



BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



Faith, family, and fellowship are pillars of the ICF



Br. 130 Polenta Dinner fundraiser, St. Pius 8th graders help do the serving.



Br. 130 Polenta Dinner fundraiser--Cooking Team having fun.



Turkey day in Crockett at Branch 14. Dennis Hoffmann, Al DiPrima and Johnny Valentini making sure we have enough turkeys for our fabulous dinner.



Branch 218 held a very successful Christmas Boutique, meatball & sausage sandwich sale & bake sale on Sunday, November 19.



Branch 218 Christmas Boutique.



Br. 130 Polenta Dinner fundraiser accordion player.



Branch 36, Bartenders.



Santa & the kids from Crockett, Br. 14 having a great time this Christmas Season.

Grand President's Monthly Message *Installation Speech*

Denise Antonowicz

A warm and heartfelt welcome to all of you as we gather here today to celebrate the installation of our new officers and the beginning of a new year for the Italian Catholic Federation. It is with great joy and excitement that we embark on the journey of our 100th year anniversary. We should honor and pay tribute to the visionaries who laid the foundation of the remarkable organization – Sir Luigi Providenza and Father Albert Bandini. Their unwavering commitment and dedication to our community have paved the way for us to come together, united by our shared values. Faith, family, and fellowship are the pillars upon which the Italian Catholic Federation was built. Our faith strengthens us, giving us hope and guiding our actions. Our families, the cornerstone of our lives, provide us with love, support, and a sense of belonging. And through fellowship, we come together as a community, forming lifelong bonds, and creating a support system for one another.



As we embark on this significant year, let us take a moment to reflect on the past, cherishing the memories and accomplishments that have shaped our journey so far. But let us also look forward with anticipation and enthusiasm for the future, as we continue to foster faith, strengthen families, and promote fellowship within our community.

A huge thank you to Charlene Kramer and Patty Smith – they are particularly important to the ICF as they keep our office running. I thank the Executive Committee and the Central Council for their support and the challenging work they do throughout the year for you and me! Thank you all for what you do for our branches, districts and the ICF throughout the years.

This year we will be concentrating on

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 March issue is February 10, 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:

Wishing you many blessing for the New Year and may God's abiding love be with you. For the one hope that still stands tall is the hope of Jesus who changes us from within to see the gloom without and breathe new possibilities into it and we find hope in the Manger. The Manger is about God's coming to us in His Son, Jesus. Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, fear not. God is with us. And let us celebrate the birth of the child Jesus and move forward to a New Year with hope and peace. God was with us. He knows what we have been going through. God will be with us.

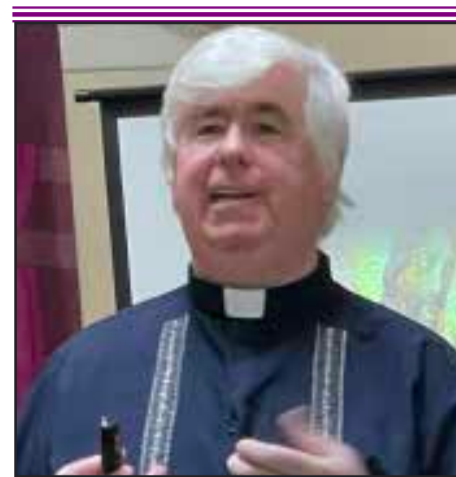
We cannot allow negativity or cynicism to rob us of the quality of life in 2024. Let hope spring eternal in our hearts, motivating us to engage with this new time with optimism and joy. If God is for us, who can be against us? Despite all the sadness and heartbreak of 2023 because of war and violence, fires, and natural disasters, we come with hope and faith, optimism, and a sense of adventure, about what God and us together can do to help heal and bringing peace to the world. Let us embrace the New Year with the love of God in our hearts. As we are reminded in the reading for the day, Moses says: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

It is also hard to believe that the great season of Lent will be upon us. For many this year, Feb. 14 is a day of mixed messages. It is Valentine's Day, a time for chocolate, roses, and a dinner date. But it is also Ash Wednesday, which for many Catholics is the start of Lent, a period of penitence that precedes Easter Sunday. The coincidence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day is a way for us to reflect on the true meaning of love, an act of self-giving.

In short, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is the ideal antidote to Valentine's Day exuberance. The very first act of Lent reveals this reality. By receiving and wearing the ashes formed into a sign of the cross on their foreheads, Catholic are making the bold claim that we believe in a love that loves so deeply that it is willing to suffer and even die for another.

As Pope Francis says, "God does not love us because there is some reason that causes love. God loves us because He Himself is love, and love tends to spread and give by its nature." As we transition into the liturgical season of Lent, we are called to more than fasting, prayer, and charity, which is love in action. It is about continuing an expression of love in the simplest of ways, putting God's love into action. Rather



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Spiritual Director

than getting caught up in the busyness of life and our days just keep slipping by, we need to be still and enjoy the gift of prayer/reflection time with God who brings love into our lives so that we can give that love to others.

This Lent let us give up more than just one thing. Let us give Christ everything, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him, renewing our minds through prayer and penance so that we may discern what is the will of God, what is good, pleasing, and perfect love.

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Lent! Fr. Chris



In Loving Memory

(Report as of December 30, 2023)

Jo-Ann Basile	Branch 021
Ronald Bellangero	Branch 021
Ann L Zoccoli	Branch 021
Jean Cosentino	Branch 026
Sally M Caglia	Branch 032
Daniel T Husak	Branch 032
Michael S Maiorana	Branch 036
Dominic G Giampietro	Branch 039
Rose Marie Presti	Branch 073
Kenneth M Batinovich	Branch 115
Michael Dal Porto	Branch 144
Pierina Moschella	Branch 173
Raymond Doorack	Branch 214
Frank S Calabretta	Branch 342
Guadalupe Seidita	Branch 380
Lucille Mazzeo	Branch 391
Ines Terry	Branch 442
John Sellarole	Branch 445

ICF General Fund Donations

(Report as of January 2, 2023)

Jacqueline Cowden
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz

Heritage — HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Louise Vento

Years ago, when immigration laws were less stringent, Italians came to this country in great numbers. They settled in New York, Chicago, New Orleans and San Jose, California. In each place the Church was set up as a National Church where they had their own priest who spoke their own language. Holy Family Catholic Church was that church. It was located on the corner of San Fernando and River St. in San Jose.



The Holy Family Catholic Church history goes back to the early immigration to Santa Clara Valley. Fr. Roccati was Pastor for over 33 years. He saw Sunday mass increase from two to six masses. Many Italians through the years moved away but would return to the church where they were baptized. Fr. Roccati's assistant was Fr. De Lucchi. People always waited in line to have their confessions heard by Fr. De Lucchi. He served as assistant pastor for over 25 years.

Activities among the Italians were not confined to the church alone. Fr. Roccati is considered a father to the Italian Catholic Federation of San Jose. The 35th annual convention for the Italian Catholic Federation was held

in 1939 with a parade and celebrated High Mass at St Joseph Church.

The church stood for 63 years until the Guadalupe Expressway needed the ground for its freeway system. The church was built as a miniature of Rome's St. Peters. It was built in 1906 and survived the 1906 earthquake. It contained an imported marble altar, marble communion rails and baptismal font from Italy. It contained the statues of Our Lady of Lourdes Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St Frances Cabrini and statues of the Holy Family. Behind the main altar was a gold Crucifix and the church contained gold leaf and stained-glass windows. The lettering over the nave was in Italian and it meant: *My house shall be called the house of Prayer for all people.*

The church sold for \$603,392.00 in 1969 and was relocated on Pearl Ave. in San Jose. The St. Frances Cabrini Statue was purchased by St Frances Cabrini Branch #191. For many Italians who had attended Holy Family all their lives it was a sad moment, almost like losing a loved one. Holy Family Church had been considered home to thousands of Santa Clara Valley families of Italian descent. It was Branch #3 Sacra Famiglia of the Italian Catholic Federation since March 1925.

Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of January 2, 2024)

Branch 33	Officers/Members of Br. 445
Branch 39	In Memory of Sam Morocco
Branch 115	Joan and Jerry Delfino
Branch 213	In Honor of the 55th Birthday of Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Branch 368	Eva Stern
Branch 391	In Memory of Joe Yurosko
Santa Clara Valley District	Officers/Members of Br. 342
Barbara Betz	In Honor of Deacon John Sheehan,
In Honor of Samuel L. Morocco	Deacon Adam Crawford and
Officers/Members of Br. 213	Deacon Mark Ruiz
In Honor of Br. 213 Mentor	Joan and Jerry Delfino
Dorene Campanile	Get Well Wishes for Bill
Joan and Jerry Delfino	Ruffner
In Memory of Paul Butler	Joan and Jerry Delfino
Joan and Jerry Delfino	Get Well Wishes for Michelle
Get Well Wishes for Maureen	Curulla
Curulla	Antonowicz
Officers/Members of Br. 445	Joan and Jerry Delfino
In Memory of Hanora "Dodie" Morin	In Memory of Joe Yurosko
Officers/Members of Br. 445	
In Memory of Loretta Miller	

Coolley's Anemia Donations

(Report as of January 2, 2024)

Branch 33	Branch 352
Branch 39	Branch 368
Branch 179	Branch 391
Branch 213	Chris Shackel

Membership Committee Report:

Amici di Cuore

Andy Pappani and Vince Piro

In the past, the Federation has had no problem attracting members; however, too often new members do not renew after just a few years. To improve membership retention, we encourage each branch to create an *Amici di Cuore* (Buddy System) that is designed to integrate new members into the branch family.

First the branch president assigns a "mentor" to each new member/family. Then, the assigned mentor calls the assigned member before a branch meeting to invite him or her to attend.

The mentor acts as a liaison between the new member and current membership - introducing and inviting him/

her into conversations and to share ideas.

The mentor also encourages the new member to become a part of branch activities including fundraisers, church activities and trips.

The president and mentor start small. They eventually lead the new member into leadership roles. The mentor explains "ways" of ICF (rituals, structure, programs) to new member.

To further encourage the new member to become involved the Federation, the mentor invites the new member to district events (Bishop's Day; Installation) and encourages the new member to attend the annual convention.

GP Message--Continued

Denise Antonowicz *continued from p. 1*

increasing our membership by 10%. My goal is for each of you to bring in one new member that will double our membership in a years' time. It is an easy goal and one that our team of Andy Pappani and Vince Piro will be working to achieve. They will be contacting all presidents to set up a membership drive in your parish. So, when they call, be ready to respond positively and let us make those goals a reality. Our Public Relations committee led by Pat Mages is looking for ways to combine issues to help our budget. Perry Shurko as chair of our Expansion Committee is working on re-establishing branches in Arizona and the Las Vegas area in Nevada. Bob Acquistapace has new and innovative ideas for our Hospitalization Program and Carmen Kilcullen is not only overseeing Scholarships but Apostolic-Charity/Live to Give committees. Teresa Helfand is making sure our Gift of Love monies are being distributed fairly. The Executive Committee meets monthly, and the Central Council meets quarterly. They are the core of the Italian Catholic Federation always hard at work to keep us moving to a new century.

This year, we have a wonderful array of events and activities that will celebrate our heritage, honor our traditions, and bring us closer together. Thanks to Bob Basuino for Chairing Ways and Means Committee and Franklin Lopes, Jr. for Chairing the Heritage Committee and both with a great team building our San Francisco Heritage parade float.

We have three wonderful galas planned. Our kickoff gala will be on June 9th - 11:00 a.m. Mass and

lunch to follow at the Basque Cultural Center in So. San Francisco, next will be in Chicago on June 23rd at the Empress Banquet Hall, Addison, IL., and finally, we will be celebrating on June 29th in Los Angeles with a 10:30 Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and lunch to follow at Casa Italiana.

Our new Convention Director, Lauren Kilcullen and her committee are working hard to make this years Convention even more meaningful. Our 100th anniversary celebration, will be first and foremost at the convention in San Mateo over Labor Day weekend. Our theme will be "Sempre Avanti". We will have a very innovative Heritage Room and our Saturday Night Banquet will be a Black-Tie event. Our Convention will end with a celebrated Mass and installation of Central Council officers on Sunday afternoon at which time the Convention will end. I look forward to seeing you there. It's an event you don't want to miss, so don't forget to start budgeting for the Convention now!

It is time for us to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize the hard WORK of our members, and express our gratitude for the many blessings that have been bestowed on us. May our faith continue to guide us, may our families continue to thrive, and may our fellowship grow stronger with each passing day. Together let us make this centennial year celebration a testament to the enduring spirit of our community. May God bless you and your families...Now let the festivities begin!

Thank you!

Gifts of Love Program

Teresa Helfand, Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



We hope and pray that the holidays were a time of grace and blessings for you and your families. Now, a New Year is upon us. The Gifts of Love Committee will hold its first meeting of 2024 to select recipients for our Gifts of Love Awards in the month of February. As we contemplate Valentine's Day and think of those we love and care about - let us also open our hearts, thoughts and prayers to our fellow parishioners and neighbors in our communities who may be in need. We still continue to face many challenges in our world and our daily lives. We send our thoughts and prayers to everyone. We need healing in our world more than ever and so we are asking for help in finding the value in kindness, respect and helping others. We know these are difficult financial times, but we encourage our Branches, Districts and Individual Members to continue to contribute to the fund in any amount. With your help, we can continue the important work of this very vital program.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Gifts of Love program, we have a fund from which we make awards to individuals with disabilities or agencies that assist individuals with disabilities. We do this throughout the year, in order to provide funds to in-

dividuals with disabilities to help lead fuller, more independent lives, and to find greater inclusion within their communities. We also work with providing assistance to agencies whose goal is to do the same for their clients.

At this time, we would like to request applications from disabled individuals that may require special or specific aids or "tools" in order to complete their education, training or assist them in their daily lives.

In order to generate applications, the Gifts of Love Committee is asking each Branch President to mention the program at their next meeting and also to publish a request for applications in their respective Church and/or School Bulletins if possible. The application form is available on the ICF website (www.icf.org). Applications should either be mailed to the ICF Office at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621 or e-mailed to the ICF Office at info@icf.org.

Applications are evaluated on a regular basis by the ICF Gifts of Love Committee which decides who receives the awards and the amounts. We have a great Committee this year and we look forward to helping those in need!

If you would like more information about the Gifts of Love program, please contact Committee Chairwoman Teresa Helfand at davia902005@live.com.

Happy New Year
and God Bless You,
Teresa Helfand



Welcome New Members (Report as of January 2, 2024)

Branch 036	Gelsomina Cappuccio	Gloria M Gargiulo
Branch 048	Frank Lucido	Barbara Mc Nally
Branch 179	Michelle H Aiello	
	Dyab Alzham	Reef Alzham
	Diane Brennan	Michael Brennan
	Frank J Pirolo	Susan M Pirolo
	Kelly Rotunno	Russell Rotunno
	David Trichter	Michele Trichter
Branch 184	Richard Geruson	
Branch 209	George J Gathman	Teresa M Gathman
	Jean M Schettler	Jim A Schettler
Branch 217	Angela M Calabrate	Angela P Daley
	Cris Hinsley	Carmen Hynds
Branch 229	Owen Evans	
Branch 291	Pearl A Hennessy	
Branch 380	James Cagle	
Branch 391	John Lamantia	
Branch 442	Victoria A Maffei	Jackson Maher
	Kimberly Maher	Mason Maher
	Vincent Maher	Vincent Maher Jr

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

As you are aware, the IRS and Franchise Tax Board for the State of California require annual tax returns to be filed by our Districts and Branches.

It is important to remember that all Districts and Branches now have two numbers - a Federal Tax ID Number for any forms filed with the IRS and a State Tax ID Number for any forms filed with the State.

