a mere 10 years old, her family relocating from St. Louis, MO, and moved next door to the Balestrieri family home. She knew it was love at first sight when leaning out of her bedroom window to steal fruit from the Balestrieri's loquat tree, her beloved Tom was there to squirt her with a garden hose!



Josephine was a lifelong professional secretary always in the service of others. She worked at Convair/General Dynamics from 1950-60 where a group of transplanted Texan engineers gave her the nickname "Jody". Later, she was the executive secretary to a WWII naval aviator turned biographer who exclusively wrote about his fellow fighter aces. Subsequently, she spent nearly 25 years as the parish secretary at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. And throughout all this, she was the consummate volunteer at her children's schools as a producer of talent shows, coordinator for fund raising, and leading several cheerleading squads.

As a child in St. Louis, she regularly sang on a local radio station, later performed in her high school musical productions, and even sang and danced for local military personnel as part of a USO troupe. She sang Schubert's Ave Maria at countless weddings over the years and shortly after her husband passed, Josephine was an active member of the Southwestern College Concert Choir. With the choir, she would travel both locally and globally to perform at such venues as the Sydney Opera House, the Notre Dame Cathedral, multiple Italian basilicas, and Carnegie Hall (twice).

Her home was a perpetual place of comfort and hospitality. Everyone who entered her home was treated with love, respect, and above all dignity. These

were the lessons she would teach her children and grandchildren. Her faith was her foundation, and it would shape the lives of all who lived under her roof, visited her home, or had any professional associations with her. She was a Eucharistic Minister, lector, and religious education teacher as a member of her St. Rose of Lima parish.

Josephine dedicated more than 53 years of her life as a member of the Italian Catholic Federation (ICF). She was a charter member of Branch 229, holding multiple leadership roles at the local and district levels, and ultimately as a member of the ICF Central Council. Devoted to the church of her youth, Josephine was also instrumental in establishing the Amici Ball Committee to assure funds were raised for the preservation of the many artistic and religious treasures at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in San Diego's Little Italy. After more than a half century of service to numerous organizations, she helped raise countless amounts of funds to support the poor, local seminarians, and many other worthy causes. In 1985, Pope John Paul II bestowed upon her the papal honor Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in recognition of her lifelong service to the Diocese of San Diego. Her 92 years among us were nothing short of the quintessential master class in faith, kindness, and generosity. She will be missed by many and forever loved by her family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully asks that contributions be made to Sharp Hospice Care at sharp.com/in memory of, and/or the Sister Dolores Molina Social Outreach Program at strosecv.weconnect.com – Click on "Donate" – Make your donation at the box marked "Social Outreach Mamma Dee."

### Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Report as of October 10, 2023)

Branch 444  
Julie and David Schurba  
In Memory of Giuseppina Baldocchi

## Branch Reports

### SAN FRANCISCO

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

Dear Members:

Congratulations to our member, Isabella Cresci, who received a Fourth Year ICF Scholarship. She attends the University of Nevada, Reno. Isabella is thrilled and very thankful for the ICF Scholarship she was awarded.

#### San Francisco St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our members and their families.

A big 101st Birthday to Toni Cveto- vac on October 5th. We love you Toni and wish you much more Happiness and Good Health.

To our members celebrating a Birthday in November - many more years of Much Happiness and Good Health. Our Anniversary Luncheon on September 8th was a big success. We had 35 guests in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and visiting with their friends. A big thank you to Florence for taking care of the luncheon for us.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

Mark your calendars that our Christmas Luncheon will be on December 1st. Details will follow.

*Take Care. We love you and miss you.  
Ciao,  
Eva Perata, President*

### SAN MATEO District Council

Thank you to the District branches that attended the Testimonial Dinner honoring our outgoing Grand President Debbie Rodondi from Branch 19 at the Basque Cultural Center on November 4. If you missed it, you missed a fantastic celebration.

We have our Chaplain's luncheon and Bishop's Day on November 12 at the Basque Cultural center.

Bishop's Day: Please be sure to turn in your Branch checks for the Seminary Burse and Spiritual Bouquet. Number of Communion, Masses, Rosaries and Stations of the Cross you do for the year in honor of the archbishop. We will send the Seminary Burse and Spiritual Bouquets from the Italian

Catholic Federation San Mateo District. Please send all of your information to Bea Tomasello, 1348 Paloma Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010. Your check should be made out to San Mateo District. Deadline is November 4, 2023.

Please be sure to sell your calendars. Your Branch keeps \$5 on each sale. This is an easy way to do a fundraiser for your Branch.

If you have any questions, please give me a call 650-444-6999. Thank you.

I hope you have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

*Ciao,  
Barbara*

#### Colma Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli

We had a very productive October meeting and elected all of our officers for 2024.

President Deborah Rodondi

1st Vice Kathleen Trevizo

Secretary Cheryl Simon

Treasurer Donna Barnes

Trustees Joyce Harnett, Jackie Barnes

Orator Annette Novi

Sentinel Donald Simon

Due to issues at our parish hall meeting will continue to be at Deborah's house. Our November meeting will be Monday the 13th with dinner and meeting to follow. Reservation to Deborah Rodondi by the November 10th. 650-583-0805 or drodondi@comcast.net NOTE: If someone would like to host dinner, please contact Deb.

December 11th Monday is our Christmas Party and 94th Anniversary Celebration at Sharps Park Restaurant, no host cocktails 6 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m., Choice of Prime Rib, Chicken or salmon \$48.00; Lobster \$58.00. Reservations to Donna Barnes by December 1st, 650-991-0178, 183 Santa Paula Drive, Daly City 94015. IT is a great event with delicious food, so please consider joining us.

We want to thank Deborah Rodondi for her work as Grand President of the Federation for the past 2 years and at the same time being able to be our President. We look forward to her testimonial celebration.

#### Burlingame Br. 173, Our Lady of Angels

Hard to believe Autumn Season is here with such warm weather we are having. Our November meeting will be a turkey dinner along with the election of officers. Please think about being an officer and let Dorene know. Thank you, Mary Ann Camacho, for



#### South San Francisco Br. 213, St. Augustine

conducting our September meeting as Dorene is now on the road to recovery after a medical procedure. Also, Brenda filled in and read Dorene's details of the convention festivities with more info to be noted at our 10-12-23 dinner/meeting.

Our Chaplain's Lunch will be held on Sunday November 12th at the Basque Cultural Center. The cost is \$45.00 per person and the particular room only holds 60 people so let Dorene know if you plan to attend. Monies can be paid at our October meeting and our branch will send in one check. Choice of entrees are: Veal roast, Salmon or Eggplant Parmesan.

The 2024 ICF Calendars are here, and the price is \$30.00 (price went up) but remember the branch keeps \$5.00 for each calendar sold.

Please pray for the ill and not only those in our branch but throughout the Federation. Branch members: Mary Bodisco, Anita Cecina, Carmela Gliotti, and Melanie Yeager. Also from Branch 19: Jackie Barnes and Kathy Treviso.

Also, please pray for the violence happening around us with some of our youth and also for struggling people with fighting going on in other countries.

*God bless,  
Roz Emery*

October Meeting: Unfortunately, our Senior Scam Program scheduled for our October 10 meeting was cancelled. Several members were unable to attend due to medical reasons and/or previous engagements. Kathy Amiot is recovering from recent surgery, Roberta is recovering from hip replacement revision surgery, President Joyce was out of town, and Joe & Judy Crosetti had a previous engagement. The Senior Scam Program will be rescheduled for early next year!

Save the Date: Our branch Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, December 3, at 12:00 noon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. A Christmas flyer with all the details will be e-mailed to our members.

Many thanks to all our members who purchased the 2024 ICF Raffle Calendars. We are sold out! Let's hope for some lucky winners!

Please remember in your prayers: Our deceased members and our sick and recovering members.

Thank you to Barbara Gabriel, 1st Vice President, for chairing our October 10 meeting and to Donna DeVoe and her committee for providing the delicious dinner. Our November 14 dinner meeting will be hosted by Judy & Joe Crosetti and

*Jackie Smith--Happy Thanksgiving!*



Br. 1, Isabella Cresci, who received a Fourth Year ICF Scholarship.



### ICF General Fund Donations

(Report as of October 10, 2023)

Jo Ann Schiro  
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz



**Menlo Park  
Br. 351 St. Patrick's**

Thanks to Martha and Peter Lances-tremere for the Chicken dinner at our October meeting. Next month we will have BBQ spareribs with all the trimmings. Please RSVP by October 28, if you plan on coming to enjoy with the rest of us. You can call me 650-444-6999 or Cory at 650-867-8946.

Our next meeting will be November 2 and we will be nominating and electing officers for next year so if you are interested in running for an office, please let me know. 650-444-6999. Thank you.

Chaplain's luncheon and Bishop's Day will be celebrated at the Basque Cultural Center on November 12. Your reservation is due by November 3. \$45 per person

Sylvia Row was our Branch representative at the ICF Convention in Costa Mesa and gave a report at our last meeting. Thank you, Sylvia, for serving as our representative.

*Hope to see you in November.  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
Ciao,  
Barbara*



due to room size restrictions, and the deadline is Nov 4th, as the food must be ordered on the 5th! If you have not reserved your spot yet, call me by the 4th on my cell at (408) 313-6325.

Save the date! Branch 403 members should mark your calendars for our "Holiday Party" on Tuesday, December 5th!! More information to follow in your Branch 403 Newsletter.

Lastly, have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family & your special friends! Be sure to protect yourselves by getting your vaccines for flu, Covid, and RSV.

*Ciao!  
Adonna Amoroso, Secretary*

**LOS ANGELES  
ARCHDIOCESE  
District Council**

**Millbrae  
Br. 403, St. Dunstan**

Well, in spite of only having 15 members present at our October 3rd meeting, the lasagna dinner was really wonderful. In addition to salad with beans & home-grown tomatoes from Eunice's yard, we had plenty of beef lasagna, wine, bread, & tiramisu for dessert. Thanks to everyone who helped me out with the set-up and in the kitchen: Eunice Danli, Tina Pessagno, & Dorothy Semke.

By the time you read your November edition of the *Bollettino*, we will have had our Polenta Dinner fundraiser on October 22nd. Attendance looks promising so far, and the Millbrae Lions Club will be doing the cooking, so I think I will be able to make a positive report on it next month. Thanks in advance for the support of other branches on this.

Our next meeting on November 7th is a social/dessert meeting only, beginning at 6:30 p.m., due to our other activities this month. It is a "no cost" meeting, but you need to RSVP Eunice if you want to attend. Leave a message at (650) 692-3740.

