



BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



A Testimonial Banquet Honoring Deborah Rodondi's 2 Years of Presidency



Central Council members



The next issue of the *Bollettino* will combine January & February Deadline is January 2nd.



Past Grand Presidents



On Saturday, November 4th, members, and officers of the Italian Catholic Federation, came together at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco to thank Deborah for her years of presidency. The evening began, with a welcome from Grand 1st Vice President and Chairman, Franklyn Lopes, Jr. Opening prayer and Grace by Spiritual Director, Father Christopher Bennett, continued as members enjoyed a delicious dinner.

Over 100 people attended, including: Spiritual Director Father Christopher

Bennett, Grand President Denise Antonowicz and her sister Germaine, Master of Ceremonies/Grand 1st Vice President Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Grand 2nd Vice President, Lauren Kilcullen, Grand Secretary, Life Member and Past Grand President, Deborah Rodondi, Grand Treasurer Lisa Crudo, Grand Parliamentarian, Life Member and Past Grand President, Knight of St. Lazarus, Leonard Rossi and his wife Karen, Life Member and Grand Trustee Dante Galeazzi, Grand Trustee Perry Shurko and

Continued on Page 3

Grand President's Monthly Message

Denise Antonowicz

Here we go! Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas season is here (even though the store shelves were filled with Christmas decorations in early October). Every year the seasons seem to be hurried commercially in order to get the next big holiday started.

My feeling is we need to slow down. We need to appreciate the special feeling we get when we are with our families and friends. For before we know it, things change. Our family dynamics change, and our wishes of being together, like the old days, have disappeared.

Make being and celebrating with our loved ones a priority. Put Christ in the forefront of your Christmas holiday. Celebrate, celebrate, celebrate being able to pray together, the joy of family feasts together, and the joy of having your ICF families to make memories with.



Our organization is celebrating a milestone this coming year. 100 years of Families, Faith, and Fellowship making our branch members our extended family. Not many organizations can boast of being around for 100 years. Yes, our numbers aren't the same as the heyday of the ICF, but we have survived and it's up to us all to make sure we're around for another 100.

How, you ask, can I help? It's easy.

We have a powerhouse team running our Membership Committee: Andy Pappani and Vince Piro. They have been working hard to get their program started. Their goal is to have a Membership Drive in every branch of the ICF. This will be supported by our hardworking Central Council. Each branch will be required to have a Membership Drive. Just think about it, if each member brings in just ONE new member, we will double our membership. It can

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

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 January/February issue is January 2, 2024

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:

A glorious light shines in our world. It is Christmas! What we have prepared for and longed for has finally arrived. The packages have been wrapped, and unwrapped, the delicacies baked and enjoyed. The world comes to a wonderful pause as we stop to savor this height of the holiday season. The manger no longer sits empty. The baby Jesus lies on the straw and in our hearts, replacing our longings with hope.

We feel a gentleness about the world and in ourselves. As quickly as Christmas comes, for many it is over. Wrappings go in the trash; crumbs are swept away, and the decorations come down. It is back to work, back to bills to be paid and life as normal. It is no wonder that January heralds the blues of winter. But Christmas is not over. It has just begun!

The stable is an opportunity to open our lives in welcome to Christ's presence here and now. Christ seeks to enter more deeply into our personal lives and into our homes and families, our friendships and relationships, our hopes and plans for the future. We will hear and celebrate the angels' "news of great joy" only if our lives are touched and transformed by the living presence of the Christ born in a stable.

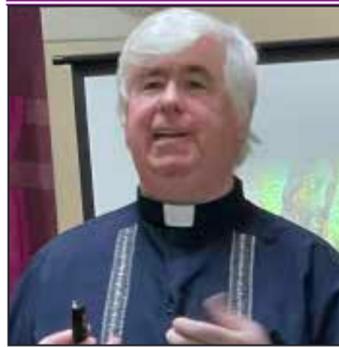
As we open the stables of our hearts let us welcome Christ into our lives, and the lives of all those we love, offering them generosity, forgiveness, love and peace. May there be diplomatic solutions to the situation in the Holy Land so that the terrorism and war ceases, hostages are returned home, civilians kept safe, and humanitarian aid goes to all in need.

So, this Christmas, let us take time out to remember the Christ who was born in a stable and all that it means to us. Let us give thanks to the one Infant Savior who was born in a stable. To share with others this wonderful gift God has given to the world – the greatest and most expensive gift the world will ever know.

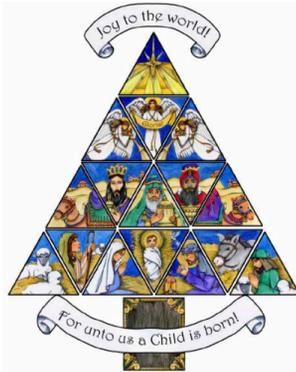
This Christmas and throughout the coming New Year, my prayer is that you will deepen your union with Christ through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments and make Him present in our society by your witness and love.

May you and your family be richly blessed this Christmas season and as the coming year unfolds and may the Prince of Peace bless each of you and grant you the joy of his Christmas.

*Blessings,
Fr. Chris*



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Spiritual Director



Welcome New Members (Report as of November 10, 2023)

Branch 026	James Friebel	Juanita Ferrante
Branch 036	Madison I Elder	Roberta A Pastorino
	Vincent C Ferrante	Abigail K Valentine
	Valerie Lee Tietjen	Kelsey A Valentine
	Justin T Valentine	Madison E Valentine
	Leslie I Valentine	
Branch 111	Julie Marquez	Raul Marquez
Branch 130	Linda Asti	Darlene Capovilla
	Dennis Capovilla	Frank Capovilla
	Dave Costelli	Adriene A Figone
	John Figone	Nadine Fletcher
	Yvette Garcia	Daniela Hole
	Lou Hole	Angelo L Manchia
	Edward Montgomery	Roberto Perrier
	Stephanie Perrier	Karen Rodgers
	Marco Sturken	Carlos Arrecis Sweetser
	Tammie Arrecis Sweetser	
Branch 179	Cynthia M Lamberti	Michael J Lamberti
Branch 191	Kenneth Kolakowski	Myla Taylor
Branch 218	Ana-Luisa Gutierrez	Ramon Gutierrez
Branch 332	David P Paganini	
Branch 352	Lucy Oneto	Thomas Oneto
Branch 395	Robin L Deiro	
Branch 446	Rev Jerry Ochetti	Mary Pocius
	Carrey Rossie	Sandra A Seabrook

Workshop Committee

Andy Pappani, Chair,
Workshop Committee

The Workshop Committee is excited to offer a series of workshops this year designed to assist local branches.

The first series of workshops will focus on leadership. These are designed to share ideas about what makes for successful leadership in our branches. Participants will learn about the responsibilities of each officer position, hear about best practices, and have a chance to share their successful strategies. These leadership workshops will be followed by workshops on membership growth and retention.

The following workshops were either held or will be held in the future:

- **President** Nov 27 (6 p.m.) & Nov 30 (7 p.m.)
- **Vice-Presidents** Dec 4 (6 p.m.) & Dec 6 (7 p.m.)
- **Secretaries** Dec 11 (6 p.m.) & Dec 14 (7 p.m.)
- **Treasurer/Financial Sect** Dec 19 (6 p.m.) & Dec 21 (7 p.m.)
- **Trustees** Jan 3 (6 p.m.)
- **Orator & Sentinel** Jan 1 (6 p.m.)

Heritage — Christmas Time

Louise Vento

Do you remember your Christmas past?

As a child growing up poor on a prune orchard in Santa Clara Valley (The Valley of Hearts Delight), I would look forward each year at Christmas time to go to Robertsville Feed and Grain in San Jose, California. My father would pick out a scrawny pine or fir tree, he would bring it home and put it in a prune bucket of dirt and place it in the living room, a room so cold without any heat. My mother would decorate the tree with bubble lights and (Shiny Bright) ornaments of red, green, blue and gold. She always put a manger with the baby Jesus in it. On Christmas morning we would get up early and go to 6:00 a.m. mass at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in San Jose, California. When we got home, I would run into the room so cold and see what was in my stocking, an



apple, a handkerchief, socks, maybe fifty cents but always a small book.

I have always tried to keep the family tradition of a tree, lights, ornaments and a manger under the tree. We tried not to spoil our children with too many gifts. We would give them the one gift they wanted; like one year my daughter asked for a pair of pink-ing shears to cut material and our son a baseball mitt. We always gave them a book to read.

Sometimes, I think children today receive too many gifts at Christmas time. They don't appreciate what they receive. Have we lost the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus and attending Church on Christmas day. I hope not.

No matter how you spend Christmas, alone or with your loved ones, make it a memorable one. The memories of the past will last you a lifetime.

Merry Christmas, Buon Natale and Buon Anno!

Gifts of Love Donations

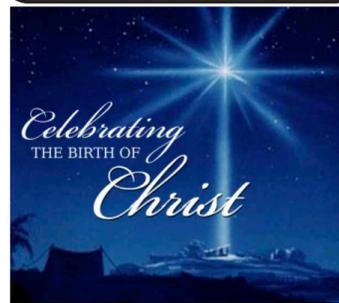
(Received as of November 10, 2023)

- Officers/Members of Br. 362
In Memory of Joan Lueke
- Officers/Members of Chicago District
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
- Officers/Members of Br. 291
In Memory of Kathleen Sullivan
- Joan and Jerry Delfino
Get Well Wishes for Phil Robba
- Joan and Jerry Delfino
Get Well Wishes for Sid Pappani
- Officers/Members of Br. 47
In Memory of Warren Petree
- Officers/Members of Br. 47
In Memory of Bice Corbelletta
- Officers/Members of Br. 47
In Memory of Marguerite Barret
- Eva Stern
Speedy Recovery Wishes for Natalie Canata

In Loving Memory

(Report as of November 10, 2023)

Enes Vallejo	Branch 026
Monci R Crosby	Branch 036
Ruth M Flynn	Branch 036
Marie Grindstaff	Branch 036
Dolores Rappa	Branch 036
Lisa A Maskarich	Branch 130
George N Saitta	Branch 379
Gloria R Subcoz	Branch 435



Deborah Rodondi's family members came to support her

Membership Committee Report:

We Are Here to Support You

Andy Pappani and Vince Piro

As you read in the Grand President's column, the Federation is focusing on membership growth this year. This is exciting because it gives branches a chance to promote themselves in their local parishes. This is our chance to take our light from under the bushel and let it shine forth in our communities.

And we will do this together. The Membership Committee and Central Council are here to assist and support local branches as they work to attract new members.

By now, your branch president should have received a *Membership Planning Chart*. This chart asks that your branch set a goal for membership growth, plan activities to achieve this growth, and to list the resources necessary for success. This *Membership Planning Chart* should then be sent to **Andy Pappani** (pappani1@yahoo.com) and **Vince Piro** (vpairo@icloud.com). This will allow the Membership Committee to as-

sist branches with the resources needed whether it be people-power, materials, or training.

The Grand President has asked that you hold a *membership drive*. This is a great way to reach a large audience and we have many ideas to share with you about successful membership drives. However, the research is clear that having many outreach activities is the most effective way to grow your membership base. In an effort to share these ideas with you, the Membership Committee in conjunction with the Workshop Committee will hold a series of workshops on membership growth and retention beginning early next year. In the past, these workshops have been a great way to gather and share successful ideas on attracting new members.

We look forward to working with you as we enter this exciting chapter in the Federation's history.

GP Message--Continued

Denise Antonowicz *continued from p. 1*

be done, because you can all be part of the solution to increase the strength of our organization.

Let's together make our 100th year a year of growth. I know we can do it because we are ICF'ers. And we can do anything we put our hearts and faith into.

Finally, thank you for being a member. Thank you for supporting the

Central Council and each other and finally may Christ shine his Christmas light on you and your families

So Merry Christmas. Buon Natale, Joyeux Noel and Wesolych Świąt.

*Denise Antonowicz
Grand President*

Testimonial Dinner--Continued

Deborah Rodondi *continued from p. 1*

husband Jordi Ramos, Grand Sentinel, Life Member and Past Grand President, Robert Basuino, Life Member and Past Grand President, Andrew Pappani, Past Grand President Vincent Piro and his wife Robyn, Life Member and Past Grand President, Commander of St. Lazarus, Michael Rossi and his wife Marcie, Life Member Emeritus and Past Grand President, Robert Acquistapace and his wife Kathy, Life Member Emeritus and Past Grand President, James Jones, Life Member Emeritus and Past Grand President, Carmen Kilcullen and husband Larry, Member Emeritus, Gerald Delfino and wife Joan, Member Emeritus Patricia Mages and husband Louis. Deborah's family was there as well as members from various branches.

Presentations to Deborah included San Mateo District President Barbara Firpo bestowing a Mark Roberts Fairy, Father Christopher Bennett awarding the ICF plaque and check, and Grand President Denise Antonowicz giving a pendant made by Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan and John Donivan.

Several key people in Deborah's life shared remarks including her long-time school mate, Barbara Ising, Past Grand President Robert Basuino speaking about her time in ICF, and Anthony Rodondi, Deborah's nephew conveying his experience growing up with her and her impact on him.

Deborah thanked everyone attending and spoke about her time in ICF. The evening closed with a Prayer of Thanksgiving by Father Christopher Bennett.

A good time was had by all!! Thank you, Deborah, for your guidance and leading the Italian Catholic Federation during your Presidency.



Letters from Italian America--Heritage Presentation

by Francesca Taylor and Eugene Salandra

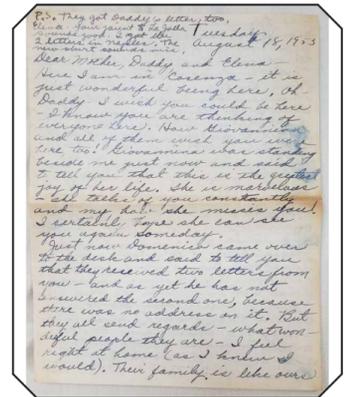
Such a pleasure it was to present our precious family letters to a wonderful audience of over 80 ICF members at the recent ICF Convention!

Here are the highlights of our stories... and then resources to help everyone to save important memories!

Francesca Taylor's grandfather, Francesco Bonaro immigrated to America in 1902; he was 16 years old. Finding work in the kitchen of the Hotel Shenley in Pittsburgh, he eventually became a successful chef at hotels in Pittsburgh, Miami, and Los Angeles. He left behind a younger sister (by just one year), Giovannina, in their small hometown, Serra Pedace in Calabria. The two corresponded over many years... Frank Bonaro never returned to Italy. Frank had three daughters; the middle one was Grace Bonaro (Francesca's mother).

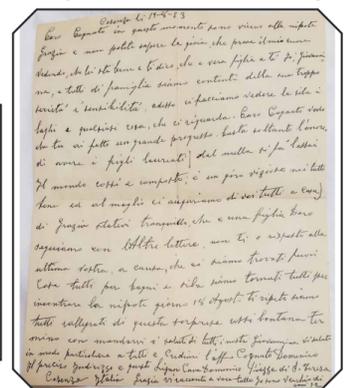


traveled south by herself on the train to Cosenza. Grace wrote daily letters to her



parents in Los Angeles, beginning each with: "Dear Mother, Daddy and Elena (Grace's younger sister)..." In her first telling of this visit, so historic for our family, she exclaims: "Here I am in Cosenza, and it is just wonderful being here, oh, Daddy, I know you are thinking of everyone here. How Giovannina and all of them wish you were here too. Giovannina was standing beside me just now and said to tell you that this is the greatest joy of her life... she talks of you constantly and my, how she misses you! I hope she can see you again someday." They walked around the town, visiting family and friends, and they took her to La Sila, now a national park in Calabria. They walked through the town, visiting family and friends, and they took her to La Sila, now a National Park in Calabria. She continued, "You should see all the houses and new buildings. Domenico and Guido [cousins] are working in construction and they are building a new church, Santa Teresa - that is why it is called Piazza di Santa Teresa. The whole section [where they live] is in a state of construction - will be beautiful when finished!" She described the long evening cena meals - "we were sitting at

the table until 11:00 pm" - and the home hospitality: "they served pasta, veal, figs and olives, and homemade wine - all delicious" She shared pictures from her California family with them and described their reaction: "They thought our house was a little villa, and Giovannina can't get over how young Daddy is; she is so happy that he is doing so well. And they thought our car was a Cadillac!" (- it was in fact a Chevrolet sedan).



Before she left, Giovannina's husband took pen in hand and wrote a letter back to his cognato (brother-in-law), Francesco Bonaro, in which he expressed warmly how delightful had been the visit from Grace: "e' una figlia d'oro" - she is a daughter of gold.

Grace returned to California with color Kodak slides that she showed over and

over again. Giovannina died in 1968. I am still in touch with one of her granddaughters and great-grandson. My heart is truly grateful for my mother's steadfast habit of journaling - she has left us a legacy that becomes only more meaningful with the years.



Giovannina Bonaro Cava

In the summer of 1953, a group of Grace's friends planned a 3-month trip to Europe, and invited Grace to join them. She accepted, and her father, Frank, wrote to his sister, Giovannina, to let her know that Grace



was coming to Italy. They arranged for a visit to Giovannina's family in Calabria. After the Second World War, Giovannina's family had moved to Cosenza, the nearest large city.

Grace left her tour group in Sorrento, and



Cosenza - Corso Umberto

Tips for Preserving Family History

We hope you can join in the wonderful preservation of your family memories and history! Here are a few tips: It's easy to miss opportunities to talk about real and important things - with our parents and their generation. There are things that only they can answer or explain. Sadly, the reality is that when they pass, many of those answers, explanations and stories will go with them. So ask them the questions that would explain events that shaped them, decisions they made and important lessons they learned...

Some examples of questions to ask:

1. What was your childhood like?
2. What were you like in high school?
3. How would your parents have described you?
4. When you think about a fork in the road in your life, what was it and why did you choose that particular path?
5. What happy memory will you cherish forever?
6. What was your second choice for my name?
7. What have you always wanted to tell me, but haven't had the courage to?
8. Growing up, who inspired you the most?
9. If you had to do it all over again, would you pursue the same career path?
10. What is your biggest regret?
11. Best trip of your life?
12. What amazes you most about society nowadays?
13. What do you miss most about the 'old days'?
14. Looking back at your life thus far, what are you most proud of?
15. What did you discover in the last decade or two that you wish you discovered sooner?

16. Favourite place you have lived?
17. What were you doing when you were my age?
18. What advice would you give your 40-year-old self?
19. When did you know that you wanted to marry mom/dad?
20. What do you remember most about your wedding day?
21. What do you wish you made more time in your life for?
22. What do you wish you spent less time doing?
23. What family tradition do you cherish the most?
24. What have YOU always wanted to ask ME?

