



# BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



## Cheering Together: Faith, Family, and Olympic Pride Across Italy

## Grand President's Monthly Message

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.



Just as Italy's rich heritage celebrates resilience and community, the Olympic spirit reminds us that unity and shared effort bring nations and families together.

Br. 82: Member Grace Puccinelli's family still resides in Bormio, Italy where they held the Men's Downhill Ski Event. Photos show her cousins' (Battista Rocca and Caterina Cancilini) hotel in the foreground of Bormio near the

Here we are once again, in the month of Spring. Hard to believe we are in the moment of Lent, wasn't it just Christmas?? I have always enjoyed this time of year, as the garden is starting to come out of Winter dormancy, and if you're lucky, you will start seeing rose buds on the pruned plants you did earlier in the year.



Lent is a time for Christians to prepare spiritually, reflect, and practice penance in the lead-up to Easter. It symbolizes Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, focusing on Prayer, fasting (giving something up), and charity to commemorate Christ's sacrifice and renewal of faith, typically observed for 40 days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday. What have you given up during Lent?

This is also the time of year when branches are holding their annual Lenten dinners. For over 30 years, my Branch 227, like clockwork, did our dinners from the first Friday of Lent until the Friday before Good Friday. We would average about 300-400 people per week, with the menu including Fried Calamari and Red Snapper, with different sides each week and desserts. Our dinners were gatherings for friends who only see each other once or twice a year. A time to catch up on their lives and break bread during the Lenten Season.

As we come to the close of the 2026 Installations, I would like to thank those Branches and Districts for inviting me to preside and install your newly elected officers. It is always a treat to see old friends and get introduced to new ones.

I leave you with this quote from St. Pope John Paul II, "These are the precious weeks [of Lent] offered by the Church to all Christians, in order to help them to reflect upon their profound identity as children of the heavenly Father and as brothers and sisters of all human beings."

Blessings to you all  
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.  
Grand President.



2026 Olympics in Bormio, Italy: Men's Downhill Ski Event.

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

## BOLLETTINO

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## Important Notice

The email address for ALL

*Bollettino* submissions is:

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

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

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

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

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Include photo captions with your article submission.

Please keep your submission positive and informative.

**Deadline for the April issue is March 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 Catholic Federation:

Celebrating St. Joseph's Table is far more than enjoying a beautiful meal or gathering around a festive display of bread, pastries, and symbolic foods. At its heart, this tradition is a profound act of faith—an expression of gratitude, trust, and devotion to the quiet, steadfast saint who guarded the Holy Family and continues to watch over the Church.

St. Joseph's Table invites us to pause and remember the virtues that shaped his life:

- Humility, lived not in words but in daily fidelity
- Trust, even when the path was unclear
- Compassion, especially toward the poor and the hungry
- Steadfast love, shown in his care for Mary and Jesus

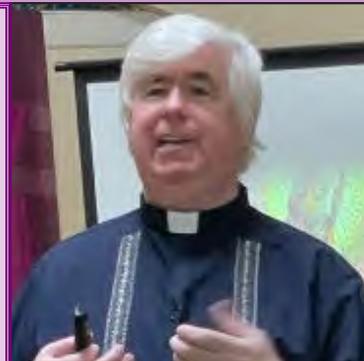
When we gather around St. Joseph's Table, we are reminded that holiness is often found in the ordinary—at the workbench, in the home, in the quiet sacrifices no

one sees. Joseph teaches us that God works powerfully through simple faithfulness.

This celebration also carries a deep spirit of charity. Traditionally, the Table was created in thanksgiving for prayers answered, and its abundance was shared with those in need. In our own time, this becomes a beautiful reminder that devotion to St. Joseph must always lead us outward—to generosity, service, and care for the vulnerable.

For our parish community, and especially for groups like the Italian Catholic Federation, St. Joseph's Table becomes a moment of family, heritage, and faith woven together. It is a time to honor our ancestors who brought this tradition from Sicily, to strengthen the bonds of community, and to entrust our families, our work, and our parish to the protection of St. Joseph.

As we celebrate, we ask St. Joseph to bless our homes with peace, to guide our labor with purpose, and to intercede for all who carry heavy burdens. May his example inspire us to live with the same quiet courage



Father Christopher Bennett  
ICF Spiritual Director

and unwavering trust in God's plan.

St. Joseph, protector of families and guardian of the Church, pray for us. May His love guide your steps, bring peace to your heart, and fill your days with hope and joy.

*Fr. Chris*



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

*Yes, we're trying something new.*

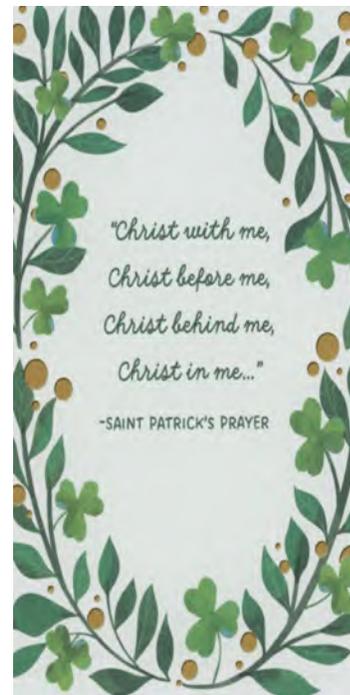
**If you choose, we're asking everyone to share in the excitement of being a part of the most fabulous Convention Raffle ever.**

**More information will follow.**

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

**Happy Shopping!!**

Denise Antonowicz  
d56@comcast.net



## Convention Article:

### “Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage” Update Convention Directors' Committee

Two updates for the 2026 Convention.

First, as part of our Friday Opening Ceremonies, each district will process into the ballroom with a silver charger.

The silver charger represents the Silver State – Nevada. On each charger will be a saint representing the district and our Faith and photos from the district representing Family and Heritage. Grand 2nd Vice President Lisa Crudo is chairing this project and is asking the following:

“As we prepare for this year’s ICF Convention in Reno, Nevada, the Convention Director’s Committee is excited to invite you into the heart of our planning. This year promises to be filled with joy, fellowship, and meaningful celebration—and we would love your help in making it truly special.

One of the highlights of the weekend will be our Friday night Opening Ceremony, where we will proudly introduce each district of the ICF. Your participation will help set the tone for a memorable and inspiring start to our time together.

To bring this celebration to life, we kindly ask that you share photos from your district that reflect the spirit of faith, family, and heritage. These images will help us showcase the beautiful diversity and unity of our Federation.

**Please send no more than 4 - 5 photos as JPEG attachments to Watkins6pk@aol.com. There is a firm deadline of June 1.**

Thank you in advance for your support and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to a joyful, meaningful, and unforgettable weekend together. “

Please send Lisa your photos and make our Opening Ceremonies truly memorable. The chargers will be on display on the stage throughout the Convention



and each district will be given their silver charger at the end of the Convention.

Second, our Thursday night pre-convention event will be dinner at Lou’s Basque Corner in Reno. We will enjoy a delicious Basque dinner buffet of sliced Prime Rib, chicken, rice, Basque beans, French fries and ice cream. Price: \$75.00 per person. A No-host bar will be available. The Convention Directors ate at the restaurant during our site visit and enjoyed dinner very much. More details and thereservation form will be available in April. The restaurant is located at 301 East 4th St., Reno a few blocks from the Silver Legacy.

**Please continue to collect books for our donation project at the 2026 Convention which will support “Spread the Word Nevada.”** Chapter books and recent titles for 4th and 5th graders are especially needed. More information about this group may be found on its website: <https://spreadthewordnevada.org/>. Please be generous in donating to this worthwhile cause.

**Denise Antonowicz, Chairperson of the Convention Raffle, is looking for donations for the Convention Raffle,** either a basket worth at least \$100 or donate \$100 and Denise will make a basket. Please contact Denise: [d56@comcast.net](mailto:d56@comcast.net).

**Nina Malone continues to look for vendors to participate in our Marketplace.** Please contact Nina: [musicalnina61@gmail.com](mailto:musicalnina61@gmail.com) if you would like a table. There is no charge for renting a table, however we will collect a \$100 no-show deposit. The deposit will be returned when the vendor is on-site.

Room reservations will be open in April. Read my column, next month, for details!

*Happy St. Patrick’s Day!  
Lauren Kilcullen  
Convention Director*

## Welcome New Members

(Report as of February 9, 2026)

<b>Branch 010</b>	Caroline A Corriveau Gregory V Corriveau Victor F Corriveau	Genevieve A Corriveau Jacques B Corriveau Lawrence G Donovan
<b>Branch 013</b>	Griffin A Shaw	
<b>Branch 014</b>	Linda M Nolan	
<b>Branch 021</b>	Emily Ghio Cato	
<b>Branch 026</b>	Paula Lomanto	
<b>Branch 031</b>	Carol A Paradiso	Maryann R Ramos
<b>Branch 036</b>	Tawny Amelio Kylie Arnaldo Adrian Galeazzi Ilaria Galeazzi Christopher Montellese Marciano Montellese Cristie Pinto Abigail Searle Carson Searle Madison Searle	Jaden Arnaldo John P Caniglia Antonio Galeazzi Lincoln Marini Giancarlo Montellese Valentino Montellese David Rivetti Allison Searle Chris Searle Lana Tanzi
<b>Branch 039</b>	Elizabeth Lopez	Juan Carlos Venegas
<b>Branch 045</b>	James A Epp Sophia A Epp	Joseph E Epp
<b>Branch 052</b>	Juliana Passalacqua	
<b>Branch 054</b>	Jovannie Chavez Xavier Chavez Tammy Streeter	Julian Chavez Renee Duprel
<b>Branch 073</b>	Ashleigh Johnson Mary A Lowe	Brant Johnson
<b>Branch 115</b>	Mario Amalfitano	
<b>Branch 173</b>	Victor T Arnaudo	
<b>Branch 209</b>	Dave Sereni	Tammy Sereni
<b>Branch 210</b>	Fiona Allen Moira Allen	James Allen
<b>Branch 218</b>	Linda A Szerdahelyi	
<b>Branch 246</b>	Francesco Crivello Michelle Crivello	Loreto Crivello Stacey Crivello
<b>Branch 285</b>	Ann M Stanton Suzanne Tringali	Georgeen Tringali
<b>Branch 332</b>	Carol A Brenk Joanne Raccanello	Greg A Brenk Betsy Viau
<b>Branch 342</b>	Colleen Andersen Paul Bianchi	Anne Bianchi Jackie Freeman
<b>Branch 352</b>	Linda M Kochly	Robert J Kochly
<b>Branch 374</b>	Leila Acevedo	
<b>Branch 380</b>	Dave V Petrelli Anna G Pusateri	Shelley A Petrelli Joseph V Pusateri
<b>Branch 390</b>	Joe A Cisneroz Ashley O Herrington Philip Martin	Ann Herrington Anne M Martin Peter G Schmitz
<b>Branch 391</b>	John Lupo	
<b>Branch 403</b>	Michael Gianni	
<b>Branch 417</b>	Michael A Caglia	
<b>Branch 438</b>	Elaine Savarino	
<b>Branch 442</b>	Ramona Desiree Ramos	
<b>Branch 446</b>	Andrea V Scarpelli	Nicole E Scarpelli
<b>Branch 450</b>	Jayne M Crisafi	



## In Loving Memory

(Report as of February 9, 2026)

Diane L Thomas	Branch 014	Sandy A Balesteri	Branch 115
Madeline V Crews	Branch 021	Suanna M Rowell	Branch 145
Antoinette E Ferrante	Branch 036	Elsa E Cardenas	Branch 227
Johanna Ferrante	Branch 036	Jean-Marie Campbell	Branch 332
Josephine Mercurio	Branch 036	Marion Moreno	Branch 351
Annamarie Stanton	Branch 036	Ralph C Yob	Branch 351
Frances M Verwold	Branch 036	Madeline R Buckley	Branch 362
Patricia D Martinelli	Branch 082	Barbara Brenkwitz	Branch 390

## 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.



## JANUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
1/1	Rita Hoffknecht	308	Fresno, CA	\$100
1/2	Pam & Vince Piscitelli	214	Martinez, CA	\$30
1/3	Germaine Kimm	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
1/4	Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ		Oakland, CA	\$50
1/5	Mary Goodman		Alameda, CA	\$30
1/6	Camille Carlisle		Somerville, MA	\$50
1/7	Barbara Gabriel	213	San Mateo, CA	\$30
1/8	Branch 10		Alameda, CA	\$30
1/9	Linda Scambray	417	Fresno, CA	\$30
1/10	Paul Ferrario	215	Union City, CA	\$30
1/11	Holly Pellicano	39	El Nido, CA	\$30
1/12	John G. Filice	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
1/13	Dayna Broussard		Concord, CA	\$30
1/14	Denise Antonowicz	184	Modesto, CA	\$30
1/15	David Zanini	354	Paso Robles, CA	\$30
1/16	Miria Garfagnoli	52	Healdsburg, CA	\$30
1/17	BJ Nutt		Salinas, CA	\$30
1/18	Martin Monroe		Trinidad, CA	\$30
1/19	Kelly Swertfager		Fresno, CA	\$100
1/20	Joe Giovannetti		Greenbrae, CA	\$30
1/21	Joan Garibaldi		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
1/22	Dino Migliazzo	39	Atwater, CA	\$30
1/23	Debbie Piro	191	Sunnyvale, CA	\$30
1/24	Sam & Sadie Rossi		Bend, OR	\$30
1/25	Connie Jamison		Auburn, CA	\$30
1/26	Linda Obertello	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
1/27	Anita Pasch	285	Livermore, CA	\$30
1/28	Sandra Corradetti	130	Redwood City, CA	\$30
1/29	Isabelle Reynolds		Folsom, CA	\$50
1/30	Pauline Iacono	115	San Pedro, CA	\$30
1/31	Diego Ortega	342	Auburn, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

**Children's Hospital**  
LOS ANGELES



The Thalassemia Team  
would like to cordially invite you to spend  
a **Golden Afternoon**  
with Your Friend's at CHLA

What: **Thalassemia Picnic**

When: Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 12noon – 2:30pm

Where: Courtyard at Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
4650 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027

Please RSVP by April 1<sup>st</sup> to:

Laurice Levine  
360-860-2023

LLevine430@aol.com

*We hope you can join us!*



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
2/1	David Zanini	354	Paso Robles, CA	\$30
2/2	Rosemarie Grelli	130	Emerald Hills, CA	\$30
2/3	Carol Paradiso	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
2/4	Anthony Mariani	10	Alameda, CA	\$30
2/5	Connie Bohannon	237	Gardena, CA	\$30
2/6	Kathryn & Richie Rossi		San Jose, CA	\$30
2/7	Peter Tesoro	446	Upland, CA	\$30
2/8	Rob & Daniele Conlan		Morgan Hill, CA	\$50
2/9	Christina Rudie		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/10	Sandy Del Real	39	Le Grand, CA	\$30
2/11	Lisa Foley	21	Capitola, CA	\$30
2/12	Joe & Judy Crosetti	213	San Bruno, CA	\$30
2/13	Michele Silveri	108	South Pasadena, CA	\$30
2/14	Jaime Portillo	191	San Jose, CA	\$50
2/15	Pam Robasciotti		Gilroy, CA	\$30
2/16	Norene De Luca	214	Lafayette, CA	\$100
2/17	Lillian Dal Porto	39	Merced, CA	\$30
2/18	Sandra Mehrwein		San Francisco, CA	\$50
2/19	Branch 28		Gilroy, CA	\$30
2/20	Maria Terndrup	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/21	Cheryl Miraglia	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
2/22	Kathie Boothby		Alameda, CA	\$30
2/23	Marilyn Bell		Twain Heart, CA	\$30
2/24	Joe Aguilar	73	North Highlands, CA	\$30
2/25	Dennis Sullivan		Arcata, CA	\$30
2/26	Branch 213		So. San Francisco, CA	\$30
2/27	Jane Kotila	227	Soquel, CA	\$30
2/28	Maureen Moss	450	Lincoln, CA	\$30

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## St. Joseph Prayer

O blessed Joseph, faithful guardian of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ, protector of thy chaste spouse, the virgin Mother of God, I choose thee this day to be my special patron and advocate and I firmly resolve to honor thee all the days of my life.

Therefore I humbly beseech thee to receive me as thy client, to instruct me in every doubt, to comfort me in every affliction, to obtain for me and for all the knowledge and love of the Heart of Jesus, and finally to defend and protect me at the hour of my death.

Amen

## Family Recipe--Harira Soup

Deborah Rodondi

The season of Lent is upon us and the celebration of Easter not far off. Soups are always a popular dish at this time of year. I found this recipe in the Costco magazine, and it looked delicious. The ingredients sounded wonderful. So, not too long ago I made it for My nephew Tony and I. This was amazing. If you are not into using spices this might not be the recipe for you, but the combination of these spices will make your kitchen smell great and will wake up your taste buds.



2 tsp. honey  
Lemon wedges, yogurt and dates for serving (optional)

In a large pot over medium heat, sauté onion in olive oil for 5 minutes. Add celery, garlic, ginger, black pepper, turmeric, cumin, paprika and cayenne pepper. Stir for one minute. Sautéing the spices deepens the flavor.

Add broth, tomatoes, cinnamon, saffron, salt, lentils, half the cilantro and half the parsley. Bring to a simmer, cover with a vented lid and cook for 30 minutes. Add chickpeas and pasta. Cook for 5-10 minutes, or until pasta is cooked. Add honey and remaining cilantro and parsley just before serving.