We are hosting this year's Chaplain's Luncheon for the San Mateo District on Sunday, Nov 12th at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue in South San Francisco. The event begins at 1p.m. with a social, & lunch starts at 1:30 p.m. The meal choices are Veal Roast, Salmon with sauce, or Eggplant Parmesan. The cost is \$45. This event is limited to 60 people

Happy November everyone! Last month we gathered as a district to support the men at St John's Seminary who are studying to become priests of the Roman Catholic Church. \$7,500 was donated from the district branches and another \$2,000 came from the Providenza Fund. Thank you, Franklyn Lopes, for being there and to Leonard Zasoski for being our MC. Fr Larry Herrera celebrated the mass and continued Fr Marco's tradition of calling on seminarians to tell us a little bit of where they are in their studies. I think this has always been the highlight of the day and I always look forward to it. I hope you do too. I received a letter from Fr Marco thanking us for our generosity and continued support of St John's.

On Sunday October 22nd I went to Casa Italiana for Francesca Taylor's Italian opera *Il Campanella di Notte*. Her troupe is amazing! From the singers to the musicians, what a wonderful job!

On the 12th of this month, we will be gathering once again for the annual Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage. Hopefully the weather will cooperate with us. Thank you to the Cabrini Committee for all the work that you do.

Gift card donations are being accepted for the patients at CHLA / Cooley's. Please send gift cards and or monetary donations to Pat Mages.

*I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.  
Perry Shurko, LAAD president.*

**Br. 67, National Branch,  
St. Peter**

On October 1st ICF Branch 67 Members, Carmelo, Tad, Theresa and Linda, attended the ICF Bishop Day Mass and Luncheon at St John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA and shared lunch with seminarians Deacon Tom and Sean and learned more about their seminarian experience.

Proceeds from this event will help support its programs for development of Seminarians on their mission of serving their communities as future priests.

**SAVE THE DATES**

-November 12, 2023 - Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon at St Francis Xavier Church, Burbank, CA starting 11:30 am. See flyer in *Bollettino* to RSVP and for more information.

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

*Keep safe and stay healthy,  
Carmelo Sabatella, President  
ICF National Branch 67  
C 626 372-7812 E cas1810@aol.com*

**Montebello  
Br. 111, St. Benedict**

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone Our November General Meeting will be on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, in Montebello. It has become our tradition for our November general meeting to celebrate Thanksgiving with a potluck dinner. Everyone brings their favorite dishes to share with everyone and the Branch will provide the main dish, turkey, and drinks. Thank you to everyone for your participation.

We would like to congratulate the following members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of November: Rosa Ortiz, Jacob Ortiz, Rene Mata, David Estrada, Massimo Sorce, Georgia Albanez, Gary Cruz, Joe Canzonieri, Christina Orofino, and Celia Ramos. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Bishop and Seminarian Recognition Day Mass & Luncheon and program held on Sunday, October 1st, at St. John's Seminary, in Camarillo. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all you do for the ICF, the charitable works you do, and in a very special way for your continued and generous support of vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

SAVE the dates for the following events: more information will follow.  
Sunday, November 12, 2023 - Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage Mass & Luncheon - Burbank

Saturday, December 16, 2023 - ICF 111 Branch Christmas Dinner, 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

We pray for our sick members and those in need; let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

*A Presto!  
Frank Salomone, President  
ICF 111 - St. Benedict, Montebello*

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

Thank you to all our members and friends who have been supporting our fundraising casino trips. We wish all attending our Las Vegas bound bus Nov 6 a fun and safe trip.

Thank you to all who attended this year's Bishop and Seminarian Day mass and luncheon. Our members were able to sit and talk to many of the seminarians. Our branch sponsors 2 students Cole Buzon and Christian Eguaroje. They both express their gratitude to our branch for the support we provide. It was a very uplifting day for all who attended.

This year's Mother Cabrini pilgrimage will be held on Sunday Nov 12th. Bus will depart from Boys and Girls club at 10:30am. Cost of luncheon is \$20.00.

Please plan on attending our next general meeting on November 16th at 7:30 p.m. Discussion will include our Christmas party to be held on Saturday Dec 9th at 6p.m. in auditorium. Members are free. Non member spouses will be charged \$15.00. Children under age of 12 are free.

Sign up will be taken at meeting or reservations can be called to Anita Trujillo 310 8327186

If anyone has had a change in address, phone number or email please notify Neal DiLeva at ndileva211@aol.com

I am sad to announce the passing of member Kenneth Batinovich. Kenneth joined our branch in 2015. May he rest in peace.

*Wishing all our members a very Happy Thanksgiving  
Anita Trujillo*

**Deadline for  
December Issue of the  
Bollettino is November  
10.  
Send your articles &  
photos:  
editor@icf.org  
Be sure to include branch  
name and number.**

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT**



Br. 368 Board of Directors 40th anniversary



Br. 368 40th Anniversary



Br. 368 Santa Teresa Board of Directors



Br. 368 Father George & Ed Wendler



Branch 435 ICF Pasta Fundraiser



Branch 47 September Meeting



Branch 435 ICF Pasta Fundraiser



Branch 435 ICF Pasta Fundraiser

### SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 191 Tillie Spagnolo gets ready to serve lunch



Branch 191 Debbie makes sure there is plenty of salad



Branch 191 A luncheon treat



Br. 445 Celebration Octoberfest



Br. 445 Phil Lang, Janie Falcone, Marie & Joe Adragna



Br. 445 September Chefs



Br. 445 ICF Membership Drive

### EAST BAY DISTRICT (continued)



### CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Maria Loiacono of Br. 21 with her basket of homemade cookies



Heidi Ambiel and her helpers, Valerie Vote (L) and Cindy Schuette (R), making Br 21 Octoberfest feast.



Dolores Rappa Branch 36 1931 - 2023

### EAST BAY DISTRICT



East Bay District and Contra Costa District Bishop's Day



East Bay District and Contra Costa District Bishop's Day



Vegas Night at Branch 36



Jerilyn Crivello and Maria DiGirolamo Branch 36



Sandie Russo, Dante Galeazzi, Antonia Rucello Branch 36

## Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

St. Dorothy Church in Glendora held a Ministry Fair on Sunday, October 8. A long weekend as we were represented at all 5 masses, but well worth it as we received lots of interest in our branch. Hopefully, they didn't stop just for the biscotti giveaway! A big thank you to member Josie Scarpino-Bresee for making a great interest board. And thank you to those members that worked. It was a long, hot weekend, but such a success that should culminate in a few new members!

*Patricia Auriemma  
Corresponding Secretary*

## Arcadia Br. 218, Holy Angels

Our last meeting was well attended with many of our members wearing their favorite sport team attire, a "tailgate party", so to speak, with hamburgers and hotdogs and all the fixings. Thanks to Scott and Teri and crew for putting this together.

On the agenda for the next several months: November 12 – general meeting, November 18, 19 – Christmas Boutique and sandwich sale. Set up for this event will be on Saturday, the 18th from 11:00 with sandwiches sold after the 5:00 Mass. On Sunday it will run from 6:00 to 2:00. All baked goods should be brought to the hall on Saturday for pricing. Jenny Hauge is the chairman and will be coordinating everything.

The next event is our Christmas Party on December 9th which I will be in charge of. As of this writing the menu has not been set. Santa will again be making an appearance, and we will have surprise guests who will provide entertainment this year. All the details will be presented at our November meeting (except for the surprise guests). This is always a fun event, and we hope to see all of our members there. Also, watch for Jeane's newsletter for details.

The final event for the year is our New Year's Eve Party and there will be much more forthcoming on that at our next meeting.

*Everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope to see all of you soon.*

## Gardena Br. 237, St. Anthony of Padua

Members, John and Rose Moore, Janette Roberts and Connie Bohannon enjoyed an evening of food and music at the annual little Italy "Fiesta Italian" last month in San Pedro.

Our annual Columbus Day dinner-

dance (yes Columbus Day) was a great success due to the tremendous support of our benefactors and our parish, St. Anthony of Padua. Our pastor, Msgr. Sal Pilato is instrumental in his endorsement of the I. C. F.

The monies from the annual fundraiser are used to support scholarships, the LA mission, LA children's hospital, parish thanksgiving baskets and more.

Our charity outreach was acknowledged at the Convention in September.

Thank you to all who support our small but mighty branch.

Prayer for Pilgrims

Almighty God, you are the aim and object of our lives and the goal of our pilgrimage.

We are your children, whose hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Show us the way along which our pilgrimage must travel.

Jesus is our way, our truth and our life. As we follow him, help kid on this journey, through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Happy Thanksgiving  
Respectfully,  
Micheal Bohannon Roa*

## Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

Greetings to each and every one of you. Can you believe it? Its November! Where has this year gone? Autumn is in full swing, and we're heading towards the major holidays.

Last month Frances and I represented our branch at the annual Bishops and Seminarian Recognition Mass and lunch at John's Seminary in Camarillo. \$7,500 was donated to St John's Seminary from the LA district and another \$2,000 came from the Providenza fund. Thank you to Franklyn Lopes for representing our Grand President Denise Antonowicz and to Leonard Zasoski and his son Andrew for being our MC. FR Marco couldn't be there this year, but Fr Larry kept the tradition going to call up some seminarians to talk about where they are in their seminarian life. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and for vocations.

I want to thank all of you who came out and supported the first Southern California Region ICF Golf Tournament. From the players to the hole sponsors, to those who helped set up or tear down or work in any way. We were a small but mighty group. Hopefully next year we can get a bigger playing field. I also want to thank everyone who participated in the Ball Toss / Scramble. It was so much fun, and we will be posting pictures in next month's *Bollettino*.

Our annual Mother Cabrini pilgrimage is on Sunday November 12th. Mass, procession, rosary, benediction and finally lunch in the hall. Please come out and join us.

Thank you, Christina, for chairing

the Heritage Committee, and we look forward to all that you will be sharing with us.

Our branch Christmas party is scheduled for Tuesday December 12th at the Frantone's in Cerritos, or is it Norwalk, no one really knows for sure, lol. If you want to participate in the gift exchange this year, please bring a wrapped gift of a \$10 - \$15 value. We all really enjoyed it last year and are looking forward to it again.

*Perry Shurko, Branch President.*

## La Canada Flintridge Br. 374, St. Bede the Venerable

The new 2023-2024 Board of Directors includes Phyllis S. Harb, President; Raul Acevedo, First Vice President; Lila Nastro, Second Vice President; Gloria McGaughey, Recording & Corresponding Secretary; Fiora Marcucci Murphy, Sentinel; Mark G. Mannarelli, Treasurer; Emmy Mannarelli, Orator; Joel Wynton, Financial Secretary; Joel Wynton, Al Restivo, Trustee and Parliamentarian, Diane Restivo, Maria DeSalguero, and Mi-neva Astengo, Trustees.

David Capurso will continue as Heritage Chairman. A speaker from the Knights of Columbus provided us with a very interesting talk on Columbus and how our faith was spread through an imperfect man's vision to evangelize. We also enjoyed a Pizza and Bingo Party hosted by Jo and Robert Barbera.