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2023 is the following:
Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file IRS Form 990 EZ or 990.

Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or less will be required to electronically file IRS Form 990-N which is an e-Postcard.

The State limit for the tax year ending 2023 is the following:
Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file State Form 199.

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of \$50,000.00 or less will be required to electronically file State Form 199-N which is an e-Postcard.

THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2024. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

Any District or Branch who does not file for 3 consecutive years will lose its tax exempt status with the IRS and the State. If you lose your tax exempt status you will have to file paperwork and pay a fine in order to regain your tax exempt status.

Included in the Financial Secretaries' packet are materials that the District and Branch Financial Secretaries will need to help them with this process. District and Branch Presidents - please work with your Financial Secretary to go over the information when it is received and see that the appropriate forms are filed by the due date.

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2023. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

If you have any questions, or need help filing, please call the ICF Office at 1-888-423-1924.

Thank You,
Lisa Crudo, Grand Treasurer

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Michael Rossi, Apostolate Committee Member



This time of year, our branches and members should celebrate and honor the ICF co-patron saint, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She is the first citizen born in the United States to be canonized a saint. She was beatified in 1963, canonized in 1975 by Pope Paul VI, and was adopted as co-patroness of the ICF in 1963. Her feast day is celebrated January 4th.

She is most remembered for founding hospitals, schools, orphanages and convents in the United States. She was born an Episcopalian in New York to a prominent family in 1774. She married and had five children. After the death of her husband, she converted to Catholicism. She founded a school for girls and a religious order of nuns in Maryland, the first religious order in the United States. Her order later became the Sisters of Charity, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

They founded a school for poor children, marking the beginning of the Catholic parochial system in the United States. Eventually her health declined and she passed in 1821.

ICF branches and members are encouraged to recite a prayer for this remarkable woman:

"Lord God, you blessed St. Elizabeth Ann Seton with gifts of grace as wife, mother, educator and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to your people. Through her example and prayers, may we learn to express our love for You in love for our fellow men and women, through Christ our Lord, Amen."



Angel Studios Set to Release CABRINI—From SOUND of FREEDOM Director Alejandro Monteverde —in Theaters March 2024

In Theaters Nationwide on March 8, 2024, CABRINI is Director Alejandro Monteverde's Powerful Story of a Woman Who Fought the Establishment and Became the Greatest Social Entrepreneur of the 19th Century

Angel Studios, the platform empowering filmmakers with full creative control to crowdfund and create, is announcing today the release of CABRINI—the second Angel Studios release from SOUND of FREEDOM Director Alejandro Monteverde. CABRINI will launch in theaters nationwide on March 8, 2024.

"Francesca Cabrini is one of the most inspiring and influential figures in modern history, and yet few know her story. Faced with seemingly insurmountable life obstacles, Cabrini chose instead to focus on how she could change the status quo in her time, and her impact on the world is still felt today," said Liz Ellis, Chief Operating Officer at Angel Studios. "We're thrilled to be able to share her unbelievable story in theaters this Spring. This will be our second collaboration with SOUND OF FREEDOM Director Alejandro Monteverde—and the Angel Guild gave this film even higher ratings than SOUND OF FREEDOM. Our community has high expectations for this project."

Directed by Alejandro Monteverde (SOUND OF FREEDOM), CABRINI shares the story of Francesca Cabrini, a poor, audacious Italian immigrant who became one of the great entrepreneurs of the 19th century. Through her willpower, courage, compassion, and business skill, she overcame sexism and violent anti-Italian bigotry while fighting against an establishment seeking to hold her back.

CABRINI stars Cristiana Dell'Anna (Gomorra), John Lithgow (Third Rock from the Sun, FOOTLOOSE, The Old Man), David Morse (THE GREEN MILE, THE ROCK, St. Elsewhere), Giancarol Giannini (QUANTUM OF SOLACE, CASINO ROYALE), and Federico Castelluccio (The Sopranos, EL CANTANTE).

About Angel Studios Angel Studios is the home of stories that amplify light. Through its platform, tens of thousands of "Angel" investors choose which titles the studio will create, fund, and distribute. Angel Studios allows creators and audiences to form passionate communities around their creative projects, making the story behind the story as important as the final project itself. The studios' first projects—The Chosen and Dry Bar Comedy—have earned billions of views around the world. Learn more at Angel.com.

DECEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
12/1	Mary Tomlinson		Hollister, CA	\$30
12/2	Judy Matranga	1	San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/3	Branch 31		Los Banos, CA	\$30
12/4	Rosemary Janis	27	Buffalo Gap, TX	\$30
12/5	Audrey Gaia	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
12/6	Branch 10		Alameda, CA	\$30
12/7	Nancy Telliano	135	Reno, NV	\$30
12/8	Branch 48		Modesto, CA	\$50
12/9	Tim Barnes		Danville, CA	\$30
12/10	Fr. Andrew Salapata		Sunnyvale, CA	\$30
12/11	Branch 91		Oakland, CA	\$30
12/12	Jan Wrobel	442	Pleasant Hill, CA	\$30
12/13	Billy Joe Brown		Citrus Heights, CA	\$30
12/14	Nic & Mike Migliore		San Anselmo, CA	\$30
12/15	Joe & Judy Crosetti	213	San Bruno, CA	\$30
12/16	Diana & Adrian Macias		Riverside, CA	\$30
12/17	Virginia Larsen	395	Stockton, CA	\$30
12/18	Elena Serles	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
12/19	Sandra Mehrwein		San Francisco, CA	\$30
12/20	Vic & Pat Arnaudo	1	Daly City, CA	\$30
12/21	Bonnie Leal	14	Rodeo, CA	\$30
12/22	Mary Jo Belli	21	Santa Cruz, CA	\$30
12/23	Lisa Kingshill		Belmont, CA	\$30
12/24	Gina & Mike Frey		Bakersfield, CA	\$50
12/25	Marlys Burke		Gardena, CA	\$100
12/26	Christine Ragusa	362	Downey, CA	\$30
12/27	Bruce Pedrotti	14	Martinez, CA	\$30
12/28	Frank Salomone	111	Montebello, CA	\$30
12/29	Diana Plescia	108	South Pasadena, CA	\$30
12/30	Judy Segale	209	Forestville, CA	\$30
12/31	Dale Bryan		Bakersfield, CA	\$50

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

Gala's Save the Dates

SUNDAY - JUNE 9, 2024
BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA

SUNDAY - JUNE 23, 2024
EMPRESS BANQUET HALL
ADDISON, IL

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF ANGELS
LOS ANGELES, CA

*"In every changing season,
may we find a reason
to stand in awe, appreciate,
and cherish every view."*

—Oscar Auliq-Ice



Announcing Expansion Committee

Perry Shurko

Happy New Year! 2024 is now here, and so much is going on.

I am happy to chair this year's Expansion Committee. Prior to the pandemic the ICF was growing and then we hit a snag. It's time to get back into the growing stages again. One area that we are looking at is in the state of Ohio. We have a few members who belong to our National branch who live in Ohio - David Doyle and Fr Mancini. They are working hard on trying to find a branch or two there.



I will be working on the Los Angeles area and the Orange district as well.

What I'd like to ask of you is to see if you can find a parish in your district that would make a good fit for the ICF. Keep an eye out and talk it up with your district members.

The Expansion Committee will take your information and speak to that pastor.

Members of the Expansion Committee include Mike Rossi, Andy Papani, Carmen Kilcullen, Nina Malone, and Lou Mages. You can reach out to any of us regarding the growth of the ICF. Let's make our Centennial year a banner year for expansion.



The ICF 2024 Calendars

These are great gifts, great raffle prizes and offer wonderful stories, fun facts and recipes which remind us about our theme

"Celebrating the 1920s" as well as an opportunity to win money.

Please keep this in mind as we continue to celebrate our New Year. 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 still interested in buying one.

ATTENTION BRANCH PRESIDENTS AND FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

2024 WILL BE AN OPEN ENROLLMENT YEAR FOR THE HOSPITAL PLAN

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.

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. After March, the Branch will again be billed the entire \$25.00 for any new members to the plan.

HOSPITALIZATION PLAN - FACT SHEET

The following information briefly outlines the benefits, conditions and costs:

BENEFITS

After ninety (90) days of membership in the plan, the fund will pay:

- \$75.00 for the first day, \$50.00 for the second day and \$25.00 for the third day and any additional days thereafter.

NOTE: A member must stay overnight in an acute care facility unless an outpatient surgery is performed. Stays in convalescent hospitals and rehabilitation facilities are not covered by this plan and do not qualify for reimbursement.

- \$100.00 for the use of the operating room during a hospital stay or outpatient procedure at a state-licensed surgical center.

- \$500.00 per calendar year.

- \$500.00 lifetime maximum per illness.

FEATURES

- Payments are made directly to the member.
- No medical examination is required to join.
- All claims are accepted for up to one year after a hospital stay or outpatient procedure.

COST

- \$25.00 per year - paid to the Branch Financial Secretary

If you have any questions, please contact the ICF Office.

MAUI WILD FIRES RELIEF FUND

The following contributions have been made to the ICF's Maui Fires Relief Fund as of December 13, 2023. Thank you for your support and generosity. A check has been forwarded for the total amount donated.

Central Council Spouses' and Family Association

Branches:

14	332
19	343
48	354
82	445
209	

Individuals:

William and Monica Crowley
John and Ritamarie Downey
Elaine Lencioni
Lou and Pat Mages
Annemarie McCarthy
Mike and Marcie Rossi
Nancy and Karl Seppi

Cash Donations:

No Names - Convention Mass Collection

Total Donations: \$3,797.00



2024 1st Year Scholarship Program

Information on the 1st Year Scholarship Program that was sent to high schools in November, has now been made available to the Districts and Branches and has been posted on our ICF website www.icf.org via a link on the homepage, under the Scholarship Tab, as well as in the documents in the Officers' Portal.

The **Deadline** for Donations and Applications is **April 1, 2024**. This will allow additional time for students to apply and for Branches and Districts to follow up with the high schools in their areas. Please discuss participating in the program by making a donation of a full scholarship of \$400.00, if possible, or a partial donation of any amount. Partial Donations do help to make other scholarships possible when that money is grouped together. Individual Donations are welcomed as well. Please encourage your children, grandchildren or anyone you know who is eligible to apply. They can contact their high school counselors about the Italian Catholic Federation 1st Year \$400.00 Scholarship, they can download the application using the link on the homepage of the ICF website or they can fill out and submit the application, with required documentation attached, online.

These are the eligibility requirements for students:

A High School Senior, a total cumulative GPA (3 ½ years) of at least 3.2 and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2: 1) Are **Roman Catholic** and of **Italian Descent** and **live within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of California, Illinois and Reno, Nevada (which also includes the other cities within the Diocese of Reno), only where Branches of the Federation are established.** or 2) Are **Roman Catholic** but **need not be of Italian Descent or live where Branches of the Federation are established** if either **Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent** is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" - **membership of a Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is mandatory for #2.**

Again, please contact your local high schools where you would like to see applicants come from and make sure that they are promoting our scholarship program and have applications available.

If you have any questions or applications are needed, please call the ICF office toll-free at 1-888-423-1924.



Scholarship Donations

(Received as of January 2, 2024)

1st Year Scholarships:

Mac Mota
In Memory of Enes Vallejo
Cecil Vallejo
In Memory of Enes Vallejo
Officers/Members of Br. 368
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
Troy and Jubie Jaramillo, Jr.
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz
Virginia Coe Orlando
In Memory of Ann Zoccoli
Mark Neuburger and Arianna Smith
Merry Christmas Wishes for Mary Perata
Mark Neuburger and Arianna Smith
Merry Christmas Wishes for Eva Perata
Felicia Silcox
In Memory of Marie Antoinette Stalteri Antonowicz
Denise Antonowicz
In Memory of Joe Yurosko

Scholarship Donations - 2nd to 4th Year

Giulia Gallego
In Honor of the Birthday of Arnold Togliatti

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

Received as of January 2, 2024:

IN MEMORY OF:

Michael Dal Porto
Marie Antonowicz
Marie Antonowicz
Marie Antonowicz
Lupe Seidita
Joe Yurosko
Joe Yurosko
Jean Cosentino
Jean Cosentino

DONATED BY:

Officers/Members of Br. 144
Bruce and Lonnie Swarrington
Mary and Marcello Ridi
Bill and Maria Greco
Officers/Members of Br. 380
Bob Basuino
Louise Vento
Officers/Members of Br. 26
Harry and Kathy Hill

GET WELL WISHES:

Michelle Antonowicz
Michelle Antonowicz
Mary Harrison

Bob Basuino
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR BISHOP'S DAY:

Pat and Lou Mages

Officers/Members of San Bernardino District

IN HONOR OF:

Perry Shurko

Officers/Members of Br. 362

FOR GUIDANCE FOR A YOUNG MOTHER AND HER BABY DAUGHTER:

Giselle and Leia

Susan Montalvo

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:

A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 342 - Auburn.

*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.

*"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."
—Melody Beattie*

2024 Calendar Winners

We held off pulling the calendar winners to give everyone a chance to return their ticket stubs to the ICF office by the January 31st deadline. The winners' names for January 2024 and February 2024 will be printed in the March 2024 issue.

The winners' names will also be available in the *Bollettino* on the ICF Web site at www.icf.org beginning with the March 2024 issue.

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION CONVENTION AWARD CATEGORIES

There is one shared application available for all five categories. The new deadline to submit applications and supporting documents is April 1. Previous year's nomination packets are eligible for resubmission with the updated current year's application attached.

POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII AWARD

The recipient of the ICF's highest award shall exemplify the spirit and tradition of the late Pope Saint John XXIII. The nominee may be of any religious denomination and must demonstrate achievements in one of the following areas: 1. Community Betterment of Civic Endeavors 2. Ecumenical Spirit in Furthering the Brotherhood of Man 3. Charitable and/or Religious Activities.

A \$1,000 donation will be made to the award recipient's charity of choice.

The Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award was created to acknowledge and honor a Catholic Priest, Brother, Deacon or Nun who exemplifies the spirit of Saint Teresa of Calcutta in the performance of works to better the human condition. A \$1,000 donation will be made to the award recipient's charity of choice.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD

GRAND PRESIDENT'S AWARD

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

The ICF Family of the Year Award honors an ICF Family which has made a significant contribution to their branch, district, parish and/or community. A \$500 donation will be made to the family's ICF charitable program of choice.

FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes a member (39 years or younger) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and possesses the enthusiasm, talent, energy and vision to become a leader who will guide the Federation in the decades ahead. A \$500 donation will be made to the award recipient's ICF charitable program of choice.

The new deadline for submissions is April 1.



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION AWARD NOMINATION



Nomination Year: 20 _____

Award:

- _____ Pope Saint John XXIII
- _____ Saint Teresa of Calcutta
- _____ Grand President's
- _____ Family of the Year
- _____ Young Adult Leadership

Nominations must be postmarked on or before April 1.

Please include with this application:

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

The Central Council will vote on one finalist for each award. The Grand President will notify the winners of their achievement and invite them to attend the ICF Convention to receive their award. Transportation, one night lodging, and a ticket to the banquet for their award presentation is provided. Central Council Members, Members Emeritus, Life Members Emeritus or Members of their immediate families are not eligible for nomination.

Statement of Endorsement:

Qualifications Summary:

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

Nominee:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Branch #/City: _____

Nominees for the Grand President's, Family of the Year and Young Adult Leadership Awards must all be members of the ICF. For the Family of the Year award, please indicate names of parents, children and other family members being nominated within the body of your biographical sketch.

Nominated By Individual, Branch or District:

Contact Person: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Book Review--New Releases: Books at I AM Books

In this month's column, I focus on new releases as featured at I AM Books.