The reality is having loved ones in our lives is a blessing. While we have our loved ones with us, we shouldn't miss opportunities to talk to them, learn more about what makes them tick and how they came to be the people/parents that we know and love.

- Websites and Resources**
- My Italian Family <https://www.myitalianfamily.com/>
 - <https://www.ricerca genealogica.it/>
 - The director of this Center speaks English.** Resource for Roots Tourism in Italy <https://www.facebook.com/festival-spartenze/>
 - Oral History how to's from the Smithsonian <https://siarchives.si.edu/history/how-do-oral-history>
 - Some resources for northern Italian genealogy** <https://www.italiangen.org/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209863945811597/>

Letters from Italian America

by Eugene Salandra, Br. 67, Los Angeles

In an age of instant electronic communication, in which the value of the spoken and written word has been diluted, it is a blessing to revisit the correspondence of our loved ones. Time-capsules of the handwritten word, these letters reveal the values our ancestors embodied. At a time when the only practical means of communication across long distances were letters, they were often carefully considered and eagerly awaited. They are windows into the lives of our beloved ones who have gone before us, and treasures of our heritage.

In a workshop offered at the ICF Convention in Costa Mesa this year, Francesca Taylor and I (ICF Branch 67) shared with an enthusiastic assembly some letters and photographs from our own Italian-American ancestors. Participants were then be invited to share reflections about their own letters, and their significance for our heritage, our families, and our faith.

I will offer here a brief glimpse into the correspondence between my maternal Grandparents during World War II.

My Pop Pop and Nana, Eugene and Lillian Montroni (nee Delmastro), children of Southern Italian immigrants, were born in Hoboken, New Jersey. They were devoted sweethearts in the early 1940's, when Eugene was drafted into the Army during World War II and sent 3,000 miles away to a military base in Northern California. During their separation, their only means of communication was letter writing. Unsure whether they might ever be blessed with the opportunity to marry, or whether they would meet again, they wrote faithfully to one another for the duration of their uncertain, imposed period of separation.



Below is a letter my grandfather sent to my grandmother when he first entered the Service:

5/17/42
Hello Sweetheart,
I arrived at Fort Dix Fri. 9:30 got to sleep at 2 - got up at 5:45 Sat. morning. We received our clothes and got an injection in the arm. Then had to dress up and march after that we ate when back to the Barrack for a while then out again and march. My arm hurts a little. Funny but the fellow who was going out with Florence is with me in this Barrack. I ask to see the doctor but they won't let me because we had to march but I went Sun. morning and he said he did not know what the hell it was. But is sending me Mon. to the skin clinic.
I miss to have you around telling me

how much you love me but don't cry. I love you too much now I know how it feels to be away from you.

I'm so nervous I don't know what to write.

Give my love to Mom, Daddy, Josephine, Anna, Grandpa, and the aunts and uncle.

I wish I could write more about you but if I do, I only cry and get blue. I almost feel like doing that now.

But cheer sweetheart I'm in the army now and got to be a soldier not a sissy. I wish I could look you in the eye and say that but I can't.

Goodbye for now sweetheart keep your chin up.

Your Blackie Gene

Don't worry Blondie I'll be back to you and hold you close to me like I did before.

Although ill health thankfully saved my grandfather from deployment overseas in the thick of battle, the Army kept him stationed in California for the duration of his wartime service. By the grace of God, he was permitted a train trip to meet my grandmother halfway across the country for a simple wedding. They each travelled by railway, he from the base in California and she from her home in Hoboken, New Jersey. They met in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to be wed on the 23rd of March 1943. It was a bittersweet meeting, followed by the pain of further separation and uncertainty.

The following excerpt is from a letter written by my grandfather the year after their marriage.

Saturday, May 6, 1944

Hello Sweetheart,
Well, here it is Saturday, & do you know what it is, that's right we have a date, so look your best, ready; let's go.
 Gee Darling I can't wait till we can say those things again, but don't worry we will, this will end sometime...
Lil you know that you & you alone is all I want, there can't & there will never be, & I don't want there to be another girl in my life.
Darling I swear by the Bible & Our Lord Jesus Christ that if anything ever happens to you, well Sweetheart, I need not go any further. I love you more than words can explain.

Can't you see funny face you are the one who is keeping me going, you & you only Green Eyes, there is no one else in my life, gosh but I love you Beautiful...

Darling don't let anything interfere with our life, there are times that I'm so lonesome, so then I think of you the day we were married, & I turn around and say God funny face you look so Beautiful even with those tears rolling down your rosy cheeks.

That Sweetheart, does it prove to you that I love you? (huh) Darling if you want to buy something for the Hope

NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
11/1	George Verlaine		Alameda, CA	\$30
11/2	Helen Jeffcoat	362	Bellflower, CA	\$30
11/3	Tom Kingshill		Belmont, CA	\$30
11/4	Mauro & Judith Romagnoli	210	Riverside, CA	\$30
11/5	Terryann Sturiale	214	Concord, CA	\$30
11/6	Abigail Thomas		Vacaville, CA	\$30
11/7	Branch 33		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
11/8	Lorraine D'Elia	213	Daly City, CA	\$30
11/9	Patty Marty	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
11/10	Lisa Crudo	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
11/11	Phil Carlo		Upland, CA	\$100
11/12	Jonny Hoover		Long Beach, CA	\$30
11/13	Joyce Harnett	19	San Lorenzo, CA	\$50
11/14	Donna Ogden	408	Sunnyvale, CA	\$30
11/15	Connie Gatto	154	Richmond, CA	\$30
11/16	Noelle Iles		Fresno, CA	\$30
11/17	Debbie Alexy		Danville, CA	\$30
11/18	Father Mark Wagner	395	Stockton, CA	\$30
11/19	Barbara Ebel	351	Redwood City, CA	\$30
11/20	Elaine Young		Santa Clara, CA	\$30
11/21	John Silva		Tracy, CA	\$30
11/22	Ellen Frediani	103	Napa, CA	\$30
11/23	Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez		Los Angeles, CA	\$100
11/24	Nancy Ventimiglia	115	San Pedro, CA	\$30
11/25	Ann & Gerry Thomas		Gardena, CA	\$30
11/26	Kristin Rossillo		San Marcos, CA	\$30
11/27	Allan Lovan	342	Auburn, CA	\$30
11/28	Troy Yonke		Richmond, CA	\$30
11/29	Marcie Soper	33	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
11/30	Will Santos		Brentwood, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG



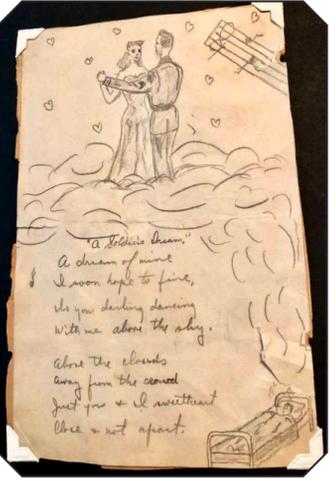
Chest do so, so when I come back you'll have those things you need...

So long beautiful, chin up & keep smiling. Your Husband Always Gene Blackie 'Blackie loves Blondie' "

At the time, they could not have known that they would indeed be reunited at the war's end, and later have but one child, my mother Barbara Ann, and one grandson, myself. They remained happily married for over 54 years, until my grandfather's passing at the age of 78. My grandmother survived for another decade, for the sake of my mother, and passed in 2008 at the age of 85.

No longer anxiously awaiting letters delivered from 3,000 miles away, they are now reunited and dancing in Heaven. They can now rest eternally in the presence of one another, in the peaceful embrace of our loving God.

Until we meet again...



Announcing Expansion Committee

Perry Shurko

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. 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 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.



We Treat Kids Better

Dr. Thomas Coates, the thalassemia team at Children's Hospital Los Angeles; patients and families, Lauriee, Matt, and Ben Levine would like to wish the members of the Italian Catholic Federation a Merry Christmas. May your New Year be filled with good health, happiness, and peace. We are sincerely grateful for your friendship, generosity, and continued support.



Italian Catholic Federation

Sponsor Group

September 1, 2023

Date of Drive

29	12
Total Number of Donors	First Time Donors
29	87
Units Collected	Potential Number of Lives Saved

When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.

© 2018 The American Red Cross | 181301



October 12, 2023

Dear Grand President Denise Antonowicz, Past Grand President Deborah Rodondi, Members of the Central Council, Branch Presidents, Members of the Italian Catholic Federation, and ICF Staff:

Thank you so much for your donation of \$46,000 presented at the 92nd Annual ICF Convention. We are so glad Dr. Coates was able to attend once again. Lauriee was incredibly disappointed to miss out as she is still recovering from spine reconstruction.

We are truly grateful that Cooley's Anemia/Thalassemia continues to be your national charity as there are countless worthy causes you can support. Since thalassemia is a rare disease in this country and funding is less for rare diseases ICF is instrumental to our thalassemia program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

The difference you make in patients' lives is invaluable. A handful of patients have undergone gene therapy which is a curative therapy for thalassemia. It is an arduous process, but the end result is being transfusion free. For our young patients this is becoming a viable option and we are sure to see progress in gene therapy for years to come. There is also research in new therapies that can improve hemoglobin levels. Care for adult patients continues to be a challenge with few providers willing and able to handle their complex complications and secondary morbidities. We appreciate your dedication to assuring we can continue making strides for our patients.

Educating the community about thalassemia and keeping you updated on current research and projects that the ICF funds here at CHLA is a priority for us. Lauriee has started visiting branches - if you are interested, please contact her at (360) 860-2023 or Lauriee430@aol.com. This comes at no cost to your branch.

Thank you again for your generosity and continued support of our program. You are improving the care and quality of life for thalassemia patients.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Coates MD

Thomas D. Coates, MD
Section Head for Hematology
Director, Sickle/Hemoglobinopathy Program
Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Lauriee Levine

Lauriee Levine, MA, CCLS
Thalassemia Outreach Program Consultant
P: 360-860-2023

Professor of Pediatrics & Pathology
Keck School of Medicine
University of Southern California

P: 323-361-2352

Tax ID: 95-1690977

To comply with federal rules on charitable giving, we certify that Children's Hospital Los Angeles has provided no goods or services in consideration of your contribution.

4650 Sunsel Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA 90027 | 323.660.2450 | CHLA.org

Scholarship Donations

(Received as of October 10, 2023)

1st Year Scholarships:

- Harry and Kathy Hill
In Memory of Enes Vallejo
Officers/Members of Br. 184
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
Fran La Torre
In Honor of the 83rd Birthday of Peter P. La Torre, Jr.
Diana Quaresma-Bacigalupi
- In Memory of Jody Balestrieri
Officers/Members of Br. 215
- Thank You to John Zugnoni for being our Convention Delegate
Pat Botta
- In Memory of Janice Jones
Pat Botta and Nancy and Kris Carlos
- In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carmen Kilcullen
Johnnie and Kay Ghio
- In Memory of Ann Zoccoli
Officers/Members of Br. 342
- In Memory of Josephine Andersen
Bob and Elaine Osorio
- In Honor of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Jerry and Joan Delfino
Officers/Members of Br. 342
- In Memory of Josephine Andersen
Officers/Members of Br. 28
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
Pat and Louie Cordich
- In Memory of Marie Antonowicz

Scholarship Donations - 2nd to 4th Year

- Joan and Jerry Delfino
In Memory of Jody Balestrieri



Convention 2024

Laruen Kilcullen, Convention Director's Committee

The Convention Director's Committee hopes everyone is looking forward to celebrating the ICF's 100th Anniversary at the galas and the Convention in 2024. As branches make their 2024 calendars, I remind everyone to save the dates for our 2024 ICF Convention: August 30 – September 1.

The Convention Director's Committee of Fr. Chris Bennett, Deborah Rodondi, Bob Basuino, Lisa Crudo, Perry Shurko, Theresa Sabatella Shaw, Barbara Firpo and Advisor Roselyne McNeal is already starting the planning process for a spiritual, fun, and educational Convention.

The 2024 Convention will be at the San Mateo Marriott in San Mateo, CA. For our long time Bay Area residents, it was previously the Dunfey Hotel. The hotel underwent a beautiful renovation a few years ago. The room rate is \$149.00 per night plus taxes and fees. The registration price will be set in a few months. Please have a line item in your budgets for Convention expenses.

The Convention will officially start on Friday, August 30 with our opening and dinner. The Convention will officially end about 5:30 PM on Sunday,

September 1. Please make your travel arrangements accordingly. Archbishop Cordileone will say Mass at 3:00 PM on Sunday, followed by the Installation of Central Council Officers.

Optional activities prior to the Friday opening include a Thursday night dinner hosted by the San Mateo District at Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame. On Friday afternoon, we'll have registration, 100th Anniversary Heritage Display and other activities.

"Warm Hugs – Warm Hearts" will be our charitable drive this year. We are asking for donations of blankets and socks for a local charity. I've heard that one branch is already getting out the crochet needles to start making blankets!

The Committee and the San Mateo District are looking forward to welcoming delegates, members, and guests to the Convention. Keep an eye out in the *Bollettino* and in the Quarterly documents for all the information.

Lauren Kilcullen
Chairperson, Convention Director's Committee

Looking Forward to 2024

Carmen Kilcullen, Apostolate Charity Committee

Greetings! I am Carmen and the new chairperson of the Apostolate-Charity Committee.

I would like to review the goals of the committee which you can, then, discuss as a branch.

We are certainly all familiar with our Scholarship program, a charity very close to my heart since I was a teacher for 36 years. Through the generosity of branches and individual members, we have been able to successfully maintain this program. Every year, we always use all the funds sent to us and we, then, need to start anew. Many fine students have benefited from this program. I would like to have more funds to give to more deserving students. For this, I need to ask you, the branches, to designate in your 2024 budget, an amount that you can donate. Many of you donate the actual amounts of the scholarship, but the committee will accept any amount, no matter how small (or even how large).

The Providenza Seminary Fund is very important. Through this fund, the ICF can contribute to the education of seminarians. Numbers to the priesthood are down and, maybe through our prayers and donations, we can ameliorate this situation. Again, a charity close to me as I had an uncle and great uncle who were priests. Please include this charity in your budgets.

Gifts of Love, a charity where we help disadvantaged and disabled persons has certainly struck a chord with so many

of you as contributions have always been forthcoming. So many people have been helped through the Gifts of Love program.

Cooley's Anemia has certainly made a great impression on us. Through the efforts of Lauriee Levine, we have been made aware of the extent of this disease and the medical work being done to help persons so afflicted. Please continue the help that you have continually given to this program.

Then, there are your local charities. Do not forget your parish, parish school, community groups, the hungry, the homeless, Birthright, the elderly etc. Need I go on? Certainly not because you are all individuals filled with a sense of generosity for those in need. Super!!!

Good luck with all that you do. We, the ICF, are a formidable group when it comes to supporting charities. So, let's get to work!

Saints of the month:

- Dec. 3 – St. Francis Xavier
- Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas
- Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose
- Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 25 – The Nativity
- Dec. 26 – St. Stephen
- Dec. 27 – St. John

From my house to yours
– Wishes for a Holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!
The Kilcullen Family

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

Received as of November 10, 2023:

IN MEMORY OF:
 Marie Antonowicz
 Marie Antonowicz
 Jody Balestrieri
 Joan Lueke
 Josephine Pista
 Ronald Bellangero
 Ann Zoccoli
 Gina Descalso Renner
 Jody Balestrieri
 Barbara Jean Di Grazia
 Marie Antonowicz
 Josephine Andersen
 David Senestraro
 Jody Balestrieri
 Barbara Jean Di Grazia
 Jody Balestrieri
 Marie Antonowicz
 Maria de Jesus Cantú
 Jody Balestrieri
 Barbara Jean Di Grazia
 Marie Antonowicz
 Marie Antonowicz
 Marie Antonowicz
 Barbara Jean Di Grazia

DONATED BY:
 Richard and Lucy Amico
 Leonard and Karen Rossi
 Dolores McCartney
 Christine Ragusa
 Officers/Members of Br. 21
 Officers/Members of Br. 21
 Officers/Members of Br. 21
 Pat Botta
 Pat Botta
 Pat Botta
 Pat Botta
 Patricia Putkey
 Joe and Julie Bonino
 Anne and Richard Interrante
 The Kilcullen Family
 The Kilcullen Family
 The Kilcullen Family
 Officers/Members of Br. 191
 Officers/Members of Br. 229
 Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
 Bob Basuino
 Jim and Patty Jarrett
 Officers/Members of East Bay District
 Officers/Members of East Bay District
 Richard and Valerie Vote
 Mike and Marcie Rossi

Ann Zoccoli
 Lucille Mazzeo

Barbara Jean Di Grazia

GET WELL WISHES:
 Sid Pappani

Bob Basuino

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR BISHOP'S DAY:
 Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Officers/Members of Los Angeles Archdiocese District

IN CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD:
 Fr. Sergio Ovando
 Fr. Sergio Ovando
 Fr. Sergio Ovando
 Fr. Sergio Ovando

Giulia Gallego
 Johanna Tacci
 Rosemarie Martin
 Officers/Members of Br. 435

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AS GRAND PRESIDENT:
 Deborah Rodondi

Officers/Members of Br. 215

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:
 Carmen Kilcullen

Leonard and Karen Rossi

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



Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Report as of November 10, 2023)

Cecil Vallejo
 Officers/Members of Br. 26
 In Memory of Enes Vallejo
 Fran La Torre
 In Memory of Barbara Jean Di Grazia
 Cecil Vallejo
 In Memory of Enes Vallejo

Family Recipe -Chocolate Chip Cookie Brittle

Deborah Rodondi

Wow! Hard to believe it is already the Christmas Season and my Testimonial is a thing of the past. It was an amazing event. I was overjoyed and felt blessed with the wonderful turn out of people that attended-ALL My Family (immediate family, co-workers and Branch, District and members of the ICF). My Girlfriend since High School (Barbara) talked about my early years, Past President Bob Basuino talked about my Central Council years, and it was finished off with my nephew Tony rounding things off with my life. Tony was the hit of the evening, so many people came up to him to say hi. The family was very confused on how he knew so many people in the ICF. What my family did not understand is that Tony is my official taste tester for my recipes and on dinner/meeting nights at my home he is there to share in the dinner.

This is a great addition to your holiday recipes or any time for that matter. My high school friend Barbara was down for my testimonial and as you may recall we always experiment with appetizers and desserts when we get together. She has the sweet tooth and we both love appetizers. This recipe came from one of my co-workers, Jennifer, she has shared some great recipes with us in the past. My official taste testers were my family who were down for my testimonial. Everyone could not walk by the container without opening it and snacking. My brother Robert's (Tony's dad) favorite cookie is Chocolate Chip-he loved this variation! By the next day the container was almost empty!! ENJOY!!!



