

OUR LEGACY: FAITH, FAMILY, HERITAGE

95th Annual National Convention

**September 4 – 6, 2026
Reno, NV**

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!



I.C.F. 95th Annual Convention Agenda

Reno, Nevada • September 4–6, 2026

THURSDAY September 3, 2026

6:00 pm

No-host Bar
..... Louis' Basque Corner

6:30 pm

Dinner Louis' Basque Corner

FRIDAY September 4, 2026

8:00am-1:00pm

Blood Drive Expo Hall C

1:00pm-2:00pm

Delegate Registration
..... Expo Pre-Function Area
Raffle Prizes Bronze Room
(tickets sold throughout the Convention)

2:00pm-4:00pm

Bingo Expo Hall C
Presented by: The Ways and Means Committee

2:00pm – 6:00pm

Marketplace & Heritage Room ..
..... Silver-Gold Room

4:00pm-6:00pm

Delegate Registration Lobby

5:30pm-6:00pm

New Delegate Orientation
..... Expo Hall C
Presented by: Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and Grand 2nd Vice President Lisa Crudo

6:30pm-7:00pm

Meet the Central Council Candidates
..... Expo Pre-Function Area

7:00pm-10:00pm

Opening Ceremonies Dinner ...
..... Expo Hall B
Dinner reservations required.
Cash bars are available.

• Call to Order by the Convention Director:

Lauren Kilcullen, Grand 1st Vice President

• Masters of Ceremonies:
Andrew Pappani, Past Grand President, Br. 28 - Gilroy

• Opening Prayer

• Presentation of Colors:
Boy Scouts

• National Anthem

• Introduction of the Grand President:

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

• Welcome and Presentation from the Host Area:

Charlyne Pacini, Br. 135 - Reno President

• Greeting from the Grand President:

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

• Roll Call of Districts & Procession

• Inspirational Message:
Reverend Christopher Bennett, Grand Chaplain

• Closing Prayer

• Federation Anthem:
"Noi Vogliam Dio"

Dancing to follow until 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY September 5, 2026

8:30am-9:00am

Final Delegate Registration
..... Expo Pre-Function Area
Raffle Prizes Bronze Room
(tickets sold throughout the Convention)

9:00am-10:00am

Memorial Mass. Expo Hall A
Reverend Christopher Bennett, Grand Chaplain, Presiding

10:15am-11:05am

Spiritual Workshop . . Expo Hall A
Reverend Christopher Bennett, Grand Chaplain

10:15am-11:05am

"Paving your Way to the Future" Workshop Expo Hall B

10:15am-11:05am

Open Forum Workshop - Membership Expo Hall C

11:00am-5:00pm

Marketplace & Heritage Room ..
..... Silver-Gold Room

11:15am-12:05pm

Italian Spiritual Heritage Workshop Expo Hall A

11:15am-12:05pm

Open Forum Workshop - General Expo Hall B

11:15am-12:05pm

Cooley's Anemia Workshop Expo Hall C

12:05pm-1:30pm

No-host Lunch Break

1:45pm-3:30pm

Convention General Session
..... Expo Hall B

Assigned delegate seating.

• Call to Order

Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Grand President

• Opening Prayer

• Pledge of Allegiance and Federation Salute

• Introduction of Central Council, Clergy, and Staff

• Adoption of Rules/Regulations

• Credentials Committee Report

• Welcome First Time Delegates

• Speeches of Central Council Candidates

• Central Council Election

• Approval of Treasurer's Report

• National Charity Discussion

• Central Council Election Results

• Attendance Drawing

• Closing Prayer

• Adjournment

3:30pm-4:30pm

(or right after General Session)
Teller's Committee: Ballot Tabulation

6:30pm-7:00pm

Banquet Social
..... Expo Pre-Function Area

Cash bar available

7:00pm-9:00pm

Saturday Banquet
..... Expo Hall B

Reservations required.

• Welcome

Charlyne Pacini, Br. 135 - Reno President

• Mistress of Ceremonies:
Nina Malone, Life Member Emeritus, Br. 450 - Lincoln

• Invocation

• Dinner is served

• Remarks from Local Dignitaries

• Pope Saint John XXIII Award

• Closing Prayer

• "God Bless America"

SUNDAY September 6, 2026

9:00am-10:30am

Convention General Session
..... Expo Hall B

• Opening Prayer

• Resolutions and Communications

• National Charity Presentation

• Response

• Committee Recognition:
Apostolate/Charity, Heritage, Membership, Scholarship

• Charitable Donations

• Convention Site Report

• Attendance Drawing

• Closing Prayer

• Adjournment

9:00am – 12:00pm

Heritage & Marketplace
..... Silver-Gold Room

10:30am-11:15am

Central Council Meeting
..... Expo Hall C

12:00pm-2:00pm

Awards Luncheon ... Expo Hall B
Reservations required.

• Welcome

Lauren Kilcullen,
Convention Director,
Grand 1st Vice President

• Master of Ceremonies
Michael Rossi, Past Grand President, Br. 391 - San Jose

• Opening Prayer

• Lunch is served

• Presentation of the Grand President's Award, St. Teresa of Calcutta Award, Family of the Year Award, Young Adult Leadership Award

Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Grand President

• Closing Prayer

2:30pm-4:30pm

Concelebrated Mass and Installation of Officers
..... Expo Hall A

• Mass

Presiding: His Excellency, Most Reverend Daniel H. Mueggenborg, Bishop of Reno

• Installation of Central Council Officers

Installing Officer, Denise Antonowicz, Past Grand President

• Remarks by the 2026-2027 Grand President

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

• Convention Raffles
Presented by: The Ways and Means Committee

• Federation Anthem: "Noi Vogliam Dio"

• Adjournment





BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



Convention Article:

"Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage" Update
Convention Director's Committee

Welcome to the 95th Annual ICF National Convention! Our Legacy: Faith, Family and Heritage

The Convention Directors Committee and St.

Albert the Great Br. 135 in Reno are excited to welcome everyone to Reno – The Biggest Little City in the World! As everyone gathers in Nevada, we celebrate our Faith, Family and Heritage.

This year we're celebrating our 95th Annual Convention. Our first Convention was held in 1927 in San Francisco with 24 delegates from 15 branches around the Bay Area. Our annual gathering of friends and members is an important part of the fabric of the Italian Catholic Federation. Conventions have been held every year, except during World War II. Even during the pandemic, Roselyne McNeal and the Convention Directors Committee organized a virtual Convention.

My first Convention was in Los Angeles at the Bonaventure Hotel in 1979. Since then, I've missed only two. When and where was the first Convention you attended and how many have you attended?

The Convention Directors Committee has been working diligently to organize a convention that is fun, engaging and instructive. From our Opening Ceremonies with the District Roll Call to our Sunday Mass with Bishop Mueggenborg, the Convention is our time to discover



innovative ideas, renew old friendships, make new friendships and renew your dedication and interest in the ICF. Our Friday night opening will feature Fr. Chris Bennett, followed by dancing to get everyone in a celebratory mood. Along with our Memorial Mass on Saturday morning, we have a great line-up of six different workshops to attend. The Convention Directors Committee and I encourage everyone to attend the workshops, general sessions, dinners and Masses.

The Heritage Room and the Marketplace will share a room. Please visit and shop at the Marketplace. Nina Malone has done a wonderful job of curating interesting vendors with wares to sell.

Please purchase your tickets for our Convention Raffle. Denise Antonowicz has been working tirelessly this Summer to prepare the raffle baskets for our Convention Raffle. She thanks everyone who donated items or money for the raffle. The response was overwhelming!

As Past Grand President George Bacigalupi said, "The ICF Convention is our Family Reunion." Make the most of your time and partake in all activities.

And if anyone strikes it big at the tables or slots, please remember that our ICF charities will always take donations!

I look forward to seeing everyone this weekend!

Lauren Kilcullen
Convention Directors Chairperson

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children—and we cultivate it through our faith. What we build together this year will become the heritage they inherit tomorrow."

— Proverbial Wisdom



Grand President's Monthly Message

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Welcome delegates, members, and friends to the 95th Annual National Convention of the Italian Catholic Federation.

The theme this year is "Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage." The theme is very appropriate as the Convention is being held at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

On Thursday night, we will have dinner at Lou's Basque Corner. Just a few miles from the hotel. On Friday, we will have our annual blood drive, delegate registration, bingo, new delegate orientation, and meet the candidates, followed by the opening ceremonies dinner. Saturday morning, we will start with a memorial mass and lead into our workshops. The general session will begin after lunch, followed by our Saturday night banquet. Sunday morning, we will continue with the general session, then have a short break before our awards luncheon. The Mass will be concelebrated by the priests present, beginning at 2:30 pm. This will be followed by the installation of Central Council Officers, a speech by the Grand President, the drawing of convention raffle tickets, the federation anthem, and adjournment.

This year, we will present several awards honoring individuals who demonstrate a desire to give of themselves to those in need rather than to receive.



Mr. Robert Britton is the recipient of the Pope St. John XXIII Award, Mrs. Melody Klever is the recipient of the Grand President's Award, Father Ron Shirley is the recipient of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Award, Donald and Cheryl Simon are the recipients of the Family of the Year Award, and Dr. Alexandra Kidd, DDS is the recipient of the Young Adult Leadership Award. When you see any of them at convention, please give them a huge congratulations.

Our Central Council members will be conducting several workshops this weekend. Topics include "Spiritual," "Cooley's Anema," "Italian Heritage," "Paving your Way to the Future," and "Open Forum". Please take full advantage of these workshops and the general session. Ask questions, participate, and share the knowledge you have gained with your branches.

Let us all greet our clergy and thank them for all their continued support and guidance.

Once again, I would like to thank Lauren Kilcullen, our Convention Director and Grand 1st Vice President, and her committee members for their hard work in ensuring a successful convention.

To all delegates, family and friends, enjoy yourselves, and have a fantastic time!

Fraternally,
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Grand President

BOLLETTINO

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Important Notice

The email address for ALL

Bollettino submissions is:

editor@icf.org

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

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

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

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Include photo captions with your article submission.

Please keep your submission positive and informative.

**Deadline for the
October issue is
September 10, 2026**

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

Thank you!

Message from our Grand Chaplain

Dear Members and Friends of the Italian Catholic Federation,

As we gather for this year's convention, we do so under the light of ****Jesus Christ****, the Eternal Word made flesh, the One through whom the Father reveals His love and through whom the Holy Spirit forms us into a people. Our theme — "Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage" — is profoundly theological, because each dimension of this legacy participates in the mystery of God's self-revelation and the Church's living Tradition.

Faith — Entrusted by the Apostles, Rooted in the Paschal Mystery.

Our faith is not merely belief or cultural identity; it is the supernatural virtue infused by God, enabling us to participate in His own life. As St. Paul teaches, "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7), because faith is our assent to the truth revealed by Christ and handed down through the Apostolic Tradition.

The Italian Catholic Federation stands within this apostolic stream. The faith our ancestors carried across oceans is the same faith proclaimed at Pentecost, nourished by the Eucharist, and safeguarded by the Magisterium. The Catechism reminds us that **"the Church is the pillar and bulwark of the truth"** (CCC 2032), and our Federation participates in this mission by forming hearts rooted in Christ.

Faith is fundamentally Paschal: it draws us into Christ's death and resurrection. Through Baptism, we are configured to Him; through Confirmation, strengthened by His Spirit; through the Eucharist, united to His Body and Blood. Our legacy of faith is therefore sacramental, ecclesial, and missionary.

Family — The Domestic Church and Icon of Trinitarian Love.

Our family is not only a social structure but a theological reality. The Church teaches that the

family is the Domestic Church ****** (Lumen Gentium 11), the first locus where the Gospel is lived and transmitted. In the Holy Family of Nazareth, Christ sanctified family life and revealed it as an icon of the Trinity's communion — a place where self-giving love mirrors the eternal exchange between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Italian Catholic families have long embodied this truth: faith woven into feast days, devotions, shared meals, and the stories of saints told by elders. These practices are not merely cultural; they are expressions of the Church's sacramental worldview, where ordinary life becomes a place of grace.

The ICF itself becomes an extension of this Domestic Church — a community of disciples who bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2), rejoice in one another's joys, and seek Christ together. Our family legacy is therefore ecclesiological: it reflects the Church's nature as communion.

Heritage — Participation in the Living Tradition of the Church.

Our heritage is not nostalgia; it is participation in Sacred Tradition, the living transmission of faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Tradition, as Dei Verbum teaches, is not static but dynamic — the Church's continuous handing on of what she is and what she believes.

Italian Catholic heritage is one expression of this Tradition: devotion to saints who followed Christ, reverence for the Eucharist, love for beauty, hospitality, and generosity. These cultural expressions are sacramental signs of Christ's presence in history. They reveal how grace has shaped our ancestors and continues to shape us.

To honor our heritage is to recognize Christ's action through generations. It is to acknowledge that the values we cherish — fidelity, sacrifice, joy, community — are fruits of the Gospel lived concretely. Heritage becomes



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Grand Chaplain

theological when we see it as a *charism*, a gift entrusted to us for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Carrying the Legacy Forward in Christ.

As we celebrate this convention, let us renew our commitment to Christ, who is the center of our legacy and the source of our mission.

- May our faith be deepened through Scripture, the sacraments, and the Church's teaching.
- May our families be strengthened by grace, forgiveness, and the virtues that reflect Trinitarian love.
- May our heritage be embraced as a sacred trust — a participation in the Church's living Tradition and a mission for future generations.
- May the Eucharistic Lord, who gathers us as one Body, bless the Italian Catholic Federation with unity, courage, and joy.
- May the saints who shaped our heritage — St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Francis Cabrini, and so many others — intercede for us as we carry our legacy forward in Christ.

With prayer and gratitude to the Lord,

Fr. Chris



Carrying the Legacy Forward in Christ.

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

(Received as of July 31, 2026)

IN MEMORY OF:

Pat Grasso
Richard Roberts
George Speranza
Maria Nhien Pham
Pat Grasso
Sara Shaw
Sara Shaw
Maria Fregosi
Matthew J. Rayta
Natalie Malone
Maria Fregosi
Leonardo Salomone

DONATED BY:

Leonard and Karen Rossi
Officers/Members of Br. 45
Officers/Members of Br. 343
Officers/Members of Br. 343
Officers/Members of Br. 343
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Denise Antonowicz
Officers/Members of Blessed Sacrament District
Jo-Ann and John Donivan
Pam Andersen
Pam Andersen
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

GET WELL WISHES:

Michelle Antonowicz Bob Basuino
Eddie Leonard Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 30 YEARS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD:

Fr. Steve Davoren Officers/Members of Br. 362

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT:

Fr. Justin Ordoveza Officers/Members of Br. 362

**BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT FROM
THE ACTIVE DEACONATE:**

Deacon Burton Rigley Leonard and Karen Rossi

HAPPY 90TH BRANCH ANNIVERSARY:

ICF Br. #47 Officers/Members of Central Council
ICF Br. #54 Officers/Members of Central Council

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY:

Miria Garfagnoli Bob and Kathy Acquistapace

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND*:

A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 403 - Millbrae.

*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.



ICF General Fund Donations

(Received as of July 31, 2026)

Julie Moylan
In Memory of Dino Cunial
Diana Pelliccione and Susan Sangiacomo
In Memory of Geraldine Meacham

Apostolate-Charity National Charity Selection

By Michael Rossi, Apostolate-Charity Chairperson

Hello Convention delegates,
I am reprinting the following article from the June issue of the *Bollettino* to remind you of an important discussion that will take place at the Convention regarding the selection of the ICF National Charity.



June Article:

One of the major responsibilities of the Central Council is to select, support, and promote the ICF National Charity. For over forty years, the Central Council has consistently chosen the Cooley's Anemia program as the National Charity. It has been a success story for the ICF, as most of our members have embraced

the National Charity.
The Central Council would like to review the process to see if a change is needed. At the Convention in Reno this year, there will be a discussion about the process for selecting the National Charity. The main question: Should the ICF continue the current process of having the Central Council choose the National Charity, or should this responsibility be delegated to the Convention delegates —meaning, should the Convention delegates choose the National Charity? And would the delegates keep or replace Cooley's Anemia as the National Charity?
Each branch should discuss this topic and instruct their Convention delegates on how to voice their wishes at the Convention.
As always, thanks to all districts, branches, and members for supporting ICF charities.