"I AM Books is an independent bookstore located at 124 Salem Street, in the heart of Boston's historic North End neighborhood, and serving as a cultural hub for everyone interested in diving into the rich world of Italian and Italian American literature, history, research, art and more."

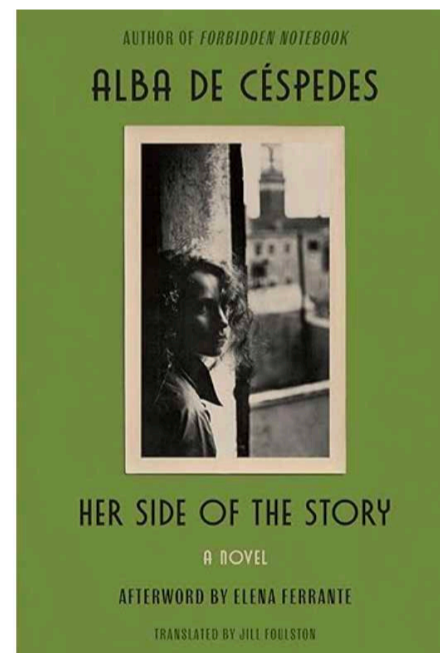
Labeled as an "Italian American cultural hub," I AM Books was originally located at 189 North Street, Boston, Mass., from 2015 to 2020.

In late 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I AM Books switched its operations to online-only. It reopened in its current space in Dec. 2021. I AM Books sells primarily fiction and non-fiction by Italian and Italian American authors, books in Italian, as well as cookbooks and books on travel, history, sports, Italian American studies and titles by local authors. The store also features a children's section, with books, learning material, games and toys.

All the books listed below can be found online at <https://iambooksboston.com/about/>.

Her Side of the Story

by Alba de Céspedes



From the author of *Forbidden Notebook*, Alba de Céspedes, a richly told novel she called "the story of a great love and of a crime."

As she looks back on her life, Alessandra Corteggiani recalls her youth during the rise of fascism in Italy, the resistance, and the fall of Mussolini, the lives of the women in her family and her working-class neighborhood, rigorously committed to telling "her side of the story."



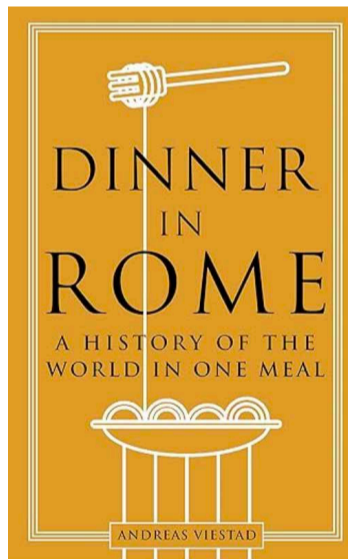
Alessandra witnesses her mother, an aspiring concert pianist, suffer from the inability to escape her oppressive marriage. Later, she is sent away to live with her father's relatives in the country, in the hope she'll finally learn to submit herself to the patriarchal system and authority. But at the farm, Alessandra grows increasingly rebellious, conscious of the unjust treatment of generations of hardworking women in her family. When she refuses the marriage proposal from a neighboring farmer, she is sent back to Rome to tend to her ailing father.

In Rome, Alessandra meets Francesco, a charismatic anti-fascist professor, who ostensibly admires and supports her sense of independence and justice. But she soon comes to recognize that even as she respects Francesco and is keen to participate in his struggle to reclaim their country from fascism, this respect is unrequited, and that her own beloved husband is ensnared by patriarchal conventions when it comes to their relationship.

In these pages, De Céspedes delivers a breathtakingly accurate and timeless portrayal of the complexity of the female condition against the dramatic backdrop of WWII and the partisan uprising in Italy.

Dinner in Rome: A History of the World in One Meal

Andreas Viestad

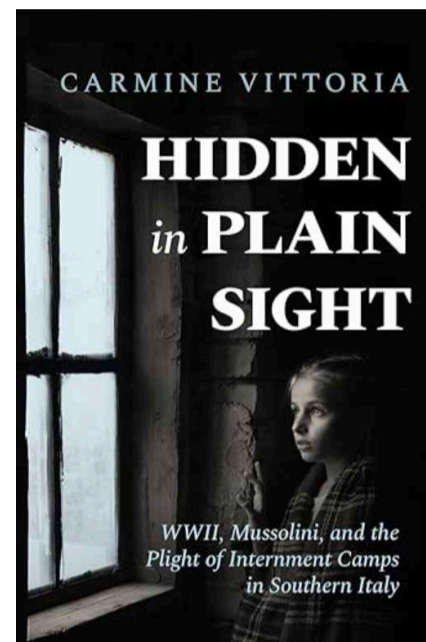


"There is more history in a bowl of pasta than in the Colosseum," writes Andreas Viestad in *Dinner in Rome*. From the table of a classic Roman restaurant, Viestad takes us on a fascinating culinary exploration of the Eternal City and global civilization. Food, he argues, is history's secret driving force. Viestad finds deeper meanings in his meal: He uses the bread that begins his dinner to trace the origins of wheat and its role in Rome's rise as well as its downfall. With his fried artichoke antipasto, he explains olive oil's part in the religious conflict of sixteenth-century Europe. And, from his sorbet dessert, he recounts how lemons featured in the history of the Mafia in the nineteenth century and how the hunger for sugar

fuelled the slave trade. Viestad's dinner may be local, but his story is universal. His "culinary archaeology" is an entertaining, flavorful journey across the dinner table and time. Readers will never look at spaghetti carbonara the same way again.

Hidden in Plain Sight: WWII, Mussolini, and the Plight of Internment Camps in Southern Italy

by Carmine Vittoria



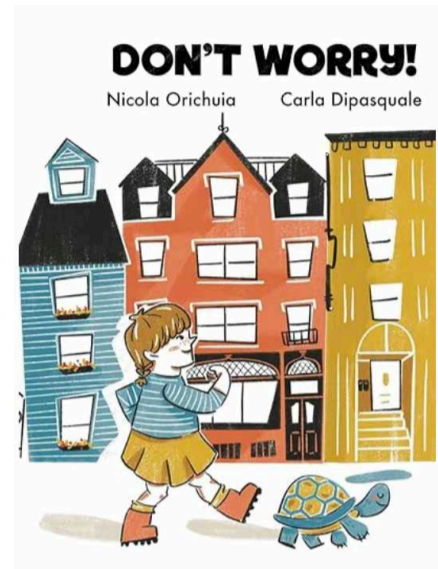
Step back in time to Southern Italy during WWII and discover the hidden secrets that have been buried for decades. In "Hidden in Plain Sight," physicist and historian Carmine Vittoria weaves a gripping tale of survival and resilience, shining a light on the plight of Jewish internees and townspeople caught in the crossfire of warring armies.

Through his vivid storytelling, Vittoria transports readers to a time and place where survival was uncertain, and every day brought new challenges. Despite the turmoil and chaos of war, a special kind of empathetic connection emerged

between these two communities. Their lives became entangled in unexpected ways, forging a more realistic and humane view of history in these small towns of Southern Italy.

Don't Worry! A Story of Community, Family and Friendship


by Nicola Orichuia and illustrated by Carla Dipasquale



Follow Nina and her adorable pet turtle Connie as they wind through Boston's North End to collect ingredients for a surprise birthday cake! Not everything goes as planned, but with the help of family and friends, Nina might end up with an even better surprise!

Written by I AM Books founder Nicola Orichuia and illustrated by Carla Dipasquale, this sweetly endearing story will have parents and children following Nina and Connie on their urban adventure!

Vince



ICF is Going Green!

If you prefer to read the *Bollettino* at the magnification of your choice, in full color, on your computer or portable electronic device, and like the idea of saving a tree while helping us save printing costs, visit this link to sign up: <http://eepurl.com/bLaMFb>

Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

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

Dear Members:

Happy January Birthday Wishes to our Members Monique Fontana and Gino Giovanni.

Happy February Birthday Wishes to our Member Joe Matranga.

Sending you and your Families Beautiful Wishes for Good Health and Happiness in the New Year!

Happy Valentine's Day!
Cordiali Saluti
Diana Cresci

San Francisco St. Elizabeth, Br. 258

Felice Anno Nuovo.

We hope and pray that 2024 will be good to all of us.

We are sad to report that Anita Ferragiaro passed away on October 24, 2023. Anita was a member of our Br. 258 for 56 years. She always took part in everything we did for our Branch. We have lost a dear member and good friend. You will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathy to Linda, Nancy, Paul and family. Anita, God bless you and keep you in the palm of His hands.

Our Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 1st at the Basque Cultural Center was a success. We had 36 in attendance. The food was delicious, and everyone enjoyed visiting with their friends. A big thank you to Florence for all of her help for our luncheon.

Please remember our ill and deceased members in your prayers.

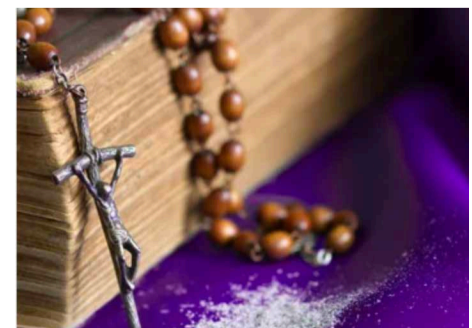
A big thank you to those members who bought a calendar.

We hope you had Happy Holidays and please stay well.

A big thank you to our members for their help during 2023.

Grazie, and it is greatly appreciated.

Ciao,
Eva Perata, President



SAN MATEO District Council

I hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and have a Happy Healthy New Year!

Our next District meeting will be January 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the small hall of Our Lady of Angels.

Installation of Officers 2024—Branch 403 is currently working on a date with San Mateo Elks Club and are waiting for confirmation for January 27, 2024. As soon as we receive confirmation, we will let you know. In the meantime, please hold the date so you can attend.

All Branches: Please turn in your Bishop's Day Spiritual bouquet and your Seminary burse. You can send your information to Bea Tomasello (address below)

Reminder to All District Branches: Please pay your District Dues for 2024--\$50 and send your check to Bea Tomasello, 1348 Paloma Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010.

All branches should send a copy of their 2024 Officers to me bfirpo1909@gmail.com and to Debbie Rodondi drodondi@comcast.net Thank you to those branches that have already sent your Officers list.

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 please mark your calendars.

Happy St. Valentine's Day to all!!!

Barbara

Redwood City Br. 130, Our Lady Star of the Sea

ICF Branch 130 celebrated the Holidays by honoring the elders at our Christmas dinner meeting. Santa stopped by had everyone in tears as he made each member tell him what they wanted for Christmas. A wonderful potluck dinner was put together by the members and our Pastor "Father Tom" came to celebrate with us all.

A wonderful holiday evening.

ICF Branch 130 would like to wish all the other branches a very Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year.

Doubling in size after a vigorous recruiting campaign Branch 130 which is located at St. Pius Church in Redwood City held its biggest fundraiser ever.

The fundraising Polenta Dinner master by ICF chefs was a big hit feeding over 140 guests and sold out very quickly. Entertainment included an accordion musician playing all the old Italian favorites, a fun filled raffle and much much more.

A great time by all. The branch photos in our district section will show everyone how much fun we all had.

Burlingame Br. 173, Our Lady of Angels

Many of our members are helping make plans for the new year's events. We have ended 2023 by having a potluck Christmas celebration with a donation to St. Vincent de Paul charity.

One more position to be filled for our 2024 lineup is Correspondence Secretary Mary Ann Camacho volunteered for this position and we appreciate her doing so along with our other officers. The Installation of Officers event is still being discussed by the San Mateo District and will be announced very soon.

We are pleased to have two new members added to our Branch. They are not strangers as both have been involved with the ICF for many years. Harold Fuentes was past President of Branch 163 in San Mateo before they closed several years ago. Steve Fuentes is a Past Grand President of Central Council. WELCOME to both of you!

Our Branch has conducted a survey regarding the preference time for our monthly meetings. Since the time change it is more difficult to drive at night, so our President Dorene Campanile is asking for our members' opinions.

Please keep June 9, 2024, open as it is the Federation's 100th Anniversary. There will be a luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. Also, there is an opportunity now for orders of the 100th year pin and they are currently on pre-order and are \$10.00.

Prayers are needed for the following Br. 173 members: Mary Bodisco, Anita Cecena, Fred, and Melanie Yeager. Also, from Branch 19 - Jackie Barnes and Kathy Treviso.

God Bless and wishing good health for 2024. Also spread love every day and especially on Valentine's Day!

Roz Emery

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

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

South San Francisco Br. 213, St. Augustine

Happy New Year to all! Let's hope for a happy and healthy 2024!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday and are ready to take on this new year!

January 9 is our first meeting of the new year. Here is an update on our branch election of officers: All officers will continue in place except for Trustee, which was filled by Linda Marcelli (thank you, Linda). Also, Marianne Cameron will be mentored by President Joyce and hopefully will take the office of president next year.

We were saddened by the passing of Joanne Wallace on December 28. Joanne was a former member of our branch and will be sorely missed. Keep her and her family in your prayers.

Dues notices were given out at the January meeting and mailed to those not in attendance. Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.

Our February 13 dinner meeting will be hosted by Donna DeVoe, Diane Pangburn, and Marianne Cameron.

Menlo Park Br. 351, St. Patrick

I hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and have a Happy Healthy New Year!

Since we are combining the January/February 2024 *Bollettino* article I would like to thank all members that have already paid their dues for 2024.

The Installation of Officers is still being discussed at the time of this writing. We are targeting January 27, 2024, at the San Mateo Elks Club but it hasn't been confirmed. Please tentatively hold the date to attend.

We will have a dinner at our February meeting, but the entrée has not been decided. It will be a surprise. Please call Barbara for your reservation 650-444-6999.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers as well as our deceased members.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Ciao,
Barbara



Millbrae

Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Felice Anno Nuovo! Grazie to everyone who helped put together our branch Christmas party. Special thanks to Leonardo's deli for the delicious main course, and to Eunice & Tina for the wonderful desserts. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to give \$620 directly to a needy Millbrae family. After meeting with them, Eunice purchased gift cards from Safeway, Trader Joe's and Target, where the family does their shopping. She also gave them some much-needed holiday decorations from her own collection. Thanks Eunice!

Our first meeting of 2024 will be on Tuesday, Feb. 6th. This will feature Mountain Mike's pizza (including veggie!), salad, wine, dessert & coffee for \$15. Mail your check, payable to "ICF BR 403", to Eunice Danli, 4 Spring Valley Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030 by the February 2nd cut-off. (RSVP: 650-692-3740) The social begins at 5pm with dinner at 5:30, followed by the meeting at 6pm.

DUES: Please check to see that you have mailed your \$45 to Eunice. If not, do so ASAP by SEPARATE check payable as noted above.

Our March 5th meeting is a social & dessert meeting and begins at 6:30 p.m. Although it is NO COST, you must RSVP by March 1st to Eunice at the number noted above so we can prepare the proper number of desserts. Also in March is St. Joseph's Table on Tuesday, March 19th. This event begins at 5:30 p.m. and is a no-meat potluck. Details will be included in our February Newsletter.

Ciao!
Adonna Amoroso, Secretary

MARIN

Novato

Br. 332, Our Lady of Loretto

Our Branch celebrated many successes in 2023, including increased membership and several successful fundraising events, resulting in the Branch being able to grow the size and scope of its charitable gifts. We give thanks for all this, but most of all, we are grateful for the bonds of friendship created among our members through our monthly gatherings. We look forward to 2024, carrying with us the energy and enthusiasm of the previous year.

