



BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



A Hundred Years Strong: Branch 7, Sacro Cuore Celebrates Its Centennial



Branch 7, Sacro Cuore 100th Anniversary Celebratory Mass and Luncheon



Reaching a hundred years is more than a milestone; it is a testament to resilience, purpose, and the unwavering commitment that continues to guide our future.



City ofSSF Proclamation Presentation

A celebration was held on Saturday, October 25, in the Grand Ballroom of the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of Branch 7 - Sacro Cuore with 125 guests in attendance including representatives from over 10 branches in the Bay Area. Current Branch 7 President and long time officer, Diana Ferrari, was instrumental in organizing this event.

ICF Spiritual Director, Fr. Christopher Bennett, led off the celebration with a Mass which included an inspirational homily. Several members of the Central Council were in attendance including Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Grand 2nd Vice President Lisa Crudo, Grand Treasurer Deborah Rodondi, Grand Parliamentarian Leonard Rossi and Grand Sentinel Mike Rossi.

We had several presentations including Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. presenting the 100-year sash, South San Francisco Vice Mayor Mark Adiego presenting a proclamation by the City, California State Assemblymember Diane Papan's District Director David Burruto presenting a proclamation from the State of California, a proclamation was received from Congressman Kevin Mullin's office and locally the Santo Cristo Society, a Catholic lay organization founded in South San Francisco in 1912, presented a proclamation honoring our branch's contribution to the community over the last 100 years.

Other special guests included three Past Presidents of Branch 7 (Lola Migliore of SSF, Kelly Teglia of Bakersfield, and Frank Risso of SSF). Lou Pucci, son of

the late South City based Central Council member and early ICF organizer Joe Pucci, came with his wife Melinda all the way from Cloverdale to join the celebration.

There was a silent auction and raffle to help raise funds for the Branch's charitable work with donations from businesses and members throughout the Bay Area.

The Celebration Committee of Deborah Rodondi, Frank Risso, Donna Smith, Ginny Tilton, Evonna Medeghini & Lauren Wheat were proud of the success of the event for all their hard work paid off and they thank everyone who participated.

by Frank Risso



State of CA presentation to Branch Pres Diana Ferrari and Past Pres Frank Risso



Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and Branch 7, President Diana Ferrari

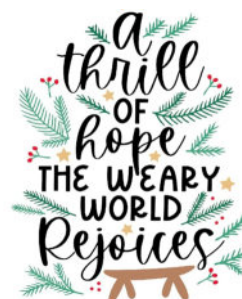


Branch 7 Past Presidents



Santo Cristo Society

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!



BOLLETTINO

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Editor: Nanette Metz
editor@icf.org

Office Staff: Charlene Kramer
admin@icf.org

Patty Smith
accounting@icf.org

Phone: (510) 633-9058
(888) ICF-1924

Fax: (510) 633-9758

Website: www.ICF.org

Information: info@icf.org

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Important Notice

The email address for ALL

Bollettino submissions is:

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All image and article submissions need to be sent in an electronic format. Those submissions not sent in an electronic format or those articles sent in the mail will not be used.

Finally, a reminder that ALL branch and district reports need to adhere to the **250 max word count** requirement or they will be shortened or possibly excluded entirely based on editor judgement.

Limit photos to 3 or 4 and include captions. Not all photos are able to be used due to possible limitations in space. Prioritize photos if possible. To insure photos are always linked to branch, include branch number when naming photos such as:

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Include photo captions with your article submission.

Please keep your submission positive and informative.

**Deadline for the
January/February issue is
January 2, 2026**

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

Thank you!

Message from our Spiritual Director “Gateway to God’s Bounty”

Dear Friends of the Italian Catholic Federation:

It is hard to believe that Advent is already upon us. The days have grown shorter, and the world seems to pause in anticipation, waiting for something wonderful. As we stand at the threshold of this sacred season, let us remember that Advent invites us to open ourselves to the great mystery of Christ’s birth.

Each year, we are called to journey anew—to prepare our hearts, quiet our minds, and welcome the light that breaks through the darkness. It is a time to reflect, to hope, and to recognize the profound gift that God offers us through Jesus. The story of Christ’s birth is not simply a tale from long ago; it is a living mystery, one that continues to shape and transform us. This Advent let us embrace its spirit with humility and joy. Let us be receptive to God’s love, even when it may arrive in ways we do not expect. In opening our hearts, we make room for the peace, hope, and renewal that the Christ child brings.

May we support each other with kindness and compassion throughout this season. As we light the Advent candles week by week, let them remind us of the light that Christ brings into our lives and into the world.

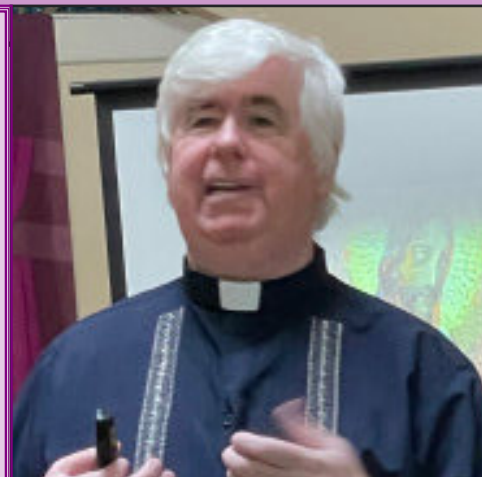
But let us face it. Whether we like it or not, Christmas is generally a time when we cannot escape, even if we wanted to, from the present-buying, the dressing-up, the turkey and all the other things that we associate with this time of year. And that is O.K. So long as we understand that we

are commemorating an event so revolutionary, so completely new, so amazing that even the familiar ceremonials and traditions cannot take away its challenge to us.

What is so different and revolutionary about this event? It is just that it was so completely unexpected at the time of the birth of Jesus. The people were expecting a Messiah all right. They waited patiently for the one who would save them, just as Yahweh had brought them out of Egypt in the time of Moses. They were waiting for the outstretched arm, the mighty hand that would roll back the sea and herald the good news of salvation. The word of God was to live and dwell among them. And so, they waited for their king to arrive.

But what happened? A baby was born to a humble and poor servant girl. What is more, she was an unmarried mother, even more taboo than it is today. And this baby was born on a frosty night in December in a stable! Imagine the scene. How would you have reacted if you had heard that this was the Son of God, especially if you had heard the news from a couple of simple shepherds? Chances are you would have laughed your head off, or you would have said that they should be sent off to the hospital!

And yet, this baby was the Son of God, the Word made flesh and the one who would grow up in Nazareth and affect the lives of more people on earth than anybody else ever had or indeed has since. By choosing to be born in such a desolate and poor place, God was making a very definite statement about our value system. Change everything, he was saying, for-



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Spiritual Director

get everything you once held dear, sell off your riches, give to the needy, share your cloak and follow me. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was the prologue to a life of service and challenge. The stable was an indication of the need for us to see grace and goodness and reality in the very poorest of places. If we call ourselves 'Christian' then this is what we cannot forget.

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

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

Blessings.
Fr. Chris



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>

Grand President’s Monthly Message

Franklyn Lopes Jr.

Merry Christmas to all the members of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Rejoice, rejoice—our Savior is born!

This time of year always reminds me of the many Christmases spent at Nonno and Nonna’s house. We would go over the day before to set up the table, complete with her fine china. Mom and Aunt would start the prep work. Our Italian Christmas always included 20–25 people seated around the table.

On Christmas Day, we would return to my grandparents’ house around 10:00 in the morning to put the food in the oven. Around 1:00, the Cruci, Ghio, Saslaw, and Keating families would all arrive with the dishes they had been asked to bring. We would sit in Nonna’s kitchen, enjoying appetizers while the food was cooking.

Then we would go to the table. We began with the blessing and the pouring of wine, followed by shrimp, ambrosia, cranberry salads, my Aunt Nan’s boniet bell peppers, and antipasto trays. Once this was done, the table was cleared to make way for the pasta—namely, lasagna, gnocchi, and spaghetti—accompanied by Nonna’s homemade sauce.

Then came the main course: roast, stuffed chicken breasts, sweet potatoes, and vegetables. Once the main course was over, we would take a break. Some family members would go for a walk, while others would help rinse off the plates, combine leftovers, and prepare dessert, which we would have much later in the evening.

The pies would come out, coffee would be poured, and the brandy, amaretto, crème de menthe, and



crème de cacao would be added. The day would end around 8:00, and my grandparents would invite everyone to come back the next night for leftovers.

This is the tradition I grew up with and cherished until just about ten years ago.

I know each of you has your own traditions, and even if those traditions have passed, hold onto the memories—they’re what keep you going, especially if your loved ones are no longer here.

A quote from St. Pope John Paul II

This Christmas, as we behold the infant Jesus in the crib, let us remember that God does not leave us alone in our human experience—with its struggles, trials, and moments of loneliness, as well as its peaks and joys. Through Jesus Christ, born of Mary, He has taken our nature into His. There is nothing in our lives that we can’t share with God—nothing too insignificant or too overwhelming to bring before Him in prayer. And if we do this, not only will we be comforted; we will begin to share in His divine life.

A reminder:

Please send your installation dates to Charlene so she can inform the Central Council members.

On behalf of Mom, Dad, and myself, we wish you a very Buon Natale and Buon anno e buona salute – Auguri per il 2026!

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Grand President

Note:

This was the stove that my grandmother used to cook all the Christmas dinners.

Apostolate — San Jose Diocese Layette Program

Jim Jones, Apostolate-Charity Committee Member

One of the wonderful things about the Italian Catholic Federation is the number of personal charities each branch supports to serve those in need. Think about it. Cooley’s Anemia, Providenza Fund, Catholic Charities, Scholarships, to name a few.

The Charity our branch supports is the San Jose Diocesan Layette Program. Each year we have two Layette Showers to help provide clothing for this much needed ministry. We provide layettes for families who are faced with the added challenges of poverty, single parenthood, and unemployment.

A layette is a kit that contains the essentials every newborn needs; onesies, diapers, baby wipes, blankets, burp cloths, educational materials and more.

Our Diocese is celebrating our Layette’s 70th anniversary this year with a Layette Tea at Saint Frances Church on Saturday, December 6th. We hope to build many wonderful layettes for the babies in need in our diocese. If you want to help or want to start your own layette program, give me a call. Jim Jones 408-210-5541 and I will happily direct you to the person who can help you. Jim Jones, Member of the CC Apostolic Charity Committee.

Scholarship Donations

(Received as of November 10, 2025)

1st Year Donations

Antoinette and Angelo Pecora, In Memory of Father John Fluetsch

2nd - 4th Year Donations

Gerald Delfino, In Memory of Frank Signorelli

Welcome New Members

(Report as of November 8, 2025)

Branch 026	Eugene A Andrade	Stacy M Andrade
Branch 028	Albert A Pine	Lydia L Pine
Branch 036	Anthony T Aiello	Giovanni Altamura
	Janet Bruno	Paul B Bruno
	Charlotte V Elder	Karen Grant
	Julie Ann S Lozano	
Branch 045	Nick Bilandzich	Laura Degano
	Robert Rossi	
Branch 052	Judy J Biondolillo	Lisa Larratt
	Lynette E Lucia	
Branch 073	David E Gastel	
Branch 191	Barbara J Avery	
Branch 214	Anne Disch	
Branch 342	Lawnie Farana	Suzanne Palacios
	Nicole Pucci	Ronald Pucci
	Vickie Stokes	Therese Townsend
	Bj Wong	
Branch 343	Barbara Mehan	
Branch 432	Lynn Marie Picinich	
Branch 438	Irene Lambert	Jessica Zmuda
Branch 450	Andrea Senge	Bradley Senge





A heartfelt Christmas wish of
Peace and Happiness
this Holiday Season

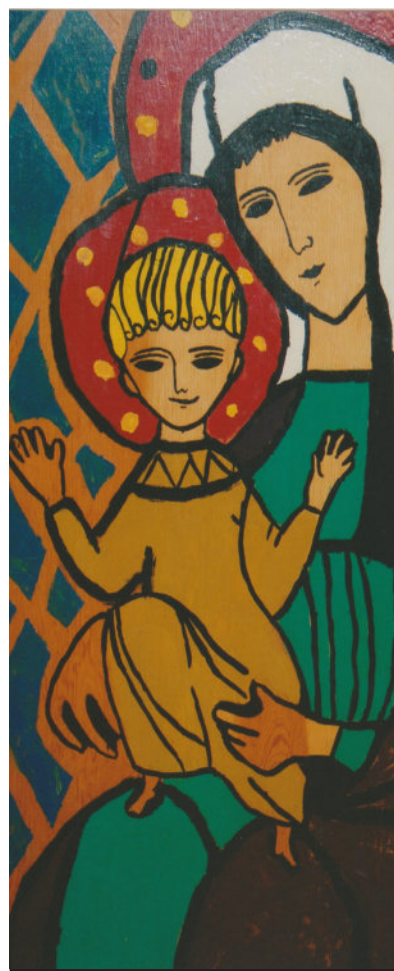
Buon Natale, Leonard and Karen Rossi



All is calm,
All is bright.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from
the Members of Branch 342, Auburn!


Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and New Year!
We are thinking of all of our I.C.F. members and hoping you are doing well.
Our prayers are with you.
We also remember our dear members who have passed away.
They remain in our thoughts and our hearts.
We reflect on and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Branch!
Officers and Members of Br. 50, San Francisco



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


Deborah Rodondi
Past Grand President

Buon Natale!
from
The Officers and
Members of the
San Mateo District



MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

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



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

St. Michael, Br. 209
Sebastopol



Buon Natale from the
Officers and Members of
Branch 343, Castro Valley

Wishing you
a festive
Christmas!



-Roselynn
& Aaron
McNeal



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Lauren Kilcullen, Grand 1st Vice President



BUON NATALE E BUON
ANNO A TUTTI!

FROM
ST. EUGENE, BRANCH 198
SANTA ROSA, CA



Wishing you a Blessed Christmas, and Prosperous New Year!
From Branch 395, Presentation Church, Stockton

Convention Article:
"Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage"
Lauren Kilcullen
Convention Director

The Convention Directors' Committee had a productive site visit to the **Silver Legacy in Reno** in October. We met with our Convention Manager, looked at our convention space and stayed overnight to test out the rooms and beds (consensus is the beds are comfy!) Please see the photos with this article. The Silver Legacy has plenty of restaurants to satisfy everyone's food preferences.

The 2026 Theme is "**Our Legacy: Faith Family, Heritage.**" The committee thinks this encompasses the three areas that are the most important to the ICF.

Our donation project at the 2026 Convention will support "**Spread the Word Nevada.**" This worthwhile organization is Nevada's largest children's literacy nonprofit, dedicated to advancing early childhood literacy by placing books into the hands and homes of children within Nevada's low-income communities. It **gives away over 5,000 books a month in Reno, Elko, Las Vegas and other areas of Nevada. We will be collecting books, both new and gently used, for ages birth to 5th grade.** Chapter books and recent titles for 4th and 5th graders are especially needed.



More information about the group may be found on its website: <https://spreadthewordnevada.org/>. Please be generous in donating to this worthwhile cause.

Since the raffle the Fresno District held at the 2025 Convention was successful, we have decided to continue this for 2026. Denise Antonowicz will be the chairperson. We are asking districts, branches and members to either **donate a basket worth at least \$100 or donate \$100** and Denise will make a basket. Please contact Denise: d56@comcast.net.

We will also have a **marketplace at the Convention**. Nina Malone is looking for vendors to participate. Please contact Nina: musicalnina61@gmail.com if you would like a table. There is no charge for renting a table.

As we head into the new year and branches are doing their budgets, please budget enough money to send your delegates to the Convention. Registration remains at \$385 per delegate. Rooms at the Silver Legacy are \$150 plus tax. The resort fee has been waived, and self-parking is complimentary.

The Convention is where we renew friendships, learn new ideas to bring back to our branches, elect Central Council members and celebrate Mass with our ICF family.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!
Lauren Kilcullen
Convention Director

Sharing Blessings of Faith, Family, & Heritage — ICF Spirit Shines



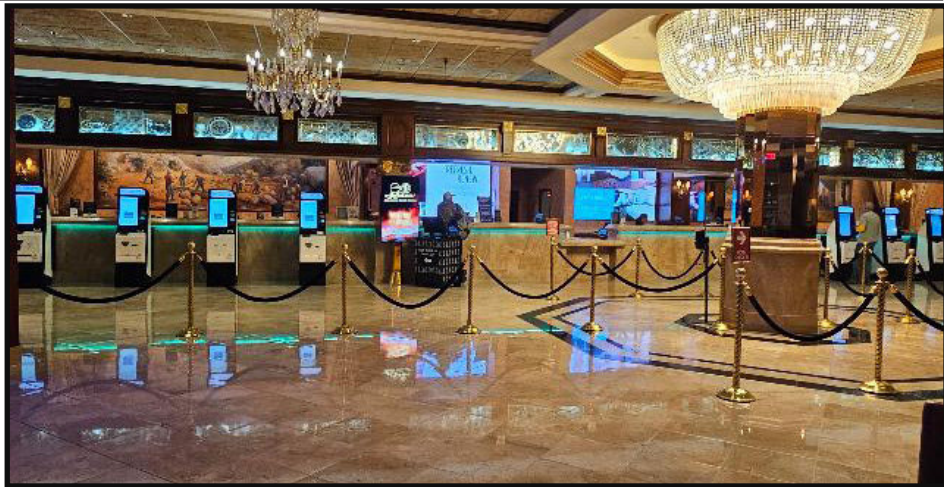
ICF Float in Italian Heritage Parade - Under direction of Grand President Franklyn Lopes Jr. This is the first time in our participating in the parades we won 2nd place for best amateur-non commercial float.