Diane Restivo will be responsible for membership growth. As we move into the 100th anniversary of ICF, heritage and membership growth will be our major emphasis. A membership drive is scheduled for March 3rd along with donut sales.

Long time ICF member Robert Barbera has provided our branch with funding for a new scholarship for students at St. Monica Academy. The Robert Barbera Scholarships will be funded for 25 years. Three awards will be made each year: \$500, \$250, and \$250. Winners will be selected by a school administrator committee and awarded to students at our branch meeting each year. The awards will be judged by essays submitted based on the meaning of Catholic and American values and their personal impact on the student's life and future.

Dates to remember:  
Nov. 21st -General Meeting Potluck 6:00 P.M.  
Dec. 19th- Christmas Party  
March- Cabrini Theater Movie  
March 3rd- Membership Drive and Donut Sales  
March 17th- St. Joseph Table and Auction  
June 29th - ICF Anniversary Gala

*Wishing you the gift of faith and the blessing of hope this Thanksgiving!  
Diane Restivo*

## Simi Valley Br. 443, St. Rose of Lima

On September 9th, Branch 443 started the fall season at Lemon Park with its annual bocce ball/picnic event. All were asked to bring their favorite salad or dessert, and as usual, our group out did itself with a wide variety of food. The main dish was supplied by the Branch.

Following dinner, several members engaged in a friendly bocce tournament. The pictures show everyone had a wonderful time eating the delicious food and playing bocce.

Branch 443 is a strong supporter of St. Rose's Knights of Columbus. Members are encouraged to attend the Fish Fry Dinner every first Friday of the month, from 5-7 p.m. at 1255 Patricia Ave. Come join us, bring family and friends.

On Friday, October 20, at 7 p.m., our branch will have the next meeting. Halloween is the theme which means we will share Halloween childhood memories including writing a Halloween story. We will also talk about our Italian Heritage. Members are encouraged to bring appetizers and desserts.

FUTURE IMPORTANT EVENTS:

November 17, there will be an appreciation dinner for the Master Chorale of St. Rose of Lima.

December 10, Branch 443's annual Christmas party will take place in the church hall. Viva la Pasta will provide dinner. Attendees will bring appetizers and desserts. Our favorite DJ, Sean Reeves, will provide the music for our Christmas Party.

Come join us. For more information, please call President Rita 805-208-8978.

*Peace and Blessings,  
Josephine M. Perini*

## Rancho Palos Verdes Br. 444, St. John Fisher

A Wonderful surprise for our General Meeting was the arrival of Anne and Richard Interrante. It was just a few years ago, they invited us to become members of the ICF. Ann brought a lovely plant for our raffle and they both participated in our Rustic Ring Toss with Hany winning the grand prize of Merlot.

Hany attended the pasta dinner at American Martyrs and found everyone friendly and fun. The Mother Cabrini Celebration in Burbank was discussed.

*Thanks to everyone who attended, especially Ann and Richard.  
Ciao, Patty*



## East Bay District Council

This has been a busy month for the District and we are thankful for the help of Contra Costa District. We were able to have Bishop's Day on Oct. 1st. Along with the East Bay District, Contra Costa District and the Central Council we were able to donate \$5,700.00 to the Seminarians. A big thank you to Lauren Killcullen and her mother, Carmen, for making the trip down from Santa Rosa and to Patty and Jim Jarrett for coming in from New Mexico to help us celebrate. It was a special day for all of us and Bishop Michael Barber gratefully acknowledged the gifts and the Spiritual Bouquet. Many then enjoyed a luncheon at Pier 29 in Alameda.

We (the District) received a phone call from our 2nd Year scholarship recipient, Ava Gabrielle Kinyon of Benicia, who is using her ICF honorarium attending Dominican University, in San Rafael.

Just a reminder that the Calendars for the new year are in and are nice Christmas gifts and an easy fund raiser.

*Happy Thanksgiving to All,  
Pat Grasso,  
District Sec.*

## Alameda Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

We were joined by over 70 guests at our annual Ravioli Dinner on Saturday evening, October 7. Among the attendees was Ms. Pat Pasquinielli, past President of both the East Bay District and Branch 10, who ventured from Roseville to Alameda for the event. Also present were Central Council Grand Treasurer Lisa Crudo and Branch 10 mentor Fran La Torre. The hosted bar, Ben Ratto's salad and the ice cream dessert were most welcome on a warm day in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thanks also to Ben's wife Linda, Bob Lubeck and Elena Serles, Ben's assistants in the kitchen.

Our next event will be our Christmas Party on Saturday, December 2 at 6 p.m. in Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. The party will again serve as a joint function of Branch 10 and the East Bay District.

For information as to menu and price and reservations, please contact John Zugnoni, john@zugnoni.net or (510) 326-3474. Reservations will be due by 9:00 a. m. on Saturday, November 25.

We participated in the Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Fun Fair on Saturday, September 23. Multiple parish organizations sold ethnically

oriented food from booths. Ours was pizza. Many thanks also to our second vice president, Ken Dorrance, for cooking a delicious pasta dinner which topped off the day.

Congratulations to September calendar winner parish office manager and 71-year member, Margaret Mariani. No one knows the history of Branch 10 and our parish better than Margaret does!

*John Zugnoni, Br. 10 publicity*

## Fremont Br. 215, St. Francis of Assisi

Happy November! I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful season of fall and taking some time to spend with your family. Thank you to those of you who participated in our Fall Raffle to raise money for our charities.

Mass for Deceased Members of Branch 215 will be on 11/11/2023, 5:00 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner at Giorgio's restaurant in Milpitas will be on Tuesday, December 12th. Please call President Fran for reservations at (510) 887-1509. Buon Natale!!!

As you know, we need members! Please make an extra effort to recruit at least one friend or relative to join the ICF!

And please check out our Branch 215 webpage at:

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

Happy Veterans' Day to all those who have served our country!

Have a wonderful and blessed month of giving thanks and God Bless all veterans!!

*Dio ti benedica,  
James Francis McGee  
Vice President*

## Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

"Be the Light" was the theme for this year's Convention. It was an inspiring motto, and our branch members took it to heart. In September we supplied home-baked desserts for our parish's picnic. Amazingly more than \$450 were taken in and donated to the parish. Many members came forth to supply the goodies, and the donation was appreciated by the church. Charities are an important aspect of our members, and we are always open to new ideas and groups to support. "Be the Light" is our new motto, and we are encouraged to pass it on.

Italian music was the theme of September's get together. Nancy and Moreno Navarini researched and presented a great rendition of

true Italian songs from the 1980's - 2023. "Volare" was a nostalgic one, as was the toe tapping "Tu vuo' fa l'Americano" (You want to be an American). Memories re-lived! Italians know how to compose and sing beautiful melodies.

October's meeting was unique for our group, because it was held at the home of Charles and Elaine Meier. There was dinner with wine and an informative talk on Italian wines given by Barry Buckett.

Looking forward to a more serious and prayerful evening in November when the Mass of Remembrance will be held with Carolyn Cardinali and Janet-marie Petric organizing the evening's services. We believe our ancestors should always be honored and respected every day as well as through this Mass.

Welcome to Br. 285's newest member, Juanita Berlo from Livermore. We have had two ministry days in the last month with interested people signing up to hear about ICF. Looking forward to meeting new members who also want to "Be the Light".

*Blessings to all. Remember to "Be the Light"!  
Elaine (Ratto) Meier*

## Castro Valley Br. 343, Our Lady of Grace

It has been a busy month getting ready for our delicious Polenta Dinner cooked by Lisa and Melody. And now it is all set and ready to go, can't wait.

I would like to Thank, Ed McGuirk, for taking the minutes for me in my absences and even typing them up. One less thing to worry about.

We sang a Belated Happy Birthday to Leroy Taddei as he celebrated this 90th! Way to go Leroy!

We are looking forward to Bishop's Day on Oct 1st as the ICF will be honored with special seating and kind words from our Bishop Barber as he accepts our Spiritual Bouquet and Money for the seminarians. There will be a luncheon to follow Mass at Pier 29 in Alameda.

Our dues were raised slightly to \$39.60 at Convention. It is reported that Lisa gave a useful financial workshop. Also, people were pleased to have our Chaplin, Fr. Rizzo, being helpful in so many ways at the convention.

*A Happy and Candy-ridden Halloween to All!  
Par Grasso,  
Branch Br. 343*



**Deadline for  
December Issue of the  
Bollettino is Nov. 10.  
Send your articles &  
photos:  
editor@icf.org  
Be sure to include branch  
name and number.**

## CONTRA COSTA District Council

Members of the East Bay and Contra Costa districts celebrated Bishop's Day on Sunday, October 1, with our bishop, Michael Barber, S.J. Members attended the 11 o'clock Sunday liturgy at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland. We presented the bishop with a Spiritual Bouquet and a donation from all the branches for the education of our seminarians. A luncheon followed. Many thanks to the East Bay District for planning and hosting the event.

On October 26, our district held an Evening of Recollection. A delicious dinner was served, and an inspiring evening on the theme of The Eucharist, was presented by our District Orator, Deacon John Kortuem. Thanks to Deacon John for feeding us spiritually and to our head chef Walter Costa and his assistants for feeding our bodies as well!

We are planning our district Christmas party at Bambino's Restaurant in Concord on Thursday, Dec 7 at 6 p.m. Sign up with your president at your next branch meeting. Also be sure to save the date of Saturday, January 27, 2024, for our annual Installation of Officers in Danville. Branch 352 is hosting the ceremony and luncheon. Details will be announced.

Each branch should send a list of their newly elected officers to the District President by January 1, as well as to the Central Office.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church Hall. The election of district officers for 2024 will be held at this meeting. Please consider serving in our district council as an officer.

*Happy Thanksgiving to all!  
Fraternally,  
Patty Jarrett,  
Past President and District Mentor*

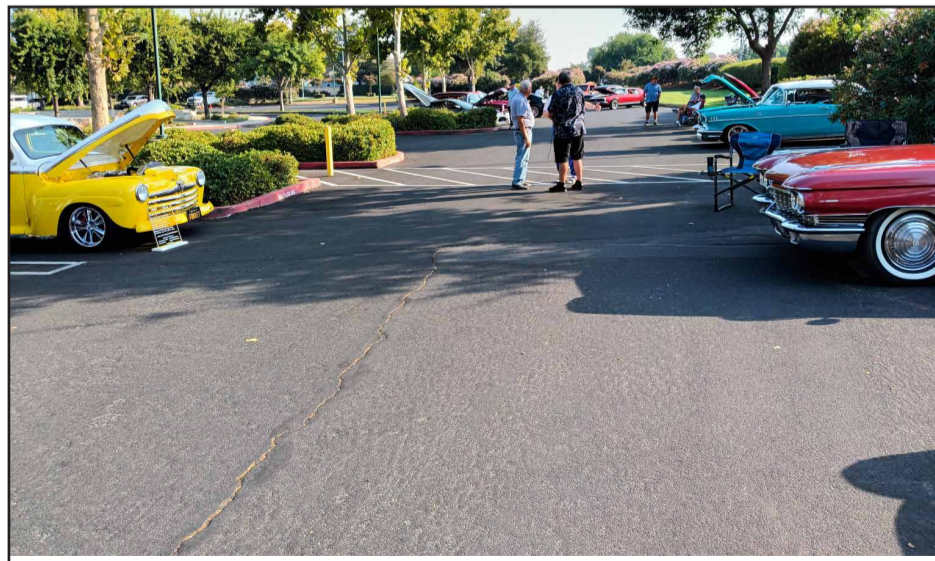
### CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Branch 442 all charter members taken at our recent 10-year anniversary dinner.