Tony Rodondi

- Heat oven to 325 degrees with a center rack.
- Place the butter and sugar in a large glass bowl. Microwave in 30 second increments, stirring well between each, until the butter is completely melted, and the sugar is beginning to dissolve. Cool for 5 minutes. Whisk continuously for about 1 full minute, until the mixture no longer looks separated (okay if a little of the sugar is not completely dissolved).
- Whisk in the vanilla and salt. Add the flour and stir with a rubber spatula until no streaks of flour remain. Stir in the nuts.
- Scrape the dough onto a rimmed 12 x 17-inch ungreased cookie sheet. Using your hands, pat it completely covering the baking sheet-it will be thin. Sprinkle the chocolate chips over the top and press them into the dough.
- Bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes, rotating the pan two of three times to allow for even cooking. I cooked 10 minutes longer.
- Place pan on rack and completely cool. Once cool, use a spatula (or hands) to lift the edge of the cookie and begin breaking it into irregular pieces. I start the edge with the spatula and the whole thing comes up in one piece and with my hands I start breaking it up.
- Store in airtight container at room temperature, in the fridge or freezer.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Brittle

- ¾ cup plus 2 Tbls. Unsalted butter (I use salted butter and eliminate the ½ tsp. salt)
- 1 cup white cane sugar (I mix white and brown sugar: ¾ cup white & ¼ cup brown)
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup chopped pecans or walnuts (more if desired)
- 2/3 cup semisweet or bittersweet chocolate chips (more if desired)



Hoping you might like to share some of your specialties or the family recipes that have been handed down with the members of the ICF. Send them to me at drodondi@comcast.net or mail to the ICF office include a story if any. If you have questions, send them also. I may not be able to answer them, but we can put them out there for our readers and maybe find what you are looking for. Remember a good Italian cook measures with their eyes and heart!

Buon Appetito!

Buon Natale & Felice Capo D'Anno

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
 Grand 1st Vice President
 Branch 21, Santa Cruz
 Branch 227, Aptos



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from the Officers and Members of the Santa Clara Valley District

Br. 5	St. Clare	Santa Clara
Br. 28	St. Mary	Gilroy
Br. 47	St. Joseph	Mountain View
Br. 184	St. Mary	Los Gatos
Br. 191	St. Frances Cabrini	San Jose
Br. 368	Santa Teresa	San Jose
Br. 391	St. Martin	San Jose
Br. 408	Resurrection	Sunnyvale
Br. 435	St. Catherine	Morgan Hill
Br. 445	Transfiguration	San Jose



Opera Italia
 UN TEATRO
 TUTTO CANTATO

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
 ...da tutti i Musicisti ed i Cantanti di Opera Italia

*The Contra Costa District
 Wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas
 And a Happy, Healthy New Year!*

Branch 13 Martinez Branch 214 Concord
 Branch 14 Crockett Branch 352 Danville
 Branch 154 Richmond Branch 432 Brentwood
 Branch 442 Pleasant Hill

MAGGIORA JEWELRY

Your source for ICF jewelry!
 20% of Sales are donated to ICF

**BUON NATALE!
 E FELICE CAPO D'ANNO!!**

415 362-4412 Jo-Ann M. Donovan 833 Market St. Suite 521
 jdon@pacbell.net San Francisco, Ca. 94103

Greetings from Br. #32
Fresno



Wishing Everyone

A Very Merry Christmas
and
A Healthy & Happy New Year

Buon Natale
e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Che possiate circondarvi di
tutte le cose che portano felicità



The Officers and Members of
St. Frances Cabrini
Branch #191
San Jose

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION
Santa Rosalia Branch 36/Monterey



The Officers and Members
of Santa Rosalia Branch #36
in Monterey
Wish Everyone a Very Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New Year.
Buon Natale e Felice Anno
Nuovo a Tutti!

Wishing Peace and
Blessings for All at
Christmas and
the New Year

St. Michael, Br. 209
Sebastopol



May the spirit of Christmas bring you, *Peace*
The gladness of Christmas bring you, *Hope*
The warmth of Christmas grant you, *Love*



Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno

The Todos Santos Branch #214
Concord, Ca.

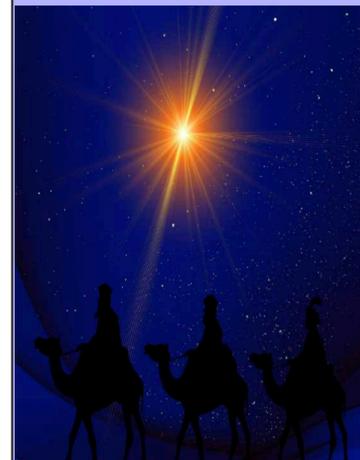
Which includes the surrounding parishes:
St. Agnes, St. Bonaventure,
St. Francis of Assisi and Queen of All Saints

MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

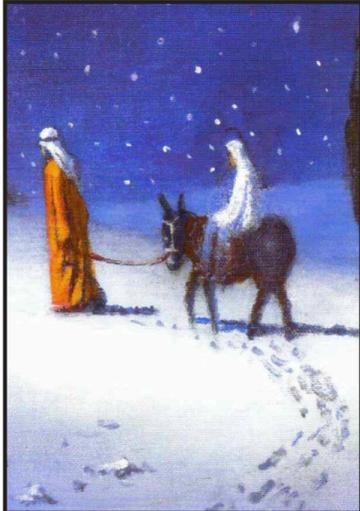
from the Officers and Members
Branch 391, St. Martin of Tours
San Jose, CA



Br. 184 - St. Mary,
Los Gatos, sends
wishes for a
Blessed Christmas
and New Year!



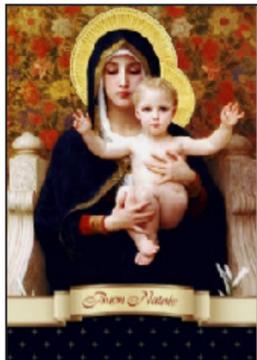
Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno
Branch 154, St. Raymond
Richmond, CA



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
from the Officers and Members
of Branch 210, Fontana



BUON NATALE e
FELICE CAPO D'ANNO!
FROM
I.C.F. BRANCH 435, SANTA CATERINA D'ALESSANDRIA
IN MORGAN HILL, CA



Wishing our ICF family a
Blessed Christmas and a
very Happy New Year!
Love from the officers and
members of Branch #343
Castro Valley

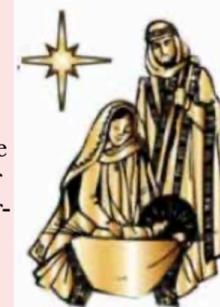
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
from
Branch 395,
Presentation
of the BVM
Stockton



Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
and New Year!

We are thinking of all of our ICF mem-
bers and hoping you are doing well.
Our prayers are with you until we can see
each other again. We also remember our
dear members who have passed away dur-
ing the last 3 years. They remain in our
thoughts and our hearts.

Officers and Members of Br. 50, San Francisco



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo

From the Officers and
Members of
Branch 173—Burlingame



Wishing you a festive Christmas!



-Roselyne & Aaron McNeal

Branch 130, Redwood City Sends Wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year!



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo! Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year! From I.C.F. Br.#144 in Arcata, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the I.C.F.: Our wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! The Marsalli Family

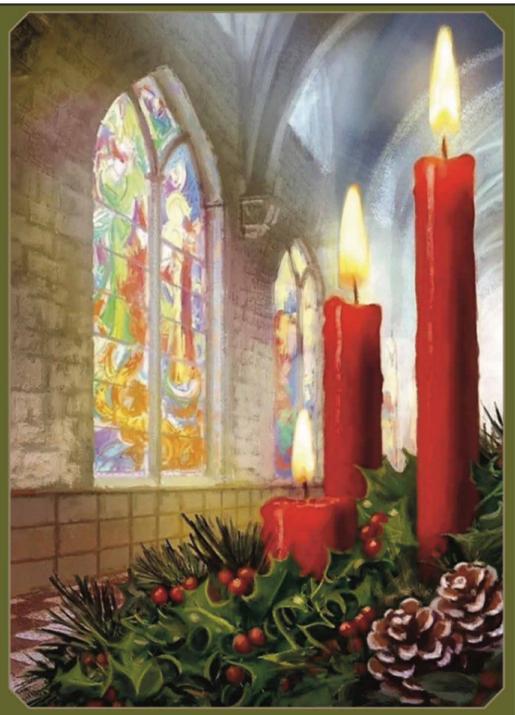


Merry Christmas and Best Wishes! From The Fuentes Family

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo



From the Members of Branch 14 Crockett



Buon Natele e Buon Capo D'Anno!



Lauren Kilcullen Grand 2nd Vice President

Branch 218 would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Best Wished for A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

From the Officers and Members of Branch 213, St. Augustine, So.San Francisco, CA



Book Review--Children's Books for Christmas

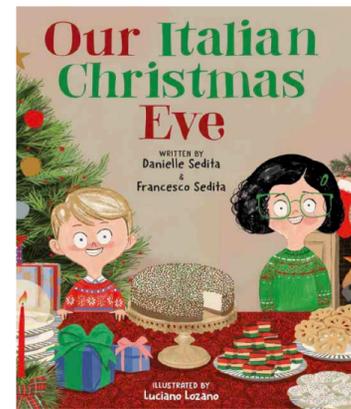
Vince Piro

Here are some children's books that would make wonderful Christmas gifts for young children. They are a great way to pass along and celebrate our heritages and faith.

Have a very blessed Christmas.

Our Italian Christmas Eve

by Danielle Sedita (Author), Francesco Sedita (Author), Luciano Lozano (Illustrator)



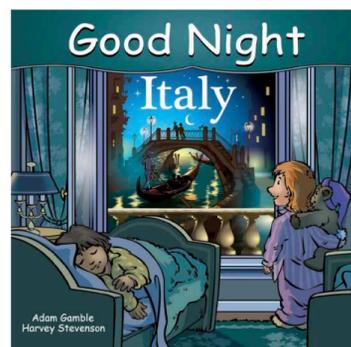
Deck the halls and mix up the eggnog! It's Christmas Eve for little Danielle and Francesco—a time for family, presents, music, and most importantly . . . food!

The siblings are very excited to celebrate at Aunt Babe's house, where there are too many aunts, uncles, and cousins to count. And all is peaceful and bright—until they realize that someone forgot to bring the dessert! Francesco and Danielle know they can save Christmas, but only if they can remember their mother's cheesecake recipe before it's too late.

This festive tribute to food and family will get young readers in the holiday spirit and make them very hungry for a Christmas feast—Italian style!

Good Night Italy (Good Night Our World)

by Adam Gamble (Author), Mark Jasper (Author), Harvey Stevenson (Illustrator)



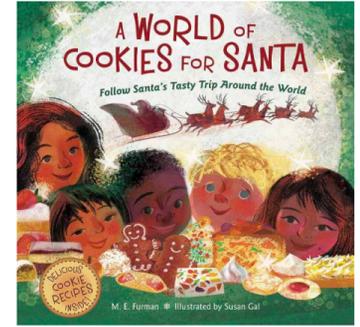
This charming board book takes young readers on an unforgettable journey around the glorious country of Italy.

Little Italians will visit Italy's famous attractions and historic landmarks including the Trevi Fountain, Colosseum, Roman Forum, Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Vatican, Tuscany, Florence, Naples, Venice, Naples, local foods, shopping, and more.

This book is part of the bestselling Good Night Our World series, which includes hundreds of titles exploring iconic locations and exciting themes. Little ones will enjoy a personal tour of one Europe's greatest and most historic countries.

A World of Cookies for Santa: Follow Santa's Tasty Trip Around the World

by M.E. Furman (Author), Susan Gal (Illustrator)

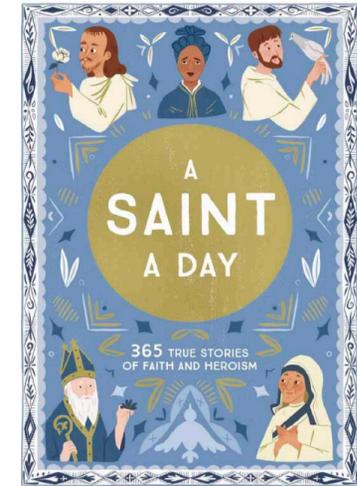


A World of Cookies for Santa takes readers across the globe to see all the treats that await Santa on Christmas Eve. Head to the Philippines, where children leave out puto seko cookies and ginger tea for Santa; jet to Russia for a honey-spice cookie; then set out for Malawi for a sweet potato cookie! When you've returned home, the journey's still not over—M. E. Furman provides recipes for children to bake some of Santa's cookies for themselves.

A World of Cookies for Santa is a multicultural celebration that families will return to year after year. Winner of the American Book Fest Best Book Award and the Moonbeam Book Award!

A Saint a Day: A 365-Day Devotional Featuring Christian Saints

by Meredith Hinds (Author), Isabel Muñoz (Illustrator)



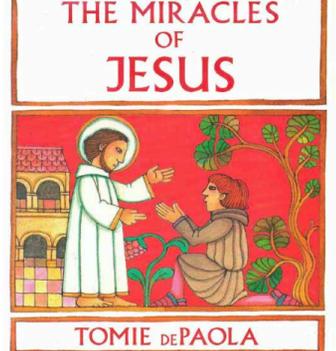
Teach your child to walk in faith, act justly, and lead with kindness and humility with this 365-day devotional for kids. A Saint a Day includes fascinating historical stories as it introduces young readers to over 300 saints who did extraordinary things for God.

Mother Teresa left her family at age 18 to become a missionary. St. Patrick helped spread Christianity to Ireland. St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin--and also had a pet lion!

Written for ages 8 to 12, A Saint a Day inspires young readers with remarkable stories of people who made extraordinary choices to love and serve God. Featuring popular saints such as Teresa of Avila, Francis of Assisi, Juan Diego, and Thomas Aquinas, each of the 365 devotions includes a Scripture verse and prayer, a short summary or inspiring story of a saint, a notable fact and artwork with a fresh, kid-friendly design.

The Miracles of Jesus

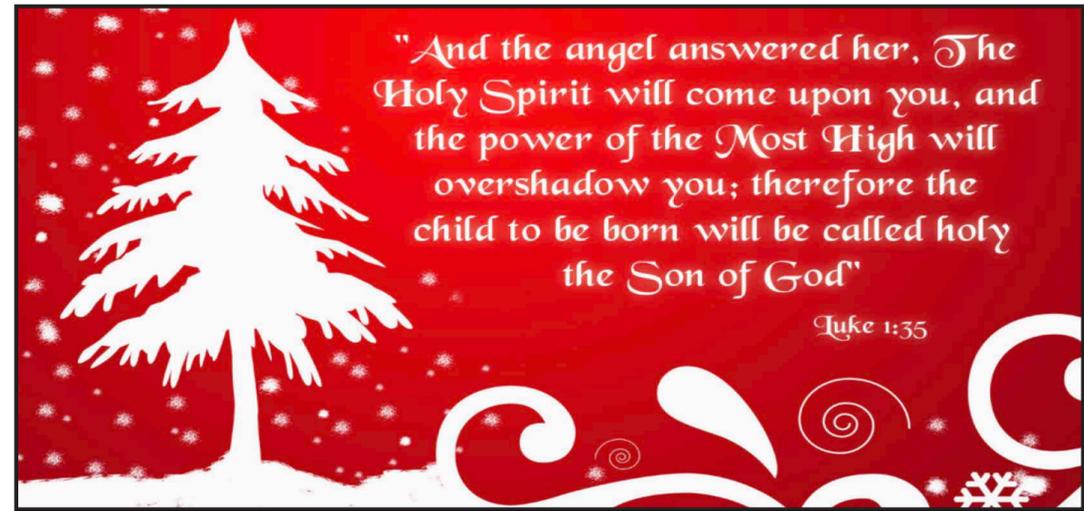
by Tomie dePaola (Author)



After Jesus of Nazareth was baptized, he began his public life, and he performed many miracles. Inspired by Romanesque art, Tomie dePaola brings the New Testament to life as he retells the stories of twelve miracles in the Bible. The Miracles of Jesus begins with "the Wedding at Cana," the first miracle, when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast. This is followed by other miracles Jesus performed, such as his calming of a storm, walking on water, and raising the dead to life. This delightful collection filled with memorable illustrations is perfect for sharing and reading aloud.

Vince Piro

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."
- Margaret Fuller



Branch Reports

an email to Branch Presidents as soon as we have more information on the January Installation of Officers.

*May you all have a Blessed Christmas!
Barbara*

SAN FRANCISCO

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

Dear Members

We had a fun and delicious Spuntino at Vic and Pat's home in November.

Merry Christmas to all Branch 1 Members and their Families.

*Cordiali Saluti
Diana Cresci*

San Francisco St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo to all of our members and their families.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 1, 2023, at the Basque Restaurant. Full details will follow.

To our members celebrating a birthday in December - Many more years of Much Happiness and Good Health.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

*Stay well and we miss all of you!
Ciao,
Eva Perata, President*

SAN MATEO District Council

Blessed December to all.

Our slate of Officers for 2024 are:

President: Barbara Firpo

1st Vice President: Dorene Campanile

2nd Vice President: Sylvia Row

Secretary: Open

Financial Secretary and Treasurer: Bea Tomasello

Orator: Joyce James

Trustees: Barbara Gabriel, Bob Tomasello, Kathy Treviso

Sentinel: Brenda Wemiz

Thank you to the outgoing Officers for all of their support throughout the years.

All branches should send a copy of their 2024 Officers to me bfirpo1909@gmail.com and to Debbie Rodondi drodondi@comcast.net I thank you in advance.

Please mark your calendars for June 9, 2024. We will be celebrating 100 years of the Italian Catholic Federation at a Gala held at the Basque Cultural Center. I know this is far in advance so you can plan to attend.

We will not have a November or December meeting. I will be sending out

Colma Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli

Testimonial for Past Grand President Deborah Rodondi took place November 4th at the Basque Center. Grand 1st VP Franklyn Lopes coordinated this great event. A good time was had by everyone in attendance. It is rumored that nephew Tony stole the show.

Monday December 11th we will be having our Christmas party and 94th Anniversary Celebration. This is always a great evening at the Sharp's Park in Pacifica. No host cocktails 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Choice of Prime Rib, chicken or salmon for \$48 or Lobster for \$58. There will be a raffle and sing a long---come join us for a fun evening. Reservations to Donna Barnes 650-991-0178.

Monday January 8 will be our monthly meeting at Deborah's house. 5:30 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner (TBD) with meeting to follow.

Merry Christmas to all and have a happy and safe New Year's!

Burlingame

Br. 173, Our Lady of Angels

Time to plan for our New Year as many of our calendars are getting filled with events to enjoy in 2024.