JULY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
7/1	Cynthia Arambel	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
7/2	Julia Fanucchi		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
7/3	Mary Perata	1	San Francisco, CA	\$30
7/4	Heather Thompson		Seattle, WA	\$100
7/5	Crocetta Salomone	111	Montebello, CA	\$30
7/6	Chris Whiting	82	Lodi, CA	\$30
7/7	Doug Boileau		Willow Creek, CA	\$30
7/8	Fr. Ommar Solis	36	Monterey, CA	\$30
7/9	Daniela Hole	130	Redwood City, CA	\$30
7/10	John & Raina Cordich		Great Falls, MT	\$30
7/11	Sam & Sadie Rossi		Bend, OR	\$30
7/12	Paul Steele		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
7/13	Nan Trevizo		Fairfield, CA	\$30
7/14	Leo Capovilla	130	Fremont, CA	\$30
7/15	Tim Solipasso	308	Fresno, CA	\$50
7/16	Cathy Bertao	31	Dos Palos, CA	\$30
7/17	Sandra Cordoni	214	Concord, CA	\$30
7/18	Martin Monroe		Trinidad, CA	\$30
7/19	Steve & Nancy Stedman	209	Sebastopol, CA	\$30
7/20	Stephanie Lucich	39	Carpinteria, CA	\$30
7/21	Kevin & Laura Kobliska		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
7/22	Maryellen Mazzei	39	Merced, CA	\$30
7/23	Sandra Seabrook	446	Alta Loma, CA	\$30
7/24	Gloria Young		Santa Clara, CA	\$30
7/25	Michael & Marielle Jensen	342	Sacramento, CA	\$30
7/26	Nick Gilardi		Dos Palos, CA	\$30
7/27	Very Rev. Rafael Partida		San Bernardino, CA	\$30
7/28	Nancy A. Silva	39	El Nido, CA	\$30
7/29	Debra Dupuis	28	Bend, OR	\$30
7/30	Michelle Azevedo		Sacramento, CA	\$30
7/31	Sally Panella	352	Danville, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

Pope Saint John XXIII Award Recipient *ROBERT BRITTON*

The Italian Catholic Federation is proud to honor Robert Britton as our Pope Saint John XXIII award winner. Robert (Bob) Britton is described as a man whose entire life reflects faith in action, humility, and extraordinary humanitarian service. Testimony emphasizes that Bob's generosity is not occasional—it is the daily expression of his spirituality, shaped by deep prayer, trust in God, and the values instilled by his family and Italian heritage.

Bob is portrayed as someone who sees God's light in every person, offering hope even in difficult circumstances. His kindness is quiet, consistent, and sincere. For more than 50 years at Eden Medical Center, he has treated his work as a ministry, comforting patients with



Continued on Page 9

Young Adult Leadership Award Recipient *DR. ALEXANDRA KIDD, DDS*

Alexandra's commitment to leadership and the ICF began early in childhood as a member of Br. 392 in Chicago. For over 20 years, Alexandra has been a faithful and dedicated member. She participated in Sunday school and Church community service projects and was named Co-Chairman of the Nativity Play at St. Francis Borgia in High School for two years in a row. Her leadership within the faith community continued, thereafter, as Chairman of Good Thursday in Chicago. Alexandra played a central role in coordinating visitations to seven churches, helping organize logistics, volunteers, and participants to ensure a meaningful and reverent experience for all involved. This event required careful planning and a deep understanding of its spiri-

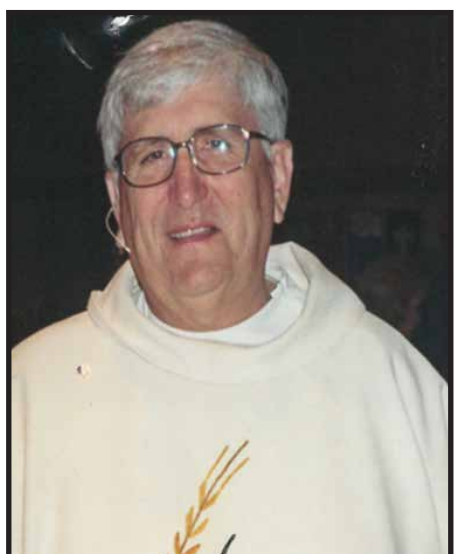


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Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award Recipient *FATHER RON SHIRLEY*

Father Ron Shirley was born on July 22, 1946, ordained to the Priesthood on March 17, 1973, and just celebrated 53 years of Priesthood.

Father Ron has served as Pastor of many churches throughout his 53 years, especially in the Diocese of Monterey, has taught in several Catholic Schools and served as the Chaplain in many; notably Palma High School, Notre Dame High School and Santa Catalina School. Father Ron led many Lenten Mass Series, especially, at Palma High School. Over the years, Father Ron has been invited to be a speaker at many schools during their graduation ceremonies. He supports all youth sports and has attended many games. He even shared his love of football and coached at Palma High School.



Continued on Page 8

Grand President's Award Recipient *MELODY KLEVER*

The Italian Catholic Federation proudly recognizes Melody Klever for her extraordinary dedication, joyful service, and unwavering generosity. Melody embodies the very heart of the Italian Catholic Federation, living out its values with humility, grace, and a quiet strength that inspires everyone around her.

Melody's impact is felt most deeply in the countless moments behind the scenes—decorating, cooking, cleaning, serving, or sewing—where her care and artistry transform ordinary tasks into expressions of love. She is the quiet heartbeat of our community, elevating every gathering with her warmth, creativity, and servant's heart.

Her decorating talents are exceptional. Melody has an eye for detail and a gift for creating elegant, welcoming spaces that set the tone for hospitality and celebration. Whether arranging centerpieces or designing table settings, she brings beauty and reverence to every event.

Her cooking is equally cherished. Long before an event begins, Melody is in the kitchen preparing meals with devotion and joy. At Central Council meetings in Castro Valley, she is always present—apron on, smile bright—serving food that nourishes both body and spirit.



In service, Melody leads with humility. She moves through events with quiet efficiency, tending to every need before anyone asks. Her service is warm, personal, and filled with genuine care, reflecting the ICF spirit of hospitality at its finest.

Her dedication shines at conventions, where she assists wherever she is needed—supporting the marketplace, preparing registration packets, guiding attendees, and bringing calm confidence to even the busiest days. Melody's cheerful presence and ability to anticipate needs make her indispensable.

Continued on Page 9

Family of the Year Award Recipients *Donald and Cheryl Simon*



The Italian Catholic Federation is proud to honor the Simon Family. Donald and Cheryl Simon are longtime residents of Daly City, recognized for their steadfast commitment to family, faith, and community service. Their lives reflect the values of dedication, compassion, and leadership that have

touched countless individuals in their community. They have devoted their lives to Holy Angels Parish and School, shaping generations through faith, education, and service. Their example

Continued on Page 9

Welcome New Members

(Report as of July 31, 2026)

Branch 021	Jeanne Rodriguez	
Branch 036	Claire Cardona	Peter Davi
	Sidra Davi	Marie A Di Carlo
	Fatima Gutierrez	Nicolas Kissell
	Raquel La Luz	Bryan Laws
	David Pareja	Narda Castro Pareja
	Michelle Russell	Hanni Seitz
	Julia Silvey	
Branch 039	Dora L Crane	Ryan J Crane
Branch 045	Florinda A Fantasia	
Branch 067	Isabelle Gregie	
Branch 082	Susan E Giovannoni Jay	
Branch 108	Rose Marin	Juliann Silveri
	Jeannette E Valdivia	
Branch 135	Brian R Passalacqua	
Branch 184	Ann M Cote	
Branch 191	Marialisa Caruso	
Branch 227	Gary Castiglioni	Petra Castiglioni
Branch 368	Robert G Ronsse	
Branch 438	James Lucan	Kathy Lucan
	Mike Ronco	
Branch 444	Michele Carbone	Patricia Trout
Branch 450	Danna Beith	Teresa Carter
	Caleb P Dow	Margaret R Dow
	Anna Luci	David Luci
	Diana V Peel	Paula Rudger

ADMIRER DEDICATED TEAM PLAYER INVOLVED
WONDERFUL SACRIFICIAL KIND ORGANIZER
PROBLEM SOLVER CARING GIVING LAUGHTER
LEADER **VOLUNTEER** FUN
ESSENTIAL BEHIND THE SCENES ROLE MODEL
COMMUNITY SERVICE HELPER LIFESAVER
THOUGHTFUL **THANK YOU** ESSENTIAL

Scholarship Donations

(Received as of July 31, 2026)

1st Year Donation

Italian Catholic Federation
In Honor of Melody Klever
- 2026 Grand President's Award
Recipient

2nd - 4th Year Donations

Officers/Members of Br. 435
In Memory of Vince McLoughlin
Mary Sides
In Honor of the Birthday of Jim Lee
Gerald H. Delfino
In Memory of Lorraine Nunziata
Gerald H. Delfino
In Memory of Phil Robba
Missy Kohl-Rubinstein
In Memory of Donna Rae Primrose
John G. and Kim Filice
In Memory of Geraldine Meacham
Carmen Kilcullen
In Memory of Patricia Arrigoni

In Loving Memory

(Report as of July 31, 2026)

Helen A Petersen	Branch 014
Angelo Raffaelli	Branch 021
Providence A Belleci	Branch 036
Bettye Be Leveroni Wright	Branch 045
Patricia L Arrigoni	Branch 052
Allen Garayalde	Branch 052
Arlene Roe	Branch 073
Joan L Brascia	Branch 108
Linda J Haubrick	Branch 108
Luciano Scorcia	Branch 111
Nerina Dibella	Branch 173
Bill F Bresee	Branch 179
Sheryl A Pelzel	Branch 184
Joseph J Roulin	Branch 191
Gerlita Roa	Branch 237
Debbie Brusatori	Branch 332
Delia Giuliani	Branch 342
Patricia H Grasso	Branch 343
Eileen Morri	Branch 390
George L Bennett	Branch 413
James J Marchiano	Branch 442



Cooley's Anemia Donations

Received as of July 31, 2026

Branch 1	Darlene Pasquini
Branch 31	Terry Giannetto
Branch 111	Betty Cobb-Dalton
Branch 215	In Memory of Allen R. Heckman
Branch 217	Officers/Members of Central Council
Branch 285	In Memory of Sara Loretta Shaw
Branch 343	Italian Catholic Federation
Branch 362	In Honor of Donald and Cheryl Simon
Branch 391	- 2026 Family of the Year Award Recipients
Branch 403	Charlene Drobeck
Branch 444	In Memory of Sara Loretta Shaw

Heritage — Gifts from the Past

Louise Vento, Committee Member

Our greatest gifts from ancient civilizations are their ideas and ways of doing things. The Egyptians developed a way of measuring time using the Sun and Moon, enabling them to create calendars and track seasons. The Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans developed written language and the alphabet. Teachers throughout the world today still rely on the Socratic method of inquiry. The Babylonians created a base-60 counting system—a method we still use today to divide hours, minutes, and degrees. Ancient cultures also passed on their knowledge of astronomy, mathematics, and mechanical tools like the screw.



Nearly 4,000 years ago, Hammurabi established one of the oldest known written codes of law. While it did not treat all social classes equally, it established public rules so people knew where they stood. Later, the Greeks and Romans established written law as the bedrock of government, displaying statutes publicly so all citizens were expected to obey them under the principle that ignorance of the law is no excuse. Much of what we value today grew from the enduring ideas of these ancient civilizations.



Membership Tools at Your Fingertips

By: Rose McNeal, Membership Committee Member

Did you know?

On the ICF website, there are over 100 membership tools available.

This particular page of the website would be beneficial to review at a branch, district, and/or officer's meeting. Ensure that your local membership committee is aware of the paraphernalia on hand. Please look over the resources to determine what might be useful for your branch/district. As always, you are welcome to reach out to the Central Council Membership Committee for further support.

How to access:

>> Visit our website: icf.org.

>> On the top tool bar, select "membership." If you do not see the toolbar, click on "home" then "membership."

>> Click on "Members' Area" to view the many links.

Tools Include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -ICF General Information | -Bollettino Access |
| -Recruitment Support | -Marketing Materials |
| -Retention Support | -Officer Training |
| -Heritage Materials | -Hospitalization Plan Information |
| -Visitor and New Member Resources | -Reporting Documents |
| -Customizable Templates | -And more! |

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award Recipient *FATHER RON SHIRLEY*

continued from page 6

Father Ron was the Branch Chaplain for Branch 36, in Monterey, for many years and was always there to support the Branch with his spiritual blessings at all of their events. He joined in on Board Meetings and continues to attend many of the I.C.F. events and even organized a beautiful dinner for the Military Families at San Carlos Cathedral.

Father Ron currently serves as a retired Priest but still remains very active in the Diocese of Monterey.

Father Ron continues to be compassionate, thoughtful, caring and always serving the Lord as a Shepherd to His people. He is noted for his warm-hearted homilies and touches many hearts by offering hope, encouragement

and inspiration. He listens, advises and gives guidance from his heart. Whether it is welcoming a visitor, baptizing a baby, uniting a couple in marriage, caring for the sick or being the Celebrant at a Funeral Mass...he is always sharing our Catholic Faith and bringing the Peace and Love of God into our hearts, homes and families. Father Ron is a true friend.

For continuing to serve the People of God and following in the footsteps of Mother Teresa with kindness and generosity, it is our pleasure to proudly honor Father Ron Shirley as our St. Teresa of Calcutta Award winner. Father Ron is extremely deserving of this recognition.

**To recognize and honor a priest, nun,
deacon or brother for exemplary
humanitarian work.**



Pope Saint John XXIII Award Recipient

ROBERT BRITTON

continued from page 6

compassion that often transforms their experience. Many request to meet “the nicest guy on the phone, Bob,” which is a testament to his impact.

His devotion to young people is especially highlighted. Bob has provided stability, mentorship, and unconditional love to the boys he raised as his own, teaching them to rely on prayer and trust in God. His influence extends far beyond his home: he has created safe, nurturing environments for youth, offering guidance, encouragement, and moral strength to countless young people.

Bob’s generosity reaches across the world. He has funded education for students in the Philippines, supported young entrepreneurs, and offered assistance without ever seeking recognition. A child was recently named in his honor—an enduring symbol of the lives

he has touched.

In his community, Bob is a beloved presence. He is active at Our Lady of Grace Parish and the Italian Catholic Federation, where he helps preserve heritage and build fellowship. Known affectionately as “Nino,” he is godfather to many children, always offering warmth, attention, and love. His hospitality, especially through his baking and traditional Sicilian cookies, is another way he shares comfort and joy.

Bob embodies the spirit of Pope Saint John XXIII and St. Francis through his humility, compassion, and joyful service. His life is a living witness to the Gospel and a shining example of humanitarian love. For these reasons, he is an exceptionally deserving recipient of the Pope Saint John XXIII Award and we proudly honor him.

The highest award given by the ICF to a lay person of any denomination who exemplifies humanitarian service to society.

Young Adult Leadership Award Recipient

DR. ALEXANDRA KIDD, DDS

continued from page 6

tual significance. Alexandra carried out these responsibilities with poise, commitment and a genuine devotion to fostering faith within her community. She has coordinated the St. Joseph’s Table at the Parish and is essential to the planning of all of the details and has also served as Co-Chairman of the Live Nativity Re-enactment.

Alexandra’s dedication to community service was brought into light while attending Ridgewood High School where she was actively involved in the Children of Veterans Program. She organized tuition fundraisers and toy drives for children of veterans to have better lives. Alexandra was a leader in her high school taking on the prestigious role of director of her dance troupe and organized her colleagues to share the performing arts in the community. She has demonstrated early on her compassion for others and her desire to honor and support those who serve our country. Even as a young student, she displayed maturity, empathy and initiative beyond her years. Her compassion for others has been front and center, as well, with her commitment to the I.C.F. Gifts of Love Committee for the past eight years. Alexandra shows great care and interest in reviewing the applications and her insights are very beneficial

in the decisions the committee makes and the awards that are granted.

Alexandra maintained her path of a life of significance and service in the name of faith throughout her academic and spiritual journey. As a graduate of Marquette University, and a recent graduate from their School of Dentistry, her academic achievements reflect her intelligence and perseverance but also a deep desire to use her talents in service of the broader community. She consistently demonstrates discipline, compassion and a dedication to serving others. Alexandra has personally witnessed and observed a need for care in the less fortunate in parts of the Milwaukee area and has provided pro bono care to them, along with other dental professionals. She is already carrying on with her mission of service and faith.

Alexander Kidd represents the very best of Young Catholic Leadership – character, a deeply rooted faith, a desire to uplift others, strengthen her community and inspire others with a strong sense of service.

For all of these reasons, and many more, we proudly honor Dr. Alexandra Kidd, DDS as our Young Adult Leadership Award winner. Alexandra is certainly deserving of this recognition.

Member 39 years old or younger demonstrating outstanding leadership abilities

Grand President's Award Recipient

MELODY KLEVER

continued from page 6

Beyond her own branch and district, Melody attends countless ICF events, often accompanying leadership simply because she believes deeply in the mission of the Federation. She is a constant presence at fundraisers, dinners, raffles, and community gatherings. When questions arise, she is quick to research, clarify, and share her knowledge with kindness and expertise.