Br. 352 1st Year Scholarship recipient, Helen Rago, with parents Ali & Joey.



ICF Branch 432 Car Show and Pasta Feed



Crockett Branch 14 Bocce teams made the playoffs. Congratulations to all. Great job.



Ladies from Crockett Branch #14 with Father Mario enjoying an lunch after a beautiful Bishop's day in Oakland .

### CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)



PHOTO BR#13: Caption: St. Catherine of Siena Parish celebrated its 150th Anniversary with Holy Mass concelebrated by eight priests including Bishop Barber and two former pastors, along with ICF Branch #13 Co-Chaplains, Deacons Albert Dizon and Dave Holland along with two acolytes.



Branch 214



Branch 214



Branch 214



Branch 214



## Martinez Br. 13, San Martino



We are winding down summer activities and also the celebrations for St. Catherine of Siena's 150th Anniversary year. We welcome fall with less daylight, while acknowledging all the angels and saints on November 1st, All Saints Day, asking all those holy women and men to pray for us; followed immediately by All Souls Day, November 2nd, remembering those in purgatory with our prayers to assist them in attaining their heavenly reward.

As the month progresses, we gather with friends and family and as a nation on Thanksgiving. It's a time to remember each of us is uniquely created in God's image with something distinctive to share; part of a larger communion of persons, all members of one race: the human race; all equal in God's eyes. "Let's come before His presence with thanksgiving; let's shout joyfully to Him, our salvation with psalms. For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all."

We're thankful for members in this small branch stepping-up as officers to keep us moving forward. Branch#13's Officers for the Federation's 100th Anniversary Year 2024 are: Tom Cook, President; Rosemary Cook, 1st Vice President; Anne Crisp, Treasurer/Financial Secretary; Mary Cook, Corresponding/Recording Secretary; Rosemary Cook, Karen Glen, and Bob Poirier, Trustees; and our Co-Chaplains are Deacons Albert Dizon and Dave Holland. Our last meeting is November 13th followed by the parish annual "Sister Jeanne Wine & CheeseFest" November 18th. Come join us in Martinez.

You are all wished God's richest blessings for a bountiful Thanksgiving!

*Arrivederci,  
Mary Cook*

## Crockett Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

Our October meeting was both fun and productive. After enjoying a wonderful Italian potluck, we held our election of new officers for 2024. It should be noted, that after more than 20 years of service, Kathleen Thomas is handing over her pen as Recording Secretary. Kathleen's dedication to maintaining accurate and detailed records over these past years is greatly appreciated.

As expected, our annual Polenta and Sausage Dinner was a big hit. The large crowd enjoyed fabulous food, great raffle prizes, and everyone had lots of fun. This fundraiser wouldn't exist without the hard-working volunteers who never let us down. Thank you to everyone who supported this

wonderful branch tradition.

November 14th is our Thanksgiving Social. The night will begin with Mass, followed by a full BBQ Turkey Dinner prepared by Al DiPrima and his crew (\$15.00). Our monthly meeting will be held after dinner. Let's try to attend Mass...we all have so much to be thankful for!

Don't miss the bus! It's your last chance to sign up for the Cashe Creek Casino trip on Friday, December 1st, leaving Crockett at 9:00 and returning by 4:30. The cost is \$45.00 and includes a four-hour stay, \$20.00 in bonus play, light refreshments, wine, soda, and driver/tip. Contact Nancy Carlos to sign up.

Please keep Wanda Abbondanza and Lois Ramos in your prayers, as well as those who may be experiencing hardship at this time.

*Happy Thanksgiving and blessings of the season to you all!  
~Helen*

## Concord Br. 214, Todos Santos

I hope you all are well and enjoying these beautiful warm days of Fall. How fast summer flew by. It's the start of holiday season.

On September 9th we hosted a Pasta/Bingo at Cauche Hall. It was a great success with 70 people. We had 18 great raffle prizes, money for bingo winners, delicious food catered by Zio Fraednos restaurant. We had 7 student volunteers from St Agnes School to help serve the guests. They did a great job. We also had Jens Sweet Treats selling delicious jams, cakes, cookies and candy. We had a fun time and look forward to our next event in the near future.

We had many members from our branch who attended the Festa Italiana in Reno on October 6-8. A fun time was had by all. Good food and great booths selling food and Italian memorabilia. Many enjoyed the accordion players and singers with wonderful old Italian songs.

In November we are planning our potluck Thanksgiving dinner and Toys 4 Tots donated toys from our generous members. The Marines will be there to pick up our donations. This is a great fundraiser for children to enjoy the holidays with new toys.

We have a new Pastor, Father Luke Ssemakula. We got to meet him at our pasta/bingo. We look forward to seeing him at our meetings.

*I wish you all a happy, blessed Thanksgiving with your families.  
Ciao  
Norene Deluca*

## Danville Br. 352, St. Isidore

Our first-year scholarship award winner, Helen Rago of Carondelet High School, attended our monthly dinner meeting with her parents, Ali & Joey. Helen has been a very active member of our Branch for many years, so it was extra special to celebrate with her. She is now off to Gonzaga University, focusing on Business. Go Zags!

We were also happy to award two second-year scholarships to Alexandria (Bella) Arietta of Walnut Creek, attending San Diego State, and Addison Thomas of Brentwood, attending Boise State. Wishing all of our student scholarship award recipients a very successful school year!

As part of our focus on Heritage, members have each identified their ancestor's areas of origin in Italy. In August, Joey Rago presented his area of Basilicata, known for its sausage & orecchiette pasta - which was also reflected in our evening's dinner menu! It was very informative, well received - & very yummy! In September, our Tuscany members took the stage, with an emphasis on Lucca. Suzi Reynolds & Sally Panella shared points of interest & a short video of Lucca. Chef Russ Belleci, assisted by Patti Belleci, Kyle Vallone & Sis Baatz, prepared a delicious meal featuring tortellini, pork loin (a favorite in Lucca) & Roma beans, along with spumoni ice cream & homemade biscotti. Deliziosa!! We are enjoying learning about the customs, cultures & cuisine of each area.

October found us hosting our annual Columbus Day fundraiser dinner. Members & friends enjoyed the music of Ken Cooper & his band, along with an outstanding menu of antipasto, insalata misto, meat ravioli al pesto, chicken parmigiana with Sicilian green beans & cappuccino tartufo for dessert! Always a festive, fun night, as we raise funds for our charities through our amazing raffle & auction!

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our November dinner meeting will be held a week earlier than usual - on Monday, November 13th at 6p.m.. We will finalize nominations that evening & vote for our 2024 officers. See you there!

*Ciao,  
Branch 352*

## Brentwood Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

ICF Branch 432 Car Show and Pasta Feed, on September 22 was another successful event for the ICF 432 Branch, this was our 11th year doing Car Shows. We are now in the process of planning our Car Show and Pasta Feed for next year.

The ICF Branch 432 and the Knights of Columbus at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Our Scholarship program was again a successful year. We were able to hand out 12 scholarships. We received a lot of help from parishioners and other mysteries here at IHM.

At our last meeting there was some discussion about, maybe having a St. Patrick day dance and dinner. We will see if it happens, we did have a St. Patrick Dinner and dance in the past, hopefully we can revive our fundraiser.

## Pleasant Hill Br. 442, Christ the King

Branch President, Juliette Cote and Recording Secretary, Diana Letizia Mackinson represented our branch at the 92nd Annual ICF National Convention on Labor Day Weekend. The conference was held in Orange County where Caterina's Club provides food to children in need in over 105 locations in Orange County. Christ the King Branch 442 donated 140 lbs. which helped the total convention donation of 3000 lbs. of pasta for agency. Brava!!!

We celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Branch 442 on September 30th at our annual Anniversary Dinner with almost 200 attendees. We especially welcomed those members who have been charter members since 2013. Video, photos and memorabilia from past years were gathered for the event. The evening was, as always, festive and fun with many extended families and children attending, live accordion music and a raffle with prizes for all ages! Members prepared pasta with homemade sauce, sausage and homemade meatballs. Squisito!

On Sunday, October 1st several members attended the "Bishop Day" mass at the Oakland Cathedral. It was attended by many others from the Bay Area branches of the ICF. A lovely lunch was shared by all at Pier 29.

Christ the King will host a district-wide "Night of Recollection" on Thursday, October 26th at 6 p.m. The speaker will be Deacon John Korteum - President of the Brentwood ICF and parish deacon. The evening will include dinner. Details will be sent to all Branch Presidents in the district.

Finally, once again we sponsored the ever-popular Salami Toss Booth at our Fall Parish Festival on October 27th and 28th. This is always a highlight and the ICF participation is a fun for both the booth attendants as well as the contestants.

*Saluti a tutti e Dio vi benedica!  
Diane Delucchi  
Christ the King Branch 442, Pleasant Hill*



## BLESSED SACRAMENT District

### Auburn Br. 342, St. Joseph

ICF Calendars for 2024 are now available! ICF will celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2024 and this calendar celebrates the 1920s. The cost is \$30, and our branch gets to keep \$5.00 from each sale. There is also a chance to win up to \$100 from the daily opportunity drawings. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please contact MaryAnn Mikles at (916) 759-8466. Thank you for supporting our branch.

We will be hosting our annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 9th and the Polenta Dinner will hold on Sunday, January 14th. More information on these events will be sent out soon. In the meantime, we are seeking donations for raffle baskets for these events. For the Christmas Dinner, we are in need of fun children's items and are looking for gift cards for the Polenta Dinner. Please contact MaryAnn Mikles if you are able to make a donation. Thank you.

*Ciao!  
Pam Andersen*

### Roseville Br. 438, St. Clare of Assisi

Our September ministry fair and membership drive was a great success! There was a lot of interest in ICF and everyone who stopped by our booth was greeted by enthusiastic ICF members and left with a tasty biscotti. We'll be reaching out to those parishioners who signed up, in hopes of growing our ICF family.

Branch # 438 hosted a bus trip to Apple Hill and Red Hawk Casino on October 9th. Over 40 people joined us for the day. Thank you to Pat Brown for organizing this fun event and to Rita Schillin for serving our early morning travelers' coffee and donuts.