One of our goals for the new year is to enhance our Heritage Program with a monthly activity. We've added a short quiz game each month, with prizes of course, to accompany our existing holiday celebrations. The Board hopes that the members will find this activity entertaining and enlightening, leading us to be even more "orgogliosi" of the many gifts Italy has given to all.

Thank you to everyone who purchased an ICF Raffle Calendar. A very special thank you to Marlene Farber, who made sure that all the ICF faithful from the now closed Larkspur Branch, were able to continue to support the ICF through the purchase of a calendar. Thank you, Marlene and the Larkspur group!

Wishing everyone good health, happiness, and peace in 2024.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Greetings to you all. I pray that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year's. We have so much going on this year.

We start with our district installation. St Rose of Lima was our host this year. Thank you to Rita and Barbara for being such great hosts.

In February the ICF will be hosting a booth at the Religious Education Congress being held at the Anaheim Convention Center the weekend of February 16 - 18.

Of course, the big celebration will be taking place in June when we all celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the ICF. Mass will be held at the cathedral of Our Lady of Angels and lunch to be served at Casa Italiana.

Please keep an eye out for all of the details.

Br. 67, National Branch, St. Peter

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ONE AND ALL!

On November 12, 2023, ICF members Eugene S, Perry S, Francesca T, President Carmelo S, Kris K and Lou M attended the Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, CA.

Some attendees came from great distances including ICF Branch 145 President Joe B visited the Cabrini Shrine Mass and Pilgrimage for first time from his home parish in Eureka CA.

Thank you, members, for supporting the Cabrini Shrine. Please spread the word and Invite family and friends to visit the Mother Cabrini Chapel and help support the Chapel and Library.

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

South Pasadena Br. 108, Holy Family

ICF Branch 108 Officers wish all Members and Parishioners a HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Thank you, members, families and guests who celebrated members' December birthdays and wedding anniversaries, at the General Meeting following the ICF Branch 108 Christmas Party in HFC Connolly Hall on December 10, 2023. Santa visited the young and young-at-heart singing Christmas songs and handing out presents. Thank you also to ICF staff and musician Jessica G. For making this a very special event.

On November 12, 2023, ICF members Carmelo and Linda S, Jackie F, Diana P, Gina and Gerard Edgar, Nick S, Lucy O, David T and Paola F attended the Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, CA. Thank you members for supporting the Cabrini Shrine. Please spread the word and Invite family and friends to visit the Mother Cabrini Chapel and help support the Chapel and Library.

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Montebello Br. 111, St. Benedict

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Joyful, & Prosperous 2024 to everyone! Tanti Auguri per un Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!

Our January General Meeting will be on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, Montebello. Come join us! We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of January and February: Anthony DeLorenzo, Rita Estrada, Frank Gomez, Kathleen Rabago, Frank Salomone, Joey Wadzinski, Irena Scoria, Steven Ochoa, Carmelina Palmeri, Lynn Enrico and Francesca Orofino Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

The 2024 ICF Officer's Installation will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, at St. Rose of Lima Parish, 1305 Royal Ave., in Simi Valley, starting with the 11:00 a.m. Mass, followed with the Installation of officers and luncheon at the parish hall - more details will follow.

Mark your calendars - our St. Joseph Table this year will be held on Saturday & Sunday, March 16 & 17, 2024 at St. Benedict Parish Hall. The monies we

will raise at this event will allow us to support our parish, offer scholarships to St. Benedict Parish School graduating students, support our clergy and Seminarians, scholarships to graduating high school students, Cooley's Anemia, and other worthwhile charities. We need everyone's support to make this a successful event! Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may St. Joseph and God Bless you abundantly.

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

Ciao! A Presto.
Frank Salomone
Branch 111 President

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

Happy New Year to all! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

Our branch Christmas party was held on Dec 9th. We enjoyed a delicious meal, homemade cookies and a visit from Santa. Neal thanked all the attendees for all the support given to our branch throughout the year.

Officers for the 2024 year were elected at our October meeting. They are as follows: Neal DiLeva President, Bob Hohman 1st VP, Anna Dileva 2nd VP, Recording Secretary Nancy Ventimiglia, Financial Secretary Pauline Iacono, Treasurer Anita Trujillo, Corresponding Secretary Maryann Lauro, Sentinel Isidore Colonna, Orator Barbara West, Trustees Frank Amalfitano, Letitia Chaparro, Carmela Funicello, and Giovanna Gioiello. Thank you to Frank Colonna outgoing 1st VP for your years of service.

Harrah's Casino Day trip is scheduled for Jan 12th. This is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Bus will leave from the Boys and Girls club at 8 a.m. Please call Anita Trujillo to sign up. \$30 per person Donation

Please plan on attending our first meeting of the year non-Jan 18th at 7:30pm in the parish center. Up for discussion will be a day trip to Soboba Casino on Jan 25th. \$40.00 per person Please call Pauline Iacono to reserve 310 8320563

Also up for discussion will be our crowd-pleasing Crab dinner honoring St John Joseph of the Cross on March 2nd.

2024 dues are now payable. Branch 115 dues are \$42.00 per member. Dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 w 8th St.; San Pedro, CA 90731

February meeting will be held on Feb 15th at 7:30 p.m. in parish center

Hope to see you all at our meetings!
Anita Trujillo



SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Branch 368, Christmas dinner and socks for the poor



Branch 368



Branch 368



Branch 368



Br. 191, Sharon and Linda at awards presentation



Branch 191 Debbie and Rosanne wait for lunch



Branch 191 Board Christmas cheer



Branch 191 Look at that sweater!!!



Branch 47



Branch 47

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 47



Br. 435



Br. 435 Christmas Party



Branch 435



Branch 435



Br. 28: Members Elia Scettrini, Larry Scettrini, Kim Filice and Danny Scettrini ready to serve pastries after the 5 PM Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.



Br. 28: Decorated tables with roses and an informational flyer for parishioners after Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass on December 12th.



Br. 445 Bill Perry & Legend of the Rooster Picture



Br. 445 Christmas Luncheon Buffet



Br. 445 "Punch A Bunch" Christmas Gift Exchange



Br. 445 Christmas Luncheon Buffet

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



St. Mary Branch #184, Veterans guests at our Polenta Dinner, included Pat Baker and Arlene Rocchio, who joined the men.



St. Mary Branch #184 Pictured: Larry Vollman, Richard & Romano Buonaccorsi, Don Erba, Richard Amico, Jeff Buonaccorsi & Andy Pappani, Our kitchen crew! Not shown is Ryan Meyer.



St. Mary Branch #184, Recently six members were initiated into our branch. Shown here are Lou and Marlene Ferrigno, Donna Pfaff,

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Br. 36, Christmas Party



Fred Conte & Tony Venza Branch 36



Tom DiMaggio & Barney Belleci Branch 36



Br. 36, 85 and Over Celebration

EAST BAY DISTRICT



ICF Christmas Br.10 and EBD is: L-R Melody Klever 1st VP EBD, Lisa Crudo, CC Member & Fr. Mario Rizzo, EBD Chaplain



East Bay District Holiday Dinner, Br. 10, Father Joseph Pathiyil is Branch 10 chaplain



Br. 215, ICF Christmas Dinner



East Bay District & Branch 10 Host Christmas Holiday dinner



East Bay District Holiday Dinner, Br. 10



ICF Christmas Br.10 and EBD; East Bay District & Branch 10 Host Christmas Holiday dinner

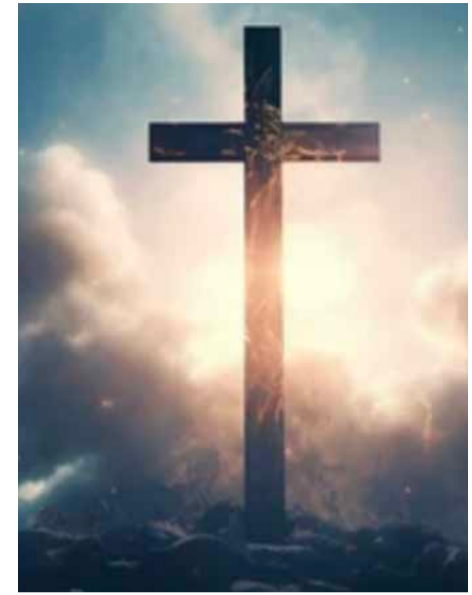


East Bay District Holiday Dinner, Br. 10



East Bay District Holiday Dinner, Br. 10

CHICAGO DISTRICT



Br. 392, St. Francis Borgia in Chicago - Live Nativity.



MARIN AREA



Br. 332, Teri and Frank enjoying the Christmas celebration.



Br. 332, Chef Angela welcomes guests with appetizers.



Br. 332, Ken, Tim and Greg serving up everyone's favorite drinks.



Br. 332, Holli and all her ICF friends celebrate her birthday. Buon Compleanno!

Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

Happy New Year! St. Dorothy Branch 179 Glendora had a very festive Christmas Party. Most all of our members attended some even brought guests. Approximately 60 people enjoyed a catered dinner from our local eatery, Spaghetti Eddie's, followed by the White Elephant Gift Exchange and an Ugly Sweater Contest. All of our clergy attended, plus our seminarian, Deacon Tommy, and Sr. Elizabeth from St. Lucy's Priory. Deacon Tommy will be ordained in June, and our ministry is leading the parish fundraising for his vestments, which will be approximately \$7,000. At the Christmas Party, we had a successful 50/50 raffle. Thanks to our generous members, we raised \$300 to go towards Deacon Tommy's vestments! And 3 lucky winners split the other 50%, \$100 each! We're looking forward to many fundraising events in the future, culminating in our St. Joseph's Table, where all the proceeds will go to this most worthwhile cause.

*Patricia Auriemma
Corresponding Secretary*

Arcadia Br. 218, Holy Angels

A very happy New Year to everyone! The ICF Branch 218 at Holy Angels church in Arcadia held an outstanding New York New Year's Eve party in the parish hall. A social with loads of appetizers kicked off the event followed by a scrumptious meal of pasta, salad, tri tip, potatoes, beans and spumoni cake for dessert. The live band, The Acme Time Machine, provided the music for dancing and entertainment. The crowd rang in the new year at 9 p.m. New York time with champagne, balloons, and hugs for all!

There have been some changes to our board as follows: Mary Rovarino, 1st Vice President; Lorena Huang, 2nd Vice President; and Barbara Hicks, Orator. The other positions are the same.

Backing up a bit, a huge thanks to Jenni Hauge for handling our enormously successful Christmas Boutique. Scott & Teri Carrano and crew handled the sandwich sales, Mary Rovarino handled the raffle, the bake sale table was myself, and President Jerry and I wish to thank all that helped with our Christmas party, and all that helped set up and, in the kitchen, and our junior ICF members, Gianni Carrano and Allyson Booth, who helped serve the dinner. Also, thanks to Joe Lanera who played Santa again. And a special thanks to Holy Angels Cub Scout troop for performing that evening. A good time was had by all.

On another note, we may have a new system for RSVP'ing for our luncheons after our meetings. We are also trying to make them as interesting as possible. *Hope to see all of you there.
Lolly M.*

Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

Happy New Year one and all. It's hard to believe that another year is here. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday with your family and friends and lots of feasting.

Some changes have taken place this New Year. We have a new branch president- Christine Ragusa and I will be taking over the Financial/ Treasurer office. Christina Ladd is our new Sentinel. Congratulations to all of our branch officers. Our district installation took place on Sunday January 28th at St Rose of Lima in Simi Valley. We also held our first Bingo Luncheon of the New Year on January 14.

Our annual St Joseph Table will be on March 16 & 17. Please be sure to tell all of your friends and family to come visit those days. Let's hope that 2024 will be a banner year for all of us.

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

In 2024 we look forward to interesting programs, delicious potluck dinners, successful fundraisers, and lots of camaraderie.

Thank you to all board members who attended the Installation of Officers Dinner and were reminded of the duties and responsibilities of each role. Fulfilling your role is important to the success and efficiency of the branch.

In March, we are anticipating another successful Membership Drive/ Donut sale, and a best than ever St. Joseph Day Table/Auction event. Perry Shurko, District President will be speaking and promoting membership at our Sunday Masses. Posters will be available to display in local businesses to promote the St. Joseph event. If you have a special connection with a store owner, please let us know. All hands-on deck for these two important activities. March will also bring our branch together as we attend the inspiring movie about St. Mother Cabrini in our local theater.

Our Italian classes will resume in May with the same very competent instructors. If you haven't tried this yet, you are in for a fun learning experience.

June will bring members together for our annual summer off-site Communion Mass and luncheon which will be held at the Lakeside Country Club in Burbank, as well as the very special ICF 100th Anniversary dinner at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

*Wishing you all a very healthy and wonderful New Year as we enjoy another year as an ICF family.
Diane Restivo*

Dates to Remember:
February 16-18 Religious Ed Congress
March 3rd-Membership Drive/ Donut Sale

March 17th- St. Joseph/Auction Event
June 9th- Communion Mass
June 29th- I00th ICF Anniversary

Thousand Oaks Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon

Greetings, and best wishes for a successful and prosperous 2024. The calendar tells us we have 1 extra day to accomplish our resolutions.

Members of our Branch enjoyed the Christmas party with Branch 443, Simi Valley, as they provided plenty of Food, Fun, and Entertainment with the hall festively decorated. A great way to ring in the Holiday season.

Pat Mages was the liaison for the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles gift giving for the patients with Cooley's Anemia. ICF Members from all branches sent their Gift Cards, Blankets, Lip Gloss, Lotion, Fuzzy Socks, and Cash Donations which were delivered on December 15th and 16th. Laurice Levine and the Hospital Staff were amazed by the generosity and hope the next Christmas can be celebrated with the traditional party and gift exchange at the hospital. A Big Thank You to all that donated so that the patients had a Christmas Merry and Bright.

Antonio Fucci, member of Branch 380 and Branch 67, Los Angeles, passed on to his eternal reward. He was a Veteran of the Korean War, and in 2016, was asked by his unit, the 37th Aero Squadron to write an historical documentary about the operations and organization of the 37th during the Korean War. The Squadron had historical documentaries from WW I, WW II, Viet Nam, Iraq and Afghanistan, but had none from Korea. Antonio was a colorful character, which was reflected in his writings. High Flight, brother Antonio

The members of Branch 380 met in January to plan the activities for 2024, with new ideas and schedules to meet the changing needs of the members. The next meeting is February 2 and St. Joseph's Table will be on March 17. We are calling all bakers including child bakers who want to share their treats at a special children's bake sale table.

Have a Happy New Year and enjoy the benefits of Leap Year.

Simi Valley Br. 443, St. Rose of Lima

Best Wishes for a New Year filled with peace, good health and happiness to all.

What a wonderful night it was when we celebrated the Christmas season at Branch 443's annual Christmas Party! The decorations created that Christmas feeling as we danced to the music of DJ Sean Reeves, and of course, the food was outstanding and Italian!

One of the highlights of the evening was when all were asked to participate in a different version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" created by President Rita Downey. Rather than singing about

turtle doves, lords a leaping, golden rings, we sang about cannoli, pizza, meatballs, and twelve bottles of wine.

Our spiritual advisor, Deacon Dave and his wife Cathy, joined in the festivities, too.

The highlight of the evening was our guest of honor Anita Pusateri—our matriarch. Anita has been having some health issues lately, but her son Joe managed to get her to our Christmas Party. It was wonderful visiting with Anita; she had been missed. Anita has been a member of Branch 443 since our beginning.

On January 28th Branch 443 will be hosting our district's installation. The day will begin with Mass in St. Rose of Lima Church, followed by the installation and a reception in St. Rose's church hall. An Italian menu is planned. The food will be catered by our favorite restaurant Viva la Pasta. All are invited to attend this event.