As an exceptional seamstress, Melody freely offers her skills in sewing and embroidery, always ready to help with

grace and generosity.

Melody’s contributions—creative, practical, and heartfelt—enrich every level of the ICF. She is not only a dedicated volunteer; she is a treasured presence whose kindness, artistry, and servant’s heart make our community stronger, more vibrant, and more united.

For all these reasons, we proudly honor Melody Klever as our Grand President’s Award winner. She is profoundly deserving of this recognition.

An award bestowed to a member of the ICF for their commitment to furthering the ideals and aims of the organization.

Family of the Year Award Recipients

Donald and Cheryl Simon

continued from page 6

continues through their children: Corey (Lauryn), Jason, and Matthew (Grace) Simon.

They embody lives rooted in family, guided by faith, and dedicated to serving others, leaving a lasting impact on Daly City and Holy Angels Parish.

Donald Simon

Donald has devoted more than five decades to Holy Angels Parish, youth development, and community service.

- Holy Angels Parish (1968–Present) — Altar server; organizer of altar server training; choir member, guitarist, cantor; Eucharistic Minister.
- Youth Leadership — Eagle Scout (1976); Cub Scout Pack 261 volunteer; color guard for ICF Branch 19.
- Youth Sports & Officiating
 - o Commissioner, Peninsula Parochial School Leagues (1979–1982)
 - o Assigner, North Peninsula League (1980–1989)
 - o President, NCUA Baseball (2001–Present)
 - o Field Director, PONY Baseball (1986–Present), directing tournaments in Monterey, Washington, and Hawaii
- Education & Professional Service — Graduated with honors from IBEW Local 6 (1984); lifetime teaching credential in Mathematics & Electrical Apprenticeship (1986); night school instructor.
- Religious Education — Confirmation teacher at Holy Angels School of Religion (1987–Present); Pius X Award recipient.
- Honors — Umpire of the Year (Baseball, 2004); Umpire of the Year (Softball, 2008); USA Softball Hall of

Fame (2011); Official of the Year (2023, California Coaches Association & CIF).

- ICF Service — Held multiple leadership roles.

Cheryl Simon

Cheryl (née Figone) has dedicated her life to education, faith formation, and service to families.

- Early Leadership — Earned First Class in Girl Scouts (1974); Brownie troop leader at Thomas Edison Elementary (1973–1980).
 - Thomas Edison School (1986–1998) — Parent volunteer; PTA President; recipient of the Honorary Service Award and Golden Oak Award.
 - Religious Education — First Communion teacher at Holy Angels School of Religion (1990–Present); Pius X Award recipient; honored for 35 years of service by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.
 - Early Childhood Education — Head teacher at Village Park Preschool (1992–2007); earned a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education from San Francisco State University.
 - Holy Angels School (2007–Present) — Teacher (first grade, now kindergarten); Religious Coordinator; Eucharistic Minister.
 - ICF Service — Former Branch 19 Secretary and President
- For all of their individual and combined accomplishments and recognitions, we proudly honor Donald and Cheryl Simon as our Family of the Year Award winners. They are profoundly deserving of this recognition.

ICF family who demonstrates Christian service in their local community and parish.

Tips for Donating Blood

By Laurice Levine and the Live to Give Committee

Every three seconds someone needs blood to survive and approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States. If you are a healthy individual and want to save lives (up to 3 lives per unit of blood donated) you may consider donating blood. The ICF's Live to Give Committee sponsors a blood drive at the ICF convention – what better way to kick off the weekend than rolling up your sleeve and helping those who need blood to survive! The following are some helpful tips and considerations for before, during and after donating:

Before Your Donation

- Maintain a healthy iron level in your diet by eating iron rich foods (red meat, fish, poultry, beans, spinach, iron-fortified cereals and raisins).
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Hydrate well in the days before your donation and drink an extra 16 oz. of water right before you donate. Avoid alcohol.
- Eat a healthy meal before your donation. Avoid fatty foods (if there is too much fat in your blood, your donation cannot be tested for infectious diseases and the blood will not be used for transfusion).
- If you are a platelet donor, do not take aspirin for two days leading up to your donation.
- Recruit a friend to donate blood with you!
- Remember to bring your donor card and driver's license.

During Your Donation

- Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow.
- Let the person taking your blood know if you have a preferred arm and show them any good veins that have been used successfully in the past to draw blood.
- Relax, listen to music, talk to other donors or read during the donation process.
- Enjoy snacks and drinks in the refreshments area immediately after donating.

After Your Donation

- Drink an extra four (8 ounce) glasses of liquids and avoid alcohol over *the next 24 hours*.
- Remove the wrap bandage (if you had one put on your arm) within *the next hour*.
- Keep the strip bandage on for *the next several hours*.
- To avoid a skin rash, clean the area around the strip bandage with soap and water.
- Do not do any heavy lifting or vigorous exercise for *the rest of the day*.
- If the needle site starts to bleed, apply pressure to it and raise your arm straight up for about 5-10 minutes or until bleeding stops.
- If you experience dizziness or lightheadedness after donation, stop what you are doing and sit down or lie down until you feel better. Avoid performing any activity where fainting may lead to injury for at least 24 hours.
- Call the blood bank if questions arise or to report if you required medical care after donating blood.
- Continue to eat iron-rich food. If you donate frequently talk to your doctor about taking a multi vitamin with iron to ensure that you replenish your iron stores. For more information on blood donation and iron: www.redcrossblood.org/iron.

Sources:

- <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
- <https://www.vitalant.org/>



Gifts of Love Donations

Received as of July 31, 2026

Branch 217	Officers/Members of Br. 218
Branch 285	In Memory of Sara Shaw
Branch 362	Italian Catholic Federation
Branch 403	In Honor of Dr. Alexandra Kidd, DDS
Kathy Schroeder	- 2026 Young Adult Leadership Award Recipient
In Memory of Phil Robba	
Louie and Pat Cordich	
In Memory of Lorraine Nunziata	



Interested in learning more about the ICF's National Charity, Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)?
If so, Laurice Levine, ICF Liaison for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, would be honored to come and speak at one of your branch meetings or any special event (at no cost to your branch).
Contact Information:
360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com
It does not matter how small or how large your branch is, the goal is to educate everyone on Cooley's Anemia and the great work the ICF does for this cause.

The Italian Catholic Federation: Donating to Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia) Since 1982

By Laurice Levine



The Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) adopted Cooley's anemia (thalassemia) as their national charity in 1982, under the direction of the Grand President, the remarkable David Botta. **The ICF has since donated \$2,538,954 to thalassemia** as a result of its members' immense generosity, passionate dedication, and tireless hard work.

The funds donated have been used in a wide variety of ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Research—before the passing of the Orphan Drug Act in 1983, the U.S. federal government did not greatly support research for rare diseases, and it was not until the mid 1990s that thalassemia gained traction in this arena. The ICF supported research that led to improved medication and technology for thalassemia. Until recently, the federal government provided grants to fund research, and while doing so, the ICF contributions were put toward other important endeavors such as pa-

tient outreach, physician education, and community awareness. We are hopeful that government grants will continue into the future because in the past several months funds for thalassemia have been cut, CDC programs have been closed, and Medicaid is at risk. Approximately 75% of the patients at CHLA are on Medicaid.

- Expansion of clinical services and patient travel—our program at CHLA continues to get many new

referrals from all over the state and country for children and adults with thalassemia and other closely related blood disorders.

- Outreach and education, including the thalassemia newsletter, In That Vein.

• Holiday parties/party in a box (from 2020 until present) and other patient events. **In April 2026 we held our spring picnic – our first gathering since COVID began.**

- The PASSAGES transition program and the development of adult provider co-management networks between adult providers and pediatric specialists so that patients can continue to obtain quality care beyond pediatrics and thrive into later adulthood.

The result of the ICF's diligence is increased longevity and improved quality of life for patients. Knowing that there is an organization and people dedicated to your rare disease also reduces the sense of isolation that patients and families often feel. The ICF makes a difference that extends well beyond monetary donations, as its caring and compassion towards patients, and humanity in general, has created deep, strong bonds of friendship and family.

Educating the community and working alongside the ICF is a vital part of the thalassemia program at CHLA. If you are interested in Laurice attending a branch meeting or fundraiser, she would be honored to attend and speak about thalassemia, our program, and share stories from her patient's perspective. Please reach out anytime.

On behalf of the entire staff at the Thalassemia Center at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and most especially the patients and families, we wish to extend our boundless gratitude to the ICF for continuing to choose thalassemia as their national charity and for all of their support, friendship, and love. You make a vital difference in countless lives!

For more information about thalassemia:

Laurice Levine, MA, CCLS
360-860-2023
LLevine430@aol.com



Cancer and Blood Disease Institute
Hematology Section
Red Cell Defects Program
Sickle Cell Treatment Center
Tel: (323) 361-5507
Fax: (323) 361-7128

THOMAS D. COATES, MD

Professor of Pediatrics
Director, Sickle Cell Center
Section Head for Hematology
FRANCISCO BRACHO, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics & Medicine
EDWARD GOMPERTS, MD, MB, BCH
Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
TAYLOR KIM, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Assistant Medical Director for Hematology
THOMAS C. HOFSTRA, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Coordinator, Medical Student and Resident Education
SARANYA VELUSWAMY, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
CASSANDRA WANG, MD
Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics
GUY YOUNG, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Director, Hemostasis & Thrombosis Center

SPECIALTY CONSULTANTS

Cardiology:
JOHN C. WOOD, MD, PHD
JON A. DETTERICH, MD

Pulmonology:
ROBERTA KATO, MD

NURSING TEAM

Nurse Practitioners:
SUSAN CARSON, MSN, RN, CPNP
DEBBIE HARRIS, MSN, RN, CPNP
TRISH PETERSON, MSN, RN, CPNP

Nurse Care Manager:
HEATHER VON BIELA, RN, BSN, CPHON

DIETICIAN TEAM

STEPHANIE HANNE, MS, RD, CSSD, CNSC

SOCIAL WORK TEAM

MICHELLE LAHAT, LCSW
CHYNNA AMING, MSW

PASSAGES Social Work Case Worker:
JOHN GREMLDI, BSW

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Administrative Assistant:
LYNDA LEMUS

Project Coordinators:
KELLY RUSSELL, MA
NATHAN SMITH

RESEARCH TEAM

Research Coordinators:
OBDULIO CARRERAS
JORDAN SWANIER, BS

July 2026

Dear Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Members of the Central Council, Branch Presidents, and Members of the Italian Catholic Federation,

I hope this message finds you well as you gather for your annual convention this summer. I am truly sorry that I am unable to be with you in person in September. Spending time with the ICF each year is always a highlight for me, and since I first began attending in 2016, I believe this is only the second convention I have missed. Unfortunately, this conflict was unavoidable, and I regret missing the opportunity to connect with so many of you in person.

Although I cannot be there personally, I am very pleased that Laurice Levine will continue her longstanding participation in the convention and that Dr. Karen Kim will be joining her to represent Children's Hospital Los Angeles. I have shared with Dr. Kim what a dedicated and special community the ICF is, and I know she is looking forward to meeting you all and collaborating on the Thalassemia workshop Laurice will be leading.

Dr. Kim represents the next generation of thalassemia physicians. Under my mentorship at CHLA, she is focusing her research, supported in part by the ICF, on the cardiovascular consequences of chronic anemia in patients with thalassemia intermedia. She is deeply committed to advancing care for patients and families, and I am confident she will bring both insight and enthusiasm to your meeting.

I would also like to thank you again for your continued partnership. In April, CHLA and the ICF co-hosted our first in-person thalassemia patient and family event since COVID-19 pandemic. It was very well received and brought together patients, families, and clinicians in a meaningful way. One of the highlights was an informative panel on gene therapy, where thalassemia patients who have been recently cured by gene therapy and their families shared their experiences and participated in a thoughtful question-and-answer session with attendees. It was inspiring to see the strength of this community and the real progress being made. The fundamental spirit of ICF was present in this session as ICF members present can confirm.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity, unwavering support, and friendship. You continue to make an extraordinary difference in the lives of patients and families affected by thalassemia.

I wish you all a wonderful and successful convention, and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas D. Coates, MD
Section Head for Hematology
Director, Sickle/Hemoglobinopathy Program
Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Professor of Pediatrics & Pathology
Keck School of Medicine
University of Southern California



Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco

Br. 1, Maria S.S. Immacolata

Dear Members:

Happy Birthday Wishes to Cathy Bar-ranti

Please save the date of Sunday, November 8th for an Italian lunch to be held in San Francisco at the home of Diana and Dennis.

Cordiali Saluti

Diana Cresci

SAN MATEO District

Colma

Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli

Our summer vacation has ended, and we have resumed our monthly meetings.

It's not too late to attend the Annual Convention in Reno, Nevada! The convention will be held from Friday, September 4 through Sunday, September 6.

During the Sunday Brunch, Branch 19's Cheryl and Donald Simon will be honored as the "Family of the Year." Congratulations to Cheryl and Donald on this well-deserved recognition!

The Branch 19 Next Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at Deborah Rodoni's home.

Redwood City

Br. 130, Our Lady Star of the Sea

The Italian Catholic Federation Branch 130 made its debut at Redwood City's Annual Fourth of July Parade. As the float rolled down the parade route, the crowd cheered as classic Italian songs were played from a loudspeaker on the float. The float showcased a replica of the St. Pius Church facade—an eye-catching centerpiece built through the tireless efforts of George Schoenstein, his family and friends, whose vision and craftsmanship brought ICF and parish pride to life!

Our new St. Pius Church pastor, Father Ginter, rode aboard the float alongside many Branch 130 members, greeting spectators and waving Italian flags as the procession wound through downtown. The ICF contingent embodied the parade's community spirit with flag-wavers flanking the float, their American and Italian flags rippling to the music.

Adding to the pageantry was an escort of Italian-American automotive icons: a line of Corvettes, a Fiat, an Alfa Romeo, and Vespas, all polished to perfection and gathering admiration from car enthusiasts along the curb. Together, they brought up the rear of our float in style!

For the ICF, the day was more than a parade—it was a public affirmation of faith, family, and heritage. Branch 130 members shared smiles, stories, and the Federation's mission to build family spirit and support of our local parish. As the music faded and the crowd dispersed, one sentiment was clear: this inaugural ICF float didn't just participate, it made a memorable entrance that set a high bar for years to come!

Millbrae

Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao a Tutti! By the time you read this, we will have held our "Hot Dog & Chili" dinner meeting, which is generally quite a hit with our branch. I hope that this one was as well.

There is no meeting in September due to the ICF Convention & vacations. Our NEXT meeting is on Tuesday, October 6th. This will be a "Dessert & Coffee" social, & we will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall.

The agenda for that meeting will include planning for our upcoming "Polenta Dinner Fundraiser" on Sunday, Oct 18th. Cocktails & raffle open at 4 p.m. with dinner at 5 p.m. The dinner includes antipasti, salad, WINE, Chicken & sausage over creamy polenta & sauce. The cost is \$45pp. Make your checks payable to "ICF Br 403" and mail them to: Faye Dawdy, 200 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030. RSVP Faye at (650) 588-5400. The deadline is Friday, Oct 9th.

We wish to thank The Millbrae Lions in advance for their food preparation & assistance with this event. The food is always delicious and we also have great raffle prizes, so get your reservations in early!!

Adonna Amoroso, Secretary
(408) 313-6325

MARIN

Novato

Br. 332, Our Lady of Loretto

Our branch, Marin Branch 332, lost one of our truly heroic members and former presidents, Karen Raccanello, who left us on April 6 for her eternal reward in Heaven. Karen was born in San Francisco, married husband Jim in 1974 and spent 54 years with him creating a life dedicated to family, education, and volunteerism. Karen taught Italian and Spanish at Sacred Heart Cathedral High School and for 30 years at Marin Catholic; after retirement she

continued to teach at Whistlestop. Karen was passionate in all her endeavors, and she devoted her life to the success of her students. She demonstrated incredible zeal as well for ICF, Club Italia, Sons and Daughters of Italy, Our Lady of Loretto Church, and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Karen is survived by her loving husband Jim, children Paul and Amy, their spouses and 4 cherished grandchildren.

Branch 332 created an annual scholarship for a deserving student at Marin Catholic demonstrating excellence in foreign languages. Anyone wishing to honor Karen's memory is encouraged to donate in Karen's name to this Marin Catholic High School scholarship fund. The branch donated a red flowering Crepe Myrtle tree planted in Jim and Karen's garden in Novato, as shown in the accompanying photo including Jim and Paul with the caption *Sempre Con Noi*.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Ciao a Tutti. Hello everyone. We hope all of you are having a safe and healthy summer! We hope that many of you made plans to attend the 2026 ICF Convention at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno, Nevada on September 4-6, 2026.

The LAA District 3rd Quarterly Meeting will be on Saturday, September 5, after the ICF Convention General Session, around 3 p.m. at Expo Hall C meeting room.