On December 14 we will celebrate our Christmas potluck. Please let our President know what item you would like to share. We will be collecting non-perishable groceries for St. Vincent de Paul along with bakery goodies to raffle with proceeds also going to SVDP.

At our November 9th meeting we celebrated one of our members who has been in the ICF for 81 years and started at age 16. Rina Cassanago told us what the ICF was like as part of the Youth Group. Congratulations to Rina!

We have elected our Officers for 2024 and are busy in the planning stages for some memorable events.

Please help by praying for any members who are ill in our Branch and throughout the Federation. A special mention to Jackie Barnes and Kathy Treviso from Branch 19.

*God Bless and wishing good health in 2024!
Roz Emery*



South San Francisco Br. 213, St. Augustine

Hello Branch 213 Members! Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving celebration! Christmas is on its way, so get ready! (Where did this year go?)

We enjoyed a delicious Chinese dinner provided by Judy and Jackie at our November 14 dinner meeting.

Election officers for 2024 was held, and we discussed projects for the coming year.

There will be no meeting in December, since we have our Christmas Luncheon on December 3 at the Basque Cultural Center. Hope to see everyone there! Questions, call Judy at 650/589-8377.

First meeting in 2024 will be on Tuesday, January 9th.

Hope everyone had a happy and blessed Christmas!

Menlo Park

Br. 351, St. Patrick

Thanks to our anonymous donors for the short rib dinner and to Teri for the potatoes and cheesecakes. Thanks too to the Buonocore's for dessert. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed all of the food. We also celebrated and wished Teri a Happy Birthday!

Our Dec. 7 meeting will be potluck and we already have sign-ups for the main dishes. If you would like to bring something, please call me 650-444-6999 so we can coordinate with what has already been suggested. Please RSVP by Nov. 28, and enjoy the delicious food and camaraderie. It is great to see everyone. You can call me 650-444-6999 or Cory at 650-867-8946 for your reservation.

Our new slate of Officers for 2024 are:
President: Barbara Firpo
1st Vice President: Teri Stevens
2nd Vice President: Mary Smith
Secretary: Cory Roberts
Financial Secretary: Paul Eisenman
Treasurer: Martha Lancestremere
Orator: Augustine Buonocore
Trustees: Peter Lancestremere, Angela Buonocore & Don Smith
Sentinel: Charo Switalski

Thank you to our outgoing Officers that have served our Branch over the years.

We have 2024 ICF Calendars for sale. You have a chance to win 365 days starting with January 2024. The calendars are \$30 each and the branch gets to keep \$5 for each calendar sold. Please let me know if you would like one.

Please hold June 9, 2024, for the 100 year Italian Catholic Federation Gala at the Basque Cultural Center. This is a once in a lifetime celebration and I hope many of us will be able to attend.

Please keep our sick and deceased members in your prayers. Also remember Nativity has a 5:30 p.m. mass for our deceased members the 1st Thursday of each month.

*May you all have a Blessed Christmas.
Barbara*

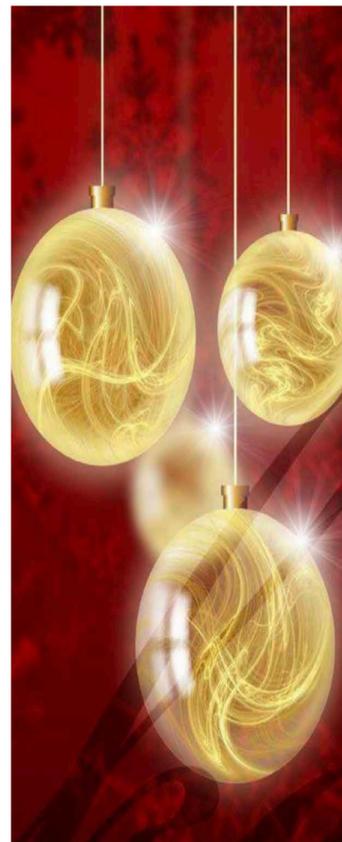
Millbrae Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Thanks to everyone who attended & helped out with our very successful Polenta Dinner Fundraiser on Oct. 22nd. Special thanks go to Lion Mike Gianni & the other members of the Millbrae Lions Club on his team who cooked for the event. It seems that many attendees were enamored with Mike's polenta & wanted the recipe: however, his lips are sealed! A big "thank you buddy!" goes to Lion John Muniz for leading the set-up and tear-down operation: we couldn't have done it without you. Thanks as well to our donors and raffle contributors: Raymond Sour Dough Bread, Pape Meats, Lai Lai of Millbrae, The Basque Cultural Center, Dawdy Photography, Trader Joe's and our generous Br. 403 members.

Our dues in 2023 are \$45. Please send them ASAP to Eunice Danli, 4 Spring Valley Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030.

Lastly, we will be having our branch Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 5th. The cost is only \$25 for spinach-stuffed chicken breast with sauce, rice pilaf, mixed steamed veggies, salad, rolls, wine, & dessert. Social begins at 5pm with dinner at 5:30pm. The cut-off is Dec. 1st, so call Eunice at 650-692-3740 for a late reservation. And, once again, we will be collecting donations for a "Millbrae Needy Family" at the dinner.

*Have a wonderful and safe Christmas!
Ciao!
Adonna Amoroso, Secretary*



MARIN

Novato Br. 332, Our Lady of Loretto

"Tis the Season for giving, sharing and rejoicing, and our Branch is fully engaged in all these special moments during this time of year. In November and December, the Branch conducted a food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Conference and made monetary donations to the Parish's Conference and to the Christmas Outreach program for our underserved families. The Branch officers thank the membership for their generosity and support.

A giant "GRAZIE" to the volunteers who created the amazing baskets for our Christmas fundraiser. The themed baskets celebrated New York, Hawaii, the Italian style, and gourmet treats, while not forgetting to take time out to pamper yourself and enjoy a game night with friends. The creative ideas of our volunteers made this year's baskets the best ever.

The leadership of our Branch will not change for the following year. We appreciate the 2023 Board members who graciously accepted to serve for another year, and we welcome a new Trustee to our group, Joe Panfiglio. As the Federation prepares to celebrate its 100th Anniversary, our 2024 Board is committed to growing our Branch and broadening our influence in the community.

May our world and our hearts be filled with the peace of Christ during this most blessed season. Auguriamo a tutti un Natale pieno di gioia e un Anno Nuovo sereno. Buone Feste!

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Welcome to December! Wintertime is now upon us as we celebrate the season of Advent.

Last month was a busy month. Let's go back to the end of October when we held our first So Cal ICF Golf Tournament at the Temecula Creek Inn. Everyone had so much fun. We teed off in the early morning chilly and foggy weather and finished off with lunch on the patio in beautiful sunshine. Congrats to the winning foursome with a score of 59! Golf Ball Toss winners were Andrew Jones \$1,000 Vince Piro \$750 CJ Bruner \$500 and Jerry Farrugia \$100. Thank you to all!!!

Next up was our district meeting at San Antonio winery. Elections were held and plans for all of our upcoming events were discussed.

Thank you to the Cabrini committee for another successful pilgrimage. We had a great turnout once again.

Plans are under way for the 2024 Installation of Officers scheduled for January 28.

I would like to wish the officers and members of the Los Angeles Archdiocese District a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Br. 67, National Branch, St. Peter

On October 1st ICF Branch 67 Members attended the ICF Bishop Day Mass and Luncheon at St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA. Branch 67 Member Leonard Zasoski was MC, Rev Larry Herrera of St. John Seminary and several Seminarians spoke about the Seminary and their seminarian experience; Proceeds from this event will continue to support its programs for Seminarian development of their mission to serve their communities as future priests.

SAVE THE DATES

- 12/25/23 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ICF.

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*

South Pasadena Br. 108, Holy Family

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ICF!

On October 14 and 15, 2023, ICF Branch 108 Members staffed the Italian Sausage Booth at the Holy Family Church Annual Fair. Thank you to Theresa S, Branch 108 Members and Parishioners for their help in making this another successful event!

SAVE THE DATES

- December 10, 2023 ICF Branch 108 Christmas Party at Holy Family Church Connelly Hall from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

- January 13, 2024 Bocce Tournament ICF vs Garibaldina Society.

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, AIA
Past President
ICF Branch 108
C 626 372-7812 E cas1810@aol.com*

Montebello Br. 111, St. Benedict

Ciao a Tutti. Hello everyone. It was nice seeing many of you at our November 16th general meeting and Thanksgiving dinner at the St. Augustine House in Montebello. We hope you all had a memorable Thanksgiving.

We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of December: Bernadette Magnani, David Medina, Ezio Veneziano, Sal Franco, Carmel Matanga, Domenica Orofino, David Tarazon, and Linda Erickson. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

We would like to congratulate all the 2024 ICF 111 Officer's who got nominated & elected at our October general meeting.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Salvatore Italian Restaurant in Montebello. A flyer will be coming out soon. Plan to join us and invite your family and friends for some great socializing and holiday cheer. For more information or to make reservations please call Frank at (323) 888-2074.

Please pray our sick members and those in need; keep them also in our thoughts and prayers. Finally, we would like to wish all of you and your families a Blessed Christmas!

*A Presto!
Frank Salomone
Branch 111 President*

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

Buon Natale to all our members and their families. Our branch Christmas party will be held on Saturday December 9th at 6pm in parish auditorium. Free to members \$15.00 per nonmember guest. Children under age 12 free. Please call in your reservation to Anita Trujillo 310 832 7186. Cookie donations would be appreciated for our party. Please drop off at 1pm in auditorium as we will be assembling the trays. Also please bring a small gift for our gift exchange. Come and say hello to Santa!

2024 calendars are now available for sale for \$30.00. This is a fundraiser for our branch. You will receive a beautiful calendar plus a daily chance to win cash daily! If interested in purchasing call Neal DiLeva 310 433 1044.

It's time to renew your ICF membership. Branch 115 dues are \$42.00 per member. Please mail check to Pauline Iacono 1072 w 8th st San Pedro 90731

Dues can also be paid at our next general meeting on January 18th. Meeting will start at 7:30pm in parish center.

Up for discussion will be our annual St John Joseph of the Cross crab dinner.

Reservations are now being taken for

Jan 12th Harrah's fundraising casino bus benefitting the Gioiello Jewels Relay for life American Cancer Society. \$30.00 donation Please call Anita Trujillo to sign up 310 832-7186

The branch will also host another day trip casino fundraiser on Jan 25th. Casino to be announced. For more information call Pauline Iacono 310 832 8320563

Thank you to all who have participated in our many fundraisers. Through your generous support our branch has made end of the year donations to Gifts of Love, Children's hospital, St. Jude, USC Norris Cancer Center, Mary Star Christian Care, American Cancer Society, Cooley's anemia, and seminarians Cole Buzon and Christian Uguarole.

*Wishing you all a very Happy New Year. Please keep our sick and deceased members in your prayers.
Anita Trujillo Treasurer*

Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

On Thursday, October 19, St. Dorothy Branch 179 held their biggest meeting ever: A potluck dinner with speaker Ann Potenza, the creator of the Italian American Federation, in celebration of Italian Heritage Month. As our branch is growing, we had over 40 in attendance, including invited guests Perry Shurko, Jerry and Carol Farrugia and Anne and Richard Interrante. (Thank you to Anne for donating a beautiful succulent garden for a raffle prize.) Ms. Potenza's talk was on Christopher Columbus, the legend and myths, and all the things he brought from the Old World. The evening was not only educational, but lots of fun and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Then on Sunday, October 22, members loaded 11,690 pounds of clothing onto a truck to gross \$4,241 for our ministry. Thanks everyone for all the hard work.

*Patricia Auriemmo
Corresponding Secretary*

**Deadline for
January/February
Issue of the
Bollettino is
January 2.
Send your articles
& photos:
editor@icf.org**

**Be sure to include
branch name and
number.**

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 47



Br. 191, Father Chris Bennett at Bishop's Day



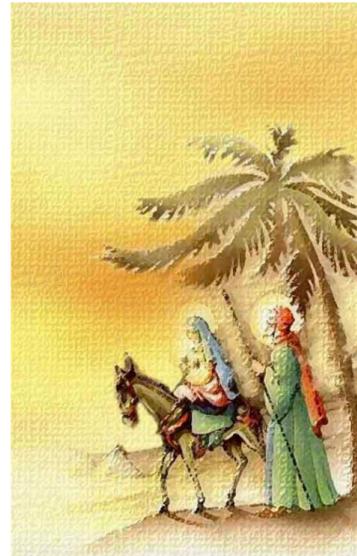
Bishop's Day Mass Branch 191 Members



Br. 191, Bishop's Day Mass



Br. 368 New members Maureen Susino, & Helen Pedruco



Branch #184, Vince Piro, Deborah Rodondi, Past Grand President, and Denise Antonowicz, Grand President, at the Bishop's Day luncheon.



Br. 368 Layette makers and their products

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 445 Halloween Fun



Br. 445 Members with Game Show Snack Bags



Br. 445 Family Feud Game Show



Br. 445 Fr. Tito and Richard Pfaff with winning ticket

EAST BAY DISTRICT

THE TAP DANCING CHRISTMAS TREES



The Tap Dancing Christmas Trees began 33 years ago when the group performed a finale number in a holiday recital. Audiences shared how much they missed them. After that, The Tap Dancing Christmas Trees became a fan favorite, performing at local tree lighting ceremonies and parades across California. They also appeared in Broadway-style shows, commercials, and, including this year's celebration, six Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades.

Br. 91 Dancing Trees



Br. 91 and The East Bay District 2023



Br. 91 Bishop's Day Luncheon



ICF & Br. 91 Italian Heritage Float



Br. 91 Bishop's Day 2023

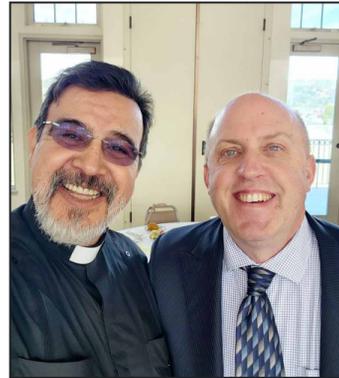
CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Julie Richards and Bishop Danny



Central Coast's Bishop's Day



Father Roberto Vera and Franklyn Lopes Jr.



Bishop Danny and Roseann Costabile



Br.36, Angie Favalaro



Br. 354 at Central Coast's Bishop's Day



Br. 51, ICF Branch Meeting

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

Merry Christmas to all!

We had a wonderful time with our annual Christmas celebration to thank all our generous donors to the Columbus Day fundraiser. Christmas is the time to reflect on the year and all the great support we have received from our parish and patrons. We can't do all that we do without all them.

Lunch was served by our Jr. members, a visit by a very special guest followed. We made ornaments and enjoyed singing carols.

A special thank you to special event coordinator Rose Moore and her family for all our very successful events this year.

...and she gave birth to her first-born Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

Respectfully
Micheal Bohannon Roa

**Downey
Br. 362, St. Raymond**

Hello fellow members and welcome to December. We begin the month in the season of Advent. A time for preparation for the upcoming birth of our Lord.

Last month I represented our branch at the annual Mother Cabrini pilgrimage held at St Francis Xavier parish in Burbank. We had a great turnout as usual.

At our branch meeting, elections were held for our new officers. Congratulations to everyone. Installation is being planned for January 28.

On Tuesday the 12th we will be having our branch Christmas party at Frantone's Italian restaurant. We will be having a gift exchange, so if you'd like to participate in it, please bring a gift.

I would like to wish each and everyone in branch 362 a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

As a result of successful fund-raising efforts by our branch this year, we were able to add an additional pledge of \$9,000 over a period of 5 years to the Parish Hall ANEW construction project. This brings our total donation to \$25,000 and qualifies for a special donor category. All this was made possible by the hard-working efforts of our members.

To maintain the current momentum, our president Phyllis Harb has initiated an effort to share the branch work through the establishment of working commit

tees. Members are urged to volunteer for the various committees based on their skills and interests. Committees are Heritage, Apostolate, Social and Special Events, Membership Growth, and Public Information. All members are urged to join a committee.

At the last meeting Dennis DePietro, who has served as the President of International Life Services for over 30 years, spoke about the efforts toward the beautification of St. Paula.

The annual branch catered Christmas Party will be held at the parish center on December 21st at 6:00. Please acknowledge your attendance promptly when you receive the invite.

Dates to remember:

- Dec. 21st- 6:00 Br. 374 Christmas Party
- March- Cabrini Theater Movie Outing
- March 3rd-Membership Drive and Donut Sales
- March 17th-St. Joseph Table & Auction
- June 29th-ICF 100th Anniversary Dinner

Buon Natale
Diane Restivo

**Thousand Oaks
Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon**

After a busy October, the branch relaxed a bit, and had a good meeting in November. A Thanksgiving dinner was prepared as each member brought their favorite side dish, and the turkey was deep fried and provided by the branch. This is the time the branch thanks the parish for its support of events, and a place to meet regularly. Fr. Michael, pastor and ICF chaplain, received our donation, and gave a brief state of the parish. Associate pastors, Fr. John, & Fr. Eber also joined us for dinner. Was good to have all the priests there.

The members decided to hold the December meeting with Branch 443, St. Gianna for their Christmas Party. Their members are big supporters of our St. Joseph Table, so this is a great way to celebrate each other's events.

We will be providing gift cards for the Cooley's patients at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles instead of the usual Christmas Party at the hospital, due to the continued presence of Covid-19. The annual Pilgrimage to the Cabrini Shrine is November 12. The shrine is located in Burbank, CA. Our next Branch meeting will be January 5, 2024, in our church hall.

**Simi Valley
Br. 443, St. Gianna**

Branch 443 would like to welcome Deacon Dave Lawrence and his wife Cathy. He is our new spiritual advisor.

What fun everyone had on Oct. 20 listening to Barbara Tweedy talk about the history of Halloween, All Hallows Eve and the relationship to All Saint's Day.

The Master Chorale Appreciation Dinner is Nov. 17, 5 pm at St Rose Church

Hall. This is a yearly event when Branch 443 hosts dinner for the Master Chorale to thank them for all they do at St Rose Church. Last year the Master Chorale enjoyed a trip to Spain where they performed.

The Annual Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 pm at St Rose Church Hall. All are welcome

for a great evening to celebrate Faith, family, food and dancing.

Viva la Pasta will provide dinner; attendees will bring appetizers and desserts and DJ Sean Reeves will provide the music.

We are involved in many fundraisers. With the Knights of Columbus, we will have a Christmas toy drive for children in the community. We also will be collecting gift cards for Children's Hospital in LA.

Peace and Blessings,
Josephine M. Perini

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

Welcome our youngest member, Dylan Johnson, son of Julie Johnson and Great Grandson to Guido Fassinelli.