Flavor is full bodied and intense. You definitely do not miss that lack of meat in this recipe. A very hearty dish. Good crusty sour dough bread is a must have.

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!**



- ### Harira Soup
- 2 Tbls. olive oil
  - 1 onion, diced
  - 2 celery ribs, finely chopped (1 sliced)
  - 4 cloves garlic, chopped
  - 1 ½ tsp. ground ginger
  - ½ tsp. black pepper
  - ½ tsp. turmeric
  - 2 tsp. cumin
  - 1 tsp. smoked paprika
  - ¼ to ½ tsp. cayenne pepper
  - 6 cups vegetable broth, chicken broth or water
  - 28 ounce can whole or crushed tomatoes
  - 1 cinnamon stick or ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
  - A tiny pinch of saffron (optional)
  - 1-2 tsp. sea salt
  - ½ red lentils, dry
  - ½ cup brown or green lentils, dry (I just used one type of lentils)
  - ½ cup cilantro, chopped and divided
  - ½ cup parsley, chopped and divided
  - 15 ounce can of chickpeas
  - 4 oz. capellini or spaghetti pasta, broken into approximately 1 inch pieces

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

(Received as of February 10, 2026)

<p><b>IN MEMORY OF:</b> Rose Brandi Joe De Maria Joe De Maria Julie Tomasin</p> <p><b>GET WELL WISHES (THINKING OF YOU):</b> Cheryl Simon</p> <p><b>IN HONOR OF:</b> Franklyn Lopes, Jr.  Franklyn Lopes, Jr.</p> <p><b>THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING THE MASS FOR OUR 2026 DISTRICT INSTALLATION:</b> Rev. Jesus Hernandez</p> <p><b>HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:</b> Jim Jones</p> <p><b>HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY:</b> Natalie Malone</p> <p><b>THANK YOU FOR LEADING OUR SMALL CHURCH GROUP:</b> Sue Stoney</p> <p><b>THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO - HAPPY NEW YEAR:</b> Father Casmir Anozie</p> <p><b>IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND*:</b> A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Jacob John Ross of Los Angeles, CA.</p> <p>*Named after the co-founder of the ICF, the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides ICF members a lasting way to memorialize and/or extend greetings to friends, relatives, and loved ones. Members' donations provide scholarships to seminarians studying for the priesthood in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.</p>	<p><b>DONATED BY:</b> Officers/Members of Br. 285 Louise Vento Mike and Marcie Rossi The Kilcullen Family</p> <p>Deborah Rodondi</p> <p>Officers/Members of Santa Clara Valley District Officers/Members of Contra Costa and East Bay Districts</p> <p>Officers/Members of Blessed Sacrament District</p> <p>Bob Basuino</p> <p>Bob Basuino</p> <p>Jim and Patty Jarrett</p> <p>Jim and Patty Jarrett</p>
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## Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Received as of February 10, 2026)

<p>Cooley's Anemia Donations Branch 10 Branch 28</p>	<p>Branch 39 Branch 449 Viva Palumbo</p>
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## Book Review -- *The books of Tomie dePaola*

Vince Piro

My good friends Adrian and Cecilia recently gave me *Jingle, the Christmas Clown* by Tomie dePaola, and it reminded me of his talent as writer and illustrator. Among the very best children's book authors, DePaola has brought to life countless tales, including the classic *Strega Nonna*.



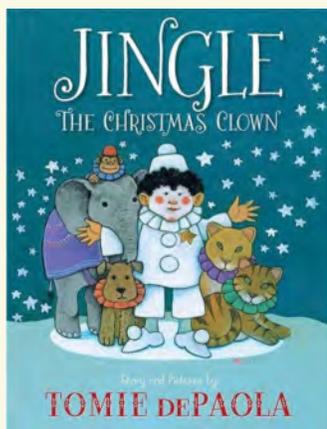
As you know, I am a big proponent of sharing classic tales with children to encourage them to become life long readers, and I can think of no better books than DePaola's. Below are summaries of a couple of his books.

In dePaola's *Jingle the Christmas Clown*, a young, plucky circus clown named Jingle is left behind in a struggling, impoverished Italian village. Determined to bring cheer to the townspeople who cannot afford a show, Jingle uses his baby animal troupe to put on a magical, unforgettable Christmas Eve performance.

Every year, the circus stops at a small Italian village to perform for the residents. It is Jingle's favorite part of the trip.

One year, they arrive to find the village silent—no smoke rises from chimneys, and the shops are shuttered. The few remaining villagers have fallen on such hard times that they cannot afford tickets to the circus.

The main circus continues to the city, but Jingle and his baby animal friends stay behind. Determined to bring back the holiday spirit, Jingle uses his "magic" and talents to put on a free, unforgettable Christmas



Eve show for the impoverished townspeople.

The story highlights themes of generosity, kindness, and the idea that no one is too small to make a difference.

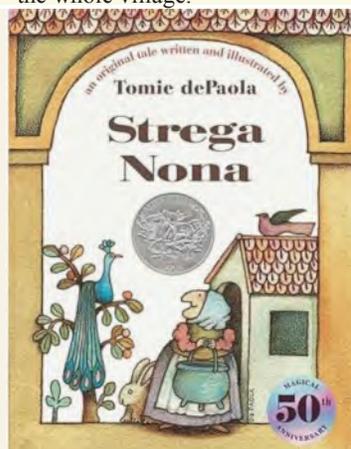
The book even has a recipe for Stelline d'Oro to share with your children.

*Strega Nona*, a Caldecott Honor book, is a considered by many as dePaola's classic children's book. It is about a "Grandma Witch" in Italy who uses magic to help villagers and manage a charmed pasta pot. When she hires the inattentive Big Anthony, he causes a village-wide pasta flood by ignoring her instructions. *Strega Nona* saves the day, punishing Anthony by making him eat the excess.

As *Strega Nona* gets older, she hires a young man named Big Anthony to help with household chores like gardening and milking the goat. She gives him one strict rule: "Never touch the pasta pot."

One day, Big Anthony eavesdrops and sees *Strega Nona* use a magic spell to make the pot produce unlimited pasta. Crucially, he misses the final step: she blows three kisses to make the pot stop cooking.

While *Strega Nona* is away visiting a friend, Big Anthony decides to show off. He recites the spell and feeds the entire town, but because he doesn't know how to stop it, the pasta begins to overflow. Soon, a "flood" of pasta threatens to bury the whole village.



*Strega Nona* returns just in time and stops the pot with three kisses. Rather than sending Big Anthony to jail, she decides the "punishment should fit the crime" and makes him eat all the excess pasta until he is stuffed.

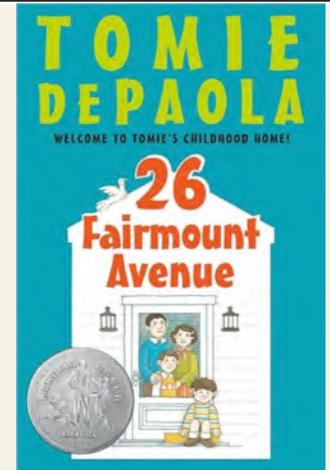
The book explores themes of obedience, responsibility, and the consequences of actions, as Big Anthony fails to follow instructions regarding a magical pasta pot, leading to a town-wide disaster. The story highlights wisdom, community, and the virtue of patience, contrasting the reckless, ambitious helper with the calm, maternal *Strega Nona*.

*26 Fairmount Avenue* is dePaola's Newbery Honor-winning autobiographical children's book that chronicles his childhood in 1938. The story follows five-year-old Tomie as his family builds their dream home, surviving the famous 1938 hurricane, starting school, seeing *Snow White*, and dealing with funny mishaps, all with a warm, nostalgic tone.

The central plot follows Tomie's family as they build their dream home at 26 Fairmount Avenue in 1938. Construction is famously interrupted by the 1938 New England hurricane, which luckily only delays the build rather than destroying it.

A five-year-old Tomie is deeply disappointed by his first day of kindergarten because he isn't taught to read immediately. He famously tells the teacher, "I'll be back next year," and walks out.

In another passage, Tomie goes to see Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and causes a scene in the theater by loudly shouting that the movie doesn't follow the "true" version of the story.



The memoir features his multicultural Irish and Italian family, including a humorous episode where he and Nana Upstairs accidentally eat chocolate laxatives thinking they are regular candy.

The book ends with the family finally moving into the new house, where Tomie is delighted to be allowed to draw on the bare plasterboard walls before they are finished.

Key themes include the excitement of building a new home, the close-knit nature of a multicultural family, the innocence of early childhood, and adapting to change.

Vince Piro

### ICF General Fund Donations

(Received as of February 10, 2026)

Loretta Kermaschuk  
In Memory of Concetta  
Caranfa



### Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of February 10, 2026)

Branch 39  
Eva Stern  
Get Well Wishes for Janet  
Glaubke

The Senge Family  
In Honor of the 95th Birthday of  
Nathaline Malone

## Italian Thalassemia Associations

By Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

As an Italian Catholic with thalassemia, I thought it would be fascinating to see what is going on in Italy for thalassemia care and support. They are very advanced compared to the United States, both in research, community awareness, and patient support. The following are national Italian support groups for people with thalassemia. The U.S has only one national support group, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, based in New York. Italy has many!

Fun Fact: If you Google "Italian Thalassemia Non-Profits" The ICF comes up as first in the search!!!

Note: translation (google) will be required if you do not read Italian.

• **United Onlus**

The umbrella organization representing various local Italian associations.  
<https://www.unitedonlus.org/>

• **Fondazione Italiana "Leonardo Goambrone"**

Dedicated to funding a research for a cure; encouraging blood donation.  
<https://www.fithadleonardogiambrone.com/>

• **Associazione Veneta per la Lotta alla Talassemia (AVLT):**

Outreach group based in Venice.  
<https://www.fithadleonardogiambrone.com/>

• **Associazione Talassemici Piemonte**

A non-profit group formed in 1975 to support patients and research.  
<https://www.talassemicipiemonte.it/it/>

• **SITE (Italian Society of Thalassemia and Haemoglobinopathies):**

Focuses on clinical practice guidelines and research.  
<https://www.site-italia.org/>

• **Associazione Emofilici e Talassemici**

Patient outreach and fundraising  
<http://www.emoex.it/>

• **AMAMI Associazione Malati Anemia Mediterranea Italiana**

Patient Outreach.  
<https://tinyurl.com/y9yv2w1>

## Live to Give

By Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS

In 2011, the ICF Live to Give Committee began; its mission to provide additional support to patients with Cooley's anemia, who require routine blood transfusions to survive, by raising awareness for and promoting the importance of blood donation. Committee members achieve these goals in the following ways:



- Write monthly articles for the ICF *Bollettino* to educate the community.
- Help branches and districts plan blood drives.
- Educate the ICF about Live to Give while dispelling myths that exist about blood and blood donation.
- Give blood to replenish the blood supply. A person can donate blood in honor of someone, something, or a disease such as Cooley's anemia or Cancer. Along these lines, designating donated blood for a specific individual is problematic and costly so what is recommended instead is donating blood

in honor of a person or an occasion. We created the ICF Live to Give Post Card for this reason – to give blood in honor of or in memory of someone or to celebrate an occasion (similar to ICF monetary donations).

Plan an annual blood drive at convention. Since our first blood drive in 2012 we have collected 370 units which is 1,110 lives saved!

We are hoping that you/your branch/your district would consider planning a blood drive at your church or in your community with our help? Please contact us to request information on how to plan a blood drive as well as a list of blood banks by district. If you can provide a location, we will do everything we can to help and make your branches blood drive a success.

Please contact Laurice Levine at [LLevine430@aol.com](mailto:LLevine430@aol.com) or 360-860-2023 if you are interested.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Together, we can save lives!*

## Results for Prizes as of February 10, 2026

Top Selling Branches in each of 4 categories receive Five (5) 2026 Calendar Stubs placed in the Raffle Drawings.

Branches placing 2nd and 3rd in each of 3 categories receive One (1) 2026 Calendar Stub in the Raffle Drawings.

Top Selling Individual receives \$50.00.  
 2nd Place Individual Seller receives \$30.00.  
 3rd Place Individual Seller receives \$20.00.

**Category 1: 1 – 45 Members**

<b>1st Place:</b>	Branch 25, Salinas	Sold 48 calendars
<b>2nd Place:</b>	Branch 213, So. San Francisco	Sold 40 calendars
<b>3rd Place:</b>	Branch 19, Colma	Sold 32 calendars

**Category 2: 46 – 70 Members**

<b>1st Place:</b>	Branch 281, Bakersfield	Sold 90 calendars
<b>2nd Place:</b>	Branch 343, Castro Valley	Sold 63 calendars
<b>3rd Place:</b>	Branch 73, Roseville	Sold 20 calendars

**Category 3: 71 – 129 Members**

<b>1st Place:</b>	Branch 10, Alameda	Sold 65 calendars
<b>2nd Place:</b>	Branch 342, Auburn	Sold 50 calendars
<b>3rd Place:</b>	Branch 391, San Jose	Sold 38 calendars

**Category 4: 130 and Above Members**

<b>1st Place:</b>	Branch 28, Gilroy	Sold 65 calendars
<b>2nd Place:</b>	Branch 39, Merced	Sold 50 calendars
<b>3rd Place:</b>	Branch 390, Tracy	Sold 24 calendars

**Individuals**

<b>1st Place:</b>	B.G. Zasoski – Br. 281 – Bakersfield	Sold 90 calendars
<b>2nd Place:</b>	Peggie Dorrance – Br. 10 – Alameda	Sold 65 calendars
<b>3rd Place:</b>	Carol Salmeri – Br. 39 – Merced	Sold 50 calendars

## Thalassemia: It's in Our Blood Episode 8 has dropped!

It's In Our Blood Episode 8: New Year Wishes from around the world!

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/48pyDABqkQqtG7lmu78WkB>  
 Also on Apple.

If you would like to be a guest or have suggestions for an episode please let us know!

*With Gratitude,  
 Laurice and Kathy*



O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires.

O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage.

## Heritage — Fun, Family & Tradition Branch Heritage Program Suggestions

Louise Vento, Committee Member

Every Branch in the Federation should have a Heritage Chairperson.



1. Give a brief talk on a region, a particular town, festival or celebration.
2. Have a potluck dinner and share favorite recipes and the stories behind them.
3. Give members copies of maps describing the different regions of Italy.
4. Host an International Heritage Day. Ask members to present their favorite dishes and bring family memorabilia and share stories about their heritage.
5. Purchase a large map and have members place pin flags with their family name on their home town.
6. Have a Heritage table at your Branch meetings or fundraising events.

7. Purchase books of interest and build a lending library.
  8. Ask members who speak Italian to teach the language to those interested in learning and set up a class schedule at your monthly meeting.
  9. Get people interested in tracing their roots and suggest internet websites.
  10. If a member has traveled recently, ask them to share their experience.
  11. Build a portable bocce court and conduct tournaments before your meeting.
  12. Ask your Branch President to let you have a Heritage presentation in the middle of the meeting. Remember to make your presentation informative, interesting and FUN!
- We embrace our commonality and our diversity as brothers and sisters of the Italian Catholic Federation.

## 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 ½ years) of at least 3.2** and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2:

- 1) Are **Roman Catholic and of Italian Descent and live within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of California, Illinois and Reno, Nevada** (which also includes the other cities within the Diocese of Reno), only where Branches of the Federation are established. or
- 2) Are **Roman Catholic but need not be of Italian Descent** or live where Branches of the Federation are established if either Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" - membership of a Roman Catholic parent, guardian or grandparent is mandatory for #2.

\*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 & Library OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 12

Carmelo Sabatella

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Chapel has opened its doors again for regularly scheduled Open Houses throughout 2026. Bring members, family, friends, and parishioners to visit her chapel and library in Burbank and learn about America's first Saint canonized on July 7, 1946.

Presently, Mother Cabrini Artifacts continue in the Italian American Museum of Los Angeles and in special Exhibitions on the East Coast.

For more information on the Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library, Open House calendar or to schedule a group visit or to make a donation to help the Chapel maintain the Chapel facility and continue with the annual Pilgrimage event in Burbank, please call 626-372-7812 or visit the Mother Cabrini Shrine at

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

DVDs on the Life of Mother Cabrini by Author Lucia Mauro available. Call 626-372-7812 or email at [cas1810@aol.com](mailto:cas1810@aol.com).

**SAVE THE DATES:**

- April 12, 2026:

1) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Open House 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Host: San Fernando Valley Region.

2) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504

*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



## Scholarship Donations

(Received as of February 10, 2026)

### 1st Year Donations

The Kilcullen Family  
In Memory of the 95th Birthday of Natalie Malone

Charles Gullo, Jr.  
In Memory of Beverly Wildermann  
Officers/Members of Los Angeles Archdiocese District  
In Honor of Lauren Kilcullen

Officers/Members of Blessed Sacramento District

Thank You to Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. for Attending Our Installation

### 2nd - 4th Year Donations

Deborah Rodondi  
Thinking of You Wishes for the Lopes Family

## Apostolate -- Attending Bishop's Days

Dante Galeazzi

Apostolate Committee

One of my favorite ICF events to attend is the many Bishops' Days in the Federation. Each District in the Federation annually hosts a special Mass celebration with His Excellency, the Bishop. Even though the event honors His Excellency on Bishop's Day, we also dedicate the day to our seminarians within the Diocese.