Mark your calendars for our October Branch meeting on October 20th. Not only will we be treated to delicious sandwiches of meatballs or sausage and peppers, but we will also be voting for our 2024 Board members. Let's all participate in welcoming our newest Branch leaders!

Shortly thereafter, we'll be having our Harvest Bake Sale on October 28th and 29th. This fundraiser is always a parish favorite, and we know this year's bake sale will be no exception. Wear your stretchy pants and enjoy all your favorite homemade goodies while helping to fund our many charities.

We're already starting to plan the dinners for our November 17th and December 15th Branch meetings. Jot down the dates and plan on kicking off the Holidays with all your ICF friends!

*Wishing you many blessings!  
Anne Finn*

## SANTA ROSA District

### Healdsburg Br. 52, San Francisco Di Sales

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed October Polenta Dinner! Richard Passalacqua cooked a great dinner. We appreciate everyone's support.

Upcoming events:

ICF Meeting: Tuesday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the rectory.

ICF Monthly Mass: Sunday, November 12 at 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Mark your calendars for our 2024 events: Saturday, February 3, 2024, is our next polenta dinner and Friday, March 22, 2024, is our Fish Fry!

Our membership is 201 members. We are looking for new members, please consider asking your family and/or friends to join the Federation. You all know we have fun while supporting our parish and community.

We need wine donations for our dinners. Bottles or cases are accepted! We are also looking for raffle prizes for the polenta dinner and fish fry.

*Happy Thanksgiving!--Lauren*

### Cloverdale Br. 75, L'Annunciata

Newly elected Grand President, Denise Antonowicz attended Santa Rosa's Bishop's Day in which Bishop Vasa was presented a Spiritual Bouquet, \$2000 from the District and \$3000 from Central Council to benefit our Seminarians. The Bishop acknowledged our ongoing support with warmth and gratitude. Prior to the luncheon hosted by the Santa Rosa Branch, several district branches attended Mass at St. Eugene's Cathedral. Bishop Vasa spoke to us and mentioned that the ICF appeared to be an International rather than an Italian Federation.

Our Cloverdale branch will meet Thursday, October 19th to celebrate harvest season with soups, breads, desserts and wine at which time we hope to bring new energy through new members into our branch. Pray for us. We will pray for you.

*Patsy Buchignani*

## Petaluma Br. 127, St. Vincent

Dear members,

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Convention raffle. As you know it's a half and half: so half goes to the central council to help pay for the convention and half stays in the branch to help us meet our goals.

We held our first quarterly communion since before the Covid. After mass we went to room nine and had a little coffee klatch. There were only five of us, but it was very enjoyable. We are planning on continuing this tradition. We will be discussing it at the October meeting and setting dates for next year.

The Christmas meeting on December 11th will include a dessert exchange and we will also be playing left right and center. It would be wonderful if more people could join us. It is a fun way to conclude our year.

Your continued support is much appreciated! Wishing you a joyful Thanksgiving!

*With love and prayers for all of us and for our families.  
Dennice DiGirolamo*

### Arcata Br. 144, St. Mary

Branch #144 held our bi-annual take-out Chicken & Polenta dinner on Sunday, Sept. 17. The weather cooperated and customers enjoyed the amazing meal with the ease of drive-through. We had a great crew of volunteers see photo.

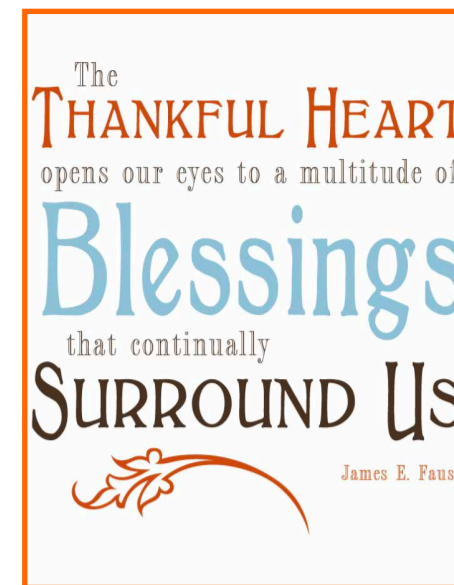
We continue to have tasty snacks for the social after 4p.m. Mass on Saturdays. Little Paul Nicklas really enjoyed one of Alfred Eanni's nonna's meatball recipe see photo. Eanni's are off to Abruzzo and Molise, Italy to reconnect with family and friends for October.

Our new branch chaplain is Fr. Prakash, who is our in-residence retired priest, but he has become very active in the parish since arriving. He is fluent in Italian so perhaps our meetings can include some Italian language lessons!

*May your October be "spooktacular"!  
Anne Carlisle Eanni*

### Eureka Br. 145, St. Ambrose

The Colivas Memorial Scholarship Dinner on October 8th was very successful. Jerry Colivas and his brothers Tom and Sam cooked up their best batch of spaghetti sauce yet. Over 70 people attended and there were thirty takeouts.



This is the second year we auctioned an apple pie made with the apples from the late Tom Bronchetti's apple tree.

In addition, a second auction was held for author Josephine Silva's donated set of five signed books from her new Berry Bear children's book series.

Thank you, Erin McBride and Josephine Silva, for making the fun auctions possible with your generous work.

Along with the raffle and the bar the scholarship fund netted \$1729.

Also, a big thank you to Branch 145 members and Colivas family members who donated raffle baskets and items for the raffle and sold dinner tickets throughout the community.

Happily, the Eureka Rescue Mission was thrilled with our donation of five gallons of leftover sauce and loaves of French bread because ravioli was on their next day's menu!

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. Eugeenes Br 198 Santa Rosa--our branch mourns the loss of Michael Milano a member of Branch 198 for over 17 years and current vice president. Michael served our branch as a positive worker and a supporter of Italian Heritage. Rest in Peace.

The October soup night was a real success with over 30 attending. Under the leadership of President Doreen O'Rourke the soup was furnished by Thomas Nguyen, Millie Patrick, Joan Reiland and Lynette Lucia. Janice Shaffer furnished the bread and Bob and Kathy Acquistapace and Becca Carrera donated the dessert.

Don't forget our Branch Mass at 9:00 a.m. November 5 at the Cathedral and our turkey dinner on November 6.

Please pray for Ernie and Claire Giampaoli, Marilyn Ward and all our ailing members.

*Happy Thanksgiving!! Gobble Gobble Robert Acquistapace*

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

Hello Members of Branch 209 Sebastopol,

Richard and Brenda Petuya had a wonderful time at the 2023 Convention. They enjoyed meeting members of the ICF and going to workshops to help us become a better branch. At our September meeting, they shared some ideas we hope to implement in 2024. Thank you, Richard and Brenda!

At our October meeting we elected our board members for 2024.

President: Pam McAlvain, 1st Vice: William Segale, 2nd Vice: Nancy Stedman, Recording Secretary: Yvonne Dorr, Financial Secretary: Leona Spadoni, Treasurer: Lorraine Vannetti, Orator: David Armstrong,

Trustee: Donovan Dorr, Trustee: Roy Spadoni, Trustee: Tami Marian,

Sentinel: John Marian. Congratulations to all of you!

Our October meeting was a pizza party and a delicious green salad.

We really enjoyed our banana split dessert, with all the fun toppings!

It was great to see some members we haven't seen in a while, Chuck Fomasi, John Lujan, Sue Piezzi, Bud Polley, and Christopher Polley.

We had our Chicken and Polenta fundraiser dinner on October 21st.

Thank you to everyone that worked hard to make this a successful night.

It's always nice to see our guests enjoy themselves. With their support our branch will continue to help our parish and our community.

We will be having our Annual Anniversary Ravioli dinner on Saturday, December 2nd. Call Lorraine Vannetti to reserve your tickets at (707)481-3658.

*Hope to see at the next meeting!*

*Thank You,  
Pam McAlvain  
President*

**FRESNO  
District****Fresno****Br. 32, St. Alphonsus**

We are excited to hear about the convention and all the changes that are taking place. We are excited to announce that we won two awards at the convention. Yay to branch #32. Sometimes hard work pays off. We are in the process of selling our calendars. These are great gifts to give out. You have a chance to win money 365 days a year for 2024. Looking forward to seeing where our branch leads to and

what will be the final outcome. We continue to pray that some miracle will happen. We haven't had a meeting for a while, so looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Hopefully at our next meeting we can discuss getting together for the holidays. Please pray for branch #32 and for all the members. We give thanks to you our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for another beautiful day with our loved ones. As we conduct our day, you are forever in our hearts and thoughts. We ask for your love, protection, and guidance in everything we do. Please watch over those who mean the most to us. We would like everyone to have a wonderful Thanksgiving and don't eat too much turkey.

*Happy Thanksgiving!!!  
Monica Fisher  
Treasure/Financial Secretary*

**Merced****Br. 39, St. Cecilia**

On September 24th, we participated in the St. Patrick's / Our Lady of Mercy Parish Picnic. We introduced a whole new generation to Bocce Ball as we demonstrated and helped children play the game. Thanks to Jose and Bea Delgado and Mike Beluomini.

On September 13, we held a pasta sauce sale. We sold 189 quarts of homemade pasta sauce with meat at \$15 a quart. The sauce was delicious, and all our customers had happy tummies. Thank you to Maryellen Mazzei and crew for running such a successful event.

On December 1, we will hold our biscotti cookie sale. These homemade biscotti come in Almond, Anise with Almond, Brandy with Almond, Chocolate Chip with Almond, and Cranberry with Almond, and Plain (no nuts). They sell for \$10 / dozen and are pre-order only. So, contact Chris Martin at 209-658-6436 soon if you are interested.

**Clovis****Br. 250, Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help**

A hearty Happy Birthday to the following, for October: Shirley Mitchell and Dina Camorada; and for November, Sylvia Dalton, Cynthia Newton, Jon Rainaldi, Richard Zanarini, and Mike Caglia!

Our October meeting was well attended, with members enjoying various snacks, including popcorn while watching a very interesting video.

Little known Pope's department: Marcellus II (1555); the 222nd Pope. The first pope who fully understood the need for reform in the 16th century; began his papacy with a whirlwind of action; however, very little of his

good work amounted to anything significant, as he died just 22 days into his papacy.

Several of our members were busy helping out with the parish festival, especially Madeline Conatser who once again displayed an impressive array of hand-made articles.

Philosopher Angelino says, "Terra Bagnata Dice-Non Mi Toccar Che Son Malata", or, "Saturated Soil Says - Don't touch me, I'm sick".

It's gratifying to see such good attendance at our meetings which average about 60 percent of our membership. We know it can be a challenge at times, especially when our 'young' bodies remind us we are human.