Br. 446 Members MaryAnne and Mel Miller



Los Gatos, St. Mary Br. #184 — Here we see Ryan Meyer greeting member Frances Filice at The Polenta Dinner.



Scenes From a Milestone Year of Faith and Fellowship--Branch 7, Sacro Cuore
continued from Page 1



Santo Cristo Presentation



Table with Past Branch President Frank Risso



Fr. Chris celebrates mass.



Central Council at the celebration



Cutting the ceremonial cake



Victor Arnaudo, President Branch 1 and Dorene Campanile, President Branch 173.



Raffle



Historical display

Family Recipe--Three C Cookies

Deborah Rodondi

Here we are in the Christmas season, my favorite time for baking. I usually spend 1 to 2 full days baking, one recipe after another of all the delicious cookie recipes that have been shared with me from

family to friends. I pull out my many recipes and select about a dozen as the chosen for the year. The interesting thing is I am not a sweets person, so in memory of my maternal nonie (an amazing baker-as a young lady she worked at the local bakery in Pleasanton, CA) I continue her tradition of keeping the family supplied with cookies.

This recipe comes from Diane Martin from ICF Branch 7 in South San Francisco (the branch just celebrated their 100th anniversary). Diane brought them to a dinner meeting and passed them around. Since they were home made I had to try them. Not only am I not into sweets, but white chocolate is definitely not my kind of chocolate (I am a dark chocolate fan) but try I must – they were delicious! The notation on Diane's recipe says "very good". Enjoy!



1 egg yolk
2 tsp. vanilla
1 ½ cups flour
2 cups flaked coconut
1 cup coarsely chopped cashews
1 cup white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, salt and baking soda; beat until combined. Beat in egg, egg yolk and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer. Stir in the remaining flour with a wooden spoon. Stir in coconut, cashews and white chocolate chips.

Drop by rounded tablespoons onto a greased cookie sheet (I use parchment paper instead); flatten slightly. Place on top and lower racks in oven. Bake at 325 degrees for 6-7 minutes. Cool on cookie sheet for 2 minutes for easy removal. Remove cookies and cool completely on rack.

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

Remember a good Italian cook measures with their eyes and heart!

BuonAppetito!

Three C Cookies

½ cup unsalted butter
2/3 cup packed brown sugar
½ cup granulated sugar
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking soda
1 egg

NEW CHANGES TO THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

At the October Central Council meeting, members voted to approve several important changes to the Scholarship Program. Beginning this year, scholarship donation amounts will be adjusted as follows:

- 1st Year: \$500
- 2nd Year: \$600
- 3rd Year: \$700
- 4th Year: remains at \$1,000

These changes reflect many members' requests to increase support for our scholarship winners. It is our hope that branches will continue their strong tradition of generosity by contributing to the Scholarship Program as they have in the past.

We encourage all branches to explore creative ways to raise funds and sustain this vital program. Our young students need our help more than ever, and together, we can continue making a lasting difference in their lives.

Your continued support and commitment to education are deeply appreciated.

Thank you.
Carmen Kilcullen
Scholarship Chairperson



Give the most meaningful gift this Christmas...
Give Blood - Give Life!

Contact your local blood bank and make an appointment to donate blood. Contact the ICF for a donation card and your loved one will be notified that you donated blood in their honor.

Your blood donation will be recognized in the Bollettino.

For assistance contact Laurice Levine at 360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com.

Merry Christmas from the Live to Give Committee



Your Hospitalization Plan 2026

This is one of the best-kept secrets of the ICF — a plan in case you need an overnight stay or surgery at an acute care hospital or a licensed surgical center. Sign up now for this additional benefit of the ICF Hospitalization Plan.

The Hospitalization Committee recently highly recommended this program to the Central Council, and it was approved at the October meeting. The incentives for the Branches to increase enrollment in the Hospitalization Plan are a **\$5 rebate for each application** submitted, plus an **additional \$100 for 10 or more applicants**.

The Hospitalization Plan will be open to **all members up to age 70+** and especially to new members who enroll by April 30, 2026. There is no medical examination required to join. Your benefit becomes **effective 90 days after enrollment, with a maximum of \$500 per calendar year**. All claims are accepted up to one year after a hospital stay or outpatient procedure.

The Hospitalization Committee will gladly provide a workshop to clarify questions about the program procedures at your District Meeting. Any additional information can be mailed to you or viewed on the website at www.icf.org. **Any applicant who is interested in learning more about the benefits can contact me at (209) 815-8825 or our diligent ICF Office Staff at (888) 423-1924.**

Your Central Council members strongly encourage all members to take advantage of this very beneficial ICF program. Another suggestion is to volunteer as Chair of your Branch Hospitalization Committee. We welcome any suggestions or recommendations from you, your Branch, or your District to improve the application or program procedures—they would be greatly appreciated.



Take advantage of this program—**sign up for the Hospitalization Plan by April 30, 2026!**

Dante Galeazzi
Life Member

Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of November 10, 2025)

Officers/Members of Br. 218	Officers/Members of Br. 214
In Memory of Ronald Little	In Memory of Mary Androtti
Carla Del Carlo	Mary Perata
In Memory of Dorotea Silvestri	In Memory of Patricia Arnaudo
Giannini	Carla Del Carlo
Officers/Members of Br. 214	In Honor of the Birthday of
In Memory of Geraldine Rugani	Agnes Marcheschi

In Loving Memory

(Report as of November 8, 2025)

Richard Austin	Branch 010	Sylvia Karl	Branch 108
Jane A Hageman	Branch 010	Robert J Burick	Branch 227
Linda A Rochester	Branch 052	Linda Calciano	Branch 227
Hilda M Blay	Branch 073	Rosemarie Candau	Branch 227
Angelo A Simone	Branch 073	Kay Waldvogel	Branch 227
Louise M Simone	Branch 073	Norma M Harris	Branch 342

NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
11/1	Alexandra Klis		Davie, FL	\$30
11/2	Katie Curry		Corvallis, OR	\$50
11/3	Marilyn & Hank Isaacs		Boise, ID	\$30
11/4	Gena Lesti		Brentwood, CA	\$30
11/5	Linda Scambray	417	Fresno, CA	\$30
11/6	Marquis McClure		Wilmington, CA	\$30
11/7	Monika Besancon	52	Healdsburg, CA	\$30
11/8	Donna Barnes	19	Daly City, CA	\$30
11/9	Rina Austin	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
11/10	David & Michelina Eagleton		Citrus Heights, CA	\$30
11/11	Rhonda Karsch		Greenbrae, CA	\$100
11/12	Thelma Cavazos		Merced, CA	\$30
11/13	Irma Calabretta		Belmont, CA	\$50
11/14	Mary Petroni	39	Merced, CA	\$30
11/15	Rosalie Gilardi	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
11/16	Patty Gardner	214	Oakland, CA	\$30
11/17	Jenna Gilardi		Clovis, CA	\$30
11/18	Giuseppi Tanzi	408	Sunnyvale, CA	\$30
11/19	Elizabeth Longden		Brentwood, CA	\$30
11/20	Celeste Peterson	442	Pleasant Hill, CA	\$30
11/21	Michael & Krystel Imboden		Fairfield, CA	\$30
11/22	Allen Watts	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
11/23	Philomena Buonsante	285	Livermore, CA	\$30
11/24	Lorenzo Martinez		Montebello, CA	\$30
11/25	Rev. Alex Gamino		San Bernardino, CA	\$30
11/26	J.J. Gianquinto	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
11/27	Branch 374		La Canada, CA	\$100
11/28	Donna Armentano	352	Danville, CA	\$30
11/29	Roseann Costabile	21	San Jose, CA	\$30
11/30	Lucy Spingola	127	Petaluma, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG



We Treat Kids Better

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

Book Review -- *Children's Books 2025*

Vince Piro

As is customary, this month's column is devoted to children's books that can make wonderful Christmas gifts for our children and grandchildren.

Percy the Cat and the Mysterious Purr

By Michael J. Alexander, L. Reno Martinelli, and Lauren Duran (illustrator). Independently Published

Reno Martinelli, longtime ICF member, along with Michael J. Alexander and Lauren Duran, has published their first book, *Percy the Cat and the Mysterious Purr*. It's a delightful children's book (for approximately ages 5–10) that is certain to entertain young readers as they follow the adventures of a mischievous feline who "roams the countryside looking for a tasty treat." This charming book is entertaining with both a clever story and engaging illustrations. Duran does a great job of expressing Percy's emotions in her illustrations, and Alexander and Martinelli delight the reader with Percy's journey. They also teach young readers to stop and think to overcome obstacles and to trust their inner "purr." This is a valuable lesson for young children who face obstacles—small and large—every day in their lives. Percy may not be perfect, but he knows that "sometimes it's good to slow down and think ... and maybe purr." This title is available on Amazon.com.



The Adventures of Cipollino

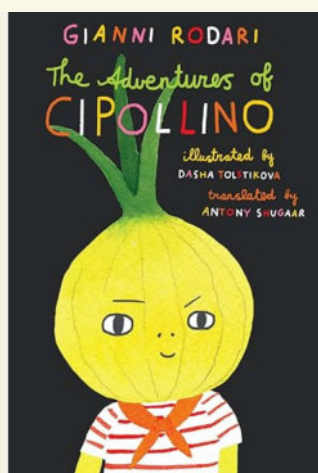
By Gianni Rodari, Dasha Tolstikova, Antony Shugaar

Enchanted Lion Press

In this enchantingly whimsical tale from Italy's great children's author Gianni Rodari, a young onion named Cipollino sets out into the world to study scoundrels—and in so doing, he undoes the tyrannical Prince Lemon while making a legion of friends along the way. *A Kirkus Reviews Fall Preview selection!* Cipollino is young, brave, clever, and determined—exactly the kind of valiant hero bound to triumph in fairy tales.

In this colorful, episodic adventure story, in which nearly everyone is an animal, vegetable, or fruit, Cipollino leaves home and sets off into the world to free his wrongfully imprisoned father. Along the way, he faces off against scoundrels of all kinds with wit and humor, while winning both allies and friends. What hangs in the balance is the freedom of an entire kingdom from the ridiculous rules of the all-powerful Prince Lemon—and the dignity of each blueberry, string bean, and spider!

This is a charming, comic, highly readable work of fiction for readers 9 and up, which also has the distinction of being one of Hayao Miyazaki's "50 Favorite Children's Books" of all time.



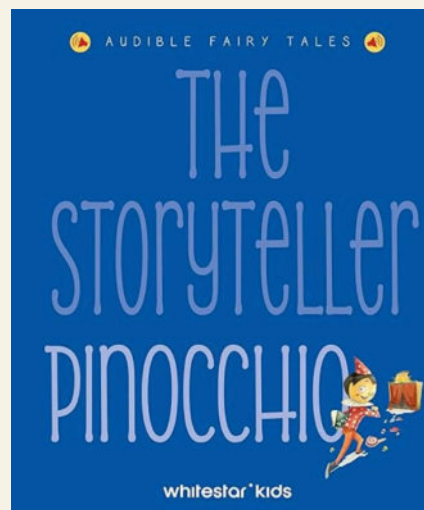
The Storyteller Pinocchio: Listen to the Sound Fairytales

By Francesca Rossi. White Star Press

An interactive feature reads the text aloud when a button is pressed on each page—a way to enable little kids to enjoy books independently! Stunning illustrations by Francesca Rossi enhance the storytelling experience. This is the third title among

titles in the series including *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Peter Pan*, and *Snow White*.

Explore The Storyteller Series, where classic fairy tales like *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Pinocchio*, *Snow White*, and *Peter Pan* come to life with interactive narration and stunning illustrations by Francesca Rossi. Perfect for young children to enjoy hearing the book read aloud independently or with friends.

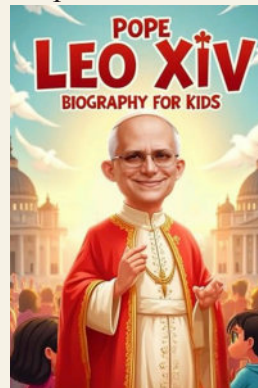


Pope Leo XIV Biography Book for Kids: The Inspiring Story of His Faith, Journey, and Papacy

By Adam Hayes

From a young boy in Chicago to becoming the first American Pope, Leo XIV's journey is filled with faith, compassion, and a commitment to justice. In this uplifting and educational biography, kids will learn how Robert Francis Prevost dedicated his life to helping others and leading with kindness, eventually becoming the 267th Pope of the Catholic Church.

With simple language, fascinating facts, and beautiful illustrations, this book is perfect for young readers eager to learn about a modern-day leader who makes a difference in the world. Perfect for kids aged 6–12, this book offers an inspiring look at Pope Leo XIV—a humble leader who shows that with faith and dedication, one can make a global impact.



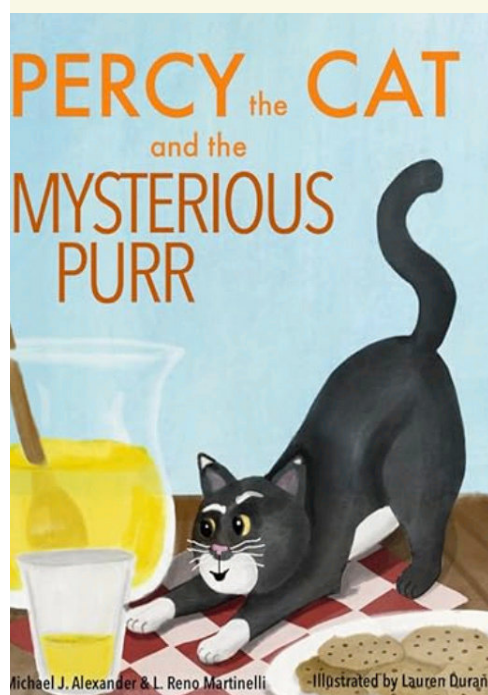
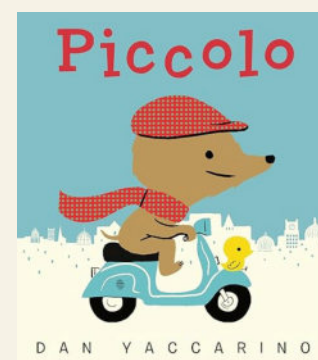
Piccolo

By Dan Yaccarino. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Ciao! Enter the endearing world of Piccolo, a problem-solver whose optimism, boundless enthusiasm, and love of gelato inspire his animal friends and community. Piccolo the stylish shrew is a list maker, and on his list are all the favorite places he is eager to visit.

As his day begins, he runs into his pal Mr. Rosso, who needs help carrying his artwork to the museum. Piccolo can't believe his luck—the museum is on his list of favorite places! In no time at all, Piccolo is helping all his friends solve problems as he zips around the city on his scooter. But with so many ways to lend a hand, Piccolo might not have time to visit the one place on his list he loves the most.

Full of adventure, culture, and some tasty hazelnut gelato, this endearing tale of friendship and teamwork proves that helping others is the most powerful triumph of all.



Besides your local bookstore, a great place to shop for books—with a particular focus on Italian American and other cultural experiences—is **IAM Books** at <https://iambooksboston.com>.

Located in Boston, I AM Books sells primarily fiction and nonfiction 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 materials, games, and toys.

Heritage — Italian Christmas Traditions

Louise Vento, Committee Member

For a country like the United States, which has many Italians, it's interesting that the Christmas season in Italy is very different—and refreshing—due to the relative absence of commercialism and sales. Italian children don't make lists of toys they want; instead, they write letters to their mother and father expressing their love and appreciation. Traditionally, these letters are read after dinner on Christmas Eve. While some European traditions such as decorating an evergreen tree and giving gifts have become more common, many customs remain uniquely Italian.

One tradition familiar in the United States is the idea that "if you are not good, you will get coal in your stocking." This actually stems from the tradition of *La Befana*. According to legend, on the night Jesus was born, the Wise Men stopped at her house to ask



for directions and invited her to join them, but she refused. Later that same night, a shepherd also stopped to ask for directions and likewise invited her to come pay respect to the baby Jesus, but again she declined. After they left, she saw a bright star in the sky and reconsidered. She gathered toys that had belonged to her own child, who had died, and set out to find the stable to give them to the Christ Child. Unable to find Him, she now travels the world each year looking for Jesus and leaves toys for good children and coal for the bad ones.

In Italy, the traditional "coal," *car-bone dolce*, is a rock candy that looks almost exactly like real coal. Another tradition still in place today is that the main celebration is held on Christmas Eve, not Christmas Day. Gift-giving traditionally occurs on **January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany—La Festa dell'Epifania**.

Natale means Christmas, and *Buon Natale* is how Italians offer Christmas greetings.

Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library

OPEN HOUSE ON DECEMBER 7

Carmelo Sabatella

Mother Cabrini's 2025 Annual Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon was successful again this year with over 100+ ICF members attending from Mountain View, California to several Branches in the Southern California area. Branch 47 arrived on Saturday for a tour of the Chapel and Library with Cabrini Committee member Lou M. and Carmelo S. describing, addressing and responding to visitors' questions.

