



# BOLLETTINO

*ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage*



## From Christmas Joy to New Year Hope: ICF Celebrates the Season as One Community



San Bernardino District Meeting



East Bay District: Karen Harrington working at the Children's coloring table - Br. 10 Christmas Celebration



Santa Clara Valley District Christmas Party: Branch 391 members serve Christmas dinner.



Los Angeles Archdiocese: Br. 111, Christmas Dinner Party



Central Coast District: Branch 36 Christmas Dinner

## Grand President's Monthly Message

*Franklyn Lopes, Jr.*

Dear Members of the Italian Catholic Federation,



Before I present to you my Grand President's yearly speech, I would like to thank the past officers of your branches for their commitment to our Federation this past year. To our newly installed officers, congratulations on stepping up to be leaders in your districts and branches for the 2026 year.

As we embark on the new year, membership growth will once again be a significant focus throughout the Federation. I am asking each branch to **conduct a membership drive**. If you need assistance, please reach out to Andrew Pappani (pappani1@yahoo.com), **Chairperson of the Membership Committee**. The Workshop Committee, with the help of the Membership Committee, has conducted a series of workshops via Zoom to enhance branch engagement and ICF participation. **Please contact Vince Piro** (vpiro@icloud.com) for more information.

Later in 2026, **future workshops will cover the Mentor Program**, increasing and retaining membership, conflict resolution, ICF charities, and more. Be sure to watch the *Bollettino* for announcements.

**Apostolate-Charity donations** throughout this past year have raised **over \$427,000** to help our parishes and others in our communities. **Congratulations to the districts and areas that achieved 100% participation: Contra Costa, East Bay, San Bernardino, Stockton, and Reno.**

Over the years, through your fund-raisers and donations, contributions to Cooley's Anemia have totaled over \$2 million. I know Laurice Levine and Dr. Thomas Coates truly appreciate all the hard work you have done.

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

*Continued on Page 4*

# BOLLETTINO

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## Important Notice

The email address for ALL  
*Bollettino* submissions is:

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

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

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

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

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Include photo captions with your  
article submission.

Please keep your submission positive  
and informative.

**Deadline for the  
March issue is  
February 10, 2026**

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

**Thank you!**

## Message from our Spiritual Director

Dear Friends of the Italian Cath-  
olic Federation:

Wishing you many blessing for  
the New Year and may God's  
abiding love be with you. For the  
one hope that still stands tall is  
the hope of Jesus, who changes  
us from within to see the gloom  
without and breathe new possi-  
bilities into it. We find hope in  
the Manger. The Manger is about  
God's coming to us in His Son,  
Jesus. We often make resolu-  
tions when the New Year comes.  
Sometimes, we can keep them,  
and other times we don't fol-  
low them, but that should never  
discourage us. We all must have  
a new beginning for a new year.

And so, this New Year, once  
again we make some resolutions.  
This is what we do at the begin-  
ning of every year. But honestly,  
have we really fulfilled all those  
New Year's resolutions in the  
past? There are two main reasons  
why we have failed to accom-  
plish most of our resolutions.  
First, it is because most of them  
are not resolutions but are mere  
wishes. There is a vast difference  
between a wish and a resolution.

A wish is a desire to attain a  
particular goal, while a resolu-  
tion specifically identifies the  
concrete steps to be taken to  
reach that goal. A wish says, "I  
want to pass the Board Examina-  
tion." A resolution will say, "I  
will commit four hours of study  
every day, set aside my Face-  
book account and cell phone,

and have more time for prayer  
each day." A wish will say, "I  
want to be a better Christian this  
year." A resolution says, "I will  
faithfully pray the Rosary daily,  
attend Mass every Sunday, go to  
Confession every month, extend  
my help to those who come to  
me for help and volunteer in the  
liturgical ministry of the parish."  
When there is no concrete course  
of action, it is just a wish, and not  
a resolution. And, nothing will  
come out of it. In our New Year's  
resolutions, we must be ready  
to take action and be willing to  
sacrifice.

An impactful way to take a mean-  
ingful action within your Branch-  
es, and thereby contribute to its  
improvement, is to initiate a new  
outreach program that seeks to  
engage individuals who may cur-  
rently feel excluded. For instance,  
organizing community dinners or  
open discussion groups designed  
to welcome all regardless of back-  
ground can help foster inclusivity.  
Though taking the lead in such  
initiatives may require courage,  
these efforts have the potential to  
cultivate a warmer, more sup-  
portive environment for every  
member. What is your resolution  
for 2026?

It is important, therefore, that our  
resolutions are fully grounded on  
faith in God. Then, He will help  
us fulfill them according to His  
plan. "Do your best and God will  
do the rest."

We need to acknowledge the  
truth that absolute power resides



Father Christopher Bennett  
ICF Spiritual Director

in God alone. And so, the most  
powerful person is not he who has  
lots of money, or who wields po-  
litical power, or who has weapons  
of mass destruction. Rather, it is  
the one who bends his knees and  
prays to God. As a quotation says,  
as the saying goes, "When a per-  
son works, it's just human effort.  
But when a person prays, that's  
when God takes action."

As we enter the new year, may  
the Italian Catholic Federation  
flourish in God's goodness and  
blessings. Let us move forward  
with hope, unity, and faith for a  
prosperous year ahead. May the  
blessing of the Christ child be  
with you throughout the year.  
May His love guide your steps,  
bring peace to your heart, and fill  
your days with hope and joy.



**Fr. Chris**



## In Loving Memory

(Report as of January 2, 2026)

Norma A Murray	Branch 010	Isabel Curci	Branch 115
Lois M Ramos	Branch 014	Dorothy Guarino	Branch 130
Douglas Buessing	Branch 028	Flora De Pasquale	Branch 250
Mary D Benech	Branch 036	Anita Gandolfo	Branch 285
Vincent B Ruccello	Branch 036	Marvin J Barth	Branch 390
Kay A Russo	Branch 036	Joanna French	Branch 390
Antonio Galletto	Branch 052	Raymond L Mc Donald	Branch 390
Julie B Tomasin	Branch 052	Erna A Bonetto	Branch 417
Carmen Andreanelli	Branch 115	Alice A Borden	Branch 432



## Convention Article:

### “Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage” Update

Lauren Kilcullen, Convention Director

The Convention Directors' Committee continues to plan the 2026 Convention. I am writing this article prior to our January 6 meeting, so I do not have many updates at this time.



As a reminder, 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 in Nevada's low-income communities. We will be collecting books—both new and gently used—for children from birth through fifth grade. Chapter books and recent titles for fourth- and fifth-grade readers are especially needed. More information about the organization may be found on its website:

<https://spreadthewordnevada.org/> Please be generous in supporting this worthy cause.

## Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia) Trait

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

There are two main types of thalassemia trait: beta-thalassemia trait (more common among Italians) and alpha thalassemia trait. Individuals who have beta-thalassemia trait have one normal beta globin gene and one that is altered such that it makes little or no beta globin. There is not much scientific evidence that a person who has beta-thalassemia trait has any symptoms, although women with the trait may be more likely to develop anemia during pregnancy and thousands of people with trait report having symptoms such as fatigue and dizziness.



Thalassemia trait causes red blood cells to be a slightly smaller size, a condition called microcytosis. Since iron deficiency is the most common cause of microcytosis, doctors often mistakenly misdiagnose thalassemia trait as iron deficiency anemia and prescribe iron supplements. However, thalassemia trait and iron deficiency are different problems, therefore before prescribing iron supplements, doctors should rule out thalassemia trait and/or perform lab tests to evaluate iron levels. A person with thalassemia trait can also be iron deficient, but if he or she is not iron deficient, iron supplements may result in excess body iron, which can deposit in many areas of the body and over time cause organ damage.

Testing for Thalassemia trait is easy!

Denise Antonowicz, Chairperson of the Convention Raffle, is asking districts, branches, and members to either donate a basket valued at \$100 or more, or donate \$100, and Denise will assemble a basket on your behalf. Please contact Denise at [d56@comcast.net](mailto:d56@comcast.net)

Nina Malone continues to seek vendors to participate in our Marketplace. If you would like a table, please contact Nina at [musicalnina61@gmail.com](mailto:musicalnina61@gmail.com)

*—There is no charge to rent a table.*

I hope all branches have included sufficient funds in their 2026 budgets to send delegates to the Convention. Registration remains at \$385 per delegate. Rooms at the Silver Legacy are \$150 per night, plus tax. The resort fee has been waived, and self-parking is complimentary. The Convention is a time when we renew friendships, learn new ideas to bring back to our branches, elect Central Council members, and celebrate Mass with our ICF family.

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day!

**Lauren Kilcullen**  
Convention Director

Now is the time to start purchasing those great after Christmas Sales for the Reno Convention Raffle.

*Yes, we're trying something new.*

If you choose, we're asking everyone to share in the excitement of being a part of the most fabulous Convention Raffle ever.

More information will follow.

May your shopping experience be as successful as our Reno 2026 Convention...

**Happy Shopping!!**

Denise Antonowicz  
[d56@comcast.net](mailto:d56@comcast.net)



*Donate Love ~ Donate Life ~ Donate Blood*

There is always a blood shortage during the holidays and in winter and this year is no different. There is no substitute for human blood and currently there is a dire need for donations. Please donate blood if you can – and bring a friend with you!

*Happy Valentine's Day*

*From,*

*The Live to Give Committee*

For More Information;  
Laurice Levine: 360-860-2023  
or [LLevine430@aol.com](mailto:LLevine430@aol.com)

American Red Cross:  
<http://www.redcross.org/give-blood>

Vitalant Blood Donation  
<https://www.vitalant.org/>

## Thalassemia: It's in Our Blood

### Episode 7 has dropped!

John Zuke, now 53, is the oldest US patient cured of thalassemia. John shares openly about decades of transfusions from childhood, his experience undergoing gene therapy, and his vibrant life now—transfusion-free. John's light shows us that a lifetime's fight can end in cure; we're thankful for his inspiring voice.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4uYYQuxFewP07AwY4D37tF?si=8e4260073bc1424a&nd=1&dlsi=79cb2a4336904b9a>

## GP Message--*Continued:*

Frankyn, Lopes Jr. *continued from Page 1*

Another way to reach out to your communities and raise awareness of the ICF is through events organized by the **Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Bob Basuino**. The ICF calendars are an effective publicity tool and also provide an easy source of income for your branch.

The Mentor Program/Troubled Branches Committee, headed by Lauren Kilcullen and Lisa Crudo, is designed to support our branches and districts. Your mentors act as advisors and serve as a direct liaison to the Executive Committee if difficulties arise.

***Please consult your mentors at the first sign of any problems.***

Do not let your branch struggle. No matter how big or small the issue may seem, the sooner we are aware, the sooner we can help. Additionally, please let us know about the positive events happening in your branch so we can share your successes throughout the ICF.

**Our Scholarship Committee, directed this year by Carmen Kilcullen, awarded 120 first-year scholarships totaling \$48,000 and 73 second-, third-, and fourth-year scholarships totaling \$44,500.** As a reminder, if a branch cannot offer a full scholarship, please consider making a partial donation. Thank you to all who participated.

**Our Gifts of Love Program**, directed by Teresa Helfand, is always accepting applications from individuals with disabilities. Her committee reviews each application to ensure funds are distributed fairly.

**Perry Shurko, Chairman of the Expansion Committee, is currently exploring opportunities to reestablish branches in California.**

**Lauren Kilcullen and the Convention Committee are hard at work planning this year's convention in Reno, Nevada, to be held at the Silver Legacy Resort over Labor Day Weekend, September 4-6. Our theme this**

year will be “*Our Legacy: Family, Faith, and Heritage*.” Since we will be in Reno, I would like the Saturday night banquet to be a black-tie event, bringing us back to the good old days when members truly dressed up for the occasion. Please read Lauren’s monthly articles in the *Bollettino* for convention updates, and I ask all branches and districts to budget accordingly so they may send delegates this year.

Our office staff, Charlene and Patty, are always available to help you obtain accurate information and resources. They are invaluable to all of us. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need assistance, and be sure to utilize the Central Council and its resources to make your events easier to plan and more successful.

In closing, I would like to thank the Central Council members who chair our committees: Andrew Pappani, Vince Piro, Bob Basuino, Dante Galeazzi, Deborah Rodondi, Lauren Kilcullen, Carmen Kilcullen, Michael Rossi, Lisa Crudo, Leonard Rossi, Perry Shurko, Teresa Helfand, and Rosemary Cook. Their leadership is invaluable to the ICF and to the success of their committees.

I also want to *thank our Spiritual Director, Father Christopher Bennett, for his guidance and for watching over all of us in the ICF*. His words of wisdom have been truly inspirational. He is a devoted and respected Grand Chaplain of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Once again, congratulations to all newly installed officers, and thank you to those who have served in leadership roles in past years. I also thank the members of the ICF for your loyalty and dedication to the Federation.

I wish you all a very happy New Year 2026, filled with good health and increased membership in your branches. God bless you all, and God bless the Italian Catholic Federation.

Franklyn

## **Gifts of Love Donations**

(Received as of January 2, 2026)

Officers/Members of Br. 250  
In Memory of Flora DePasquale  
Officers/Members of Br. 342  
In Honor of Deacon John Sheehan  
Officers/Members of Br. 342  
In Honor of Deacon Adam Crawford  
Officers/Members of Br. 342  
In Honor of Deacon Mark Ruiz

# 2026 Calendar Winners

We held off pulling the calendar winners to give everyone a chance to return their ticket stubs to the ICF office by the January 31st deadline.

The winners' names for January 2026 and February 2026 will be printed in the March 2026 issue. The winners' names will also be available in the *Bollettino* on the ICF website at [www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org) beginning with the March 2026 issue.

## DECEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
12/1	Branch 108		South Pasadena, CA	\$30
12/2	Harry Greer	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
12/3	Dan & Lori Hurley		Walnut Creek, CA	\$30
12/4	Lauri Taylor		Santa Clara, CA	\$30
12/5	Juliette Cote	442	Walnut Creek, CA	\$30
12/6	Mike Repetto	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
12/7	Abby Reynolds		Gilroy, CA	\$30
12/8	Geri Wuelfing	342	Rocklin, CA	\$50
12/9	Robert Sauceda		Garden Grove, CA	\$30
12/10	Heather Thompson		Seattle, WA	\$30
12/11	Luke Huerta		Atlanta, GA	\$30
12/12	Lorraine Koven	214	Concord, CA	\$30
12/13	Darlene Liesch	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
12/14	Sid & Christina Jensen		Crockett, CA	\$30
12/15	Gene Vannetti	209	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
12/16	Bill Greco	54	Gustine, CA	\$30
12/17	Mary Onetti	82	Lodi, CA	\$30
12/18	Aaron & Natasha Saiz		Cupertino, CA	\$30
12/19	Lucy Cronin	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
12/20	Francesca Brown		Angels Camp, CA	\$30
12/21	Cathy Bertao	31	Dos Palos, CA	\$30
12/22	The Delfino Family	368	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/23	Wayne Alamao		Sacramento, CA	\$30
12/24	Dorene Campanile	173	Burlingame, CA	\$50
12/25	Joan Garibaldi		Bakersfield, CA	\$100
12/26	Frank Lucido	36	Monterey, CA	\$30
12/27	Mary Lou Lawrence	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/28	Abby Thomas		Vacaville, CA	\$50
12/29	Father Michael Mahoney	173	Burlingame, CA	\$30
12/30	Jim & Cynthia Rossi		San Mateo, CA	\$30
12/31	Kristin Rossillo		San Marcos, CA	\$50

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: [ICE.ORG](http://ICE.ORG)

## Gifts of Love Program

Next Application Review Occurs February 2026

Teresa Helfand, Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope and pray that the holidays were a time of grace and blessing for you and your families. Now a New Year is upon us. The Gifts of Love Committee will hold its first meeting of 2026 in February to select recipients for our Gifts of Love Awards.

As we contemplate Valentine's Day and think of those we love and care about, let us also open our hearts, thoughts, and prayers to our fellow parishioners and neighbors in our communities who may be in need. We continue to face many challenges in our world and in our daily lives, and we send our thoughts and prayers to everyone. Healing is needed in our world now more than ever, and we ask for your help in recognizing the value of kindness, respect, and helping others.

We understand that these are difficult financial times; however, we encourage our Branches, Districts, and individual members to continue contributing to the Fund in any amount. With your help, we can continue the important work of this vital program.

For those unfamiliar with the Gifts of Love program, we maintain a fund from which we make awards to individuals with disabilities and to agencies that assist individuals with disabilities. These awards are made throughout the year to help individu-



als with disabilities lead fuller, more independent lives and achieve greater inclusion within their communities. We also provide assistance to agencies whose mission is to support these same goals for their clients.

At this time, we are requesting applications from individuals with disabilities who may require special or specific aids or "tools" to complete their education or training, or to assist them in their daily lives.

To help generate applications, the Gifts of Love Committee asks each Branch President to mention the program at their next meeting and, if possible, publish a request for applications in their respective church and/or school bulletins. The application form is available on the I.C.F. website ([www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org)). Applications should be mailed to the I.C.F. Office at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621, or emailed to [info@icf.org](mailto:info@icf.org)

Applications are evaluated on a regular basis by the ICF Gifts of Love Committee, which determines award recipients and amounts. We have a wonderful committee this year and look forward to assisting those in need.

For more information about the Gifts of Love program, please contact Committee Chairwoman Teresa Helfand at [davia902005@live.com](mailto:davia902005@live.com)

**Happy New Year, and God bless you,  
Teresa Helfand**

## Your Hospitalization Plan

*You are in good health???* YES.

Just in case the need arises that you need an overnight stay or surgery at an acute care hospital (or outpatient surgery at a licensed surgical center)... hopefully, you have the additional benefit of the Hospitalization Plan offered by ICF. Sign up now.

Your Hospitalization Committee recommends that each District should appoint a Chair to assist each Branch to encourage enrollment in the PLAN. Remember, your Branch President and Treasurer have many duties throughout the year, whereas an opportunity exists to have a Branch Hospitalization Chair to sign up new applicants to the PLAN.

Your Central Council Hospitalization Committee met and discussed recommendations for the 2026 year at the October 18, 2025 meeting for final approval.

**Congratulations to the Branches who promote and encourage the benefits of membership.**

The ICF Office Staff is very diligent to assist with advice for completing the application to receive the benefits as well as processing the claims.

The PLAN is easy at a nominal membership fee - \$25.00 a year in addition to your membership dues. So, ask for the application to review the rules and eligibility for the plan, your additional financial benefits and enroll. Any Questions, you may also ask a PLAN Member or your Branch Hospitalization Chair. Your PLAN Members are Dante Galeazzi, Andy Pappani, George Leonard, Jim Friebel and Grand Treasurer Deborah Rodondi.

All Applicants, who are interested in learning more about the benefits can reach me at (209) 815-8825.

## Family Recipe--Dirty Martini Dip

Deborah Rodondi



HAPPY NEW YEAR'S Everyone!!!

As we ended this year with Christmas parties, the ICF Executive Board had its Christmas party. Grand 1st Vice President Lauren Kilcullen from Healdsburg Br. 52 made this dip that had us all asking for the recipe. Several of the board members made it for their family Christmas parties and reported back that it was a great hit. So, if you are looking for a yummy appetizer for that special Valentine dinner or Easter family event, this is a must try.

### Dirty Martini Dip

Prep Time 15 minutes

Chill: 2 hours

Makes 10-12 servings

1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, at room temperature

½ cup crumbled blue cheese (2 oz.)

1/3 cup sour cream

1/3 cup mayonnaise

¼ cup vodka (delete for Virgin Dirty Martini Dip)

1 Tbls. brine from jar of olives

½ tsp. garlic powder

¼ tsp. onion powder

1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (4 oz.)

1 cup pitted Castelvetrano olives, chopped

¼ cup fresh chives, chopped  
Dippers: crackers, veggies and/or chips

### Make Ahead

Place cream cheese in a medium bowl. Beat with a mixer on medium 30 seconds. Add ¼ cup of the blue cheese, the sour cream, mayonnaise, vodka, olive brine, garlic and onion powder and cayenne pepper. Beat until nearly smooth. Fold in the remaining blue cheese, cheddar cheese, olives and chives. Transfer dip to an air tight container. Refrigerate at least 2 hours up to 5 days.

When ready to serve, if desired, garnish with chives and a few whole olives. Serve.

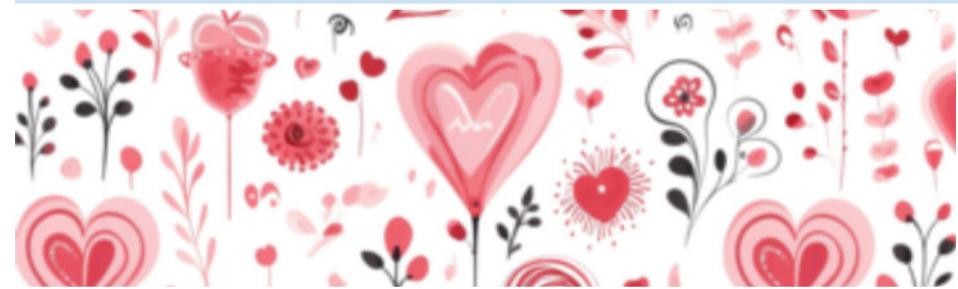
NOTE: For a totally different experience, I would also spread on baguette rounds and broil until bubbly (air fryer usually 2 minutes).

If I did not have the Castelvetrano olives in the house I would not be afraid to use pimento green olives or any other variation I might have in the fridge.

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](mailto:drodondi@comcast.net) or mail to the ICF office include a story if any. If you have questions send them also, I may not be able to answer them but we can put them out there for our readers and maybe find what you are looking for.

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

*Buon Appetito!*



## Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Received as of January 2, 2026)

Branch 82

Branch 179

Branch 438

Jo Macaluso

Lana Tanzi

(3) Anonymous Donors – Branch 36

Dorothy Heinrichs

In Honor of the Anniversary of Br. 36

Officers/Members of Br. 215

In Memory of Dale Mattier

Dean and Jeanette Hudson

In Memory of Doug Buessing

Victor Arnaudo

In Memory of Toni Morsello

## Heritage — New Year's in Italy

Louise Vento, Committee Member



Italians in Italy celebrate the New Year with a large dinner on New Year's Eve (December 31) and look forward to New Year's Day. The traditional meal often includes lentils, which represent coins and symbolize prosperity and good fortune for the coming year. It is believed that if lentils are not served, financial misfortune may follow in the new year.

Pork, especially pork sausage (such as *cotechino* or *zampone*), is commonly served because pork symbolizes abundance and progress. The sausage is often sliced into coin-shaped pieces and served with lentils, sometimes alongside risotto. In Northern Italy, the meal may include meat or chicken served with spinach or other greens, along with lentils.

**Capo D'Anno!**

On New Year's Eve, Italians celebrate with champagne (or *prosecco*) and toast at midnight. After the fireworks, people exchange kisses and good wishes for the new year.

A long-standing (though now discouraged and often illegal) tradition involves "getting rid of the old" at midnight, symbolizing a fresh start. In the past, people would throw out old items such as shoes, furniture, pots, or dishes. If you were in Italy on New Year's Eve, you were traditionally warned to be careful of falling objects. The American tradition was to throw out your old calendar from the high-rise windows. The streets were full of paper and other items, out with the old in with the new.

No matter how you celebrate the New Year with family or friends, remember that lentils symbolize riches, good luck, and hope for the future.

## Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library

### OPEN HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 8

Carmelo Sabatella

Mother Cabrini 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 members 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, 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](http://icf.org/mother Cabrini) shrine or call 626 372-7812.

#### SAVE THE DATES:

- January 11, 2026 - Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Host: Cabrini Companions.

- January 11, 2026 - Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee Meeting from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Cabrini Chapel.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Carmelo Sabatella,  
AIA, President, ICF LAADC  
-Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee  
E: [cas1810@aol.com](mailto:cas1810@aol.com); C 626-372-7812

## 2026 1st Year Scholarship Program

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

The **Deadline for Donations and Applications is April 10, 2026**. This will allow additional time for students to apply and for Branches and Districts to follow up with the high schools in their areas. Please discuss participating in the program by making a donation of a full scholarship of \$500.00, if possible, or a partial donation of any amount. Partial Donations do help to make other scholarships possible when that money is grouped together. Individual Donations are welcomed as well.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren or anyone you know who is eligible to apply. They can contact their high school counselors about the **Italian Catholic Federation 1st Year \$500.00 Scholarship**, they can download the application using the link on the homepage of the ICF website or they can fill out and submit the application, with required documentation attached, online.

#### These are the **eligibility requirements for students:**

A High School Senior, a **total cumulative GPA (3 1/2 years) of at least 3.2** and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2:

1) Are **Roman Catholic and of Italian Descent and live within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of California, Illinois and Reno, Nevada** (which also includes the other cities within the Diocese of Reno), only where Branches of the Federation are established. or

2) Are **Roman Catholic but need not be of Italian Descent** or live where Branches of the Federation are established if either Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" - membership of a Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is mandatory for #2.

\*Please note the requirement of a parent or grandparent needing to be a member for Roman Catholic students who are not of Italian ancestry. A student cannot just meet the requirement of being a baptized Roman Catholic.

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

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



Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House on Saturday, November 8, 2025 for ICF Branch 47 visitors from Mountain View.

## Scholarship Donations

(Received as of January 2, 2026)

#### 1st Year Donations

Antoinette and Angelo Pecora  
In Memory of Janie Girado  
Antoinette and Angelo Pecora  
In Memory of Franklin Souza

#### 2nd - 4th Year Donations

Dorene Campanile  
In Honor of the 100th Birthday  
of Rina Cassanego



# Branch Reports

## SAN FRANCISCO

### San Francisco

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

Dear Members:

Happy January Birthday Wishes to our Members Monique Fontana, Gino Giovannoni and Elisabetta Rossi.

Happy February Birthday Wishes to our member Joe Matranga.

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

*Cordiali Saluti*

*Diana Cresci*

## SAN MATEO District Council

Happy New Year!

San Mateo District Installation of Officers will be January 31, 2026 at the Crowne Plaza-Foster City, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404.

Entrée choices are seared chicken breast with kahlua balsamic glaze and citrus risotto or vegan or vegetarian ravioli with baby vegetables.

We will start with installation at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch.

Price is \$55/person. Please make your check payable to San Mateo District and send to Barbara Firpo, 1518 Bay Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

If you have not already made your reservation, please call me at 650-444-6999. Deadline is January 22, 2026.

Thank you to all of the outgoing Officers that have given so much to serve and support the District and the Italian Catholic Federation.

Our District meetings will be:

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.

*Ciao,*

*Barbara*

### Colma

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

Felice Anno Nuovo to all!

Congratulations to all the branch officers who will be installed at the San Mateo District Installation on January 31st.

Our meeting dates for the next two months are January 12th and February 9th; both gatherings will be dinner meetings held at 5:30 p.m. at Deborah's house.

Please also keep in mind that Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th.

*Finally, we wish everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day!*

### Burlingame

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

Our Christmas party/dinner was a huge success and we were honored to have Franklyn Lopes Jr., our Grand President join us.

We have many events planned for the New Year beginning with our Pasta dinner at our January 8th meeting chaired by Dorene. Please advise Dorene by 1-5 for an accurate head count.