The 2026 Bishop's Day & Seminarian Recognition Mass and Banquet will be held on Sunday, October 11, at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. We would like to encourage each branch to make every effort to contribute generously to this year's Seminary Burse. We are privileged to have our chaplains as our shepherds of our individual ICF branches and look forward to having all of you be part of this wonderful event. All of you will receive a Bishop's Banquet Invitation Flyer with all the details. Please send your Seminary Burse donations and Luncheon Reservation as soon as possible. Deadline is October 1.

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

1. The St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Pilgrimage, Mass & Luncheon will be on Sunday, November 15, at St. Francis Xavier Church, in Burbank. Mass 11:30 p.m.; Pilgrimage 12:30 p.m.; Benediction 1 p.m.; Lunch 2 p.m. More details will follow.
2. 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 God Bless all of you abundantly. We pray for our sick members, those

that passed away, and those in need; keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless

Frank Salomone

Br. 67, National Branch, St. Peter

ICF National Branch 67 (NBr 67) is a virtual branch that reaches out to members and non-members who do not presently have an ICF Branch 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 presently via Zoom.

SAVE THE DATE

- Aug 15, 2026 — ICF NBr 67 Gen Meeting via zoom from 10:30 to 12:00 p.m.

- Sept 4-6, 2026 — Silver Legacy Resort Casino, Reno, NV.

- Sept 12, 2026 — ICF NBr 67 Gen Meeting via zoom from 10:30 to 12:00 p.m.

- Oct 11, 2026 — ICF Bishop Day Banquet at St John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA.

- Aug 15, 2026 — ICF NBr 67 Gen Meeting via zoom from 10:30 to 12:00 p.m.

- Nov 15, 2026 — ICF Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction, Luncheon at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, CA.

Please continue 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 President
ICF National Branch 67,
C 626 372-7812
E cas1810@aol.com



South Pasadena Br. 108, Holy Family

Branch 108 wishes all members continue to enjoy their summer and keep safe as you travel visiting the ICF Convention in Reno, Nevada this September and while visiting family and friends.

Congratulations also to all members celebrating their July, August and September Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries.

We continue to pray for our sick members and ask that you keep them in your prayers for a speedy recovery; and to Branch members Joan Brascia and Sara Shaw who have recently 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. We hope you are all having a safe and healthy summer! Our September General Meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, in Montebello. After the meeting, we will have cake to celebrate the Birthdays of the following members who have birthdays this month: Elizabeth DeLorenzo, Artemio Soto, Esperanza Chavez, Kathy Salazar and Giuseppina Sorce. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to everyone!! *Buon Compleanno a tutti!!*

It was nice seeing many of you at our Branch Picnic on Saturday, July 18th at the Sanchez Adobe Park and Museum in Montebello. The foods, salads, desserts, etc. were all delicious. The weather was a little warm but everyone had a wonderful time eating, relaxing, visiting the museum & socializing.

The 2026 Bishop's Day and Chaplain's Recognition Mass & Luncheon will be held on Sunday, October 11, at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. Look for more details in our Branch 111 Newsletter.

We are planning our Branch 111 Christmas Dinner for Saturday, December 12, at Salvatore's Italian Restaurant in Montebello. Please reserve the date; more details will follow later this year.

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

A Presto!
Frank Salomone



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

What a busy summer we have had! In July our branch supported our parish fiesta by hosting the meatball/sausage/pizza booth. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us. Special thanks to Angela Chaparro of Costco for donating the ground beef and eggs we used to make our meatballs. Together we raised \$3800.00.

Join us for our general meeting on August 20th at 7:30 p.m. in parish center.

On August 22nd we will celebrate the feast day of St John Joseph of the Cross. Mass will be celebrated by our new pastor Father Josh Diener at 10am Hope to see you there.

Our branch elected Bob Hohman, Barbara West and Giovanna Gioiello to represent us as delegates for this year's convention. We wish them an inspiring and fun trip!

Join us as we celebrate our branch's 72nd anniversary at our next general meeting on September 17th in auditorium. Potluck will begin at 6 p.m. Please call Anna Dileva to let her know what tasty dish you will be bringing: 310 833-9444.

I am saddened to share the passing of beloved members John Joseph Lauro and Liliana Hancsak. They will be deeply missed. Please keep them in your prayers

Save the dates:
Bishop's Day and Seminarian Recognition Mass October 11.
Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage Mass and Luncheon Sunday November 15.

Anita Trujillo Treasurer

Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

St. Dorothy Glendora Branch 179 held its quarterly Load the Truck event on Sunday, June 28th. We raised \$4,354 to support our various charities. After all the hard work loading 12,440 pounds of clothing, members and their guests were treated to a pizza dinner at the Glendora Concert in the Park. A favorite band, The Answer, performed and members ate, sang, and danced the evening away. A fun evening was had by all.

Patricia
Trustee, Branch 179

Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

Hello and welcome to the 2026 ICF Convention in the World's Biggest Little City - Reno. Well, it's been a hot and sticky summer and I'm looking forward to the cooler Autumn weather. Last month our branch celebrated its



44th year in the ICF, and we celebrated it with a potluck at our branch meeting. Congratulations to all of us for another successful year.

Our July Bingo luncheon was another huge success. Thank you to all who helped in every way possible. Our next Bingo will be on September 13th. \$30 per ticket which includes lunch and your bingo games.

Our parish said farewell to both Fr. Justin and Fr. Cesar as they moved on to new assignments, but we've welcomed our new associate pastor Fr. Marko.

Our next branch meeting will take place on Thursday September 10th.

Thank you for all that you do for the ICF.

Perry Shurko.

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

Our Summer Mass and Luncheon was held on Sunday, July 26, at the beautiful Lakeside Golf Club. Fr. Jim Bevacqua celebrated the Mass, followed by a delicious luncheon featuring bottomless mimosas. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with faith, fellowship and fun.

The event was organized by Branch President, Phyllis Harb, with assistance from Emy Mannarell, Raul Acevedo, Gloria McGaughey and Fiora Murphy. During the Mass, Raul Acevedo proclaimed the First Reading in both Italian and English, adding a meaningful touch to the celebration.

In our June meeting, our Scholarship Committee Chair, Robert De Pietro, announced the recipients of this year's scholarships. The Mary Wynton Memorial Music Scholarship, overseen by Joel Wynton and Lisa Thelan, was awarded to Thatcher Tahmouh who will attend Loyola High School. The Al Restivo Memorial Distinguished Student Service Scholarship, was presented to Audrey Romo, who will attend Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy. We extend our appreciation to Carmen Porto and Matt Natalizio for their service on the Scholarship Committee.

Branch #374 was featured in St. Bede the Venerable's Ministry Newsletter recognizing the Italian Catholic Federation's commitment to serving both our parish and the local community.

We look forward to our gathering again at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Until then, we wish everyone a safe, happy and enjoyable remainder of the summer.

Thousand Oaks Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon

Dear ICF Branch 380 Members,

We hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer filled with rest, sunshine, and time with family and friends! ☐

We'll be taking August off, so there will be no meeting this month, but we look forward to seeing everyone again in September

As we look ahead to our 42nd year as a Branch, we're excited to launch our 2026 Member Survey — and we'd love to hear your ideas for future programs, activities, and events. I hope you were able to respond by the August 17 deadline.

Your input helps us plan gatherings that reflect what our members enjoy most — from cultural celebrations and faith based events to social activities and community service.

Thank you for being such an important part of our ICF family. Have a joyful and relaxing summer — we can't wait to reconnect soon!

Everyone is Welcome. The ICF is a Family Ministry celebrating Catholic families of all nationalities. One Family. Many Generations. All Ages Welcome.

Stay connected with us: Call or Text: 805-874-2655 | Email: icfbranch380@gmail.com Website: www.icfbranch380.org

Cathy Canchola- Pantess
ICF Branch 380 President 2026

Manhattan Beach Br. 447, American Martyrs

Hello everyone. Well, here we are in Reno Nevada for our 2026 convention. I know it's going to be a huge success. Our branch president Laurie is the branch delegate and it's her first time, so we wish her luck.

We had a quiet summer, but we did meet up last month for our annual Bocce day at El Segundo Rec Park. It was a hot one but we all had fun and brought potluck foods to share.

Our next big event will be our annual Limoncello Festival on October 3 in the O'Donnell Hall. A catered dinner with a raffle and dancing. Tickets will be on sale soon. Luanne will be hosting the limoncello making party.

On October 11th the LA district gathers at St John's seminary in Camarillo for our annual Seminarian recognition day. Mass is at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. RSVP if you'd like to attend.

Hope to see you at our September meeting and at the limoncello festival.

Thank you. Perry Shurko.

SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Branch 130



Branch 130



Branch 130



Branch 130



Branch 403's visit to Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame and Branch 173 for their famous Ravioli Dinner on June 28, 2026.

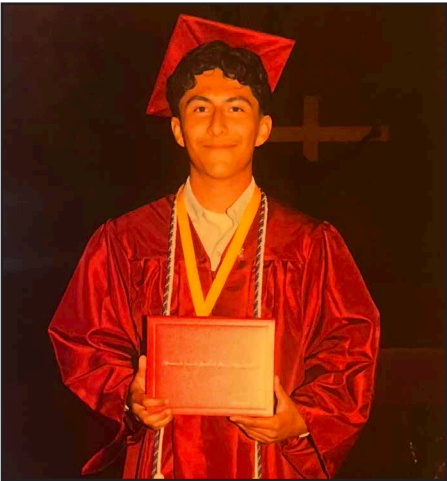
SAN MATEO DISTRICT (continued)



Cheryl and Donald with Bob Basunio, (Branch 191 and Central Council Life Member) at the San Jose Italian Heritage Festival, September 25th.

There's Nothing Stronger Than The Heart of A Volunteer.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



ICF 111-Luke Felix-Winner of Salvator Sam Pace Scholarship



ICF 111-Samuel Ramos-Winner of Phillip & Phillys Pace Scholarship



ICF 111-Selenne Ruiz-Winner of Phillip Pace, Jr. Scholarship.



ICF 111-Ariana Limon-Winner of Phillip & Phillys Pace Scholarship



St. Bede the Venerable Br. #374 - Summer Mass at Lakeside Golf Club with Fr. Jim Bevacqua



ICF Branch 218 President, Jerry Farrugia, presents Holy Angels 8th grade students Eric Andrews and Blake Parsons each with a \$750 Scholarship.



St. Bede the Venerable Br. #374 - Summer Mass at Lakeside Golf Club

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



St. Peter's Italian National Church, Los Angeles, CA.



Br. 179, The Felts



Br. 179, The Hanrahans



Branch 115 scholarship winners (L-R) Jack Spray, Natalie Carter with Branch 115 President Neal Di Leva



Branch 115 at the Mary Star of the Sea Church festa booth



Br. 179, Mary Ann Brewer-Nolan & Dianne Brennan



Br. 179, The Mays & The Trichters



Branch 115 at the Mary Star of the Sea Church festa making meatballs



Branch 115 at The Mary Star of the Sea Church festa cooking sausages and meatballs

East Bay District Council

All EBD Branches will be represented at the Annual Convention in Nevada, September 4-6th. Our delegates are collecting donated books as well as monetary donations to bring to the Convention for the Spread the Word Nevada charity.

Speaking of books, Branch 10 member James McGee has published again! His latest book, *The Teaching Odessey*, is a memoir of his many years of teaching and learning, sprinkled with his advice. Available on Amazon. Congratulations again James!

Bishop's Day – celebrated jointly between the Contra Costa District and the East Bay District is Sunday, September 20th at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Richmond. The 4:00 p.m. Mass will be followed by dinner at the Galileo Club with the presentation of burses and spiritual bouquets to Bishop Michael Barber. Contact your Branch, if in either of the districts or Walter Costa, for tickets.

At our July meeting, the EBD council took time to remember the passing of our beloved member, Pat Grasso. Pat was the former secretary for the EBD as well as for her Branch #343 for over a decade—faithfully writing minutes and columns until she no longer could. She passed over to our Lord in June. Reminding us of Pat's enthusiastic sharing of her zucchini crop each summer, our Orator Jeanette Zugnoni (Branch 10) made a scrumptious chocolate zucchini cake in Pat's honor for our meeting refreshments. Prayers for the repose of her soul and for her family.

Please check the Branch reports for news of many more summer activities!

Sincerely
Roberta Madej

Alameda Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

You are all invited to join us for our annual Ravioli Dinner on Saturday, October 17 in Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. The prices are the same as they were last year, \$35.00 for adults and \$15.00 for young people 12 and under. Social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the dinner prepared by Ben Ratto will be served at 7:00. We will also be initiating three new members. For reservations, contact Ms. Terry Greig, 510-504-0498.

Fifty-one members and friends enjoyed our annual Barbecue on Saturday, July 18. We experimented with single-number tickets for the raffle, and everyone understood the new format. Many thanks to all who assisted, especially chefs Larry Donovan and Bob Lubeck.

Our next activity will be the Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Fun

Fair on Saturday, September 19 in the schoolyard of Saint Philip Neri School. We have served as a sponsor for several years. Look for us operating the pizza booth.

We will be well-represented at the convention, with six officers attending, and at Oakland Diocese Bishop's Day on September 20.

John Zugnoni
Branch 10 publicity

Fremont Br. 215, St. Francis of Assisi

Branch 215 kicks off August with its Annual Heritage Luncheon. Originally and typically scheduled in July when the conference does not schedule a business meeting, this event was rescheduled to August 9 this year due to vacation schedule conflicts. Happily, the reschedule gave the prospective chefs more time to research and plan a Lombardian menu with an emphasis on Milanese gastronomy. Aperitivo will consist of a *tavola fredda* highlighting the region's cheeses, salumi and wine. Recipes of Aperol and Campari cocktails will be provided for DIY drinks. The Primo is *Risotto alla Milanese* followed by the *Secondo of Cotolette alla Milanese* with *Contorni* of seasonal vegetables. *Dolci* and *caffè* end the meal.

September marks a return to work. Branch convention delegate, Fran LaTorre, (Rebecca Engineer, alternate) will be reporting back to the branch on the annual convention. Not only will convention business be shared but learnings from the various workshops will also be discussed as they may adaptable to the operation and sustainability of the branch.

A cash raffle is also in the works in September. Tickets will on sale at the church vestibule before and after the masses on the following days: September 12, 13, 19 and 20. The branch's ability to support ICF charities and scholarships depends on successful fundraising.

In appreciation of our sponsor, Corpus Christi-Fremont Parish, several branch members will be helping prepare for the annual flea market (August 29-30) by receiving, displaying and selling. Donated items will be accepted starting on August 24. The Niles Antique Faire and Flea Market is on Sunday, August 30. Corpus Christi-Fremont is located at the end of Second Street in Niles.

In its earliest planning stages, Branch 215 is celebrating its 60th year on February 2027.

Stay tuned.
A dopo!
Submitted by: Shirley DeLucchi



Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

Ciao Amici,

Summer is flying by, and the Convention will be here before we know it. Our June branch meeting was held at Melo's Pizza and Pasta where we enjoyed a delicious Italian lunch. In July, we met for a fantastic barbecue. We were happy that the parents of one of our scholarship winners, Cashell Hagerty, could attend.

Summer is the time for games, so the Italian Conversation group spent a fun afternoon playing Scopla. We also watched an interesting video in Italian about a playing card manufacturer located in Treviso and the company's history of producing Scopla cards.

Except for the conversation group, members will take a break in August. We will be making up for that with a busy September. On the 20th, a group of our members will be attending Bishop's Day at Our Lady of Mercy in Point Richmond.

St. Michael's Fall Festival will be on the 27th, and some members will be working the ICF table where we will have a colorful display about the ICF and our branch, as well as a spin the wheel game with prizes for the kids. Our branch meeting will be that same afternoon, and we are looking forward to hearing a presentation by three of our members who traveled to Rome for a Holy Year pilgrimage. This program is sure to be very interesting.

Please keep those members who are ill in your prayers. Also, Buon Compleanno to all those with August and September birthdays!

Ciao,
Paula Flessatti

Castro Valley Br. 343, Our Lady of Grace

We continue to have a number of events on our calendar!

We enjoyed our annual July meeting menu: hot dogs, macaroni salad, potato salad, and, of course, tasty, sweet watermelon. Plenty of red, white, and blue decorations made for a festive evening.

Members of our branch joined many others by celebrating Italian-American Night at Oracle Park in San Francisco. Although the season for the Giants has not been going well, all who shared in the recognition of the Italian culture at the ballpark that night went home happy!

Our busy summer also includes a fundraiser at Rigatoni's, a local restaurant here in Castro Valley. What better way to spend an evening than by having a nice Italian meal with friends, and then, as a fundraiser, 20% of what we pay gets returned to the branch!