The group then joined us on Sunday at Mass in the St Francis Xavier Church followed by the Pilgrimage around the property and the Benediction at the Cabrini Chapel ending with Lunch in Holy Rosary Hall.

Several members attending the luncheon brought donations from the Italian Women's Club of Los Angeles, from the Rosa and Phillip Stevens Family and from ICF Branch 115

for the support of the Chapel and the newly donated gift to the Chapel received recently from a dedicated Mother Cabrini supporter.

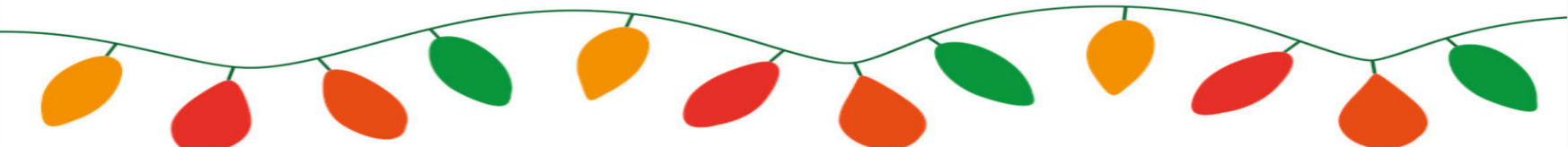
Come visit the Mother Cabrini Chapel, Library and Chapel Store. For more information on the Chapel and Library please visit icf.org/mother Cabrini shrine or call 626 372-7812.

SAVE THE DATES:

- December 7, 2025 - Mother Cabrini Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- December 7, 2025 - Mother Cabrini Committee Meeting from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

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



Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza
Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

(Received as of November 10, 2025)

IN MEMORY OF:

Frank Signorelli
Cathy Misuraca
Gino Spinelli
Kay Waldvogel

DONATED BY:

CC Spouses' and Family Association
Jim and Patty Jarrett
Officers/Members of Br. 380
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

GET WELL WISHES:

Fr. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, . Officers/Members of Br. 343
OFM Conv.

IN CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION
TO THE NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY:

Fr. James Okafor Officers/Members of Br. 191

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH BRANCH ANNIVERSARY OF:

ICF Br. #50 Officers/Members of Central Council
ICF Br. #51 Officers/Members of Central Council
ICF Br. #52 Officers/Members of Central Council

*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.

Pastina, Italian Penicillin Recipe

Sally Panella, Member Br. 352

I am always looking for recipes and this one came up and I remember my grandmother making this all the time when we were sick. This is a wonderful comfort soup.

450g Stelletta Pastina

Two cloves garlic

One onion

Two carrots

Three celery sticks

One potato

8 cups chicken broth

1 Parmigiano Reggiano, rind

2 tbsp Parmigiano Reggiano

1 tbsp butter

1 tbsp olive oil

Chopped parsley for garnish and salt and pepper

Boil in chicken broth, onion, carrots, celery, garlic potato, for half hour to 40 minutes, you can add a little olive oil. Remove the vegetables discard the parm and in the blender add vegetables +2 scoops of broth. Blend until smooth and then add back into the pot. Boil the Pastina in a separate pot then drain and add Pastina to the soup until the consistency you like, usually thick. Ladle into a soup bowl and garnished with some Parm and some butter and if you like a little parsley.

Enjoy, you will feel better soon, whether you are sick or not.

Sally Panella 352.

Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco

Br. 1, Maria S.S. Immacolata

Dear Members:

On Sunday, November 9th Branch 1 Members and Friends enjoyed a meeting and delicious Italian lunch. Thank you, President Vic.

Please call President Vic at 650-755-1369 if you would like to purchase ICF calendars.

Beautiful December Birthday Wishes to Loredana Borsoni.

Wishing you and the family a very Merry Christmas.

*Cordiali Saluti
Diana Cresci*

SAN MATEO District Council

Congratulations to Branch 7, Sacro Cuore for Celebrating 100 years. They had a beautiful mass by Father Bennett and luncheon with many wonderful memories.

Thank you to the Offices that have served in the past and those that have volunteered to serve this year.

President: Barbara Firpo

Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Open

1st VP: Dorene Campanile

2nd VP: Sylvia Row

Trustees: Bob Tomasello, Kathy Trevizo, Beatrice Tomasello

Secretary: Deborah Rodondi

Orator: Mariane Cameron

Sentinel: Brenda Wemiz

District Mentor: Donna Barnes

Our new meeting schedule for 2026:

January 22, 2026

April 23, 2026

July 23, 2026

October 22, 2026

We will continue to meet at Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame in the small hall.

*I hope you all have a Blessed Holiday Season
Ciao, Barbara*



South San Francisco Br. 7, Sacro Cuore

Thank You from South City!

The officers and members of Branch 7 would like to thank everyone who joined us on October 25 to celebrate our 100th anniversary. The turnout was beyond expectations with 126 in attendance at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. ICF Spiritual Director, Fr. Christopher Bennett, led off the celebration with a wonderful Mass and his homily was truly inspiring. We were grateful to have several members of the Central Council in attendance with a presentation and speech by our new Grand President, Franklyn Lopes. We also had several presentations by representatives of the city, state and other local organizations honoring our branch's contribution to the community over the last 100 years.

We would like to thank our Celebration Committee for all their hard work especially Deborah Rodondi, Donna Smith, Ginny Tilton, Evonna Medeghini & Lauren Wheat. Without the dedication and hardwork they put into the event none of it could have happened.

We thank our sponsors, especially ASF Electric, Inc., Giorgi Bros. Furniture Showroom, Garden Chapel Funeral Home, SSF Scavengers, Inc. and the Chimenti Family. Your generous support allowed us to organize this once in a lifetime event.

We also thank all the businesses and members who donated to the raffle and silent auction. Your contributions helped raise needed funds to continue our charitable work into the future and made the event so much fun.

Finally, we are excited to share that we may have a new home for our branch in SSF. More information will be shared once all the details are finalized.

Buon Natale and Buon Capo d'Anno!

Colma Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli

Advent is a season of hope and preparation, derived from the Latin word adventus ("coming" or "arrival"). This four-week liturgical season is a time of devout and expectant delight, encompassing a twofold focus: preparing to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ and anticipating Christ's Second Coming—the final return of Christ at the end of time, which calls us to spiritual readiness and vigilance. May this sacred season be a period of reflection culminating in the joyous celebration of Christmas.

Our primary fundraiser is the selling of the ICF Calendar and daily raffle, themed "Sports Italian Style." These calendars make wonderful gifts; please contact Deborah to purchase them at \$30.00 each. Additionally, our Anniversary and Christmas Dinner will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at

Sharp Park Golf Course. The evening will include dinner and a raffle. For more information and to make reservations, please contact Donna Barnes at 650-991-0178. Please don't wait, as seating is limited.

Holy Angels Parish is also sponsoring a 9-day Novena of Masses (Simbang Gabi) in preparation for Christmas, running from December 15th through the 24th. Looking ahead to the new year, our first meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, at Deborah's house, starting with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by the branch meeting.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Burlingame Br. 173, Our Lady of Angels

Wishing all a grateful Thanksgiving! Special thanks for all officers who devoted their time in helping our branch have a very successful year.

Our Officer's for 2026 are:

Co-Presidents: Dorene Campanile and Mary Ann Camacho

1st V.P.: Bea Tomasello

2nd V.P.: Luci Witherspoon

Rec. Secretary: Roz Emery

Financial Sectry: Brenda Wemiz

Treasurer: Mara Millis

Orator: Carmela Gigliotti

Trustees: Lori Clyne, Marge Silva, and Bob Tomasello

Sentinel Maria Camicia

Branch Mentor Donna Barnes

We are celebrating the 100th birthday of member Rina Cassanago who for 83 years has been a member of the ICF. We are planning a very festive celebration along with a traditional Turkey dinner with all of the trimmings being chaired by Bob and Bea Tomasello.

For December watch for the list of 2026 monthly events. Also, the calendars are here for \$30.00 with each branch keeping \$10.00 per calendar sold. Please contact Marge Silva for details.

We are planning a Christmas dinner party with more details to follow. As always, we will have a raffle of baked goods and the proceeds will go to St. Vincent de Paul.

Please keep in your prayers the following: Capuchins: Fr. Brian and Fr. Gerald, Mary Bodisco, Anthony Bruno, Rina Cassanago, Anita Cecena, Nerina Di Bella and Virginia Fuentes. From Branch 19: Steve Barnes and Kathy Trevizo.

*God Bless,
Roz Emery*

South San Francisco Br. 213, St Augustine

I hope you had a Great Thanksgiving and are enjoying the winter Holidays.

We Celebrated the 100th anniversary of Branch 7 Sacro Cuore South San Francisco at the Basque Cultural Center along with members from our district and many more.

Keep buying those ICF calendars. We had two big winners last month from our branch.

Remember the time change for our monthly meetings. Doors open 4:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. Meeting to follow.

A Happy Birthday to John Poulet

Keep in your prayers Chuck Baumann, Jackie Smith, Barbara Gabriel and Lorraine D'Elia.

Thanks to Roberta and Kathy for hosting our last meeting.

*Happy Holidays to all.
Ciao*

Joe Crosetti

Menlo Park Br. 351, St. Patrick

Happy Thanksgiving and Blessed Christmas to all!

Our soup dinner was delicious and everyone enjoyed the soups made by Angie, Charo & Barbara E. Thank you to those members that brought hors d'oeuvres, wine, waters & sodas. Thank you to Charo and Paul for the beautiful decorations and table settings.

December will be potluck. Please bring canned foods that we will donate to a food pantry.

Our list of officers for 2026:

President: Barbara Firpo

1st VP: Teresa Stevens

2nd VP: Mary Smith

Secretary: Barbara Ebel

Financial Secretary: Paul Eisenman

Treasurer: Martha Lancelstremere

Orator: Sharon Ondry

Trustees: Peter Lancelstremere, Don Smith

Sentinel: Charo Switalski

Mentor: Donna Barnes

Thank you to the Officers that served last year and those that have accepted offices for the new year.

Keep our sick members in your prayers.

*God Bless you,
Barbara
650-444-6999*

Millbrae Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao! Our November "Lasagna Dinner" was a great success. If you missed it, you missed good food & a good time! Our next event is our branch Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 2nd at the Parish Hall. The social begins at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. This is a catered event and we must have an accurate count, so RSVP Eunice at 650-692-3740 no later than Friday, November 28th! The cost is \$25 (cheap!!) for Chicken Cordon Bleu, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, Caesar salad, WINE, dessert & coffee.

Dues—are payable in December! Please bring your check for \$48 (payable to ICF BR 403) to the dinner or mail it to Eunice Danli, 4 Spring Valley Ln., Millbrae, CA 94030.

Branch Officers: Please welcome Sheron Sandrini as a new Trustee. All other officers remain the same.

Adonna Amoroso, Secretary
408-313-6325

MARIN

Novato

Br. 332, Our Lady of Loretto

Branch 332 (Marin) celebrated Thanksgiving with over 150 in attendance. Our community expressed the heart of the season by donating non-perishable foods to the Saint Vincent De Paul conference at Our Lady of Loretto and by purchasing boxes of Sees' candy from kids at OLL School. The monies collected from the candy sales provides the kids the opportunity to make a Spring trip to one of California's mission churches and learn the history of these historic Catholic institutions.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Christmas greetings to you all. Here we are in December. This year just flew by. Thanks to everyone who supported the golf tournament. From our golfers, to our hole sponsors, to our golf ball and raffle baskets donors. We couldn't have done it without you.

We also had a beautiful day at St. Francis Xavier parish for the annual Cabrini Pilgrimage. Great job to Andrea Linn, Carmelo Sabatella, Lou Mages and the rest of the Cabrini committee. Francesca Taylor is presenting her next opera on the 6th at Casa Italia. The profits will benefit Gifts of Love.

Installation 2026 is scheduled to be at American Martyrs parish in Manhattan

Beach on January 18. Mass will be at 12 p.m. with installation and lunch to follow in the newly renovated St Kateri room.

I would like to wish you all the Merriest of Christmas' and a Blessed New Year.

Br. 67, National Branch, St. Peter

On November 9, 2025, NBr 67 members joined members of several other ICF Branches in Southern California at the annual Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage and Luncheon. (See Mother Cabrini Article in this *Bollettino*).

Fundraising opportunity by Member Francesca T. who invites all members, family and friends to enjoy her new Opera Italia production of the CHRISTMAS OPERA CLASSIC "AMAH and the Night Visitors" by Menotti on December 6 to benefit the ICF GIFTS OF LOVE and 7, 2025 and "Die" by Strauss on April 25 and 26, 2026 and May 2 and 3, 2025. For information on location and tickets, please call 213-248-2510 or email at info@operaitalia.com

ICF National Branch 67 is a virtual branch that reaches out to members and nonmembers who do not have an ICF in their area and would like to be a part of the ICF Family. We also would like to have your input as we continue to develop this branch online.

Visit ICF.org and select ICF National Branch 67 for more information. You are welcome to join us at ICFNationalBranch67.org, complete the application process and join us at the next NBr 67 meeting.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they may reach a speedy recovery.

And to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward; May they rest in peace.

Keep safe and stay healthy,
Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President
ICF National Branch 67
C 626 372-7812
E Cas1810@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE:

January 10, 2026—ICF National Branch 67 General Meeting at St Peters Catholic Church in Downtown Los Angeles and via Zoom.

January 18, 2026 in lieu of 2025—ICF Installation of Officers on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at American Martyrs Church in Manhattan Beach.

South Pasadena Br. 108, Holy Family

ICF Branch Board wishes all ICF Members a healthy and happy Christmas and extends warm wishes to all Members celebrating their November and December birthday and wedding anniversaries this year!

Thank you to Aggie and Bill D. who hosted the ICF Thanksgiving luncheon meeting at their home in November. Pot luck lunch was homemade and well received. Members brought their favorite dishes and shared their culinary delights.

On November 9, 2025, Br108 members joined members of several other ICF Branches in Southern California at the annual Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage and Luncheon. (See Mother Cabrini Article in this *Bollettino*).

Fundraising opportunity by NBr 67 Member Francesca T. Invites all members, family and friends to enjoy her new Opera Italia production of the CHRISTMAS OPERA CLASSIC "AMAH and the Night Visitors" by Menotti on December 6 to benefit the ICF GIFTS OF LOVE and 7, 2025 and "Die" by Strauss on April 25 and 26, 2026 and May 2 and 3, 2025. For information on location and tickets, please call 213-248-2510 or email at info@operaitalia.com

SAVE THE DATE

- 12/7/25 Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House at SFXC Burbank from 10 am to 1 pm hosted by the San Fernando Valley Region. Call 626 372-7812 or email cas1810@aol.com for more information.

- January 18, 2026 - ICF Installation of Officers at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Manhattan Beach.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers for a speedy recovery; and special prayers to former Branch members and friends of ICF who have gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.

Keep safe and stay healthy.
Carmelo Sabatella PP
ICF Branch 108
C 626 372-7812
E cas1810@aol.com

Montebello Br. 111, St. Benedict

Ciao a Tutti. Hello everyone. It was nice seeing many of you at our November 20th general meeting and Thanksgiving dinner at the St. Augustine House in Montebello. We hope you all had a memorable Thanksgiving.

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

We would like to congratulate all the 2026 ICF 111 Officers who got nominated & elected at our October general meeting.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Salvatore Italian Restaurant in Montebello. A flyer will be coming out with more details. Plan

to join us and invite your family and friends for some great socializing and holiday cheer. For more information or to make reservations please call Frank at (323) 895-8440.

Please pray our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Finally, we would like to wish all of you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti.

A Presto!
Frank Salomone
Branch 111 President

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

Join us for our annual Branch Christmas party on Saturday December 6 at 6pm in Church auditorium. Free to members \$15.00 for nonmember guests. Come enjoy great food, fun and fellowship as we celebrate the season together. We're looking for cookie donations for our party. Please drop off your cookie donations at 1 p.m. in church auditorium on Saturday as that is when we will be assembling the platters. Your sweet contributions will help make the celebration extra special. Also please bring a small gift for gift exchange

It is time to renew your ICF 2026 membership. Branch 115 dues are \$45.00 per member. Please mail check to Pauline Iacono 1072 W 8th Street; San Pedro 90731. Dues can also be paid at our 1st general meeting on January 15th at 7:30 p.m

On a sad note member, Isabel Curci has passed away. Isabel joined the branch in 2011. Our condolences to her family.

Thank you to all who have participated in our many fundraisers throughout the year. Your generous support has allowed our branch to make donations to the following organizations: Gifts of Love, Children's Hospital, St Jude, USC Norris Cancer Center, American Cancer Society, Cooley's anemia, Mother Cabrini Chapel, and to seminarians Christian Uguarole, Jose Zinkewich and Isidoro Amalfitano.

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas season and a Happy New Year!
Anita Trujillo



CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Trunk or Treat, Branch 36



Michael Leonard Family, Branch 36



Jack Simon, Branch 36



Bella Cutino, Branch 36



Central Coast District attend Grand President Denise Antonowicz's Testimonial dinner in San Jose.



Branch 291 recently participated in our parish's Ministry Fair, promoting the ICF to members of our church. Shown here at our booth are Anne Orlando (our new 1st V.P.) and Pete Gallagher (our Branch President.)



Central Coast District attend Grand President Denise Antonowicz's Testimonial dinner in San Jose.