Coordination by the District or the Host Branch typically begins about one year in advance and includes scheduling with the Bishop, inviting seminarians, selecting a host Branch, organizing the Mass, and coordinating with the District's Branches.

Most Districts rotate their Host Branch Church and occasionally hold the event at their Cathedral. Many Central Council Members

also attend to honor the Bishops, Seminarians, the District's Clergy, and ICF Members.

Many fundraisers by the Branches and the Districts, assist with funding the Diocese's Seminarians Education Fund. At this event, the Diocese's Bishop receives a monetary donation from the Central Council presented by the Grand President, plus a separate donation from the District, as well as individual monetary gifts from Branches and devoted members for seminarians' education. All Districts determine the amount of their assessment per member (for example, the Stockton District assesses \$3.50 per member), and some Branches contribute an additional amount as well.

The Bishop is also presented with a Spiritual Bouquet representing the District's annual devotion pledge of Masses, Communions, Rosaries, and parish services. Many Spiritual Bouquets are creatively designed for His Excellency, the Bishop.

This is a wonderful event to spend time receiving guidance from our Shepherd of Faith and to share a meal with our Bishop. It is a privilege to hear the Bishop speak highly of the Diocese's dedicated seminarians. The District typically serves a complete meal. I attended the event hosted by the East Bay District, which featured elegant appetizers and superb, delicious desserts—again, very impressive.

Plan to attend your District's Bishop's Day each year to meet and support the seminarians through your presence. Your Bishop needs your support, encouragement, and prayers. Remember to invite your family, parishioners, and friends to meet your Bishop on this special day. This event is not limited to Italian Catholic Federation members.

*God Bless.  
Dante Galeazzi  
Apostolate Committee*

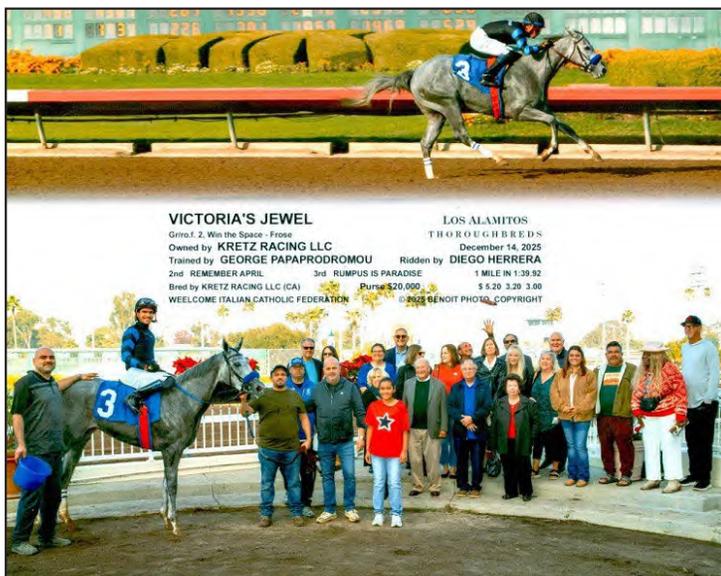
### Litany of ST. JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.



God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, *pray for us.*  
Renowned offspring of David, *pray for us.*  
Light of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*  
Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*  
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*  
Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*  
Diligent protector of Christ, *pray for us.*  
Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most just, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*

## ORANGE DISTRICT



### VICTORIA'S JEWEL

Girt. f. 2. Win the Space - Frose

Owned by KRETZ RACING LLC

Trained by GEORGE PAPAPRODROMOU

2nd REMEMBER APRIL

Bred by KRETZ RACING LLC (CA)

WEELCOME ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

### LOS ALAMITOS

THOROUGHBREDS

December 14, 2025

Ridden by DIEGO HERRERA

1 MILE IN 1:30.92

Purse \$20,000

\$ 5.20 3.20 3.00

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2025 ICF Day at the Races.



## 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)**

## Branch Reports

### SAN FRANCISCO

#### San Francisco

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

Dear Members:

On Sunday April 26th at 1 p.m., President Vic will have a luncheon catered by Colombo Deli at his house in Daly City. Invitations will be sent to Branch 1 Members.

Happy March Birthday Wishes to our Members Mariano Fontana and Isabella Cresci.

*Cordiali Saluti  
Diana Cresci*

### SAN MATEO District

#### South San Francisco Br. 7, Sacro Cuore

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Buona Pasqua South City!

Peter Cottontail is headed down the bunny trail and we know he plans on stopping in our neck of the woods for our post Easter dinner meeting on April 8. The menu has yet to be determined but President Donna assures us it will be good.

Thank you to our members for attending our February and March branch dinner meetings and a big thank you to Donna Smith for organizing the events.

Congratulations to our 2026 officers who were installed at a beautiful ceremony on January 31 at Church of the Nativity and hosted by Branch 351 of Menlo Park. This year's officers include: President & Treasurer - Donna Smith, VP - Lola Migliore, Financial Secretary - Frank Riso, Trustee - Diana Ferrari and Sentinel - Pat Garzoli.

The Branch would like to send our thoughts and prayers to Jeanette Acosta. Jeanette is a long-time member and past officer and has been a tireless volunteer for our Branch. She is currently living at Westborough Royale, Room #103. Please visit if in the neighborhood. Just knock as the door is always closed but unlocked. She would love the company and to see a familiar face.

Finally, we are sad to announce the passing of our former member Patty Guglielmetti. Patty was the stepmom of our Branch member Craig Guglielmetti and along with her late husband Ed was very active in supporting not only the ICF but was a longtime officer of South City's Sons of Italy Lodge. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

### Colma

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

The Branch April Meeting will be a Soup Night on April 6, 2026, hosted by Kathy Trevizo at Deborah Rodondi's home.

Save the date for the Pedro Tournament hosted by Branch 19 and Branch 173 on April 11, 2026, at Our Lady of Angels Gym (doors open at 9:00 a.m., games begin at 10:00 a.m.; \$50.00 per player including lunch and prizes, or \$15.00 to watch and enjoy lunch) More details to follow.

Please keep the sick members of our branch in your prayers

*Buona Pasqua.*

### Burlingame

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

We are happy to welcome Victor Arnaudo to our Branch 173 family. He used to be President of Branch 1 in San Francisco.

We are happy to report we now have a full set of Officers for 2026. Thank you to Marge Silva (Treasurer) and Mara Millis (3rd Trustee) for stepping up and changing positions.

We had to make an adjustment to our February plans for our Soup Supper as we will now be serving Kentucky Fried Chicken for dinner.

The Officers have met and in the planning stage for our Ravioli dinner at the end of June. More information to follow at a later date. We are accepting donations for the raffle and if you would like to help, please contact Roz Emery at 408-807-6982. Any donation is appreciated and helpful. This is our largest fundraiser of the year.

Please join us for our March 12, 2026 celebration of St. Joseph's Table. Also, we are planning a joint Pedro Tournament with Branch 19 and the

Please continue to pray for all who are ill throughout the Federation.

Fr. Brian, Fr. Gerald, Fr. Harold, Mary Bodisco,

Anthony Bruno, Rina Cassanego, Anita Cecena,

Nerina DiBella, Virginia Fuentes and Isabelle Laxague.

*God Bless,  
Roz Emery*

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

I guess after attending the Super Bowl and traveling to Italy for the Winter Olympics, we are ready to settle down and support our Branch activities.

Installation of Officers was held on the seventh floor of the Crown Plaza Hotel

San Mateo.

Several of our members attended the District Christmas Party and had a great time.

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 Joe Flores, Linda Marcelli, Corey Roberts and Victor Spanos.

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

*Ciao  
Joe Crosetti*

### Millbrae

#### Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao! I hope you have not missed our Mountain Mike's "Pizza Dinner" on March 3rd, as it is always a fun meal! The deadline for that is Feb 28th. Call Eunice to RSVP at (650) 692-3740 if you see this in time.

Thursday, March 19th is "St. Joseph's Table" at the Parish Hall! All are invited whether a member or not. This is a NO MEAT potluck event and includes wine, coffee/tea, & beverages. The social begins at 5:30 and the "Blessing" begins at 6 p.m., led by Fr. Joe Glynn, with dinner to follow. Contact Eunice Danli at the number above & let her know what food item you will be bringing by Saturday, March 14th. Please leave a message!

Our meeting in April is on Tuesday, the 7th and features meat lasagna. The cost is \$15 and also includes salad, bread, wine, coffee/tea, beverages & dessert. The social begins at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30. As Eunice will be on a cruise, RSVP to ME this time. The deadline is Friday, April 3rd. Send your check (payable to "ICF BR 403") to 886 Tioga Dr., Millbrae 94030, or drop the envelope into the garage door mail slot! My cell # is (408) 313-6325.

*Adonna Amoroso, Secretary*

### LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Ciao a Tutti. Hello everyone. It was a pleasure seeing many of you at the ICF Los Angeles Archdiocese (LAA) District 2026 Officer's Installation at the beautiful American Martyrs Church in Manhattan Beach. It was a joyful and memorable mass, and afterwards we enjoyed the fellowship with everyone and had a delicious luncheon before the Officers Installation. We were pleased to have with us the ICF Central Council Grand 1st Vice President, Lauren Kilcullen. Thank you to Branch 447-Manhattan Beach, for hosting the event. Congratulations again to all re-elected

and newly elected LAA District and Branch officers. 2026 will prove to be another exiting year for the ICF.

The LAA District 1st Quarterly Meeting will be on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at St. Benedict's St Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, Montebello. We will gather around 9 a.m. for coffee and pastries, and we will start the meeting at 9:30 a.m.. All branch Presidents are invited to attend the LAA District meeting. We also suggest that each branch also appoint an additional officer or get a volunteer to attend the LAA District meeting, this way if the President has a conflict, the other branch officer can attend the meeting, this way all the branches are represented at the LAA District meetings. Together we accomplish more than one can alone.

Please mark your calendars for the following ICF & LAA District meetings and events:

1. The LAA District 2nd Quarterly Meeting will be on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 9 a.m. at St. Benedict's St Augustine House, 200 N.12th Street, Montebello.
2. The 2026 ICF National Convention is being held on September 4-6, 2026 in Reno, Nevada. It's time to think about who you plan to send to this year's convention as your branch delegate and don't forget about some scholarships. If you have an idea for nominations for convention awards, this is the time to start thinking about it. The LAA District will hold its 3rd Quarterly Meeting at the ICF Convention on Saturday, September 5th, following the morning general session - around lunchtime. We will keep you posted.
3. The 2026 Bishop's Day & Seminarian Recognition Mass and Banquet will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026 at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo.
4. The LAA District 4th Quarterly Meeting will be on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 9 a.m. at St. Benedict's St Augustine House, 200 N.12th Street, Montebello

Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may and God Bless you all abundantly. We pray for our sick members and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Ciao! A Presto. Hope to see all of you soon.

*Frank Salomone, President  
Los Angeles Archdiocese District*



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

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

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

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

And to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward;

*May they rest in peace.*

*Keep safe and Stay healthy,*

*Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President*

*ICF National Branch 67*

*C 626-372-7812*

*E Cas1810@aol.com*

**SAVE THE DATES**

March 7, 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/or via Zoom. Please call 626-372-7812 for more information.

March 19, 2026 - St Joseph Table in Casa Italiana at St Peters Italian Catholic Church, 1039 N Broadway, Los Angeles

**South Pasadena  
Br. 108, Holy Family**

On January 4, 2026 and February 5, 2026, Branch Members enjoyed Potluck lunches in Holy Family Church's Connolly Hall in South Pasadena for the Branch 108 Lunch Social and General meetings followed by a game of Jenga then celebrating the January and February Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries of several members in HFC Connolly Hall. On January 18, 2026, Branch 108 officers were installed at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Manhattan Beach.

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. Our March General Meeting will be on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, Montebello. Join us for refreshments and cake as we celebrate the Birthdays of the following members who have birthdays this month: Tony De Lorenzo, Estera Veneziano, Margaret Valdez-Gallardo, Christina Grimaldi, Tanina Sergi, Della Rodriguez and Azadhoui Cursaro. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

Saint of the month – St. Joseph. St. Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Mary and the foster father of Our Lord. There is no mention of his age, but some speculate that he was rather elderly when he became betrothed to Mary and that he died when Jesus was a young man. In 1870 Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the patron and the protector of the Catholic Church.

This year we will be commemorating our annual Feast of St. Joseph Table at St. Benedict Church, Parish Hall, located at 1022 W. Cleveland Avenue, in the City of Montebello, on Saturday, March 21st from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Table will be blessed on Saturday, March 21st at noon by St. Benedict's Pastor, Father Fredric Abiera. There will be a Free pasta meal on both days to everyone attending the special event!

Traditional Italian foods, Italian sausage sandwiches, cannoli, and other desserts will also be available for purchase. Also available for purchase at nominal prices will be homemade breads, cookies, bottles of wine, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, fresh flowers, and various nursery plants.

Thank you for all you do for the ICF. 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.

*God Bless!  
Frank Salomone  
Branch 111 President*

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

Thank you to all who attended mass on March 5th honoring our patron St John Joseph of the Cross It was a beautiful celebration and everyone enjoyed refreshments after the mass.

Our annual crab dinner dance will be held on March 21st Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. Menu consists of antipasto, salad, linguine with clams, crab, shrimp and dessert. Music will be provided by the Tony Ciarmitaro band. \$55 a person. Please call Neal for tickets 310 433-1044.

Our next branch meeting will be held in the parish center on March 19th at 7:30 p.m. Up for discussion will be a turnaround trip to Yamaha casino on Tuesday April 14th. Bus will leave from Boys and Girls Club at 9 a.m. \$40/person Please call Pauline Iacono for reservations. 310 832-0563

Deadline for ICF scholarship is April 10th, 2026. Applications for graduation seniors can be found online at ICF.org. Our branch will be donating two \$500.00 scholarships.

Neal will also be discussing our May 21st potluck meeting which will be held in auditorium at 6pm. Please call Anna Dileva to let her know what tasty dish you will be providing. 310 833-9444. After our dinner we are excited to welcome guest speaker Laurie Levine a prominent advocate and long-time survivor of Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia). Thalassemia is the official ICF National Charity. Please join us to learn about the progress being made in helping individuals with this disease.

Our annual Laughlin trip is planned for May 4th returning May 6 Aquarius Hotel. Price \$230 per double occupancy \$290 single occupancy. For reservation call Pauline Iacono 310 833-0563

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of two longstanding and valued branch members Sandy Balesteri who joined in 1994 and Paul Baccari who joined in 1995. We could always count on Sandy to generously volunteer his time bartending at our dinners. Paul helped out tremendously whenever support was needed. Their dedication and kindness have made a lasting impact on our branch and they will not be forgotten.

Reminder that annual dues for 2026 are \$5.00 per person. Make check payable to the Italian Catholic Federation. Check can be mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 w 8th St. San Pedro, CA 90731

Congratulations to President Neal and Anna 2nd VP on celebrating 55 years of marriage an inspiring milestone of love and commitment

*Happy Easter to all! Anita Trujillo*

**Glendora  
Br. 179, St. Dorothy**

Happy 2026! St. Dorothy Glendora Branch 179 had a great time at our January meeting playing Tombola (Italian Bingo). Thank you to Sentinel Marianne Nicosia for finding it, and leading the play. And, as usual, our members all brought delicious food for the pot luck. After all, what is a meeting without food and drink! If anyone is interested, the game can be purchased on Amazon. Try it. I know your branch will enjoy it.

*Patricia  
Trustee, Branch 179*

**Arcadia  
Br. 218, Holy Angels**

Backing up a bit, we had a wonderful New Year's Eve bash thanks to chair, Mary Rovarino, and her crew. Everything was perfect - food, decorations and the music. It was a great way to see out the old year and welcome the new year. I thank everyone that helped out with our fundraiser for the Holy Angels School.

At our last meeting, we welcomed new board members, Traci Booth (trustee) and Teresa Choi (trustee). Dave Scarminach (orator) is also a new board member, but was not in attendance. A delicious lunch was served before the meeting. Bob Keeler won the 50/50 and JoAnn Hudson the member drawing.

Our next huge event is the St. Joseph's Table which will take place March 21 and 22 with setup beginning on the 20th. This is always an event that brings all of our members together to help in one way or the other. Watch for your newsletters from Jeane. Hope to see everyone at our March meeting. The Table will be blessed after the 5:00 Mass and at that time everything will be open. Sandwiches will also be available for purchase. Sunday, the 22nd, the doors open at 8:00 and the event will end at 1:00. All baked goods, entrees and anything that will be placed on the Table for sale should be brought to the hall after 10:00 on Saturday and early Sunday morning for pricing. Please list any ingredients that may cause severe allergic reactions and do not use mayonnaise or any ingredients that may spoil. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and it is always a huge success because we all work together to make it happen (with a bit of fun included.)

Hope to see everyone at our March meeting.

*Lolly M*

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

Hello and welcome to Spring! It's hard to believe that we've made it to March and it's time to spring forward, our days are getting longer! With every March comes our biggest fundraiser of the year, our annual St Joseph Table. Baked goods, cannoli, cakes, and breads will be for sale along with a pasta meal. It starts on Saturday March 14 after the 5 p.m. mass from 6 - 8 p.m. Then on Sunday March 15 after the morning masses. All donations are welcomed.