January 31, 2026 is the District Installation of Officers to be held at the Crown Plaza in Foster City. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. - Luncheon to follow - 1221 Chess Drive - Cost: \$55.00 Entrees are: seared chicken with kahlua balsamic glaze and citrus risotto. vegan: vegetable ravioli with baby vegetables. All entrees include salad, fresh baked bread rolls/butter, coffee/assorted teas and dessert. Please let Dorene know if you will attend

February 12th will be our "SOUP warm up" hosted by Bea Tomasello and Dorene. Please bring a bowl and soup spoon.

March is St. Joseph's Table chaired by Dorene. Flowers would be appreciated.

APRIL 9TH - MEMBERS APPRECIATION meal Chaired by Mary Ann Camacho and Roz Emery

APRIL 11TH - Pedro Tournament - in coordination with Branch 19.

Our Branch members did a great job on buying 2026 calendars as all have been sold.

Please continue to pray for all who are ill in our branch and throughout the Federation: Fr. Brian, Fr. Gerald, Fr. Harold, Mary Bodisco, Anthony Bruno, Maria & Victor Camicia, Donna Cervelli, Nerina DiBella & Virginia Fuentes.

*God Bless, Roz Emery*

### South San Francisco

#### Br. 213, St. Augustine

Here we are starting a new year and let's make it the best year of our lives.

Keep buying those ICF calendars.

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 Diane Pangburn, Jimmy Poulet, Alicia Poulet, Grace Poulet, Jackie Smith and Rose Twyman.

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

Thanks to Judy and Roberta for hosting our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. Our group is getting smaller and smaller. I posted a picture of our group in this month's *Bollettino* see if you can find it.

*Ciao, Joe Crosetti*

### Menlo Park

#### Br. 351, St. Patrick

Happy Healthy New Year to all!

The Christmas pot luck was a great success with lots of food enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone that participated. Thank you too for everyone that brought canned food that went to St. Francis of Assisi St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

There will be no meeting in January. Please send your membership dues to Paul Eisenman, 813 San Ramon Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085. Dues are \$46.80 check payable to ICF Branch 351. If you have hospitalization, please add \$25.00 to the total.

Installation of Officers will be January 31, 2026 at the Crowne Plaza-Foster City, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404. It will start at 11:00a.m. with installation and lunch following. The price is \$55/person. Entrée choices are: seared chicken breast with kahlua balsamic glaze and citrus risotto or vegan or vegetarian ravioli with baby vegetables. Please make check payable to Branch 351 and send to Barbara Firpo, 1518 Bay Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. If you have questions, please give me a call.

Our February meeting will be Thursday, February 5. Menu to be determined.

Keep our sick members in your prayers.

*God Bless you,*

*Barbara*

*650-444-6999*

### Millbrae

#### Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao! I hope everyone had a wonderful time with family & friends over the holidays. Our Christmas Dinner was really festive and entertaining. Thanks to everyone who helped decorate and serve!

We have cancelled our February 3rd meeting due to the proximity of the District Installation of Officers on January 31st. If you plan on attending the Installation, contact Eunice immediately at (650) 692-3740.

Our next dinner meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd. This is our Mountain Mike's Pizza dinner, which includes salad, WINE, dessert & coffee for \$15. The social begins at 5 p.m. & dinner at 5:30 p.m. Mail your check (payable to "ICF BR 403") to Eunice Danli at 4 Spring Valley Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030. The DEADLINE is Feb. 28th! You can also RSVP at the # above. St. Joseph's Table: This event will be held at the Parish Hall on Thursday, March 19th.

The social is at 5:30 and the dinner and blessing begins at 6 p.m. This is a NO meat potluck. RSVP to Eunice Danli at the # above by Saturday, March 14th & let her know what you are bringing. Finally, if you have not yet paid your dues (\$48), do so ASAP by mail (separate check please!) to Eunice.

*Capo D'Anno!*

*Adonna Amoroso, Secretary*

## LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District

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

Congratulations to member Francesca T. for producing and directing the one act LYRIC OPERA "Amahl & the Night Visitors" in St Peter Catholic Church's Casa Italiana on December 6, 2025. Members of several LAA District Branches enjoyed this beautiful story, whose music and Libretto was originally composed by Carlos Menotti, in time for Christmas.

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 ICFNational-Branch67.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.*

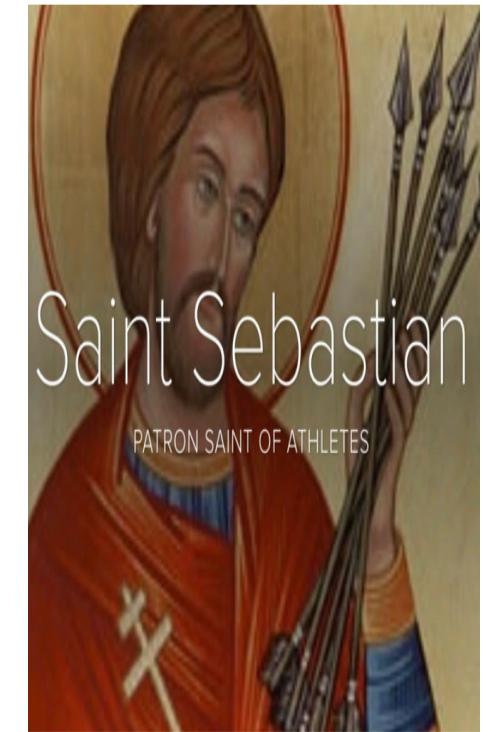
*Keep safe and stay healthy,*  
*Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President*  
*ICF National Branch 67*

*C 626 372-7812*

*E Cas1810@aol.com*

**SAVE THE DATE**

- January 10, 2026 - ICF National Branch 67 General Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (PST) at St Peters Catholic Church in Downtown Los Angeles and via Zoom. Please call 626-372-7812 for more information.



## South Pasadena Br. 108, Holy Family

On December 7, 2025, Branch Members enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Branch 108 Christmas Lunch Social and General meeting followed by Bingo and celebrated the December Birthdays of members Lucy O. and Sylvia B. in HFC Connolly Hall.

Members also enjoyed the One Act Lyric Opera "Amahl & the Night Visitors in St Peters Church's Casa Italiana on December 6, 2025.

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

*May they rest in peace.*

*Keep safe and stay healthy,*  
Carmelo Sabatella, AIA  
Past President  
ICF Branch 108  
C 626 372-7812  
E cas1810@aol.com

## Montebello Br. 111, St. Benedict

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Joyful, & Prosperous 2026 to everyone! Tanti Auguri per un Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti! Our January General Meeting will be on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, Montebello. Come join us! We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of January: Anthony DeLorenzo, Rita Estrada, Kathleen Rabago, Frank Salomone, and Rosie Vasquez.

Our February General Meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, Montebello. Join us for a pre-meeting Valentine Potluck Dinner. The branch will provide Vegetable Lasagna, salad, garlic bread and drinks; Please bring a side dish to serve you, plus an additional 10 people. More details will follow in our February Newsletter. We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of February: Irena Scoria, Carmelina Palmeri, Lynn Enrico, Francesca Orofino, Terri Mercado and Adela Renella. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

Mark your calendars - our St. Joseph Table this year will be held on Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22, 2026 at St. Benedict Parish Hall. The monies we will raise at this event will allow us to support our parish, offer Phillip & Phyllis Pace scholarships to St. Benedict Parish School graduating students, Pace College Scholarships to graduating Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School students, support our clergy and Seminarians, scholarships to graduating high school students, Cooley's Anemia, and other worthwhile charities. We need

everyone's support to make this a successful event! Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may St. Joseph and God Bless you abundantly.

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

*Ciao! A Presto.*

Frank Salomone  
Branch 111 President

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

On December 6th our branch wrapped up the year with a fun Christmas celebration, enjoying great food, fun games and piñata for kids. Thank you to Giovanni Boccanfuso who volunteered to be Santa. President Neal DiLeva thanked everyone for their generous support throughout the year and introduced 2026 officers making it a wonderful way to close out 2025. 2026 officers are President Neal DiLeva, Vice President Bob Holman 2nd Vice President Anna Dileva, Recording Secretary Nancy Ventimiglia, Financial Secretary Pauline Iacono, Treasurer Anita Trujillo, Sentinel Isodoro Cologna, Orator Barbara West, Trustees Frank Amalfitano, Carmela Funicello, Giovanna Gioiello and Rosaria Amalfitano. Thank you to outgoing trustee Letizia Charparro for her service.

First meeting of the year will be held on Thursday January 15th at 7:30 p.m. in Parish Center. Up for discussion will be our annual Crab dinner. Due to auditorium scheduling issue, our dinner has been scheduled for March 21st at 6 p.m. Please attend meeting for more information.

2026 dues are now payable. Branch 115 dues are \$45.00 per member. Dues can be paid at meeting or mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 W 8th St. San Pedro, CA 90731. Please make the check payable to Italian Catholic Federation. Bank will not accept checks made out with abbreviation ICF.

February meeting will be held on Thursday February 19th at 7:30pm in Parish Center. Hope to see you all at our meetings

Anita Trujillo

## Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

St. Dorothy Glendora Branch 179 celebrated Christmas with a beautiful Italian buffet from Spaghetti Eddie's. Of course, everyone enjoyed the food, but just being together for an evening of friendship was the best. A huge thank you to our board officers as each donated a raffle prize. We pray everyone had a beautiful holiday, and wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2026!

Patricia

Trustee, Branch 179

## Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

I hope everyone had a great Christmas, even though it was wet. We do need the rain.

2026 started off with the installation of officers held at Branch 447 American Martyrs this New Year. Congratulations to all of our officers.

Our next Bingo is February 2. It'll be a Super Bowl theme Bingo.

Can you believe it, that we're closing in on St. Joseph's Table all ready? Well, it's right around the corner. It's time to think about what you're going to bake. It will be held on Saturday March 21st and Sunday March 22nd.

If you're going to Religious Congress, stop by the ICF booth and say hello. February 20 - 22.

*Let's make 2026 our best year ever.  
Happy Valentine's Day to you all.*

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

What a wonderful way to end the year! In the spirit of giving, our branch participated in the St. Bede Adopt a Family Christmas program and provided gifts and food for 2 needy families. Thank you to the Wynton and Richardson families for coordinating this worthy project. Also, \$500 in gift cards were distributed to Cooley's Anemia patients who are being treated at Children's Hospital. In addition, donations were sent to the following charities: Eaton Outreach, Pasadena Ronald Mc Donald House, Int. life Services, St. John's Seminary, Respect for Life, and Elizabeth House. Our branch Christmas Party with delicious food and the fun "hat" interactive game, led by Margaret Ramponi, set us off into the holiday season. Many thanks to Fiora Murphy and her committee who coordinated the beautiful evening.

Our biggest fundraiser is almost here! Are you securing donations for the St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration Auction? Every member is asked to get at least one. All proceeds will be distributed to our list of charities. Are you freezing home baked goodies and tomato sauce for the Table, as well? Our biggest fundraiser is just around the corner on March 21st -22nd -, in the new parish center and, thanks to Diana Dykes, this year will also include a catered pasta luncheon. Please sign up to assist at the event in some way that weekend.

*May the Lord bless your 2026 with joy and peace.*

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

Our Christmas dinner was celebrated on December 13th at the Viva La Pasta restaurant where everyone enjoyed their favorite appetizer hosted by our branch. President Cathy Pantess recalled the successful activities undertaken by

Branch 380 this year that included: Italian Pasta Sauce Cook-off and Participation in the Conejo Food and Wine Fest in June, the Joint ICF Branch 380 and St Paschal Baylon Ministries meeting in August, the Carlo Acutis movie night in September, and participation in the St Paschal Baylon Festival in October. Looking ahead to 2026 (our 41st year as a branch) we are planning more fun and adventures for all ages.

*Respectfully submitted by Don Modaro*

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

Buon 2026 Anno to everyone. Good health, happiness & love surround you this coming year. May we grow in faith, compassion for others & follow the example of our Lord each day.

Our annual Christmas party was a great success. The food was delicious, provided by Annielo of the appetizer. Hany & Carol provided a charcuterie board with every kind of cheese that pleased everyone. Dolly Cincotta brought fresh fruit and Antionette baked fresh chocolate chip cookies. Our centerpieces were provided by a friend of Jovita Trani, Lori Johnson. She donated them to St. John Fisher Parish for all the ministries to use. An anonymous donor provided us with the one-man Sicilian Band, led by Tony Ciaramitaro. He played all the right music from Italian folk music to music of the 50's & up. Antionette DeLorenzo & friends got all of us dancing together & dancing in line around the room.

Silent Auction items were donated by Gina Albi, Bruno & Betty Vieri, Mary Alley, Cristina Baldemor,

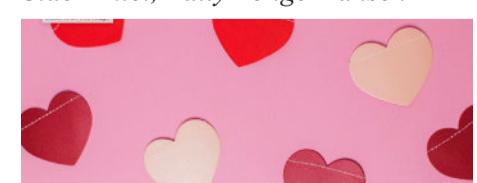
Hany & Carol, Tonya Amalfatano & many items from Jovita Trani. Monique Hansen & Daniel did the food serving. Sorry if I missed anyone who helped or donated.

Tonia, bought & delivered Christmas items to our adopted family in Tustin. Bruno says the evening was successful moneywise & we have money to give to our charities. Amen.

Lou & Pat Mages came all the way from the North Valley to attend & see the fruits of their labor, Br. 444 that they helped organized ten years ago. Msgr. Antonio Cacciapuoti attended the evening & met many of our ICF group of family & friends. Everyone was happy to see Sheryl Payne that night, after her health issue that began in January.

Welcome back Sheryl & keep strong. Joe Trani, an original member died a few weeks before Christmas. Joe was gentle, kind, giving, & in spite of all his health issues, never complained. Rest in Peace Joe. You will always be in our hearts. Remember him in your prayers & Jovita.