Our summer season will come to an end with our annual "Bites and Bingo" event on September 19th at Our Lady

of Grace here in Castro Valley. Good food, raffles, and bingo games. Is there a better way to spend an afternoon? Consider joining us at this fun event!

So, what do visitors to Italy during September get to see? There is the Regata Storica in Venice when the Grand Canal gets filled with 13th-century style boats, colorful costumes, and exciting gondola races. Or, there is the *Macchina di Santa Rosa*, where a 100-foot-tall illuminated tower, topped with a statue of Santa Rosa, is carried through the medieval streets of Viterbo by 100 men! Che spettacolo!

Alla prossima!
Edoardo McGuirk

CONTRA COSTA District Council

It's hard to believe summer is almost over. Children are back to school. Stores are filled with Halloween decorations. Our branches have been busy with fundraisers and fun filled events. Members from our District enjoyed the Italian Heritage night hosted by the San Francisco Giants. There was music, food and of course, baseball. Now it's time to head to Reno for the Convention at the Silver Legacy resort over Labor Day weekend. Our District is proud that Rosemary Shaw will run for re-election to the Central Council. Also attending will be, Life member, Roselyne Mc Neal. Our next meeting will be held October 8th. We ask each branch sends a representative. Some branches have only one. If they cannot attend, no one else does. But, first is Bishop's Day for Contra Costa and East Bay on September 20th. Our Richmond branch is hosting. Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy church in Point Richmond. Dinner will follow at the Galileo club. Please send your Seminary donations and dinner checks to Walter Costa. Our District Mass will be held November 1st at Immaculate heart of Mary Church in Brentwood. With Mass at 9 a.m. followed by breakfast.

That's all for this report. Have a great month.

Fraternally, Patty Jarrett,
Past President/Trustee

DEADLINE
September 10th
for the October
issue of the
***Bollettino*.**
Send your
articles
& photos:
editor@icf.org

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT

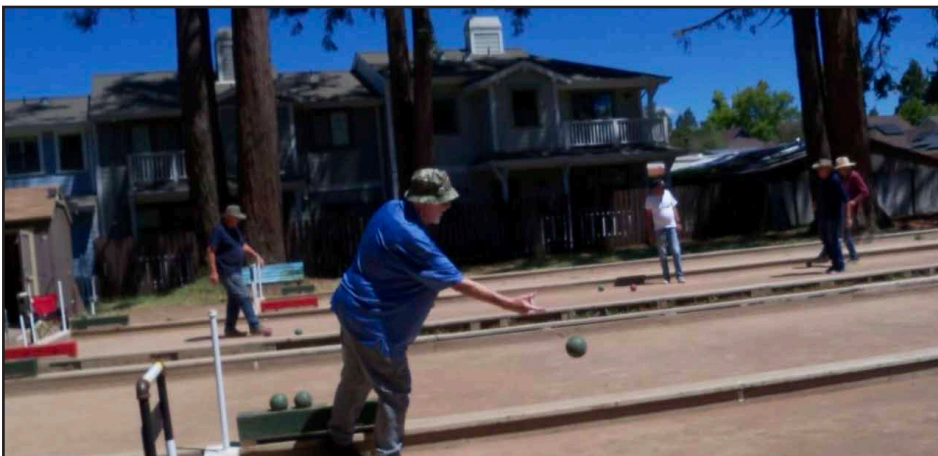


Branch 144, Garden Party



Br. 144, Social Hour

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT (continued)



Branch #209's President Steve Stedman at our June 27th Bocce Ball Tournament.



Debbie Wallin from Branch #209 updating the June 27th Bocce Ball Tournament standings.



Branch #209's June 27th Bocce Ball Tournament's 2nd Place Winners:
L to R - Gene Vannetti, Lorraine Vannetti, Sharon Vannetti, and Kyle Vannetti.



Branch #209's First Place Winners from the June 27th Bocce Ball Tournament L to R:
Dave Sereni, Melanie Lujan, Louie Traverso, and Ricky Vannetti.

EAST BAY DISTRICT



Members of Branch #285 enjoying a potluck barbecue on a beautiful Summer day in July.



Karen and Leonard Rossi, Italian American Night at the Giants game, July, 2026.



Italian American Nite, Oracle Park, July 2026.



Martinez Br. 13, San Martino

We're proud to support Rosemary Cook Shaw in her campaign for Central Council for her sixth year. We invite delegates to meet her and learn her goals. She'll continue to be an effective valuable member. May God bless her and all attendees and guide delegates with patience and verve.

We toast our first-year scholarship recipient, Anthony Klapperich, from Alhambra High; and, welcomed him and his family to our August meeting.

As we near the end of summer, in both the US and Italy, folks similarly enjoy their leisure time and organize gatherings before the onset of fall, and we assemble at the convention. While here, take a stroll, play bingo, and enjoy a meal with friends. The season encourages us to embrace the autumn and soon winter stages of our lives with open arms. Let's keep our curiosity, accept the changes and have a continued interest in our personal growth. Let's make it memorable.

We wish members, Rose Billicci-Santos, Deacon Dave Holland and Mary Cook, happy birthdays in August and September.

*For the greater glory of God,
Mary Cook*

Crockett Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

We hope everyone is having a nice summer and enjoying the hot weather. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 22nd (**note the date change). This is our famous BBQ tri tip dinner by chef Johnny V celebrating our 99th year as a branch. Special prizes will be raffled off to those who attend. Dinner is \$20.00.

Thank you to Donna & Nancy for representing us at this year's convention. We look forward to hearing their reports.

Sad news about one of our dear members, Helen Peterson, who gained her angel wings recently. Helen was a wonderful and active member of our branch. She was always willing to help on any task with a smiling face. She was kind, a wonderful friend and she will be greatly missed by everyone. Special prayers to Derek Peterson for his tremendous loss. Also, prayers for all our sick and homebound members. Please remember to say an extra prayer to SAVE ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH in Crockett, which has been our home for many years.

Our annual Polenta Dinner will be Saturday, October 24th and the cost is \$30.00. Tickets will be sold at the September meeting. Contact Donna for tickets if you can't make it.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our branch picnic. It was a fun day filled with friends, bocce & BBQ.

Buona Giornata. Nancy

Danville Br. 352, San Isidore

Buongiorno Tutti

Branch 352

The month of July has been quiet, with everyone enjoying their summer vacations. Although we did not have a dinner meeting in July, we are looking forward to our August gathering featuring sausage and peppers. It's always a fun time to get together.

We held our 50/50 drawing, and as often happens, someone donated their tickets to Fr. Wayne. This time, he was the lucky winner! In his generous spirit, he donated his winnings to the Knights of Malta, a Catholic free clinic in Oakland. We are so fortunate to have Fr. Wayne as our Chaplain. He always leads us in our opening prayer and shares the history of an Italian saint, which we all enjoy.

Diana Ferraris celebrated her birthday surrounded by family at a table filled with loved ones, along with a beautiful birthday cake. Happy Birthday, Diana!

We are now putting the finishing touches on our Heritage Binder for the conference and collecting books for our donation project to support Spread the Word Nevada.

That's all for this month. We look forward to seeing many of you at the conference.

*Ciao and God bless,
Sally Panella*

Brentwood Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

Summer finally arrived and so did the sweet Brentwood corn now available at our Farmers Market. If you haven't gotten any yet—what are you waiting for?

Thanks so much to our Mentor, Patty Jarrett, for the wonderful informational Heritage report given last month on the history of the ICF. We really appreciated Patty taking the time to share all the facts about the founding of our organization.

Our Scholarship Dinner on July 27 (which took the place of our usual meeting) was well attended with honorees, their families and members from all groups giving scholarships. We thank the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of America, Crafty Quilters, Fil-Am, Pancake Breakfast and our anonymous donors for their generosity. Total awards of \$31,500 went to 16 deserving students: Alexis Emeziem, Alena Castillo, Gabriel Garcia, Carlos Camacho, Jorge Juarez II, Julian Ayala, Maria Martinez-Tapia, Izabella Alaniz, Emma Diaz, Mary Clarke, Natalya Santana, Patrick Cruz, Analucia Baires, Anisa Barbosa, Cristian Camacho and Emily Celli. Please keep these wonderful young people and their families in your prayers as they further their scholastic endeavors.

Our meal was catered by Ralph's, who never disappoints. Thanks to Pat Rebollar and her faithful volunteers who provided the lovely decorations and all those who contributed in any way to make such a fun night happen.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on August 31st.

Keep promoting our Car Show on September 25th and stay cool.

Ciao for now, Mary M.

BLESSED SACRAMENT District

Sacramento

Br. 45, St. Mary

Our next Chicken & Polenta dinner, after taking a summer break, will be held on Sunday, Sept., 27th in Giovanni Hall. Our branch meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner includes: Salad, Roll, Polenta with meat sauce, ½ baked chicken and dessert. 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 Monday, Sept. 21st.

Condolences to the family of longtime member BeBe Lveroni-Wright who passed away in June at the age of 99. BeBe was an active member in the Branch having a group of friends she always brought to our dinners. We will miss her. May she Rest in Peace

Our Parish Festival and Convention highlights will be included in our next article.

Ciao, Janine

Auburn Br. 342, St. Joseph

We hope you will be able to join us for another afternoon of bingo fun on Saturday, October 10th at the Canyon View Community Center in Auburn. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. We will begin with a yummy Mexican food lunch and then have a few hours of bingo and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased from me (Pam) at (530) 913-2041 or Adriana at (530)906-6996. Hope to see you there!

*Ciao!
Pam Andersen*

Roseville Br. 438, St. Clare of Assisi

Branch# 438 June meeting was very special. We celebrated our 15th anniversary. We had a beautiful turnout for dinner. What better way to celebrate then having a June picnic. We served hamburgers and hot dogs, and various salads, and desserts. Joe Aguilar presented a video called Gleaning for the Hungry. This video was very inspiring and rewarding for all members. Thank you, Joe for sharing this video with us. To celebrate our night, we decided to have a fun night by playing several games of Bingo, and match the board members with their baby pictures. It was a pleasure to see the members enjoy themselves.

There were no meeting for July.

Upcoming events:

August 21st Hawaiian Luau presented by Mark and Yvonne Anthony, and Robert and Ann Finn. The dinner consists of barbeque baby back ribs, Hawaiian rice, Hawaiian baby spinach salad with mandarin oranges and pineapple, and fruit trays. The dessert will be provided by the members.

Remember all our ill members in your prayers, Renato Nicolai, Rico Ches, and Paul Morrison.

*Your Reporter,
Yvonne Anthony*



2026-2027 CENTRAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

DENISE ANTONOWICZ Branch 184, Los Gatos and Br. 191, San Jose

Greetings to the Members of the Italian Catholic Federation:

I'm Denise Antonowicz, a proud member of Branches 184 and 191, and a current Central Council Member (Grand Trustee) and Past Grand President. I'm truly grateful to be part of this I.C.F. family, and I'd be honored to have your support as I run for re-election to the Central Council.



Serving in this community has been a real blessing. Every role I've held has shown me just how much kindness and generosity lives in our Federation. I'm thankful for your trust, your friendship, and all the laughter and memories we've shared – especially those times when we're trading secret ingredients for our favorite family recipes!

My passion is bringing people together, supporting our parishes, and making sure everyone feels welcome – just like family. I love organizing events, reaching out to anyone who needs a hand, and encouraging our young people to join in and carry on our traditions. I always try to bring a smile and a sense of humor, because sometimes that's exactly what we need.

Looking ahead, my goals are simple but close to my heart:

- Strengthen our bonds as a community
- Support our parishes and clergy
- Welcome new members and help our youth feel at home
- Keep our cherished traditions alive, while staying open to new ideas

If I'm given the chance to keep serving, I promise to keep listening, learning, and working right alongside you – with plenty of warmth and a deep pride in our diverse heritages.

Thank you so much for considering me for another term. I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish next. *May God bless you, and may God keep blessing the Italian Catholic Federation.*

ROSEMARY COOK SHAW Branch 13, Martinez

This year's focus is our ICF legacy: faith, family, and heritage. These values are integral parts of my identity cultivated here, as I've grown in my Catholicism and Sicilian traditions alongside my family as a life-long ICF participant.



Currently, I'm the Vice President of Branch 13, CC's Public Relations Committee Chairperson, and member of the Apostolate, Gifts of Love, Membership, and Executive Committees. These roles consistently show me the significance of engaging in an organization with broad impact. While celebrating Italian culture and Catholic faith, we demonstrate a commitment to service, education, community, charity, and health advocacy. Nurturing this legacy motivates me to pursue a sixth year serving you as a Central Council member.

I've enjoyed all aspects of my involvement and am invested in the organization's future. ICF has also recognized me with the 2012 Young Adult Leadership Award, four years of scholarships, and as part of the 2020 Family-of-the-Year. I'm grateful whenever I'm chosen for such honors. Additionally, as a thalassemic, I appreciate the Federation-wide support of research and fundraising for this cause.

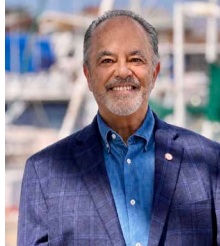
I bring leadership skills honed through coordinating academic and social groups, and am an accomplished director and effective communicator. My position at UChicago adds to my experience working with people of all ages and backgrounds and my proficiency in implementing creative solutions.

Raised in the rich tradition of ICF and part of a generation with new talents, I'm excited to keep contributing to initiatives that will develop our digital presence, outreach, and multifaceted programs. For example, I've spearheaded an audit to modernize our website and improve it as an accessible and user-friendly resource for current and prospective members. I hope to keep offering my unique perspective and energy to such projects and thank you for the opportunity to do so as a returning CC member.

DR. VINCENT MALFITANO Branch 36, Monterey

Wow, what a year it's been!

I've traveled to so many ICF Branches and met so many incredible, dedicated people. What an honor it's been to represent all of you, and now I'm asking that you help me continue this very important honor, and journey.



I am passionate about getting the ICF word out there, to let our individual Branches know that this Council Member is very much involved in helping them to be the best, most rewarding Branch to all of its individual members.

But I strongly feel it's time to concentrate on how we move this incredible organization forward, reaching a broader group of people. I want to promote and pass on the enduring values of Faith, Family, Heritage and Traditions to all current and future generations. As ICF moves into the

future, we must ensure that the legacy of this Federation remains alive, vibrant and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

I now, respectfully ask for your help in getting re-elected so I may continue to do good meaning full work for you and our Incredible Federation.

God Bless.

ANNIE MCCARTHY Branch 210, Fontana and Branch 217, Redlands

Hi, I'm Annie McCarthy. I'm President of Branch 210 in Fontana, 1st Vice President of Branch 217 in Redlands, and Treasurer for The San Bernardino District. I've been with the ICF since March 2002, when my mom, Fabiola Di Paolo, invited me to join.



I attend all meetings of both my Branches and District and have never missed a Convention. I am also the recording secretary, handle heritage, and apostolate for 210, and write the articles for the *Bollettino* for 210, 217 and the District. This year, I was able to appoint a chairperson in charge of fundraising. He's bringing great ideas to the table and the members are enthusiastic about working with him.

I have worked hard to help make our annual Bishop's Day a success and always invite the Director of Vocations and several Seminarians because I want them to know that ICF ALSO supports vocations and contributes to the Junipero Serra House of Formation.

I am grateful for the support of both my Branches and the District. If elected, will work to increase membership and promote Hospitalization. Branch 210 currently has more of our members covered by Hospitalization than any other Branch in the Federation. If elected, I would love to work with the Hospitalization Committee.

I love being an ICF member and being involved in the leadership roles offered to me. I would appreciate your vote. *Grazie*

PERRY SHURKO Branch 362, Downey, and National Branch 67

Hello. My name is Perry Shurko and I am running for a seat on the Central Council of the Italian Catholic Federation.

My qualifications are - I've been a member of the ICF since 2007. My



home Branch is #362 but I also belong to Branch 67 and I am a Mentor to branch 447. I've held many offices in the Branch and District levels. I was nominated and voted into the CC in 2019 at the convention that year and have had a seat ever since. Just like at the Branch and District levels, I've held many offices and have chaired several committees. Currently, I hold the office of Branch Vice President and I am the Grand Secretary of the ICF.

Thank you so much.

Perry Shurko

THERESA SABATELLA SHAW Branch 108, South Pasadena and National Branch 67

My name is Theresa Sabatella Shaw, member of Branch 108, South Pasadena, and Branch 67 since 1977! I am, again, asking for your vote to elect me for Central Council.



Looking back over the 49 years that I have been a part of ICF, I realize how important it is to keep this great organization alive. We are a rare "family organization" that shares "Our Legacy: Faith, Family, & Heritage" with our members and the parishes to which we belong. We, in our branches, raise funds to help our parishes, seminarians, schools, & those in need and we've been doing it for over 100 years! How many organizations can say this?