Finally, on Friday, February 9th our branch will host our traditional Lenten Soup Night. Members are invited to bring their favorite "meatless" soup to share with all. Recipes will be available. Please bring your phone to take pictures of the recipes which you will then have to cook for your family.

*Peace and Blessings,
Josephine M. Perini*

Rancho Palos Verdes Br. 444, St. John Fisher

Buon Natalie & Happy New Year

Our Annual Christmas Party was a great success, thanks to our President Hany Francis, Carol, Gina, Kathleen, Dolly, Mary, Cristina and Everyone who brought food, wine & Gifts for the Silent Auction. This holiday season we participated in Adopt a family for Christmas, led by Tonia Amalfitano. We contributed to purchasing Gift Cards for Children's Hospital L.A.

Thanks to Don Wynn & Pat Payne for bringing their men's choir to sing for Marianne Canetti while she recuperates at the Nursing home. We continue to pray for her recovery and all our members who are having health issues. Grace Ohanian's husband passed away in December. We pray for the happy repose of his soul and pray for Grace and her family. Thanks to Fran Noday, for picking up Guido Frassinelli & Antionette DeLorenzo so they could enjoy the evening.

Ciao for now, Patty Longo Hansen



Manhattan Beach Br. 447, American Martyrs

Dear Sisters and Brothers:
Felice Anno Nuovo from branch 447!

We had a very lively gathering at our Christmas party this year. Several new members joined us! One even became our treasurer. He is our newest deacon at American Martyrs. His name is Deacon Bob Mescher. And his mom is Italian!

Some good authentic Italian raffle prizes were given out including the grand prize with all kinds of Italian treats.

The dinner was marvelous and home-made by several members!

Oakland

East Bay District Council

Felice Anno Nuovo! December was full of gatherings with family and friends. And remembrance of loved ones gone before us.

EB district celebrated with a festive Christmas Dinner at St. Philip Neri's on Dec 2nd. The Christmas party between Branch 10 and the district had 88 in attendance. President James Lee of Branch 10 was emcee and many of the members of the Branch helped organize and host the event. The chef was Bennie Ratto who is chef for the EB District Crab Feed, coming February 3rd, 2024. Dinner was complete with salad, pesto, baked ham, Christmas cookies and ice cream bars. Beautiful raffle baskets donated by branches raised funds for ICF charities. Father Mario Rizzo and Father Joseph Pathiyil joined and gave blessings. Santa Claus stopped by to bring gifts for the children!

John Zugnoni, Publicist

At the time this article was submitted, we were planning for our annual Polenta Dinner scheduled for Saturday, January 13. Watch for our report in the March *Bollettino*.

We were also preparing for the East Bay District Installation set for January 20. Sharon Brunetti was to be installed as our new orator and John Zugnoni as our new first vice president. We appreciate outgoing first vice president Gina Foster and outgoing orator Terry Greig for their many contributions to the successes of Branch 10.

There are three more events in our near future.

We will begin our Lenten Fish Fry dinners on Friday evening, Feb. 16. The dinners will be served starting at 6 p.m. in Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. Please call John Zugnoni, 510-523-8005, for information. Reservations are not required.

Next up will be our Irish Social on Saturday, March 9. Doors will be opened at 6:00 p.m. For information and reservations, please call John Zugnoni, 510-523-8005.

Ten days later, on March 19 and for the first time since 2019, we will hold Saint Joseph's Day Table. Price will be \$20.00. Attendees are requested to bring a dessert to be enjoyed by other guests. For information and reservations, please contact Michael Marcheschi, 510-523-4720.

John Zugnoni, Publicist

Fremont Br. 215, St. Francis of Assisi

The Italian Catholic Federation Branch 215 of Fremont - part of the East Bay District - celebrated the blessed Christmas holiday by gathering at a joyous dinner at Georgio's Restaurant in nearby Milpitas. President Fran La Torre has organized this warm event for 10 consecutive years. Members and their guests prayed, chatted, and enjoyed singing Christmas carols together. Most recently, the Branch has held a successful Fall raffle fundraiser and, in November, shared wonderful conversations about Christmas traditions and heritage with close friends in Italy via zoom. Best wishes to all for a happy new year 2024 from Branch 215 / Fremont.

Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

Our Branch is happy to welcome 4 new members. John and Lesa Christman and Anita and Ronald Pasch. We look forward to working with them in our Branch activities.

At the Installation at the Fratellanza Club our Officers enjoyed the camaraderie in reuniting, seeing old friends and making new ones. The food was delicious as usual.

At our first social/business meeting of the year, Ron Page, our newly elected Co- 2VP spoke about the many charitable organizations that he is involved with.

In February we had our very successful

Mardi Gras fundraiser with the St. Michael's Golden Friends. We were very busy obtaining baskets, gift cards and prizes for the event.

One of our members, Anita Gandolfo reached her 100th birthday-an amazing milestone. Anita is truly 10 decades young. A gathering is planned in her honor.

Save the Date!!! April 27, 2024—the much-anticipated Polenta Dinner Fundraiser at St. Augustine's in Pleasanton. More details to come.

*Happy Valentine's Day!!!!
Carlotta Schauer, President Br. 285*

Castro Valley Br. 343, Our Lady of Grace

Branch #343 had a delightful Christmas party in Dec. which began with the 7 fishes. We had salmon, oysters, Karen's special sardines and even goldfish as hors d'oeuvres. This was followed by a delicious ham dinner with all the trimmings, dinner was prepared by Lisa and dessert prepared by Melody.

We collected clothes for Birthright which seemed to be a favorite thing to do. Gloria Surpa gave us some background on Birthright and had some bottles for us to collect money for them.

Our next meeting will be on the Jan. 11th when we will have a pizza and salad as dinner.

We hope to see more members at the meetings. We also still need someone to talk with Fr. about writing a piece about the ICF for the bulletin.

Pat Grasso, Branch #343, Sec.

CONTRA COSTA District Council

Happy New Year to all from the Contra Costa District! We are looking forward to a productive and fruitful 2024 in ICF!

Our Installation of officers is coming up soon. It will be held at St Isidore's Parish in Danville on Saturday, January 27. All branch and district officers will be installed. We will begin with a 10 o'clock mass in the church, followed by the installation and luncheon in the parish hall. Deadline to sign up is January 20. All branch members as well as officers are encouraged to participate. Sign up and pay with credit card online: <https://bellecifamilycatering.com/ols/products/jan-27--icf-installation-of-officers-----> -----click-here

District meetings for 2024 will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month quarterly in January, April, August and November at 7 pm at Christ the King parish in Pleasant Hill. All district officers, branch presidents and district mentors please make note of these dates for the year in your 2024 calendars now. Contact Diana if you have any questions: dijoed@comcast.net.

*Wishing all a very Happy and Blessed New Year!
Diana Letizia Mackinson,
District President*

Martinez Br. 13, San Martino

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives." Annie Dillard

Our lives are a reflection of the ideals and faith we hold in our hearts. These are the moments we live for. The areas where we spend our time and energy reveal what's really important to us. In

the months ahead, let's train ourselves to find the blessing in everything. Let's make this our New Year's resolution.

Ash Wednesday and Saint Valentine's Day share a date this year. Let's embrace the meaning of love of our Savior and practice acts of charity on this Holy day. Treat your sweetheart to the wonderful gift of sharing the love Christ offered us. Fasting together, receiving ashes together and being witnesses to our faith together can emulate God's love to others; just as Saint Valentine preached the good Word in Rome in the third century and reminds us that whoever does not love, does not know God.

We offer prayers of condolence to member Joseph Quilici on the death of his wife, Paola. May she rest in the peace of God's embrace. And prayers of healing for member Teresa Poirier after her recent hospitalizations.

Mark your calendars. Branch#13's Pasta Bingo Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. For more details email me at ICFbranch13martinez@gmail.com.

Dues of \$50 per member are payable on January 1, so please bring your account up to date if you haven't already done so. Thank you!

Arrivederci, Mary Cook



CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Crockett members, Br. 14, Enjoy their Annual Casino bus trip . Happy faces & some lucky winners



GIRLS JUST HAVING FUN . Great time on bus trip with Crockett Branch 14. Ending the year off with a drink.



Anyone want to play Bingo?? Kathleen and Jim Thomas our Bingo caller and helper on Crockett, #14's bus trip. Thank you for your help.



These are the Welcome Girls when you come to Branch 14, Crockett. Helen Peterson, Roni Jimenez and Pat Botta. Greet and take your money when you come in the door with a smile of course.



Br. 214 Toys 4 Tots



Br. 352

CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 214, Christmas brunch at La Veranda



Branch 432



Br. 214 Christmas branch party



Branch 432



Branch 432



Br. 214 at District Christmas Party

SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Officers and members of Branch 173, attending Chaplains lunch/Bishops Day, November 12, 2023



Br. 130 Figone Family celebrate with Santa



Br. 130 member Adele Sanchez was so excited she got to see Santa



Br.130 member Maria Mason-Lester could not wait to hug Santa



2023, Dec. 5 - ICF Branch 403 Christmas Dinner



Br. 130 members Stephanie and Tammie enjoy the celebration



Br. 130, The Malanca's can't wait to show their family who they visited today.



**Crockett
Br. 14, San Carlo**

Ciao Amici!

At the time of this writing, we are eagerly anticipating several holiday events. We couldn't enjoy these festivities without the help of many dedicated members.

Thank you to those who volunteered to showed off our branch at the Crockett Tree Lighting. At this event, we talk about our organization, and serve prosecco, panettone, cookies, and apple cider. The community usually makes a beeline to our table, and I think it's because we're such a friendly and welcoming group (but it may also have something to do with the free prosecco.)

Our annual Casino Bus Trip is always a branch favorite. Even if you don't win at the casino, everyone who participate is lucky due to the fun, food, and fellowship along the way.

And finally, thank you to everyone who makes our Christmas Social so special. Delicious appetizers and other goodies with an open bar; could it get any better? Well yes, it could when Santa arrives to join in the fun. A big thanks to everyone who works so hard to bring these events together. We appreciate you!

Please remember in your prayers all our friends and family who are struggling with illness or mourning a loss.

This time of year brings us many opportunities for renewal. So, let's think about renewing our commitment to our branch by attending mass before our meetings, and serving each other and our community any way we can. In large ways or small ones, ever action makes a difference.

Blessings, ~Helen

**Richmond
Br. 154, St. Raymond**

A big Thank You to Walter Costa for a delicious dinner of Polenta, Chicken, sausage, salad, bread and dessert for our recent scholarship fundraiser. Thanks to Mark Reitdorf, Robert DeSimoni, official Polenta stirrers and overall helpers. Nancy Clabby, Beth Reitdorf, Lorraine Acuna, a big thank you for your help bartending, serving, clean up and a thank you, Sally Costa for the beautiful raffle prizes. And to everyone who donated gift cards and items for the raffle, your generosity is appreciated.

We are sad at the passing of long-time member, Domenica Paletta Yonke. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Branch 154 2024 calendar will be available at the January meeting and emailed to members.

Speaking of calendars, we still have a few ICF calendars available. They are \$30.00 and have some great recipes inside!

Buon Anno!

**Concord
Br. 214, Todos Santos**

Buon Anno A Tutti,

We wish you all a happy, healthy 2024.

We had a busy two months. On November 16th we had a very successful Toys 4 Tots drive at our Thanksgiving meeting. The Marines picked up many toys donated by our generous members. We had a delicious dinner also. Roberta, our President raffled off poinsettia plants.

On December 8th there were 65 people who attended our Christmas branch dinner at Bambinos restaurant in Concord. Roberta was in charge of the table decorations. There were great basket raffle prizes enjoyed by many lucky winners. It was a great turnout and fun night.

On January 28th the installation of all the officers of all the branches is to be held at St. Isadora's Church in Danville.

We are tentatively planning our next Pasta/Bingo in February or March.

We wish you a Happy Valentine's Day in February.

*Be safe and healthy.
Con Affetto,
Norene Deluca*

**Danville
Br. 352, San Isidore**

Branch 352 in Danville had a wonderful Christmas potluck. Everyone enjoys the variety of different Italian dishes, and our wonderful chef Russ Bellici has the night off. The highlight of the evening was the acappella groups from Monte Vista high school. The young men started off singing Christmas carols then it was the girls turn and they continued back-and-forth and then joined together. They were so much fun, and I think they really enjoyed entertaining us. I know they enjoyed all the food. One of our guys passed the hat to add to their school fund. We are always entertained by our very own accordion player, Dan Santori and everyone sings along. This was very special evening.

Our next event will be the crab feed on January 22 which sold out quickly.

We are also hosting the installation of ICF officers for Contra Costa County on January 27, at 10 a.m., followed by lunch and installation.

**Brentwood
Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Our members gathered at the home of Bob and Pat Rebollar who were so gracious to host us for our annual Christmas dinner and party. We enjoyed wonderful food, good company and some games provided by Pat our fun loving "Hostess with the Mostess." A great ending to 2023.

We look forward to our upcoming Valentine Day See's candy fundraiser.

Ciao for now. Mary M.

**Pleasant Hill
Br. 442, Christ the King**

At Christ the King, Branch 442, in Pleasant Hill, there is lots of activity and the Christmas spirit is abundant.

The annual nomination and election of officers was completed with a full slate of dedicated officers for the 2024 year. Thank you to all those volunteers who keep the branch going.

The district-wide Christmas party was held at Bambino's restaurant in Concord and Branch 442 was well represented at the event. There was a raffle, and a lovely dinner was enjoyed by all.

At the annual Ministry Fair, the ICF presented an informational table and there was, in fact, a lot of interest. Three new members joined as a result with more interest brewing. Brava!

Finally, the Christ the King Branch 442 Christmas Party "non-meeting" will take place on Sunday, December 17th with a special ravioli dinner and 'white elephant' gift exchange. A fun way to end what has been a busy and successful year!

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

**BLESSED
SACRAMENT
District Council**

**Auburn
Br. 342, St. Joseph**

Congratulations to the 2024 Board Members who were installed on February 6, 2023.

President: Pam Andersen
Vice President: MaryAnn Mikles
Financial Secretary: Bridget Piziali
Treasurer: Adriana Jensen
Secretary: MaryAnn Collins & Luciana Curtis
Orator: Marisa Borba
Sentinel: Geri Wuelfing
Trustee: Melanie Fathali
Trustee: Joan Lovan

We have been planning some fun activities for 2024. We hope you will be able to join us. If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

*Ciao!
Pam Andersen*

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

The new year has begun! Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

We began the new year with a very special dinner. For the first time we had an

International Potluck Dinner. We wanted all our members to share their favorite cultural meal. Everyone had a good time trying out many new dishes from other countries. It was delicious!

Our branch hosted our Installation Luncheon for the Blessed Sacrament District. All the new officers were sworn in. It will be exciting to see what everyone does for dinners and events this year. Our branch has numerous new board members. It is always great to see our regular members decide to become board members. A big Congratulations to all the new officers. I am sure there will be lots of creative and innovative ideas this coming year!

At the end of 2023, we had 115 members. We were very proud of that number. But, by the end of 2023, our numbers had risen to 136, which is an increase of 15.4%. Thank you to all who helped to increase our numbers! This gives us an opportunity to give more money to our charities.

*Ciao for now,
Irene Perez*

**SANTA ROSA
District**

**Healdsburg
Br. 52, San Francesco Di Sales**

The officers of Br. 52, Healdsburg hopes all members are ready for 2024! Our branch continues to thrive due to the dedication of all our members. Thank you!

Carmen sent out the 2024 dues notices. Please send in your 2024 dues, as soon as possible. (Ideally by January 31.)