*Ciao Amici, Patty Longo Hansen*



## CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



St. Rose of Lima, Paso Robles Branch 354



St. Rose of Lima, Paso Robles Branch 354



St. Rose of Lima, Paso Robles Branch 354



St. Rose of Lima, Paso Robles Branch 354



Rachel Zepeda &amp; Scott Clark Branch 36



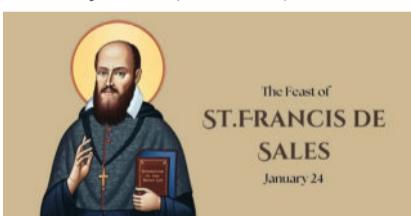
Kay Russo (1942-2025) Branch 36



Mary Benech (1927-2025) Branch 36



Branch 36 Canned Good Donations



**Italian Catholic Federation**  
Santa Rosalia Branch #36

JOIN US • VOLUNTEER • ORDER ON-LINE

website: [www.montereyicf.org](http://www.montereyicf.org)  
email: [info.icf36@gmail.com](mailto:info.icf36@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 2286  
Monterey, CA 93942

## CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 291 enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Luncheon at the Madonna Inn, including great entertainment by the very talented St. Patrick School Choir "Amplified"!

## SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Br. 403, St Dunstan Christmas Party.



Br. 403, St Dunstan Christmas Party.



Branch 19 Colma 97th Anniversary and Christmas Party Celebration with members Al, Donna, Joanne, Deborah, Kathy and Cheryl along with a member of Branch 173 Burlingame Brenda at Sharps Park Golf Course



Br. 213, St Augustine: Pictured from left to right: Linda Marcelli, President Marianne Cameron, Maria Galletti, Joe Crosetti, Judy Crosetti, Jackie Smith, Barbara Gabriel, Roberta Franchini, Gloria DeVincenzi, Katy Amiot, and Linda Benedetti.

## SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Branch 209 setting up for the Ravioli Dinner. Sending CHEER from Branch #209!!!



Leona Spadoni serving ravioli at Branch 209's Dinner!!



Our wonderful turnout from Branch 209's Ravioli Dinner!



Br. 144 Selfik Family initiation.



Br. 144 Thanksgiving Feast.



Eureka Branch 145 Christmas Party attendees Bob and Nancy Renzo and Mary and Mike Wheeler check out the menus at the Village Pantry on Broadway in Eureka.



Br. 144 Advent breakfast cooks Pete Stagnoli, Jim Monge, and Alfred Eanni.

## East Bay District Council

*Felice Anno Nuovo!*

EBD closed 2025 with a Christmas celebration co-hosted with Branch 10 at St. Philip Neri in Alameda. Santa Claus visited with gifts for all the children present. Celebrants feasted on a pork dinner prepared by Chef Benny Ratto. Gift baskets were raffled and Christmas carols led by Karen and Leonard Rossi completed the festivities.

Elections were held in November for the Officers of the EBD. They are being installed in a joint event with the Contra Costa District on January 18th. Mass is at St. Stephen's in Walnut Creek, with the installation and dinner following.

The EBD Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed is February 21st at St. Phillip Neri in Alameda. Chef Benny Ratto is preparing plenty of crab, pasta, salad and chicken (for non-crab diners)!! Cocktails are at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Gift baskets made by each branch will be raffled. Deadline for reservations is Friday Feb 1st! This event is the main fundraiser for EBD for the many charities we support. Branches, please submit one check for all attendees. Contact John Zugnoni: John@Zugnoni.net, (510) 326-3474 for details. In 2026 EBD celebrates its 90th Anniversary! Information on festivities in the spring will be forthcoming.

*Sincerely, Roberta Madej*

## Alameda Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

We have entered into our busiest time of the year.

By the time you read this article, we will have hosted our annual Polenta Dinner on Saturday, January 24.

Next up, on February 20, will be the first of our Lenten Friday Fish Fry dinners. The doors to Monsignor O'Brien Hall open at 6:00 p.m. on each Friday, except Good Friday, in Lent following Stations of the Cross at Saint Philip Neri Church. Prices are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Reservations are not necessary.

Two functions are scheduled for March, our Irish Social on Saturday, March 7 and our Saint Joseph's Day Table on Thursday, March 19. Members will be asked to bring desserts on Saint Joseph's Day. For information for either event, contact John Zugnoni, 510-326-3474 or john@zugnoni.net.

Our combined East Bay District-Branch 10 Christmas Dinner was attended by 81 persons (82, including Santa Claus). Santa was ably assisted by Jeff Branchaud and Karen Harrington in presenting gifts to the children in attendance.

At our December 11 meeting we voted to donate \$500.00 each to the Missionaries of Faith, the order of priests which has staffed Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Parish for the last 17 years; the Alameda Warming Shelter operated by Christ Episcopal Church of Alameda; Welcome the Stranger, which attends to the needs of one immigrant family per year; and the Alameda Midway Shelter, which houses battered mothers and their

children.

All are welcome to enjoy our hospitality!

*John Zugnoni*

*Branch 10 publicity*

## Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

*Ciao, Amici,*

Felice Anno Nuovo! It is a new year, and we are looking forward to getting together for another year of fun and fraternity. We are working on our plans for upcoming social meetings, fundraising activities, outings with the Andiamo group, and our monthly Italian conversation group.

The holiday season started with our annual Thanksgiving dinner that followed a lovely Mass of Remembrance at St. Elizabeth Seaton. Thank you to all who participated in the Mass, including Carolyn Cardinalli, Sharon Murphy, and Karen Rossi, who all sang and played so beautifully. In December, we celebrated Christmas with a delicious and festive dinner at Pastas Trattoria. We were pleased that Father Mark Weiner, Pastor of CCOP, could join us.

Our January social meeting will be held on Sunday the 25th at St. Elizabeth Seaton. We are looking forward to hearing about Sharon Murphy's recent Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome.

Once again, we will be teaming up with the St. Michael's Golden Friends for our joint Golden Friends/ICF Bingo fundraiser that will be held on Saturday February 7th. Watch your email for more information. We hope you can join us for this fun event.

We were saddened to hear of the loss of one of our members, Rose Brandi. Please pray for her and for her family. Also, please pray for members who are ill and for all those who are in need of our prayers.

Buon Compleanno to members with January and February birthdays!

*Ciao,*

*Paula Flessatti*

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

Now that Thanksgiving and Christmas have passed, we look ahead for those events that will be a part of our lives in 2026!

At our November meeting, at which we thoroughly enjoyed Lisa Crudo's magnificent minestrone soup, our members donated multiple bags of cans and non-perishable food items for the needy in our community. The generosity of our members was amazing!

Our branch continues to grow! We recently added yet another member to our branch, Barbara Mehan. Our annual pasta bingo event has been a great way to introduce the ICF to those attending, after which they then decide to join our branch. They come to play, and then they stay. Works for us!!

Our annual Christmas dinner was held on December 11th. We gathered at one of our favorite local Italian restaurants, Acqua e Farina, and enjoyed both the food and company immensely!

We are asking for your continued prayers for our chaplain and pastor, Fr. Rafael,

who is recovering from some major health issues.

*Buon anno a tutti!*

*Edoardo McGuirk*

## CONTRA COSTA District

### Martinez

#### Br. 13, San Martino

Happy New Year Federation members!

We celebrated the Feast of our Patron, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Epiphany, and the Feast of La Befana. We also celebrate the 2026 newly elected Officers and thank them for stepping up: President Tom Cook; First Vice President, Rosemary Shaw; Secretary and Orator, Mary Cook; Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Anne Crisp; Trustees Paul Cook, Bob Poirier, Karen Glen; and Sentinel, new member of Branch #13, Griffin Shaw. Our New Year began on January 12 over zoom and continues on Monday, February 9. If you'd like to join us over zoom, let me know and I'll send you our meeting link.

We welcome opportunities for members to present an item, article, or story for the heritage portion of our nine meetings. Please sign-up for one meeting, attend another branch event, and invite a friend to zoom in with us. Dues of \$50 are payable the first of the year, so please bring your account up-to-date if you haven't already done so and mail to Anne Crisp at 2155 Karren Street, Concord, CA 94520.

We thank the organizers of our combined East Bay and Contra Costa Districts' Installation and look forward to other combined events.

Wishing members a love and faith filled St. Valentine's Day. Visit <https://ffhl.org/valentines-day-exploring-catholic-roots-and-traditions> to explore Catholic roots and traditions of Valentine's Day. And, what seems like it's on the heels of stowing decorations, we prepare for Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent is just around the corner.

*For the greater glory of God, Mary Cook*

### Crockett

#### Br. 14, San Carlo

*Ciao Amici!*

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

We have some very sad news to report with the loss of two very special members. Diane Thomas was called up to heaven and became an angel in December. Diane served as an officer in our Crockett branch, an orator, heritage person, and wrote articles for the *Bollettino* among many other volunteer activities. Diane had a generous spirit and was a friend to all. We will always remember her beautiful words, gentle kindness, and never-ending grace.

Sadly, Lois Ramos also left us at the end of the year. Lois was a long-time member who always greeted you with a big smile. Many of you will remember her as our first Mary during our St. Joseph's Table celebrations. We will miss her infectious

laughter and friendship.

Please pray for the Ramos and Thomas Families during this very sad time.

We're sending get well wishes to Mike Bowman, Barbara Cardwell, Rose Cata-lano, and Carla Contestable. Hope to see you up and around very soon!

Our February meeting will take place on the 10th. We'll enjoy a special Valentine's chicken dinner prepared by chef Al DiPrima. Cost is \$15.00. Not sure if Cupid will be there, but be sure to brush up on your most romantic Italian phrases just in case. We had a great time at the Christmas Social this year. Our wonderful Santa (Johnny V.) delighted both young and old with his jolly laugh and warm heart. Gifts were distributed to the children and we all had the opportunity to tell Santa our special wishes. Everyone contributed to make the event a success. Thank you to Roni Jimenez for organizing the holiday shindig, and to all the ladies who made the fabulous appetizers and desserts. A fine time was had by all!

Our Annual Corned Beef Dinner will be held on March 14th this year. Tickets for this event will be \$30.00 and will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rolls and dessert. We always have a lot of fun (not to mention a great raffle). Contact Donna or Helen (510) 990-2139 for tickets.

*Wishing you a peaceful and happy new year.*

*Blessings, ~Helen*

## Concord Br. 214, Todos Santos

*Buon Anno Tutti:*

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and New Year's celebration with your loved ones.

Now the holidays are behind us and we are planning our events for the coming months for our branch.

We had a board meeting on December 29th to plan our dates of fun events and special charities to donate to. It was a formative meeting.

In November we brought many toys for Toys 4 Tots. Although the Marines were not able to attend because of the government shutdown, Marianne and Ed Lowe brought all the toys to an office in Concord. Thank you to them for doing this.

We had a great Christmas branch party at Zio Fraedo's on December 7th with a delicious buffet brunch. It was a great time to get together to wish everyone happy holidays.

On December 3rd we attended the Christmas District dinner at Wise Girl in Pleasant Hill. Great buffet dinner and wonderful raffle prizes donated by each branch were won by happy members.

Ed DiMartini had a procedure just before Christmas and is doing well.

We have 8 members attending the installation of officers on January 8th.

Our prayers are with member Susan Giorgi. She is in the hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Looking forward to a healthy year for everyone.

*God Bless, Norene Deluca*

**Danville**  
**Br. 352, St. Isidore**

*Bongiorno ICF,*

Last month's ICF dinner meeting featured a special first: homemade polenta for nearly 100 guests. Suzi and Sally—affectionately known as the “Polenta Sisters”—took on the task after getting tips from Chef Michael of the Colombo Club. They prepared a rich version using butter, half-and-half, and Parmigiano Reggiano. With help from Tony during the more intense stirring, the polenta paired perfectly with Russ's chicken cacciatore.

During the monthly 50/50 raffle, the winner donated his winnings back, allowing the Italian Catholic Federation to make a larger contribution to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Lisa Sager delivered the donation the next morning. An anonymous donor at the food bank doubled the gift, providing 3,724 meals for community members in need. We celebrate our members' generosity and the difference it makes; every act of support, big or small, helps those less fortunate. The evening concluded with a brief demonstration by the “ribbon man,” who showed how to make decorative bows and offered ribbon for sale.

At Saint Isidore's Christmas market we sponsored a salami toss. Everyone always enjoys playing young and old. A Christmas dinner meeting was delicious cioppino. Fratello Marinette put on a delightful puppet show. Wonderful way to end 2025.

*Wishing everyone Buon Anno*

*Ciao, Sally Panella*

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

Hello to all our members,

Cheers! We survived another year! December was foggy, rainy, cold and pretty depressing but we did not let that stop us as we partied down at Smith's Landing for our end of year Christmas dinner. Attendance was good, the food was delicious and plentiful and the atmosphere magical as we were transported to another realm with the wonderful singing from “The Songsters,” a talented group of residents from the four Somerset Communities in Brentwood, who have sung together for 20 years and travel all over performing for various occasions. What a treat and way to start our celebration! Thank you to Peggy Scalise and all “The Songsters” for helping make our celebration merry and bright.

Now on to the New year, new officers and new members. Look for more info in March regarding our officer installation, January and February meeting information and all the fun planned for 2026.

Happy Valentine Day, St. Valentine pray for us.

*Ciao for now, Mary M.*

**BLESSED SACRAMENT District**

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

Happy New Year! Here is our next submission:

A big thank you to all who helped make our annual Polenta Dinner a big success. For over 40 years, this has been a soldout event and this one was no exception! Thank you to Bridget Piziali and MaryAnn Mikles for coordinating, to Marc Piziali and his crew for cooking the delicious dinner, to all those who sold tickets, to Linda Wuelfing and helpers for creating the beautiful raffle baskets, and to everyone who helped set up, clean up and worked the day of the dinner to make it such a successful event. We will have photos in the next edition.