Central Coast District attend Grand President Denise Antonowicz's Testimonial dinner in San Jose.

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Branch #209's Chef Donovan Dorr at our October 18 Chicken and Polenta Dinner.



L to R: Eugene Vannetti, Dominic Petuya, Chuck Fomasi, and Melanie Lujan, from Branch #209.



Branch #209's President, Pam McAlvain, greeting the guests at our October 18 Polenta Dinner.



Branch #209's awesome bartender, John Marian.



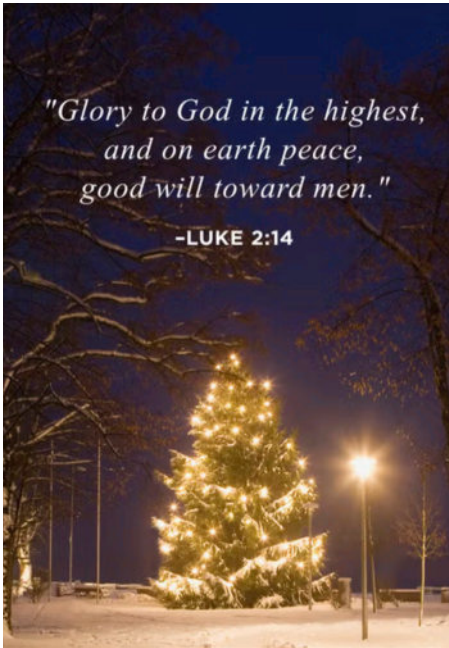
Branch 144 Passegiata in Termoli, Molise, IT.



Branch 144- Elena David & Judy Cardoza enjoying passeggiata in 2019.



Grand President Franklyn Lopes Jr. presents Br. 52 President Monika Besancon with a certificate and donation to the Providenza Fund in honor of Br. 52's 90th Anniversary.



Branch 144 Christine Ross is initiated by Joe Bonino (Deputy, Branch 145).



Br. 52, Fr. Sean Rogers, Past Grand President Carmen Kilcullen, Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr., CC Grand 2nd Vice President Lisa Crudo, Branch President Monika Besancon and Past Grand President Bob Acquistapace celebrate Br. 52's 90th Anniversary.



Br. 52, Over 240 members and friends enjoyed Br. 52, Healdsburg's 90th Anniversary.

Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

Branch 179 has been very busy these last couple of months! A quarterly truck loading pizza party yielded over \$5,000 for our church and charities; a clambake and bocci party hosted by the Grandsons of Italy; a grape harvest at members' Christensen's vineyard; and our biannual ICF Mass along with our Parish Ministry Fair. At our General October Meeting, we played "Name That Pasta" game! Lots of fun and a huge thank you to Branch 82 for their idea! Congratulations, Emi for getting all 16 right! Also, we were honored by one of our charities, Shepherd's Pantry, as a bronze level sponsor. Four of our members attended the awards breakfast.

We're looking forward to "Friendsgiving" in November, and, of course, our annual Christmas Party in December. We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026! See you next year.

Patricia
Trustee, Branch 179

Arcadia Br. 218, Holy Angels

At our last meeting, a traditional Thanksgiving dinner was served and it was a very special get together. Actually, there was no meeting. It was more like a huge party. We recognized one of our oldest members who turned 100 and has been an ICF member for 57 years – Ann Iarossi Armenio. Also, at this get together, a very special speaker in honor of Veterans Day, Joe Sciarra, who is also 100 years old, spoke of his service in the military during World War 2. We thank him and all veterans for their service to our country.

As of this writing, our Christmas Boutique has not happened, however, I am going to give a resounding thank you to Jenni Hauge and her crew. I am sure that it will be very successful.

Also, as to the Christmas Party by the time the *Bollettino* is received it may or may not have happened. But I will thank everyone now that has helped me put this together.

The next very large undertaking is our New Year's Eve Party which Mary Rovarino will be chairing. Watch for the details on this.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.
Lolly M.

Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

Happy December and Happy Advent.

Here we are, it's December and the year is almost over. I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving. Last month we had

another Bingo lunch, but it fell on the same day as the Cabrini Pilgrimage. We still had a great turnout and a big group showed up. Thanks to all of you for covering for me.

Opera Italia is presenting a special Christmas opera on Saturday December 6 at Casa Italia. Please come out and support this event. All the profits will go to Gifts of Love.

Our branch Christmas party is Tuesday the 9th at Frantone's in Cerritos / Norwalk. The parish Christmas pageant will be on Sunday the 14th presented by the choirs and Danette Buckley.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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

Our officers for 2026 will include a new face to the board. We welcome Daniel Van Slyke as Trustee and Membership Chairman. We are looking forward to Daniel's enthusiasm and outgoing personality to increase membership, but we all must help him by bringing in one new member next year. Other Trustees are Diana Dykes, Raul Acevedo, and Phyllis Harb. Joel Wynton will be at the helm as President, and Jack DeZell (who was President in past years), will serve as First Vice President. Returning in their current roles are Lila Nastro, Second Vice President, Gloria McGaughey, Secretary/ Corresponding.; Mark Mannerelli, Treasurer; Emy Mannerelli, Orator; Fiora Murphy, Sentinel. Congratulations to all the new officers! Thank you for your commitment and dedication to fulfilling ICF's mission. Also, thank you to retiring board members Diane Restivo and Minerva Astengo for their many years of service.

Excitement is building for the Silent Auction occurring in March at our St. Joseph Day Celebration. Under the able guidance of past chairperson, Phyllis Harb, and our new chairperson, Marta Sarno, donations have been pouring in. This event is a major fundraiser for our charities, so be sure to secure a donation from your favorite place of business and check Facebook to post a "Like" comment.

WISHING YOU ALL A CHRISTMAS BLESSED WITH GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE.

Thousand Oaks Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon

SPB Fall Festival October 17, 18 & 19—ICF Branch 380's participation in the 2025 St. Paschal Baylon Fall Festival was a busy and successful event. Our volunteers manned the booth all three days of the festival while offering festival goers pizza, pasta and meatball sandwiches.

Mother Cabrini Shrine Pilgrimage—On

Sunday, November 9th, we traveled to the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Burbank located at St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Parish. We attended Holy Mass there before visiting the Shrine, followed by lunch in the Parish auditorium.

December Christmas Activity—Plans are currently underway to celebrate the Christmas season with our members in a special lunch or dinner event.

Respectfully submitted by Don Modaro

Rancho Palos Verdes Br. 444, St. John Fisher

The Favorite Saints Trivia game was won by Bruno Vieri at October's meeting. Everyone did well on the questions & we will do it again next year.

Hany Francis continues as President, Carol Picarillo is 1st VP, Bruno Vieri, 2nd VP, Patty Hansen is corresponding Secretary, Mary Alley will be Orator, Cristina Baldemor, Trustee & Tonia Amalfatano, Trustee. Jovita Trani was able to attend our meeting & brought us up to date on Joe's condition. He's been ill for many years now, but their deep faith keeps them going.

Mark your Calendars for Dec. 6th Saturday for the Annual Christmas Dinner Dance Celebration, 6 p.m.-10 p.m. in Barrett Hall.

An anonymous person is providing the money for the "Tony Ciaramitaro's Sicilian Band" to entertain guests & dancing. Great food will be provided from the "Appetizer".

Happy Birthday to Nov & Dec members. Please keep praying for Marianne, Joe, Guido, Sheryl & Mary.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members.
Ciao
Patty Longo Hansen

EAST BAY District Council

During fall, we enjoy traditions celebrating our heritage and anticipate the festivities of the coming season. The EBD was again well represented on the ICF float at the Italian Heritage Parade in North Beach, October 12th. The vibrant Italian-colored float transported ICF members along the route: Franklyn Lopes Jr., Debbie Rodondi, Andy Papani, Jim Friebe, Leonard Rossi, Rebecca Cruz Engineer, Juanita Barbera, Bob Bausino, and Jo-Ann Maggiora Donovan. Jo-Ann worked the crowd, passing out Italian flags. This year the float was awarded 2nd place and ICF received \$500!

Election of officers is proceeding. Mentor, Karen Rossi has helped branches find creative solutions to fill the much-needed positions. The ICF exists only by its members' participation. We are grateful to those who give their time and talent, making it thrive.

A Christmas celebration co-hosted by Branch 10 and EBD is at St. Philip Neri, Alameda, on Dec. 6th at 6 p.m. Santa Claus will visit. Music and Christmas carols highlight the evening. Beautiful gift baskets will be raffled!

The New Year is approaching! In 2026 the East Bay and Contra Costa districts will hold their joint-installation on January 18th at St. Stephen's Church in Walnut Creek. Mass is at 3:30 p.m. with installation and dinner to follow. Contra Costa District is hosting this year.

Planning has started for the EBD Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on February 21st at St. Phillip Neri, Alameda. Details to follow.

Please consult branch reports for more news and events!

La pace del Natale a tutti.
Sincerely
Roberta Madej

Alameda Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

We have lost longtime member Jane Hageman, who died at her home in Alameda on October 16. Jane had belonged to ICF Branch 10 since 1999 and also served as president of the Outreach Ministry of Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Parish in Alameda. She is survived by her daughter Eva and several nieces and nephews. Her Memorial Mass, which included the ICF "Farewell to a Member," was offered at Saint Albert the Great Church on October 29.

We conducted our elections for 2026 at our regular meeting of October 9. Next year's officers are as follows: President Jim Lee, First Vice President Ken Dorrance, Second Vice President John Zugnoni, Secretary Jeanette Zugnoni, Treasurer JoAnn Dorn, Financial Secretary Karen Harrington, Orator Terry Greig, Sentinel Fred Costello and Trustees Agnes Marcheschi, Betty Lupetti, Peggie Dorrance and Sheila Ewart. Thank to our mentor, Fran La Torre, for conducting the voting.

At the time of submission of this article we had started preparations for our combined East Bay District—Branch 10 Christmas Party scheduled for Saturday evening, December 6. Santa Claus had informed us that he would join us and would bring gifts for the children who attended.

Our first social event of 2026 will be our Polenta Dinner planned for January 24 at Monsignor O'Brien Hall in Alameda. For information and reservations, contact John Zugnoni, 510-326-3474 or john@zugnoni.net.

Congratulations to Father Chacko Muthoottil, mf, our parochial vicar, as the calendar winner for October 28.

John Zugnoni, Branch 10 publicity

Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

Ciao, Amici,

We celebrated Italian Heritage month in October by learning about some of the earliest Italian immigrants who settled in Livermore and Pleasanton. Some of our members are even descendants of these early families.

Additionally, elections were held at the meeting. We congratulate our newly elected 2026 Board members: President: Toni Manzetti, 1st Vice President: Carolyn Cardinalli, 2nd Vice President: Kathy Elm, Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Navarini, Recording Secretary: Virginia Williams, Sentinel: Juanita Berlo, Orator: Shirley Koenig, and Trustees: Anna Yocham, Chris Carrano, and Margaret Meyer.

The chestnut, a popular fall treat in Italy, was the theme of October's Italian conversation group meeting. We enjoyed chestnut cookies and boiled chestnuts, a common way to prepare chestnuts in Italy.

In early November, some ICF members attended the St. Michael's Golden Friends Tea and enjoyed seeing all the beautifully decorated tables, the lunch, and the treats. We are looking forward to once again teaming up with the Golden Friends at our joint Golden Friends/ICF Bingo fundraiser next February.

At our annual Mass of Remembrance on November 21st, we will be thinking about our beloved members who have passed on. Following the Mass, we will gather for a Thanksgiving dinner with members sharing a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

On December 2nd, we will celebrate the Christmas season with dinner at Pastas Trattoria in Pleasanton.

Please keep those members who are ill in your prayers.

Buon Compleanno to members with December birthdays!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Paula Flessatti

Castro Valley Br. 343, Our Lady of Grace

Daylight Savings Time has passed: a sure sign that fall is in full swing and that the holiday season will be here and gone before we know it!

The final accounting has been done for our very successful "Bites and Bingo" event. The seventy guests in attendance appreciated the many tasty hors d'oeuvres and desserts in addition to enjoying the bingo games and raffle prizes. We even gained a new member to our branch!

A sure sign of fall for us in our branch is that we, at our November meeting, will soon be enjoying our annual hearty minestrone soup by our chef Lisa Crudo. We will be electing our officers

for 2026 at that meeting. Members are being asked to bring canned food to donate to our local food pantry.

We are planning our branch's Christmas party which will be on December 11th and held at a local favorite restaurant: Acqua e Farina. As you know, ICF dinners would not be complete without some raffle baskets, too! Our lucky winners will be going home well-fed and happy!

We are asking for your prayers for our chaplain and pastor, Fr. Rafael, who is having some difficult health issues.

Buona Festa del Ringraziamento!
Edoardo McGuirk

CONTRA COSTA District Council

Hello to all in Contra Costa and beyond. We hope this finds all of you happy and healthy. By now, each branch has RSVP-ed for our District Christmas party. It will take place on December the 3rd at WiseGirl's Italian restaurant in Pleasant Hill. We will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner. A raffle will follow. Each of our seven branches have donated a raffle prize. It will be a fun filled evening. Enjoy! Our next event will be our Installation of officers. Our Pleasant Hill branch 442 is hosting. It will include our District and the East Bay district as well. Here are the details.

Contra Costa and East Bay Districts of the Italian Catholic Federation

Joint Installation of Officers will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at St. Stephen's Church on 1101 Keaveny Ct., Walnut Creek 94597

Mass at 3:30 p.m. with Installation following in the church. Buffet Dinner following in the adjacent Parish Event Center. Cost for dinner is \$45 per person. Menu: Sirloin tri tip, Italian rosemary chicken, pasta, roasted vegetables, Caesar salad, rolls and dessert.

Branches, please collect checks from your branch and send one check for your branch. Make checks payable to ICF Contra Costa District and send your check by January 8 to the Contra Costa District Treasurer:

Walter Costa
1211 Rollinghill Way
Martinez, CA 94553

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events. And we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and God's blessings in the new year.

Fraternally, Patty Jarrett. Past President



Martinez Br. 13, San Martino

This year has certainly flown by. I wonder if we became so entrenched in our activities, it had us speeding through time without pausing. It can be a challenge to stay peaceful, to remember that while we journey through December readying our hearts and minds for the celebration of our Lord's birth, we take a breath as we shop, write cards, and decorate. Don't fret, there's still time as Advent continues to prepare ourselves spiritually for our savior's birth. Our season of prayer, fasting, and repentance followed by hope, love, joy, and peace resound in all of us.

Let Mary help set the calming tone by celebrating the Solemnity of her Immaculate Conception on December 8. You're also welcome to attend an advent reconciliation service on December 10 at St. Catherine. Come to see forgiveness as a gift you give yourself, a means to reclaim your own peace of mind and emotional balance.

As we participate in this holy day of obligation and penance service, we come to the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope. It was a year of optimism for so many to imitate Jesus' virtues. I pray it happened for you. There is one last Mass in the Oakland Diocese on December 28 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light closing out this holy year. Maybe you'll attend. For many of us, this may be our last Jubilee Year as they occur once every 25 years.

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of laughter and goodwill. God bless your good hearts always.

For the greater glory of God,
Mary Cook

Crockett Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

We all have special memories of Christmases past. Perhaps it's an early childhood memory, like waking up before your parents on Christmas morning. Maybe a funny Christmas mishap, like a pet knocking over the tree. What smell or taste instantly transports you back to a favorite Christmas? How about a cherished family tradition that has persisted over generations. What is your Christmas story?

Please join us on December 9th to swap stories and celebrate with friends at our ICF Christmas Social. No meeting, dinner, or Mass, but there will be plenty of delicious appetizers and libations. We also have it on good authority that Santa might swing by for a cocktail and a nosh, so be sure to bring a wrapped gift for your child, grandchild, (or loved one who just acts like a child) if they'd like a special visit with Santa.

A big shout out to our friends Pat Botta, Mike Bowman, Louise de Tomasi, Chico Flores, Lois Ramos, Anthony



Scardina, and Johnny Valentini. We are thinking of you and send our very best wishes.

Our first meeting of 2026 will be held on January 13th. We'll fortify ourselves with soup, salad, garlic bread, panettone, and eggnog, with meeting to follow. Please bring your comments, opinions, and ideas, as we really want to hear from you about how to enhance our branch. We miss seeing many of you. So, if you need a ride, please call Helen Petersen a few days in advance at (510) 990-2139. We'd love to see you at our meetings again.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard for our branch and have given so much in the past year. Wishing a very Merry Christmas to you all and a wonderful New Year!

Blessings,
~Helen

Richmond Br. 154, St. Raymond

Our November Meeting was preceded with a dinner that included salad and a nice warm minestrone soup from our chef, Walter. Our meeting this month, included more discussions on the 2026 plans for the branch. The following items were discussed and voted on by the nine members present:



- Branch Meetings will change to the 1st Monday of each month starting in 2026.
- The location of our meetings will possibly change too so stay tuned.
- Branch Officers for 2025 will remain in place for 2026.

Our next meeting date is Monday, December 8th at 6:30 at Salesian High School Cafeteria. We will be celebrating our members and the Christmas Season with a delicious POLENTA/CHICKEN/SAUSAGE DINNER PREPARED BY WALTER (if you know, you know)!!! This dinner is FREE for Branch Members and only \$20.00 for guests. Please join us and bring a guest. We will also have a fun 50-50 Raffle! Call Lorraine to reserve at 510-697-3128.