Why do I belong to the ICF? My answer is the same: "Because I am proud of what we as an organization stand for, while promoting family, faith, and heritage. We embrace the importance and pride of all heritages of our members. For the past few years, Central Council members have been working hard to find ways to gather information about how we can better ourselves to attract more members in order to keep this great organization alive. Br 67, our National Branch, has been working hard through the efforts of Br President Carmelo Sabatella, Grand Secretary of the Central Council,

Perry Shurko, and Br 67 Committee members, to keep the ICF out there to help spark interest in forming new branches. How hard would it be for each of us to bring in just one more member and double our membership?

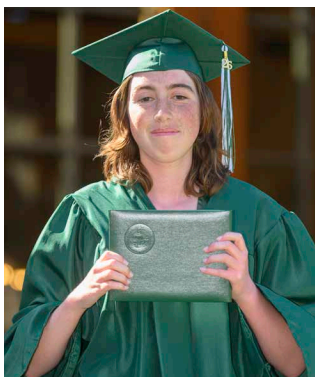
I am now running again for Central Council because I would like to help keep this great organization going.

Sempre Avanti! Grazie!



Congratulations to our 2026 First Year Scholarship Winners

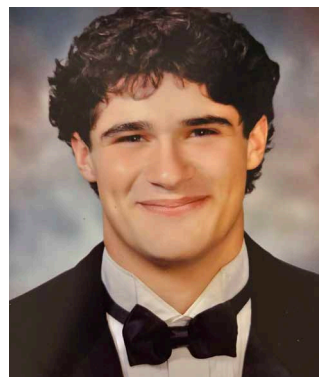
Central Coast District



Sierra Colleen Pope
Central Coast District



Ariana Sanfelice
Br. 21, Santa Cruz



Joseph Viarengo
Br. 26, Hollister
In Memory of Deceased Members of Br. 26
& In Honor of Living Members of Br. 26



Lorenzo Lorca
Br. 36, Monterey



Liam Rawson
Br. 51, Castroville



Makenzie Gollihar
Br. 227, Aptos



Samuel Lopez
Br. 227, Aptos
In Memory of Alice Ponza



Liliana Luera
Br. 354, Paso Robles

Contra Costa District



John Cardinalli
Contra Costa District



Anthony Klapperich
Br. 13, Martinez
In Memory of Sheila A. Grilli



Danielle Payant
Br. 14, Crockett
In Memory of David Botta



Hannah Petersen
Br. 14, Crockett
In Memory of David Botta



Wyatt D'Amato
Br. 214, Concord



Samantha Ferguson
Br. 352, Danville



Charles Hill
Br. 352, Danville



Emily Celli
Br. 432, Brentwood



Olivo Paul Nuti
Br. 442, Pleasant Hill

East Bay District



Jonathan Cannon
East Bay District



Kevin Tippit
Br. 10, Alameda



Ashley Henderson
Br. 215, Fremont

East Bay District (cont.)



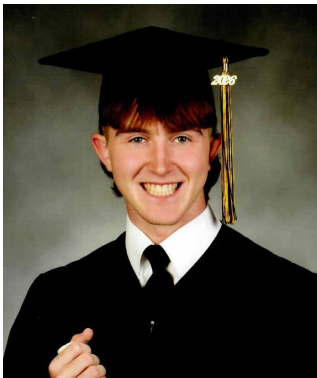
Jenna Moreno
Br. 215, Fremont



Cashel Hagerty
Br. 285, Livermore



Lucia Sangiorgio
Br. 285, Livermore



Nathanael G. Resong
Br. 343, Castro Valley

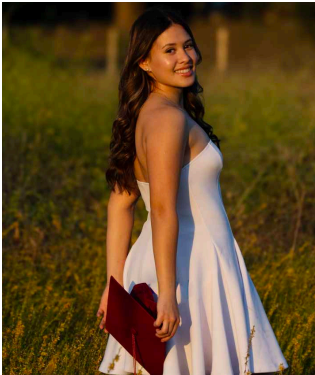
Fresno District



Phoenix Ryan
Fresno District



Isabella Arlene DeVincentis
Br. 39, Merced



Vianney Martinez Luna
Br. 39, Merced



Michael Pires
Br. 54, Gustine



Jacob Taylor
Br. 250, Clovis



Addison Roberts
Br. 281, Bakersfield



Madeleine Menz
Br. 308, Fresno



Jordyn Dutto
Scholarship Fund

Los Angeles Archdiocese District



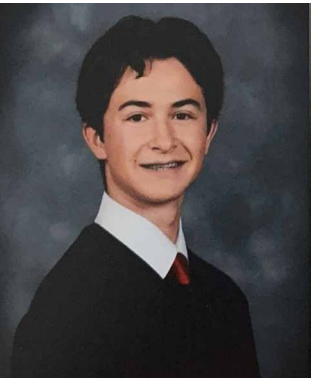
Elisabeth Santoro Hoffman
Br. 108, South Pasadena



Massimo Sorce
Br. 111, Montebello



Natalie Carter
Br. 115, San Pedro



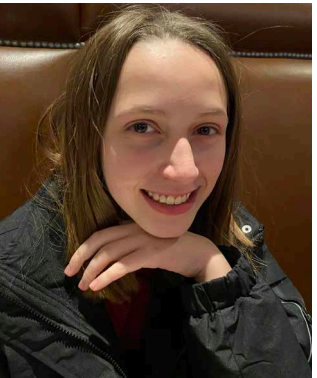
Jack Spray
Br. 115, San Pedro



John Roa
Br. 237, Gardena
In Memory of Angelina Publico



Siena Kellerman
Br. 362, Downey



Josephine Lehman
Br. 362, Downey



Lorenzo Bulgarini
Br. 374, La Canada Flintridge



Maria Nadsady
Br. 444, Rancho Palos Verdes



Isabella Fyfe
Br. 447, Manhattan Beach



Noah James Bouchard
Br. 380, Thousand Oaks

Marin Area

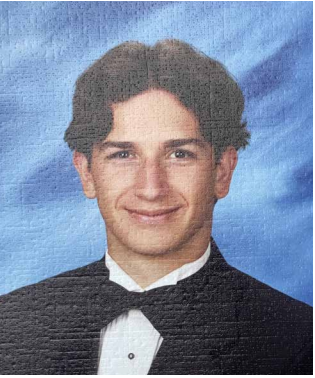


Gianna Garbarino
Br. 332, Novato

Orange District



Dominic Bruno
Br. 379, Huntington Beach

Orange District (cont.)		Reno Area		Blessed Sacrament District			
	Emma Dierking Br. 406, Orange		Matthew Michael Telliano Br. 135, Reno		Madeline Lucas Blessed Sacrament District In Memory of Msgr. Virgil Gabrielli	Matthew Ielati Br. 45, Sacramento	Olivia Cataldo Br. 73, Roseville
						San Bernardino District	
	Quinn Butler Br. 342, Auburn		Kiera McManus Br. 342, Auburn		Madeline Southworth Br. 342, Auburn	Grace Thomsen San Bernardino District	Jackson Kulevich Br. 210, Fontana
						San Diego District	
	Benjamin Vincent Jordan Br. 217, Redlands		Ethan Julian Tedesco Br. 446, Upland In Honor of the Officers and Members of Br. 446		Dominic Yerkes Scholarship Fund	Chris Shull Br. 229, Chula Vista	Luke Norin Br. 449, Santee
San Mateo District							
	Sean Passalacqua Br. 173, Burlingame In Memory of Nerina DiBella		Madison Ketcham Br. 213, South San Francisco		Sophia J. Flores Br. 351, Menlo Park	Veronica Panina Br. 403, Millbrae	Anna Gordon Santa Clara Valley District In Memory of Papa Joe Marsalli.
							
	James Alexander Friebe, V Br. 28, Gilroy In Memory of Shirley Silva		Jason Tobias Lucero Br. 28, Gilroy In Memory of Rosie Mammini		Lawrence O'Brien Br. 184, Los Gatos	Andrew Richard Buonomo Br. 191, San Jose	Ethan Jonah Steele-Gordon Br. 368, San Jose

Santa Clara Valley District (cont.)



Sara Maitland Zazueta-Charles
Br. 391, San Jose



Dylan Chauvin
Br. 408, Sunnyvale



Allison Giulia Gallego
Br. 435, Morgan Hill



Juan Pablo Palma
Br. 445, San Jose

Santa Rosa District



Paolo Maraviglia
Br. 52, Healdsburg



Travis Ward
Br. 52, Healdsburg



Leo Antonio Spampanato
Br. 103, Sonoma
(Closing Donation)



Nolan Sefcik
Br. 144, Arcata



Aiden Alvarez
Br. 145, Eureka
In Memory of Jerry Colivas



Catarina Freitas
Br. 145, Eureka
In Memory of Jerry Colivas



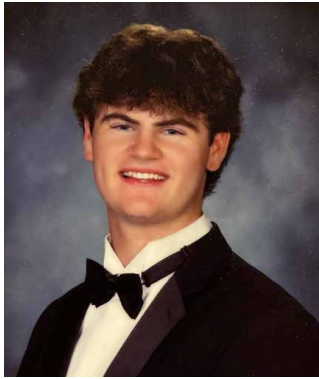
Nolan Barichievich
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of
Joseph, Irene & Jerre Paolini.



Morgan Cameron
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of Richard Carrera



Genevieve Caruso
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of
Norman & Roseanne Sikes



Benjamin Johnston
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of
Gail Bongi Azevedo



Lena Kavanaugh
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of
Wilma & Bert Royeton



Makenzie Matoza
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of
Peter & Juliette Barbieri



Isabella Scardina
Br. 198, Santa Rosa
In Memory of Michael Milano



Sophia Pellini
Br. 209, Sebastopol

Satockton District



Lauren Alegre
Stockton District



Armando Martin
Br. 390, Tracy

Out of Area



Zachary Sanguinetti
Br. 395, Stockton



Hudson Gasperson
Scholarship Fund

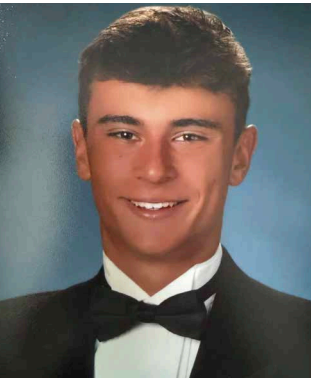
Individuals



Kevin Jariett
Scholarship Fund



Angelo Carbone
Victor Arnaudo - Br. 1/Br. 173.
In Memory of Patricia Arnaudo

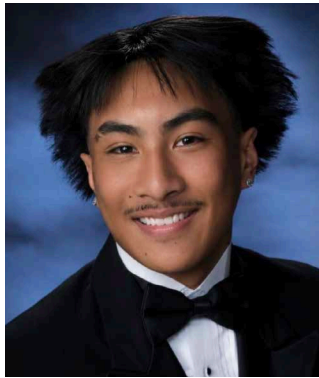


Matthew Baldino
Diana Quaresma Baciagalupi - Br. 50
In Memory of Estelle Carney



Individuals (cont.)

Cassandra Salvucci
The Botta Family - Br. 14
In Memory of David Botta



Joshua Igueldo
Louise DeTomasì - Br. 14
In Memory of Donald DeTomasì



Sasha Carmichael
The Dooley Family - Br. 14.
In Memory of James Dooley



Samantha Finch
Robert Grassilli, Jr.
In Memory of Marie Grassilli



Nicholas Giovanni Guarino
Robert Grassilli, Jr.
In Memory of Robert Grassilli



Michael Rego Cutri Mora
Robert Grassilli, Jr.
In Memory of Anna Oliva



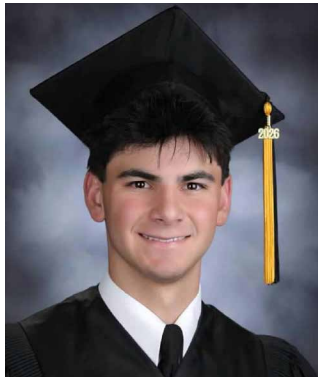
Ella Mahlke
Larry & Carmen Kilcullen - Br. 52
In Memory of Leo & Ila Kilcullen



Anthony (AJ) Schuberg
Virginia Coe Orlando - Br. 21
In Memory of John Orlando



Marinna Gagnon
Leonard & Karen Rossi - Br. 343



Giovanni Fontana
Leonard & Karen Rossi - Br. 343
In Memory of
Nello & Cookie Rossi



Carys Shannon
Michael and Donna Santich - Br. 343
In Memory of
Robert & Theresa Dianda



Abrianna Borelli
The Scesa Family - Br. 54
In Memory of Frank & Helen Scesa



Giulia Tarantino
Jean & Bob Segale
In Memory of
Lola & Sam J. Parrinello



Emma Quaroni
Jean & Bob Segale
In Memory of
William & Mary Segale



Lucas DiPippa
Jean & Bob Segale
In Memory of Bill & Lou Segale



Francesco Nudo
The Standen Family - Br. 14
In Honor of Colin Cabral



Kaila Wood
The Valli Family - Br. 14
In Memory of Bill Valli

We also gratefully acknowledge the following partial donations that made additional scholarships from the ICF Scholarship Fund possible:

CC Spouses' and Family Association - In Honor of Bill Perry and CC Spouses' and Family Association - In Honor of The Margaret Aylward Center; **Contra Costa District:** Br. 154; **Fresno District:** Br. 417, Antoinette and Angelo Pecora (Br. 308) - In Memory of Father John Fluetsch, Antoinette and Angelo Pecora - In Memory of Janie Girado and Antoinette and Angelo Pecora - In Memory of Franklin Souza; **Los Angeles Archdiocese District:** Officers/Members of Los Angeles Archdiocese District - In Honor of Lauren Kilcullen and Charlene Drobeck (Br. 362) - In Memory of Adele Schilling; **Orange District:** The Bunco Sisters (per Lisa Simpson) - In Memory of Jean Greystock; **Blessed Sacrament District:** Officers/Members of Blessed Sacrament District - Thank You to Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. for Attending Our District Installation; **San Francisco Area:** Maria Caccia - In Memory of Aurora Pialorsi Roselli; **San Mateo District:** Loretta Fontana - In Memory of Aurora Roselli; **Santa Clara Valley District:** Denise Antonowicz (Br. 184/Br. 191) - In Memory of Natalie Malone, Shirley Catania (Br. 191) - In Memory of Frieda Flocchini, Charles Gullo, Jr. (Br. 391) - In Memory of Beverly Wildermann, Donna Pfaff (Br. 184/Br. 445) - In Memory of Maureen Godar and Jean Whittier - In Memory of Aurora Pialorsi Roselli; **Santa Rosa District:** Lola Braccini - In Memory of Aurora Roselli, The Kilcullen Family (Br. 52) - In Honor of the 95th Birthday of Natalie Malone and The Kilcullen Family - In Memory of Aurora Roselli; **Stockton District:** Br. 48, Br. 82 and Br. 413.

"A scholarship is a vote of confidence in your abilities and future success."
— Unknown



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President ~ CA License FDR 41



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Congratulations!

Italian Catholic Federation, Branch 19
Dan Duggan, Member

Deborah Rodondi
Past Grand President & Grand Treasurer of the ICF
& Branch 19 President



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Matt, Dan and Joey Duggan

Over the years, our commitment has been to provide you, your friends and neighbors with sound advice, compassionate and personal service at times that can be emotionally difficult. As native San Franciscan and established members of our community; we understand the security of dealing with people you know you can trust. We've built our family reputation on this trust and thank all the families who have honored us with the care of their loving family gone before us.

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Top 5 Reasons to Visit Italy in the Fall

If you ask seasoned travelers for the absolute best time to visit Italy, they will almost always give you the same answer: autumn.

As the summer heat cools down and peak tourist crowds fade, Italy transforms into a vibrant, food-rich paradise. Here are the top 10 reasons why September and autumn are the ultimate seasons to experience *La Dolce Vita*:

1. Experience La Vendemmia (The Grape Harvest)

September marks the heart of the annual grape harvest. Vineyards across Tuscany, Piedmont, and Veneto buzz with energy, hosting wine-tasting tours, grape-stomping events, and historic wine festivals.

2. Warm Seas & Quiet Beaches

The Mediterranean retains all the warmth absorbed over the summer months. You can enjoy the stunning waters of the Amalfi Coast, Puglia, or Sardinia with comfortably warm sea temperatures and far fewer crowds.

3. Venice's Historic Regata Storica

Every September, Venice's Grand Canal springs to life with a historic parade of colorful 16th-century style vessels and thrilling gondola races—one of the city's most beloved traditions.

4. Crisp Hiking in the Dolomites

With clear skies, cooler mountain air, and golden foliage, autumn offers unmatched conditions for high-alpine trekking and scenic cable-car rides in northern Italy.