October was election time, with Hany Francis being re-elected as President. We are very proud that he will be. Leading us through the next year.

Hany & Carol are attending the Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage, Mass and Luncheon.

At our November 17th general meeting we will be planning our yearly Christmas Family Celebration dated December 15. We plan to have a Catered event including a Silent Auction,

50/50 Raffle, Desserts from the Board and Italian Music with a Tarentella dance.

Birthday wishes go out to Ann Tomblin, who celebrates her birthday November 27th.

Let us continue to pray for Marianne Canetti's recovery. Sending prayers to all our members who are under the weather.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours, remembering to be thankful for all God has blessed us with.

Ciao, Patty Longo Hansen

**Oakland
East Bay
District Council**

Bells are ringing! Choirs are singing! It is that Joyous time of the year, the Birth of Our Savoir!

A good time was had by many as we wished a farewell to our outgoing Grand President, Deborah Rondondi, a truly

warm and wonderful person.

We will once again combine our Christmas with Branch #10 at their facility. It worked out well last year and hope to have the same good time. Santa Clause was there and all seemed to enjoy themselves. We will once again supply door prizes.

We will have Installation on Jan.21th at the Fratelanza Club, this year it will begin @ 1 p.m. with Mass, then installation and dinner to follow. It should be an early evening.

We are working on the Crab Feed, with w date set for Feb. 3,2024. Now all we need is for the crabs to cooperate and be plentiful.

In the meantime, here's wishing you all, A BUON NATALE! FELICE ANNO NUOVO!
Pat Grasso,
Dist. Sec.

**Alameda
Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie**

You are welcome to join us on Saturday evening, January 13, for our annual Polenta Dinner. The location will be Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street and Van Buren Street, Alameda. The menu is salad, bread, antipasto, polenta with chicken and dessert. Ben Ratto will cook. Prices, including hosted bar, are \$35.00 for adults, and \$12.00 for children 12 and under. Doors open for the social hour at 6:00 p. m., and dinner will be served at 7:00.

For reservations and other information, please contact our secretary, Jeanette Zugnoni, jeanette@zugnoni.net or 510-206-1743. Payment in advance, please, by check made payable to ICF Branch 10 and mailed to Jeanette Zugnoni, 1841 Fremont Drive, Alameda, CA 94501.

We lost a member, Kathy Ghiselli, who died on October 17. Kathy is survived by her husband Jerry, also an ICF member, two adult children, a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren. Her funeral was held on October 24 in Saint Philip Neri Church.

Thanks to Peggine Dorrance for selling our entire allotment of 65 ICF 2024 calendars.

We chose our 2024 officers at our meeting of November 9. The following were elected, all unanimously: President, Jim Lee; first vice president, John Zugnoni, second vice president, Ken Dorrance; secretary, Jeanette Zugnoni; financial secretary, Karen Harrington; treasurer, JoAnn Dorn; orator, Sharon Brunetti; sentinel, Peggine Dorrance; trustees, Betty Lupetti, Sheila Ewart and Agnes Marcheschi. Thanks to our mentor and oracle, Fran La Torre, for conducting the voting.

John Zugnoni, Br. 10 publicity

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year
from Branch 19, Colma!



A silent night,
a star above,
a blessed gift
of hope and love.

Sending a
very blessed
Christmas wish
to you.

Italian Catholic Federation • Branch 28, Gilroy, CA



Buon Natale



The Beauty of the
Christmas season can
remind us of all
the beauty in life that we
take for granted.
Our family, our friends
and our faith.
Wishing all my wonderful ICF
family and friends a very Blessed
and
Merry Christmas
Much love to you all,
Lisa Crudo and family

Vi Auguriamo Pace, Gioia e Serenità.
Buone Feste a Tutti!
Branch 332, Novato



BUON NATALE E FELICE
ANNO NUOVO
TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES.
BRANCH #258, ST. ELIZABETH
SAN FRANCISCO, CA



BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO
A TUTTI!
BRANCH #229, ST. ROSE OF LIMA
CHULA VISTA, CA



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



Branch 185, Sacred Heart, in Fresno
Sends Wishes for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

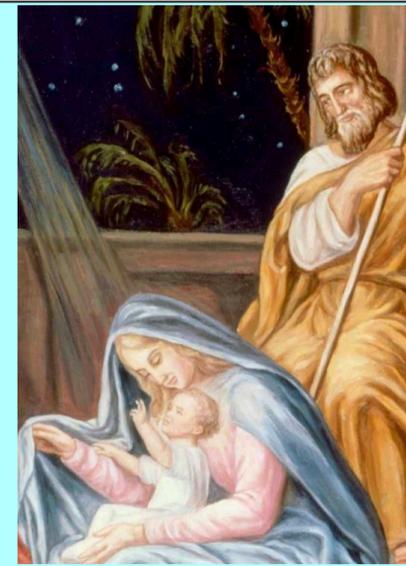


Christmas Greetings
From
New Mexico!
From
Jim and Patty Jarrett

San Mateo District wishes everyone
a Blessed Christmas and
a Happy Healthy New Year!



The members
of Branch 342
(Auburn) would
like to wish
their fellow
ICF members
a very Merry
Christmas and
a Happy and
Healthy
New Year.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to Our I.C.F. Family

from Maria Perna, District President,
and the Officers and Members of the

I.C.F. CHICAGO DISTRICT

Branch 121 Forest Park Branch 392 Chicago
Branch 220 Elmwood Park Branch 418 Itasca
Branch 358 River Forest

Branch 413, Angels Camp
Wishes Everyone BUON NATALE
From the Motherlode!



Merry Christmas to
All of Our ICF
Family and Friends.
Past Grand President
Vince and First Lady
Robyn Piro



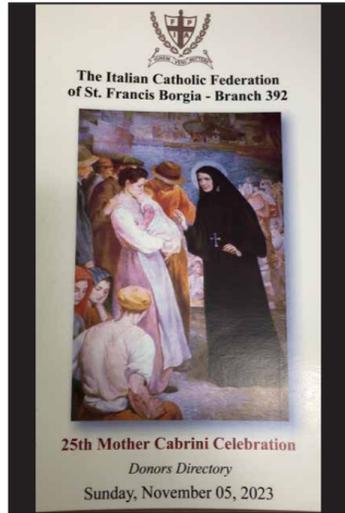
*I miei migliori auguri per
un Natale pieno di amore e
pace, e Felice Anno Nuovo.
(My very best wishes for a
Christmas filled with love
and peace
and a happy New Year).*

Deborah Rodondi
Past Grand President

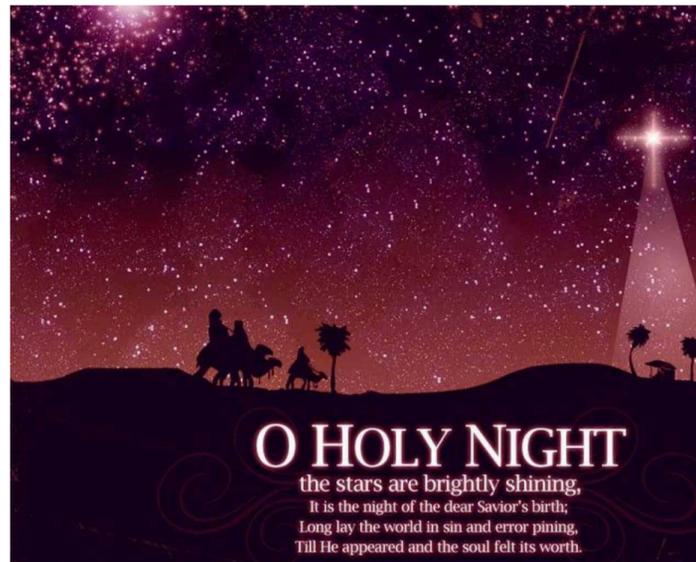


CHICAGO DISTRICT

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."
 Luke 2:11



November 5th, 2023, the ICF Branch #392 of St. Francis Borgia, Chicago, celebrated the 36th annual Mother Cabrini Fund Raiser



SAN FRANCISCO AREA



Branch 1 Member's Spuntino

I Remember **ITALIA**

Like mother, LIKE DAUGHTER

by Teresa D'Alessandro Helfand, as told to Paul Basile and translated into Italian by Pat Capriati

The second of five children of Carlo and Eleanora (Pollini) Bertoli, Teresa D'Alessandro Helfand was born and raised in Mola di Bari and moved to the Chicago area with her family when she was 15. She had three children — Angela, Marco and Riccardo — with Antonio D'Alessandro. Six years after Antonio passed away, she married Cory Helfand. Teresa enjoyed a long and successful career as a clothing designer in America, working for Sears; Bee-Line; Montgomery Ward; and finally Hart, Schaffner and Marx as the director of quality assurance. She even designed a line of activewear with model Cheryl Tieg. Known for her speed, precision and creativity, she credits her mother with teaching her everything she needed to know.

My mother was a clothing designer in Mola di Bari, and women would come to her when they needed a blouse, a skirt, intimates or a dress for a special occasion.

She would consult with them, help them pick out the fabric, the color, the style that suited her figure, and the occasion or the season. Sometimes, they'd say, "Meh, let's put a flower here or a bow there," and my mother would. But if it wasn't right for the person or the occasion, my mother would tell them so.

Once the decisions were made, she would take measurements, draw the patterns, cut them out in a simple cloth and put them together. If they liked it, then my mother would go ahead.

If the dress was difficult or the customer was fussy, my mother would make the dress herself from scratch. But if the pattern was easier, she would have four to eight women working around the table. My mother would cut out the patterns and give them to one to make the sleeve or another to make the skirt, and they would do whatever they had to do to complete the dress.

The workers were girls and young women who were there to learn how to



be seamstresses. My mother would supervise and teach them. They would work for maybe four years in exchange for the opportunity to learn, and then they would go into business for themselves.

As a young girl, I loved my mom, and I always wanted to be with her, so anything she was doing, I was always asking her to show me what to do so I could do it, too.



I started doing embroidery when I was 6. My mother would create the design, and later I would, too. We'd design maybe a rose or heart on a piece of cloth that would later become a handkerchief or a little pillow.

When I was 7, I pressed blouses, skirts and dresses for a whole year. She used to say, "First, you have to press so you can see how it's done, then we can work together to make them."

When I was 10 or 11, I started cutting patterns and basting them together. Then, I was creating the patterns and then my own dresses. She would have pieces of cloth left over, and I used to change a few things and make a skirt for myself or a blouse for my sister.

She was very, very strict. She used to say, "When you cut a pattern, it has to be precise up to 1/32 of an inch." When I was done sewing, she would run her finger over it and make me do it again if it wasn't done properly. I used to cry, but I learned so much!

When I was 12 years old, I wanted a skirt and jacket so badly with fur around the neck, and I wanted it to be green! My mother said, "No, we can't afford it," so I took measurements of my own body, made the patterns myself and made my first suit when I was 12 years old, and I owe it all to my mother!

116

October 2023

FRA NOI

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ICF 2024 Calendars 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.

HOSPITAL PLAN ALERT

Robert Acquistapace
 Hospitalization Plan
 Chairperson

As a special offer for the 100th Anniversary of the Italian Catholic Federation, the

Central Council voted to make two changes in the Hospital Plan for Individuals and Branches in 2024.

FOR INDIVIDUALS:

During all of 2024 the Hospital Plan will be open to every member, regardless of their age. The age 70 restriction is temporarily suspended for 2024, only, as an invitation for all members of the ICF to take advantage of this opportunity to enroll in our special plan. ***Payments made on or before the 15th of the month...enrollment begins as of the 1st of that month. Payments made on or after the 15th of the month...enrollment begins as of the 1st of the following month.

FOR BRANCHES:

For any Branch member who becomes a NEW member of the Hospital Plan and pays their \$25.00 in January, February or March, the Federation will only bill the Branch for \$20.00. Thus, for each member who joins the Plan as a NEW member the Branch will earn \$5.00.

The \$5.00 reduction is only for those joining NEW in January, February or March. So, you must act right away to get this benefit.

The ICF Hospitalization Plan costs \$25.00 per year and after 90 days of enrollment the Plan pays:

•Hospital - 1st day \$75.00, 2nd day \$50.00, 3rd day and beyond \$25.00 per day.

*Note: You must stay at least overnight in the hospital to qualify, unless it is an Outpatient Surgery. Stays in convalescent hospitals and rehabilitation facilities are not covered by this plan and do not qualify for reimbursement.

•There is a calendar year maximum of \$500.00 and there is a \$500.00 lifetime maximum for each diagnosis.

•Outpatient Surgery or Surgery within a Hospital Stay - \$100.00 for surgery performed in an Operating Room or Surgical Center.

•Hospital Claims must be submitted within one year of the date of service for reimbursement.

Payments made directly to the member regardless of other insurances.

NO medical exam required.

For more information and an application, please go to our Website - www.icf.org or call the ICF Office at 1-888-423-1924.

Oakland

Br. 91, St. Lawrence O'Toole/Divine Mercy

Buon Natale 2023 e Felice Capo d' Anno 2024!

We wish all our fellow ICF members and their Famiglia a most blessed holiday season!!

Many special events have happened over the past few months that our members at Br.91 have participated in. This includes the ICF float for the Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco, Bishop's Day in Oakland (The East Bay District and The Contra Costa District) and now the Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC.

Three of our members-Roberta Madej, Andrea & Adrianna Vasquez, leaped their way as The Dancing Trees. Who knows where our members will be next??

For now, we are looking forward and hope for joy, good health and continued activities in ICF.

Stay tuned as our new year is the celebration of 100 years and we will have a special fundraising again with a new & unique cross necklace to commemorate this anniversary for ICF.

In the meantime, if you are in our neighborhood--The East Bay District will do The Annual Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed

on Feb.3rd- Saturday evening at St. Phillip Neri's. More details to come and this is always a crowd pleaser for all attending!

Lastly, please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers. Try to reach out to those who may be home bound during the holidays. It means so much to them.

*Che la pace sia con te--Peace be upon you!
Ciao,
Jo-Ann Maggiora Donivan--President
Br. 91*

Livermore

Br. 285, St. Filomena

Holiday greetings from branch 285. May you have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

On November 17 we celebrated our Mass of Remembrance. We shared photos of our loved ones and gathered a rose in their memories. Afterwards we went to Vic's All-Star Kitchen in Pleasanton for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. It was wonderful dining with our friends and remembering how thankful we are for God's blessings.

Some of our members joined the Golden Friends of St. Michael's parish, in a visit to a poinsettia farm and olive oil tasting on November 30.

On December 7, we had our annual Christmas party at Pastas Trattoria. The food was delicious and thanks to Caro

lyn Cardinali and Janet Marie Petric, our hostesses, the decorations and ambience really got us in the holiday mood.

We continue to keep our ill members and their friends and families in our prayers. Our special angel, Shirley Koenig, thoughtfully sends cards to all our sick members and birthday wishes to all of us. Our December birthdays include Pauline Kirk 12/05, Thomas Changras 12/12, Patrick Brick 12/29 and Mary Gieri 12/30.

We are planning to have a polenta dinner in the future for a fundraiser. More details later.

*Buon Natale, Buon Anno!!
Patty Brick (2nd VP)*

Castro Valley

Br. 343, Our Lady of Grace

O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the Night of Our Dear Savior's birth. Let us keep this in mind as we scurry about getting things ready for the holidays. Christmas lasts for most of us from the beginning of Advent until the Epiphany, a time of penance and then rejoicing that the Lord has been born.

We began our Thanksgiving month with Lisa's most delicious Minestrone soup and will end it with our own Christmas party in Dec. While dining comfortably, we were able to collect a good amount of food for St. Vincent de Paul's. This year we will try something new, Seven Fishes as hor'oeuvres preceding our Christmas dinner. Nothing fancy, just some nice tasty fishy treats. This time we will collect baby clothes for Birth-right.

All newly elected officers are asked to join us for Installation of Officers at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland. We will have Mass earlier this year as Fr. Rizzo agreed to begin at 1 PM, followed by the installation and then dinner. It should be an early evening, so come and join us.

*BOUN NATALE! FELICE ANNO NUOVO! to all and may your prayers be answered!
Pat Grasso,
Branch Sec.*

CONTRA COSTA District Council

Our last meeting for this year took place on November 9. We held the election of officers for 2024. We thank all those who accepted positions as officers. We also thank all outgoing officers for their past leadership.

Our next event coming up is our Annual District Christmas party. The festivities will take place on Thursday, December 7 at Bambino's Restaurant in Concord. The evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by our annual holiday raffle. All members of our district are welcome! See flyer sent to all

branches for details on signing up. The deadline is December 1.

Our first event of the new year will be our Installation of officers hosted by the Danville branch on Saturday, January 27 at St. Isidore's parish. Our chaplain, Father Larry Young, will lead us in prayer with the installation and lunch to follow. A flyer with details will be sent to each branch. All branches are also reminded to send their list of new officers to our district president as soon as possible in preparation for the installation.

All members in the district are asked to consider volunteering to be mentors for three branches of our district who are still in need of mentors: Martinez, Danville and Brentwood. Mentors visit branches quarterly and report to the district mentor on how the branch is doing. If you can help with this ministry, email Patty Jarrett, our district mentor: jandp1976@aol.com.

*The Contra Costa district wishes all a happy and holy Christmas.
Fraternally,
Patty Jarrett
Past President/District mentor*

Martinez

Br. 13, San Martino

As December begins so does Advent. The expectant waiting and time of preparation starts as Jesus' nativity approaches. Many arrange wreaths of evergreens signifying continuous life which has no beginning or end: a symbol of the eternity of God. Four candles are placed, one for each week, with significance of their own. The first-second- and fourth- weeks' candles are purple representing a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The remaining one—the third week is rose/pink colored. The first week of Advent we talk of HOPE; then we are reminded of PEACE, next we light the rose candle on Gaudete Sunday which reminds us of the JOY that the world experiences at Christ's birth; and is the midpoint of Advent. The last candle lit recognizes the LOVE of our Savior. May all your advent journeys be meaningful expressions of your faith.

We, at St. Catherine, bid farewell to our beloved Sister Moira Macpherson who provided us 25 years of service in her ministry. Sr. Moira died on November 4 to this earthly life and entered heaven at 91 years old accompanied by angels and our broken hearts. How lucky we are to have had her in our lives that saying goodbye is so awful.

In this season of light, for those of us missing someone, let us pray for the support needed to get through the season and remember the light that was once shared by those who are gone.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a brighter New Year.