The January Branch Meeting will be on our new day – the 1st Monday which is January 5th, at 6:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO
Sally Costa



 Branch 130 "Star of the Sea" sends its best wishes to ALL ICF members wishing them a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!!
 May good health and prosperity be with us all in the years ahead!!!



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

Sending a
 very blessed
 Christmas wish
 to you.

Italian Catholic Federation • Branch 28, Gilroy, CA



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION
 Santa Rosalia Branch 36/Monterey

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
 & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!**



Sending our very best wishes
 for a peaceful, safe, and
 blessed holiday season.




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

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His glory." *Isaiah 61:3*

♥ Branch #13 in Martinez



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
from
Branch #144, Arcata



Christmas Greetings from the
Mining District
of Hanover, New Mexico.
Fraternally,
Jim and Patty Jarrett

**Merry Christmas
and
Best Wishes!**



*G*lory to God
in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.
LUTHER 134 RVN

**From
The Fuentes Family**

Ciao a Tutti!
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Dalla Famiglia ICF - Chiesa
St. Dorothy Branch 179
Glendora, CA



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



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



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

*Branch 332, Novato (Marin
Area) is asking God to rain
down on our ICF Family all the
joys and blessings
of Christmas and the New Year.*

Merry Christmas ICF Family



from
Branch 217 (Redlands)!
Buon Natale!



**ALL IS CALM ALL IS
BRIGHT**



**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**

FROM THE MEMBERS OF BRANCH 442
PLEASANT HILL

Christ the King/St Stephen's Church



**BUON NATALE
BUON ANNO
FROM BRANCH 82
ST. ANNE'S LODI**



Opera Italia
UN TEATRO
TUTTO CANTATO

**Buon Natale e
Felice Anno
Nuovo!**

**...da tutti i
Musicisti ed i
Cantanti di
Opera Italia**

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



*"Oh come let us adore Him"
~ John F. Wade.*



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

EAST BAY DISTRICT



East Bay District: Italian Heritage Parade - ICF Float - Juanita Barbera and Franklyn Lopes, Jr.



Branch 285



East Bay District: Italian Heritage Parade - ICF Float - Leonard Rossi.



East Bay District: Italian Heritage Parade - Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan passed out Italian Flags.



Italian Heritage Parade: ICF Float - Bob Basuino and Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan.



Br. 343, Plenty of Raffle Prizes



Br. 343, Children playing for non-cash prizes



Br. 343, Our officers and our chaplain



Br. 343, Our Members supplied plenty of hors d'oeuvres.

STOCKTON DISTRICT



Br. 390, Liz Della Nina, Jeff Morri, and Anita Ridolfi selling raffle and drink tickets.



Scan this QR code with your phone to see more photos taken by Branch 390



Br. 82, John Spagnola & Deacon Karl Olive oil tasing.



Br. 390, Chuck Tusso, Kurt and Mike Repetto enjoying a little fellowship before dinner.



Stockton District Board for 2026



Branch 413, St. Patrick – Deb with raffle assistants



Branch 413, St. Patrick – Waiting for dinner



Branch 413, St. Patrick – Cleaning up

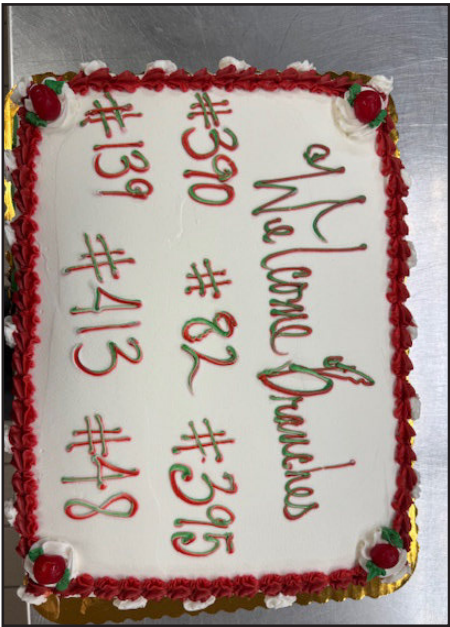


Branch 413, St. Patrick – Washing dishes

STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 395 hosts the Stockton District meeting. It takes a village!



Br. 395, Nothing like an Italian Rum Cake ...



*Buon Natale from Branch 413!
May the Christ Child bring you His
peace all through the year.*



*Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno*




The Todos Santos Branch #214, Concord, Ca.

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

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

FROM THE
CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT

BRENTWOOD 432
CONCORD 214
CROCKETT 14
DANVILLE 352
MARTINEZ 18
PLEASANT HILL 442
RICHMOND 154



*May this season
bring you Hope,
Joy, Love and
Peace.
Buon Natale e
Felice Anno Nuovo.
ICF Branch #191*

Buon Natale e
Felice Anno Nuevo
From
San Carlo, Branch 14
Crockett, CA



Merry Christmas and many blessings
for a fabulous New Year from
Branch 54 in Gustine, CA
Celebrating 90 years of
Our Lady of Pettoruto in August 2026.



joy TO THE WORLD



The Officers and Members of
St. Mary's Branch 184 Los Gatos
wish you all a very Merry Christmas and
Peaceful and Blessed New Year



Unto
us a *Child*
is born

Merry Christmas and
Wishing You a
Happy and
Prosperous New Year!

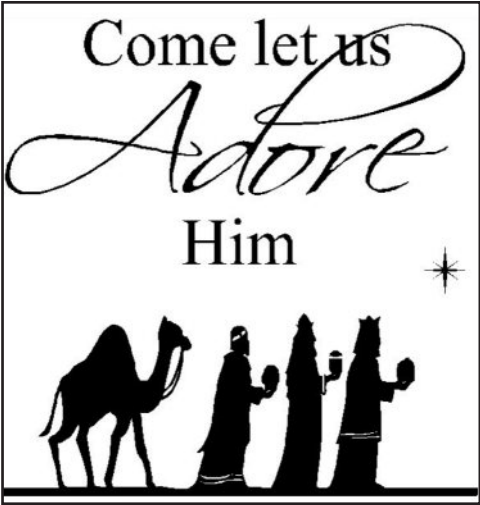
The Pappani Family
Past Grand President
Andy and
First Lady Siria (Sid)
Pappani



SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Br. 213, Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Branch 7 Sacro Cuore, South San Francisco are Seated L to R: Donna DeVoe, Roberta Franchini, Kathy Amiot, Judy Crosetti. Standing L to R: Joe Crosetti, Dorene Campanile, Linda Benedetti, Linda Marcelli.



Branch 403 Lasagna dinner meeting.



Branch 403 Lasagna dinner meeting.



Branch 403 Lasagna dinner meeting.

MARIN AREA



Br. 332



Br. 332

FRESNO DISTRICT



ICF Branch 250, Fresno - Flora DePasquale.
May she rest in peace.



Br. 250, ICF Tarantella Dancers - St. Paul Newman Center International Festival, Fresno, CA.



Br. 281, the winning team the Pickle Ballers of the Bocce Ball Tournament.



Br. 281, Participants of the Bocce Ball Tournament.



Pictures from Sunday, August 24th: ICF Branch #54 of Gustine celebrated its 89th our Lady of Pettoruto Celebration. Next year we will be Celebrating our 90th.

SAN FRANCISCO AREA



Branch 1 Italian lunch.



Branch 1 Italian lunch.



Amahl's Christmas Opera Party



Join us!

Gian Carlo Menotti's classic children's opera ~

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Opera sung in English, with supertitles projected

Add-ons:
Tasty, Kid-friendly Snack Buffet!
Ornament craft to take home!
COOL: Flavored Licorice Tasting!

Nov 30 ~ Grand Annex Music Hall, San Pedro
Dec 6 ~ Casa Italiana, Downtown LA
Dec 7 ~ Our Mother of Good Counsel Hall, Los Feliz
Doors open 12noon, Opera at 2pm, 50 minute-show


youngoperatheater@gmail.com
info@operaitalia.com
213-248-2510

~with thanks to our sponsors~



Adult \$25
Senior \$22
Student \$18
Youth \$15





Amahl and the Night Visitors

By Gian Carlo Menotti
The perfect Christmas opera, for families and for everyone young at heart!
Sung in English with projected supertitles
50 minutes length.
Featuring a lively Opera Chorus of shepherds and dancers, with participants from Young Opera Theater.
Come in a Christmas Holiday costume and enter to win a prize!

Nov 30, 2025 (Grand Annex Music Hall, San Pedro) 2pm matinee
Dec 6 (Casa Italiana, Downtown LA) 2pm matinee
Dec 7 (Our Mother of Good Counsel Hall, Los Feliz) 2pm matinee **
**All proceeds from the performance on Dec 6th benefit ICF's Gifts of Love Charity

Doors open at 12:00pm, every show,
come for the activities anytime between noon and 2pm (opera starts at 2:00pm 😊)

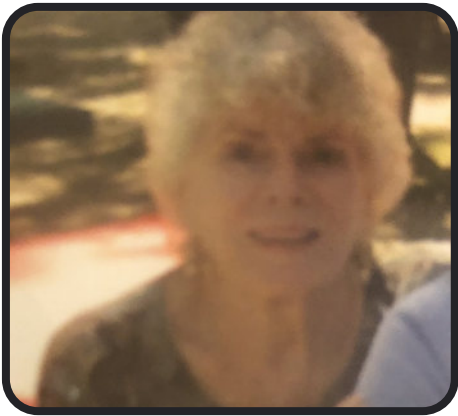
General Admission \$25	Senior (60 +) \$22	Student (with ID) \$18	Youth (18 and under) \$15
Specify Date: Nov 30 (San Pedro) Dec 6 (Casa Italiana) Dec 7 (Los Feliz)			
Specify number of tickets for each type General x \$25 = Senior x \$22 = Student x \$18 = Youth x \$15 =			
Specify number of add-on Snack Buffet (Mac and cheese, pizza bites, carrots & pickles, Christmas treats) Specify number of Three Kings/La Befana craft activities (\$4 each craft, may be taken home) FREE: Flavored Licorice Tasting Activity ***because King Kaspar likes licorice!		Snack Buffet for \$9 Ornament craft Musical craft Yes, _____ (number of persons) will participate	
Total:		\$ _____	

****All proceeds from the performance on Dec 6th benefit**

ICF's Gifts of Love Charity**



BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Br. 342, Norma Harris 1925- 2025



Br. 342, October 2025 Bunco Fundraiser



Br. 342, October 2025 Bunco Fundraiser

Concord Br. 214, Todos Santos

Well, the holidays are here!! We wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving. A time to be with loved ones and friends and make many treasured memories.

We had some sad news. Ron Artale a former member of our branch has passed away. He and his wife Christine were active members of our branch for many years. He was chairman of the Pedro Tournament. He was active in many clubs. Our sympathy and love goes out to his wife and family.

On November 20th we are planning our Thanksgiving feast at our branch Cauche Hall. We have many great cooks and should be a great dinner. If all goes well, we will also donate toys for Toys 4 Tots.

On December 3rd we will be attending the District Christmas party at WiseGirl in Pleasant Hill. A buffet dinner will be served and many great raffle prizes donated by each branch. It is a fun event.

On December 7th we will have our branch Christmas party at Zio Fraedo's restaurant. It will be a delicious buffet lunch followed by a branch meeting.

Pending in early Spring we will have another popular Pasta/Bingo. Flyers will be sent out later regarding date and time.

We wish you a blessed holiday season. Stay healthy and safe. We wish you love and peace.

*Tanti baci.
Norene Deluca*

Danville Br. 352, San Isidore

Dear ICF Members,

After reading Franklin Lopes Jr.'s article in the last *Bollettino*, I found myself thinking about Thanksgiving when I was a child. I remember all the cousins, aunts, and grandparents gathered around a long table. We were served antipasto, pasta, then a beef dish — plus turkey with all the trimmings — and of course, dessert afterward.

All the ladies, including myself (even though I was young), would get up to do the dishes. Once we finished, we'd go outside for a walk until about 5 o'clock — and then, unbelievably, all the food would come back out again! It's amazing how much we could eat.

When I asked other board members about their Thanksgiving memories, they mentioned saying grace and sharing what they were thankful for. The men would play cards while the women did the dishes. Some remembered enjoying mince pie, Jell-O molds, ravioli, cranberry dishes, and other treats we don't often see anymore. It was lovely to reminisce about those special times.

On October 25, we held our annual

Auction Fundraiser Dinner Dance to raise money for our charities. The event was a great success, and we hope to increase our charitable contributions this year. Danville businesses were very generous with their donations, as were our members and guests. We had some wonderful live auction items donated by members, and the evening was filled with fun and community spirit.

I wanted to add one more thing that was served at the dinner — a delicious pasta dish called Fiocchi Gorgonzola. It was something we've never had before, and everyone loved it! We finished the evening dancing to Atomic DJ, and it was so much fun.

A heartfelt thank-you to our board for working so hard on this event and to everyone who helped make it such a success.

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving

Brentwood Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

Ti auguro Buon Natale!

How did this happen so fast? We've come to the end of this year! This year was productive with an increase in new memberships, successful fundraisers, fun events that brought us closer together, several Heritage reports that expanded our understanding of where we all come from. Thanks to those members who worked hard to share reports and Special thanks to Laura Ramstetter Pierce who provided 2 reports! Laura went above and beyond to inform us of her Italian and German family trees. We all enjoy the Heritage reports so let's keep them going in the New Year. A little work benefits so many.

We also celebrated our dear Deacon John Kortuem for his dedication to our ICF Branch #432 over the past 9 years with a plaque signed by all of us and presented to him by Jay Risso at our October meeting. We all know that behind every successful man there is a special woman so thank you to Linda Kortuem as well for her years of service to our branch.

Our Octoberfest meeting was lively and full of fun and good food prepared by Hilde Valenti. Hilde had help from her son, Mike, daughter-in-law, Eleanor (see her cute photo) and Sandy Gambel and Lilly Beatty. Bob and Pat Rebolgar (our raffle maker extraordinaire) dressed the part for some good sausages, beer and apple strudel. We prayed for the full recovery of Ana Ellenberger and Sheila Nilo. We congratulated Jack Freschi and Lana Thompson on their recent engagement and voted to donate \$500 to Operation Creekside. They are a local group who send Christmas boxes to our troops. Thanks to Mike Valenti who stepped up to be our new President and all other officers who committed to positions for 2026.

Remember our 2026 Officer Installation takes place on JANUARY 18 at 3:30

p.m. at St. Stevens in Walnut Creek. We hope to see everyone there.

See you on December 1 at Smith's Landing for our Christmas dinner.

Felice Anno Nuovo, Mary M.

Pleasant Hill Br. 442, Christ the King

My, winter is upon us already. Not long ago we were welcoming fall. They say time flies when you are having fun. I don't know, but we are sure having a nice fall.

Once again, we participated in the Christ the King School Festival by setting up our ever-popular Salami Toss booth. For readers unfamiliar with the booth, we don't actually toss salamis, ha, ha. The players use their aiming skills and win a salami if they are successful. Our branch donates the salamis and all proceeds go to the school. Thank you to Ann Consul for heading the booth and to everyone who helped make it a fun event. The joy in the children's faces when they win a salami is priceless and rewarding at the same time.

We had a wonderful homemade pesto pasta and salad dinner for our October meeting. Thank you to Diana Mackinson for preparing such a delicious meal, and to those who helped set up. We discussed year-end charity projects and holiday events. Be on the look-out for more details.

Our quarterly Mass and brunch fell on All Souls Day. It was a moving and prayerful Mass and a proper time to remember our departed loved ones and ICF members. Mass was followed by a well-attended brunch. Lots of laughter, sharing, and take-home containers. Thank you to those who helped organize the event. Hope to see more members join next quarter.

We will celebrate Mother Cabrini on November 13 by participating in morning Mass and giving a short presentation about our Saint to the congregation. Also, on November 15, together with the Women of Magdala ministry, we will show the movie Cabrini after Mass followed by a discussion about the movie. And pizza and biscotti! We will tell you how it all went in the next *Bollettino*.

In Mother Cabrini's words, My God, you have created me for yourself and I must serve you with all my being.

Alla prossima!



DEADLINE

**January 2nd for
the January/
February
issue of the
Bollettino.
Send your
articles & photos:**

editor@icf.org



BLESSED SACRAMENT District

Sacramento
Br. 45, St. Mary

Our last gathering for 2025 will be our Members' Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 6th at Vince's Restaurant. Join us for a great meal and some fun raffle gifts. If you did not make a reservation by the cut-off, call me for more information at 916-508-1199

Our October Ministry Fair brought us three new members to the Branch!! LAURA DEGANI, ROBERT ROSSI and NICK BILANDZICH are our newest members. We look forward to their participation in the branch and thanks for joining us!

Looking ahead to 2026, our Branch will host the District's Installation of Officers on Saturday, January 31st with Mass at 11:00 a.m. Further details will be provided to each of our five branches in late December.

BUON NATALE
Janine

Auburn
Br. 342, St. Joseph

Our Annual Christmas Gathering will be held on Saturday, December 13th from 11 to 2:30 at the Canyon View Community Center in Auburn. Members and their guests will be treated to a delicious pasta lunch and a great afternoon of fellowship and fun. The cost is \$5.00 per person, and guests are asked to bring a dessert to share. The calling committee will be contacting you soon to see if you will be able to attend.