Thought for the month:

"The quiet heart finds blessing in small gifts of Gentle beauty, assurance in warm, peaceful hours of rest, The quiet heart finds joy and true contentment always nearby, for the quiet heart knows simple things are best."(anon)

*Ciao,  
Luna Lorenzo*

**CENTRAL COAST  
District****Santa Cruz****Br. 21, N.S. Del Soccorso**

Buon pomereggio, Tutti. Well, fall is here and time to celebrate Halloween and All Saints' Day! Halloween is actually a pagan holiday that was first celebrated by the Celtic people over 2000 years ago as a fall harvest festival. And All Saints' Day was started by Pope Boniface IV in 609 A.D. at the dedication of the Pantheon in Rome. It was and still is celebrated on November 1st, one day after Halloween.

We want to say thanks to Heidi Ambiel who very generously donated an authentic Oktoberfest dinner to last month's general meeting. Heidi cooked homemade sauerkraut, buttered and parsleyed potatoes, apple-sauce, bratwurst, and apple cake. It was all so delicious.

As a reminder, the Memorial Mass and Bishop's Day will be combined this year on November 5th. The mass begins at 10:30 at Holy Cross and there will be refreshments served in the Hall following the mass. If you haven't received information about this and wish to have a family member added to the scroll, please call Rosa.

Again, this month, we close with the sad news of the passing of two Branch 21 members, Ann Zoccoli and Ron Bellangero. Ann and her late husband, Bob, were dedicated ICF supporter for many years, as was Ron. Our thoughts and prayers go out to

both families. Our next general meeting will be on November 7th.

*May our Lord continue to bless us, one and all.  
Patty Morelli  
Trustee- Branch 21*

*Elaine Valentine  
President Br 36*

**Castroville****Br. 51, Santa Caterina de  
Siena**

Happy birthday to Lisa Brom! May you be surrounded by those you love and your day be filled with happiness.

From our branch to yours, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving and blessed holiday season.

*Buon Ringraziamento,  
Stefani Cortopassi  
Branch 51*

**Aptos****Br. 227, St. Joseph**

Many thanks to Heidi Ambiel and her crew for celebrating Oktoberfest by preparing sausage, potatoes, sauerkraut and her famous Fresh Apple cake at our October meeting.

The 2024 calendars are now available from President Franklyn Lopes. They cost \$30 and \$5 of that stays with our branch. Because of Leap Year you will have 366 days to win.

Election of 2024 officers will take place at the November meeting. Thanks to Nancy Harrold and Elena Tufo for volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Your prayers and get-well wishes are needed for Franklyn Lopes, Sr. who recently had a hospital stay, and for our Financial Officer Marie Mungai who at the time of this writing is still in the hospital.

Sharleen Hedgpeth will be preparing the November meeting dinner and Dan Casagrande is cooking in December. You don't want to miss those meetings if you enjoy eating good food.

Best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving Day with all your family and friends. Even in these troubled times there is much to be grateful for.

*Deanna Musler, Secretary*

**Arroyo Grande****Br. 291, St. Patrick**

Br. 291 held a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Oct. 7th and all proceeds benefited our Catholic School Registration Assistance Program. It was a successful event and we received lots of compliments on our spaghetti sauce (made by our Irishman president!)

We held Branch elections at our October General Dinner Meeting, and our new slate of Officers will be announced in next month's *Bollettino*. We also enjoyed a delicious homemade tamale dinner at our October meeting!

Br. 291 recently welcomed new members Pat Fairbanks, Marina Lawyer and her mother Josephine Brullo. Pat has offered to take on the positions of

Branch Orator and Apostolic Chairperson, previously held by the late Kathleen Sullivan. Welcome to our new members!

The deadline is quickly approaching to RSVP for our Christmas luncheon at the Madonna Inn on December 3rd. Members who are planning to attend—and haven't sent in their RSVP and money yet—need to do so by November 17th. It will be a fun event with great food, lots of raffle prizes and festive entertainment!

Please continue to keep Sylvia Nasholm and Jim Scudder in your prayers, and all other ICF members who are experiencing pain, illness or heartache at this time.

*Thanksgiving blessings to you and your loved ones!  
Keely Sanchez  
Recording Secretary*

**Paso Robles****Br. 354, Saint Rose of Lima**

All is quiet on the western front of Branch 354, with the exception of our Branch leader David Zanini who has been trouble shooting with the Paso Robles City Building Department, the local Fire Department, the San Luis Obispo Health Department, and any other arm of influence able to coordinate efforts to get our beloved parish kitchen up and operating. They just don't seem to understand that without a proper stove and work area our much-anticipated pasta dinner cannot happen in November.

In the meantime, our most recent Mid State Fair parking lot fundraiser was a big financial success and provided a valuable service to our communities of FFA and 4-H parents and young exhibitors. Donations have been made to the ICF National Charity, Cooley's Anemia; Gifts of Love, to assist developmentally challenged individuals in need of therapy, training, and/or equipment; and a second-year scholarship in the amount of \$500 has been awarded to John Campo. CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN, and many thanks to John's parents who donate their time and talents to our Branch. Upcoming—Bishop's Day in Santa Cruz on November 5th.

It is with deep heartfelt sadness and anguish that we see and hear once again the consequences of yet another vicious war perpetrated on innocent victims. "Have pity, O Lord our God, upon Israel . . ." (Passover Haggadah)

*Yvonne Maddalena  
Recording Secretary*

**SANTA CLARA  
VALLEY  
District****Mountain View****Br. 47, San Giorgio**

Fall is in the air! We had our Mass and Breakfast for our ICF members on September 10 after 8:30 a.m. Mass with very festive fall decorations.

After our very organized, well-paced September 17 meeting, presided by Natalie Canata, we had coffee and delicious homemade desserts. There was lemon bundt cake, chocolate sour cream bundt cake, tiramisu, and chocolate chip cookies. It was so nice to have delicious treats and catch up with our fellow members.

We hosted Hospitality Sunday on September 24. We had some interest in the ICF, and we will be following up with them. So, keep your fingers crossed!

Our next meeting in October, we will be having our election of officers. We have cancelled our November and December meeting, and we will enjoy "An Evening with a Special Dessert and Coffee".

*Happy Holidays to all!  
Peace and God Bless, -Julie Wester*

**St. Mary****Br. 184, Los Gatos**

We are so very proud of Denise Antonowicz being elected Grand President. She is a dynamo and works so hard for the ICF. At the same time, it is bittersweet knowing our beloved Marie Antonowicz won't be with us. She was a Mentor to many of us, and a cheerleader when we needed it!

Our committee is now hard at work, preparing for our Salute to Veteran's on Nov. 11! Although it's been a while, I'm sure the Polenta and Chicken Cacciatore Dinner will hit its mark. Hope to see you in Howley Hall for this event.

We are presenting a Heritage Report at our meetings. In September, we enjoyed hearing Donna Pfaff read "The Joy of Growing Up Italian." Many of us could identify with those memories. I personally was embarrassed with my homemade bread sandwiches. I longed for a neat bologna sandwich cut on an angle...

October is a month dedicated to the Rosary. This is the time to ask our Blessed Mother to carry our prayers for peace to her beloved Son. Prayers also go out for our members who are in need.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, Oct. 27, at 4 p.m. in the Conference Room.

*Ciao for now, -Lucy Amico*

**San Jose****Br. 191, Saint Frances  
Cabrini**

Fall time, means busy times for our Branch. Our months ahead have many plans and goals to accomplish. Let the festivities begin.

October brings us to election time. Please give some deep thought and soul searching to consider running for an office. Each office can be a rewarding experience, as you can learn about various aspects of ICF. Go online (ICF.org) to explore the various offices and descriptions, and just see what you would like to try. We need you!

The SFC Parish will be celebrating Saint Frances Cabrini on Saturday Nov 11th. Our Branch will participate in this multi-cultural event, providing spaghetti and meatballs. This will take place after the 5 p.m. mass. All are invited to attend.

In November, we will be having our Traditional Turkey Bingo, Our Service Award, and light refreshments to round out the celebration. Please plan to attend, as to celebrate Thanksgiving with our fellow members.

December activities are in the planning stages. Our Calendar in December consists of a Board of Directors Christmas Party, and a Christmas Party for our Branch as well. Our Branch will also be the host of the SCVD Christmas Party on Dec 12th at SFC. The menu is taking shape, and will be discussed further, as it plans to be a great way to celebrate with our district members.

"Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence" St. John Paul II.

*May you be blessed at you Thanksgiving celebration.  
Shirley Catania  
Sentinel*

**Deadline for  
December Issue of the  
Bollettino is Nov. 10.  
Send your articles &  
photos:  
editor@icf.org  
Be sure to include branch  
name and number.**

# LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Br 444, Anne, Richard, Carol and Hany



Br. 444, Don, Dolly and Bruno



Br. 444, Kathleen, Tonia, Cristina and Mary



Branch 443 gathers Bocce champions



Branch 443 socializing with friends and enjoying delicious food



Br. 218, Tailgate party theme meeting



Branch 443 ICF Simi Valley at Lemon Park



Br. 218, Tailgate party theme meeting



Branch 218 celebrated October by having a tailgate party meeting! The decorations included corn hole games, footballs and soccer balls! Tailgate foods for lunch were nachos, hot dogs and hamburgers! Members wore their favorite team shirts, hats and jerseys.

# LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Bishop's Day Event Los Angeles Archdiocese



Br. 237, Annual Columbus Day celebration



Br. 179, Pictured left to right Patricia Auriemmo, Bill Bresee, Debbie Felt, David Teresa



Branch 237 in Little Italy for Festa Italia



Br. 179 Ministry Fair



ICF 111 - Bishop Luncheon with Seminarians

**LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)**



ICF 111 - September 2023 Meeting



ICF 111- Bishop Banquet with Seminarians



ICF 111- Bishop Banquet with Seminarians



Branch 108

**San Jose  
Br 368, Santa Teresa de  
Avila**

Happy Birthday to ICF, 100 years, and our Branch 368, 40 years. Our 40th anniversary mass and reception were wonderful. Thank you to all that helped. Special thanks to Fr. George. Please remember Bishop's Day is Oct. 29th.

The rib dinner was a great success as a fundraiser and raised \$4583.00 with \$360 going to scholarships. Give the youths that you know applications. Like everything else, our dues have gone up to \$46.80 per person.

Please start your day with a prayer for our sick members: Cheryl and Ron Sanchez, Mike and Lorraine Nunziata, and Gail Resz.

If you have a need for help for anything, the ICF Gift of Love is a group in our branch that has raised cash to help ICF members. If you need help, give Mary Ridi a call.

Please remember to get your flu and covid shots and try to stay healthy.

October is the election for our Br.368 Board Positions. Please let the Board know if you are interested in a position on the Board for next year. The board is a fun group to work with.