Congratulations to the new slate of 2026 Board Members who were installed on January 31st. President: Pam Andersen, Vice President: MaryAnn Collins, Financial Secretary: Carol Barnett, Treasurer: Adriana Jensen, Trustees: Marisa Borba and Melanie Fathali, Orator: Lucianna Curtis and Sentinel: Colleen Andersen.

*Ciao!*

*Pam Andersen*

**Lincoln**  
**Br. 450, St. Joseph**

*Buon Anno!*

Branch 450 wrapped up 2025 with a series of memorable events. In November, we hosted our very first branch Communion Mass and breakfast, featuring the inspirational Laurice Levine as our guest speaker. Laurice, the Thalassemia Program Consultant at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Cooley's Anemia Liaison to the ICF, shared her expertise and heartfelt stories about Thalassemia. Her moving presentation helped our members understand why Cooley's Anemia is the ICF National Charity. Many were touched by Laurice's words, and we're truly grateful for the impact she made on our branch.

In December, we celebrated our inaugural Christmas party. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and ended the evening with a lively, Christmas-themed game of Pictionary. The night was filled with joy, laughter, and great food. It was a wonderful occasion. We hope to make it an annual event!

We're delighted to welcome our new board members: Peggy Kavanagh (2nd VP), Ron Morin (Orator), Carol Silva, Greg Gregorio (Trustees), and Andrea Senge (Sentinel). We deeply appreciate our outgoing board members—Janice Suarez, Dorine Suarez, Dolores Zaro, and Kelly Chang for their dedication and all they have contributed. Thank you!

As we continue to build our presence and fulfill our mission within the parish, our branch is growing, and we'd like to welcome our newest members, Jayme

Crisafi and Sylvia Passaglia! We're thrilled to have them join us! Benvenuti! We look forward to many more successful events and new friendships in the year ahead!

*Ciao! Janet Vicencio*

**SANTA ROSA**  
**District**

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

Happy New Year! Here's to a successful 2026 for Branch 52!

Upcoming events:

Polenta Dinner: Saturday, January 24. Richard Passalequa is the chef. With his crew, he's making his almost famous sauce! Price: \$25.00 for adults. \$10.00 for children ages 6 – 12. Call Camren and Lauren: 707-595-3111 for reservations or purchase tickets after Mass.

ICF Meeting: Tuesday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the rectory.

ICF Monthly Mass: Sunday, February 15. 10:00 a.m. Mass

Fish Fry: Friday, March 27. More details to come.

We are saddened by the passing of Julie Tomasin. Julie was a wonderful person and member of the ICF. We send our prayers to John and family. Julie will be missed.

*Lauren*

**Arcata**  
**Br. 144, St. Mary**

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast on November 16. We welcomed our newest members: the Selcik family: Morguine, Chad, Nolan, and Annaka.

We decided on fried chicken so people would not be burned-out come the actual holiday. It was a big hit. We had some amazing sides: mashed golden sweet potatoes, wild mushroom sauce, and Abruzzo cheese balls, just to mention a few. Rosemary made her Italian Olive Bread.

Toni Green ('11) made her delicious pecan pie! (I think I licked the plate)! Ruth Monge ('08) is quite the baker, and her chocolate cake, a.k.a. frosted brownies with Humboldt Creamery Vanilla Ice Cream were delicious! Thank you, Moira Pitlock ('25), for the yummy deviled eggs and corn pudding. Wow, was that ever good! Our newest member, Morguine, made excellent corn muffins. Shannon Rohrbach-Gier ('11) brought her famous berry cobbler. There were many more dishes to put us all in a “food coma”! All in all, it was a Feast!

We had our annual Gift of Love Advent Pancake Breakfast, which we hold on the Second Sunday of Advent. This is a free breakfast for our parishioners in thanks for supporting all our fundraisers. Great thanks to the Knights for helping out.

For Valentine's Day, we will once again

have a Sweetheart Dinner for our members. It was quite a hit last year with Alfred Eanni ('15) being the head chef.

*Nuovo Anno*

*Anne Carlisle Eanni*

*Secretary*

**Eureka**  
**Br. 145, St. Ambrose**

The Bette Chinn Super Bowl of peanut butter and jelly collection competition results were not finalized by press time of *Il Bollettino*. Thank you to all who participated. Bette and her ministry are very grateful.

Following the success of our peanut butter and jelly collection drive what we need now is for all of our current members to help recruit new members and build our base of membership. Membership applications are available for you to print out on your computer at the Italian Catholic Federation website: [ICF.org](http://ICF.org)

It is Colivas ICF scholarship time again. Scholarship applications can be printed out from the ICF website at: [ICF.org](http://ICF.org) or contact Joe Bonino or Jerry Colivas at [jerry.colivas@yahoo.com](mailto:jerry.colivas@yahoo.com) to have an application for the Jerry J. Colivas Memorial Scholarship mailed to the student. The Christmas meeting/party at the Village Pantry Restaurant on Broadway was sparsely attended but convivial none the less.

We held a vote for our officers for 2026. Thank you to all who volunteered to serve.

Our next event will be the celebration of Carnevale (Italian Mardi Gras) on February 10th in the St. Bernard Parish Hall Pinochi Room at 1:30 p.m. during our regular meeting. Costumes and masks are optional.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On January 9, 2026 our branch will complete 60 years as a member of the Italian Catholic Federation at St. Eugene's Cathedral in Santa Rosa. Our history includes hosting Bishop's Days, Days of Recollection, Installations, and receptions for new priests in our Diocese. We have also had one of our members serve as Grand President of the Federation, Robert Acquistapace. For several years our branch has awarded more scholarships than any other in the Federation.

We have three remaining charter members: Rose Anderson, Kathy Acquistapace, and Robert Acquistapace.

All current members should be very proud of our history and our current successes.

Our January meeting will be preceded by our Anniversary dinner and we hope everyone will attend.

*Happy New Year Robert Acquistapace*

## EAST BAY DISTRICT



Branch 343 Christmas Party at Acqua e Farina Restaurant in Hayward.



Branch 343 Christmas Party at Acqua e Farina Restaurant in Hayward.



EBD, Sofie Madej & Luciana Martinez receive gifts from Santa at the EBD - Br.10 Christmas Celebration.



EBD, Luciana Martinez delights in Christmas carols led by Karen Rossi at the Br. 10 - EBD Christmas Dinner.



EBD, Fr. Mario Rizzo and Fr. Joseph Pathiyil at the EBD - Br.10 Christmas Gathering



Salute! Members of Branch 285 are shown enjoying their Christmas Party.



Fran LaTorre, ICF President and members of Br. 215, celebrate Christmas at Giorgios.

## SAN DIEGO DISTRICT



Branch 449 Festa



Branch 449 Festa

## STOCKTON DISTRICT



Branch 82, St. Anne's Anniversary Lunch at Nonna's



Branch 82, St. Anne's Anniversary Lunch at Nonna's



### 2026 LENTEN DINNERS

ICF 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraiser

**\*\*Dine-in or Take-out\*\***

**FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 27, 2026**

San Carlos Cathedral Hall, 500 Church Street, Monterey

**MENU (Chef's choice, as available, changes weekly):**

**Fish, Pasta, Salad, Garlic Bread**

**ICF MEMBER PRICE \$20 PER PERSON:** Online purchases only!

**NON MEMBER PRICE \$25 PER PERSON:** Online purchases only!

**RESERVE/PREPAY ONLINE** Monday afternoons until 8pm each Thursday during Lent:

[www.MontereyICF.org](http://www.MontereyICF.org)

**OR: PAY \$25 (same price for ALL) ON FRIDAYS (cash, check, credit card), till sold out (no phone/email/mail orders)**

**DESSERTS & BAR BEVERAGES ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLINE & AT DINNERS**

**Doors open at 4:30pm, Take-outs 5-7pm, Dining Room service 5:30-7pm**

**ICF Members are asked to please donate a dessert weekly - thank you!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ELAINE VALENTINE AT 831.521.8026, OR EMAIL US AT [INFO. ICF36@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INFO. ICF36@GMAIL.COM)**

## CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



The Polenta Sisters, Sally and Suzi, Branch 352 Danville



Crockett #14 ICF members at the Community Center sending Christmas cheer. Thank you for representing us.



Crockett #14 members representing our branch at the Community Center Christmas Gathering. Thank you for hosting this event. Great job!



Wow. All the happy lucky members from Crockett 14 on our Annual Christmas bus trip to a casino --Great fun...



Branch 432 Merry Christmas 2025



Br. 352, Len Salvemini and granddaughters



Branch 432 The Songsters



One of our officers in our Crockett Branch was called up to heaven and became an angel during the Christmas Season. Diane Thomas will be missed. She served many years as an orator, heritage person, wrote articles in the *Bollettino* and was a dedicated ICF member. Rest in peace, my friend.



Branch 432 Christmas Dinner

## Sebastopol Br. 209, St. Michael

Hello from branch 209!  
Our November General Meeting was held on Veteran's Day.

In honor of Veteran's Day, after a delicious Thanksgiving dinner cooked by Roy and Leona Spadoni, we held our meeting. After our meeting, we viewed a wonderful documentary of an untold story of a top-secret World War II US naval operation, that one of our members, Judy Barbieri's, father was a part of. The documentary is titled S.A.C.O. (Sino, American, Cooperative, Organization) which is about 2500 Navy and Marine volunteers that were a part of the beginning of what is now the Navy SEALs. It is about a group of men behind the Japanese in the interior of China during that period. This amazing documentary can be seen on Hulu if anyone is interested. It is truly amazing.

On December 10, we had our Ravioli Dinner which was a completely full house! (225 +!) The raviolis were delicious. It was a wonderful success that everyone enjoyed!!!

Our December General Meeting is coming up and Santa is rumored to be there! Pictures of the fun will follow.

Thinking of you all this holiday season and sending love and prayers.

*Ciao and Buon Natale!*

*Yvonne Dorr, Recording Secretary*

## FRESNO District

### Merced Br. 39, St. Cecilia

Our branch kicked off the holiday season with its annual Christmas Party held in conjunction with the Italo Lodge. The St. Patrick's choir held a Christmas Carol Sing-along; a wonderful lunch was had. There was a great cake walk and desserts were shared. Also, there was even a visit from Santa for all the good boys and girls. Thank you to all the people that made this a successful party!

Our next meeting will be held at the Italo Lodge on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 5 p.m. social hour, 6pm dinner and meeting to follow. Also, mark your calendars for the February dinner and meeting which will be held on February 11, 2026. We look forward to seeing you all then!

*Have a Blessed and a Happy New Year!*

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

Happy New Year greetings to all our multi-national members!

Italian: Felice Anno Nuovo

Spanish: Feliz Año Nuevo

Portuguese: Feliz Ano Novo

Irish: Ithbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh

German: Frohes Neues Jahr

Danish: Godt Nyttår

Little known Popes' department: St. Damasus was the 37th Pope and one of the most controversial early Popes. He did much to establish the shape of the papacy and of Christianity as they emerged in medieval times and sought to rigidly (and sometimes ruthlessly) enforce the superiority of the Bishop of Rome over the other bishops.

As this issue combines January and February, here are birthday greetings for both months: January; Sharon Arnold, Claudette Rozal and Carolyn Tucker. February: Carol Rice.

Our January meeting featured a delicious lasagna lunch, a white elephant gift exchange, and cupcakes, one of which contained a tiny figure of the infant, Jesus. Traditionally, whomever gets the Baby Jesus in their cupcake must save Him for the following year and hide Him in one of the cupcakes he/she brings for the January, 2027 meeting.

What a blessing! Several days of much needed rain!

Philosopher Angelino says: "E Se Piove E Se Gragniola, Dell'Inverno Ne Siam Fuora" – "If it rains and if it drizzles, winter will soon fizzle".

Please note: several pictures of Br. 250 are shown elsewhere in this issue.

Thought for the month: "In His birth is all hope, In His way is all light, In His Word is all truth, In His love is all life".

*Ciao,  
Matteo Macaroni*

### Fresno Br. 308, St. Anthony

Happy New Year!!!!

Looking back at 2025, who could have imagined the amazing blessings God has gifted us and the many ups and downs we have all faced. The year began with the opening of all the Holy Doors as we celebrated the Jubilee year, a time of forgiveness, liberation, and restoration. We all faced the sad loss of the Holy Father, our beloved Pope Francis but through the difficult time of mourning and sorrow we were blessed with a new Pope, our own American Chicago White Sox fan (go White Sox!). As Pontiff, he will lead us to the light we so greatly need in this turbulent secular world. His holiness Pope Leo XIV also gave us a patron saint of the internet, the first millennial saint, St. Carlos Acutis (the first saint to have his mother interviewed). St. Carlos can be seen as a symbol of the

new generation and the hope we can see within the youth in the church.

*Habemus Papam. Thank you 2025.*

*Debbi Jorgensen*

## CENTRAL COAST District

### Monterey Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

Wishing all a Happy New Year!

May the new year bring you peace, happiness, good health and prosperity.

November 13, 2025: We had a great turn out at our Friendsgiving Dinner held at the Moose Lodge. Congratulations to Dyannel Mondragon who won our 50/50 raffle and to Dawn Trego who won our attendance drawing. We thank all our members who brought an abundance of canned foods/ socks for Loaves and Fishes pantry.