We are very saddened to report of the passing of long-time member Norma Harris who recently passed away at the age of 100. Norma had been member of our branch since 1982 and during these years she served as branch president, financial secretary, first vice president, secretary, and orator. She received the Grand President' Award in 1996 and the Pope St. John XXIII in 2004. She was a generous supporter of all our events, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Ciao,
Pam Andersen



Lincoln
Br. 450, St. Joseph

Ciao amici!

We are excited to announce that the newest ICF Branch 450 at Saint Joseph, Lincoln is officially off to the races! Right out of the gate, we hosted our first fundraiser at Leatherby's in Lincoln. The event was a wonderful evening filled with food, friends and famiglia. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the evening's success. A special thank you to the Leatherby family for their generous support of the ICF—grazie mille!

Branch 450 was proud to participate in the St. Joseph's Ministry Fair, where we handed out numerous informational flyers to promote the growth of our branch. Our bake sale at the fair was a highlight, featuring a variety of delicious, fall-inspired muffins, cookies, and loaves. We are thrilled to report that every visitor left our table with treats in hand!

As we continue to establish our presence and mission within the parish, we are excited to announce several upcoming events. On November 23, we will host a Communion Mass and Breakfast, marking the beginning of our "Vocation Chalice." ICF members will be invited to take home the beautiful chalice and pray for vocations and our seminarians.

Looking ahead to the holidays we will host our first ICF Christmas party on December 28th. We look forward to celebrating with the ICF and Saint Joseph's parishioners.

Thank you for your support! We are grateful for the warm welcome and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Ciao! Janet Vicencio

SANTA ROSA District

Healdsburg
Br. 52, San Francesco Di Sales

Look for photos from our 90th Anniversary elsewhere in the *Bollettino*.

Upcoming events:

ICF Monthly Mass: Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. Mass.

ICF Christmas Party: Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Place: The Agency Real Estate, 119 North St., Healdsburg. Please bring yourself and your favorite holiday appetizer to celebrate the Christmas season with your ICF friends. The branch will supply wine and champagne. Call Carmen and Lauren for reservations: 707-595-3111. We will distribute our year-end charitable contributions to our church, school and community.



Looking ahead:

Polenta Dinner: January 2026. Exact date TBD.

Fish Fry: Friday, March 27, 2026. Mark your calendars for this event. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Carmen Kilcullen will be sending the 2026 dues notices. Please pay your 2026 dues promptly. We are currently the third largest branch in the ICF. Encourage your family and friends to join us!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Lauren

Petaluma
Br. 127, St. Vincent

Well, this it. The end of a grand run. So many yummy dinners, good friends and conventions. We sing Auld Lang Syne. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For the last time, Ciao for now.
Margaret Cordry

Arcata
Br. 144, St. Mary

We welcome new members to our branch! Christine Ross, (photo on district page), who has been a valuable volunteer for our bi-annual Chicken & Polenta dinner. She was initiated at our October meeting. Right out-of-the-gate she has accepted to be our Orator and a Trustee position!

We also have a family being initiated, the Selciks (Annaka, Morguine, Chad & Nolan).

We will be having a branch members and guest Thanksgiving banquet on Sunday, November 16. Alfred Eanni ('15) is head chef and we look forward to the feast!

Alfred, as Branch Historian, shared what a passeggiata is and passed around photos. Alfred & Anne visit the Molise and Abruzzo regions frequently and it is a favorite evening event! Folks of all ages are out for their evening stroll. The photo is in Termoli, Molise. In 2019, two of our most treasured members, Elena David and Judy Cardoza joined us for a cooking tour and partook in a passeggiata. Love their joyful expression! (photo).

We are planning our annual free Advent Breakfast for our parish. We have this "gift" appropriately on the Sunday of Love, December 7th.

Anne Carlisle Eanni
Secretary

Eureka
Br. 145, St. Ambrose

Looking for a Christmas gift for someone special? Eureka Branch #145 member Luciano Marazzo is not just an accomplished classical guitarist and opera singer he is an author.

Marazzo's recently published book *Hear Me God That I May Hear* is a 240-page collection of reflections and intercessory prayers. In an unusual twist, the book is bi-lingual: the prayers are in English and Latin.

At his last book signing event he performed several classical guitar pieces for the parishioners of St Bernard Church. Call or email Luciano at Me@lucianomarazzo.com if you want a signed copy or if you would like him to stage a performance at your parish.

Eureka Sons of Italy Lodge member and retired screenwriter Jim Donzella also just published a new mystery novel, *The Dead Don't Pay*. It is now available for sale at Arcata Books and on amazon.

Our December Christmas Party/Meeting will once again be held at the Village Pantry Restaurant on Broadway in Eureka on Tuesday December 9th at 6 p.m. We had a very convivial party last year at the Village Pantry. Please phone Joe Bonino at 707-445-5799 (landline, no texting) if you plan on attending so that we can give the restaurant an idea of how many will attend. Everyone will order off the regular menu and will be responsible for their own tab.

Santa Rosa
Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are sad to hear that Branch 127, Petaluma is closing on December 31. The members of Branch 127 have been really great members of the Federation. Branch 198 would like all members of 127 to know that we would welcome them to transfer to our branch and look forward to an active 2026 with them.

Our November Turkey dinner was a huge success. It was enjoyed by all, a special thank you goes to President Doreen O'Rourke and Tom Nguyen for preparing a wonderful dinner.

Branch 198 will celebrate our Christmas meeting on December 8th with warm eggnog and tasty treats to go with our nog. Please join us for our final meeting of 2025 and if you can, pay your dues to Lynette early as we plan for 2026.

The ICF scholarships have been increased to \$500 for the first year. Anyone who would like to pay for a memorial scholarship should get a check to Bob Acquistapace by March 1.

May you all have a happy and Holy Christmas with family and friends.

Boun Natale
Robert Acquistapace

Sebastopol Br. 209, St. Michael

Hello from Branch #209!

Our October General Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, and we enjoyed pizza, salad, and ice cream desserts. At this meeting, our Branch Officers for the upcoming 2026 year were finalized. We also discussed gearing up for a great ending to 2025!

On October 18, we had our annual Fall Chicken and Polenta Dinner. As usual, it was wonderful! We served 199 dinners, and everyone just loved the creamy polenta and roasted chicken with delicious Italian red sauce, topped with a slice of melty Jack cheese. So yummy! And the fun of interacting with friends and family made it extra special.

For our November General Meeting we will be having a delicious turkey dinner cooked by our wonderful members Roy and Leona Spadoni. This year it's held on Veterans Day and we have something special planned to honor this day, which I will share with you next month.

Upcoming Dates to remember: Saturday, December 6. This is our Ravioli Dinner. You don't want to miss out on our delicious raviolis! Please contact Lorraine Vannetti for tickets at 707-527-9552. Also, December 9 is our General Meeting and Branch Christmas party. This is a fun time for all!!! Our delicious homemade eggnog is served, and the children have a blast as Santa makes a special appearance.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration. Sending love and prayers to all. Please be well!!!

*Ciao,
Yvonne Dorr
Recording Secretary
Branch #209*

FRESNO District

Merced Br. 39, St. Cecilia

Buon Natale a tutti! We have our annual Christmas Party coming up on Sunday, December 7th at the Italo Lodge in Merced. Members are encouraged to bring a cake/dessert for the cake walk. We will have crafts and fun things for the kids to participate in, along with a sing along of Christmas Songs with the Choir from St. Patrick's Church. We've also asked Santa himself to stop by and pay a visit to all the good boys and girls!

Our branch kicked off the giving month of November with an Italian Sausage Fundraiser on Sunday, November 9th. We sold the sandwiches after morning masses and SOLD OUT! We raised over \$1000 to donate to help build the Rectory at St. Patrick's Church. Thank you to everyone that helped make this

a successful fundraiser!

In November, we also had our monthly meeting. Our board members provided the traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We also elected our officers for the 2026 year.

We don't have a meeting for December in lieu of the Christmas Party on December 7th. Our January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2026. We look forward to seeing you all then! Have a safe and blessed holiday season!

Arrivederci!

Clovis Br. 250, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. Paul Newman Center)

Happy Christmas season birthdays to Rachel Bejerano, Mike Caglia, Cynthia Newton, and Rich Zanarini!

We grieve the loss of long-time member, Flora DePasquale. Flora served as our Deputy for many years and had recently moved to Idaho to be with family. Her dedication to her faith and the ICF was an inspiration to all who knew her. We will miss her sense of humor and guidance. She was 96 years old. Her picture appears elsewhere in this issue.

Little known Popes Department: St. Agapetus I (the 57th Pope) 535-536; only five days after the death of John II, Agapetus was elected in his place. He came from one of the richest families in Rome and was highly educated in both Christianity and pagan philosophy.

Our November meeting was very well attended, with members enjoying a delicious potluck. Nine new members were initiated. They are Kitty Culleton, Donna Christiansen, Argilia Christiansen, Marge Innocenti, Val and Georgia Rios, Frances Sias, Sharon Arnold and Carolyn Tucker. A hearty welcome to them all!

Philosopher Angelino says: "Chi Ha Salute E Ricco E Non Lo Sa", "Those In Good Health, Do Not Realize How Rich They Are".

Branch 250 is so grateful to St. Paul Newman Center for allowing us to use their great facilities. They have been so very welcoming and supportive! It's nice to be appreciated.

Reminder: Christmas Party, December 6, St. Paul Newman Center.

Thought for the month of December:

"Jesus...The Angels in heaven proclaim, The glory of God in one wonderful name, Announced by a star as the universe sings, He comes as our Savior, and King of all Kings!". (Hoff)

Your editorial staff wish you all a blessed and healthy Christmas season.

Angelo Lavagnino

Bakersfield Br. 281, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

What a great event we had October 25th! For the first time branch 281 hosted our annual Bocce Ball tournament in the Fall instead of late Spring. (When temperatures can reach 100 plus degrees!) Our tournament this year was in honor of Marci Arias who is no longer with us but, was a beloved member and big supporter of past Bocce ball tournaments. It was a beautiful 75 degree day as 17 different teams competed for first place. A Taco truck provided lunch for all and then it was back on the field for the finalists to finish the tournament. All the participants and spectators had great fun whether it was tossing the ball on the field to try to hit the pallino or cheering a team on. The Pickle Ballers stuck it out until the end and took first place!

On a different and sad note, we recently lost a former member Gary Leary. Gary was devoted husband, father grandfather, and was active member of our parish and branch for many years. He will be dearly missed by all those who knew him.

We wish all those in our ICF family a blessed and safe holiday season. Enjoy and cherish the little moments of joy the season brings.

Theresa Amarante

Fresno Br. 308, St. Anthony

Merry Christmas!

It's hard to believe the holidays are almost here, especially with the alluring 80 degree temperatures outside. However, the much-awaited rain and snow, which we've been fervently praying for, will soon grace us with their presence.

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner meeting will be held on November 12th. Everyone who attended was stuffed with roasted turkey, stuffing, sweet potato casserole, and an abundance of desserts. Afterward, we'll dress up and celebrate Christmas by returning to the Old Spaghetti Factory on December 10th. We'll indulge in a meal that will tantalize our Italian taste buds, followed by a scoop of spumoni ice cream.

May all be blessed with God's peace and showered with his divine love.

Debbi Jorgensen



CENTRAL COAST District Council

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Several members of the Central Coast District attend Grand President Denise Antonowicz's Testimonial dinner in San Jose.

Our Installation of 2026 Central Coast officers will be on Saturday, January 17, 2026, hosted by Br. 21- Santa Cruz, at Holy Cross Parish Hall.

*Happy Holidays,
Elaine Valentine
Central Coast District
President*

Santa Cruz Br. 21, N.S. Del Soccorso

On Sunday, November 9 we celebrated our 19th annual Memorial Mass to remember our deceased family and friends. Thank you to all that participated and made generous donations to Holy Cross Church.

Tuesday, December 9, we will have a Christmas Dinner in Holy Cross Hall. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and is free to ICF members and \$15 for guests. Watch for further information via email to RSVP. We look forward to spending the evening with you.

Officers for 2026 have been elected. Pres. Vick Howell, VP Norma Wilson, Secretary Lisa Foley, Treasurer Al Pavot, Trustees Mary Jo Belli and Donna Churchill-Moro, Fin. Sec. Christy Beck, Orator, Heidi Morgan and Sentinel, Cynthia Schuette. Thank you for holding office and keeping our branch going.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. Be grateful for our gifts of family, friends and God's blessings.

*Roseann Costabile
ICF Branch 21
Santa Cruz, California*



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Representing Br. 374 at the La Canada Flintridge Orthopedic Guild book signing event are Phyllis Harb, Kris Jardino, Marie Baker, and Flora Murphy.



ICF 111-Bishop's Day Luncheon



ICF 111-Happy Birthday to Crocetta & Lina



ICF 111-October Meeting



Br. 179, Winner Emi Zagaroli – Name That Pasta



ICF 111-October Mass



Br. 179, Marianne Nicosia, Kathy La Piana, Josie Bresee, Debbie Felt at Shepherds Pantry Award Breakfast



Br. 179, Truck Load 10-25

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



(Upper) Eugene S., with Francesca T. And Mother Cabrini, (Lower) Eugene S. with Yvette P. and Francesca T. With (Right) Mother Cabrini



Branch 108



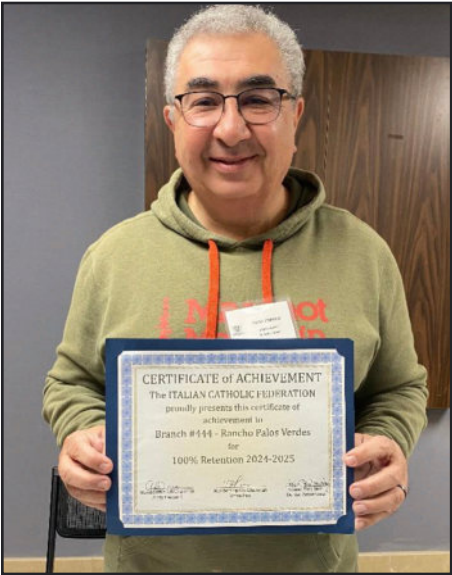
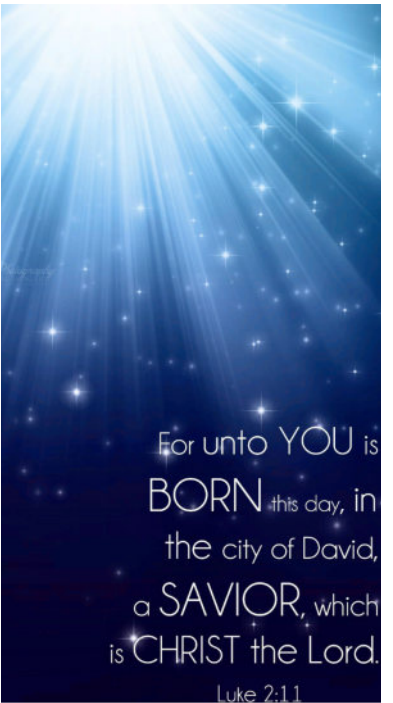
Branch 218 honors Member Emeritus, Angelina (Ann) Iarossi-Armenio on her 100th birthday and 57 yr. anniversary as a founding member of Branch 218, Holy Angels, Arcadia. Happy Birthday, Ann!



Angelina (Ann) Iarossi-Armenio, Member Emeritus, was honored and recognized at the November meeting of Branch 218, Holy Angels, Arcadia, for her 57 yr. ICF membership and 100 yrs. young! Congratulations, Ann!



Pastor, Fr. Kevin Rettig, offers congratulations to Angelina (Ann) Iarossi-Armenio on her 100 yr. birthday and 57 yr. ICF membership, Branch 218, Holy Angels, Arcadia. Congratulations, Ann!



Hany Francis, President of Br. 444, Certificate Award from ICF Convention



Br. 444, in the front: Dolly, Cristina, Betty, Patty & Jovita; in the back: Tonia, Bruno & Hany



Annual Bishop's Day Celebration : Pictured are Rose Moore, Jessie Valdovinos (Seminarian from St. Anthony of Padua - Gardena) and Connie Bohannon, Branch 237.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 368 Layette Team with their chair, Janet Glaubke on the right.



Br. 368 Prep for Rib Dinner.



Br. 368 Convention Team, Mary & Marcello Ridi, Fr. Edgar, Tina Souza-Dutra, Michael Clarke, Kathy & Zach Schroeder



Br. 368 Prep for Rib Dinner with happy volunteers.



ICF 191 cooking for the SFC Aloha Program.



A candle light concert enjoyed by members of ICF 191.



District ICF meeting hosted by ICF Branch 191.



ICF 191 members at Grand President Denise's testimonial.



Los Gatos, St. Mary Br. #184 New Grand President Franklyn Lopes Jr. gives a hug to outgoing Grand President Denise Antonowicz at her Hawaiian Testimonial Dinner.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 28, Vanni family made a wonderful pork dinner for branch 28! Delicious!



Br. 28, Laurice Levine and Pat Cordich



Br. 28, Laurice Levine



Br. 28, Lilly entertaining the food line!



Br. 445 Contestants "The Fabulous Five"



Br. 445, Let the Games Begin with MC Angelo La Scola.



Br. 445, Celebrating Oct. Birthdays: Ken Ledbetter, Grace Brown and Edna Perry



Br. 445, October Decorating Crew



St. Mary Br. #184, Left to right are Matt Czaikoski, Michael Buonaccorsi, Richard Buonaccorsi, David Romeri and Larry Vollman, putting the finishing touches for the dinner. Not pictured are Ryan Meyer and Richard Amico, who also were part of the Cooking crew responsible for the delicious Chicken Cacciatore Polenta Dinner.