Don't forget to join St Raymond for its annual Living Last Supper on Sunday March 22 at 5 p.m. Our next Bingo luncheon is scheduled for April 26 and the Holy Faith Sisters and Margaret Aylward Center Spring fundraiser is on April 19th with a Hawaiian Luau theme.

*I wish you all a Happy springtime.*

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

Spring is arriving soon and we are looking forward to our largest fundraiser of the year—St. Joseph's Table and Silent Auction on Sunday, March 22nd! Members are encouraged to bring their prized baked dishes, breads, casseroles, desserts to sell at St. Joseph's table. Please bring your baked goods to Parish Hall March 21st – 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Also, we are expecting a banner year with donations for the Silent Auction of various gift cards for restaurants, salons, entertainment, museums and much more! Items due: March 1st.

To continue St. Joseph's Day celebration, there will be a luncheon in our Parish Hall with penne, meat and marinara sauce, salad, rolls. Cost is \$35.00/adult and \$25/children under 12 pre-sale and \$40.00/adult and \$30/children under 12 at the door. Pre-sales are due by March 14th.

Our January meeting welcomed speaker, Gabriella Roscoe, Volunteer Manager, from Elizabeth House, a shelter for pregnant women. Gabriella gave an in depth look at the various stages where Elizabeth House helps the vulnerable women before and after giving birth with residency at their house, counseling, education, therapy and mentorship.

Our annual Donut and Coffee sale/Membership table will be held on March 8th after morning Masses. Sign up for selling donuts and bringing new members to our organization.

Our anticipated Italian Classes, with expert Italian born teachers, will return for six weeks—from mid-May to mid-June. \$130/beginners and \$150/advanced classes. Dates: TBD

Upcoming event: Summer Mass with Fr. Jim Bevacqua

*God Bless you all.*

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

January was a rest and recuperation month after the holidays.

February began with a song, literally, as we enjoyed a sing-along led by a local trumpet player, Jerry O'Connor.

We then had a greeting card DIY craft event which was a big hit with the ladies.

Our next big event is the St. Joseph's Table in March. This involves a Bake Sale and an Italian Dinner which has been the traditional fare for many years. This is usually our largest fundraiser of the year and includes authentic Cannolis prepared by one of our own ICF members, Jean Bridges. The Cannolis will be available for sale at the dinner and online as the Branch 380 website [icfbranch380.org](http://icfbranch380.org). (Sorry, local pickup only).

April will see our 2nd annual Italian Pasta Sauce Cookoff Contest. Last year we had four participants and our goal is to increase this to six this year. The more participants, the more pasta, the more pasta, the more happy people.

## Manhattan Beach Br. 447, American Martyrs

Hello members of branch 447. I hope all is well with you. It was so nice for our branch to host this year's district installation. I've heard nothing but great compliments on the event. So, here we are in March and our annual St Joseph Table is coming up soon. It will be on Sunday, March 15th. There will be plenty of baked goods for sale along with cannoli and Italian sausage sandwiches and limoncello. We are accepting all donations, monetary and baked goods such as cookies, breads, and cakes. We will also need donations of flowers. Proceeds from the table will go to the Guatemala food bank. We are planning future events as well, such as wine tasting at San Antonio winery, and maybe a turnaround bus trip to a casino.

*I hope you all have a wonderful Spring and a blessed Easter.*

## East Bay District Council

No time for post-holiday blues for ICF members! The Christmas season was barely over, and we began with festivities (disguised as "business"): the Installation of Officers on January 18th. For the second year, installation was a joint event between Contra Costa District and East Bay District, this time at St. Stephens Church in Walnut Creek. Mass began at 3:30 p.m., celebrated by Father Mario Rizzo and enriched by a combined choir and musicians from both districts. In his homily, Father Rizzo, our EBD Chaplain, remarked that he had spent his early priestly years at St. Stephen's.

Following Mass, the installation was officiated by ICF Grand President Franklyn Lopes Jr. who gave us his annual address. Central Council members of the installation team were Bob Basuino, Lisa Crudo, Leonard Rossi, and Michael Rossi. After installation, we had a wonderful celebratory buffet dinner in the parish hall. Special thanks to CC members who attended, installed and celebrated with us, and to the CCD for hosting the event.

We are grateful to the officers who served in 2025 and give our support to those serving in 2026. May the year be fulfilling, fun and productive!

The pace continues. The EBD Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed is February 21st at St. Philip Neri's Msgr. O'Brien Hall.

Also, EBD is celebrating its 90th Anniversary – the first district formed! An event is planned for May 2nd. More

details forthcoming.

2026 is in full swing! Please check the Branch reports for news and upcoming events.

*Sincerely  
Roberta Madej*

## Alameda Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

We hosted 130 members and friends for our Polenta Dinner on Saturday, January 24. The attendance and income from the raffle both set records for the event. Chef Ben Ratto received a much-deserved and lengthy ovation at the conclusion of the evening.

We are now serving our Lenten Fish Fry Dinners. The dinners are held every Friday in Lent through March 27 at 6:00 p.m. following Stations of the Cross in Saint Philip Neri Church. Prices are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for young people 12 and under.

Our next special function is our Saint Joseph's Table on Thursday, March 19. Proceeds benefit the Missionaries of Charity, the order of Catholic sisters based in Pacifica who received the centennial Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award in 2024. For reservations, contact Jeanette Zugnoni, [jeanette@zugnoni.net](mailto:jeanette@zugnoni.net) or 510-206-1743, by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Payment in advance by check made payable to ICF Branch 10 and mailed to Jeanette Zugnoni, 1841 Fremont Drive, Alameda, CA 94501.

Our membership meeting of January 8 featured a return visit by Laurie Levine. Ben was to go to school the next day and could not attend the presentation. We voted to donate \$500.00 to Cooley's anemia research.

We also voted to give \$500.00 to the John Rosa Scholarship Fund, which supports graduates of La Escuelita Elementary School in Oakland. John Rosa, a long-time member of Branch 10 and chef who died in 2013, taught at the school in the third career of his life.

*John Zugnoni, Branch 10 publicity*

## Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

Ciao, Amici,

In early February, we hosted our annual Mardi Gras Bingo along with St. Michael's Golden Friends. Attendees enjoyed lunch, Bingo, and the opportunity to win lovely and generous gift baskets.

We're looking forward to our February social meeting, when we'll be learning about the interesting tradition of Venetian Mardi Gras masks, as well as making our own Mardi Gras masks.

At our March 15th meeting, we are pleased that CCOP pastor, Father Mark Wiesner, will be speaking to us about his Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. Father Mark is sure to enlighten us with

inspiration and insights from his journey. To top the day off, Chris Carrano will be preparing another one of his very special Italian dinners. Also, we will have our St. Joseph's Table for your donations of non-perishable food items that we will donate to St. Vincent de Paul.

Italy's Epiphany Befana celebration was the theme of January's conversation group's meeting. It was interesting to learn about the story of the Befana as well as how this holiday is celebrated.

Our Scholarship committee recently attended scholarship fairs at our local high schools. Carolyn Cardinale was happy to report that there was a good deal of interest in our scholarships.

We mourn the losses of Paul Petric and Carl Bates. Please pray for them, for Paul's wife Janet-marie, Carl's wife Judy, and their families. Also, please keep members who are ill in your prayers.

*Buon Compleanno to all our members with March birthdays!  
Ciao,  
Paula Flessatti*

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

The February calendar is full of holidays: Groundhog Day, St. Valentine's Day (St. Valentine, a Roman saint, is also the patron saint of beekeepers!), Presidents' Day, Mardi Gras, and even World Bartender's Day! And there are a number of holy days: St. Blaise (February 3rd), Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11th), and Ash Wednesday (February 18th).

We have some upcoming ICF events in February. There is the East Bay District Crab Feed, February 21st at St. Philip Neri parish hall in Alameda, and our branch's celebration of the Year of the Horse with a catered Chinese dinner on February 12th. Generally, those born in 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990... are considered to be hardworking, warm-hearted, and independent.

In the coming months we are planning to have membership drives at our two parishes here in Castro Valley. Wish us luck!

**DEADLINE  
March 10th for  
the April  
issue of the  
Bollettino.  
Send your  
articles & photos:  
[editor@icf.org](mailto:editor@icf.org)**

# CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Branch 36 Initiation



New Members Branch 36



2026 Central Coast District Officers



Annamarie Stanton 1950-2026 Branch 36



Antoinette Ferrante 1933-2026 Branch 36



Central Coast Installation



Frances Verwood 1931-2026 Branch 36



Johanna Ferrante 1934-2026 Branch 36



Branch 354



Branch 354



Josephine Mercurio 1934-2026 Branch 36



Branch 291 recently celebrated member Joe Franco's 90th Birthday! Pictured here are Annie Subia presenting Joe with his cake. Happy 90th Birthday, Joe!



Branch 354

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

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# CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT (continued)



Central Coast Installation 2026



Central Coast Installation 2026

# SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Members of Branch 210 at January meeting, accompanied by our Branch mentor, John Guerin.



Br. 217, Barbara, Dominic, John



Br. 217 Jan 2026



Br. 217, Native Dancers



Br. 217, Paul, Dom, Angie, and Cris

# STOCKTON DISTRICT



Newly elected Stockton District Officers with Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr.



Dante Galeazzi giving the Stockton District donation for the Seminarian Fund to Grand President Franklyn Lopes Jr.



District Secretary, Elise Moberly reading the names with Central Council members, Denise Antonowicz, Lisa Crudo, & Dante Galeazzi installing Ida Queirolo one of many officers that day.



Stockton Installation--Members of Br. 139 enjoying their luncheon at Installation



Br. 390, Bartenders



Patty Marchini is happy to get her Chicken Cacciatori and Polenta dinners.



Chef Mike Bacchetti with the new commercial ovens that our branch and other ministries purchased together.



Buon Anno from the members of Branch 395!



Here's to a great year from some of the ladies of Branch 395.



Kenny Pombo stirring the polenta for our Chicken Cacciatori and Polenta Dinner

# STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



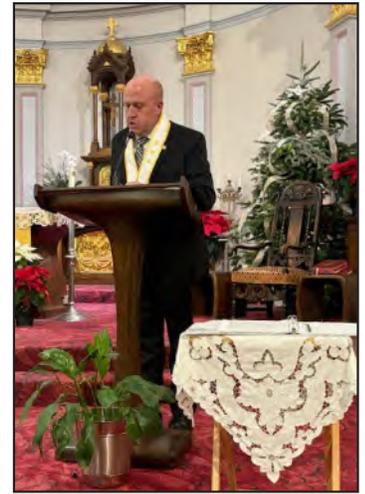
CC Member Dr. Vince Malfitano and Giovanni Galeazzi discussing his ICF activities.



Cecilia McGhee recipient of "Grand President's Award" to a devoted member to Branch 48 and our District.



District President Pachinger discussing activities with Branch 48 Past President John Zamora.



Br. 82, Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr.



Br. 139 Saint Anthony's New President Ron Augustini being installed with CC Life Member Dante Galeazzi.



District President Robert Pachinger presenting goals for the Stockton District.



Br. 82, President Chris Whiting with Branch members.



Br. 82, Members tasting the hors d'oeuvre.s



Br. 82, Enjoying their luncheon appetizers.



Members of Branch 413



Br. 139, Chef Tony with son Mario preparing appetizers prior to prime rib and homemade raviolis.



Br. 139, Giovanni attending one of hundreds with Nonno.

# STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 395, Members participating in the District activities.



Br. 82, Members tasting the hors d'oeuvres

May the road rise  
to meet you.

May the wind be always  
at your back.

May the sun shine warm  
upon your face.

And rains fall soft  
upon your fields.

And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in  
the hollow of His hand.



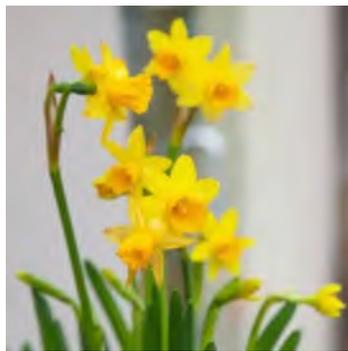
# CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Br. 432, Laura Pierce, Bob Rebollar, Lynn Picinich, Mike Valenti, Deacon John, Sheila Nilo, Ana Ellenberger, Lilly Beatty, Mickey Modena, Nita Ohlhauser, Pat Rebollar. Richard Alward not present.



Br. 352, Robert and Sandra Store under the walls of Lucca.



Br. 432, Happy Hour fun



Branch 352, Bingo and Pizza Night



Br. 352, Serving second helpings!!

**CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)**



Father Mario and Officers in Contra Costa District Installation

Contra Costa District Installation

Contra Costa District Installation



Officers being installed at Contra Costa District Installation.



Members and Officials of #14 Crockett at the Contra Costa and East Bay Installation. Congratulations to all.

Members of Br. 442, Pleasant Hill at District Installation

# CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)



Nuptial congratulations to branch #13 members, Mr. & Mrs. Griffin and Rosemary Cook Shaw (and Central Council member)! May God who brought you together bless your marriage, enrich your lives, and deepen your love throughout the years.



Br. 214, Xmas brunch at Zio Fraedo's



Br. 214, Toys 4 Tots Drive



Br. 214, Wise Girl District Dinner



Branch 442 members enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving Luncheon.



Branch 442 members and guests spread some Christmas Cheers.



Gina McGlasson from BACN works with Anne McEndorffen from Branch 442.



Members and Officials of #14 Crockett at the Contra Costa and East Bay Installation. Congratulations to all.



Jan Wrobel from Branch 442 with collected toys for the BACN.

# SAN MATEO DISTRICT



2026 Officers of Br. 213, St Augustine in South San Francisco from left to right. Linda Marcelli, Linda Benedetti, Kathy Amiot, Donna DeVoe, Marianne Cameron, Judy Crosetti, Joe Crosetti and Roberta Franchini.



2026, Jan. 31 - Branch 403 Officers at San Mateo District Installation



2026, Jan. 31 - SM District Installation Crowne Plaza Hotel Foster City



2026, Jan. 31 - SM District Installation Crowne Plaza Hotel Foster City



San Mateo District 2026, Jan. 31 - ICF Dist. Inst. Incoming Presidents



2026, Jan. 31 - Branch 403 Officers at SM District Installation



2026, Jan. 31 - Br. 173 & Friends at San Mateo District Installation

# SAN MATEO DISTRICT (continued)



2026, Jan. 31 - SM District Installation - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City



2026, Jan. 31 - SM District Installation - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City



2026, Jan. 31 - SM District Installation - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City

# BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Br. 450, St. Joseph Installation



Br. 450, St. Joseph Installation



Br. 450, St. Joseph Vocations Chalice



# SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Branch #209's newly installed officers for 2026.



Br. 145, Trustees Shannon Rohrbacher-Gier and Lora Canzoneri are installed by Central Council Member Lisa Crudo in Eureka on January 31st, 2026.



#144, Some members with PB&J collection for Superbowl Competition.



Br. 145, Financial Secretaries Mary Wheeler and Jim Mongi are installed by Central Council Member Lisa Crudo with Melody Klever assisting as Marshal on January 31st in Eureka at Sacred Heart Parish Hall.



#144 Some members with PB&J collection for Superbowl Competition.



#144, St. Mary's Church Parishioners enjoying Alfred Eanni's appetizers at Social Hour.

# Die Fledermaus

Johann STRAUSS II



**April 25, 2026 7:00pm**  
**April 26, 2026 2:00pm**  
**Casa Italiana, DTLA**

**May 3, 2026 2:00pm**  
**Dalmatian Club, San Pedro**

Tickets \$45  
 Senior/Student/Youth Pricing  
 \*Add-on Lunch/Dinner Buffet\*

 Eric Cornwell Eisenstein	 Joanna Parisi Rosalinde	 Elle Moody Adele	 Anna Caplan Prince Orlovsky
 Zach Mascarinas Frank	 Josh Valdes Dr Falke	 Frank Watnick Alfred	 Jacob Stucki Dr Blind

Opera Italia

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 Oliver Chan - Conductor, Carson Gilmore - Stage Director, Jared Jones - Chorus Master,  
 and featuring the dancers of Arthur Murray Dance Studios

# Opera! FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN

Presented by Young Opera Theater  
**Sunday, March 29, 2026**  
 Casa Italiana, DTLA  
 1051 N Broadway, LA 90012  
**1:00 to 4:00pm**

Staged Selections from Opera Favorites, such as:

**DIE FLEDERMAUS (THE BAT),**  
 AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS,  
 LA CENERENTOLA (CINDERELLA)  
 AND ~~~~ an original mini-opera by the Opera Kids  
 "A Hero's Journey"

**Games & Face Painting!**  
**Story & Singing Workshops!**  
**Instrument Demonstrations!**  
**Food Trucks!**

Admission \$15 per child (age 18 and under)  
 Accompanying Adult - no charge

Young Opera Theater is a 501(c)3 non-profit  
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 youngoperatheater@gmail.com  
 213-248-2510 text/call

Feature:  
 Youth Opera Talent Show  
 By Audition  
 See Website for details!





## FRESNO DISTRICT



Christmas Party Branch #308.



2026 Officer Installation.



Past President Jay Newsome & 2026 President Russell Renna Branch at #308 installation.



Christmas Party Branch #308.

EAST BAY DISTRICT



Br. 10, Karen Harrington greets CC Life Member Dante Galeazzi.