December 11, 2025: Our Italian Christmas family dinner party at the Moose Lodge. All enjoyed Italian sausage / Pasta dinner with a visit from Santa and his Elves. The Ugliest Sweater contest was won by Denise Antonowicz (Past Grand President) and Angel Rivera. On behalf of Branch 36, George Leonard presented a \$600 donation to the Moose Lodge for their outstanding support of our non-parish hall events. George also recognized Past Grand President Denise Antonowicz with a Christmas Basket gift, given in appreciation for her dedication to the ICF. Thank you to all our members who brought unwrapped toys. Toys were given to the Monterey Fire Department for children in need.

Wednesday January 21, 2026:

Dinner/Meeting/New Member Initiation at San Carlos Hall. Doors open 5:00 p.m. -Dinner 6:00 p.m. Check MontereyICF.org for additional information.

February 12, 2026: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Thanking our hardworking Lent volunteers for all they do to make our events successful. Team meetings and committee assignments confirmed this night. More information will follow.

Our annual Lenten Friday Fish/Pasta dinners at San Carlos Cathedral Hall begin on February 20 & continue every Friday on February 20, March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

- Same pricing as last year for members \$20, and non-members \$25 per dinner. Children \$10 pasta only (10 and under)

- Ticket sales online at www.MontereyICF.org Reserve/Prepay online from Mondays 12 noon – Thursday 8 p.m. On Fridays, limited dinner tickets will be sold at door for \$25 for those didn't buy online.

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

- Lent dinners doors open at 4:30 p.m. takeouts available 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dining room service 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. See you there!

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

We are saddened to report that Vincent Ruccello (former Br. 36 president), Kay Russo and Mary Benech recently passed away. We will miss them all! Our condolences to their families and may they Rest in Peace.

*New Year Blessings,  
Elaine Valentine, Co-President*

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

Italian Catholic Federation Branch #51 is pleased to share several highlights from a meaningful and active season for our members. We began with a well-attended Thanksgiving breakfast meeting at Stevie's Restaurant in Prunedale, where members gathered to enjoy a warm meal, reconnect with one another, and reflect on the many blessings of the past year. The welcoming atmosphere and strong turnout made it a wonderful start to the holiday season.

In December, our branch once again participated in a local Adopt-A-Family effort. This opportunity allowed us to support one family in need by providing gifts and essentials to help brighten their Christmas. The generosity of our members made a meaningful difference, and we are grateful to all who contributed. We also celebrated an important milestone—our 90th anniversary. On December 20th, we commemorated this occasion with a special Mass followed by a celebratory dinner. It was a memorable evening honoring the rich history of Branch #51, the dedication of members past and present, and the strong sense of faith and community that has guided us for nine decades.

During this season, our branch also mourned the loss of longtime member Thomas Martinez. Thomas was a valued part of our ICF family, and his presence, kindness, and commitment to our branch will be deeply missed. We keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that our annual Polenta Dinner scholarship fundraiser will be held in February 2026. More information will be shared soon.

*"La famiglia è il cuore di tutto."  
"Family is the heart of everything."*

— Kevin Cortopassi

## DEADLINE

February 10th for the

March issue of the

*Bollettino.*

*Send your*

*articles & photos:*

**editor@icf.org**

## Aptos Branch 227 St. Joseph

Members enjoyed the annual Christmas party at Stewarts Floral Studio. There were so many wonderful appetizers and cookies that it was hard not to take too much. President Franklyn Lopes set up a long table where everyone sat together, just like the Italian dinners in the "old days."

I must correct an error in the list of officers in the November Bollettino. Mary Lou Weidlich is the Orator for 2026, not Bruce Dunn. My apologies. (That's what happens sometimes when you Cut and Paste.)

The January meeting was a potluck, with First Vice-President Vicky Howell presiding. Thanks to those who donated raffle gifts and to those who pitched right in to clean up after the meeting.

Members shared some of their New Year's resolutions:

- Dan Casagrande: "I'm too old to make resolutions, so I'll just try to get closer to God."

- Rita DeBernardo: "To try to get to my home town in Calabria Italy in June with my children, grandchildren and their in-laws."

- Joyce Hopkins: "I was going to try to go without desserts but then I changed my mind."

- Richard Vote: "I resolve to listen more to my peers than to the younger generation. We've lived long and because we're still here we know what we're doing."

Remember to get your dues to Financial Secretary Nancy Harrold. They are \$50. You can either mail them or bring them to the next meeting.

*Happy New Year Everyone,  
Deanna Musler, Secretary*

## Arroyo Grande Br. 291, St. Patrick

Branch 291 celebrated the Christmas season with a beautiful and festive Christmas luncheon at the Madonna Inn on Dec. 7th. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and great entertainment by St. Patrick School's choir, Amplified. The children did an excellent job singing and performing songs from the movies The Polar Express and How the Grinch Stole Christmas, plus they sang many holiday classics!

We want to give a big thank you to our Christmas party coordinator, Beth Nakamura, who did a great job collecting payments and putting it all together! Unfortunately, Beth was unable to attend the party due to a fractured fibula. We pray that Beth will have a speedy recovery!

Now that the holiday season is behind us, it's time to start focusing on our Fish Frys! Our first one is the Mardi Gras Fish Fry on Feb. 13th, and all profits go towards our Registration Assistance Program. Our Lenten Fish Frys are Feb. 20th and 27th and March 6th, 20th and 27th. So mark your calendars!

Our Branch recently lost a longtime member and wonderful lady, Giovanna Schaeffer. Giovanna was an active 91-year-old, and enjoyed running up until her last few years. She also dashed around our fish fries, keeping track of where our guests

were seated so their dinners could be delivered promptly. We will definitely miss her this Fish Fry season. Please keep Giovanna's family in your prayers and may she keep on running in heaven!

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

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

Just like the Advent Wreath, Branch No. 354 became a circle of love, joy, and thankfulness last Saturday. We came together as we usually do just before Christmas each year at the festive Madonna Inn, more for the warmth and renewal of togetherness than for the delicious seasonal meal which we all enjoyed. We met with and welcomed new members, enjoyed our catching up time with "old" members as we learned about weddings, new grandbabies, and Christmas plans with families and friends. Everyone had a great time drawing "lucky" tickets for a variety of wonderful gifts—local wines, Panettone, secular and religious Christmas decorations, books rosaries, etc. Thank you, Irma, for organizing this noisy, fun drawing which has become a tradition we all look forward to.

We thank you Father Roberto for your presence, your blessings, and serenading us in Italian. What a voice and what a treasured priest!!! Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Irma and David Zanini thanked those present for supporting ICF and wished everyone a holy and happy Christmas. David presented a brief look back for 2025. He touched on plans for the coming year and welcomed new members and prospective members.

Thanks to Pete Gallagher from the Arroyo Grande Branch for joining our celebration. He gave a brief presentation regarding Arroyo Grande's successful fundraisers during the past year, and discussed plans for the year ahead.

*Yvonne Maddalena  
Recording Secretary*

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY District Council

The Santa Clara Valley District Christmas party was held at St. Martin of Tours on December 9th and hosted by Branch 391, in San Jose. The evening started with holy mass presided by ICF Spiritual Director Father Chris Bennett. Mass was followed with a tasty pot roast meal catered by Tony & Alba's and served by members of Branch 391.

After dinner, all present were asked by Branch 391 president Steve Lencioni to share what they are grateful for. A fantastic raffle earned funds for the district from prizes donated by our branches. The evening ended with singing of Christmas carols lead by Jim Jones. We all had a great time.

The district officer elections for 2026 were held at the regular district meeting on November 11th. The election results are: President Debbie Piro, First VP

Jim Jones, Second VP Ric Shimshock, Secretary Mike Rossi, Treasurer Steve Lencioni, Orator Julie Midwin, Trustees Shirley Catania, Giulia Gallego, Tina Souza-Dutra, and Sentinel Eva Stern. Continuing in 2026 are Diocesan Chaplain Father George Aranha and District Mentor Donna Pfaff. Congratulations to all!

Installation of officers' mass, ceremony and lunch was held on Saturday, January 3rd, at Resurrection parish in Sunnyvale and hosted by Branch 408. More details were not available at the writing of this article and will be in the next issue of the *Bollettino*.

I hope your Christmas and New Years were enjoyable and celebrated with family and friends.

*The Santa Clara Valley District wishes the ICF a Happy New Year.*

*Michael Rossi*

## Gilroy Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

*Buon Anno! Happy New Year!*

Members came together for our annual Christmas Party held at Old City Hall Restaurant, where we enjoyed each other's company, a delicious dinner, and a fantastic dessert buffet. Attending members were asked to bring a "little dolce" and they did not disappoint.

It was wonderful! Everyone even left with a small to-go box of treats. Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by Another Chance Music. Mora Taormino was the lucky winner of our Big 50/50 raffle. Santa surprised us with making a visit to our special guest, Hank Anthenian, along with his older brother, mom, and dad. Hank is Louie and Pat Cordich's great grandson who has been going through cancer treatments over the past couple of years. He is currently cancer free and we pray he stays that way!

Join us January 26 for the always delicious "Soup Night" by Diana Berry, and Dave and Marianne Peoples.

February 23 is the tasty and fun "Pizza & Bingo Night" by Vince Saso and Kim and John Filice.

Be sure to buy your tickets early for our "Shrimp & Ravioli" fundraiser dinner and raffle being held on Saturday, February 28. Adults \$40.00. Children under 12 \$20.00. For tickets, contact Christine Filice at 408-499-2345. Ticket sales end February 10.

*Wishing you all peace, health, and joy in 2026!*

*Christine Filice*

## Mountain View Br. 47, San Giorgio

*Buon Anno Nuovo! Happy New Year!*

We are doing a lot of planning this month. We will have two Grab n Go Pasta Dinner Fundraisers this year. We are planning a group trip to Monterey for the Lenten fish dinner. We are super excited to finalize our 90th Anniversary Mass and luncheon on August 1st.

Wishing you and your loved ones a year

filled with God's love, unity, and abundant blessings!

*Peace and God Bless,  
Julie Wester*

## St. Mary Br. 184, Los Gatos

2026 will start with a full complement of Officers. Denise Antonowicz returns to the President's chair; First Vice-President to be shared by Arlene Bertelotti and Janice LaMotte; Second Vice-President Germaine Antonowicz; Treasurer Donna Pfaff; Financial Secretary Rita Bonasera; Correspondence Secretary Lucy Amico; Recording Secretary Marie Yurosko; Orator Virginia Giacomini; Trustees Michelle Antonowicz and Larry Vollman; and Fr. Greg Kimm as our Chaplain. Officers will be installed on Jan. 3 at Resurrection Parish.

Our Branch 184 Christmas Party was a happy event. It was indeed a Christmas miracle to see two long time members, Ed Russo and Norma Buonaccorsi, in attendance. They have had serious health challenges yet came with their care givers! All enjoyed the meal catered by Tony and Albas, as well as the gift exchange. In conclusion, I ask all members to try to attend our meetings, held on the 2nd Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. The next meeting to be held January 13. We want to hear from you.

As this year closes and a New Year begins, we continue to pray for our members and their loved ones. May the Lord guide us always on our journey and remind us to "love our neighbors as we love ourselves."

St. Valentine's message encourages us to tell our loved ones how much they mean to us!

*Pacem in Terris, Lucy Amico*

## San Jose Br. 191, Saint Frances Cabrini

*Happy New Year to all of you!*

I would like to thank the members of ICF Branch 191 for all of their help with the 70th Anniversary Layette Tea that was held on December 6th. It was a huge success and your support was much appreciated. The Tea was wonderful and enjoyed by many people from all over. This will help us, help the mothers-in need for a long time.

Branch 191 held two events recently. The first was a Board dinner at Lazy Dog Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and comradery of their fellow officers. A fun time was had exchanging fun gifts and sharing stories of past holidays. Our second event was a wonderful luncheon for all ICF Branch 191 Members. The lunch was held at Florentine's Restaurant in Saratoga. A delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone and many wonderful memories were shared.

As we look forward to a new term we are excited to get started with activities and projects within our Branch.

*Wishing everyone a blessed and prosperous New Year!*

*-Sharon Logan.*

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

FYI, ICF was started in 1924 by Luigi Providenza in Italy. If you want more information, Google it.

The Chili Cook Off will be Sunday January 31 and the Polenta Dinner will be Saturday March 21st. Want to help? See Cathy Orlowski.

We are still looking for a Dining for Dollars chairperson. See Robin Hayr for information. If you still need to pay your dues, please see Tina Souza-Dutra and make checks to ICF Br. 368, \$50.00 per person. Dec. 10th was our Christmas party with a great dinner put on by our Board Members. Thank you, Board Members. If you have a budget item, do not present your item at a regular meeting. Discussions will happen at the regular Board Member Officers meeting. Fill a budget form out and give it to a board member. Thank you.

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

Have a wonderful month of January and February 2026.

*Happy New Year and may God Bless you and your families throughout 2026 and beyond.*

*Tom Myers*

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

Members celebrated the Christmas holiday in December 2025 with food (delicious pot roast and mashed potatoes), song and holiday cheer.

We welcomed back Sister Jane, who led us in prayer and who spoke of her health issues during 2025. President Steve Lencioni thanked members, who have contributed so much of their time during the past year to make our branch a success.

It was an evening of giving from our branch--Steve presented our annual donations to the following organizations: St. Martin of Tours Parish, St. Martin's Food Box Program (including our canned goods collection), and St. Vincent De Paul.

In January 2026, members enjoyed Tony and Alba's famous pizzas which were enjoyed by all!

Reminder:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

*Wishing you a Healthy and Happy 2026 and a Happy Valentine's Day.*

*Janis Patellaro*



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

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with loved ones to perhaps once again experience the food of are tradition like homemade Raviolis, fried Cardoni, fresh Pasta, and antipasto platter.