Br. 435, Beginning to serve dinner of chicken, corn pudding, roasted carrots and roasted beets for the October 25th meeting.

Monterey Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas. May the New Year bring you joy, love, health, and happiness.

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."

-Pope Francis

October 23 Halloween Dinner Meeting - all enjoyed our delicious dinner (Pork Milanese, Beef Raviolis, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, and Pumpkin Pie). We were honored to have Laurice Levine as our guest speaker for a presentation on Cooley's Anemia. Congratulations to the Halloween Contest winners: 1st place Jack Simons (child), 1st place Bella Cutino (adult), 1st place Michael Leonard family (group). Thank you to Liz Spadaro for organizing our first Trunk or Treating event for children in the San Carlos community and for all the new ICF members she has recruited for Branch 36! And many thanks to our members and guests and vendors for supporting our raffle and auction fundraisers.

Congratulations to our newly elected branch officers for 2026: Co-Presidents: Elaine Valentine & George Leonard; 1st Vice President: Dr Vincent Malfitano; 2nd Vice President: Turie Cavaliere; Recording Secretary: Florence Cavaliere; Correspondence Secretary: AnnaMarie Stanton; Financial Secretary: Richard Valentine; Co-Treasurers: Catherine Elder & Dr Francine Stewart; Orator: Jane Gasperson; Sentinel: Sandie Russo; Trustees: Andrew Clark, Eddie Leonard, Mary Manuguerra, Doug Otmar & Charlene Smith. Advisory board members are Past President Joe LoManto and Branch Chaplain Father Ommar Solis.

November 13 Friendsgiving Turkey Dinner Meeting to be held at Moose Lodge. We thank all members who donated canned goods and/or new socks to the Loaves & Fishes ministry—much help is needed and appreciated to feed the homeless in our community.

December 11 Family Christmas Dinner Meeting will also be held at Moose Lodge. We are asking our members to donate an unwrapped new toy for children in need within the community - and thank you in advance for your generosity during the holidays. Santa and his Elves will appear at our event and an Ugliest Christmas Sweater contest will be held, a Photo Booth available, and our nice raffle and silent auction selections too. More details will be posted on our website, MontereyICF.org.

Please continue to pray for all members who are ill, in the hospital, or homebound - and for all their special intentions.

*Buon Natale e Buon Anno,
Elaine Valentine, Co-President*

Aptos Br. 227, St. Joseph

The annual Christmas party will take place on December 14 at Stewarts Floral. Bring an appetizer to share.

Members enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner at the November meeting. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets. Vicky Howell reports that the raffle made \$157.

At the meeting, the following officers were elected for 2026:

President - Franklyn Lopes

First Vice-President - Vicky Howell

Second Vice-President - Manny Martinez

Secretary - Deanna Musler

Financial Secretary - Nancy Harrold

Treasurer - Jane Kotila

Orator - Bruce Dunn

Trustees - Heidi Ambiel and Magdalena Martinez

Sentinel - Bryan Stow

Members donated \$100 to the Resurrection Church Thanksgiving Food Drive.

We mourn the passing of Kay Waldvogel who died in October. She was 101. A member for 55 years, Kay and her husband Ken were very active members of our branch. Her services were in Woodland, where she recently resided. Condolences to Jeanne Locatelli, Karen Waldvogel, Ken Waldvogel, Jr. and their families.

We are sorry to report that Rosemarie Candau, a member for 46 years, passed away at the age of 93. We honored Rosemarie with our traditional rose ceremony at her funeral.

At the November meeting President Lopes conducted an abbreviated rose ceremony honoring members who died in the last year: Sylvia Beccaria, Bob Burick, Linda Calciano, Rosemarie Candau, Bruce Dunn, Marie Mungai, and Kay Waldvogel.

Remember to get your 2026 calendars from Nancy Harrold. It pays to do so. Just ask Roy Avila, who won \$30 in the October drawing

*Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas filled with our Savior's love and peace.
Deanna Musler, Secretary*

Arroyo Grande Br. 291, St. Patrick

Branch 291 recently held elections and we're happy to announce our 2026 Board! President - Pete Gallagher; 1st Vice President - Anne Orlando; 2nd V.P. - Jim Rallis; Secretary - Keely Sanchez; Financial Secretary - Pat Fairbanks; Treasurer - Beth Nakamura; Trustees - Margi Carducci, Pattie Rorrer and Dave Sanchez; Orator - Pat Fairbanks; and Sentinel - Theresa Aston. Congratulations to our new Officers!

In October we participated in our parish's Ministry Fair to promote the ICF. It was a very successful event and we had several parishioners sign up to learn more about the ICF and the Registration Assistance Program our Branch offers. A big thank you to Pete Gallagher, Annie Subia and Anne Orlando for setting up, decorating and hosting our table that day and for the delicious goodies Annie Subia made for our table!

We're looking forward to our Christmas Luncheon at the Madonna Inn on Sunday, Dec. 7th. It's always a very festive event with good food, fellowship and lots of raffle prizes!

We're sad to report that we recently lost two longtime members, Frank Signorelli and Bruce Hensley. Frank joined the ICF 64 years ago! He transferred to our Branch from a Branch that closed, and he brought a wealth of ICF history with him. And Bruce joined the ICF over 15 years ago, with his wife Peg, and they were very involved in our Branch until Peg's passing and Bruce's recent health issues. Please keep the families of Frank Signorelli and Bruce Hensley in your prayers during this difficult time. May they both rest in peace.

*Merry Christmas and may you all have a Happy and Blessed New Year!
Keely Sanchez
Recording Secretary*

SANTA CLARA VALLEY District Council

The Santa Clara Valley District November meeting was held at Santa Teresa and hosted by Branch 368, Santa Teresa in San Jose.

The District Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 9th, and hosted by Branch 391 St. Martin of San Jose. Details were available at the November district meeting. All branches remember to donate a basket or prize for the raffle.

The district officer elections were held at the regular district meeting on November 11th. The election results were not yet known as of the writing of this article and will be published in the next *Bollettino*.

Installation of officers' mass, ceremony and lunch will be held on Saturday, January 3rd, at Resurrection parish in Sunnyvale and hosted by Branch 408. Details were shared at the district meeting on November 11th.

All branches please remember to send a list of branch officers to the ICF office, and to District Secretary Mike Rossi for use at the Installation ceremony.

All members remember to celebrate the feast day of our ICF co-patroness St. Elizabeth Ann Seton on her feast day, January 4th.

I hope your Thanksgiving was an enjoyable feast celebrated with family and friends. Now we're all ready for Advent, Christmas parties, and gift giving.

The Santa Clara Valley District wishes the ICF a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Michael Rossi

Gilroy Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

Dear Members,

We had the best entertainment for our October dinner/meeting. St. Mary School gave us a preview performance of the musical "The Wizard of Oz." They will be performing in January at Gavilan College Theater. Dorothy sang the favorite song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Be sure to attend our January meeting to see an encore performance performed by the St. Mary thespian group.

Be sure to attend our December Christmas Party Dinner at Old City Hall on December 15th. We will have a drawing from our three-month accumulative raffle. There is one more chance to buy tickets at the Christmas Party.

*Blessings,
Jeanette Hudson*

Mountain View Br. 47, San Giorgio

Buon Natale! Merry Christmas!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas Holiday! We just finished our second pasta grab n go dinner. Our amazing chef, Craig Noah made a delicious gravy, and we sold out again. Be sure to order yours next time right away.

Ten members are looking forward to the Cabrini Pilgrimage in Burbank in November. We are all looking forward to our annual ICF Branch #47 Christmas Party. We have voted in our new Branch Officers for 2026. Many blessings to you and your family for the New Year.

*Peace and God Bless,
Ciao, Julie Wester*

**DEADLINE
January 2nd for
the January/February
issue of the
Bollettino.
Send your
articles & photos:
editor@icf.org**



CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Wow, nice looking ladies who served at the Crockett #14 Polenta Dinner.



Members from Crockett #14 who helped set the hall for their successful Polenta Dinner.



Crockett #14 has some great guys who cooked a delicious Polenta , Sausage & Chicken Dinner. Great job you guys...



Congratulations to Crockett #14 Bocce team who made it to the Bocce County tournament. Great season.



Br. 432, President Deacon John Kortuem and Jay Rizzo



Br. 432, Frau Eleanor Valenti



Br. 432, Bob and Pat Rebollar



Br. 352, Dancing



Nuptial congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Rosemary & Griffin Shaw! May God who brought you together bless your marriage, enrich your lives, and deepen your love throughout the years.



Br. 352, Father Wayne said our grace.



Br. 352, Susie and Dick Reynolds and Bob Marx



Br. 352, Joan Marx, Lucca, Fred Sanchez

St. Mary Br. 184, Los Gatos

Our Autumn Polenta Dinner and Raffle was delicious as usual! The kitchen crew, headed by Dave Romeri, worked hard to prepare this meal. Thanks go to Larry Vollman, Matt Czaikoski, Richard Buonaccorsi and his son Michael, Ryan Meyer and Richard Amico, all who worked with Dave. The members who helped clean, prepare and set up are also remembered and thanked.

Fourteen students from the Los Gatos Interactive Club through Rotary, and four students from Aptos High School, did a great job of serving the dinner.

Arlene Bertelotti gave the Heritage Report at our last meeting. Her Grandfather, Giovanni Salamida, sailed from Naples to New York in 1903. In 1915 the family settled on North Fifth Street, San Jose, in what today is called "Japan Town." Today the home they had lived in is across the street from the Japanese American Museum; however, in the 1940's it was called "China Town." It was very interesting to hear her memories of those earlier family filled days.

Time to dust off the cookbooks and get ready for baking Christmas Biscotti. We wish a Blessed and healthy Christmas Season to all members and their families.

Ciao for now, Lucy Amico

San Jose Br. 191, Saint Frances Cabrini

Welcome Fall!

As we begin a new season of the year, our ICF members continue to be very active in our parish as well as in our community. With the 70th Anniversary of St. Frances Cabrini Church coming up on November 15th, a Multicultural

Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 PM with a reception to follow in Esseg Hall. This will be a wonderful way for our Parish to come together and celebrate a long and rich history.

On December 6, 2025, the members of ICF #191, will again come together to assist with the 70th Anniversary of the Diocese of San Jose Baby Layette Ministry. The event will be held at St. Frances Cabrini with a Tea, speakers and entertainment. St. Frances Cabrini has been a huge supporter of this ministry over the years with donations of baby items as well as monetary donations for this worthwhile project.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends!
Sharon Logan



San Jose Br. 368, Santa Teresa de Avila

Please pray for our members with health problems. Lorraine Nunziata, Ron Sanchez, Bill Rice, Louie Cordish, and John Gillio.

Cathie Orlowski is maintaining Mary's garden until Robin returns.

Mark your calendars for The Chili Cook Off Sunday January 31, 2026 and the Polenta Dinner with chef Andy Pappani, on Saturday March 21, 2026. Cathie Orlowski will be the chair for these two events.

Thank you to those who brought in Layette items. Items will be presented at the Layette Shower on Dec 6th at St. Frances Cabrini.

Still looking for a Dining for Dollars chair person.

See Robin Hayr for information. Our DUES ARE DUE for 2026. Make checks to ICF BR 368, \$50.00 per person.

Dec 10th is our Christmas party and will be \$30 per person. How fast the year has gone.

Jerry Delfino reported the district sent \$15,500 for scholarships. Both Rib Dinner profit and Table Sponsor profit were sent for scholarships and part was donated to Tiny Homes in San Jose. Ann Schlice's grandchild was one of the scholarship winners.

Br. 368 membership is at 77.

Our new 2026 board is as follows, Copresident Mary Ridi, & Kathy Schroeder, 1st VP Maureen Susino, 2nd VP George, Taddie, Recording Secretary, Michael Clarke, Financial Secretary, Anne Cordoni, Treasure Tina Souza-Dutra, Orator, Ed Wendler Sentinel Cathy Orlowski, and three Trustees are Lenore Green, Janet Glaubke and JoAnn Bjortnstad. Congratulations and thank you for your service.

Have a wonderful and healthy month of December.

Happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas.
Tom Myers

San Jose Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

Branch 391 members were treated in November to a delicious ham, scalloped potato and pumpkin pie feast prepared by Tony and Alba's Al and Diana Vallorz.

Congratulations to our 2026 elected officers--President Steve Lencioni, Second VP Marina Tilbury, Secretary Mike Rossi, Financial Secretary Tina Rossi, Treasurer Doug Schenk, Orator Laura Hole, Trustees Jessie Romero, Lynda Vallorz, Teresa Brodersen, and Denise Lemucchi and Sentinel Gerri Nedley. Many thanks to our officers,

who volunteer their time.

In her heritage report, Louise Vento reflected on her turkey dinners when growing up and then later on during her marriage to her Sicilian husband's family.

There are still a number of 2026 ICF Calendars available for purchase. Please see Tina Rossi during our December gathering.

Steve reported on the Serra Club fundraiser held at St. Martin's and thanked our members who did so much to make this a successful event.

Reminders:

Branch 391 Christmas Dinner—Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. social and 6:00 p.m. Dinner; #391 Quarterly Communion--December 7, 2025, 10:00 a.m. mass, St. Martin's; and Installation of Officers—Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Wishing you all a Blessed and Joyous Merry Christmas!
Janis Patellaro

Sunnyvale Br. 408, Resurrection

Buon Natale!

We wish all of our Members a Merry Christmas Season! We look forward to seeing you at our Potluck Christmas Party for Lasagna and Fellowship on Monday 8 Dec serving at 6 p.m. Please Contact Patricia to inform her of the dish you will bring to share.

Our next ICF/Parish Blood Drive will be 14th December from 8- 1:30 p.m.

We host the ICF Santa Clara Valley District 2026 Installation Mass and Luncheon Saturday, 3 January 2026. Mass will be at 10:30. We will need help hosting this.

Please Pray for our ICF Members and Friends: Fr Seth Kupo(deceased), Fr. Chris Bennett, Donna Richey, Patricia Look and Laurice Levine.

Morgan Hill Br. 435, Santa Caterina D'Alessandria

It's been a busy month for Morgan Hill Branch 435.

Members Catherine Ellis, Giulia Gallego and Sophea Renda attended the beautiful Bishop's Day mass at St. Martin of Tours parish on October 5th celebrating a \$10,000 joint donation by the Santa Clara Valley District supporting Seminary vocations and a "bouquet of activities" listing what Branch 435 has done to help individuals, families, communities and organizations in need. Our members enjoyed the mass and the following lunch at Three Flames restaurant. It was a joy to see and visit with Bishop Cantu and our ICF friends.

Branch 435 held a successful meeting



on October 21st that started with delicious dinner of Chicken, Corn pudding and roasted carrots and beets. Topics included discussion of the board members to be elected for 2026 and what projects we would do to support helping others.

Catherine Ellis and Giulia Gallego attended the Oktoberfest polenta/sausage dinner at St. Mary's in Gilroy Branch 28 on October 25th. As usual the raffle baskets were great. We didn't win any. Perhaps we will next year.

Due to lack of a facility availability, our November 18th Branch dinner meeting is cancelled. However, a great Christmas party is scheduled for December 2nd at the Long House restaurant in Gilroy.

Congratulations to Johanna Tacci, our October Calendar winner.

Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they all recover their health.

San Jose Br. 445, Transfiguration

In October, Branch 445 enjoyed celebrating Italian-American Heritage month with a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner with salad, garlic bread. Homemade cannoli by Gina Farro and chocolate chip cookies by Geri Tuso were also served.

For the evening Heritage report, guest speaker, Stanley Olivar from the IAHF presented a fascinating history on the life of A.P. Giannini. I was so enthralled with listening to Stanley, I forgot to take a photo of him speaking from the podium!

Also in October, members attended Quarterly Mass together followed by breakfast at Huckleberry's Restaurant.

Tickets totally sold out for the November 2nd Family Feud Game Show Fundraiser! Twenty-five raffle prizes were organized and beautifully displayed by Janie Falcone and Robin Ledbetter. Snack bags assembled by Jim Canger, Lorraine Sellarole and Barbara Bahl were given to all attendees. Many thanks to ALL our members who helped with this event in a variety of ways!!

Some Br. 445 members attended the Veteran's Breakfast at St. Christopher's Parish organized by Jim Canger for St. Christopher's parish.

We look forward to our December 17th Branch Christmas Party at Tabor Hall and singing Happy Birthday to members: Nino, Costa, Jim Falcone, Richard Pfaff, Julieta Araiza, Angelo LaScola, Verence Palma.

May your Christmas be Merry ... filled with Faith, Love, Peace, Friendship, Good Health... *Buon Natale a tutti!*

Until next month stay safe and well,
Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Br. 446, members at Festa



Br. 446, Dessert buffet.



Br. 446, Nan Judge presents raffle prize to Amy Pasquirelli and granddaughter.



Br. 446, President Carrey Rossie with members Kevin Cavanaugh and Joyce Tesoro at Festa



Br. 210, Natan, Mauro, Leslie, Annie, John G. Rose, Ann, Marlene, Joyce and Paul



Br. 210, Father Lee Perry, St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Church

STOCKTON District

Modesto Br. 48, St. Stanislaus



In October, we had our semi-annual bake sale and it was a big success. Thank you to everyone who provided baked goods, helped with setup and cleanup, and helped to sale all of the goodies. We sold out of everything.