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, January 28: Membership Drive in the Gym. Come and bring a friend to join the ICF as a new member. We will be serving coffee and doughnuts after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. All members are invited to stop by (with or without a new member).

Saturday, February 3: Polenta Dinner. Richard Passalacqua will be cooking up delicious polenta and his famous sauce! Price: \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Call Carmen and Lauren for reservations: 707-595-3111.

Sunday, February 4: ICF Mass – 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Tuesday, February 13: ICF Monthly Meeting. 6:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Friday, March 22: Fish Fry! Scott Cavallo will be cooking the fish! We need raffle and silent auction items for the Fish Fry.

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day! -Lauren



Petaluma

Br. 127, St. Vincent

Dear members,

Hope you had a joyful and peaceful Christmas holiday. May the peace and joy of the season stay with all of us through the new year. You should have received the officers list and branch calendar for 2024. If you have email it should be there and if not, you should have gotten a letter from the branch officers. If you have not received one, please call me at 707-481-8784 and I will see that you get one. We have also reinstated our quarterly communion. It is usually on the Last Monday of the 3rd month at the 9 a.m. mass at St. James. The info is on your calendar. After mass we go to room nine for coffee. We would be very happy to have you join us.

On October 17, 2023, the California County Superintendents announced the 2023 annual award recipients at an awards dinner. Dr. Cecilia A Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools was selected as the county superintendent that epitomizes the mission of the California County Superintendents organization. She was honored with the Champion's Award. The recipient of this award is selected by previous award recipients from throughout the state of California. The inscription on the trophy names Dr. Massetti "a champion of public education and the students of California." The award was presented by the current association president, Dr. Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Placer County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Massetti is serving in her 4th term of office. She has provided leadership to new county superintendents by designing a Leadership Academy with staff and colleagues to further the work of superintendents as instructional and fiscal leaders in their local communities.

Dr. Massetti is a long-time member of Branch 27 in Madera, as are many members of her extended family.

Dennice DiGirolamo

Arcata

Br. 144, St. Mary

The Advent Pancake Breakfast was a very well attended event. We served 174 breakfasts! It was so heartwarming to see the parishioners, both old and new, gathering together and establishing connections. (photo) The Religious Education classes held an Advent wreath-making event alongside the breakfast.

Thank you, Alfred Eanni (2015), for chairing the breakfast and all his volunteers! (photo)

We will be having La Befana on Sunday, January 7. Member Barbara Vianni (1989) does a great job in her Christmas Good Witch outfit. We will be distributing bags of candy and mandarins to the religious Education classes that day. It was so well received last year. (photo)

Tony Gonsalves (2019) was featured in The Senior News on his amazing bird carvings. They called him "The Bird-man of Arcata". (see photos in district section)

May 2024 be a year of great joy and increased members!

*Respectfully submitted,
Anne Carlisle Eanni*

Eureka

Br. 145, St. Ambrose

The Bette Chinn Super Bowl of peanut butter and jelly collection competition is underway. Please ask your friends to consider donating. The collection boxes are in all of the Humboldt County Catholic churches. The results will be announced in the March edition of *Il Bollettino*.

The Branch 145 and 144 combined installation luncheon will be held in the Pinochi Room at St. Bernard parish hall at noon on Saturday January 27th. Members and guests are invited to attend.

Please contact Gene Senestraro or Jerry Colivas or jerry.colivas@yahoo.com for information about applications for the Jerry J. Colivas Memorial College Scholarships. Deadline for applications is April 1st.

Beginning this year, the scholarship applications will be evaluated by the ICF Central Council 1st Year Scholarship Committee. Also, high school seniors can now complete their applications online at the ICF.org website.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas dinner meeting. It was a warm and joyful affair. Thank you, Betty Senestraro, Mary and Mike Wheeler, and Bob Renzo for donating the food and Lora Canzoneri for the decorations.

Looking for a great New Year's gift for your family or friends? Please consider stopping at the Blood Bank on Harrison Avenue to donate blood.

Santa Rosa

Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Christmas party on December 4th was a great ICF celebration led by our president Doreen O'Rourke. We had over 40 members and quests who enjoyed music by Butch Bondi, eggnog by Steve Azevedo, and a special guest, our new Pastor Father Moses Brown. The food, fellowship and fun made for a great End of Year.

Linda Sherman passed out the dues notices and we want everyone to rejoin and pay dues as soon as possible.

We owe a big THANK YOU to Lynette Lucia for her work selling SEES candy. Our profits are well over \$200.00 with more to come. It's a SWEET way to enjoy and earn money for the Branch.

We are still collecting money for the Michael Milano scholarship, get your checks to Bob Acquistapace.

Attention officers: the District Installation will be held in Sebastopol on February 4th at 11:00 a.m. Our branch should have a 100% officer participation so mark your calendars NOW!!!

At the start of this New Year, please pray for all our members, living and deceased.

Join us for our 58th Anniversary dinner on January 8th. This special occasion reminds us of how great and long lasting our branch has been in the Italian Catholic Federation.

Buon Capodanno Robert Acquistapace

FRESNO

District

Madera

Br. 27, S.S. Crocifisso

On October 17, 2023, the California County School Superintendents announced the 2023 annual award recipients at an awards dinner. Dr. Cecilia A Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools was selected as the county superintendent that epitomizes the mission of the California County Superintendents organization. She was honored with the Champion's Award. The recipient of this award is selected by previous award recipients from throughout the state of California. The inscription on the trophy names Dr. Massetti "a champion of public education and the students of California." The award was presented by the current association president, Dr. Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Placer County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Massetti is serving in her 4th term of office. She has provided leadership to new county superintendents by designing a Leadership Academy with staff and colleagues to further the work of superintendents as instructional and fiscal leaders in their local communities.

*Happy New Year,
Monica Fisher
Financial Secretary/Treasurer*

Merced

Br. 39, St. Cecilia

On December 10th, we held our annual Christmas party in conjunction with the Italo-American Lodge. Janet Dal Porto chaired the well-attended event. The event began with a pasta lunch with sauce by Bobby Dal Porto. Then, Vince Piro read It Was the Night Before Christmas. Santa arrived and delighted all of the children with candy canes and toys. The event ended with a spirited round of Bingo. Throughout the day, Chuck DeFina, a member of the Madera branch, played holiday music on his accordion to the delight of all. Thank you to those helped make this a special event.

Dr. Massetti is a long-time member of Branch 27 in Madera, as are many members of her extended family.

Fresno

Br. 32, St. Alphonsus

We hope that everyone had a wonderful New Year. We also pray that everyone is in good health in 2024. The Christmas Party was a huge success. We had eighteen attendees. Fourteen of them were our members. We had our party at DiCicco's. The food was great. It was very nice seeing everyone that came. There were some people that we haven't seen in a couple of years. We enjoyed each other's company and overall, just had a wonderful time.

We still continue to pray for our branch. We hope to see more members attend

the meetings. There has been about four in attendance. This is very small and not much can be done with so little attending.

It is with great sadness that branch #32 lost one of our members. Daniel Husak passed away on October 13, 2023. We are praying for the family. Please accept our deepest and sincerest condolences for your loss. Sending you love and support as you navigate through this difficult time. We also lost another member (Sally Caglia) on December 10th. She was involved in so many organizations. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. We pray for her family.

O Lord, we call upon you in our time of sorrow, that you give them the strength and will bear their heavy burdens, until they can again feel the warmth and love.

We continue to pray for Lupe Avila, Erna Bonetto, Annette Husak, Lexi Husak, Eileen Jura, Cle-Estria Lett, Isidra Murrillo, Josie Reyna, and Eddie & Patricia Vivenzi. May the Lord Bless each and every one of you; may he smile on you and be gracious to you; may he look your way and give you peace.

We would like to wish our members a very special Happy Birthday: Annette Husak (Jan. 5th), Erna Bonetto (Jan. 7th), Elaine Lencioni (Jan. 9th), and Stephanie Olds-Nieto (Jan.16th). Lord watch over them on their special day.

*Happy New Year,
Monica Fisher
Financial Secretary/Treasurer*

Clovis

Br. 250, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Happy Birthday greetings to January celebrants Rachel Bejarano, Verona DeLuca, Ron Travis, and Sharon Arnold; and to our February youngsters, Sherrie Attolico and Kaiyah Lee!

Did you realize that going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car?

We lost a long-time member, Glory Spatafore. Glory was gracious and compassionate and a member for many years. She was in failing health the past several years but kept smiling and attended our meetings when she could. Also, please pray for Mary Hansen. Mary, who had been a member for many years has recently entered hospice care.

Little known Popes' department: Pope St. Siricius, the 38th Pope (384-399): Stipulated that priests had to be celibate; some claimed he was the first Bishop of Rome to use the title of pope.

Branch 250 had a joyous Christmas party on December 9 where a nice crowd enjoyed snacks and desserts. Shirley Mitchell read a beautiful prayer to the Holy Spirit and Carol Rice, Cindy Silva, and Glory Spatafore were serenaded with a Happy Birthday. Door prizes were provided by Flora DePasquale (hand-crocheted kitchen towels) and Rachel Bejarano and daughter Nancy (candy).

Question: How do you keep someone from stealing your bagels? Answer: You put lox on them.

Reminder: This issue of the *Bollettino* covers both January and February.

Thought for the month: "Two thousand years have come and gone, and still the Christmas star shines on, Its light as bright, its hope as true, its glory old, yet ever new" (Anon)

Ciao, Angelino

Fresno

Br. 308, St. Anthony of Padua

Hello Members,

Happy New Year. 2024 begins with sausage sandwich sale, January 13, 14 and March 23, 24. Followed by another fundraiser, March 3, at Cool Hand Luke's, Clovis, CA. Dinner tickets are available now please do your best to sell as many as possible. We also have our gift basket raffle. Thank you to Debbi Jorgensen for assembling the gift basket, booking our Christmas dinner, and arranging Cool Hand Luke's dinner. We really appreciate all the work you do for the club.

Events for 2024:

- January 13,14. Sandwich Sale
- March 3, Cool Hand Luke's Dinner Fundraiser
- March 23,24. Sandwich Sale
- May 18,19. Sandwich Sale
- October 19, 20. Sandwich Sale

Thank you, Antoinette for securing the Sausage Sandwich sale dates.

For 2024 I look forward to greater member participation in planning and managing club events and fundraisers. Member input is vital to keeping our club alive. I know many of you just want a place to go, meet friends, enjoy a meal and leave running the club to others. That's OK. Paying dues and buying raffle tickets is vital to club survival. But you need to do more. Bring a friend to our meetings, help Bernie in the kitchen, help with sausage sandwich sales, take on a leadership position.

Jay Newsome, Co-President

CENTRAL COAST

District Council

Buon Anno 2024,

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2024.

- President: Roseanna Costabile
- 1st Vice President: Julie Richard
- Recording Secretary: Elaine Valentine
- Corres. Secretary: Elaine Valentine
- Financial Secretary: George Leonard
- Treasurer: George Leonard
- Trustee: Harry Hill
- Trustee: David Zanni
- Trustee: Pete Gallagher
- Orator: Vicky Howell
- Sentinel: Dolores Mc Cathyney
- District Mentors:
- North - Franklyn Lopes
- South - Pete Gallagher
February 18, 2024: Central Coast District Officer Installation
Hosted by: Branch 25 - Salinas
-11 a.m. Benediction, Installation, and lunch
Location: Knights of Columbus Hall
270 Rianda Street, Salinas

More information will follow soon.

May all the blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance in the New Year.

*Cordiali Saluti, Elaine Valentine
Recording Secretary
Central Coast District*

Monterey

Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

Branch 36 Monterey/Santa Rosalia wishes you and your families a Happy New Year and a blessed year ahead. May God's light guide your way.

On November 30, we returned to San Carlos Cathedral Hall where everyone enjoyed our Holiday party, and we honored our 85 and over members. It was a very festive evening with DJ playing all our favorite songs, beautiful Christmas centerpieces, antipasto table, Caesar salad, stuffed pork chop, pasta, and assorted pies. A surprise visit from Santa and the delight of our honorees with their friends and families highlighted the evening.

February 1 Dinner/Meeting with a Mardi Gras theme will be at the Moose Lodge, 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online or by mail by Jan. 28.

Our annual Lenten Friday Fish/Pasta dinners at San Carlos Cathedral Hall begin on Feb.16, and continue on Feb. 23, March 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Menu (changes weekly): Chef's choice salad, fried fish, pasta, and garlic bread. Desserts and beverages are available for purchase.

Dinner tickets can be purchased online weekly (Monday-Friday each week, with Friday morning cutoff) for \$20 per dinner, at montereyicf.org.

• Online orders guarantee you a dinner before we sell out, and they are \$5 less than if you buy it at the door.

• Doors open at 4:30pm; take-out orders begin at 5 p.m.; dining room service is from 5:30-7 p.m. The dining room closes, and the last dinner is served at 7 p.m. sharp.

• If we don't sell out, tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25.00 per ticket.

Members are asked to donate a dessert weekly. We rely on these for our dessert table. Thank you for your generosity.

We are saddened to report that Michael Salvatore Maiorana recently passed away. Our condolences to Phyllis and family.

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of Love." -St. Teresa of Calcutta

Happy New Year!

Elaine Valentine, President Branch 36

Castroville

Br. 51, Santa Caterina de Siena

Happy New Year!

Branch 51 adopted a family with two boys for Christmas this year. We were given a list from each of the boys of what they would like to receive. It was very humbling to see that the top items on both of their lists were for necessities like clothes, shoes, and blankets, with just one toy written on each list, which our members very generously donated to make sure they received everything they asked for. We also celebrated the Epiphany at our general meeting on January 5 with a potluck.

We would like to wish Branch members DL Grier (2/9), Franca Rossi (2/18), Amber Souza (2/12), and Gregory Stefani (2/4) a very happy birthday. Happy belated birthday to Leonora Barlow (1/14), who I missed in the last issue because I forgot it was a double issue. My apologies!

*I said a Valentine prayer for you
and asked the Lord above
to fill your heart and bless your soul
With the precious gift of love.
I asked Him for sincere love
The kind that's meant to stay
Just like the generous love
You give to those you touch each day.
I prayed for love from family
And from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.*

Aptos

Br. 227, St. Joseph

A big thank you to Chef Dan Casagrande, Bruce and Jean Dunn, Manny and Magda

lena Martinez, Rick and Jane Kotila who put together our Christmas Party dinner on December 9. Dan outdid himself with the food. Thanks also to Mike and Kathy Melville who manned the Tom and Jerrys table. They were a hit as usual. The decorations were provided by Jane. Last, but not least, thanks to our wonderful Santa Claus AKA Bruce Dunn.

We are grateful to Mike and Liz Rios who put together a delicious pork loin dinner at the January meeting. More details about this next time.

The following officers were re-elected for 2024.

President Franklyn Lopes
1st Vice President Vicky Howell
2nd Vice President Manny Martinez
Secretary Deanna Musler
Financial Secretary Marie Mungai
Treasurer Jane Kotila
Orator Ken Olsen, Heidi Ambiel, Dottie Smith

Sentinel Bryan Stow

Items they will be discussing at upcoming meetings are: Fundraisers for the year, a membership drive, the fish dinner during Lent, and the annual picnic.

Mary Harrison, who is recovering from surgery, wants to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. She says she is happy to accept all prayers as her recovery may take a while.

If you're wondering about the various appetizers at our meetings, they are provided by the officers each month.