Br. 10, CC Life Member Leonard Rossi entertaining members.



Br. 10, Santa makes a young girl happy with a gift.



Br. 10 Christmas Party with Jo-Ann Maggiora Donivan EBD President presenting.



Branch #343 members at the dinner following the installation



Joint Installation in January--East Bay District and Contra Costa District



Branch #343 Members Leonard Rossi & Lisa Crudo presenting sashes at our Officers' Installation



Joint Installation with East Bay and Contra Costa District, Br. 10 at dinner time



Ben Ratto, Chef for Branch 10 at January Polenta dinner



Lisa Crudo wins! With President Jim Lee of Branch 10.



Joint Installation with East Bay and Contra Costa Districts, Fr. Mario Rizzo and Central Council



## CONTRA COSTA District Council

Greetings! Our year started with our joint Installation of Officers for Contra Costa and East Bay on January, 18. Mass was celebrated by East Bay District chaplain, Father Mario at St. Stephen's in Walnut Creek. We thank him, the lectors and choir. The Installation followed. Grand President, Franklin Lopes, Jr. was the Installing officer. Marshalls were Past Grand President, Leonard Rossi, Past Grand President, Mike Rossi, Past Grand President, Bob Basino and second Vice President, Lisa Crudo. Former first ladies in attendance included Karen Rossi and Marcie Rossi. Dinner was served in the events center. We thank Branch 442 for hosting and chairwomen, District President, Diana Mackinson. The decorations were beautiful, wine was flowing and dinner was delicious. The evening ended with a raffle. Proceeds were shared by both Districts and two lucky winners. Congratulations officers!

Many branches will host St. Joseph's Day tables. Always special. Check out the Holy Cloak Novena to St Joseph online.

Our next meeting will be held on April 9 at CTK parish at 7 p.m. A reminder with meeting room location will be sent.

We continue our Lenton Journey and wish everyone a Happy Easter.

*Fraternally, Patty Jarrett  
Trustee / Mentor Past President*

### Martinez Br. 13, San Martino

March is named for the Roman god, Mars. However, we think of it as the beginning of spring, as March brings the vernal equinox, the full worm moon, and the return of daylight savings time. It is during "Women's History Month" that we observe "International Women's Day" on March 8th which is also the date we put our clocks ahead to gain that hour of sunshine.

The entire month of March is in the thick of Lent. While we remain faithful to a prayerful routine, it's a period when we set aside time for God, ourselves, our family, and our friends. God is calling us to take refuge in His wounds; He is calling us higher, deeper, and closer to His heart. We can grow in faith when we think about all that Christ has done for us. Let's ready ourselves to experience His resurrection with an open heart.

There are many opportunities from which to choose to augment our spiritual time. Tuesdays we can join Scripture Reflections with the Clergy over zoom; we can spend time in Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays, or join Jesus' journey through the Stations of the Cross on Fridays following community Soup Suppers. On March 5, we can participate in "National Unplugging Day" giving us the opportunity to unwind and

be less dependent on technology; and, during that time we can be alive in the presence of God without being glued to our phones. Details in the bulletin.

While we wait, make it a meaningful Lent.

*For the greater glory of God,  
Mary Cook*

### Crockett Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

Spring has sprung! Congratulations to our newly elected 2026 officers. We know you'll do a great job!

A big thank you to Al DiPrima and crew for the wonderful Valentine Dinner served at our February meeting. Delicious as always! We also thank Dennis, Derek, Bill T., and Jim D. for installing new LED lights in the Hall. It's a brighter day at St. Rose!

Pull out your green socks (or shirts, pants, hats...) and join us on March 14nd for our famous Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Enjoy a fabulous Irish feast with all your friends. (\$30/Adults and \$10/Children 12 and under). And don't forget about all the great raffle prizes! The fun starts at 5:30 with dinner at 6 p.m. Please contact Donna (510) 367-5669 or Helen (510) 990-2139 for tickets.

DATE CHANGE: Due to some scheduling conflicts, our St. Joseph's Table celebration and meeting will be held on March 17th. There will be No Mass, but Fr. Leo will be there to bless our food table. Please bring one of your favorite meatless dishes to share with the members. (The branch will provide yummy pesto pasta). This is always a great night of different delicious dishes and a lot of fun. (There will be a short meeting to follow).

We send our deepest sympathy and support to Marty DeVentura and Corinne Scoffield. We are sorry for your losses at this difficult time. Many healing prayers are being said for Rich DelAugustino, Clo Haisley, and Cookie Maricich, who are all under the weather.

Please make sure you are up to date with your 2026 dues. Your check for \$48.00 can be mailed to Roni Jimenez or brought to our March 17th meeting.

And finally, save the date for the St. Rose Fish Fry on March 22nd. Meals will be served in the Church Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 and can be purchased at the door. Volunteer workers are appreciated. Please support this major Church fundraiser and enjoy some great food and fellowship!

Wishing you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

*Blessings,  
~Helen*



## Concord

### Br. 214, Todos Santos

Ciao,

Well January is behind us and 1/2 of February.

Many things are happening in our branch.

We had a meeting on January 19th and discussed many important things that are coming up.

On January 31st St. Agnes had a crab/trio tip dinner. It was delicious with 125 people attending. The food was great and the servers were wonderful. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and great raffle prizes. It was hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Thank you to them.

We discussed the many charities that we are going to donate to for the year.

We also discussed our monthly meetings and the food we are going to have.

In February we are going to celebrate the Chinese New Year with catered Chinese food. This should be delicious and a great way to celebrate.

We had a board meeting at our Presidents house, Roberta Healy. Many new ideas were brought up for membership and game night, etc.

Looking forward to our Pasta/Bingo which will be held on March 21st. We are expecting 100 people. This is a great event with good food and bingo prizes and raffle prizes.

We are happy to report that Sue Giorgetti is doing well and was at our board meeting. Stay well, Sue.

Rick De Santos had a carpal tunnel surgery on January 20th and is doing well, thanks to the help of his daughter, Terri Di Loreto.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Super Bowl. It wasn't a very exciting game but the food we had was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Terri and Greg Di Loreto.

Happy Valentines Day to all of you.

*Stay safe and healthy.  
Ciao for now,  
Norene DeLuca*

## Danville

### Br. 352, San Isidore

Well, it's time for another article for the *Bollettino*.

Happy New Year to all in ICF!

We had 10 people go from Branch 352 Danville to the Installation Mass and dinner at Saint Stephen's Church in Lafayette. Later, we had a tasty dinner catered by Zandonella... delish! Now that we've been doing this for a while, it's nice to see some old friends.

At our January 26 Heritage dinner meeting, with sausage and meatballs and of course pasta, Robert and Sandy Storer did a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on Lucca. All the times we have been to Lucca, we did not realize there

was a moat underneath the walls. The moat was used for defense and flood control. Thank you, Robert and Sandy — everyone enjoyed the presentation.

We also had our 50/50 drawing, with half going to the White Pony in Concord. Lisa is doing such a great job with this raffle, and so many charities are benefiting.

We had our Bingo night on Saturday, February 7th. It was a great success, meaning everybody had so much fun. People gathered at 5 o'clock to socialize, and around 5:45 pizza was delivered. After dinner, we played bingo. Fred had us all laughing whether we lost or won.

We are going to have our Crab Feed on February 23. I'm sure it will be sold out. Everyone looks forward to this delicious event.

We are all praying for Savannah Guthrie's mother and family. May God bless us all in this new year.

*Ciao,  
Sally Panella*

## Brentwood

### Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

Hello and Happy Spring,

Our January meeting started off with recognition of Branch #432 officers for 2026. Special thanks go to all those who are taking on new responsibilities (Mike Valenti, Lynn Picinich, Richard Alward and Nita Ohlhauser) and to those who continue to be of service over the years.

Our branch had 10 out of 12 officers attend the Installation dinner in January. Good job!

We welcomed our newest members, John and Judy Lullo and look forward to getting better acquainted with them over the coming months. We also had four guests and hope they decide to become members.

Please think about providing a Heritage Report this year. Laura has offered her help to anyone interested.

Officially we have 2 fundraisers on the calendar this year — our Luau dinner on May 16 and the Car show and pasta dinner on Sept. 25. Our new President, Mike Valenti, will coordinate the Luau dinner but will need volunteers. Nita stepped up to coordinate the Car show but will also need volunteers to help make it a success. The event requires a lot of work and will be cancelled if members do not volunteer to help.

Our Secretary, Laura Pierce, asked everyone to please respond to the email she will send out re: input on ideas for fundraisers and dinner themes. Mike will email this year's calendar of all ICF meetings and activities.

It was decided to have a random drawing for a free dinner every month and you must be present to win. Gloria Clawson was our first winner!

Wishing you all a Holy Lent and a Happy Easter.

*Ciao for now, Mary M.*

EAST BAY DISTRICT (continued)



EBD-CCD Installation - Foreground L-R Dave Madej EBD Treasurer and Jo-Ann Maggiora Donovan EBD President.



EBD-CCD Installation L-R Jeanette Zugnoni EBD Orator - Ed McGuirk EBD Secretary - Michael Rossi CC Life Member.



Installation Celebration 18 Jan 2026



Installation Celebration 18 Jan 2026



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



Corpus Christi Parish Volunteers Appreciation Dinner - ICF Br. 215, Fremont, was honored.



Corpus Christi Parish Volunteers Appreciation Dinner - ICF Br. 215, Fremont, was honored.



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

# SAN DIEGO DISTRICT



Br. 246, Photo of Bella Virgilio, along with her family and ICF members



Br. 246, Student volunteers



Br. 246, ICF members helping out at the spaghetti dinner



Br. 246 Kitchen Crew -Anthony Contasti, Frank Giacalone, & John Cefalu



Br. 449, We sold handmade personal, spiritual, and sentimental greeting cards created by Annelvira Uberti.



Br. 449, Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Palomar!

## Pleasant Hill Br. 442, Christ the King

Hope 2026 is off to a good start for everyone. Still have some catching up to do from 2025 year-end! On November 13 some of our members attended Mass to celebrate the feast of Saint Frances Cabrini. Diana Mackinson gave an excellent presentation to the congregation about the life of Mother Cabrini. Thank you to Diana and Christ the King parish for allowing us to share about our Saint. On the 15th we cohoused with the Women of Magdala a viewing of the movie Cabrini. The event was well attended by members of our parish and guests. We ended the month with a Thanksgiving luncheon meeting. A bountiful feast indeed. Also, Jan Wrobel graciously headed our toy drive for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. The toys were most welcomed by Gina McGlasson, BACN Manager of Care. Thank you to Jan and Anne McEntorffer for delivering the toys and to our members for your generosity. We ended the year with our Christmas celebration. Ravioli and salad, of course, lots of wonderful desserts, and a gift exchange game which brought lots of laughs.

In January we welcomed our new branch president, Diana Mackinson, and the 2026 officers. Thank you to the officers stepping down. And a big thank you to our out-going president, Juliette Cote. We appreciate your dedication to the branch, not to mention your long commutes. All the best to you and your family.

We are looking forward to our St. Joseph's celebration March 19th and the Ladies Tea May 2nd. Mark your calendars and look out for more details.

*Ci vediamo dopo!*

## BLESSED SACRAMENT District

### Sacramento Br. 45, St. Mary

Our first Chicken & Polenta dinner for 2026 will be held on Sunday, Mar., 8th in Giovanni Hall. Our branch meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., and dinner at 6:00 p.m. The cost will be \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members, \$10 for Ages 7-12 and Free for 6 and under. Pasta option is available by PRE-ORDER only with reservation. Call me at 916-508-1199 for more information and reservations by Tuesday, Mar. 3rd.

Welcome new members, The Epp Family, James, Sophia and Joseph to the Branch. We look forward to your participation and thanks for joining us!

Our sympathy to the Gabri Family on the passing of longtime member John Gabri, at 87, in January. John and wife, Anne, were first members of Branch

419 Holy Spirit transferring to our branch in 2019 when it closed. John and Anne were active members and his sweet disposition and love of his Italian heritage were inspiring to us. He will be greatly missed. RIP John.

*Ciao, Janine*

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

A new year and a new board! Frieda Casey is our new President. CONGRATULATIONS!

We began the 2026 with a Potluck for our monthly dinner. There were so many dishes, it was difficult to determine which dishes to choose. We also celebrated our Pastor, Fr. George's birthday. It was great to see him share thoughtful stories with our group. May he be blessed with a wonderful and joyful year.

On February 12, we had one of our favorite dinners Love and Lasagna. Who doesn't love some scrumptious lasagna with a fresh salad? It was also enjoyable because of our membership, who shared many of their favorite desserts. Then, of course, we had our 50/50 Raffle, as we do at every dinner. This time, however, we also raffled off a Valentine's vase filled with silk plants. Thank you, Rita Zanzinger, for donating such a beautiful gift.

Since Ash Wednesday is February 18, this year, our March dinner will be a part of our church's Soup Supper that will be given to the entire parish. As a tradition, every Friday, during Lent, a different ministry makes different types of soups and shares them with anyone who comes to have dinner. There is no cost. After serving the soup, the ministry helps with doing the Stations of the Cross. It is a blessed experience that is very spiritual.

*Ciao for now...*

*Irene Perez*

Mark your calendars  
St. Joseph's Table on March 14-15, 2026

Soup-Supper dinner on March 20, 2026  
More details to follow...

## Lincoln Br. 450, St. Joseph

March is here! Il tempo vola —time flies, especially when you're having fun!

Branch 450 kicked off 2026 with the Installation of Officers at Branch 45, St. Mary's Sacramento. It was a joyous time with Mass and a celebratory lunch. Congratulations to all the Officers in the Blessed Sacrament District!

On February 1st we began the Vocations Chalice for our Branch. The chalice is presented to an ICF member at Mass who will take it home and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Why a chalice? Because the Eucharist and the priesthood are deeply

connected. The chalice is a powerful symbol of the Eucharist, and a tangible reminder of the need for priests and the importance of vocations.

We are hosting several upcoming parish events. The St. Joseph's Table (la tavola di San Giuseppe) will take place March 19-22 to honor our Patron Saint; a tradition rooted in Italy and particularly Sicily. It is a renewal of our devotion to St. Joseph and celebration of his Feast Day. Donations received in exchange for bread, fruit, and vegetables are given as alms to the poor! We can't wait to start this wonderful Lenten tradition of our Italian heritage!

We will also be cooking the St. Joseph Lenten soup for the Parish! Soup is served after the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent!

Lastly, our branch is growing, and we want to welcome our newest member, Sally DeNardo! Benvenuta Sally!

*Until next time...Ciao,*

*Janet Vicencio*

## SANTA ROSA District Council

Our January 24 Polenta Dinner was a delicious event! Thank you to everyone who helped and who came to enjoy the dinner.

Upcoming events:

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

ICF Monthly Mass: Sunday, March 8. 10:00 a.m. Mass

Fish Fry: Friday, March 27. Plan to attend our Fish Fry! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Tickets will go on sale in March. Call Carmen and Lauren Kilcullen: 707-595-3111 or purchase tickets after Mass starting the weekend of March 7/8. Price: \$50.00 for adults. Children 6 – 12: \$10.00. Deadline: March 22. We will have a raffle, 50/50 raffle and live auction. This is a popular event that usually sells out.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

*Lauren*

## Arcata Br. 144, St. Mary

Our 2026 calendar of events continues to be full of great events!

In February our branch hosted the "after Mass social/coffee hours" on the 2nd weekend of the month. Our members provide wonderful items for parishioners of St. Mary's Church in Arcata, to enjoy. (photos on District page)

From January 17 to February 8 we collect donations of Peanut Butter & Jelly for the friendly inter-parish's competition which stocks Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation's pantry. Our branch has won for the past three years. Molto bene! It is a wonderful and

worthwhile cause.

Feb 13 is our annual Valentine's Dinner for our members. Chef Alfred Eanni ('15) will once again cook prime rib and grilled shrimp. Buon Gusto!

We are starting to sell tickets for the bi-annual Chicken & Polenta Dinner to be served Sunday, March 8. 5 p.m. sit-down dinner.

Tickets for this delicious dinner remain at \$20 a person! Quite the deal! Call Toni Green @ 707-633-5679.

St. Joseph's Day is March 19, and we will be having the St. Joseph Table at the weekend Masses (21 & 22).

## Eureka Br. 145, St. Ambrose

The Betty 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. Betty and her ministry are very grateful.

It is with sadness that we learned of Eureka Branch member, Suanna Rowell's, untimely death due to a traffic accident.

She was a member for twenty years. Her smile and devotion to her Catholic faith is a shining example to everyone in the Humboldt Bay area. Her many acts of service to others included choir member, lector, sextant, member of the third order of Franciscans, Redwood Cursillo staffer, and inductee in the St. Bernard High School benefactors Hall of Fame. In 1976 Suanna started working at Crestwood Behavioral Health. She held numerous positions during her 50 years there. She received numerous awards for compassionate care of those with mental illness.

It is Colivas ICF scholarship time again. Scholarship applications can be printed out from the ICF website at: ICF.org and then mailed directly to the ICF Central Council office in Oakland (with the necessary transcript and applicant letter). Deadline is April 10th.

Or contact Joe Bonino or Jerry Colivas at jerry.colivas@yahoo.com to have an application for the Jerry J. Colivas Memorial Scholarship mailed to the student.