*Pray for peace, Stay cool, and may God bless you and your families, Thank you, -Tom Myers.*

**San Jose  
Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours**

Members shared a surprise treat from Al and Diana Vallorz during our October dinner meeting—we were served a delicious lasagna dish with a salad, sausage, garlic bread and Tony and Alba's homemade cannoli!!!

In her heritage report, Louise Vento stressed to members that we should all continue to trace our heritage! Louise spoke of her grandfather, who at 13 came to America via Ellis Island and raised his eight daughters.

Steve distributed our updated, confidential membership roster, which included addresses and phone numbers—great job, Steve! Cathy De Maria recommended that emails be included in the future.

The election of officers was postponed until our November meeting. Thank you, Cathy, for chairing the Nominating Committee.

Our October Pasta and Meatball Fundraiser, was a great success. Thank you, members, for your hard work.

Reminders:  
Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, Nov. 7., 5:30 p.m. social and 6:00 p.m. dinner; November 18, 2023--Sister Jane's Dominican Holiday Boutique at the Mother's House in

Fremont; 2023 ICF Quarterly Mass—Dec. 10, at 11:30 a.m.

*Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving! -Janis Patellaro*

**Morgan Hill  
Br. 435, Santa Caterina  
D'Alessandria**

Sorry to report one of our dear friends and Board members, Gloria Subocz has passed on. She was quite ill, and I am sure in a better place.

This year's Convention in Costa Mesa was quite inspiring. The theme was "Be The Light". Our President, Giulia Gallego, thoroughly enjoyed the meetings and the song, "This Little Light Of Mine. She will bring the theme's spiritual message back to share ideas.

Our very successful Spaghetti Fundraiser was a big Hit! The well attended dinner was made up of sauce, sausage, spaghetti and garlic bread. Beautiful vegetables grown in our own area were made into Raffle Baskets by Toni Foggiato.

Members Giulia, Catherine Ellis, Daniel, and MaryAnn Sanidad attended SCVD Oktoberfest at Germaine. A very delightful day and wonderful meal with great company. Thanks again to Toni Foggat for making a beautiful Raffle basket to represent Branch 435.

A hearty thank you to all team members for their assistance and jobs well done!

*God Bless Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Sorci .*

**San Jose  
Br. 445, Transfiguration**

September Chefs Jim Canger and Shirlee Nickell prepared a delicious meal for our general meeting! Many thanks to them and those who brought salads and desserts. Kathy La Scola and Jean Cosentino created Fall table centerpieces with pumpkins from Jean. Phil Lang added a bottle of Prosecco to each table. Thank you, Jean and Phil, for these table door prizes!

Jim Canger reported back all the Convention happenings. Br. 445 received a First Place Heritage Award for branches with 41-70 members! Our September heritage report was on the colorful Island of Burano.

Br. 445 Lunch Ministry continues strong with 90 sack lunches assembled and distributed weekly amongst community agencies such as Amigos de Guadalupe, John XXIII Center for delivery to those in need. Thank you all for your dedication to helping others.

Our branch held a weekend ICF Membership Drive for all seven

masses at St Christopher's Church. We returned mid-October to also participate in their weekend Ministry Faire. Those who expressed interest in ICF were invited to our October General meeting.

Br. 445 is now embarking on three annual Fall Fundraisers starting with: 1) our Second Annual Family Feud - ICF Edition on Sunday November 5th @ 1:00 p.m. Contact Br. Pres. Jim Falcone for more information /tickets: (408) 806-6787 or jim@jfalcone.com

2) Annual See's Christmas Candy Sale - contact Jim Falcone

3) Christmas Nativity Set Raffle with 2nd & 3rd place prizes. Tickets on sale now. Drawing November 19th. Contact: Donna Pfaff - ponselle1@netzero.net or (408)265-7902

Br. 445 members enjoyed a wonderful German lunch and fun afternoon at our ICF District sponsored annual Oktoberfest. Kudos to our District officers for organizing this event!

Happy November Birthday wishes to members Diane Devine, Bill Howell and Art Maggio! Buon Compleanno a tutti voi!

Felice Ringraziamento a tutti! Until next month stay safe and well ;-)

**STOCKTON  
District  
Modesto  
Br. 48, St. Stanislaus**

Thanks to all our members that helped with our bake sale. Our bakers gave us a very good variety of baked goods to sell. They also helped sell the baked good after the masses. Many of our parishioners were very pleased that we were having our bake sales again. We had a very successful bake sale.

We will have our Christmas Potluck December 13, 2023, bring your family and friends and your favorite dish. Enjoy a great meal and visiting with friends.

The yearly Branch calendar is being submitted to the parish office and we should know by our November meeting if all of our dates have been accepted.

Happy Thanksgiving all of you and your families. I began to think I would not have any great grandchildren but now I have five. When one starts the others follow. Our homes are bursting at the seams with all the little ones.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and stay safe.

Coming up:  
Nov. 8 - Meeting 6:00 p.m. J Street Hall

Dec. 13 - Potluck and Meeting 6:00 p.m. J Street Hall  
January 7 - Mass an installation of officers - Luncheon 1:00 p.m.

*Blessings - Stay Safe  
Cecelia McGhee*

**Lodi  
Br. 82, St. Anne's**

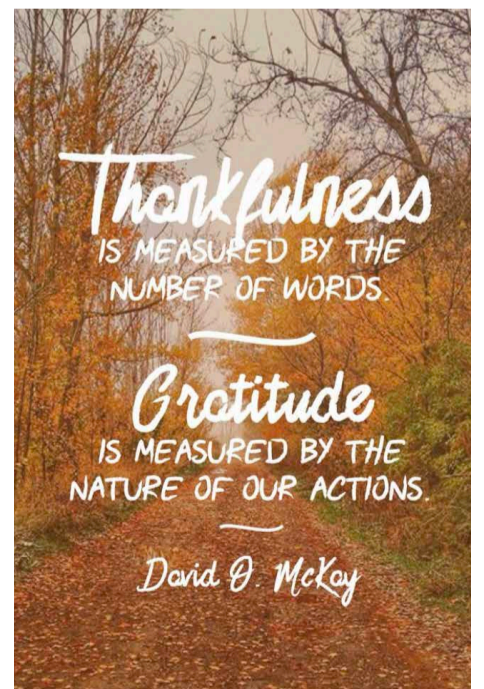
Although each day we should express our gratitude for the many blessings bestowed upon us, the month of November is special for expressing appreciation. I'm very thankful for all our ICF members and among them those who give of their time and talents as officers, committee chairs, and volunteers at our events and representing ICF at other parish activities. You promote our Catholic faith as well as our Italian culture.

At the Pan de Vida Confirmation Retreat members served as Greeters welcoming confirmation candidates. The grace of our Lord flowed through you, helping all have a deep, personal experience with our Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. Grazie.

The Nov. 11th Polenta Dinner Dance is approaching. Continue to ask businesses to sponsor a table, collect raffle prize baskets, and sell tickets. The more we have in attendance, the more funds we raise. Tickets \$40 dine-in and take-out. Age 9 and under are free. Ticket pre-purchase recommended, but tickets available at the door. Veterans will be honored, so be sure to bring a copy of your Veteran's photo to be displayed. For information and tickets: Chris 209-224-4667.

Cookies are a big part of the holidays. What's your favorite? Bring it and the recipe to share at our Nov. 28th branch meeting in the Youth Room. 6:00 social, 6:30 business meeting. Continue to bring friends. It's enjoyable getting to know them.

*May you have a blessed Thanksgiving gathering with family and friends.  
Patty Litts, President*



**Manteca**

**Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio**

After enjoying a delicious dinner of roasted chicken, Italian flat green beans with bacon and pasta with pesto, all prepared by “capocuoco” Tony Queirolo and followed by a tasty dessert, President Birdie Nieri opened our September meeting. She gave a brief report on the Grand Convention which see attended.

Bringing back our popular Shrimp Feed after the Pandemic will occur next March 15. This activity, sponsored by our branch, was always well attended and we expect no less next spring.

Many thanks to Dan and Annie Cunial for manning the ICF “Little Italy” pizza booth at our parish Harvest Festival. It is always a popular food booth. President Birdie donated an old pickup truck to the festival’s “live auction” and it brought in \$425.

Congratulations are in order to our own Dante Galeazzi for being elected as Grand Trustee on the Central Council.

Sandy Strube is in charge of selling the ICF calendars for 2024. We voted to purchase one for our pastor, Father Banka.

Multe grazie to Segretaria Anna Nello for her continued support of this report.  
*Ciao,  
Mariano*

**Tracy**

**Br. 390, St. Bernard**

Mike Bacchetti and crew fixed up a fabulous dinner once again - “no-body does it better” as the song goes - polenta and chicken cacciatore with all the usual trimmings. Thanks again to all who work so hard to make this yummy meal! Next month we will be treated to turkey and all the trimmings as we celebrate the beginning of the holiday season on Thursday November 16th. We appreciate the donations of raffle prizes, desserts and on this date, we ask that you please include the addition of canned goods for the many who are not as blessed as we are.

We continue to receive applications for new members and have now reached a healthy 170, and since we are all about faith, family and friends, encourage your family and friends to join! We need the youth in our congregation to carry on for us in the future.

We congratulate our 2nd year scholarship recipient Bailey Gualco, 3rd year recipient Elisa Grim and 4th year recipient Samantha Lieberg. We are also grateful to those of you who have given our branch individual donations to support our scholarship efforts for



these deserving students.

Our condolences go out to the family of Mary Bacchetti who passed away recently and to the family of Art Dykzeul, whose mother passed away - may they rest in peace.

Steve Ridolfi, continues to post the life of our branch through pictures and stories on our Website. Check out the Heritage section and please submit yours to Steve.

www.icfbranch390.org

*Stay healthy, happy and safe.  
Ciao,  
Betty*

**Angels Camp**

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

We had our Columbus Day Dinner on October 7th, and it was a success! Joe Dianda's spaghetti dinner was a hit with the attendees. I attached a few pictures of the event to share with all our ICF Family. There was Italian music, raffle prizes, and wine. Jacob Ruff (15), branch members Wendell and Josie Barnes' grandson, and branch member Russell Pachinger (15) assisted with set up, serving, and clean up. It wasn't the largest crowd we have had, but it was a very good group of faithful supporters who are much appreciated.

Our last event for 2023 is the annual Wendell's Giveaway, also known as the Free Christmas Breakfast for the parish. Branch members will make pancakes, and possibly sausages and eggs for the parish members. Juice and coffee will also be served. This is Branch 413's way of thanking the parishioners for their support.

May all the saints be praying for all the members of the Italian Catholic Federation.