Branch 435, Morgan Hill had our Christmas party on December 2nd at the Long House dining room in Gilroy. We were blessed once again to have our Pastor Father "G" Menchaca as our guest. Father "G" opened with a thanksgiving prayer. After enjoying a delicious "American Style" meal, President Giulia Gallego turned the meeting over to event chairman Giovanni Foggiato. Giovanni had been able to procure a large number of poinsettias at a very reasonable price from Home Depot. This allowed the branch to present one poinsettia per family to celebrate our Branch 435 accomplishments in meeting our goals in helping others and having fun doing it. The meeting ended with Father "G" wishing us well as we Celebrated the Christmas season and went our separate ways. Poinsettias were also given to the parish office staff. Thanks to Giovanni Foggiato for his excellent job.

On December the 9th the Branch attended the Santa Clara Valley District mass and Christmas Party at St. Martin of Tours. Toni Foggiato once again assembled a wonderful fund raiser raffle basket to auction off for the benefit of the District. The celebration was enjoyed by all who attended the dinner party after mass.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

**San Jose**  
**Br. 445, Transfiguration**

Branch 445 ended 2025 with a variety of activities and events: November General Meeting with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner, traditional sides and pumpkin pies for all; video presentation by parishioner Dan Passalacqua of his trip to Italy. Parishioner Jose Palma shared a story of his devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and her upcoming Feast Day Mass / Celebration December 12th at Transfiguration. Br 445 approved a \$400 donation to help support the cost of roses and the Mariachi band/choir for the Mass.

Member Bill Perry reported on our Sack Lunch Ministry (AKA: Contemplatives in Action): 105 sack lunches distributed weekly to three local sites - 45 each to Amigos de Guadalupe Hotel and to John XXIII Center - 15 for Our Lady of Refuge Mobile Showers Ministry. He anticipates by the New Year 25,000 sack lunches will have been distributed since April, 2020.

December events included: a wonderful Feast Day celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Fun Branch Christmas Party with piano playing of holiday carols by guest Stanley Olivar; delicious catered dinner; Reindeer Races thanks to Pres. Jim Falcone and his tech skills

with prizes for members who scored the most win, place, show points; round robin singing of the 12 Days of Christmas; Punch a Bunch Gift Exchange and more holiday carols led by ICF Mentor Jim Jones. Tiramisu and Burnt Almond cake topped off the evening.

Happy January Birthday Wishes to: Kathy La Scola, Jan Stumhoffer, Rev. Chris Bennett, Donna Pfaff, Darlene Pedone and February Birthday Wishes to Jean Avram and Marti Rao!

Happy New Year Blessings to everyone!

*Until next month stay safe and well,  
 Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer*

**STOCKTON**  
**District**

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

Stockton District, Lodi, Branch 82, St. Anne's / January-February 2026

It seems the new year is already in full swing, with activities scheduled for the very first week! The newly elected Officers celebrated Epiphany attending the Stockton District installation mass followed by a luncheon at Stanislaus (Br. 48) in Modesto on January 4th. We are happy to retain Chris Whiting as our President, and Elisa as our Financial Secretary/Treasurer. Elizabeth and Jess will continue trying to fill Patty's legacy as Co- Corresponding secretary, Jess as Orator, Grace and Luann, Trustees, with Lori as 2nd VP and Sentinel, and of course, Deacon Karl. We held our first meeting of the year on January 27th.

Our next regular meeting is February 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Please invite a friend to share in hearing about the joy of membership in the ICF and help us build our branch.

Did you know Epiphany marks the close of the Christmas season? As the saying goes: "L'Epifania, tutte le feste si porta via!" (The Epiphany takes all holidays away!), with Ash Wednesday just around the corner on February 18th, this rings with truth!

*Elizabeth Calloni Holladay*

*Jess Calloni*

*Corresponding Secretaries*

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

Branch #139 held their November meeting on the 25th in St. Anthony's Cafeteria. The usual business was conducted including reading and approval of the Minutes from the October meeting and balances provided in our Checking Accounts as of November 1. As always, Members are encouraged to read the *Bollettino*.

The main item of business this evening was the election of Officers for 2026. The following were elected:

President – Ron Agostini

1st Vice President – Patti Fichtner  
 2nd Vice President – Ida Queirolo  
 Recording Secretary – Birdie Nieri  
 Financial Secretary/Treasurer – Michelle Harmon  
 Sentinel – Ed Fichtner  
 Orator – Tim Cabral  
 Trustees – Birdie Nieri and Dante Galeazzi  
 President Birdie announced that Installation of the new Officers would take place on January 4, 2026 @ St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto – 1 p.m. Mass followed by a luncheon. All Officers are encouraged to attend. This get-together is a great way to interact with other Branches.

A date of December 7th was set for our annual Christmas Luncheon at Tony's Kitchen. Over 20 Members and guests attended the affair. As usual, Chef Tony prepared prime rib with home-made raviolis, green beans with bacon, green salad, bread and butter. A great time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be on January 27th with our newly-elected Ron Agostini bringing treats.

*Bye for now,  
 Michela*

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

Our Christmas "Santa's coming to town" dinner meeting was held early this year, Thursday December 11th and we had a great turnout, including Santa Claus who took photos with anyone who requested them...and free candy canes were in abundance for those who have a sweet tooth this time of year, yours truly included.

January dinner will be held on Thursday, January 22nd—be sure to join us in the installation of our devoted volunteers. You will also be treated to the all-time favorite—polenta and chicken cacciatore. Make your reservations early—this one fills up!

As the year-end approaches, our 2026 board members are getting ready for next year: President Denis Della Nina, 1st Vice-President Joe Bacchetti, 2nd Vice-President Alena Chappell, Recording Secretary Nichole Mifsud, Correspondent Secretary Betty Hollars, Financial Secretary Annette Elissagray, Treasurer Serena Martocchio, Orator Lucy Orsi, Trustees Kathleen Noah, Marilyn Tuso, Gary DelCarlo, Sentinel Charles Tuso, Chaplain, Deacon Pete Ryza. Thank you all!

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](http://www.icfbranch390.org)

*Stay healthy, happy & safe,  
 Betty Hollars*



## LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Br. 111, Christmas Dinner



Br. 111, Happy Birthday to Sal, Ezio, Linda, Georgia &amp; Gary.



Br. 111, Christmas Dinner Party



Br. 380, Fr. Michael, Pastor St. Paschal Baylon and ICF Branch Board Members at Christmas Dinner



Br. 111, Christmas Dinner

## LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Chairman, Jenni Hauge and President, Jerry Farrugia at the very successful Branch 218 Christmas Boutique



The gorgeous and successful Branch 218 Christmas Boutique!



Br 115, Christmas Party, 2026 Officers



Br. 179, Russ Rotunno



Br. 179, Rod Felt & Patricia Auriemmo Finally!



Br. 179, The Pooleys, Napolis, Sabbaghs, Josie and Monsignor



Br. 179, LaPianas, Pirolos, John Sugar & Debbie minus Rod



Br. 115, Christmas Party



Br. 115 Christmas Party with kids hitting piñata.



St. Frances Cabrini Pilgrimage LA District banners

## LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 374, Joel Wynton proudly shares winning Hat Game Drawing with daughters Penelope and Alana.



Br. 374, Jennifer Weissmuller, Marina Sardo, Chairperson Fiora Murphy, Kathy Cheney, Lila Nastro, and RaeAnn Mertz enjoy before dinner camaraderie.

Branch 108



Br. 374, Members play the hilarious Christmas Hat Game.



One Act Lyric Opera "Amahl & the Night Visitors" brought to St Peter's Casa Italiana by ICF NBranch 67 Member Francesca T. In time for Christmas.

Br. 374, Claudia Wade, Pierangelo and Margaret Ramponi relax after a bountiful dinner.

## LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



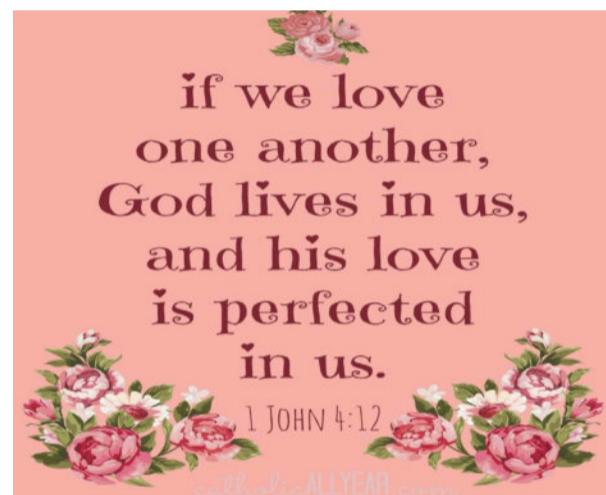
Br. 444, Antoinette DeLorenzo &amp; Guests



Br. 444, Bruno, Betty Vieri, Cristina Baldemor, Msgr. Antonio Cacciapuoti &amp; Jan Kelly



Br. 444, Hany Francis &amp; Carol Piccirillo



Br. 444, Dolly Cincotta &amp; Lori Daniels

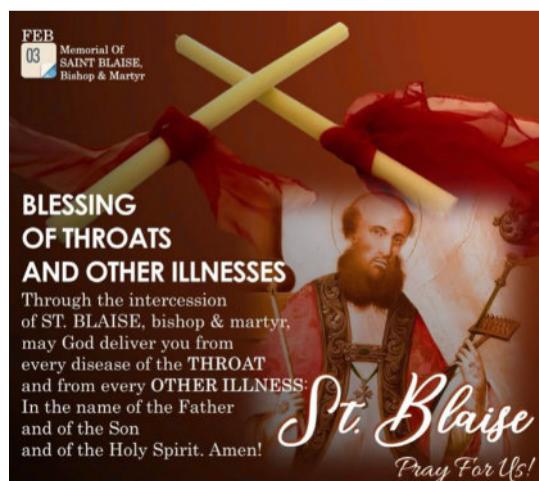
## FRESNO DISTRICT



ICF Branch 250, Clovis, CA - (l to r) Rich Zanarini, Cindy Newton, LeAnne &amp; Angelo Lavagnino at the International Food &amp; Craft Festival at the St. Paul Newman Center Food &amp; Craft Festival.



ICF Branch 250, Clovis - Initiation of new members. (L to R) Val Rios, Kitty Culleton, Georgia Rios, Carolyn Tucker, Donna and Argilia Christensen, Sharon Arnold, Darlene Smay and Marge Innocenti.



Branch 250, Clovis, CA. - Members enjoying their December Luncheon.

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Dessert Buffet at Branch 28 Christmas Dinner



Branch 28 Christmas Party: Fran, Ed, Kim Filice, Branch President, and Bobby. Thank you Old City Hall, Gilroy for a fabulous dinner.



Guess who won Branch 28's 50-50 drawing?! Mora Taormino!



Br. 368 new member initiation



Br. 368, December Christmas Dinner with Fr. Edgar and Rose Norack



Presentation by Morgan Hill Branch 435 of a raffle (fundraiser) basket at the Dec 9th Santa Clara Valley District Christmas party by President Giulia Gallego and raffle basket creator Toni Foggiato.



Branch 435 Christmas Party



Br. 368, Rudy De Zordo enjoying Christmas party and Music



At the Branch 435 Christmas Party on Dec. 2nd, Giovanni Foggiato gives out one poinsettia per family in celebration of meeting our goals in helping others in 2025 and having fun doing it.

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 47, Christmas Party



Br. 47, Christmas Party



Br. 47, Christmas Party



Br. 391, Sister Jane Garrison



Br. 391, Sister Jane Garrison with Steve and Cathleen Lencioni



Br. 445, Members Spreading Holiday Cheer



Br. 445, December Birthday Buddies



Br. 445 Pres. Jim Falcone and Elves Checking Out Reindeer Race Results



Br. 445, Guest Stanley Olivar (left) with Branch Members

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



ICF Branch 191 Members Holiday Luncheon



70th Anniversary Layette Tea at St. Frances Cabrini.



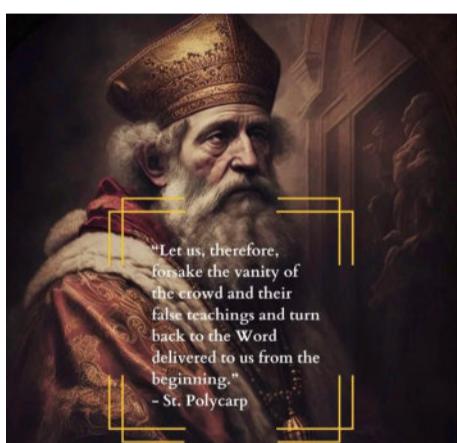
ICF 191 Board Dinner.



ICF 191 Board Dinner.

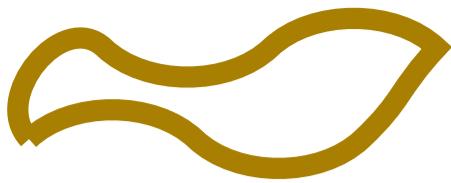


Br. 391, Father Chris Bennett celebrates Christmas Mass with the District Members.



Branch 391, District Members line up for Christmas Dinner.