5. The Season of Autumn Harvest Festivals (Sagre)

Small towns nationwide host local food festivals celebrating seasonal delicacies: wild porcini mushrooms, black and white truffles, chestnuts, and freshly pressed extra-virgin olive oil.

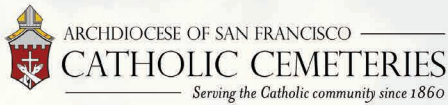
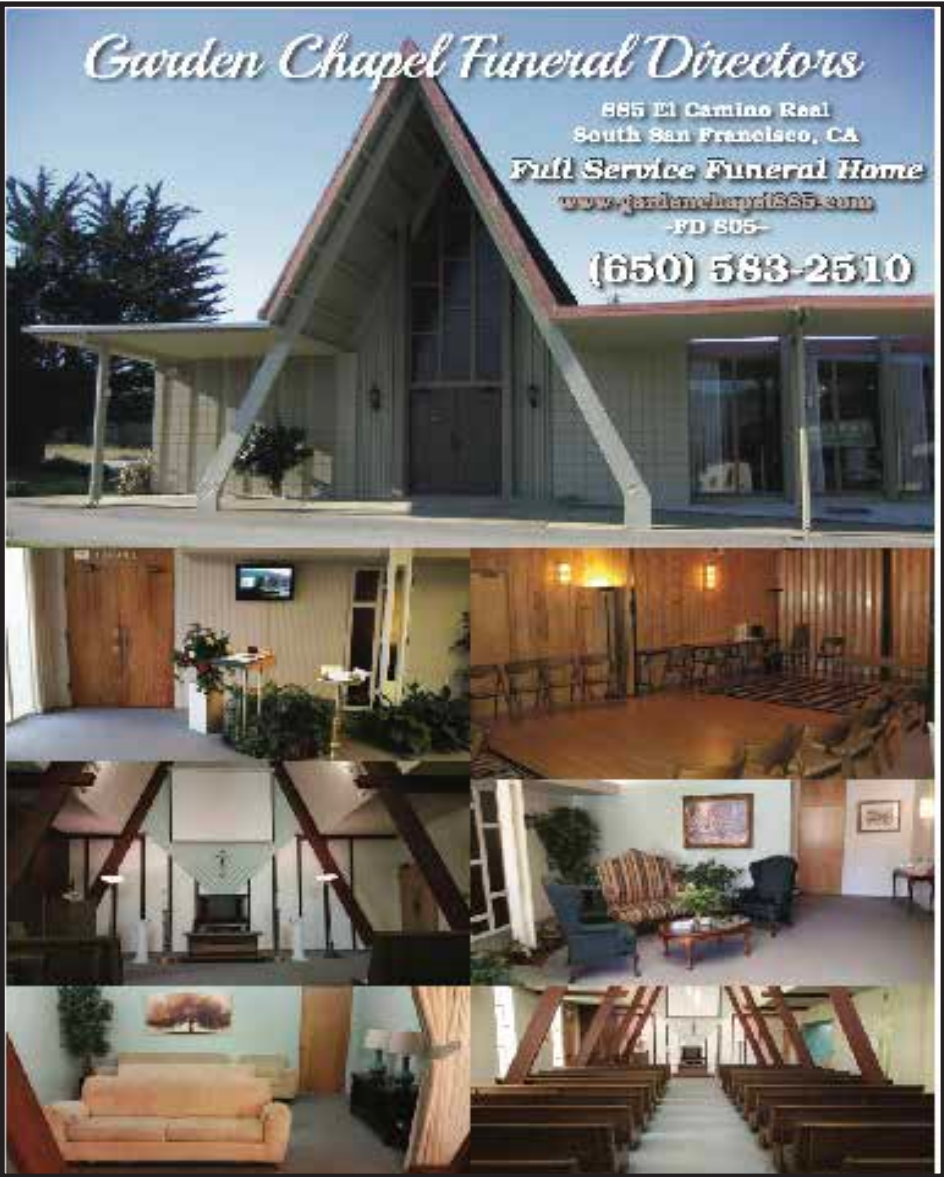
Traveler's Tip: If you're traveling in autumn, be sure to pack comfortable walking shoes and light layers—mornings and evenings bring a crisp, refreshing chill, while afternoons remain sunny and warm!

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Our Lady of the Pillar Cemetery	926 Miramontes St., Half Moon Bay, CA	650-712-1679
St. Anthony Cemetery	Stage Road, Pescadero, CA	650-712-1679
St. Mary Magdalene Cemetery	16 Horseshoe Hill Road, Bolinas, CA	415-479-9021
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Lincoln Br. 450, St. Joseph

Branch 450, St. Joseph Lincoln celebrated our first anniversary with a wonderful dinner event. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal featuring lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread sticks, and a beautiful sheet cake honoring our ICF anniversary, along with cookies and pies. We shared a truly memorable meal together.

The celebration continued with lively entertainment from our own members, the brave voices who stepped up for karaoke. The raffles added even more excitement, with lucky winners taking home many wonderful prizes. Everyone enjoyed being together and celebrating all that we have accomplished. This past year, we have shared meals, held successful fundraisers, and begun meaningful parish traditions. We hope that our anniversary dinner becomes a cherished annual event.

On August 1st, we proudly hosted our first Bingo event for the parish. The day was filled with a delicious lunch, plenty of laughter, and many lucky winners. Congratulations to our branch members for their hard work, and dedication in making the event such a memorable success. Participants shared many positive comments about how well organized everything was, and they especially enjoyed the food, and snacks! This exciting new tradition was a true blessing for our parish community—and another wonderful annual event to add to the books!

Stay tuned for more events, including our 1st Annual Fall/Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival on October 24. If you craft or know someone who does, contact Yolanda Molina 408-469-0062. The table reservation deadline is August 31st.

*Ciao,
Janet Vicencio & Karen Mosca!*

SANTA ROSA District

Healdsburg Br. 52, San Francisco Di Sales

We wish our Convention delegates a safe and successful trip to Reno on Labor Day weekend!

Upcoming Events:

ICF Convention: September 4 – 6 at the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno.

Potluck Dinner: Tuesday, September 15. Bring your favorite dish to share with other members and guests. This is always a fun event with delicious food. We have wonderful cooks in our branch. At 6:00 p.m. we will have a

short meeting with reports from our Convention delegates followed by the potluck. For reservations, call Marie Butler: 707-540-2976

Ravioli Dinner: Saturday, November 7: Mark your calendars! Richard and crew will still be cooking his almost famous sauce for the raviolis. Tickets will go on sale in October.

Our branch needs raffle chairpeople for our upcoming ravioli dinner. We have some items for raffle baskets but need more items and people to make the baskets and sell tickets at the dinner. If no one volunteers, we will not have a raffle. The raffles at our dinners help offset the costs of the dinners, allowing the branch to have more funds for our charitable giving. Please contact President Monika Besancon if you would like to volunteer.

We send our condolences and prayers to the families of Al Garaylde and Patricia Arrigoni on their recent passings.

We wish our youngest members a happy Back-to-School and a successful school year! -Lauren

Arcata Br. 144, St. Mary

Our July meetings have become garden parties! For the last few years, Jim and Ruth Monge's ('08), have hosted it at their lovely oasis in Fieldbrook. It was on Sunday, July 19. See photos on our district page.

We had delicious dishes and wonderful fellowship with members and guests. Some even snuck in a few minutes to watch the FIFA World Cup Final!

Sadly, we did not have Pete Stagnoli (RIP), to show us the techniques for winning at Bocce.

Although our Church, St. Mary's in Arcata, was dedicated September 8, 1996, we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary on August 30th.

The weekend begins with a concert by Chris Brunelle on Friday, August 28 at 7 p.m. followed by a reception that ICF will help with.

On Sunday, after the 11 a.m. Mass, there will be the Church Picnic held on the Our Lady of Fatima Piazza, a.k.a. the Church's patio area,

Our two delegates, Rosemary Melendy and Christine Ross, are looking forward to attending the annual convention in Reno, September 5-7.

Our branch continues to host the second weekend social/coffee hours after the three weekend Masses.

Tony Gonsalves has won FIRST PLACE in DIVISION 1 at the California State Fair for his carving of a Horned Lark. He will receive a State Fair First Place ribbon along with \$40. This is his first entry in the State Fair. He is already planning his 2027 entry: a carving of a quail, the State Bird!

*A. Seymour Carlisle Eanni
Secretary, Branch #144*

Eureka Br. 145, St. Ambrose

There is a correction to last month's Eureka Branch #145 article. The Colivas Scholarship fundraising spaghetti dinner is to be held on SUNDAY Oct. 11th.

Our normal Saturday timeslot is being used for a benefit concert in the St. Bernard parish hall produced by the Cursillo group of Eureka.

The next meeting of Branch 145 Eureka will be on Tuesday September 8th at 1:30 p.m. We will be making plans for the upcoming Colivas Scholarship dinner to be held on Sunday October 11th at 5 p.m.

The Eureka Italian Bocce Tournament will occur on Sunday August 23rd at the Redwood Baseball Fields in Cullen from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you would like to form or sponsor a bocce team, contact Joe Bonino at 707-445-5799. Entry fee is \$10 per person. Our ICF Branch has agreed to sell biscotti and other cookies at the tournament.

Santa Rosa Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This month's article starts with compliments for two successful events. The first was a fundraiser at the Christopher Creek Winery. Doreen O'Rourke and Thomas Nguyen did a great job with food and dancing at the winery. Those in attendance had a great time and we made over \$400.00 profit for the Branch.

The second was our hotdog and macaroni salad dinner before the July meeting. Janice Shaffer did a beautiful job with the decorations and she also prepared the hotdogs. Doreen O'Rourke set up the hall and furnished the ice cream and apple turnovers. Finally, Kathy Acquistapace prepared all the macaroni salad for the 50 people who attended. It was GREAT.

Looking ahead we will have a Mass for ICF members living and deceased at 8:00 a.m. on September 8, a meeting and ice cream social on September 14th and our Harvest Soup Dinner on October 5th. Plan to attend.

Say a "Hail Mary" for anyone you know is ill or recently deceased.

*Enjoy the "Labor Day" weekend.
Robert Acquistapace*

Sebastopol Br. 209, St. Michael

Hello from Branch #209!

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

Our Branch hosted a Bocce Ball Tournament on June 27th. It was a wonderful

day! Lots of laughs and friendly competition, with the final results listed below:

3rd Place Team: Steve Azevedo, Jim Kany, Greg Nelson, and Jr. Maffia.

2nd Place Team: Lorraine Vannetti, Gene Vannetti, Kyle Vannetti, and Sharon Vannetti.

Winning Team - 1st Place: Ricky Vannetti, Dave Sereni, Melanie Lujan, and Louie Traverso.

The weather was perfect and fun was had by all. Everyone enjoyed good company and good food. Thank you, Steve, for the coffee, and thank you Jr. for the delicious hotdog lunch. A super special thank you goes to Debbie Wallin for organizing the whole event!! It was a huge success!

The Convention is coming up and our members John and Tami Marian will represent our Branch #209. We can't wait to hear all about it.

Also, an upcoming date to remember — Our Chicken and Polenta Dinner will be on October 27th, which will be here before we know it. This year is flying by!

*Hope everyone is well. Please take care! Ciao!
Yvonne Dorr
Recording Secretary
Branch #209*

FRESNO District

Merced Br. 39, St. Cecilia

Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! We had our Annual Branch Picnic on July 8th at Lake Yosemite. We had a wonderful time-sharing food and fellowship. A Thank You to all those who helped and participated in the preparation and the fun.

Our Branch 39 was honored at the 12th Annual Fund Raiser – Harvest of Hope. It was a wonderful evening with many ICF Branch 39 members present.

Our delegates are looking forward to attending the ICF annual convention and spending time in Reno. We are looking forward to the reports and information they bring back to us.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 9th at the Italo Lodge in Merced at 5 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. of Pasta & Meatballs with our general meeting to follow. *Hope to see you then.*



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

Greetings from the Central Valley where we hope to have cooler weather some time soon!

Happy birthday wishes for August celebrants Angelo Lavagnino , Betty Massa, Sharon Rainaldi and Conrad Rios, and September celebrants Val Rios and Melissa Squeo-Rodriguez.

Our August meeting featured numerous salads and desserts which were enjoyed by the large turn out ; numerous door prizes were raffled off. On July 19 our members participated in a Mass for the living and deceased members and then enjoyed brunch at a local restaurant.

Little known Popes’ department: St. Martin I (the 74th Pope) 649-653: After election as Pope, he antagonized Emperor Contans who had Martin arrested, flogged, and sent into exile in Crimea. In 655, he died of malnutrition.

Our membership continues to grow since we relocated to St. Paul Newman Center, for which we are very grateful. The Center’s staff have been very supportive and have been so positive in their interaction with us.

A big thanks to all of you who sold and/or purchased tickets to our Cool Hand Luke’s fundraiser! Chairman Rich Zanarini reported the event was quite successful. Proceeds will help fund our various charity donations.

Philosopher Angelino says: “*La Vecchiaia Viene Con 19 Mancamenti E L’Ultimo, La Goccia Al Naso, Fanno Venti*”- “Old Age Comes With 19 Faults, And The Last, The Drip At the End Of The Nose, Makes Twenty”.

Thought for the month:
“It matters not if the world has heard
Or approves or understands,
The only applause we’re meant to seek
Is that of nail-scarred hands”(Hoff)

Ciao,
Bruna Bellaboca

Fresno
Br. 308, St. Anthony

Happy August. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I also hope everyone had a great 250th birthday party and that we will keep this spirit going throughout the year and beyond (has anyone seen Toy Story 5?). In the words of my favorite children’s author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, “Americans won’t obey any king on earth. Americans are free. The Declaration and the song came together in her mind, and she thought: God is America’s king.”

Our June potluck was a rousing success. Everyone stepped up and produced wonderful things to eat. We have a lot

of talented cooks in our midst, and we should have fun with this. Our sausage sandwich sale on June 20/21 generated a profit of \$569.56. Thank you, Russell Renna ,for donating the meat. And thank you to the kitchen crew and to everyone who helped. We are so grateful to have our esteemed executive chef, Bernie Squeo, back leading the crew.

Convention time is quickly approaching. There is still a little bit of time to get your raffle tickets. I know it is a ways away, but all should consider attending.

In August we celebrate the feast days of St. Dominic, St. Lawrence (my childhood parish), St. Clare, St. Monica, St. Augustine, and the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Happy July birthdays to Wayne Gomes, Antoinette Pecora, Renee Perkins, Pati Soto, and Matilde Yonkers. Happy August birthdays to Virginia De Pasquale, Ed Girado, Rita Hoffknecht, Debra Jorgensen, Marianne Messina, and Betty Zisler.

Susan Mencarini

CENTRAL COAST
District Council

Central Coast District will have Bishop’s Day on August 22, hosted by Branch 36 Monterey. Mass 4 p.m. at San Carlos Cathedral, Monterey. Followed by a dinner at San Carlos Hall. Reservations—starting August 5 through August 15 at MontereyICF.org. \$20 ICF Members and \$30 for non-members.

Congratulations to Dr. Vincent Malfitano, from Branch 36, for being nominated as a candidate at our 2026 Convention in Reno.

Respectfully submitted
Elaine Valentine, President
Central Coast District

Monterey
Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

Congratulations to our six delegates and to Dr. Vincent Malfitano, our Central Council nominee, as we prepare for the ICF Convention in Reno.

On June 25, Branch 36 proudly celebrated its 95th anniversary. More than 200 members and guests enjoyed a festive dinner while commemorating this milestone. We were honored by the presence of Bishop Ramon Bejarano, Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Past Grand Presidents Andy Pappani, Michael Rossi, and Bob Basuino, along with Grand Trustee Dante Galeazzi. We appreciate the continued support of the ICF Central Council at our events.

Co-Presidents Elaine Valentine and George Leonard presented Fr. Ommar with a \$20,000 donation for San Carlos Cathedral, made possible through the success of our Lenten Dinner fundraisers. Thank you to every volunteer

whose hard work made this gift possible.

Western Night on July 23 was another success, featuring a BBQ dinner, country music, and line dancing. Carolyn Orr won the attendance prize, and we thank everyone who supported the branch by purchasing raffle tickets.

Branch 36 will host the Central Coast District Bishop’s Day on Saturday, August 22. Mass will be celebrated at San Carlos Cathedral at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner in Cathedral Hall and presentation of the Seminary Burse donation to Bishop Ramon. Reservations are available online only from August 5–15 at www.montereyicf.org.

Our next monthly dinner meeting is Thursday, September 24, featuring an “Oldies but Goodies” theme. We hope you’ll join us.

We are saddened by the passing of longtime member Pansy Belleci at age 97. Our heartfelt condolences to her family. May she rest in peace.