*Ciao,  
Annette Pachinger  
Correspondence Secretary*

**Deadline for  
December Issue  
of the Bollettino is  
Nov. 10.  
Send your articles  
& photos:  
editor@icf.org**

**SAN BERNARDINO  
District**

**Upland  
Br. 446, Saint Anthony**

Our branch had a busy Fall season! At our annual Ice Cream Social in the park, we had a chance to catch up with friends as we played bingo, shared goodies to eat, and had an informative meeting. We voted to donate funds to the Religious Education program for those families that are struggling to pay enrollment costs. Including donations from individual members, a check for \$850 was given to our Pastor, Fr. Gerry Vidar and Lori Munoz, Director of Religious Education.

President Tony Santorufo informed us of the two awards we received at convention. Our Third-Place achievement for Heritage was thanks to the efforts of our 1st Vice-President, Joyce Tesoro. We were especially proud of our First-Place award for membership with a growth of 104%. We discussed our upcoming FESTA ITALIANA, a dinner dance planned for October 14. Our members signed up for various tasks to help make the event memorable. The highlight of the event will be a live dance band as well as a performance from an opera singer.

Many of our members participated in the feast day celebration for Padre Pio at St. Peter's church in Los Angeles. We car-pooled to the event and attended Mass together. We were moved by the beautiful recitation of the Holy Rosary in Italian. Afterwards, we all had a great time at the dinner-dance at Casa Italiana. As always, our officers are busy planning many activities and events for our growing membership. We are proud to include Fr. Ned O'Donnell and Fr. Jerry Ochetti as Honorary Members of our branch. Their participation at our events is always a blessing!

**SAN DIEGO  
District**

**Chula Vista  
Br. 229, St. Rose of Lima**

In Memory of Josephine Grace Balestrieri (1931-2023)

It is with great sadness that we are notifying you of the passing of our dear friend Jody Balestrieri on September 21, 2023. Jody was a Co-Founder of our Chula Vista Branch #229 in 1968 and served our branch in many capacities ever since. She also started four additional branches in San Diego (St. Didacus, Blessed Sacrament, St. Therese, and Our Lady of the Rosary). Throughout the years, Jody held many positions within the ICF. Jody served at the Central Council level, for which she received the Deputy of the Year Award in 2013. She became a Life Member Emeritus in 2006. She was also President at the San Diego District from 1980-1985. In 2013, Jody was honored for 43 years of service at our District Branch #230.

Jody received numerous honors and awards for her selfless acts of service throughout her life. But her greatest accomplishment and the one that she was most proud of was the award personally presented to her and her husband Tom by Pope John Paul II for outstanding service and devotion to the Catholic Church.

Besides her lifelong service in many capacities, Jody was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who will be greatly missed by all. May Jody rest in peace and may God's eternal light shine upon her.



**SAN DIEGO DISTRICT**



Br. 229, Josephine Grace Balestrieri (1931-2023)

**STOCKTON DISTRICT**



Br. 390, Some of our Kitchen crew getting the desserts ready.



Br. 390, Bob Bacchetti and Chef Mike Bacchetti preparing the green beans.



Br. 390, Serena Martocchio, Chuck Tuso, and Annette Elissagaray at the check in desk.



Br. 390, Some of our members eagerly waiting for dinner.



Br. 82, Harvest Fest Salami Toss



Br. 82, Harvest Fest Salami Toss



Br. 82, Harvest Fest Salami Toss



Br 413's Joe Dianda cooking and his assistant George Bennett



Br. 413 Columbus Dinner 2023

**BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT**



Branch 342 Hospitality Sunday



Br. 438



Br. 438



Br. 438



Br. 438

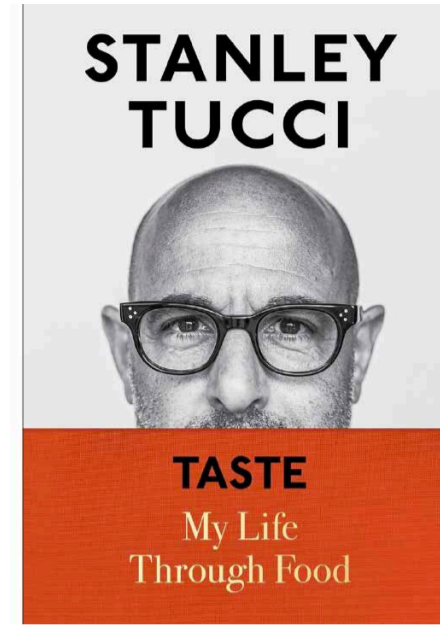
**Book Review--Taste: My Life Through Food**

Vince Piro

*Taste: My Life Through Food*  
by Stanley Tucci  
Gallery Books, 2021, 304 pp.

Stanley Tucci shares his two greatest passions in *Taste: My Life Through Food* — family and food — and these passions animate the book, giving it life and making it a thoroughly enjoyable experience for the reader. As many know, Tucci is an actor, writer, director, and producer, most notable for his film *Big Night*, the well-received movie about two brothers running a failing restaurant. He is also the host of the Emmy nominated television show *Searching for Italy*. *Taste* is his autobiography as told through his memories of family, friends, and food.

For me, the most notable and entertaining passages involve his memories of family and food from his childhood. His love of his mother and father and his memories of the meals his family shared are entertaining and often heartwarming. His description of his mother touches one with its love and respect: "Her cooking, like that of any great cook or chef, is proof that culinary creativity may be the most perfect art form. It allows for free personal expression like painting, musical composition, or writing and yet fulfills a most practical need: the need to eat. Edible art. What could be better?" The exchanges between family members often illustrate the dynamic of Italian-American - and maybe all - families through humor. (I know I often recognized these dialogues as having occurred in my family.) I found myself laughing aloud with recognition as he describes the exchange between his mother and grandmother as his family attempts to leave after Sunday dinner. His grandmother tries to send them home with some vegetables and cheese. His mother politely refuses them, but his grandmother is insistent. The dialogue is hilarious as the two women battle over



what goes into an eventually "very full bag." Tucci feels that it is important to begin the passage with "It's important to note that these people all love each other very much." I suspect this might be for the non-Italian-American audience as many Italian-Americans would recognize this as the end to every Sunday evening meal with family. I know I do.

Tucci also reminds us that "... the most precious heirlooms are family recipes. Like a physical heirloom, they remind us from whom and where we came and give others, in a bite, the story of another people from another place and another time." As my siblings and I grow older, we cherish the recipes left to us by our grandparents and often find ourselves reminiscing about our childhoods as we share a "recipe" learned from watching our grandmothers cook.

Tucci also uses *Taste* to share the Italian-American culture with his readers.

Tucci's respect for the Italian-American experience comes through his description of Fourth of July: "When I was a

boy, Fourth of July celebrations were very important in our family. At this time all or most of my family members who had been part of the great wave of Italian immigrants were still alive. Compared to the abject poverty of the Italian south, America held for them everything Italy could not offer or would not allow. It was in America that their dreams of a new and successful life came true. They created Italian enclaves all over the country by sending for family and friends once work had been secured. America gave them the best of both worlds: a country where prospects were many, and the opportunity to surround themselves with extended family." Again, this perfectly describes how my Italian-American family with immigrant great-grandparents and grandparents felt about the Fourth of July and America, and I suspect its description would apply to many Italian-American and other immigrant families' experiences. And, of course, a meal was central to any holiday but especially the Fourth of July. As Tucci explains, "Food was the connective tissue that brought them, again and again, back into each other's homes, backyards, front porches, campsites, beaches, and hearts. The lubricant that is wine ameliorated any squeaky emotional wheels, just as at times it was fuel for any dark and dormant emotional fires. I remember many of these Independence Day celebrations being held at our house in northern Westchester. We would spend days preparing for the onslaught of relatives from both sides. Out of paper, string, and poster board, my father would make all of the decorations, from hand-painted pennants to red, white, and blue stovepipe hats. With the welding equipment he used to make steel sculptures, he would cut fifty-gallon drums in half lengthwise and place them on sawhorses. They were then filled with charcoal and old steel fridge/ freezer shelves were

placed across the top, thus creating two enormous barbecues. Over these makeshift grills, the ubiquitous hamburgers and hot dogs were cooked alongside Italian sausages, a simple culinary representation of the melding of two distinctive cultures. The sausages were served on long wedges with slowly sautéed onions and red and green peppers." Tucci's memories could be lifted from my own childhood memories and, I suspect, many readers' memories.

In *Taste*, Tucci reminds us of the importance of family and friends and how meals are often "the connective tissue" that bring us together. Whether one comes from an Italian-American background or another cultural experience, I think there will be much that one recognizes in this delightful autobiography.

Vince

**In Loving Memory**

(Report as of October 8, 2023)

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Josephine A Pista       | Branch 021 |
| Bice Corbelletta        | Branch 047 |
| Warren Petree           | Branch 047 |
| Michele Bellagio        | Branch 052 |
| Ernie E Ralston         | Branch 052 |
| John De Marco           | Branch 179 |
| Lucren Lopopolo         | Branch 185 |
| Michael J Milano        | Branch 198 |
| Loudean I Becchetti     | Branch 209 |
| Josephine G Balestrieri | Branch 229 |
| William Holman          | Branch 246 |
| Gail G Rocca            | Branch 285 |
| Josephine Brullo        | Branch 291 |
| Patricia B Fairbanks    | Branch 291 |
| Marina T Lawyer         | Branch 291 |
| Jeanann Davis           | Branch 442 |

**Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library**

by Carmelo Sabatella

The Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon will be held on November 12, 2023, to celebrate the 77th Annual Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's Canonization to Sainthood. Members and parishioners will come together at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank. Guest speakers at the Luncheon include Francesca Taylor of ICF National Branch 67 who will display the Mother Cabrini Tablecloth presently on loan from the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus headquarters in Codugno, Italy. Francesca will be available to present a short history of this beautiful artifact and address questions for the last time before returning it to the Mother House in Italy.

Additional Open House dates will be scheduled during the year. If you or your branches would like to visit the Chapel and Library, group visits can be arranged. Please make a donation to help maintain the Chapel facility and to continue with programs such as the annual Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage event in Burbank.

Chapel Store: DVDs on the Life of Mother Cabrini by Lucia Mauro now available. To schedule a visit, make a donation or purchase, call 626-372-7812 or email at cas1810@aol.com.

Your support is greatly appreciated.  
Carmelo Sabatella,  
AIA, President, ICF, LAADC  
-Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee  
E: cas1810@aol.com; C 626-372-7812

For more information visit <https://www.icf.org/about/cabrini/>



# SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Br. 52 Healdsburg enjoys the delicious food at our Harvest Potluck.



Br. 52 Healdsburg enjoys the delicious food at our Harvest Potluck.



Br. #144 Some of our great kitchen volunteers



Br. #144 Chicken & Polenta Cooks



Br. 75, Bishop Vasa & Grand President, Denise Antonowicz



Br. 144, little Paul enjoying Nonna Eanni's Italian meatball.



Br. 145, Sacred Heart Church parishioner Luciano Marrazzo sings a few opera tunes to entertain the Jerry Colivas Memorial Scholarship spaghetti dinner patrons in Eureka.