*With best wishes for the year ahead.
Deanna Musler, Secretary*

Arroyo Grande

St. Patrick, Branch 291

Branch 291 celebrated our 50th Anniversary at the end of January! It all began on January 27th, 1974, and 50 years later our Branch is still going strong! Our current members had a fun evening reminiscing about the past 50 years, while enjoying a delicious Italian dinner, winning great raffle prizes and visiting with fellow members. We also honored some longtime members, including Mario Anecchini, who's been a member of Branch 291 since day one! (Photos of the memorable event will be in the next Bollettino.) Keely Sanchez would like to thank the party planning committee for all their hard work to make this event a fun and successful evening!

Our Lenten Fish Frys are right around the corner. We will kick off the pre-Lenten season with a Mardi Gras Fish Fry on February 9th, following with our five Lenten Fish Frys on February 16th, 23rd, March 1st, 8th and 22nd. (There is no fish fry on March 15th due to the St. Patrick's celebration at our parish the next day.) If you're in the area on these dates, please come by our church hall from 4PM-7PM for a delicious fish dinner with homemade coleslaw and lots of tasty treats to choose from at our dessert table!

Please continue to pray for all ICF members who are experiencing pain, illness or heartache at this time.

*Happy St. Valentine's Day!
Keely Sanchez
Recording Secretary*

CHICAGO District

Chicago Br. 392, St. Francis Borgia

Our Live Nativity of Dec. 10, 2023, was well attended by many members and friends of our community. The Board would like to thank all of the volunteers for helping out and for bringing a wealth of desserts.

Ciao a tutti! Chris Lucnik, Chicago District Secretary

SANTA CLARA VALLEY District

Gilroy Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

Our November dinner meeting was held on November 12th and initiated our Holiday season with our traditional chef and member David Peoples serving up with his crew a wonderful dinner of ham and all the trimmings.

On December 12th Branch 28 participated in a celebration of Masses in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After the 5:00 pm evening Mass our members set up in Cullen Hall dessert and coffee for parishioners attending this Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Chronicles of this apparition tell of an appearance to a poor Indian named Juan Diego on December 9, 1531, with the message to build a chapel on where she appeared. On delivering this message to the bishop and opening his cape beautiful roses fell to the ground and left on the cape was an image of Our Lady as she had appeared to Juan.

Our Christmas party was held at Old City Hall Restaurant on December 18th. After the meal, members enjoyed Christmas cookies and candies. Newly elected Recording Secretary, Christine Shackel, and First Vice President Ed Saucedo joined Past President Gennaro Filice in leading members in Christmas carols.

As we enter this new year, I will be handing over to member Jeanette Hudson this wonderful privilege of chronicling Branch 28's endeavors in the *Bollettino* magazine. I will be stepping into large shoes of Diana Berry, to continue our mission of promoting our Catholic faith, encouraging apostolic and charitable works, and celebrating our Italian American heritage and all the heritages of our communities.

Peace and God Bless, Kim M. Filice

Mountain View Br. 47, San Giorgio

Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! We all enjoyed "An Evening with a Special Dessert and Coffee", in December.

Jo Del Carlo turned the conference room into a colorful Christmas setting.

We had generous servings of pumpkin pie, cheesecake, panettone, and endless cups of coffee, even decaf. We all had a chance to say hello, sit, eat delightful desserts, hear old stories, share new stories, talk about the latest and greatest activities and trips we want to plan for next year.

Carol organized Christmas Carols for us to sing.

It was a special evening to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and have a chance to celebrate all of us!

We have some new plans coming up for 2024, stay tuned.

Happy New Year to all! Peace and God Bless, Julie Wester

St. Mary Br. 184, Los Gatos

On Veteran's Day we brought back our old favorite Polenta Chicken Cacciatore Dinner. Chief cook Dave Romeri could not be there, but he gave his recipe to Ryan Meyer, who made an impressive dinner. The kitchen crew, Larry Vollman and Richard Amico assisted Donovan Erba, who cooked the chicken. Andy Pappani graciously came early to help cook. Responding to our S.O.S call, Romano Buonaccorsi and sons Richard and Jeff made the polenta. Reno DiBono strolled among the tables with his accordion and the Raffle Baskets glittered on the stage. It was so good to see so many old faces. Thank you to all who attended and helped make our dinner a success. Special thanks to Fr. Greg Kim, our Chaplain; Denise Antonowicz, Grand President; Past Grand Presidents Andy Pappani and Mike Rossi and wife Marcie; Life Member Emeritus of Central Council Jerry Delfino and wife Joan. Bill and Maria Greco, our past Grand Deputies, were also in attendance!

In December we had our Branch Christmas Party, complete with catered luncheon. We were honored to initiate six new members! Welcome Richard Geruson, Lou and Marlene Ferrigno, Virginia Giacomini, Janice Lamotte and Mary Kalpin. After the initiation, we played Bingo and then had the gift exchange game. We left with a feeling of camaraderie, but we missed two special souls who were greatly loved, namely Marie Antonowicz and Joe Yurosko.

We sincerely wish all good health and happiness in the New Year. Felice l'Anno Nuovo! Ciao for now, Lucy Amico

San Jose Br. 191, Saint Frances Cabrini

The End of 2023. Our Branch has finished out our year with joy and festivities.

Our Nov. General Meetings, held in Kelly Hall, was our annual service award presentation. Both Sharon Logan and Linda Galassi received the Branch award for their work in the Layette Program. Sharon and Linda organized a successful baby shower for our branch. The donations were then given as "gift packs" to new Moms. Thank you and congratulations to both Sharon and Linda, a job well done.

On Dec 2nd our Board celebrated with a Luncheon at Tomato Thyme restaurant. It was a great time for our board to take a break from all of the planning activities. Dec 9th, we will also have a celebration theme, as our General Meeting will be lunch, and some Christmas fun. A ham lunch will be served, games and prizes will finish out the year for our Branch.

Ohh...But Wait...Our Branch will be the host of the SCVD Christmas Party on Dec 12th. Our cooks will be in the kitchen fixing a tri-tip dinner with all of the yummy side dishes. A Mass at 6pm, then dinner will be served. Each branch is to donate a raffle basket, and we will have some very happy winners!

When we think of 2024, up and coming is installation of our new Branch officers of 191 in the SCVD. Installation will take place on Jan 6th at 11am, at Santa Theresa Church, with a luncheon reception to follow. Cost \$35. Please plan to attend installation, as it gives our officers a new welcome to the New Year.

May our New Year be filled with joy, peace, and ever abiding love for each other. Shirley Catania sentinel

San Jose Br 368, Santa Teresa de Avila

Remember, The Gift of Love has funds to help our ICF members and family members. Apply if you need help with anything. Make sure you see our treasure, Tina, to pay your dues at \$50 each.

Please pray for our sick members: Ron Sanchez, Bobbie Gallegos, Jackie Butler, Mike and Lorraine Nunziata, and Gail Resz. We all have some connection to Italy, no matter how small. It is nice to keep information and history fresh about our heritage. Sharon Kroeber has volunteered for the position of Heritage person. Please let the Board know if you are interested in a position on the Board. Our branch catered Christmas dinner on December 13th, and it was great. BR 368 will be hosting Installation of Officers on January 6, 2024, at 11 a.m.

with lunch to follow at Avila Hall. All of us attend this event. BOW WOW! Thank you ICF Br. 368 members for having your dinner at Lazy Dog Restaurant, and especially Robin Hayr for chairing Dialing for Dollars. At 15% of the night's total income, Lazy Dog, (BOW WOW) gave us \$748.38. BOW WOW. Mark your calendars for Bishops Day on 10/27/24. Plan on attending and helping.

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

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

San Jose

Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

Wishing all our dear members and their families a Blessed and Happy New Year!

In December, Sister Jane led our members in recollection addressing peace in the world through Jesus and prayers. Our Christmas Dinner Celebration was complete with gift-giving, Christmas music, and members singing Christmas Carols!!!

Father Saju led us in prayer before members enjoyed a wonderful meal of pot roast, mashed potatoes, salad, and cannoli provided Tony and Alba's Al and Diana Vallorz. President Steve thanked Al, Diana, and servers, Marina and Doug Tilbury, Cathy and Joe De Maria, and Alba Salciccia.

Steve presented gifts of thanksgiving and donations totaling \$8,466 to the following: St. Martin's Church and Food Box Program, St. Vincent de Paul, Gifts of Love and Layette Programs, Cooley's Anemia, Sacred Heart Nativity School and Fathers Saj and Gener.

Canned goods were also collected for St. Martin's Food Drive.

Steve honored Marie Patellaro, a charter member of our branch, who celebrated her 99th birthday this year, with a presentation including her affiliation with ICF since childhood.

Also, Steve recognized several other charter members in attendance and thanked Louise Vento and Donna Rossi for their many years of service to Branch 391.

Remember to purchase your new 2024 ICF Calendar by contacting Tina Rossi.

Reminders:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 5:30 p.m. social and 6:00 p.m. dinner; Feast Day of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, ICF Patron Saint—January 4, 2024; Pancake Breakfast hosted by ICF—January 7, 2024, after 8:30 and 11:30 masses.

Looking forward to sharing prayers and laughter in 2024.

Janis Patellaro

STOCKTON DISTRICT



Br. 390, Anita Ridolfi & Susan Johnston at the check-in desk.



Br. 390, accordion Player, Brono Cerri, donated his time.



Br. 390, Raffle winner, David Finnen



Louie Serrato, kitchen helper, Br. 390



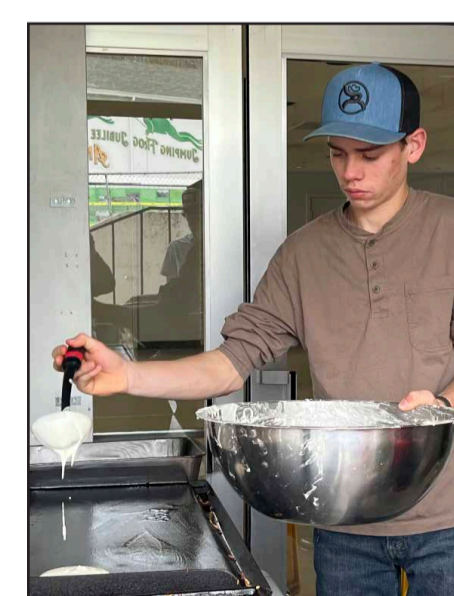
Br. 82 St. Anne's Lodi Dinner celebrating 5-Year Branch Anniversary



Br. 82 St. Anne's Lodi Polenta Dinner Dance



Br. 82 St. Anne's Lodi Polenta Dinner Dance



Br. 413 Parish Breakfast cook Jacob Ruff

STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 413 Parish Breakfast 2023



Branch 395



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

*Be sure to include
branch name and
number.*



Br. 82 St. Anne's Lodi Polenta Dinner Dance

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



San Bernardino District's annual Bishop's Luncheon at Napoli Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda



Branch 446 Christmas celebration



Branch 446 at the Mother Cabrini celebration

Centurioni Family Br. 446



Bishop's Luncheon for the San Bernardino District, Br. 446



San Bernardino District President John Guerin leading Br. 446 singing Christmas carols

BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Branch 342



Branch 342

FRESNO DISTRICT



Br. 27, Dr. Cecilia A Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools was honored with the Champion's Award.

Branch 308 Christmas



Branch 39 Christmas Party



FRESNO DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 32 Christmas Party at DiCicco's

Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Carmelo Sabatella

On November 12, 2023, members, friends and parishioners enjoyed the Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon at Saint Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, CA.

Thank you to the Mother Cabrini Committee and LAADC members for staffing and Jouni's Catering for providing the Lunch Buffet and helping make this a successful event.

Thank you to Rev. Sebastian Vittikal St Francis Xavier Church Burbank and Rev. Jerry Orchetti Diocese of San Bernardino for concelebrating the Cabrini Mass and Deacon Jim Roope for celebrating the Benediction at the Chapel.

Thank you to Fr. Bryan Ausburn for saying Grace before dinner and closing with a prayer following dinner.

Thank you to the many Sisters who also attended and helped make this a beautiful event by their presence.

Thank you to Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart Sister Regina Palamara who celebrated her 90th Birthday earlier this year. The audience broke out singing Happy Birthday in her honor.

This event included the final showing of the original Mother Cabrini Tablecloth and 12 napkins embroidered by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart over 100 years ago and used each time Mother Cabrini joined the sisters at dinner time. Thank you to Francesca T for bringing this beautiful artifact to ICF and sharing its story with members this past year. Francesca will be returning the Tablecloth and 12 napkins to the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart Mother House in Codugno, Italy. Francesca presented an overview on the history of these items, their significance then invited members to stop by the table and touch the fine embroidery work over a protective plastic sheathing to protect the original cloth.

Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House. 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 January 14, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by Sr Regina and the Cabrini Companions.

- Mother Cabrini Open House February 11, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by Los Angeles Region.

- Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House on April 14, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by San Fernando Region

- Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House on June 9, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by San Gabriel Valley Region.

- Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House on September 15, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by the Santa Barbara/Ventura 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



Children's Opera Festival !!!



Saturday, April 13, 2024
 Casa Italiana 1051 N Broadway, Los Angeles 90012
 12noon - 4pm

~All Kids invited to come in costume of favorite Opera Characters! ~

Admission \$15 per child aged 18 & under
 Accompanying adult - no charge



~See professional Opera Mini-Shows ~
 from Hansel & Gretel, Pirates of Penzance & more!

Costume games! Puppet workshops!
 Craft Corner ~ Magic Show ~ Music Demos

Citywide Children's Choruses invited to perform!

*contact Young Opera Theater to apply

TICKETS!



SCAN ME



Presented by Young Opera Theater, 501 (c)3 non-profit
 With grateful support from Opera Italia
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/73979740117?aff=oddtcreator>



Morgan Hill Br. 435, Santa Caterina D'Alessandria

Hello folks,

Many compliments on our September Pasta Fundraiser Dinner. Plenty of spaghetti and raffle prizes, including extra sauce, for our very well attended group! This helped our branch donate to our charities.

At our October dinner meeting we had a wonderful meal of Honey Baked Ham. This was accompanied with fresh home-grown roasted vegetables. However, the Stars of the dishes were prepared by two of Giulia's grandchildren. Josh made the wonderful Butternut Squash Soup and Jessica made Tiramisu for dessert. During the evening we honored Father Sergio for his 30 years as a Priest. Our branch gave a donation to the Seminary Scholarship Fund.

December brought us to our Christmas celebration. Once again, a wonderful time at the Longhouse restaurant in Gilroy. Not only delicious food, the Foggias gave every person a gift. These were Poinsettias, Biscottis Pannetone, and Olive Oil. The oil donated by owner Pier Antinucci of Oliwell Corporation in Morgan Hill.

And here we are starting another New Year. Hopefully looking forward to many more wonderful events for all of us.

God bless.
 Respectfully submitted by
 Sylvia Sorci

San Jose Br. 445, Transfiguration

Br.445 members ended 2023 with a few celebrations and activities. In November, they gathered together at Transfiguration's Tabor Hall complete with festive decorations for a truly delicious 'Felice Ringraziamento /Happy Thanksgiving' meal. Many thanks to the members who helped decorate and prepare the meal. Bill Perry shared a Heritage report about his recent trip to Seattle where he learned about the Italian Legend of the 'Rooster Pitcher' which originated centuries past in Italy and is now given as a gift to protect oneself and one's property against trespassers and other dangers!

Members also participated in two Advent events: an Evening of Reflection at St. Christopher's parish with Fr. Chris Bennett on 11/28 and a Morning of Reflection with Fr. Kevin Murray at Transfiguration Church on 12/9. Cookies were provided by Br. 445 for attendees at both events.

In December, Branch members gathered to attend quarterly Mass at Transfiguration Church. After Mass they headed to Tabor Hall for Christmas fun with games, singing Christmas songs and enjoying a catered lunch from Buca di Beppo Italian restaurant.