Our next meeting will be on March 10th in the St Bernard Parish Hall Pinochi Room at 1:30 p.m.

## DEADLINE

March 10th for the  
April issue of the

*Bollettino.*

Send your

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

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Our branch hosted a successful District Installation on February 1st and enjoyed bingo and cookies at our meeting on February 2nd. We are look forward to our Corned Beef dinner in the Brinker Room on March 2nd and the cornbread and chili before our meeting on April 13th in the Parish Life Center.

A reminder that if anyone wants to give a \$500.00 scholarship this year, they should get their check to Bob Acquistapace as soon as possible.

Our monthly Masses for ICF members living and deceased will be in the Cathedral at 8 a.m. on March 2nd, 9 a.m. on April 12th and 9 a.m. on May 3rd. Please try to attend at least one of these.

As we are now in the 2026 Lenten season, please say a daily prayer or Rosary for the members of our branch who are ill, in a care facility or need our prayers for their family.

*God bless you all! Robert Acquistapace*

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

Hello Everyone!

Greetings from Branch #209. As the new year begins, we have a few changes to our Branch to mention. On Sunday, February 1, 2026, the Santa Rosa Branch #198 hosted the 2026 Santa Rosa District Installations at St. Eugene's Cathedral Church. The following members were installed to lead our Branch #209 this 2026 year:

- Steve Stedman, President
- Melanie Lujan, 1st Vice President
- John Lujan, 2nd Vice President
- Yvonne Dorr, Recording Secretary
- Leona Spadoni, Financial Secretary
- Tami Marion, Treasurer
- David Armstrong, Orator
- Nancy Stedman, Trustee
- Roy Spadoni, Trustee
- Linda Perkins, Trustee
- Donovan Dorr, Trustee

It should also be noted that our outgoing Branch President Pam McAlvain is now the 2026 Santa Rosa District President, and our outgoing Treasurer, Lorraine Vannetti, is now the 2026 Santa Rosa District Orator! We are excited for this new year, and know our leaders will ensure a wonderful and successful year!!!

As of this writing, we are anticipating a fun February General Meeting where we will enjoy a Valentine's Day potluck. Our potlucks are always excellent!! Also, our Branch #209 is gearing up for our February 21, 2026 Chicken and Polenta dinner. This will kick off the first of our 2026 fundraising events and we anticipate a full house as everyone enjoys our delicious food and fun filled fellowship!!

*Wishing everyone a happy Valentine's Day!! Take care and be well.*

*Ciao,  
Yvonne Dorr, Recording President*

**FRESNO  
District**

**Merced**

**Br. 39, St. Cecilia**

Our branch kicked off the new year with our January General Meeting. We had a wonderful meal of Italian Sausage, peppers, polenta and salad prepared by our fabulous ICF Cooking Crew. The budget was discussed, and we are planning for a fabulous 2026.

Don't forget to pick up your biscotti on March 6, 2026. If you didn't get your order in this time, keep an eye out for our next biscotti fundraiser.

In March, we will be celebrating St. Joseph's Table. We would like members to bring pictures of deceased loved ones to our March meeting to honor them. Our next meeting will be held at the Italo Lodge on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 5 p.m. social hour, 5:30 p.m. mass with potluck dinner (vegetarian). Also, mark your calendars for the April dinner and meeting which will be held on April 8, 2026. *We look forward to seeing you all then!*

**Clovis**

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

Happy Birthday wishes to Argilia Christiansen, Kathy Christensen, Kitty Culleton, and Alice Reyes!

Our February attendance was the largest in years as we were joined by several new members. Our Branch continues to grow, and with that growth comes a new, energetic spirit. Our newest members are Rosendo Perez, Conrad Rios, and Frances Sias. A big welcome to you all!

Our meeting featured pizza, salad and another creative dessert provided by Melissa Squeo. Several members were overheard commenting that they were going on diets again, starting the next day.

Little-known Popes' Department; St. Gelasius I (the 49th Pope) 492-496: Although unpopular among the people of Rome, Gelasius was highly regarded by the clergy. In contemporary writings his personal virtues were praised more highly than any other pope of the time.

We voted on our annual donations and feel so fortunate that we are able to help a number of needy organizations in our community. Plans are now in progress for the next fund raiser that will allow us to maintain our donations program.

Philosopher Angelino says; "L'Occhio Del Padrone Ingrassa Il Cavallo": "The Eye Of The Owner Fattens The Horse".

Let's keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers as his Papacy faces tremendous

challenges, internally and externally. I understand he is coming to the USA soon. I imagine the first ever American born Pope will receive a tumultuous welcome!

Thought for the month:

*"The Father longs for us to pray for one another every day: His heart rejoices when we care enough to voice our love in prayer".*

*Ciao, Caterina Calzone*

**Bakersfield**

**Br. 281, Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help**

As we move into the Lenten season once again, we are reminded of the opportunities for spiritual growth as well as service to others. As ICF members we are challenged to not only to recruit new members but to be living examples what it means to be a Catholic. Being loving and letting God be the judge not ourselves allows us to be more Christlike in our service to others.

Our branch is once again having a pancake breakfast the end of February. A popular tradition in Branch 281 where we welcome families and form new friendships within our parish community.

On March 22nd, also St Joseph's Day, we will be having our Pasta dinner in the parish hall. A delicious meal that is highlighted by a sauce recipe past down for many generations.

Finally, Saturday June 6th Branch 281 will be hosting our annual Night at the Races. This has been a very popular tradition in our branch for many years that simulates being at the race track with all the excitement and anticipation as you cheer on the horse(s) that you bet on. We would LOVE any members of other branches to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For more information you can reach out to Allen Watts email: [allamerican4@pacbell.net](mailto:allamerican4@pacbell.net)

*We wish you and your families a blessed Lenten season as we reflect on the many sacrifices our Lord made for us.*  
*Theresa Amarante*

**Fresno  
Br. 308, St. Anthony**

Happy 2026!

Branch #308 ended 2025 with a Christmas pasta party at The Old Spaghetti Factory. We had 24 merry elves donate a gift for Valley Children Hospital. Thank you, Larry and Russell for being Santa for the day with the delivery.

January's meeting brought a changing of the presidential leadership. Jay Newsome reluctantly stepped down after 800 years of 24-hour service to allow a younger visionary Russell Renna to navigate this new era of technology. Prayers were offered to the absent officers Ed Girado, John Mulligan, Bernie Squeo {our chef}. Delicious Costco pizza was enjoyed by all.

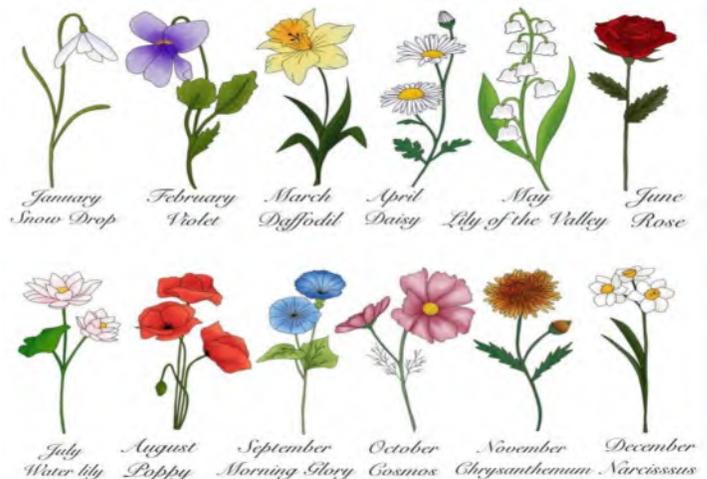
February's dinner will be a selection of Winco fried chicken, where we will discuss March 7 & 8th, 2026 sausage sandwich fundraiser at St Anthony of Padua church.

*Debbi Jorgensen*

**CENTRAL COAST  
District Council**

January 17, 2026 - Central Coast District Installation of 2026 Officers. Held at the beautiful Mission Santa Cruz. Branch 21 - Santa Cruz hosted a Pasta with meatball, salad, garlic bread, and cannoli. Congratulations to all our 2026 Branch/District officers.

On January 28, 2026 we held our very first business meeting by ZOOM.



## Monterey

### Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

*“During Lent let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.”*

-Pope Francis

January 21: We began the New Year with an Initiation Dinner Meeting. We initiated and welcomed 50 new members. A delicious dinner was served, and we had some great raffle and silent auction gifts. Congratulations to Phyllis Aiello for winning our attendance drawing, and welcoming new members!

February 12: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Thanking our hardworking Lent volunteers for all they do to make our events successful. Be sure to register by 2/8/26 for complimentary dinner.

Our 43rd annual Lenten Friday Fish/Pasta dinners at San Carlos Cathedral Hall begin on February 20 & continue every Friday on February 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

- Same pricing as last year for dinners: ICF members \$20; non-members \$25; children (10/under) \$10 (pasta only).

- Ticket sales online at [www.MontereyICF.org](http://www.MontereyICF.org) Reserve / Prepay online only - each Monday 12 noon through Thursday at 8pm each week during Lent. On Fridays, a limited number of dinner tickets will be sold at the door for anyone who didn't buy online - price goes up to \$25 for all, until sold out.

- Menu (pasta & fish change weekly): Pasta, fried fish, salad and garlic bread. Desserts, beverages, ICF merchandise, and 50/50 scholarship raffle tickets are available for purchase online and at the door.

- Cathedral Hall doors open for Lent Dinner at 4:30 p.m.; takeouts available 5-7 p.m.; dining room service 5:30-7 p.m. We hope to 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.

March 31, is the deadline for 2026 Scholarship Awards applications for graduating High School students, as well for San Carlos School 8th grader Achievement Award applications. Applications and guidelines can be found online: [www.MontereyICF.org](http://www.MontereyICF.org). Contact Sandie Russo, Scholarship Chair, for additional information (831-521-4866).

Save the Dates:

- Saturday 3/14/26: St Joseph's Celebration, San Carlos Cathedral, 11 a.m. Mass, light luncheon follows (St Joseph Society, Mary Manuguerra, 831-375-2009).

- Thursday 4/23/26: ICF #36 85 & Over Dinner Celebration (more info to come)

- Thursday 5/21/26: ICF #36 Scholarship & Achievement Awards Dinner (more info to come)

We are saddened to report that Annie Ferrante (former Br. 36 Financial Secretary), Johanna Ferrante, Josephine Mercurio, Annamaria Della Sala Stanton (Br. 36 Board Member) and Frances Verwold passed away in January. We will miss each one of them.

Our condolences to their families and

may they Rest in Peace.

*When you pray, God listens!*  
*Elaine Valentine, Co-President*

## Castroville

### Br. 51, Santa Caterina de Siena

Branch #51 continues to stay active and committed to faith, fellowship, and service within our community. We thank all our members for their continued support and participation.

We hope everyone had a wonderful and joyful holiday season spent with family and loved ones.

We are pleased to announce that our annual Polenta Scholarship Fundraiser will be held in February, with the date to be determined. This fundraiser supports our scholarship efforts and helps us give back to our local youth. More details will be shared as they become available.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and meetings. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

*Grazie a tutti per il vostro continuo supporto.*  
*Kevin Cortopassi*

## Aptos

### Br. 227, St. Joseph

The February meeting featured pepperoni pizza and make-your-own salads, followed by homemade Valentine decorated cupcakes and cookies. Jane Kotila conducted the raffle and asked Irene Cortez to draw the winning tickets. Members got a good laugh when Irene kept drawing her daughter Janice's number. Thanks to all of you who brought raffle prizes.

At the meeting, members voted to grant donations of \$250 each to the following recipients:

- Jesus Mary and Joseph Home
- St. Francis Soup Kitchen
- Sienna House
- Aptos Resurrection Church Building Fund
- St. Vincent DePaul at St. Joseph's Church

January marked the 58th year anniversary of our branch.

We mourn the loss of Elsa Cardenas who passed away in January at the age of 96. Elsa joined Branch 227 in 2008 and faithfully attended meetings until her health prevented her from doing so. There was a nice turnout of branch members to conduct our traditional rose ceremony at her funeral on February 6 at Aptos Resurrection Church.

Please offer your prayers for Nancy Prevedelli's successful recovery from her recent hip surgery.

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m. at the Mid-County Senior Center. Join us for corned beef and cabbage.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day*  
*Deanna Musler, Secretary*

## Arroyo Grande

### Br. 291, St. Patrick

Our Lenten Fish Frys are underway and so far, we've had a great turnout! There are still three more Fish Frys on March 6th, 20th and 27th. We will not have a Fish Fry on March 13th due to the big St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance at our church the following day.

On March 1st, we will be hosting Officer Installation for our Branch and the Paso Robles Branch. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a nice lunch for our newly installed officers.

At our January meeting we welcomed four new members. We'd like to welcome Nancy Miodus, Lisa Walker, Sharon Ellis and Elizabeth O'Donnell to Branch 291! They've already jumped in and some have helped at the Fish Frys!

We recently paid the registration fees for our qualified members who have students attending local Catholic schools. Our Registration Assistance Program is going strong and we have several new families who are excited to join the ICF so they can participate in this program.

Our Branch recently lost an amazing woman and longtime member, Throck Scudder. Throck served on our Board for several years and was active in our Fish Fry fundraiser. She was the tartar sauce queen and had great precision filling thousands of the little cups. At least we're at peace knowing that Throck is no longer suffering and has joined her husband, Jim, in heaven. Please keep Throck's family in your prayers during this difficult time.

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

## Paso Robles

### Br. 354, Saint Rose of Lima

Spring has sprung—almost—and Branch 354 is busy getting ready for another “almost famous” pasta dinner to be held Saturday, April 18. Our St. Rose Parish Hall will be turned into an inviting Italian bistro ready to welcome parishioners and community members to an evening of fine dining, complete with wine and desserts. Take-out dinners will be ready at 4:30, with dine-in dinners served from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. A raffle of wonderful prizes will follow. All proceeds will benefit scholarships for St. Rose Catholic School, local High Schools and Colleges.

In further support of Catholic education our branch has donated 10 children's bibles, titled *The Story of all Stories*: a story bible for young Catholics, to St. Rose School, grades kindergarten through eighth. Now each teacher will have a bible to inspire their young learners with familiarity and consistency through the grades.

Our Registration Assistance Program continues to pay registration fees for members' children attending both St.

Rose and Mission College Prep Catholic schools. President Zanini commented that registration fees continue to increase each year. And, because of a successful parking lot fundraiser from the Mid-State Fair this year, 2026 – 2027 registration funds are available. A BIG THANK YOU to those volunteers who participated to make this worthy endeavor possible.

Another BIG THANK YOU to our creative and giving ladies who recently made 95 Christmas ornaments and 97 Valentine hearts for the patients at Vineyard Hills Health Center.

*Yvonne Maddalena*  
*Recording Secretary*

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY

### District Council

The Santa Clara Valley District February meeting was held at Santa Teresa parish and hosted by Branch 408, Resurrection Sunnyvale.

A district calendar was recently submitted for 2026. The district members look forward to a productive year including: the annual summer BBQ picnic, the IAHF Festa, Convention, Bishop's Day, and the District Christmas party, and Installation 2024. Stay tuned for other district events that may be coming this year.

A district 2026 budget was also presented and voted at the March meeting.

All branches please remember to donate to the ICF first year scholarship program by the deadline April 10th and the amount of the award is increased to \$500. It would be good for our district to show 100% participation of branches.

We hope all ICF members enjoy a safe and blessed St. Patrick's feast day and St. Joseph's feast day.

*The Santa Clara Valley District wishes all ICF members and their families a Blessed Lenten season and a Happy Easter!*  
*Michael Rossi*



# LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



2026 Los Angeles Archdiocese District Officers' Installation



2026 Los Angeles Archdiocese District Officers



Certificate of Appreciation to Perry Shurko



Br. 380, Anne Interrante at Sing Along and DIY Craft Event



Br. 380, Enjoyed listening to Trumpeter, Jerry O'Connor



Br. 380, Sing Along and DIY Craft Event

# LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 179, Marianne Nicosia lead the play



Br. 179, The Pooleys and Joe Sabbagh mark their cards.



Br. 179, The Teresas and Brennans try to win,

**Tombola (game)**

Tombola (/tɒm 'boʊlə/ tom-BOH-lə) is a traditional game played throughout Italy. Neapolitan tombola—today's most popular version—is thought to have originated in 1734 following the new king's decision to tax winnings of the similar game *Lotto*, then widely-played throughout Naples.<sup>[1]</sup> Today, tombola is mostly played during Christmas and New Year's Eve, but may also be played during family gatherings such as birthday parties.<sup>[2]</sup> It is similar to the British version of bingo, but generally less formal,<sup>[2]</sup> with prizes often being only symbolic or low cash pots. The player will purchase cards based on the following numbers:

LOTTO TICKET 55				
4	21	47	61	87
13	27	52	70	90
4	16	39	54	75

**By region**

**Italy**

Tombola is a traditional game played throughout Italy. Neapolitan tombola—today's most popular version—is thought to have originated in 1734 following the new king's decision to tax winnings of the similar game *Lotto*, then widely-played throughout Naples.<sup>[1]</sup> Today, tombola is mostly played during Christmas and New Year's Eve, but may also be played during family gatherings such as birthday parties.<sup>[2]</sup> It is similar to the British version of bingo, but generally less formal,<sup>[2]</sup> with prizes often being only symbolic or low cash pots. The player will purchase cards based on the following numbers:



Br. 179, Tombola



1/4/2026 - ICF Branch 108 General Lunch Meeting in South Pasadena



St Peter's Italian Catholic Church, Los Angeles, CA



1/18/2026 - ICF Branches 67 and 108 members celebrate at 2026 ICF Officers' Installation in Manhattan Beach.

# LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



ICF Branch 218 at Holy Angels in Arcadia celebrates Catholic school week by serving coffee and donuts for the parish.



Branch 218 at Holy Angels in Arcadia celebrates New Years eve with a rockin dinner and dance for the parish. Fun times!



Branch #115 President Neal Di Leva and wife 2nd Vice President at the LA District officer's installation .



Branch #115- San Pedro 2026 officers LA District installation



Branch#115-San Pedro 2026 LA District officers installation



Branch #115 San Pedro attending the LA District 2026 officers installation at American Martyrs Church in Huntington Beach

# LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



ICF 111 Montebello-2026 Officers Installation



ICF 111 Montebello-2026 Officers Installation



ICF 111 - Happy Birthday to Kathleen & Frank



ICF 111 - January Meeting.

# SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 47, President Natalie Canata and Principal Sandra Romero from St. Joseph School.1



SCVD District 2026 Installation: Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and CC Life Member Mike Rossi



Br. 445 Members Jose and Verence Palma share their Homemade Tamales



Br. 445 End of January Buffet Line!



Br. 445 January Birthday Members surround Mentor Jim Jones to Celebrate his 90th Birthday.



Br. 445 Officers following SCVD Installation Mass.

# SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 368 Chili Cook Off Team



Br. 368, Fr. Edger, Cathy O. and Rene Schlice



Br. 368, Carol Provenzano, Cathy Orlowski, 4 Fire Personnel judge Chili Cookoff.



Br. 368 Installation of Officers 2026



February Birthday Members of Branch 435 Toni Foggiato, Andy Mattioda, and Helga Brooks ready to enjoy a special Cake. Helga reached a remarkably healthy 98 years!



Br. 435, Father Nguyen lead us in a solemn prayer of thanksgiving.



President Guila Gallego welcomes Shiela Walters as a new Br. 435 Trustee for 2026.



Branch 391 Louise Vento's shares the "History of the Apron and its uses."



Branch 391 Louise Vento's Heritage Report with Marcie Rossi

# SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 28 Gilroy, Marianne & Dave Peoples, and Diana Berry.



Br. 28 family members Richard Codiga, Pat & Louie Cordich, Michael Codiga



Br. 28 Jeanette Hudson, outgoing *Bollettino* contributor.



Br. 28 Janice DeCosta, gives her Heritage report.



Br. 184, Enjoying lunch following the Installation are: Left to Right Rita Bonasera, Marie Yurosko and Richard Amico. Facing them are Fr. Greg Kimm and Virginia Giacomini.



Br. 191, PGP Jim Jones and Shirley Catania



A rainbow graced the Church of the Resurrection in Sunnyvale at the Installation of Officers on January 3, 2026.

**DEADLINE**

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

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

**Gilroy****Br. 28, Santa Maria  
Ausiliatrice**

Buon Giorno!

Our members came together in January, enjoying fellowship and a delicious soup and salad dinner prepared by Diana Berry, and Dave and Marianne Peoples. They have done this for many years, and this year they spoiled us with 5 choices of soup – Minestrone, Clam Chowder, Tomato Bisque, Chicken Noodle, and Ham, Corn, and Potato Chowder! Absolutely delicious and enough for everyone to try each variety.

President Kim Filice recognized and thanked Diana, Marianne and Dave at the start of our meeting. She also recognized and thanked Jeanette Hudson for her contribution of writing Branch 28 *Bollettino* articles for the last two years and Nancy Sanchez-Clark for her service as Trustee in 2025. It is service and dedication like this, that makes ICF so great.

Andy Pappani, Br. 28 Mentor/Past Grand President of ICF addressed the 2026 First Year Scholarships.

Each year the Italian Catholic Federation awards approximately 130 scholarships in the amount of \$500 to high school seniors. First year scholarship winners are then eligible for second, third, and fourth year awards of \$600, \$700, and \$1,000 respectively. Applications for 2026 first year scholarships can be found and submitted at ICF.org and are currently being accepted through April 10, 2026.

Monday, March 16, 2026, is our St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Old City Hall. The calling committee will reach out to members with additional information.

*Wishing you all peace and spiritual growth during this Lenten season,  
Christine Filice*

**Mountain View  
Br. 47, San Giorgio**

Felice Marzo Happy March!

We here at Branch #47 are ready to go. We are looking forward to celebrating St. Joseph's Day and taking a group trip to the Monterey Branch for their Lenten Fish Fry. We'll be fasting, praying, and almsgiving to strengthen our faith this Lenten Season.

Branch President, Natalie Canata presented Sandra Romero, Principal at St. Joseph School a Check for \$846.35 that we raised from our Raffle Basket sales in October. We will have our next Pasta Grab N Go, 50/50 Raffle and Raffle Baskets in May. Wishing you all a Happy Lenten Season!

*Peace and God Bless,  
Ciao, Julie Wester*

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

The meeting date and time has been changed. We will meet on the 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. To start this new date, we will host a potluck on Feb. 12. We hope this time is convenient to members. Please attend, sample some food, and bring suggestions of what you might like to see at meetings. Mark your calendars for the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Denise Antonowicz presented a most interesting Heritage Report. Her Great Uncle, Ignacy Antonowicz, was born in Poland in 1890. He was ordained a Priest in Rome in 1916 and served as a Military Chaplain in the Polish Army. After 25 years of priesthood, he was taken to a concentration camp and killed by Nazis in 1941. He was 51 years old. Recently Pope Leo approved beatification of eleven "Martyr Priests" killed in Europe, putting them close to Sainthood. On June 6, 2026 he will be beatified in Krakow, Poland. The Antonowicz sisters hope to be there for that honorable event.

We have an early start to Lent this year, Ash Wednesday is February 18. Then March brings us St. Patrick's Day on March 17 and St. Joseph's Day on March 19. It's good to observe the honor of both Saints.

Are your gardens ready? March 20 is the first day of Spring! Happy Planting!

*Ciao for now,  
Lucy Amico*

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

Hello everyone!

As we begin our Lenten Season, we are reminded how important it is to help our neighbors and friends. A small gesture

of a smile or a knock on the door to check on a sick friend. These small gestures may give that person the spark needed to have an enjoyable day.

At Branch 191, we are preparing for Wednesday Soup Night to begin. Our Branch will host Soup Night on March 11, 2026, with homemade Minestrone and Chicken Vegetable Soups. If you are available or are in the neighborhood and would like to have a bowl of delicious soup, stop by and join us. We start serving soup at 6:00 p.m.

At our first General Meeting, we celebrated PGP Jim Jones 90th Birthday with a beautiful Mickey Mouse cake. Everyone in the hall sang Happy Birthday to Jim and wished him many more wonderful years ahead. We were also joined by Grand President Franklin Lopes, Jr. and PGP Denise Antonowicz. It really was a delightful day and a great way to start off the new year.

Our fundraisers and other activities are in the planning stages and will be announced soon. Watch for more information in the *Bollettino*!

*Happy Valentine's Day everyone!  
Sharon Logan*

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

Please pray for our members with health problems. Janet Glaubke, Lorraine Nunziata, Ron Sanchez, Bill Rice, Louie Cordish, John Gillio. We are still looking for a Dining for Dollars chairperson. See Robin Hayr for information. Dues are due, talk to Tina Souza-Dutra, our Treasurer. The Crab Dinner is March 7th, the Polenta Dinner, March 21st and the Rib Dinner on Sept. 12, 2026. Sharon Kroeber, our heritage person, has requested stories about our Italian family's history for a scrapbook. Sharon needs, dates, names and family stories. The following is information about ICF the Chili Cook Off written by Carol Provenzano. On January 31, Branch 368 held a Western themed Chili Cook Off. Nine chefs presented their chilis for tasting and firefighters from neighboring Fire Station 12 acted as judges to find the best chili. Guests also voted for their favorite chili, and trophies were awarded for each winner. Along with bowls of chili, guests could purchase hot dogs and cornbread. The parish hall was turned into a Western activity center with a Kiddie Korral play area for kids, the Watering Hole bar and a Chuck Wagon kitchen, along with the stations of chilis. Yippee! Thank you, Carol and Cathie Orlowski and your team for this great fun raiser. I have received a lot of pictures over the month, but only 3 or 4 are allowed to be printed in the *Bollettino*. If you can, print your pictures and bring to our next meeting to share, that would be great.

Have a wonderful month, and happy Valentine's Day.

May God bless you and your families.

*Tom Myers*

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

In February, it was Tony and Alba's Minestrone Soup and Salad night!

Rose Marie Clarke reminded us that first-year scholarship applications are available on-line at ICF.org and that the deadline for applications is April 10, 2026.

Steve Lencioni thanked Tina Rossi and members for the sale of all ICF 2026 calendars and reminded us that the deadline for membership dues is March 15, 2026.

Louise Vento provided a humorous take on the "History of the Apron" and the variety of its uses in the Italian household. Assisted by Marcie Rossi in her narrative, Louise acted out on how the apron served its many purposes--from bringing "fruit from the trees to the table" to "dusting furniture at the last minute!" As Marcie stated, "People caught the love" from the use of the apron!

Steve reminded us of our April 25 Multicultural Celebration Fundraiser and asked for Silent Auction ideas and volunteers in helping to make this another successful event.

Laurice Levine, our guest speaker at our upcoming April meeting, will talk about Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia). Her inspirational presentations have always been appreciated when she comes to visit.

Laura Hole closed the meeting with insightful thought and prayer.

Reminder:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.; ICF's Stations of the Cross—March 6, 2026; St. Martin's Parish Community Faith Night—March 25, 2026; Multicultural Celebration Fundraiser—April 25, 2026; Quarterly Communion—March 8, June 7, September 6, and December 6, 2026—all at 10:00 mass.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day!  
Janis Patellaro*



**Sunnyvale**

**Br. 408, Resurrection**

Lenten Blessings to you all!

ICF will be hosted the First Lenten Soup on the first Friday of Lent 20 February 2026. It was big success as usual.

Our next ICF/Parish Blood Drive will be Sunday 8 March 2026 in the Farana Center Hall. Please Pray for a Good Turnout of Donors.

The Bishop's Office has rescheduled the 11:30 a.m. Mass @ Church of the Resurrection on Sunday 11 Oct 2026 October for the SCVD Bishop's Day followed by a Luncheon at 3 Flames Restaurant on Meriden in San Jose

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

Blessings to All for the New Year!

May God Bless our newly Installed 2026 Branch Officers and Guide in our Work this Coming Year!

Thanks to all who helped Host the Santa Clara Valley District (SCVD) Installation Mass and dinner. We had a rainy day full of Rainbows and Good Fellowship. The Event was a decided Success thanks to all the hard work of our Branch Members.

ICF will be hosting the First Lenten Soup on the first Friday of Lent -20 February 2026.

Our next ICF/Parish Blood Drive will be in March 2026.

The Bishop's Office has scheduled the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday 4 October for the SCVD Bishop's Day followed by a Luncheon at a Restaurant (likely 3 Flames on Meriden in San Jose)

Please Pray for our ICF Members and Friends: Donna Ogden's son, Fr Chris Bennett, Donna Richey, Patricia Look and Laurice Levine.

**Morgan Hill**

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

The Branch 435 meeting for January 20, 2026 opened with a dinner menu of honey baked ham, sweet potato casserole, cauliflower soup and cake. The cauliflower soup prepared by our President Guila Gallego who picked the cauliflower from her cousin's farm was especially delicious. Father Nguyen joined us for dinner and led us in prayer before and after the meal. He enjoyed the food so much that he gladly accepted leftovers for the rectory to be enjoyed by all the parish priests. We also all sang happy birthday to Toni Foggiato, Andy Mattioda, and Helga Brooks who turned 98. During the formal meeting we thanked Helga Brooks and John Zaucha for their years of service as Trustees and welcomed Shiela Walters who stepped up as a Trustee for 2026. We also reviewed letters of thanks for donations from St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Ladies of Charity.

For the Branch Christmas Party Pastor Fr. Menchaca also thanked us for his dinner at the Long House Restaurant and gift of a Poinsettia.

This coming month we will be sending in our \$500 scholarship for first year high school students and calendar ticket sales proceeds.

**San Jose**

**Br. 445, Transfiguration**

We look forward to our upcoming Annual events: St. Joseph's Table, Easter Sees' Candy Fundraiser, May Crowning and Mother's Day Cookie Sale Fundraiser. We will also be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Br. 445 in June (more info to follow)!

Branch officers started the year attending the Santa Clara Valley District Installation Mass at the Church of the Resurrection in Sunnyvale followed by the Installation Luncheon.

On the first full weekend of each month, Br. 445 continues to host snacks for parishioners after the Saturday evening mass and donuts after the Sunday morning mass. Everyone always enjoys them!!

ICF Br. 445 members continue their rotations each week helping to make 105 Sack Lunches for the needy in our community via the parish Contemplatives in Action Ministry.

Branch 445 welcomes five new members: Jose Palma, Maria Lo Iacono who transferred from Br. 21 in Santa Cruz,

Pam Rohrkemper, Joani Yvanovich and Mark Yvanovich (parishioners and neighbors of Maria)!!

We are so happy to have them join our Branch 445 Family!

Members enjoyed pizza and salads at our January meeting. Dessert was a special chocolate cake to celebrate Branch Mentor Jim Jones' 90th birthday! Other members with January birthdays gathered alongside Jim as everyone sang "Happy Birthday"!

The January Heritage report featured the "History /Origins of Pasta" by Jan. This was preceded with a fun pasta naming game created by Br. 445 President Jim Falcone.

Sending Happy March Birthday wishes to our new member and friend Pam Rohrkemper!!

May we all experience the Blessings of the Lenten season.

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



**STOCKTON District**

**Modesto**

**Br. 48, St. Stanislaus**

Thanks to all who helped with the Stockton District's Installation. Even though it rained and prevented some of our members from being able to come to the Installation we had a good turnout. Thank you to the branches for supplying the appetizers and Denise Antonowicz for being our Master of Ceremonies. As always thanks to Annette Martin for the great luncheon.

If you know of anyone that would like to apply for one of the Italian Catholic Federation scholarships let them know that April 1, 2026 is the deadline to apply.

Thanks to all who have paid their membership dues.

We will have our St. Joseph's Table Celebration on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. It is a Potluck luncheon and Raffle. Bring your favorite dish and your family and friends. We have a fun raffle with the gifts wrapped so you are guessing at what you will get. The proceeds are donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

Coming up:

Wed Mar 11 - 6:00 p.m. Meeting - 709 J Street Church Hall

Sun Mar 15- 2:00 p.m. - St. Joseph's Table Potluck - 709 J Street Church Hall

Wed Apr 8 - 6:00 p.m. - Meeting 709 J Street Hall

May 16-17 Bake Sale after the masses

*We wish everyone a Blessed Easter.  
Cecelia McGhee*



**Lodi**

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

I hope everyone enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics in Italy from home. Member Grace Puccinelli's family still resides in Bormio, where they held the men's downhill ski event. Photos show her cousin's (Battista Rocca and Caterina Cancilmi) hotel in the foreground. It is exciting to have family there!

Member Angelina Fugazi, daughter of Lou and Lisa Fugazi, has an exciting opportunity. She attends UC Irvine and will participate in a mission trip with FOCUS to Peru during spring break, they will be building a church. We look forward to hearing about her experience upon her return. If you wish to support her mission, you can donate via donor form.

Our meetings now occur on the second Tuesday of each month to better plan events early and avoid last-minute preparations. The first new meeting coincided with Deacon Karl's birthday, which we celebrated with cupcakes and lots of good wishes!

Deacon Karl will host Friday Stations of the Cross during Lent. This prayerful practice allows participants to walk alongside Jesus and deepen their faith. In Italy, some Catholics pray at station churches, which change daily. The tradition, revived by Pope Leo XIII and fully restored by Pope John XXIII in 1959, originated in the fourth century. Are you participating in this devotion at your local parish during Lent?

We are looking forward to decorating Hope Harbor for Easter and are in the early planning stages for our ravioli dinner on May 2nd.

*Ciao!  
Elizabeth Calloni Holladay  
Corresponding Secretary*

## Manteca

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

Our first meeting of the 2026 year was held on Tuesday, January 27th, at the home of Birdie Nieri. Newly-elected President, Ron Agostini, led us in an opening prayer and conducted the meeting. All Branch Officers were in attendance, along with Central Council Representative Dante Galeazzi and other Members as well as a representative from the Knights of Columbus, another group at St. Anthony's. The usual business was conducted including reading and approval of the Minutes from the November 2025 meeting and balances provided in our Checking Accounts as of January 1. As always, Members are encouraged to read the *Bollettino*. Treasurer Michelle Harmon shared that, as of the date of our meeting, 9 out of 18 households had paid their 2026 Membership Dues.

The main topic of discussion this evening was future fundraisers. Ron Agostini shared several ideas he had and indicated he is working on obtaining further information on these before presenting specific information to our members. A representative from the Knights of Columbus, Jimmy, and Ron had already spoken and our Branch will assist with three of the Fish Frys that the Knights hold during Lent. Dates are February 27, March 13, and March 27. Events are to be held in St. Anthony's Cafeteria from 4-7 p.m. Sit down and take out are available.