*Ciao for now,
Mary Cook*

Crockett

Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici,

Panettone, or Italian Christmas Bread, is traditionally baked during the holidays to be shared with friends and family. Our branch also has a tradition of gathering to share good food and friendship. In keeping with tradition, we invite you to join us for a fun holiday evening at our Christmas Social on December 12th. The branch will provide delicious appetizers and other treats, as well as an open bar. Santa will be stopping by for a visit to bring in the holiday cheer. Come and enjoy a fun holiday evening!

Statistically, the typical child smiles 400 times per day, and the average happy adult smiles 50 times per day. That means that our long-time member, friend, and bocce player extraordinaire, Sante Cerri, has smiled well over 4 million times so far. Happy 104th birthday Sante and thank you for sharing your smile!

We want to take this opportunity to thank our branch President Donna Hoffmann and all the officers and dedicated members who served during the 2023 calendar year. Through your great ideas, financial support, and hard work, you have sustained our branch, and have made a difference in the lives of others.

We're sending our get well wishes to Wanda Abbondanza and John Collins. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our first meeting in the new year will be January 9th, when we will share Italian soup, salad, and garlic bread. Our regular meeting will follow. Join us to ring in the New Year with eggnog (and panettone of course!).

Blessings of the season to you all!

~Helen



**Deadline for
January/February
Issue of the
Bollettino is
January 2.
Send your articles
& photos:
editor@icf.org**

***Be sure to include
branch name and
number.***

Richmond

Br. 154, St. Raymond

We are looking forward to our upcoming fundraising event. This fundraiser will benefit our scholarship fund. Once again, we will be offering Polenta, Chicken, Sausage, Bread, Salad and dessert. The price for branch members of 154 is \$10.00, everyone else, \$25.00. Take out will be available for the same great price. Save the date: December 09, 2023, @6:30. The dinner is held at Salesian College High School cafeteria, 2851 Salesian Avenue, Richmond. Please reserve by Dec.04, 2023 to Walter 925-370-3737, or Lorraine 510-697-3128.

Mass was held for our deceased members at our November meeting. We recently lost two members in the past month, Terry Ventin, a past president of Br.154, and Marilyn Darling. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Beth Reitdorf has accepted the job of Treasurer. We have been without a treasurer since the passing of Toni Reeder.

Beth, president of the Galileo Women's Auxiliary invited our members to the Toni Reeder Memorial Cache Creek Bus Trip in September. There were several winners and one big \$10,000.00 winner!

Member, Robert De Simoni, found this business card size announcement in the wall of a house during a construction job. The ICF was holding a barn dance in 1928! Women free, men, 50 cents. Sounds like fun to us!

The Calendars are now available! They make wonderful Christmas gifts for only \$30.00 dollars.

Buon Natale!

Concord

Br. 214, Todos Santos

By the time you get this Thanksgiving will have been celebrated by you and your families. I hope you were all blessed with good food, and loving family members.

At our last branch meeting we elected officers. They are as follows:

President, Roberta Healy
Vice President, Terryann Sturiale
Recording Secretary, Ed McGuirk
Correspondence Secretary, Norene Deluca
Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Androtti
Trustees: Allison McGuirk, Maria Marshall, Sue Giorgetti
Sentinel, Karen Cabellero
Orator, Jo Ann Lee

On November 16 we are having a turkey dinner with Marines coming to pick up our Toys for Tots. We have many generous members contributing to this event.

On December 3, we are having our Christmas Brunch at La Veranda. This is a fun time.

On December 7 is the district Christmas

dinner at Bambino's in Concord.

We lost a dear member of our branch, Ray Doorack. He loved coming to our meetings and we will truly miss him. We plan on attending his services at St Agnes Church in November.

*Please stay safe and healthy.
Con Affetto,
Norene*

Danville

Br. 352, San Isidore

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, our November dinner meeting was held a week earlier than usual. Members & guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal of antipasto, salad, rigatoni with meatballs & sausage and pumpkin pie for dessert! Our 2024 officers were elected; the final results will appear in the next issue.

Our Branch will be participating in St. Isidore's "Christmas Market" on Dec. 9th. Our ICF booth will feature the 'infamous' Salami Toss – sure to attract young & old! We will also celebrate our annual Christmas Potluck on Monday, Dec. 11 at 6pm. Members & guests bring their favorite dish to share - it is always an absolutely amazing display of culinary skill ... with enough food to feed a small army! Be ready for the "Surprise" Christmas entertainment that evening.

Save the dates: Jan. 22: Annual Crab Feed (always a sell-out); Jan. 27: District Installation hosted by Branch 352 at St. Isidore (a detailed flyer will be distributed).

*Wishing you and yours the blessings of the season – Merry Christmas to all & a very Happy & Healthy 2024!
Ciao,
Branch 352*

Pleasant Hill

Br. 442, Christ the King

On Thursday the Christ the King Parish, Branch 442, hosted a district-wide Evening of Recollection. It was held in the Parish Hall and was well attended. The evening began with a delicious pasta dinner. The spiritual presenter was Deacon John Kortuem, president of the Brentwood ICF Branch and deacon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Brentwood. His presentation highlighted the body of Christ, Corpus Christi, during this special time of celebrating the Eucharist. It was a fitting and thought-provoking topic for the evening's community gathering.

Once again, the ICF Salami Toss game booth at the Parish Festival was a highlight. The festival has moved from Springtime in May to the Fall Halloween weekend. This is something that the whole parish looks forward to participating in and the ICF is happy to bring the fun to each festival.

We look forward to the upcoming Holiday Season and our annual Christmas

party 'non-meeting' scheduled for Sunday, December 17th. More about that in our next newsletter.

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT District

Auburn

Br. 342, St. Joseph

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 4-8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hall. A delicious pasta dinner will be served. Members are free and guests will be charged \$5.00 each. If they haven't already done so, the calling committee will be contacting you regarding attendance and to see if you would like to help out in the kitchen. We are also seeking donations for raffle baskets. If you are able to make a donation, please contact MaryAnn Mikles at (916)759-8466. Hope to see you there.

Our crowd-pleasing Polenta Dinner will take place on Saturday, January 14th at St. Teresa's Hall. Our chefs are busily planning a delicious meal of polenta, sausage, chicken, salad, bread and dessert. Adults are \$30.00 and children 10 and under are \$10.00. There will be music and dancing and a great raffle! If you are able to donate to the raffle, please contact MaryAnn Mikles. Tickets can be purchased by calling Maryann Mikles at (916) 759-8466 or Bridget Piziali at (530) 906-0634. Tickets sell quickly, don't wait to get yours!

Ciao!

Pam Andersen

Roseville

Br. 438, St. Clare of Assisi

We hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful Thanksgiving, surrounded by friends and family.

We were pleased to host our seminarian, Jason Pipitone, and his mother at our October Branch meeting.

After dinner, we ushered in our newly elected 2024 Board members. We thank them in advance, and we ask the Lord to guide them and bless them in the coming year.

Did you have a chance to visit our Harvest Bake Sale on Oct. 28th and 29th? If so, you probably walked away with a few yummy goodies and some sweet inspiration for your Holiday desserts. Our many bakers and our generous parishioners helped make this our most successful bake sale yet!

A special thank you goes out to our "super baker", Connie Terry.

This is the time of the year when we remember those who are not as fortunate as us. Branch# 438 collected purses and toiletries at our November meeting to distribute to the homeless women in our community. We also enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner, hosted by the generous Senge family.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our December 15th Branch meeting. Dinner will be catered and there will be a fun gift exchange to top off the evening.

Branch # 438 is still growing, welcoming Matt, Laura, Jason and Sarah Pipitone as our newest members.

*Wishing you all a blessed and Merry Christmas filled with the joy of the holiday season!
Buon Natale!
Anne Finn*

SANTA ROSA District

Healdsburg

Br. 52, San Francesco Di Sales

We had a great Polenta Dinner on October 28! Thank you to everyone who came and to Richard Passalacqua for cooking the delicious meal. Mark your calendars for our next Polenta Dinner on February 3, 2024.

Upcoming events:

ICF Mass: Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m. Mass.

ICF Meeting: Tuesday, December 12 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the rectory. All members are welcome to attend.

Membership Drive: Sunday, December 17 after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. We are looking for new members to join our group. If you have family and/or friends who would like to join us, please bring them to the Membership Drive. Current members are also invited and can renew their 2024 dues at the event. Coffee and doughnuts will be served!

Carmen will be sending out the 2024 dues notices before the end of the year. Please renew your membership to keep our branch strong and vital! We are currently the second largest branch in the ICF with 201 members.

Congratulations to our 2024 Branch Officers:
President: Monika Besancon
Vice President: Ken Spadoni
Recording Secretary: Lauren Kilcullen
Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Carmen Kilcullen
Orator: Barbara Thomas
Trustees: Rose Opatz, Nancy Seppi, Julie Tomasin
Sentinel: Open

*Merry Christmas! Pray for peace.
Lauren*

Cloverdale Br. 75, L'Annunciata

I ran across this memento from a past ICF Convention that I attended. Sir Luigi Providenza and Father Albert Bandini started the ICF in 1924 in San Francisco to keep Italian Immigrants strong and active in their faith. Now, almost 100 years later it's still around serving the same purpose, not only to Italian people but to people of all cultures.

We are sending out the invitation in our branch for new members. Father David Galeana endorsed our organization following Communion and urged us on, stating that we are needed for the social and financial health of our parish, and he gave us his support. Luigi and Albert "came to build a fire" and Branch #75 is committed to doing just that. Pray for us.

Our October Feast was delightful with soups, salads, breads and desserts brought in by its members. Members John and Dianne Heckenberg brought us their special brand of faith, fun and food fare. Yvonne Jelton gave us an enthusiastic report on Convention that had us all wishing we'd been there!

Our November dinner/meeting will include new members Dino, Katie, and Mia Gibson and a "Friendsgiving" soup night.

*Thanksgiving blessings to all!
Patsy Buchignani*

Arcata Br. 144, St. Mary

We will be having an Advent Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Dec 3. This will be a free event as a gift to our parish. Alfred Eanni (chair) is coordinating the event with the help of Pete Stagnoli and Anne Carlisle Eanni. Breakfast will be served from 9 to noon.

Our branch continues to host the social gatherings after the Masses on the second weekend of the month. There have been some pretty tasty snacks prepared, but that is no surprise with our branch members and their love of cooking!

Alfred and Anne had a wonderful month traveling in October and will be presenting a photo-log of their culinary experiences at the December meeting set for Friday, December 1 @10am.

We bid a sad farewell to Mike Dal Porto ('06), who passed away October 24. (photo)*

Our Calendar Committee for 2024 has developed an exciting year of fun events to come with goals of adding new members.

*We hope you had a wonderful Day of Thanksgiving!
Submitted by Anne Carlisle Eanni
Secretary*

Santa Rosa Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters

What a great Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by over 50 people. We owe a big THANK YOU to the people who prepared and served a complete turkey dinner. Kudos to Doreen O'Rourke, Thomas Nguyen, Marc Bisio and Patrick Senge. Steve Azevedo did a great job as bartender. We look forward to our Christmas dinner on Monday, December 4.

Lynette Lucia had done a super job with the See's candy sale. The candy tastes good and we made a profit for our branch.

Doreen has calendars on sale for \$30.00 and you have 356 chances to win. BUY ONE NOW!!

Congratulation to our new officers: President- Doreen O'Rourke

Vice President- Lynette Lucia Recording Secretary- Janice Shaffer Treasurer- Robert Acquistapace Financial Secretary- Linda Sherman Orator- Lynette Lucia

Trustees- Steve Azevedo, Butch Bondi, Marc Bisio Sentinel- Bill Pimenti.

Say a prayer for all our sick members and try to attend our monthly Mass at 8:00 a.m. in the Cathedral on December 4.

Buon Natale a tutti, Robert Acquistapace

FRESNO District

Fresno

Br. 32, St. Alphonsus

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party. We are having it on Saturday, December 16th at DiCiccio's. I pray we have a lot of attendees. It will be fun. You can bring a gift and play the white elephant gift exchange. We are being hopeful that we can continue with our branch. Please continue to pray for our members. We would like to pray for Lupe, Sally, Isidra, and Josie. CONGRATULATIONS EILEEN JURA for turning 103 years young. You are amazing. We hope to find everyone in good health. The branch would like you to have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Dear Lord, please give me strength when I am weak, love when I feel forsaken, courage when I am afraid, wisdom when I feel foolish, comfort when I am alone, hope when I feel rejected, and peace when I am in turmoil. AMEN

*Monica Ficher
Financial Secretary/Treasurer*

Merced Br. 39, St. Cecilia

On December 10th, we will hold our annual Christmas Family Christmas Party in conjunction with the Italo-American Lodge of Merced. Festivities start at noon and include a pasta lunch, a visit from Santa, a reading from It Was the Night Before Christmas, crafts for children, bingo and more. This year will feature special sounds of Italy accordion musical entertainment. We invite you to bring the entire family for what is always a highlight of the year.

At our November meeting, we had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner prepared by the officers of the branch. Dinner included home-cooked turkey, stuffing, green beans, cranberries, pumpkin pie and more. All that attended had a great time. It was a great way to begin the holiday season with our family and friends.

Our December Biscotti Cookie sale was a huge success, selling out quickly with over 400 orders. Many thanks to all of our bakers and volunteers. They work many hours to make this a successful event.

We mourn the passing of long time member Josephine Bellardita and pray for Dominic Giampietro, who is in hospice.

Clovis

Br. 250, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Happy Birthday greetings to Cynthia Silva and Carol King!

A delicious lunch preceded our November meeting. The comfort food featured soup which was very welcome on a chilly November day.

The Lavagninos reported on their trip to Nashville to visit their Grandson and family. While there, they visited some Civil War-era sites.

Little known Popes' department: Conon, the 83rd pope; 686-687; The militia of Rome decided that since the pope now had an effective command of the armed forces, they should have a say in the papal election. The elderly Conon, an ex-soldier, was chosen as pope.

Philosopher Angelino says: "Perche Vada Il Carro, Bisogna Ungere Le Ruote" or "For The Wagon To Move, One Must Grease The Wheels."

A belated "congratulations" to the Angelo and Antoinette Pecora "Family Of The Year" who were recognized at this year's convention. Branch 308 can be proud of this dedicated family.

Be sure to reserve December 9 for our Branch Christmas party.

Thought for the month:
"Thank you, Lord, for all those whose courage paved the way to our freedom. May their memory always motivate us to a fresh appreciation of country, and liberty, and honor."

Ciao, Serafina Santamaria

Fresno Br. 308, St. Anthony

Hello Members,

Our Christmas Dinner will be at DiCiccio's on Herndon and West. December 13, 6:30 PM.

Debby has promised and "special" program.

In order to accommodate the large number of members wanting to be President we will have Co-Presidents for 2024.

Jay Newsome will make the agenda, run the meetings, submit *Bollettino* articles, review the minutes, disseminate the quarterly deluge of forms and announcements from the High Council.

John Mulligan will attend all District meetings. Resolve all issues, conflicts, and concerns that may arise. His phone will be the one to call. He is the face if Branch 308.

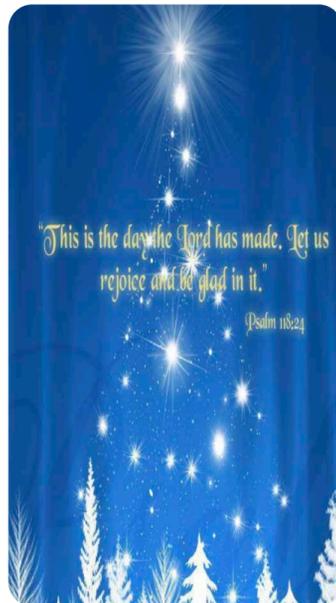
We are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend, Leonard Garber. He was a faithful and devoted member of ICF Branch 308. He was loved and admired by all who knew him. He was always ready to lend a hand, share a smile, and spread joy. None could beat him as a seller of tickets that benefited our charitable activities.

Leonard will be greatly missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He touched our lives in many ways and left a permanent impression on our hearts. We are sure that God will grant him eternal rest and comfort for his family and friends in this difficult time. We pray that his legacy of love, service, and fellowship inspires us to follow his example and live our lives with gratitude and humor.

Leonard, you are gone but not forgotten. You will always be a part of our ICF family.

Rest in peace, dear friend. Paulo Dos Santos

Jay Newsome, President



CENTRAL COAST District Council

Bishop Day was held on November 5, 2023, at Holy Cross church in Santa Cruz hosted by Branch 21 Santa Cruz. Bishop Danny Garcia was the celebrant. Delicious luncheon was served with appetizers, baked chicken with mushrooms, pasta salad, bread, and dessert.

Denise Antonowicz, newly elected Grand President presented Bishop Daniel Garcia with a donation of \$2,000 from Central Council. Rosann Costabile presented Bishop Daniel Garcia with a donation of \$3,000 from Central Coast District and a spiritual bouquet. All donations will go to the Diocese of Monterey for our Seminarians.

We welcomed Father Robby Sullivan, Vocational director, who talked about our Seminarian program.

Everyone had a great day being all together for this joyous occasion.

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
Elaine Valentine - Recording Secretary
Central Coast District*

Monterey

Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

The Board would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and may the Happy New Year give you joy, love, health, and happiness. "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace" Pope Francis.

October 26: Halloween Dinner Party held at the Moose Lodge, was a fun filled evening. We had many members dressed up in some great costumes. All enjoyed a Teriyaki Chicken dinner, prizes, and a live band. Elaine Valentine, President, presented Mark Arellano with a \$2,500 donation to Moose Lodge #876 from ICF Branch 36. During our General Meeting, we held our election for 2024 Branch 36 Board of Directors. Congratulations to all our newly elected officers.

President: Elaine Valentine
1st Vice Pres: Dr. Vincent Malfitano
2nd Vice Pres: Turie Cavaliere
Rec Sec: Florence Cavaliere
Cors. Sec: AnnaMarie Stanton
Fin. Sec: George Leonard
Co-Treasurer: Catherine Elder
Co-Treasurer: Sharon Pira
Trustee: Andrew Clark
Trustee: Eddie Leonard
Trustee/Past Pres: Joe LoManto
Trustee: Douglas Otmar
Trustee: Antonia Rucello
Orator: Jane Gasperson
Sentinel: Sandie Russo
Chaplain: Father Ron Shirley

Nov. 30: Holiday Dinner honoring 85 and over. Will send photos in January 2024 *Bollettino*.

January 18, 2024: Appreciation Dinner for our Volunteers - San Carlos Hall

February 1, 2024: Dinner Meeting - Moose Lodge

Sad to announce that Marie Grindstaff and Ruth Flynn recently passed away. Condolence to their families and may they Rest in Peace. Ruth was our oldest member; she was 105 years old when she passed away.