## DEADLINE

**February 10th for  
the March issue  
of the  
Bollettino.**

**Send your  
articles & photos:  
editor@icf.org**

## SAN DIEGO District

### Santee Br. 449, Guardian Angels

November and December were very busy months for Branch 449. In November, our branch was honored to be featured as "Ministry of the Month" at our parish. We took this opportunity to greet parishioners after Mass, sell our handmade greeting cards, share information about our ministry, host snacks after Mass, and sell tickets for our 5th Annual Festa, held on November 22. Our Festa was a wonderful evening featuring opportunity drawings, a silent auction, dinner, and dancing. Funds raised will benefit Guardian Angels Parish, seminarians, local scholarships, Cooley's Anemia, and other ICF beneficiaries we support throughout the year. In December, we participated in Bethlehem Nights, the parish tree-lighting ceremony and Christmas party. We hosted a craft table where children of all ages created pipe-cleaner Christmas tree ornaments. On December 10, we held our final meeting of 2025, combined with our Christmas celebration. We welcomed new and prospective members, reflected on the successes of 2025, and discussed goals for 2026. Lastly, on December 26, a team of Branch 449 members volunteered at the local Lutheran Church, serving a home-cooked Christmas meal to those experiencing homelessness. Our branch proudly participates each month in providing home-cooked meals to individuals who are homeless or food insecure. *From our branch to all of yours, we wish you a prosperous and joyful New Year.*

## SAN BERNARDINO District Council

Hi all! Today we had our quarterly District meeting, and we went over several items. We heard from all three of our branches what's been going on the last 3 months, and what we hope to accomplish in the next three, we voted to fund a \$500 first year scholarship and heard a great heritage report about "The week that got lost in 1582." Yes, in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII instituted a major reform of the calendar. That year, the period of October 5 to 14 was removed from the calendar, making October 4 followed by the 15th of the month. Why? Because Pope Gregory XIII was concerned that the calendar was slowly moving the day of Easter further away from the Vernal Equinox. The last calendar was the Julian Calendar, issued by Julius Caesar in 45 BC. He based it on the number of days it took for Earth to go around the sun; 365 1/4 days. Caesar even adopted the leap year to keep it accurate. However, Caesar didn't know the actual time was 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. Over the centuries, the Spring Equinox slowly drifted away from the New Year.

On a timelier note, our District President John Guerin and I attended a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Rojas. During this Mass, we welcomed a new Seminarian to the Junipero Serra House of Formation. His name is Jose Ismael Reyes de Lira from Aguas Caliente, the same place Bishop Rojas comes from. At dinner afterwards our Seminarians received their Christmas gifts from all the Serra Clubs in the Diocese of San Bernardino. Santa Paul H. Behrens & I also attended Holy Name's Posada. God is good!

Here's to a great 2026!

*Ciao for now,*

*Annie McCarthy, Financial Secretary  
for the District*

### Fontana Br. 210, St. Joseph

Hope your New Year was wonderful and full of love and family!

Our December meeting was hectic! Because of the Knights of Columbus' Christmas party scheduled in the same hall that we use, we had to rush through our meeting, enjoy a wonderful Christmas repast and clean up all in the space of less than 2 hours! Whew! But we made it! During this meeting, we were able to cover the new Scholarship amounts, the enhanced Hospitalization benefits as well as get our Branch ready to attend our next District Installation hosted by our Upland Branch 446 in February.

Before the meeting, our photographer Paul Behrens and I also attended the Liturgy at St. Nicholas of Myra and presented a check from Branch 210 to the pastor. We are so grateful for our meeting space that we say, "thank you!" twice a year with a donation to

the Church.

Several of our members attended and enjoyed the Knights' Christmas Party; Santa even came and gave gifts to all the children. I asked for and was given permission to let our brother Knights and their families know about ICF and sell our few remaining calendars. We signed up a new family and are excited about getting to know them better at our upcoming meetings. All in all, it was a whirlwind of a day, but productive and loaded with fun!

*Ciao! Till next time,  
Annie McCarthy President Branch 210*

### Redlands Br. 217, Sacred Heart

We enjoyed our December meeting; we celebrated an early Christmas and all members in attendance had a great time. We reviewed our upcoming activities and already made plans to attend our District installation on February 21, 2026, in Upland, hosted by Branch 446. Please reach out to President Carrie Rossie if you wish to attend. She can be reached via ICF.org.

We had a great heritage report on "The week that got lost in 1582" during the reign of Pope Gregory XIII. For more info, refer to our District Report. We reused it for the District meeting because it was so interesting!

Two of our Br 217 members will be at Holy Name of Jesus' annual Posada. Santa Paul H Behrens will be available for pictures and conversation, and Elf Annie McCarthy will take pictures of any parent who wants to join their children while they visit Santa. This is Santa Paul's 5th year as Santa at Holy Name of Jesus, our host parish.

*Have a wonderful 2026, and may our Lord continue to bless all of you!*

*Annie McCarthy VP Branch 217*

### Upland Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Happy New Year to all our many ICF friends and families! Our branch had a joyous holiday season. A local church holds a Nativity and Music festival every year and members of our branch attended the event as a group. We were amazed at the hundreds of Nativity sets on display. The sets ranged from intricate and opulent to tiny and comical. Local choirs sang Christmas songs while we admired all the displays. Our annual Christmas Party was a festive event attended by many of our members and their families. We enjoyed a delicious catered Italian dinner. Wine and beer were free flowing and all the numerous cannoli and cookies were yummy. Afterwards, we played several Christmas themed games directed by our President Carrie Rossie. Our favorite game was an ornament exchange that was very fun. As a special thank you to all our hard-working members, everyone received a raffle ticket to win prize baskets or table decorations. Our event closed with President Rossie

giving a very heart-felt thank you to all of our members for dedication to all of our fundraising events and social gatherings throughout the year. We look forward to 2026 as we continue together as an ICF branch dedicated to faith and family. *Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!*

## RENO Area

### Reno St. Albert, Br. 135

Our annual Bishop's Dinner was held Sunday evening, December 7, 2025. This dinner gives us an occasion to honor Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, Bishop of the Reno Diocese and to present him with monetary gifts to fund the education of the Seminarians of our diocese and money for a TV Mass that is aired on a local TV Channel every Sunday morning.

We welcomed 26 members and guests that enjoyed an excellent dinner. Special guests attending the dinner included Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, the Bishop of the Reno Diocese; Father David Micheal, Priest Administrator at St. Albert the Great Church; Senior Deacon Chuck Lanham, Permanent Deacon at St. Albert the Great Church and his wife Janice. Also attending was Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Grand President of the Central Council of the ICF.

Special thanks goes to Rachael Ferrari and her nephew Ben Shaft, and Bob and Suzanne Capurro who prepared a delicious dinner of lasagna, baked chicken thighs, Italian green beans, salad and Crème Brûlée cake dessert. Rachael also prepared the delicious appetizers.

The gifts from Branch 135 presented by President Charlyne Pacini were a gift of \$1,200.00 to Bishop Mueggenborg for his Seminary fund and a gift of \$250.00 for his TV Mass ministry. President Pacini presented a check to St. Albert the Great Church for use of their facilities for our meetings. Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr., from Central Council presented a check of \$1,000.00 from Central Council's Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund for the education of the Seminarians of our Diocese.

Franklyn Lopes give a brief explanation about the Providenza Seminary Scholarship fund. Bishop Daniel gave a brief summary of how many Seminarians the Reno diocese have and where they are studying.

Our next meeting will be February 1, 2026.

*Happy New Year!  
Charlyne Pacini*



## SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Branch 217 meeting



Br. 217, Santa Paul &amp; Elf Annie at HNOJ Annual Posada



New Seminarian Jose Ismael Reyes.



Branch 210



Br. 446 at Nativity displays



Br. 446, Christmas Party

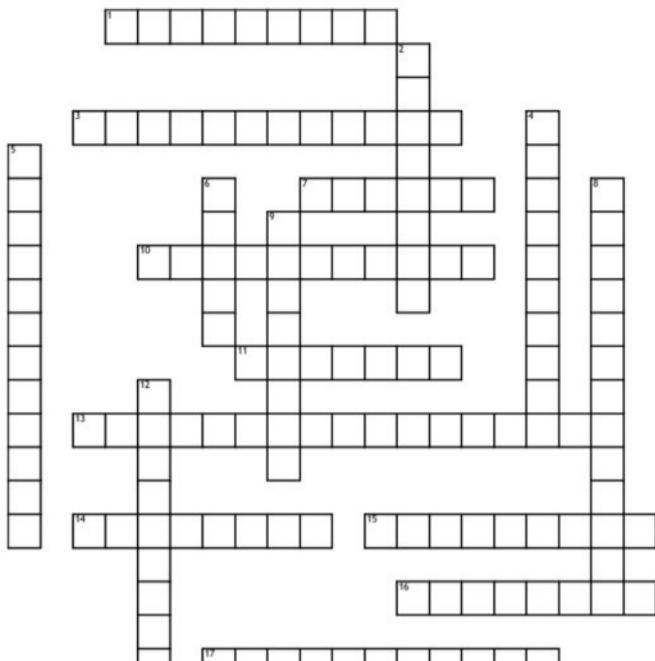


Br. 446, Christmas Buffet



Br. 446, Christmas Party Group

## The Italian Renaissance



**Across**

1. Inventor of printing press
3. A painter and sculpture
7. Someone who supports artists
10. English playwright
11. Artist, sculpture, inventor and engineer
13. study of the Greeks and Romans
14. City where the Renaissance started
15. He wrote Don Quixote
16. Philosophy focus on human potential
17. Term means rebirth

**Down**

2. Trade route from Asia to Europe
4. Built domes on large buildings
5. Technique that appears 3-D on a flat surface
6. Where the Renaissance began
8. Machine that uses moveable type
9. Italian poet who introduced Greeks and Romans
12. Italian trader who visited China

## 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>

## Italy Maze



We Treat Kids Better

Interested in learning more about the ICF's National Charity, Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)?

If so, Laurice Levine, ICF Liaison for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, would be honored to come and speak at one of your branch meetings or any special event (at no cost to your branch).

Contact Information:

360-860-2023 or [LLevine430@aol.com](mailto:LLevine430@aol.com)

It does not matter how small or how large your branch is, the goal is to educate everyone on Cooley's Anemia and the great work the ICF does for this cause.

## RENO Area



Br. 135, L-R Daniel Muggenborg, Bishop of the Diocese of Reno; Charlyne Pacini, Reno Branch President; Franklyn Lopes, Grand President.



Br. 135, L-R Father David Micheal, Priest Administrator at St. Albert the Great Parish; Charlyne Pacini, Reno Branch President; Franklyn Lopes, Grand President.



Br. 135, L-R Father David Micheal, Priest Administrator at St. Albert the Great Parish; Daniel Muggenborg, Bishop of the Diocese of Reno; Charlyne Pacini, Reno Branch President; Franklyn Lopes, Grand President.

## ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION CONVENTION AWARD CATEGORIES

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

### POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII AWARD

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

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

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

### SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD

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

### GRAND PRESIDENT'S AWARD

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

### FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

### YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The new deadline for submissions is April 1.



## ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION AWARD NOMINATION

Nomination Year: 20\_\_\_\_\_

Award:

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

Nominations must be postmarked on or before April 1.

Please include with this application:

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

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

Nominee:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch #/City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominated By Individual, Branch or District:

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Endorsement:

#### Qualifications Summary:

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

## 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!*

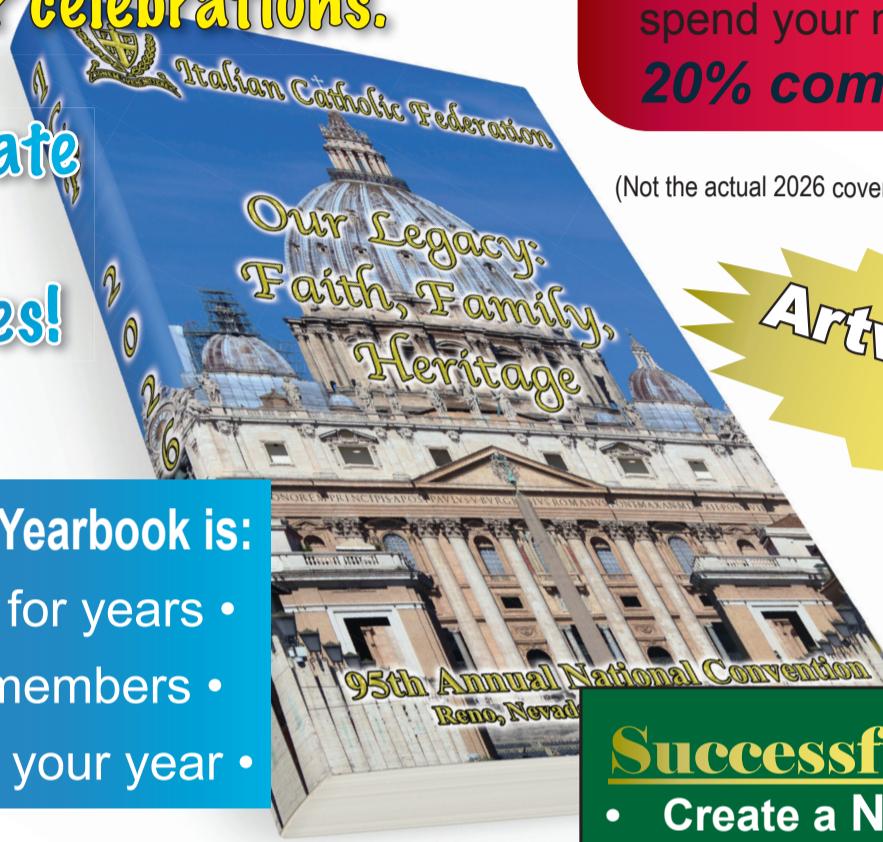
Contact your local Branch for calendars before they sell out — and let's make this our best fundraising year yet!

# ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION 2026 Yearbook

## YOU Are Needed!

Show us your celebrations.

Let us celebrate  
your joys  
and successes!



The ICF Convention Yearbook is:

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

## You Need COLOR!

The full-page entry for Branch 413 looks great in the 2025 book! (See page 88.) So much more impactful than black and white would have been.

Please consider color for impact.

**Everyone spends  
money locally!**

Sell commercial ads to the folks you spend your money with and get a **20% commission check.**

(Not the actual 2026 cover)

**Artwork Deadline  
JULY 1ST!**

### Successful Entry Tips

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



## Celebration Pages

**Births • Weddings • Graduations**

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

*Let us all celebrate the joys from your year!*



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