Dante Galeazzi reminded everyone about the Fish Frys in Monterey during Lent. Always a very popular event.

President Agostini acknowledged that 4 of our members – Birdie Nieri, Ida Queirolo, Michelle Harmon, and himself attended the Installation of Officers that was held on January 4th at St. Stanislaus in Modesto. Another member of Branch 139, Central Council Representative, Dante Galeazzi, also attended.

President Agostini suggested that, as part of the Good of the Order this year, members mention ones who are in need of our prayers. Excellent idea and a few members expressed the need for prayers for loved ones.

Our next meeting will be on February 24th in St. Anthony's Cafeteria. Light refreshments will be provided.

*Bye for now,  
Michela*

## Tracy

### Br. 390, St. Bernard

Oh, My Goodness! Our January dinner was held on January 22 and lo and behold a record-breaking 265 folks made reservations, driving our devoted volunteers into overdrive to set up and set tables and find enough chairs! Chef Mike and many cooks prepared the

always favorite polenta and chicken cacciatore. Those of us who have made polenta know that you need strong arms and hands to constantly stir the pot, but an octopus would have been exhausted after this ordeal! Congratulations to everyone and rave reviews for the best-tasting cacciatore ever!

Next up after we take a little nap is the Sunday, February 15th Stockton District meeting in Tracy which we will be hosting. Again, we will be serving a full luncheon and desserts. Probably another short nap just before our monthly dinner meeting on Thursday, February 26th serving up Country Short Ribs and Mike's special secret recipe beans and all the trimmings. Exercise class anyone?

The board has voted to join the Central Council decision to increase the first-year scholarship award to \$500 beginning this year. Applications are due by March 15. More good news: we are processing new membership applications received since before January.

Our condolences and prayers go out to the families of Marvin Barth and Ray McDonald who passed away recently.

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)

*Pray we all stay healthy, happy & safe,  
Betty Hollars*

## Stockton

### Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

It's been a busy start to the year. Installation of our new officers, scheduling our annual Italian Mass, locking in our Bishops Burse date, getting a Bake Sale on the church calendar and hosting a soup supper this month. However, the biggest undertaking was our annual Polenta dinner fundraiser on February 12th. It was a SOLD OUT event! What an incredible night and best of all the proceeds go to our local Seminarian fund. It is hard to believe that cornmeal mush that originated in Northern Italy as peasant food would draw such a crowd. Mille grazie to our chair Jo Weber and her committee for taking on this fundraiser and making it such a successful event.

Pray, hope and don't worry. Anxiety doesn't help at all. Our Merciful Lord will listen to your prayer. Padre Pio

*Alla prossima,  
Mary Ann*



## Angels Camp

### Br. 413, St. Patrick

Greetings from the Gold Country.

By the time that you read this, St. Valentine's Day will be over as well as our Valentine's dinner at the parish. We are working hard to bring in new members. Father John Peter, our Pastor, is surveying the parishioners to ensure that they are aware of the various ministries and encouraging them to join. We hope this effort will help us welcome new members.

Lent is now upon us. Our branch will be hosting the first soup supper for parishioners attending the Stations of Cross. We will be serving minestrone soup. We pray that this Lent will be a time of profound conversion for all, drawing Christ more deeply in our hearts.

*Ciao,  
Robert Pachinger  
Branch President*

## SAN DIEGO District

### San Diego

#### Br. 246, St. Vincent De Paul

Our first annual Spaghetti Dinner, held on January 24th, was dedicated to one of our cherished members, Bella Virgilio. Together, we celebrate community, culture, and tradition. Bella's love for this organization, her commitment to preserving our traditions, and her vision of bringing people together through a spaghetti dinner inspired what we celebrated. Her vision became a reality this evening, and her legacy lives on through this gathering. Our chairs, Elena Piranio and Chrissy Correia, put on a great event. We want to thank all the members who donated their time and helped out wherever needed. Special thanks to Steve Walter, who single-handedly made 800 delicious meatballs, to our Kitchen crew who worked tirelessly, boiling pasta at the crack of dawn and prepping the sauce and meatballs, and to all sponsors who donated so generously to make this event happen: Sal and Deseray Mocerri – Mocerri Produce, Franks Bakery (Gibaldi's Italian Bread), Phil's BBQ, Danny Mocerri, Coronado Brewing, Ghareeb and Zolezzi – Wine, Kristen Albert-Rancho Coyote Wine, and Steve Walter – Meatball Artisan. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

We also welcomed new members this month, Stacey Crivello and her family. We are currently planning our weekly Lenten Fish Fry, which starts on February 20th, and the feast of St Joseph's Table, which will be held on March 20th.

*Ciao - Margherita Cianflone*

## San Diego

### Br. 449, Guardian Angels

Branch 449 hit the ground running in 2026 by providing snacks after Masses on January 4 and February 1, along with selling personal spiritual and sentiment greeting cards which are hand-made by Annelvira Uberti. See photo with district pictures

Congratulations to members Mr. & Mrs. Alex Palomar. Gracie (Jaworski) & Alex Palomar wed on Tuesday, February 3rd. Please pray for them as they begin their lives together in Christ as husband and wife.

Save the date for the Guardian Angels Parish Luau to be held on Saturday, April 25.

Enjoy an evening filled with ministry performances and an array of delicious Hawaiian dishes. Indulge in succulent Kalua Pork, mouthwatering Huli Huli Chicken, and a selection of delightful sides and sweets. Complement your meal with a choice of no host beer and wine. Secure your spot now for an evening of celebration and community. For tickets & info., please visit the square link: <https://square.link/u/diwOvfiZT>

## ORANGE District

### Huntington Beach

#### Br. 379, St. Bonaventure

Branch #379 Huntington Beach, celebrated our Christmas at Los Alamitos Race Track. One of our members, Louie Cacioppo, is a former jockey. He & his wife Sylvia hosted it. One race was named ICF. This was our second annual event here. In attendance were members: Lou & Sylvia Cacioppo, Connie & Robert Meinke, Donna Meade & Michael Geraci, Maria & Mark Condon, Frank & Angie Mastroni, Viva Palumbo, Greg Geraci & Michele Westfall, Maria Di Paolo and Karen Kocvara.

Now we are focused on Spring events. On March 15th, we will have our annual ST. Joseph's Table with meatball & sausage sandwiches & cannoli.

**DEADLINE**  
**March 10th for**  
**the April**  
**issue of the**  
***Bollettino*.**  
**Send your**  
**articles & photos:**  
**[editor@icf.org](mailto:editor@icf.org)**

**SAN BERNARDINO  
District**

**Fontana**

**Br. 210, St. Joseph**

Our Branch came together at our January meeting and shared Christmas stories. It's always wonderful to be with our "other family," our Branch. We discussed ways to bring more revenue to our treasury and came up with a plan that we will try out after Easter. All members were on board, and we will share more after our March meeting. Our Heritage Report was on the Origins of our Modern Santa Claus, an article written by Father Greg Elder, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Palm Desert, CA. This presentation hit home for a couple of reasons; 1) According to Fr. Elder, the actual man whom our modern Santa is based on is St. Nicholas of Myra, and we attend our meetings in the hall at St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Church in Fontana. 2) We have a certified, real bearded Santa in our Branch, Santa Paul H Behrens, who enjoys bringing joy to many children and their parents! Santa Paul has been the Santa for the posadas held at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Redlands for the past 5 years and for our Fontana Knights of Columbus as well. He is always willing to put on his Santa suit for any organization that asks him.

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

**Redlands**

**Br. 217, Sacred Heart**

Our Branch meeting was full of work and lots of fun as well. As always, we look forward to seeing each other and catch up before and after the business portion of the meeting. We enjoyed a delightful breakfast provided by our members. We covered our agenda items, but what we concentrated on the most was our Parish's Multicultural Mass where our Branch would be representing Italy. Many of our members attended a beautiful Mass together celebrated by our Rector, Father Erik Esparza and our two Parochial Vicars, Fr. Ismael and Fr. Thomas. The Mass incorporated the many different cultures that are found among the members of our host Parish, The Holy Name of Jesus. The readings and the Prayers of the Faithful were proclaimed in many different languages including Italian and American Sign. The Gospel was chanted in Latin and the choir was led by our own Barbara Keough, who is the music director for HNOJ. After the Mass we went to the hall and had food provided by many different groups. Many in attendance wore clothing native to their culture. We had Mexican, American Indian, French, and German to name a few, and of course, our Branch provided Italian; helping serve was our President, Paul Emerick who wore his toga! Many cultures, one people. Our Parish's theme this year is "In Christ, we are one, En Cristo, somos uno!" and this wonderful evening really lived this message.

*Blessings to all, Annie McCarthy VP,  
Branch 217*

**Upland**

**Br. 446, Saint Anthony**

Our branch has been planning events for our new season of fundraisers and activities. Our calendar for 2026 is filling up fast! Our first fundraiser was in February through a local Italian restaurant. Our wonderful members passed out flyers after all the Masses to advertise the fundraiser. We were overwhelmed by the support from our parishioners. A previous event last year netted us \$800! We are excited to host our District installation and are honored that Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. will be attending. We look forward to an inspiring Mass by our district chaplain Fr. Jerry Ochetti. After the installation with our sister branches 210 and 217, we will enjoy a delicious catered luncheon. A highlight of the afternoon will be Raffle baskets designed by Nan Judge and Italian music presented by pianist Nico Impasto. In March, we will present the Stations of the Cross during Lent and then gear up for our St. Joseph's Table. Many more activities and events are planned, such as our annual cannoli sales, ice cream social and field trips. But of course, nothing happens without the continued support from our cherished members. We are family and friends!



**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>

**St. Patrick's Day, March 17**



**St Patrick Prayer!**

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,  
the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me.  
May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,  
the word of God speak for me.  
May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before me,  
the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me.  
May Christ shield me today.  
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen

**Saint Patrick pray for us!**

## ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION CONVENTION AWARD CATEGORIES

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

### POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII AWARD

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

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

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

### SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD

### GRAND PRESIDENT'S AWARD

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

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

### FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

### YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

The new deadline for submissions is April 1.



## ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION AWARD NOMINATION



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

Award:

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations must be postmarked on or before April 1.

Please include with this application:

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

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

Statement of Endorsement:

#### Qualifications Summary:

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

Applications must be postmarked by: April 1 – Submit to: Italian Catholic Federation  
 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, California 94621  
 (888) ICF-1924 Website: www.icf.org Email: info@icf.org

## Italian Traditions During Lent

During the sacred season of Lent, Italy embraces traditions that invite the faithful into deeper prayer, sacrifice, and reflection. Rooted in centuries of Catholic devotion, these customs gently guide hearts toward renewal as the Church journeys toward Easter.

**Lenten Fasting:** Throughout the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, many Italians practice fasting or give up small luxuries such as sweets and chocolate. These sacrifices are offered as acts of love and discipline, helping believers reflect on Christ's suffering and grow in solidarity with the poor and those in need.

**The Old Woman of Lent:** In Naples and the Campania region, a figure known as the Old Woman of Lent is displayed on Ash Wednesday. As Carnival's joy fades, this symbol reminds the faithful that Lent is a time to turn inward, to repent, and to prepare spiritually for the Resurrection.

**The Cleansing Ritual in Puglia:** Passing the cheese grater over a flame on Ash Wednesday symbolizes purification of the soul. Just as the tool is cleansed for simple Lenten meals, so too are hearts invited to be cleansed through prayer, repentance, and humility.

**Corajisima in Calabria:** The figure of Corajisima serves as a reminder of abstinence and self-control. Though simple in appearance, she represents the strength found in sacrifice and the discipline that leads to spiritual growth.

**Quarantana in Martina Franca:** A Lenten figure is hung with symbolic markers, one removed each Sunday as Easter draws nearer. This steady countdown becomes a visible reminder that each week of Lent brings us closer to the hope and joy of Christ's Resurrection.

These traditions reflect not only Italy's cultural heritage but also a profound devotion to the spiritual meaning of Lent—a season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and hopeful anticipation. Through these humble practices, the faithful are invited to renew their hearts and prepare to celebrate the victory of Easter with deeper gratitude and joy.

# St. Patrick's Day Word Search

J S Q W J H G L W I I N X H W V F  
 L L T E G O T T R R E U X Z T A I  
 E I V K V L R J P E T W V V I D N  
 P J G I B I A L R O P A D Z L X H  
 R P X L T D I G M A R C H O Z N P  
 E A A T F A N K Q D T X G T G C C  
 C R B O G Y B V J K Q F E N D M R  
 H A F E I B O W C L O V E R A L H  
 A D A J Y D W O H T V E C P B I J  
 U E M O X S R N O H R M K Z T H K  
 N G G P C M S P C G Z Z M C S P G  
 B L U T A R I N L H K W N C S F Q  
 A M J H Q N I G V J R G O Q E P H  
 J V S P J P R U V Y U L K F J S A  
 T I O T A F I R I S H N P T N Z J  
 B S R R P R K K S G X L U C K I T  
 I Y E G Q S A N D K Q D U G O M N



- Pot Of Gold
- Leprechaun
- Shamrock
- Holiday
- Rainbow
- Clover
- Parade
- Green
- Green
- Irish
- March
- Pinch
- Kilt
- Luck



*In his 2026 Lenten message, Pope Leo XIV invites Catholics to deepen their spiritual lives through listening, fasting, and compassionate speech. He encourages the faithful to abstain from harsh or hurtful words and instead cultivate kindness, respect, and hope in families and communities. The Holy Father reminds us that Lent is a time to listen to God and to those who suffer, helping Christian communities become places of welcome, justice, and reconciliation.*



Summary of the 2026 Lenten Message of Pope Leo XIV (via USCCB--U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)

## IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

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

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

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2025 is the following:

Branches or Districts with Gross Receipts of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file IRS Form 990 EZ or 990.

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

The State limit for the tax year ending 2025 is the following:

Branches or Districts in California with Gross Receipts of more than \$50,000.00 will be required to file State Form 199.

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

### THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2026. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

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

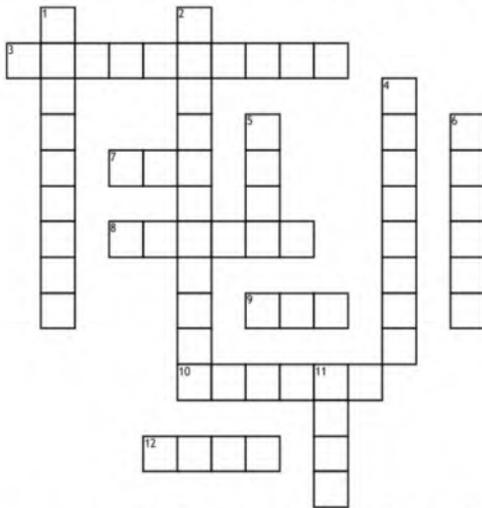
Included in the Financial Secretaries' packet are materials that the District and Branch Financial Secretaries will need to help them with this process. District and Branch Presidents - please work with your Financial Secretary to go over the information when it is received and see that the appropriate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

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2025. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

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

Thank You,  
 Deborah Rodondi, Grand Treasurer

# St. Joseph's Day Puzzle



**Across**

- 3. In Italy, Spain and Portugal St. Joseph's day is on
- 7. color people wear on this day
- 8. An event that happens on this day in Italy
- 9. A cookie eaten that day

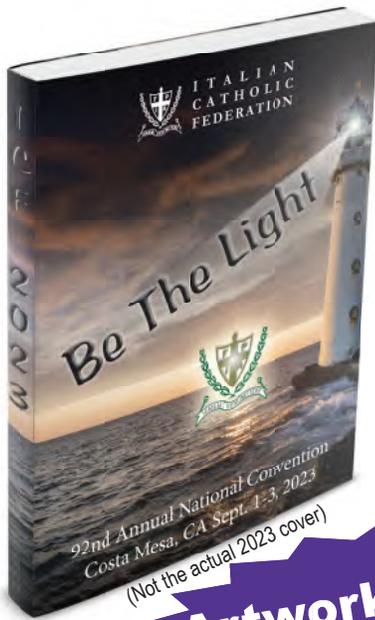
- 10. Where in Italy the Feast started
- 12. Not placed on the St. Joseph's table

**Down**

- 1. survived the drought in Sicily
- 2. used on the table to represent sawdust
- 4. famous Italian pastry eaten on this day
- 5. What appears on the St. Joseph's Table
- 6. means good luck in getting a husband.
- 11. The foods on the table represent

**Word Bank**

- |             |            |          |             |
|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| breadcrumbs | Red        | Lemons   | Meat        |
| Parade      | fava beans | Zeppoles | Fathers Day |
| Food        | Flg        | Sicily   | luck        |



**Artwork Deadline  
JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>!**  
(Not the actual 2023 cover)

# ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION 2023 Yearbook

**YOU Are Needed!**  
Show us your celebrations.  
Let us celebrate your joys  
and successes with you.

**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!*

Newlyweds in New Mexico  
Rose Jarrett & Aaron McNeal  
December 4, 2021

**You Need COLOR!**  
The full-page entry for Central Coast District looks great in the 2022 book! (See page 44.)  
So much more impactful than black and white would have been.  
**Please consider color for impact.**

The ICF Convention Yearbook is:

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

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