Also in October, we had the election of our new officers for 2026. The officers are: Thomas Silvaggio – President, Rosalie Ruffino – 1st Vice, Kathleen Ostorero – 2nd Vice, Cecelia McGhee – Record. Secretary, Cathy Pietanza – Financial Secretary, Nancy Souza – Orator, and Rebecca Candelario – Trustee. It is good to see our members participating as officers for our branch.

We have our meeting in November, and we will have a Christmas gathering at our December meeting. We are looking forward to the Stockton District Installation on Sunday, January 4th.

We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wed Nov 12 – 6 p.m. Meeting, J St. Hall 7 & K Streets

Wed Dec 10– 6 p.m. Meeting and Christmas Gathering

Sun Jan 4, 2026 – Stockton District Mass and Installation

Wed Jan 14 2026 – 6 p.m. Meeting, J St. Hall 7 & K Streets

Cecelia McGhee
Recording Secretary

Lodi Br. 82, St. Anne's

The November meeting was a pizza dinner and election of Branch Officers, congratulations to our 2026 staff. The DeVinci's fundraiser was a success, with over 150 tickets sold. Many thanks to everyone! molte grazie a tutti! Officers and delegates attended the Stockton District meeting on All Saints Day, hosted by Branch 395, which included a luncheon and raffle prizes. We learned more about the history of the ICF branches in the Stockton District. We are "the new kids on the block" with only 7 years of existence; the "old timers" were members of Branch 48, St. Stanislaus, with over 88 years on record. We have valuable mentors to guide us as we plan to increase our membership in 2026. As we aren't meeting in December, I wanted to share a message for Advent from Fr Mike Schmidt, the top podcaster. He invites us to "wait well" or "aspettare bene" which captures the anticipatory season of Advent reminding us that God is present in our daily moments if we take the time to wait and listen.

*Boun Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo,
Elizabeth (Calloni) Holladay
Corresponding Secretary*

Manteca Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio

Branch #139 held their October meeting on the 26th in St. Anthony's Cafeteria. We had a very small group this time – only 5 Members were able to attend. The usual business was conducted including reading and approval of the Minutes from the September meeting and balances provided in our Checking Accounts as of October 1. As always, Members are encouraged to read the "Bollettino".

"Get Well Soon" wishes go out to all our members who are in need of prayers. Wishing them all a speedy recovery. We miss you!

A potential slate of Officers for our Branch in 2026 was formed. Final voting will take place at our November meeting with the new Officers to be installed in January 2026 as usual.

Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM in Stockton hosted the quarterly Stockton District Meeting on November 1st. Birdie Nieri, Ron Agostini, Dante Galeazzi, and Michelle Harmon attended representing our Branch. Stockton District President Robert Pachinger conducted the meeting. Besides the usual business, including election of Officers for 2026, Robert provided the following "save the date" information for 2026:

- January 4th – Installation of Officers @ St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto – 1 p.m. Mass followed by a luncheon. All Officers are encouraged to attend.
- Next District Meeting will be hosted by Branch #390 in Tracy on Sunday, February 15th @ 1 p.m.
- Bishop's Bourse will be hosted by Branch #395-Stockton on July 25th.
- Annual Picnic will be held on the 3rd Sunday in August in Escalon. Family and friends are invited. This is always a fun event.

Our next meeting will be on November 25th with Birdie Nieri providing light snacks.

*Wishing everyone Buon Natale and
Buon Anno.
Bye for now,
Michela*

Tracy Br. 390, St. Bernard

Thank you to everyone who brought donations of canned and packaged food items to our November turkey dinner! We also appreciate those of you who make reservations ahead of time so we can provide enough food for the almost 200 people who attend our dinners. As a reminder, Mike purchases the ingredients on Tuesday and that's the reason we need your reservations by Monday each month.

Another reminder that our Christmas "Santa's coming to town" dinner meeting is going to be very early this year, Thursday December 11th and you don't want to miss those photos with him and the little kiddos at the event this month - plus free candy canes!

As the year-end approaches, our board shows our appreciation on your behalf with contributions to the seminarians, volunteers and hard-working folks who make our branch such a roaring success! So, we sound like a broken record, but we continue to express our appreciation to all of you who attend our dinners, bring raffle prizes and desserts because you are the reason we are able to show our gratitude to them - in addition to providing scholarships to children of our members.

Speaking of scholarships, the first, second and third-year awards have increased by \$100 each, so keep that in mind for next round of scholarship applications. This was discussed and approved at convention.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of JoAnna Spatafore French, who joined our branch in March 2020 shortly after moving back to her hometown of Tracy, joining her first cousins Annette Elissagaray and Chuck Tusio. She will be missed. May she rest in peace.

You can share family memories in our Heritage section. We would love to hear where all your ancestors came from. My own memories are in there: Toscana Mom born in Pisa, Dad born in San Francisco of Sicilian immigrants.

www.icfbranch390.org

*Stay healthy, happy & safe and Merry
Christmas,
Betty Hollars*

Stockton Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

GRAZIE to our members who cooked and baked for our recent Stockton District meeting. Everything was delicious. Elections were held at the meeting, and we have three of our 395 members who have stepped up to be district officers. Thank you for supporting not only our Branch, but the ICF!

Tis the season and we are hosting our branch Christmas party on December 11th. We look forward to celebrating with our members and their families. Our LEFT/RIGHT gift exchange will be back too.

If you are looking for the perfect Christmas gift, how about Polenta Dinner tickets; February 12, 2026. For tickets to what will be a sold-out event, call Jo at 209-481-0006.

*Merry Christmas and Happy Year!
Al prossimo anno
Mary Ann*

St. John Chrysostom: "This day He Who is born; and He Who is becomes what He was not."



Buon Natale



Stockton District Felice Capo De Anno

Branches

48 Modesto

82 Lodi

139 Manteca



390 Tracy

395 Stockton

413 Angels Camp

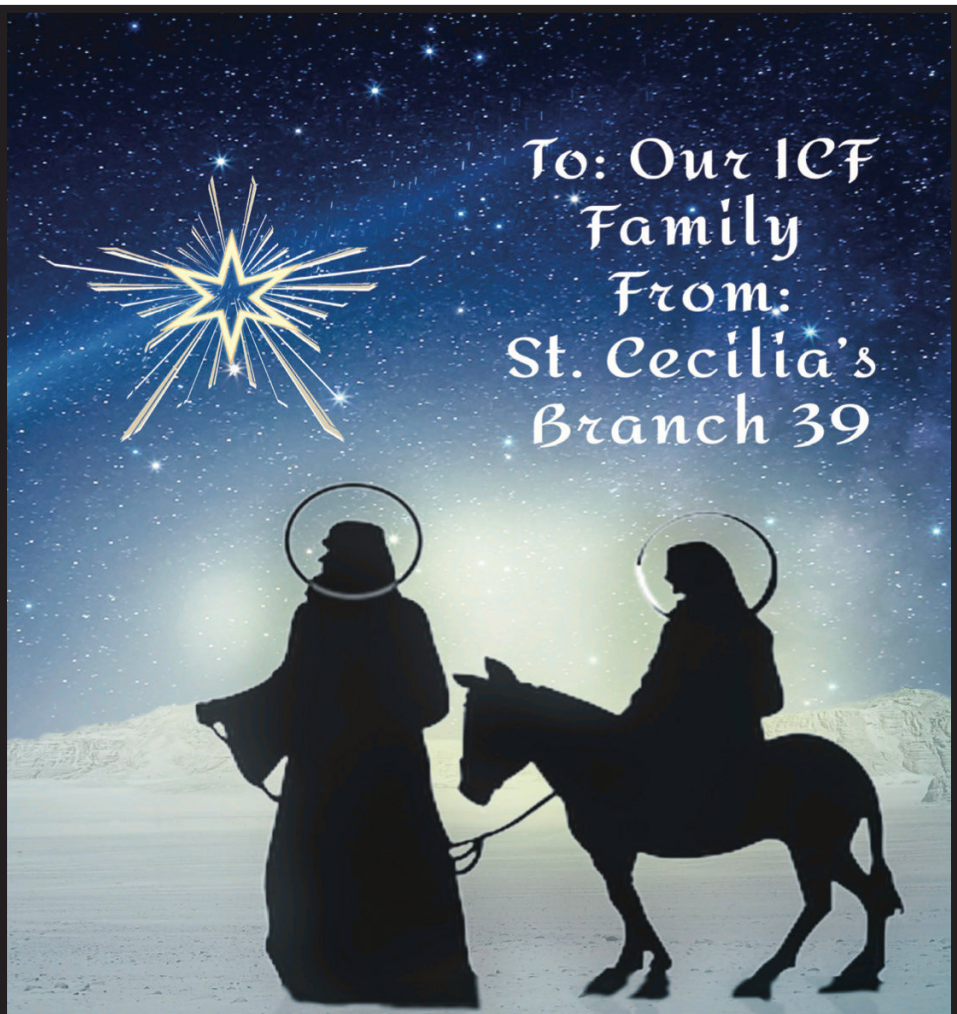


We wish you every happiness for a
Holy Christmas and for the New Year.
Buon Natale e Capo D'Anno
From the Officers and Members
of Branch 7, Sacro Cuore



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Buon Natale!
from
Br. 351, Menlo Park*



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

Buon Natale & Felice Capo D'Anno

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Grand President

Branch 21, Santa Cruz

Branch 227, Aptos



A festive BUON NATALE to you, your family and loved ones from Branch 403 President Paul Larson and all of our Officers and Members!



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year

From
the Officers and Members of the Santa Clara Valley District



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



**ITALIAN CATHOLIC
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DANVILLE BRANCH 352



*Buon
Natale*

**All The Best For a Joyful Holy Christmas
And a Happy, Healthy New Year**

Angels Camp Br. 413, St. Patrick

We had our annual Columbus Day Dinner on October 18th, with delicious polenta and Italian sausage. It was a cozy and joyful evening for all who attended! On December 14th we will have our Free Breakfast for the parish. It is the Branch's way of giving thanks for the support that we have received. You should see how full the hall is for that event! We hope to see just as many friendly faces at our future fundraising dinners as well.

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have passed and Christmas will be fast approaching. We are deeply grateful for all that Our Lord has given us, and we make it part of our Thanksgiving tradition to attend Mass in gratitude.

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful and blessed Christmas season. The next time you hear from us, we'll be welcoming a new year and looking forward to all that our Lord has in store for us.

Buon Natale!
Annette Pachinger

SAN BERNARDINO District

Fontana Br. 210, St. Joseph

Our monthly meeting of Branch 210 was held 11/9 at St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Church in their hall. Paul, our photographer, and I attended the Liturgy before our meeting and were introduced by Father Lee as members of the ICF. He thanked us for attending and invited us back. We try to attend when we are able to as the Byzantine rite is so very beautiful and different (but the same) from the Novus Ordo we are used to. Different but the same as both are Catholic and attending a Byzantine Liturgy satisfies our Sunday obligation. The entire service is chanted, including the readings, the creed, everything! Bells and incense are used throughout the Liturgy and the priest faces away from the congregation the way it used to be in the Roman rite. Communion is also different, we receive the Body and Blood together on a small spoon given by the priest, and even infants receive. We brought a friend, Natan Ramirez, who is a member of my Cathedral in San Bernardino. He yearns to be a priest. He was welcomed by our Branch and all the members in attendance asked him to come back when he was able to.

Our Branch enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving feast for lunch provided by all the members and a good time was had by all after our business was taken care of. It is always such a joy to get together with our Branch as they are all friends as well as a second family.

Till next month,
Annie McCarthy, President Branch 210

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 217, Our photographer, Paul H Behrens is behind the camera.

Redlands Br. 217, Sacred Heart

Redlands, Branch 217 held our November meeting at Holy Name of Jesus Church on 11/1. We enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving themed potluck with members bringing their favorite treats. On our Heritage agenda, our Heritage Chair, Diana Hill told us about one of our Patron Saints, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. We know her story, but sometimes it's good to reflect on everything she accomplished in the years she was in the United States. Briefly, Frances founded 67 institutions, including orphanages, schools, and hospitals. She originally wanted to go to China, but was told, "not to the East, but to the West." So, she came to America and became a naturalized citizen in 1909. She holds the distinction of being the first United States citizen to be canonized. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 7, 1946. If you don't know all her accomplishments, I encourage you to look up her story and share it with your own Branch.

Our Branch enjoyed some quality time with each other and considered some fund-raising options.

We elected our slate of officers for next year. Our District Installation will be hosted by Branch 446 in Upland in February, 2026.

Till next time,
Annie McCarthy, 1st VP Branch 217

Upland Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Our Festa Italiana was an overwhelming success due to the efforts of so many of our members! The work started on Friday with members decorating the hall, hanging lights and streamers and setting the tables. Our event is our major fundraiser of the year, and we wanted to make everything wonderful for our guests. The party started after Saturday night Mass as parishioners streamed into the hall. Once again, the dance floor was busy with music from a live dance band, Remember Then. This is the third year they have provided the entertainment for our grand event. Our catered dinner was plentiful with generous selections of pasta, meatballs, chicken Marsala, broccoli with carrots, salad, garlic rolls, and raspberry panna cotta. Our generous members donated dozens of cupcakes and cookies to create an extensive dessert bar. This sweet buffet was a big hit with all the guests. The main event was our opportunity drawing which consisted of twelve gift baskets and gift cards generously provided by our members. The guests were very generous in purchasing their tickets for the drawings.

Because of the success of last year's Festa, we were able to continue our support of our ICF charitable causes. We are proud that our current scholarship winners are doing so well in college. Nathan and Justin Ries are thriving at UC San Diego and the University

of La Verne. Dominic Nava is doing well at UC Irvine and Dante Zappia is excelling while keeping warm in Rochester, New York. Upcoming events for our members include a visit to a local church to view hundreds of Nativity sets on display while enjoying a concert of Christmas music. Our branch Christmas party will be on December 4. Officers are planning a fun and festive event. We look forward to 2026 with many activities and opportunities for our members. None of this happens without the friendships that we have made within our ICF family!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

DEADLINE

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

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH IN ITALIAN

Vigilia

Babbo Natale

Mangiatoia

Pallina

Polo Nord

Camino

Carbone

Regalo

Befana

Slitta

Renna

Biglietto

Gioco

V	A	F	H	H	B	W	A	C	U	V	G	I	M	M	D	P	S	B	K
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L	M	S	B	Y	W	Z	V	A	V	D	V	N	O	M	S	N	N	P	A

Presepe

Gesù

Candela

Campana

Angelo

Decorazione

Neve

Albero

Chiesa

Stella

Natale

Festeggiare

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Family Christmas Cracker Jokes!

print and add to your home made Christmas crackers

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

A: The elf-abet!

Why did the Turkey cross the road?

A: Because he wasn't chicken!

What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?

A: You get tinsel-itis!

How does Jack Frost get to work?

A: By icicle

Knock knock! Who's there?

Arthur. Arthur who?

Arthur any mince pies left?

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A: A Christmas quacker

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A: A mince spy!

Why is a foot a good gift at Christmas?

A: It makes a great stocking filler.

What do you get when you cross a lion with a snowman?

A: Frostbite

What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

A: Jungle bells, jungle bells!

What do Reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

A: Horn-aments!

What is green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?

A: Mistle-toad!

What is the best present in the world?

A: A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

A: They always drop their needles!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A: A Holly Davidson!

What did one snowman say to the other?

A: Do you smell carrot?

What are the wettest animals in the world?

A: Reindeer

What music to the Elves like best?

A: Wrap music

Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?

A: Rude-olph

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

A: Pine-apple!



The **2026 ICF Calendars** are here — and they're more than just calendars! Each month features **inspiring stories, fun facts, and delicious Italian recipes** that celebrate our theme, **"Sports Italian Style."**

They make **perfect holiday gifts and raffle prizes**, and each one gives you a **chance to win cash prizes** throughout the year!

Best of all, every purchase helps **support our Branch fundraisers and vital ICF programs** that give back to our community.

Get yours today! Contact your local Branch for calendars before they sell out — and let's make this our best fundraising year yet!



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

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



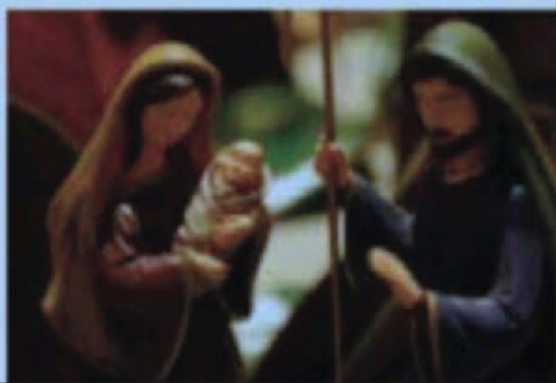
*Buon Natale e Felice Capo D'Anno
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
from
The Officers and Members
of Branch 210, Fontana*



*St. Francis Borgia, Br. 392 Chicago, IL
Happy 101st Anniversary to the
Italian Catholic Federation
Best Wishes from Central Council Member
Teresa Helfand*

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo

*From the Officers and
Members of
Branch 173—Burlingame*



*Best Wishes for A Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year!*

*The Officers and Members
of Branch 213, St. Augustine
So. San Francisco, CA*