Branch President Jim Falcone created a holiday prop for the Christmas "Punch A Bunch" game. Members took turns punching a covered circle on the grid to pull out a number. Junior elf Jackson Nisich handed the matching numbered gift from Santa's table to the winner! Many thanks to the adult elves Gina and Larry Farro, Donna Pfaff, Jim Falcone, Kathy La Scola and Jan Stumhoffer who transformed the Hall into a Winter Wonderland.

Br. 445 hopes that all ICF members had a wonderful Christmas season and sends wishes to all for a New Year Blessed with peace, love, happiness, good health and laughter. Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!

Happy January 2024 Birthday wishes to members Darlene Pedone, Chic Cannon, Kathy La Scola, Jan Stumhoffer, Donna Pfaff and February wishes to Jean Avram and Marti Rao!! Buon Compleanno a tutti voi!!

Until next month stay safe and well,
 :-) Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

STOCKTON District

Modesto Br. 48, St. Stanislaus

The year 2024 is starting with a bang. We just finished Advent Season, Christmas flew by and now we are at the beginning of a New Year and the start of Lent. It all went by so fast that some reminders need to be made.

For those who want to apply for a scholarship now is the time to send your application in. The applications are due by March 15, 2024. The applications have been sent to the branches. Check with your branch for an application.

Members need to pay the yearly dues which are due in January. Mail them to the financial secretary or pay them at the January meeting.

We will have our St. Joseph's Table Celebration and Potluck March 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the J Street Hall, 7 & K Street, Modesto.

Bring your favorite dish you family and friends and join us for an afternoon of visiting with friends and some very delicious food. We hold our fun raffle after the potluck. The gifts are all wrapped so you do not know what you are getting. Happy New Year to you and all your families.

Coming up:

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

March 13 - 6 p.m. Meeting at J Street Hall 7 & K Streets

March 17 - St. Joseph Table & Potluck 2 p.m. J Street Hall 7 & K Streets

Have a wonderful New Year!
 Cecelia McGhee

Lodi Br. 82, St. Anne's

The New Year's phrase, "Out with the old, in with the new," definitely applies to our Officers. Grazie to the outgoing Officers for their dedicated service during 2023, and grazie to the new Officers for accepting the responsibility of their roles. At our January meeting, along with introducing our 2024 calendar of events and fundraisers and approving the new budget, we welcomed our new Officers:

President-Chris Whiting
 1st VP-Margaret Foley
 2nd VP-open (interested ?)
 Treasurer-Tom Perry
 Financial Secretary-Lisa Fugazi
 Recording Secretary-Amanda Moberly
 Corresponding Secretary-Patty Litts
 Orator-John Spagnola
 Sentinel-Lori Johnston
 Trustees-LuAnn Casey, Elisa Moberly, Grace Puccinelli

Reminder: Pay your membership dues as soon as possible. Contact Lisa Fugazi, Financial Secretary.

If you're still looking for a place to jot down your meetings, appointments and other activities, the ICF 2024 Calendar may fill that need, plus give you a chance to win a cash prize (LuAnn Casey won in 2023). \$30 with \$5.00 of that remaining with the branch. Contact Chris.

February 27th is our next meeting. 6:00 social, 6:30 business meeting. Look for program details in our February branch newsletter.

Hoping the new year is already bringing you abundant blessings and will continue to do so.

Patty Litts
 Corresponding Secretary

Manteca Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio

After enjoying Capocuoco Tony's delicious roast pork dinner with pasta, pesto and veggies, President Birdie Nieri opened our November meeting. A feature of the agenda was the election of officers for 2024. Dino Cunial submitted the nominations committee report as follows: President Birdie Nieri, First Vice-president Ida Queirolo, Second Vice-president Vero Oliveri, Secretary Ron Agostini, Treasurer/Financial Secretary Michelle Harmon, Orators Dan and Annie Cunial, Sentinel Ed Fichtner and Trustees Sandy Strube and Marilyn Amaral. The nominated members were all elected to their respective offices. They will be installed on January 7 in Modesto.

Plans for a Shrimp Feed next March are moving forward as the Knights of Columbus have volunteered to help.

Yvonne Chimenti is replacing Pat Pellegrino on the Sunshine Committee.



Our branch is mourning the passing of long-time member Michael Costa, who died recently.

Felice Anno Nuovo,
 Mariano

Tracy Br. 390, St. Bernard

Mr. & Mrs. Claus had a fine time at our Christmas dinner meeting, and if you would like to see yourself, your children, your grandchildren with Santa, lots of photos are on our Branch 390 website. Thank you, Steve Ridolfi, as always.

January dinner was polenta and chicken cacciatore on Thursday January 25th - wow did we have a great response - always the ICF favorite and I know folks that have attended everyone!

Save the date of February 29th for Country ribs and Mike's special beans, prepared for members old and new.

We are glad to have donated \$50 gift cards to each of our seven Seminarians this past Christmas to thank them for their dedication and prayers for us.

January 26th was a night to celebrate two of our members! Tracy Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Community Recognition Awards were presented to Mike Bacchetti, chosen Entrepreneur of the Year, and Mike Repetto, chosen Businessman of the year. These awards are honoring the individuals and businesses that make substantial contributions to their community through their professions and their community service. VERY well-deserved Mike and Mike!

Scholarship application deadline is approaching. Members, please let your children and grandchildren who wish to further their education with our help know that they have until March 15th to submit them. Good luck to all of you with our best wishes for your success.

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



Italian Catholic Federation

22nd Annual Central Council

CHARITY GOLF

TOURNAMENT

Save the Date

Bennett Valley Golf Course - 3330 Yulupa Ave - Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Friday JULY 26 2024

Start Time:
8:30 am

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.ICF.ORG - 1-888-ICF-1924

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Br. 444, General Meeting



Br. 444, General Meeting



Branch 218 held a very successful Christmas Boutique, meatball & sausage sandwich sale & bake sale on Sunday, November 19.



Branch 444 members



ICF Branch 108 Christmas Party at Holy Family Connolly Hall



Branch 444, Fran, Guido, Tonia & Don



Branch 218, Junior ICF help with the raffle.



Branch 218 Christmas Boutique and sausage and meatball sandwich sale



ICF Branch 108 Members at Mother Cabrini Luncheon 2023

Stockton Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

Happy 2024!
We celebrated our Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Guadalupe Hall at our church. Our members provided their favorite foods and desserts, and it was delicious! We also had a friendly gift exchange. Overall, a most wonderful evening of fellowship and fun with friends and family!
Our next big event will be our Annual Polenta Dinner on Thursday, February 15, 2024. This year we will offer a drive-through pick-up, in addition to our usual reserved-seating dining. All of our proceeds from this event will be donated to our Diocese for Seminarian Education. For Christmas 2023 we also sent Christmas cards, with \$100 gift-cards, to each of our 8 Seminararians.
Below is our new Branch 395 Officers for 2024:

Chaplain: Fr. Mark Wagner
President: Allen Sturtevant
1st Vice-President: Mary Ann Piana
2nd Vice-President: Josephine Weber
Recording Secretary: Karen Rosson
Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Gena Sturtevant
Orator: Robin Deiro
Sentinel: Marilyn Ramacher
Trustees: Virginia Larson, Geoff Lin-Cereghino, Bob Langone

Allen Sturtevant
Branch 395 President

Angels Camp Br. 413, St. Patrick

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope that everyone is having a very blessed 2024.
On December 17th, our branch held its annual Wendell's Give-away (free Parish Breakfast) and bake sale. It was a hit with the parishioners, and everyone enjoyed the delicious, scrambled eggs, sausages, and pancakes. Our hats are off to our cooks: Joe Dianda, Wendell Barnes, Dewayne Brown, Tom King-shill, and Jacob Ruff! They did a great job and are much appreciated. The bake sale went well, too!

Installation of Officers for the Stockton District will be this coming Sunday, January 7th. Thank you to Branch 48 for hosting the Installation and meal.
We're looking forward to our Valentine Dinner on February 10th. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Robert Pachinger at (209) 754-9619.

Ciao,
Annette Pachinger
Correspondence Secretary

SAN DIEGO District

San Diego Br. 246, St. Charles Borromeo

Happy New Year! Branch 246 closed out 2023 with a festive Christmas Dinner at Café Coyote in Old Town San Diego. Our members turned out in full force and enjoyed an evening together that didn't require any food preparation or service – just the company of each other in a relaxing setting. A good time was had by all. As we begin 2024, we are so thankful that Branch 246 has a new home with the welcoming parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo.
Buon Anno Nuovo! Joe Fontana,
Branch President

SAN BERNARDINO District Council

On November 21, 2023, The San Bernardino District held its annual Bishop's Luncheon at Napoli Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda. Bishop Albert Rojas was present as well as Lou and Pat Mages (representing Central Council), priests, seminararians, and members of Branches 210, 217 and 446. A fun Italian Food Quiz game was played, wine and food shared and good times for all present.



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

Upland Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Our Winter season included many activities for our branch. Fr. Jerry Ochetti, Nan Judge, Mary O'Neil, Veronica Mora and Tony Santorufo attended the Mother Cabrini celebration in Burbank. Our San Bernardino District Chaplin, Fr. Jerry Ochetti, concelebrated the Mass. Afterwards, there was a procession, a Benediction in front of the chapel and a catered lunch.

A favorite branch event is the annual Bishop's Luncheon which is attended by representatives from ICF branches in the San Bernardino District. Representing our branch were Fr. Jerry Ochetti, Andrea Linn, Dolores Finch, Carrey Rossie, Mary O'Neil and Tony Santorufo. A donation check and a Spiritual Bouquet of prayers and Masses were presented to Bishop Rojas. There were several priests in attendance and one seminararian. Paul Emmerick represented Branch 217 and Annie McCarthy attended from 210 along with members of the District Council. Lou Mages represented the Central Council.

First Vice-President Carrie Rossie organized a wonderful Christmas event for

our members. We enjoyed a delicious catered luncheon and afterwards we played Christmas games and socialized. Nan Judge created three beautiful gift baskets that were raffled along with many poinsettias centerpieces. Fr. Pat Brennan was our special guest along with Fr. Ned O'Donnell and John Guerin, President of the San Bernardino District. We all look forward to the many activities and events planned for 2024.



Special thanks goes to Bobby and Rachael Ferrari and Bob and Suzanne Capurro who prepared a delicious dinner of sautéed chicken breasts, pasta with pesto sauce, carrots, salad and chocolate covered strawberries and cookies for dessert. Rachael also prepared the delicious appetizers.



The gifts from Branch 135 presented by President Charlyne Pacini were a gift of \$1,200.00 to Bishop Mueggenborg for his Seminary fund and a gift of \$200.00 for his TV Mass ministry. President Pacini presented a check to St. Albert the Great Church for use of their facilities for our meetings. Grand President Denise Antonowicz from Central Council presented a check of \$1,000.00 from Central Council's Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund for the education of the Seminararians of our Diocese.

Our next meeting will be January 14, 2024.
Happy New Year!
Charlyne Pacini

RENO

Reno Br. 135, St. Albert

Our annual Bishop's Dinner was held Sunday evening, December 3, 2023. This dinner gives us an occasion to honor Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, Bishop of the Reno Diocese and to present him with monetary gifts to fund the education of the Seminararians of our diocese and a local for a TV Mass that is aired on a local TV Channel every Sunday morning.

We welcomed 26 members and guests that enjoyed an excellent dinner. Special guests attending the dinner included Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, the Bishop of the Reno Diocese; Father David Micheal, Parochial Vicar at St. Albert the Great Church; Seminarian of the Diocese, Deacon Francis Coyne, who has been ordained to the transitional diaconate; Deacon Chuck Lanham, Permanent Deacon at St. Albert the Great Church. Also attending were Denise Antonowicz, Grand President of the Central Council of the I.C.F. and her sister Germaine Antonowicz.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 443, Deacon Dave joined ICF members for the Christmas Party



Br. 443, Rita, Barbara and Marianne celebrate with Anita Pusateri.



Br. 374 Christmas Party



Br. 374 Christmas Party



Br. 374 Christmas Party



Br. 374 Christmas Party



Br. 443, The children enjoyed the ICF Christmas party



ICF Branch 67 Members at Mother Cabrini Luncheon 2023



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 179, L-R Msgr. Norm, Russ & Kelly Rotunno, Fr. Ron, Deac. Tommy, Ate & Katherine Rojas



Br. 179, Deacon Tommy



Br. 179, Greg Wieland



Br. 447, New 2024 Officers



Br. 447, Big winner -Angela with outgoing President Monica Rossi and grandkids



Br. 447, Reindeer (Sheila) and friends.



ICF 111-November & December Birthdays



ICF 111-November Meeting & Thanksgiving Dinner



ICF 111-Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage



ICF 111-Christmas Dinner Party

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



ALL A-TWITTER — You can almost hear Tony Gonsalves' bird carvings chirping and singing. Carla Newton photo.



Br. 144, Befana Barbara Vanni



Br.144, Alfred Eanni Advent Breakfast Chair



Br. 198, Serving Christmas Dinner ICF Br#198 St. Eugene



Doreen O'Rourke Pres Br #198, Father Moses Brown Pastor of St. Eugene Church, Bob Acquistapace. Br #198 Treasurer



Br. 198, Kathy Lazzini Xmas raffle winner



Br. 145, Eureka members Ron and Marian DiMino stand in Piazza San Pietro during their recent visit to Italia. Papa Francesco had just driven by in the Popemobile to give a blessing to the pilgrims and tourists. Designed in the 17th century by the great artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Piazza San Pietro is one of the best examples of Counter-Reformation art in public spaces. Its monumental dimensions and beautiful symmetry can leave worshippers in awe.



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION 2024 Yearbook

YOU Are Needed!

Show us your celebrations.

Let us celebrate your joys and successes with you!

The ICF Convention Yearbook is:

- Collected & kept for years •
- Referenced by members •
- A visual history of your year •



(Not the actual 2024 cover)

Artwork Deadline JULY 1ST!

You Need COLOR!

The full-page entry for San Mateo District looks great in the 2023 book! (See page 70.) So much more impactful than black and white would have been.

Please consider color for impact.

Successful Entry Tips

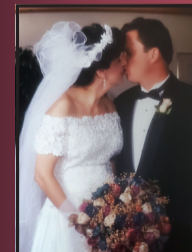
- Create a NEW entry this year
- Tell us what you've been up to
- Use COLOR in your entry
- Submit Celebration entries for your members and their achievements

Celebration Pages

Births • Weddings • Graduations

Full color 1/16th page celebration entry for only \$25. Includes a photo and details.

Let us all celebrate the joys from your year!



CELEBRATING
Mary & Tom Cook
30th Wedding Anniversary
Sep 4, 1993 - Sep 4, 2023



RENO AREA



Deacon Francis Coyne, Seminarian of the Diocese; Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, Bishop of the Diocese of Reno; Charlyne Pacini, ICF Branch 135 President; Deacon Chuck Lanham, Permanent Deacon at St. Albert the Great Parish; Father David Micheal, Parochial Vicar, St. Albert the Great Parish; Denise Antonowicz, ICF Grand President



Branch 135 President Charlyne Pacini presents a check to Daniel Mueggenborg, Bishop of the Diocese of Reno, for the Diocese's Seminarian Fund.



Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, Bishop of the Diocese of Reno; Charlyne Pacini, ICF Branch 135 President; Denise Antonowicz, ICF Grand President



ICF Grand President Denise Antonowicz presents a check to Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg for the education of Seminarians in our Diocese.

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT



Branch 246 members celebrate Christmas 2023



Branch 246 Christmas Dinner at Cafe Coyote



Branch 246 outgoing President Joe Fontana and incoming President Anthony Torregiani



New members John and Rose Cefalu enjoy Branch 246's Christmas Dinner.