*Wishing you a season that's merry and bright with the light of God's Love.
Elaine Valentine,
President Br 36*

Castroville

Br. 51, Santa Caterina de Siena

Branch 51 would like to wish the grandfather/grandson duo of Larry Barlow and Zachary Barlow a very happy birthday. Larry has had recent medical issues, so we ask that you keep him in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to the family of Robert Stefani, who passed away on October 20th at the age of 95. His son, Greg Stefani; daughter-in-law, Cindy Stefani; and granddaughter, Ashley Stefani, as well as extended family, are all Branch 51 members. Robert's mother, Teresa Stefani, was an original member of Branch 51.

We had our annual Thanksgiving breakfast at a local restaurant on November 18. It was a chance for the branch members to get together before the start of the busy holiday season and give thanks for each other and all of the blessings we have in our lives.

As the Christmas season approaches, Branch 51 would like to wish all of you buone feste e tanti auguri,

Stefani Cortopassi

Aptos

Br. 227, St. Joseph

Many thanks to Sharleen Hedgpeth and her crew, which included Manny and Magdalena Martinez, for preparing the traditional Thanksgiving dinner at our November meeting. The turkey and trimmings and pumpkin pie were enjoyed by all.

Election of officers for 2024 took place at the meeting. See next month's *Bollettino* for the list of names.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our member Flo Brown at age 101. She lived a long and happy life and was always lively at our meetings. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Dues are being sent out this month. As voted on at the August branch meeting, dues are now \$50.

The 2024 calendars are still available from President Franklyn Lopes. The price is \$30 and \$5 of that stays with our branch.

Thanks to all of you who purchased Poinsettias for our recent fund raiser.

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful flowers.

Thanks also to Dan Casagrande for volunteering to cook at our annual Christmas party.

And finally, Happy Birthday to our President Franklyn Lopes, who will celebrate 55 years of life on December 27.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be our gift this Christmas season and throughout the year.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande

Br. 291, St. Patrick

Our Branch recently held Officer elections. Congratulations to Br. 291's 2024 Officers: President Pete Gallagher; 1st V.P. Theresa Aston; 2nd V.P. Joanna Van Blaricom; Secretary Keely Sanchez; Financial Secretary Laura Vopatek; Treasurer Joe Franco; Orator Pat Fairbanks; Trustee Margie Carducci; Trustee David Sanchez; Trustee Patty Rorrer; Sentinel Ellen Bavaro.

We will celebrate the Christmas season with our annual luncheon at the Madonna Inn on December 3rd. It's always a fun event with beautiful holiday decorations, great food, lots of raffle prizes and festive entertainment. Joanna Van Blaricom and her team work very hard to make our Christmas party a fun day for everyone!

Branch 291's 50th Anniversary is right around the corner, and the party planning committee is busy working on a big celebration for January 28th! This will be an event all our members should definitely attend, so mark your calendars!

We recently lost a great man and dear member of Br. 291, Jim Scudder. Jim passed away with his wonderful wife, Throck, by his side. Please keep Throck and the entire Scudder family in your prayers during this difficult time. Also, continue to pray for all other ICF members who are experiencing pain, illness or heartache at this time.

*May your Christmas Season be full of Love, Joy, Peace and many Blessings!
Keely Sanchez
Recording Secretary*

Paso Robles

Br. 354, Saint Rose of Lima

Four members of Branch 354 recently traveled from Paso Robles to the beautiful beach town of Santa Cruz to take part in the celebration of Bishop's Day. It was a slightly foggy trip through the small towns and green fields of the Salinas Valley, but upon arriving at Holy Cross Church, the sun shone, and we were welcomed with Italian greetings from our ICF friends. Mass was a holy inspiration concelebrated by several priests of our Monterey Diocese. Bishop Garcia delivered the homily

and spoke warmly of the history and gifts of the Italian Catholic Federation. Following picture taking and visiting, we were blessed with the company of Fr. Roberto, our former St. Rose of Lima Pastor, at our dining table. It was good to be with him and to hear the story of his enduring call to the priesthood. As our diocese has currently only two seminarians, hopefully others will listen to God's call to be our shepherds. We left with full hearts and fond "goodbyes"—a Saturday well spent.

As we prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ this Christmas time, I'm thinking of the shepherds to whom the birth of Christ was first announced by angels. They were out in the fields, thought of as lowly by some, but they were the first to be invited to see our Lord in the manger, the first to glorify and praise God on that Christmas night.

*Yvonne Maddalena
Recording Secretary*

CHICAGO District

Chicago

Br. 392, St. Francis Borgia

On November 5th, 2023, the ICF Branch #392 of St. Francis Borgia, Chicago, celebrated the 36th annual Mother Cabrini Fund Raiser. This year, portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Misericordia Home for Children. The family of David Pratt and their two children, both of whom have Down syndrome, were present at the Italian celebrated mass.

A relic of Mother Cabrini hat was on display at the mass. Very moving!

The celebration continued at a local restaurant where 120 attended. A heartfelt thank you to all that participated.

We would like to announce and invite everyone to our Live Nativity Mass, in Italian, celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 10, at 3:00pm at St. Francis Borgia Church.

Refreshments will be served after the mass.

*Buon Natale e Felice Capodanno a tutti.
Chris Lucnik
Chicago District Secretary*



SANTA CLARA VALLEY District

Gilroy
Br. 28, Santa Maria
Ausiliatrice

Our September 18th dinner meeting was held at the Old City Hall Restaurant in downtown Gilroy. An iconic structure that once housed the city services, jail, courthouse, and police department. Now run by Fran and Bobby Beaudet who provide Branch 28 with a banquet room and wonderful food when needed.

The Santa Clara Valley District held their annual Oktoberfest luncheon and raffle fundraiser on the afternoon of September 30th at Teske's Germainia Restaurant in San Jose, CA. Assorted German foods and member provided raffle prizes were provided at this wonderful Santa Clara Valley District event.

At our October 16th Branch 28 dinner meeting the Vanni family again provided members with their signature pork tenderloin and pasta pesto. Ice cream and chocolate chip bars were provided for dessert. Past Grand President Andy Pappani led the elections process for the upcoming 2024 Branch 28 officers.

On October 21st we held our annual Polenta Dinner fundraiser at Saint Mary Parish in Cullen Hall. Andy Pappani and Joe Cardoza prepared the polenta, Vince Saso, and John Matteucci added their wonderful sauce that made for a great meal and wonderful night. A magnificent event that concluded with a raffle of gifts provided by ICF members that raised \$4,606 that goes toward our charitable giving to St. Joseph's Family Center, St. Mary Parish, Cooley's Anemia, the Diocese Layette Program and Gifts of love, among others.

The Bishop's Day Mass and Luncheon was held on Sunday October 29th. Mass was followed by a luncheon where a Spiritual Bouquet and \$8500 was provided to the San Jose Diocese to assist our seminarians in their journey to Priesthood.

*Peace and God Bless,
Kim M. Filice*

Mountain View
Br. 47, San Giorgio

Love! Joy! And Peace to All!

During our October meeting, we held our election of officers, and we were excited that we were able to fill all of our positions.

We have some new trips and ideas for 2024 that we will be working on.

After the meeting, we had coffee and bonded over this week's delicious homemade desserts which included a delectable, not too sweet, creamy, melt

in your mouth lemon cloud, our favorite very hearty dense almond cake, an original Italian recipe published years ago in the *Bollettino*, a beautiful white frosting drizzled over a perfectly cooked moist bundt cake, and a Greek baklava soaked in a lemon, honey, and cinnamon syrup made of ground almonds and walnuts.

We have cancelled our November and December meeting and believe it or not, we will be enjoying "An Evening with a Special Dessert and Coffee", in December.

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

St. Mary
Br. 184, Los Gatos

A big welcome to Janice Lamotte, one of our new members. She came to her first meeting with delicious homemade pizzelles to share! We are happy to announce our Slate of Officers: Deanna Meyer President, Richard Geronso Vice President, Marie Yurosko Recording Secretary, Lucy Amico Corresponding Secretary and Orator, Donna Pfaff Financial Secretary and Treasurer, and Larry Vollman Trustee.

Bishop's Day Mass at St. Frances Cabrini was very moving and spiritual, with Bishop Cantu delivering a message of love and peace. My one photo doesn't give justice to the priests celebrating with Bishop Cantu.

As I write this letter, our branch is preparing for their long-awaited Polenta Chicken Cacciatore Dinner. It is being held on November 11 to honor Veterans. A portion of our funds will be used for the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, as well as for Scholarships and Gifts of Love.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and that your Christmas and New Year are peaceful and blessed.

*In closing, we continue to pray for Peace in our world,
Lucy Amico*

San Jose
Br. 191, Saint Frances
Cabrini

Holiday Greetings and much news from our Branch. Elections were held with the following new board members: President: Debbie Piro; 1st Vice Pres. Jamie Portillo; 2nd Vice Pres. Julie Midwin; Treasure: Rosanne Huey/Camille Orlando; Sec. Jim Jones; Orator: Jo Bertaccini; Trustees: George Midwin, Tony Spagnolo, Linda Galassi; Sentinel: Shirley Catania. Congratulations to our new Board.

Get your Calendar out for December. On Dec 2nd our Board will have their Christmas Celebration. Tomato Thyme will serve us a great lunch, as we celebrate the end of our year Board accomplishments. Make sure to make

your reservations with Debbie Piro.

Next: December 9th will be our Branch Christmas Party. We will be serving a traditional Christmas affair of a ham lunch, with all of the sides and trimmings. A sing-along, Bingo, and other activities are in the planning stages of this event. Bring your Holiday Spirit and Christmas joy to wish your fellow members a Happy Holiday Season. More specific details to follow but be ready to attend.

On to the District. SCVD will have their annual Christmas Party on Dec 12 at SFC. We (Branch 191) will be the host of this fun event. Mass will be held at 6pm, followed by 6:30pm dinner. Our cooks will be serving tri-tip, and all of the sides, and dessert. There will also be a basket Raffle to try your Christmas luck. Cost \$25 (Money to Debbie Piro). This event is open to ALL members. It is a great opportunity to meet and introduce yourself to members from other branches. Please place this on your holiday calendar.

*A te che sei special Buon Natale
(To you who are special, Merry Christmas)
Shirley Catania
Sentinel*

San Jose
Br 368, Santa Teresa de
Avila

See our treasurer, Tina, to pay your dues at \$50 each. Please pray for our sick members: Cheryl and Ron Sanchez, Bobbie Gallegos, Jackie and Mike Butler, Mike and Lorraine Nunziata, and Gail Resz. Our board has been elected and the results are Pres. Mary Ridi, 1st Vice Pres. Joyce Robba, 2nd vice pres. Mike Clarke, Secretary Kathy Schroeder, Financial Secretary Ann Cordoni, Treasurer Tina Sousa-Dutra, Orator, Ed Wendler, Trustees Paula Radzinski, and Janet Glaubke. Please let the Board know if you are interested in a position on the Board. SCV Christmas catered dinner is scheduled for December 12th at 6 p.m. with Mass and dinner to follow at St. Francis Cabrini Br. 191. Our branch catered dinner will be on December 18th at 5:30 at the Country Inn Cafe at Almaden Expressway and Camden Ave. Still not full, Br. 368 will be hosting Installation of Officers on January 6, 2024, at 11a.m. with lunch to follow at Avila Hall. Still hungry, Dialing for Dollars will be on December 30th & 31st at Lazy Dog Restaurant and Br. 368 will be hosting 2024 Bishops Day on October 27, 2024, with mass and lunch to follow. Remember, The Gift of Love has funds to help our ICF members and family members with problems. Apply if you or a family member need help with anything.

Pray for peace, stay warm, stay healthy and may God bless you and your families, throughout this holiday season.

*Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Thank you, Tom Myers*

San Jose

Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

Sister Jane opened our November dinner meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving--"we have so much to be thankful for and we pray for those who are hungry and are suffering."

Thanks to Tony and Alba's AI and Diana Vallorz, members were served a wonderful ham and scalloped potato feast which included pumpkin pie for dessert!

Congratulations to our 2024 elected officers--President Steve Lencioni, Second VP Doug Schenk, Secretary Mike Rossi, Financial Secretary Tina Rossi, Treasurer Teresa Brodersen, Orator Sr. Jane Garrison, Trustees Mayme Abbott, Lynda Vallorz, and new volunteer Marina Tilbury, Sentinel Linda Ochinero. Thank you, Cathy De Maria, for again serving as Nominating Committee chairperson and to Mike Rossi for conducting the election process.

In her heritage report, Louise Vento spoke of how her husband, Russ, celebrated Christmas when growing up in Chicago and of his many memories.

In December, members are asked to bring can goods for our new food drive on Tuesday, December 5. During our Christmas celebration, donations are collected for St. Vincent de Paul and St. Martin's Food Box program, and our branch's annual donations will be reviewed.

Reminders:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m. social and 6:00 p.m. dinner; 2023 ICF Quarterly Mass—December 10, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.; Pancake Breakfast hosted by ICF—January 7, 2024.

*Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!
Janis Patellaro*

**Deadline for
January/February
Issue of the
Bollettino is
January 2.
Send your articles
& photos:
editor@icf.org**

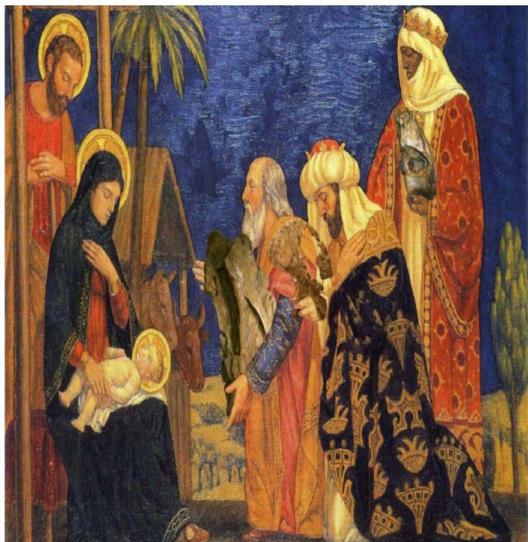
*Be sure to include
branch name and
number.*

*Tracy
Branch 390 St. Bernard's
Wishing Everyone*



Buon Natale

"Nostalgic Christmas Past 2011"



*The Officers and
members of the
East Bay District
wish all of our
ICF family and
friends a very
Blessed Christmas
and a happy, healthy
and prosperous
New Year*

St. Francis Borgia, Br. 392 Chicago, IL
**Happy 99th Anniversary to the
Italian Catholic Federation**

Best Wishes from Central Council Member Teresa Helfand



**Peace & Joy to you
from Branch 403!**



*Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas Season!
From Branch #75, Cloverdale*



*Buon Natale
e Felice Capo
D'Anno*

*Past Grand President
Bob Basuino*



STOCKTON DISTRICT



Br 82 Cathy Manasero presentaion on Stockton Italian School



Br 82 Patty Litts & Cathy Manasero Stockton Italian School Presentation



Br. 390, Assistant Chef Bob Bacchetti stirring the chicken Cacciatori



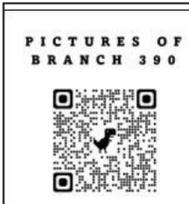
Br. 390, Luci Orsi Filling the water pictures



Br. 390, Head chef Mike Bacchetti mixing the salad



Br. 390, Nanette Speaker showing off her raffle prize she won.



SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Br. 403, Polenta Dinner at St. Dunstan, Millbrae



Br. 403, Polenta Dinner at St. Dunstan

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Br. 446 at the opera



Halloween Br. 446



Installation of Officers Br. 446



Festa Italiana dance Br. 446



Br. 446 Festa raffle

BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Branch 438



Branch 438



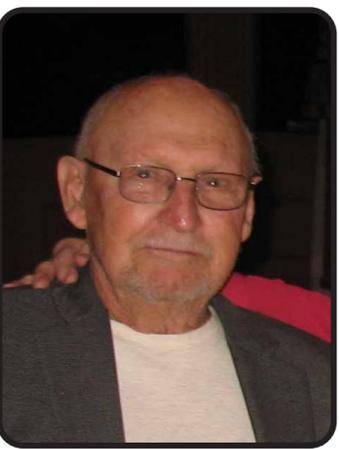
FRESNO DISTRICT



Br. 403, Polenta Dinner at St. Dunstan



Br. 308 Larry and Maria Pricolo Honor Flight Return



Br. 308 Leonard Garber

**Sunnyvale
Br. 408, Resurrection**

Buon Natale!
May the Blessings of Christmas be with all the members of Br 408 this Christmas Season!

Congratulations to our ICF Members Hosting the Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) Bake and Craft Sale. They Successfully raised over \$14,000 for SCS and provided some wonderful baked goodies to the Community and some delicious honey to the Mayor for his Sister Cities Trip to Osaka, Japan. Nice Work Sandra, Patricia and Jennie.

Our next ICF Blood Drive will be held Sunday December 3rd 2023, in the Farana Center.

Donations remain critical low in this cold and Flu season and please pray for our Donors.

Our ICF Santa Clara Valley District (SCVD) Bishop's Day was held at St Francis Cabrini Church followed by a nice Dinner @ Palermo's in San Jose. Donna Richey met the Br 445 President and Volunteered to make sandwiches for the homeless once a week. Thank you, Donna!

We hope to see you at the Branch Christmas Party 4 December 2023 in the Farana Center Alcoves at 6 PM for another tasty Lasagna Christmas Potluck.

Please Pray for our Members who need our Prayers: Laurice Levine, Dori Bleari, Al Chantelope, and Patricia's niece who just had a baby girl!

**San Jose
Br. 445, Transfiguration**

October brought festive Halloween fun and members dressed in costumes! We also welcomed eight new friends of ICF, we met during our membership drive, to our October dinner and general meeting. We look forward to seeing them again at our next meeting. Many thanks to all our members who assisted with this fun event!

November 5th was the date for Br. 445's Second Annual Fundraiser "Family Feud Game Show-ICF Edition". All participants received a festive snack bag of goodies with a drink to watch the show and a chance to win a 32" Roku Color TV door prize! Many thanks to Jim Canger, Lorraine Sellarole and Jean Cosentino for assembling all 100 snack bags! Congratulations to Richard Pfaff who won the TV!

This year's four competing teams were: The Girlfriends, The Angelic Five, St. Chris All Stars and the La Scuola Family. Two teams faced off per game for a total of two games played with lightening rounds included. MC Andy La Scuola kept everyone on point as he read the questions! Many thanks to all the Branch members and friends who purchased tickets to attend this fundraiser and raffle tickets as well. We are grate

ful to all our wonderful local company/ restaurant sponsors who donated gift cards for our raffle and to our members who also contributed raffle prizes /gift cards. Profits from the ticket sales will benefit Transfiguration Church while profits from the raffle will benefit our ICF Charities.

Many thanks to Br. 445 President Jim Falcone for his technical abilities to put on this show and to his assistants Janie Falcone for contestant answer checks and Larry Farro for lighting and sound effects. It truly takes a village, but it was well worth it for an afternoon of great fun and a lot of laughs!! Hope to see many of you again next year!!

Our See's Christmas Candy Sale is still continuing - Contact Jim Falcone (408) 806-6787.

We hope some of you were able to join us on Nov 28th as Fr. Chris Bennett led an Advent Evening of Reflection at St. Christopher's Healy Hall.

Happy December Birthday wishes to: Andy la Scuola, Jim Falcone, Verence Palma and Richard Pfaff ...Buon Compleanno e Tanti Auguri!

*Anche Buon Natale a Tutti!
Until next year - stay safe and well
Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer*

**STOCKTON
District**

Modesto

Br. 48, St. Stanislaus

Since the *Bollettino* is usually out by the first few days of the month I am putting a little reminder of 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 has been accepted by the parish office for 2024.

Branch 48 will be hosting the Stockton District Installation of officers January 7, 2024

at the 709 J Street Church. Mass will be at 1:00 pm followed by the installation of officers. Luncheon will follow in the hall. We are asking for some help with the appetizers. If each branch could bring a tray of appetizers, it would be greatly appreciated.

Invite your family and friends to join us for the mass and luncheon.

For reservations call Ida Queirolo (209) 982-5710 no later than January 4, 2024

Our new officers for 2024 are Pres. John Zamora, 1st VP Thomas Silvaggio, 2nd VP Louise Alberti, Rec. Secty Cecelia McGhee, Financial Secty Ermelinda Zamora, Orator Nancy Souza, Trustees Kathleen Ostorero & Rosalie Ruffino, Sentinel Rebecca Candelario.

May you and all your families have a Blessed Christmas.

Coming up:

- December 13 - Potluck and Meeting 6:00 p.m. J Street Hall

- January 7 - Mass at 1:00 p.m. installation of officers - Luncheon 2:30 pm

- January 10 - 6:00 p.m. meeting J Street Church Hall

- February 14 - 6:00 p.m. meeting Cecelia's home.

*Merry Christmas
Cecelia McGhee*

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

The Thanksgiving holiday is behind us now. It's time to work off the pounds from that grand feast by jetting around getting ready for Christmas (cross off some gifts on your list with a purchase of an ICF Calendar, themed 100 Years Ago Today: Celebrating the 1920s and ICF's 100th anniversary). Also remember this month to make it a priority to slow down...experience the Advent season, our Catholic faith's preparation to welcome the Christ Child. Check the parish bulletin and website for programs, such as the Dec. 1st Advent Journey: A Spiritual Pilgrimage.

SUCCESS!! At our Polenta Dinner Dance Fundraiser, over 120 savored Jason Kimball's meal and kept their feet moving to the tunes of DJ Vincent Reyes. Rebecca Lavond and Lorenzo Puccinelli received special recognition as winners of our branch college scholarship and Thrive grant. Congratulations to you! Grazie to the Youth Committee (Grace, Julia, and Lisa) for their time and creativity in developing these financial awards. Grazie molto to Chris and the committee for your diligence in planning this fun event, our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Our November meeting was sweeeeet! All enjoyed the variety of Christmas cookies. Some even shared Nona's secret recipe shhhh.

December 3rd is our branch's 5th Anniversary! To celebrate the accomplishments, we've achieved as a branch, on Sat., Dec. 2nd at 5:30, we'll attend mass, then afterwards dine at Pietro's Trattoria...yum!

May you all have a most memorable Christmas season with your loved ones, especially the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Che il Signore ti benedice...

Patty Litts, President

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

Our October meeting began with Capocuoco Tony serving a delicious meal of baked chicken, pasta marinara, green beans, salad and bread.

Vice-president Ida Queirolo conducted the business meeting. Our members were reminded that we will be hav

ing our traditional Shrimp Dinner next March with assistance of the Knights of Columbus. We will also host the Bishop's Burse next June.

Dino Cunial and Marion Elliott were appointed as the Nominating Committee for the election of 2024 officers. They will present their report at our November meeting when the elections will take place.

Our annual Christmas luncheon will take place on December 10 at Cucina Queirolo in Lathrop. As always, it will be free to our members.

Nancy Franzia generously shared copies of L'Italo Americano magazine with the members present.

The Central Council will be asked if a CD of the Federation anthem is available.

Once again, the assistance of Segregaria Anna Mello was most important in the preparation of this report.

*Ciao,
Mariano*

**Tracy
Br. 390, St. Bernard**

The holiday season is in full swing, and we are planning already for the new year. We had a very successful November dinner - very best turkey, stuffing, etc. of course with an Italian crew in the kitchen. December dinner will be on TUESDAY this year, December 19th Roasted Chicken and Ravioli. Sounds like Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be in attendance so bring the kiddos to this one. Christmas candy canes anyone?

Again, we very much appreciate the donations of raffle prizes, desserts and especially your presence in supporting our efforts throughout the year 2023! Last month, we sold almost \$700 in raffle tickets were sold at the door - thank you for your generous support!

Our officers for 2024 have been selected. President is Anita Ridolfi, 1st VP is Joe Bacchetti, 2nd VP is Art Dykzeul, Record Secretary is Suzanne Dykzeul, Correspondence Secretary is Betty Hollars, Financial Secretary is Annette Elisagaray, Treasurer is Serena Martocchio, Orator is Lucy Orsi, Trustees are Alena Chappell, Marilyn Tuso and Gary Del Carlo. Deacon Pete Ryza continues as our Chaplain.

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*



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Br. 179, 10-19 Full House

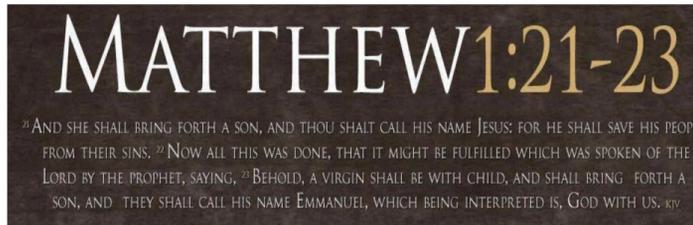


Br. 179, Ann Potenza



Br. 179, Truck Load 11-22-23

Halloween Bingo with the Knights of Columbus, President Rita directing planes to Gate 443



Branch 111



Branch 111



Branch 111



Branch 111

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 380, working the Italian booth at the St. Paschal Baylon Fall Festival



First and Second Vice Presidents Gennifer and Micheal at the annual Christmas celebration.



Christmas party with Santa and the kids of St. Anthony of Padua , Branch 237!



So Cal Golf Ball Toss



Br. 380, November Thanksgiving Meeting



Br. 444 ICF Lenten Supper



Br. 444, Matteo & Hany Francis



Br. 444, ICF Installation

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 108 Members enjoyed lunch at the Lunch Social and General meeting and celebrated the November Birthdays of Quinto B (93) and Carmelo S (75) in HFC Connolly Hall.



Br. 67 Los Angeles Archdiocese District Bishop Banquet at St Johns Seminary, Camarillo, CA



Br 115 attending Bishop Day at St. John Seminary.



Br 115 attending Bishop Day at St. John Seminary.



San Pedro Branch 115 attended Los Angeles District Bishop Day at St. John Seminary in Camarillo, Ca. Mass and luncheon took place with 21 members attending and also adopted seminarians.

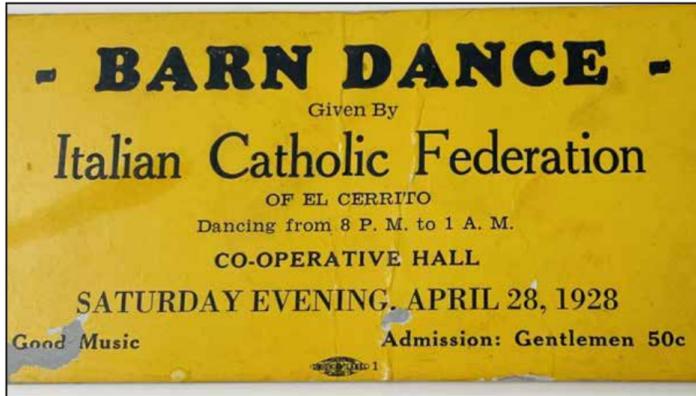


Br 115 attending Bishop Day at St. John Seminary.

CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT

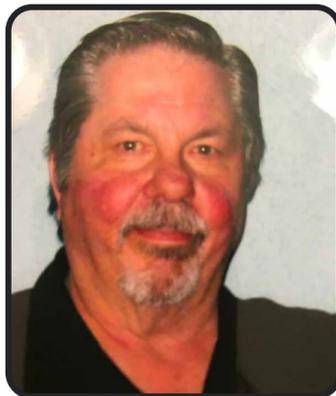


Crockett #14 members who helped out in getting things ready for our Polenta dinner.....great job .

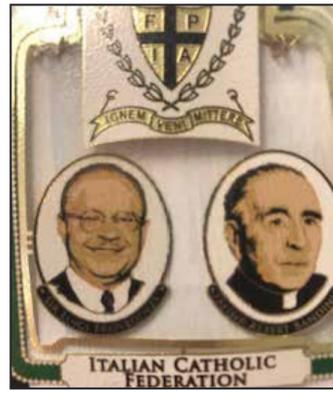


Br. 154

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Br. 144, Mike Dalporto



Br.75 Sir Luigi Providenza & Fr. Albert Bandini



Who wants Bread? Paolina and Nancy our favorite bread maybe bakers someday. Great help at our Polenta dinner at Crockett #14.



SAN DIEGO DISTRICT



Br. 246 Members Elect 2024 Officers



Br. 246 President Fontana Presents Check to Special Delivery SD Founder Ruth Henricks



Br. 246 Kitchen Crewmembers Serve BBQ at St. Charles Borromeo Bash



Br. 246 Member Bella Virgilio - Namesake of Our Educational Fund



Br. 246, St. Charles Borromeo Bash



Br. 246 Member Adeline Woodward the Bullrider



Br. 449 Pasta Buffet



ICF Branch 449 Member



Br. 449, Charcuterie Table - Being Enjoyed



Br. 449, Honored Veteran's Photo with Missing Man Table

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT continued



Br. 229, 8th Annual Festa Italiana Dinner Dance at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista



Br. 229, 8th Annual Festa Italiana Dinner Dance at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista



Br. 229, 8th Annual Festa Italiana Dinner Dance at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista



Br. 229, 8th Annual Festa Italiana Dinner



Merry Christmas to Members, Families and Friends of ICF and Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library
Carmelo Sabatella

This month we celebrate the anniversary of Mother Cabrini's death by requesting ICF members say a prayer to Mother Cabrini on Dec. 22nd for support of ICF and its programs and to Our Lord Jesus on Dec. 25th for peace on earth!

Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House schedule below. Additional 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 by email: cas1810@aol.com or telephone: 626-372-7812.

Donations help maintain the Chapel facility and continue with programs such as the annual Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage event in Burbank. Please make check out to ICF with Cabrini Chapel written in check memo and mail to: *ICF Mother Cabrini Chapel, 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504*

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!
If you or someone you know can spare a few

hours or need community service hours and would like to help with the work of the Chapel and Library please let us know. Send us your contact information..

SAVE THE DATES

- Mother Cabrini Open House December 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by San Fernando Region.
- Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House on January 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by Sr Regina and Cabrini Companions.
- Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House on Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted Los Angeles Region.
- Mother Cabrini Chapel Store: DVDs on the Life of Mother Cabrini by Lucia Mauro are available.

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



Stockton
Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

Buon Giorno to All. As we approach this most holy season, I hope everyone is doing well. In October, our branch had our quarterly member mass/communion and a coffee social afterward in our Parish's very own coffee shop. We are planning our annual Christmas party on December 9. Dinner, games, and fun for all. We are now gearing up for our annual Polenta Dinner which will be held February 15, 2024. More to follow. We conducted our elections in October and our new officers for 2024 are:
President: Allen Sturdevant
First Vice President: Mary Ann Piana Chapman
2nd Vice President: Josephine Weber
Recording Secretary: Karen Rosson
Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Gena Sturdevant
Orator: Robin Deiro
Sentinel: Marilyn Ramacher
Deputy: Karen Rosson
Trustees: Bob Langone, Geoff Lin-Cereghino, Virginia Larsen

These new officers have new and wonderful things planned for our branch.
Upcoming Events:
Branch 395 Christmas Party December 9 at 1:00 PM
Polenta Dinner: February 15, 2024A

Blessings au tutti!
Josephine Weber,
President, Branch 395

SAN DIEGO District

Chula Vista
Br. 229, St. Rose of Lima

Br. 229,
8th Annual Festa Italiana Dinner Dance at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista
During this successful fundraiser, guests enjoyed a delicious four-course Italian meal that was served by helpful youth members of our parish. A live band played great music inviting everyone to dance. There were also many raffle prizes and a big door prize basket to win. A great time was had by all.

Esther Pierotti
Corresponding Secretary

San Diego
Br. 246, St. Charles Borromeo

Greetings All!
Branch 246 has been busy with Fall events here at St. Charles Borromeo. In September we participated in the Parish's Annual Borromeo Bash by serving plates of barbecued chicken, ribs, and all the trimmings from Phil's BBQ. October brought the Parish's Annual Halloween Carnival where our members fed hungry Carnival goers with grilled Italian sausage and hot

dogs – mighty tasty!
Also in October, President Joe Fontana distributed the proceeds from our St. Joseph's Table to several local charities, including the Noah's Ark Angel Foundation, Special Delivery San Diego, and the Saint Charles Borromeo Academy.

At our November meeting we selected a new slate of Officers to guide us into 2024. We also named our donation in support of St. Charles Academy to honor the memory of long-time Branch 246 member Bella Virgilio.
Upcoming is our Christmas Dinner on Friday December 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Café Coyote Restaurant located in Old Town San Diego.

Buon Natale – Joe Fontana, Branch President

San Diego
Br. 449, Guardian Angels

Guardian Angels Branch 449 held its 3rd Annual Dinner, Dance & Auction on Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11. Besides the delicious charcuterie table and buffet, attendees were treated to a USO-type show and silent auction. With the event being on Veteran's Day, the Missing Man Table was displayed in front of the stage. All veterans, past and present, and widows/widowers of veterans were honored for their service to our county and presented with a flag pin. All attendees receive the traditional Veteran's Day Poppy. Proceeds from the evening will benefit many ICF Charities and the Wounded Marine Fund.

SAN BERNARDINO District

Upland
Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Our busy branch had a very productive and festive Fall season! We hosted "Festa Italiana", a dinner-dance that featured a live band and a performance by an opera singer. Over 186 guests attended our event! We were excited at the overwhelming turn-out and support. Weeks later, parishioners were still making positive comments about the ICF! We also enrolled two additional members as a result!

Some of our members attended the opera and dinner at Casa Italiana. Our membership filled two tables and we all enjoyed the exceptional performance as well as the delicious food.

During our October meeting, we had a costume party and played a crazy card game. Everyone went home with a prize of candy. We also installed 3 new members!

November brought us to the Mother Cabrini celebration. We participated in the Mass and all the festivities in honor of our ICF patroness. We look forward to our annual Christmas dinner party with our growing membership.

A few new officers will be installed while former officers take a break from their much-appreciated hard work in service to our branch. We pray that 2024 will continue to be fruitful for us as we remain focused on the goals and ideals of the ICF.

12th Annual Blood Drive: Giving Life - By the Live to Give Committee

The Live to Give Committee would like to extend their deepest appreciation and gratitude to all who donated or attempted to donate blood at the 12th Annual Convention Blood Drive in Costa Mesa, California. Because of the ICF members who stepped up to donate, the America Red Cross collected 29 units of blood, which saves the lives of 87 people.

Donors received a goodie bag and raffle tickets for an array of fabulous prizes donated by the Live to Give Committee. The Live to Give Committee would also like to recognize the Laura Rudd and the American Red Cross for a successful blood drive.

If you missed the blood drive and still want to donate blood, contact your local blood bank. If you care to donate in honor of a loved one or to celebrate a friend's milestone, you can get a card from the ICF office, and a letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the honoree. Your donation will also be recognized in the *Bollettino*, just the same as all the other donations. What

better way to celebrate life than to give life? To find out if you qualify to donate, you can contact your local blood bank or contact the Live to Give Committee.

Planning blood drives is a great way for your branch to get involved with the Live to Give Committee, as well as to replenish an ever-diminishing blood supply. Ninety-five percent of people will need a blood transfusion at some time in their lives, yet only five percent of people (four percent in the Bay Area) donate blood. Wouldn't it be terrible to be bleeding out from a car accident only to find that the hospital you urgently got admitted to ran out of blood? This tragedy can be prevented if we all do our part and plan a blood drive or donate blood. The Live to Give Committee and your local blood bank are happy to help you.

Blood donors, thank you for donating blood and giving the gift of life. God bless each of you:

- Joseph Aguilar
- James Canger
- Jim Cavallero



- Kerin Cavallero
- Mary Cook
- Jo-Ann Donovan
- Jerry Farrugia
- Jim Friebel
- Mary Ann Friebel
- Yvonne Jelton
- Akua Kesewa-Agyeman
- Cathleen Lencioni
- Lou Mages
- Pat Mages
- Ken Marshall
- Serena Martocchio
- William Metz
- Judy Miller
- Robert Pachinger
- Andy Pappani
- Sid Pappani
- Debbie Piro
- Christine Ragusa
- Marcie Rossi
- Joan Ryder

- Carmello Sabatella
- Tad Shaw
- Ric Shimshock
- Tina Tallman

If we inadvertently missed a name our sincere apologies. Please email LLevine430@aol.com and let us know.

For questions about donating blood or planning a blood drive, please contact Laurice at 360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com.

Live to Give Committee at the time of the blood drive:
Ken Marshall, Chairman, Live to Give Committee
Pat Mages, Member, Live to Give Committee
Lisa Crudo, Member, Live to Give Committee
Laurice Levine, Member, Live to Give Committee

Merry Christmas and Wishing You a
Happy and Prosperous New Year!
The Pappani Family
Past Grand President Andy and
First Lady Siria (Sid) Pappani



We wish you every happiness for a
Holy Christmas and for the New Year.
Buon Natale e Capo D'Anno
From the Officers and Members
of Branch 7, Sacro Cuore

To: Our ICF
Family
From:
St. Cecilia's
Branch 39



May we, too, learn
to be guided &
seek God's Plan...

BUON NATALE



Stockton District: St. Stanislaus Branch 48, St. Anne's Branch 82,
St. Anthony's Branch 139, St. Bernard's Branch 390, Presentation
Branch 395, and St. Patrick's Branch 413.