Cordiali saluti,
Elaine Valentine, Co-President
Branch 36 Monterey

Castroville
Br. 51, Santa Caterina de
Siena

As we welcome the month of August, Italian Catholic Federation Branch #51 Castroville continues to be grateful for the support and fellowship of our members, parish, and community. Our branch remains committed to living out the values of faith, family, friendship, and service through charitable works and events that strengthen both our parish and the communities we serve.

This month, we invite everyone to join us for our annual Sausage Sandwich Lunch Fundraiser on Thursday, August 27. This special event benefits both Italian Catholic Federation Branch #51 Castroville and Relay for Life Salinas. The funds raised help support our branch's charitable programs, scholarships, parish activities, and community outreach while also contributing to the American Cancer Society's mission to fight cancer through research, education, advocacy, and patient support.

We encourage our members to invite family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to participate. Whether you purchase a lunch, volunteer your time, or simply help spread the word, your support plays an important role in making this fundraiser a success. Together, we continue the proud tradition of serving others while strengthening the bonds of our branch and our community.

Thank you to all of our dedicated members and volunteers for your continued generosity, hard work, and commitment to the mission of the Italian Catholic Federation. We look forward to seeing everyone on August 27 and wish you and your families a joyful and blessed August.

"Insieme possiamo fare grandi cose."

"Together we can accomplish great things."

With gratitude,
Kevin Cortopassi
Italian Catholic Federation Branch #51
Castroville

Aptos
Br. 227, St. Joseph

Over 40 people enjoyed the Annual Picnic. Thanks to all who made it such a nice day. Jane Kotila did the shopping, cooking, took reservations and brought great red, white and blue decorations for the tables. Rick Kotila and Gary Castiglione grilled the hamburgers and Italian sausage, while Richard Vote tended bar. Nancy Harrold checked members in. Valerie Vote, Petra Castiglione, and Nancy helped with preparations, serving and cleanup. Mike and Kathi Melville pitched in to help clean up. Vicky Howell and Nancy Prevedelli coordinated the raffle, assisted by President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. who called the winning numbers. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes. It was so kind of Sister Judy Silva to offer the blessing before the meal. Last, but not least, thanks to the members of Branch 21 who attended. We are always glad to see them.

Sharleen Hedgpeth has been named as our Alternate Delegate to the Convention.

Our next meeting will be held on August 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Mid-County Senior Center. There will be a raffle, so bring a gift if you can.

Our condolences go to the family of Jean Iverson who passed away in June. Although she lived in South Carolina, Jean maintained her 20-year membership of our branch.

The hall at Aptos Resurrection is being re-dedicated at the end of September, so hopefully by October we will be able to meet there again.

Best wishes for a successful Convention.
Deanna Musler, Secretary



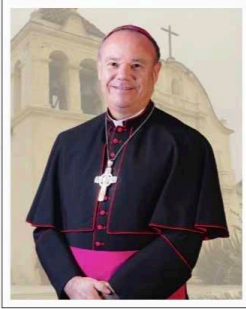
CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Western Night Br. 36



Italian Catholic Federation
Central Coast District Bishop's Day



Most Reverend Bishop Ramon Bejarano
Saturday, August 22, 2026



Dr. Vincent Malfitano



Providence Ann Belleci 1929-2026 Branch 36



95th Anniversary Branch 36



Western Night Branch 36



San Carlos Donation Branch 36



Western Night Bar Branch 36





Italian Catholic Federation
Santa Rosalia Branch #36

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email: info.icf36@gmail.com Monterey, CA 93942

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Mauro, Annie, Joyce, Marlene, Leslie, Ralph & RoseAnn, members Br. 210, Fontana. Behind the camera is Paul H.



Br. 217, President Paul Emerick telling the parishioners about our scholarship program.



Br. 217, President Paul Emerick presenting Savannah Rojas with her scholarship.

MARIN AREA



Branch 332



Karen Raccanello, Past President ICF Br. 332



Arroyo Grande Br. 291, St. Patrick

Branch 291 will be sending Annie Subia and Keely Sanchez as our delegates to the ICF National Convention in Reno, NV. Annie and Keely are excited to attend the Labor Day weekend activities and look forward to bringing back new ideas to the Branch. There is still time to purchase Convention Raffle tickets at our August meeting, and we're still collecting new or gently used books for the Convention Donation Project "Spread the Word Nevada" at our August meeting.

Mark your calendars for our September 27th General Meeting where we'll have a very important presentation on how to protect yourself from fraud and scams! Jose Olarte, Chase Bank Community Manager, will present a workshop on how to spot common scams and help protect yourself and your loved ones from being impacted by fraud or identity theft. With fraud and scams on the rise, it's time to educate ourselves on how to NOT fall victim to scammers!

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

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
Keely Sanchez
Recording Secretary

SANTA CLARA VALLEY District Council

The Santa Clara Valley District July meeting was held at Santa Teresa and hosted by Branch 184 St. Mary of Los Gatos with a theme Happy 250th Birthday USA!

The annual district BBQ picnic was held Sunday, August 9th at Almaden Lake Regional Park in San Jose with an outdoor mass celebrated by Diocesan Chaplain Father George Aranha. A good time was had by all and much needed funds were raised for the district to support its charitable donations.

The ICF Convention is right around the corner. The Santa Clara Valley District will be well represented and will be a festive group. Delegates, please remember to report back to your branches what you saw and learned at Convention.

The district is again planning Oktoberfest at Teske's Germania in San Jose. The date is Saturday, September 26th. As of this writing, the details are tentative but should be similar to previous years' events. Check with your branch for more details as they become available.

A reminder that San Jose Diocese Bishop's Day will be Sunday, October 11th, 11:30 a.m. mass at Resurrection Church in Sunnyvale, celebrated by Bishop Ligot, followed by lunch at Three Flames for \$60 with a menu of steak, chicken or pasta.

Make lunch reservations with your branch. All district members please attend mass even if you can't make the lunch.

The Santa Clara Valley District wishes the ICF a great Labor Day and a prosperous Convention in Reno.

Michael Rossi

Gilroy Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

We enjoyed a nice BBQ dinner at our June meeting – Steak Sandwich with peppers and onion on a ciabatta roll, BBQ beans, and macaroni salad. Desserts were provided by our branch members and they spoiled us with deliciousness.

Labor Day is approaching, and it commemorates United States workers' contributions to national strength, prosperity and well-being. Let's celebrate our branch members. Without them we would not have a strong ICF organization, fellowship, or be able to fulfill our charitable commitments. Members are volunteers and volunteers make ICF successful. Thank you, members, for all that you do for Branch 28.

Our branch president, Kim Filice, whose term ends December 31, is one of those volunteers. She is a detail person, making sure that everything is in place for our meetings and special events. She's a problem solver and will work through the red tape for an equitable solution. She keeps everyone informed with a monthly newsletter and engaged with an activity at our monthly meetings. She is genuine, cordial, and gracious. Thank you, Kim, for all you do for Branch 28! You are awesome.

Coming up – callers will reach out to members with details:

Still room on the bus for Festa Italia – Fisherman's Festival in Monterey. Saturday, September 12. Reservations required by August 31.

St. Mary Parish Festival September 13. We'll have an ICF information table and staff the Cookie Booth.

Branch 28 Picnic/BBQ on Saturday, September 19 at Diana Berry's home.

Ciao for now!
Christine Filice

Mountain View Br. 47, San Giorgio

Dear Members:

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful mild summer weather and hope you had a relaxing Fourth of July weekend.

Our branch's 90th Anniversary affair was very nice and we hope that all who attended enjoyed the luncheon and that your spirit was enlivened by the wonderful celebration of mass that preceded the luncheon.

Our Santa Clara Valley District picnic will be held on August 9. Since the reservation deadline has already passed we hope you have already signed up to go.

There will be 7 of us attending the convention in Reno. Craig Noah will represent branch 47 as our delegate. Craig has also been selling yellow shirts with our ICF logo on it. Be sure to contact him if you would like to get one. The branch is still selling raffle tickets for the convention. They were available at our next general meeting on Tuesday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m. and will still be available at our August meeting which will be on August 18. The branch will be a better branch if we can get you to come to a meeting. We always have a wonderful meeting and even better desserts.

See you at our next general meeting.
John Canata

St. Mary Br. 184, Los Gatos

Greetings from your Los Gatos Branch!

I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying the warmth of summer. There's something about these long, sunny days that brings out the best in our community—whether it's backyard get-togethers, visits with family, or just slowing down to savor a good meal.

I recently saw the wonderful photos from our Bocce-BBQ, and it truly looked like a fantastic day! Even though I wasn't able to make it in person, I could see the joy and camaraderie shining through in every snapshot. A heartfelt thank you to Donna Pfaff and Marie Yurosko for organizing such a special event. Donna and Marie, your hard work and spirit made the day extra memorable for everyone—thank you both for bringing our branch together.

As we celebrate together, let's also remember to keep Don Arnaudo and Rich Amico in our thoughts. Both are dear members of our branch, and we send them healing prayers and all our love as they face health challenges. Our community is always at its strongest when we lift each other up—please reach out if you'd like to send a card or message of support.

We also send prayers and best wishes to our Reno Convention delegates, Arlene and Germaine. May your time at the convention be filled with opportunities to learn, share, and hopefully make new friends, as well as reunite with longtime friends. Bring back lots of good stories and fresh ideas and hopefully a raffle prize or two!

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for some wonderful upcoming events: District Oktoberfest on September 26 (bring your appetite for pretzels and fun!), Bishop's Day on October 11th—a special occasion for reflection and fellowship—and our Halloween Polenta Dinner on October 24th. Costumes are encouraged, and there's always room for another helping of polenta. Our next meeting will be September 14th after

the meeting. Fr. Greg will be presenting a Genealogy Workshop at 5 p.m. in Hofmann Center—all are welcomed.

Wishing you all good health, joyful days, and God's many blessings. I look forward to seeing each of you at our next gathering!

With warm regards,
Denise Antonowicz

San Jose Br. 191, Saint Frances Cabrini

ICF Branch #191, St. Francis Cabrini, has been very busy. We have had a number of activities that we have participated in—Italian American Heritage Festa was a wonderful way to connect with new people and share what ICF has to offer.

At our July General Meeting, we celebrated our country's 250th Anniversary. An All-American BBQ was held prior to the meeting. The members enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, macaroni salad, baked beans and watermelon.

We hosted the Italian Twirlers from Italy to an All-American BBQ on the Bocce Court on Monday, July 27th. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with new friends, delicious food and wonderful music.

We are looking forward to the District Picnic on August 9th at Almaden Lake Park. A mass will begin our day followed by a BBQ chicken lunch with all the fixin's. Joining with the other ICF Branches in our district allows us time to meet new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy a fun-filled day with our ICF family.

August is already getting booked with many activities as well as the preparation of our members going to this year's Convention. Best wishes to Grand President Franklin Lopes, Jr and his corp of Grand Officers.

Sbandieratori is considered both an art and a sport in Europe. They are flag wavers and musicians who perform intricate athletic routines with colorful flags blending historical pageantry with highly choreographed performance art. Rooted in Renaissance and medieval history, they act out complex aerial displays accompanied by the rhythmic beating of drums and trumpets. Sbandieratori wear vibrant period Renaissance or Medieval costumes bearing the heraldic colors and symbols of their specific district. Today, Sbandieratori are celebrated cultural performers at public pageants, traditional festivals, and historical reenactments all over Italy. Today under the Federazione Italiana Sbandiatori, the tradition has expanded into a modern competitive sport and continues to be showcased at cultural celebrations worldwide.

Happy Summer to all!
Sharon D. Logan

San Jose

Br 368, Santa Teresa de Avila

John Gallio, Ron Sanchez, Steve Resz, Bill Rice, Janet Glaubke and Ron Morton are working at getting well and can use your prayers.

Our August meeting is scheduled for our Cream Social. Remember to bring a bowl and fill it up with a banana split, a chocolate sundae, or an ice cream cone. Be sure to leave that diet at home.

As a possibility, we were going to get a computer from an IBM program. That program is no longer available. So, we are still looking for a computer to help our Treasure, Tina, to balance the books. If you have a computer and you would like to donate it, call Zack or Tina.

Our heritage person, Sharon Kroeber, needs stories about your family history. You can do any nationality in your family, not just Italian.

The convention will be September 4th, 5th and 6th in Reno Nevada. Our Delegates are Mary Ridi and Kathy Schroeder.

The Church Ministry Weekend is not scheduled yet, but we will need volunteers to help at our branch table. Help is also needed for IAHF Fiesta at History Park July 25-26, District Picnic August 9th and Rib Dinner September 12th.

We still are looking for a person to chair our Dining for \$\$\$\$s Fundraiser. Easy project to make money for our Branch 368.

Happy Father's Day, and Back to School Day.

*May God Bless you and your families,
Tom Myers*

San Jose

Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

In July, members were once again treated to the Lencioni Hot Dog/Sausage BBQ special, which was held in St. Martin's Mary's Garden. We appreciate all that you do, Steve and Cathleen, for such a successful and enjoyable event.

We welcomed our new Deacon Thien Bui, who led us in prayer.

Members met Sara Maitland Zazueta-Charles, our scholarship recipient, who thanked our branch for her award; she was joined by her parents, Antonia and Greg, and grandparents, Fernando and Cecily Zazueta.

In August, members were treated to Tony and Alba's famous pasta with meat sauce and meatballs and garlic bread! What a feast!

Thank you to delegates Steve and Marina Tilbury, who represented our branch at this year's ICF Convention held in Reno.

Reminder:

Branch 391 Dinner Meetings—Tues

day, September 2, 2026 and Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.; Quarterly Communion—September 6 and December 6, 2026—all at 10:00 mass.

Janis Patellaro

Morgan Hill

Br. 435, Santa Caterina D'Alessandria

For our June 16th meeting all enjoyed a delicious homemade Polenta Lasagna and Sausage dinner prepared by Andy Mattioda. Thanks also to Toni and John Foggato for the salad and Tira Misu and to Louie Cordish for dessert. For the meeting, we listened to wise advice by County President, Debbie Piro on leadership, and to Mentor Pat Cordish on Convention preparation. Donations were approved for Cooley's Anemia, and a convention raffle basket. Members birthdays, and scholarship recipient were recognized. Plans for the Annual BBQ fundraiser were finalized.

For the July meeting, we had our annual BBQ dinner fundraiser open to all ICF Branch members and their friends at the Guglielmo Winery in Morgan Hill. Special thanks to the Guglielmo Family for their generosity in sharing their beautiful venue. The BBQ chicken, and pesto pasta dinner entrees were prepared by the Guglielmo crew. Richard and Joan Della Maggiore prepared the salad, and Toni Foggato prepared the strawberry shortcake desert. A very special thanks to Pastor Gerado Menchaca for volunteering to help distribute desert and...even clean tables! Also, thank you to Father Robert Brocato for his companionship.

We were honored to have Grand President Franklin Lopez, Jr., Past Grand President Bob Bausino and many other past and current Branch presidents and members in attendance.

The meeting closed with a prayer of friendship and thanksgiving from Pastor Gerado Menchaca.

Thanks to all the members and friends who made this beautiful event enjoyable by all.

San Jose

Br. 445, Transfiguration

Br. 445 members are looking forward to participating in several upcoming events: Transfiguration Parish Feast Day/Fun Day 8/2; SCV ICF District Annual Picnic 8/9 and the September ICF Annual Convention in Reno!

Members enjoyed celebrating Br. 445's 10th Anniversary in June. Many thanks to our decorating crew (Kathy La Scola, Gina and Larry Farro, Jim Falcone and Jan Stumhoffer) who gathered memorabilia through the years and also created meaningful table decor paying tribute to ICF Founders: Sir Luigi Providenza and Rev. Albert Bandini. Anniversary favors made by Kathy and Andy La Scola were at all table place settings.

Br. 445 ICF Apostolate and Heritage Convention Awards received over the years were also available for members to see. All members enjoyed the evening's catered dinner by Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant. President Jim Falcone used the evening's numbered member sign in sheet to match numbers pulled for prizes.

Members also attended quarterly Mass together June 28th followed by breakfast at the Cup & Saucer Restaurant. Snack Saturday and Donut Sunday, hosted by ICF for parishioners, were held July 4th & 5th after masses.

Br. 445 hosted three USA Soccer World Cup viewing parties at Tabor Hall for parishioners. Turnout was great! Spaghetti dinner was served for the first game and Pizza / Salad nights for the last two ... and a wonderful opportunity for building community!

Happy August Birthday wishes to members: Joe Adragna, Karen Fierravanti and Phil Lang!

Hoping everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer!

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

STOCKTON

District

Modesto

Br. 48, St. Stanislaus

Join us for the District Picnic on August 16, 2026, featuring a delicious BBQ steak lunch with all the trimmings. Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled day! There is a playground for the children and plenty of space to set up and enjoy any outdoor games you would like to bring.

The Convention will be held September 4-6, 2026, in Reno, Nevada. We are pleased that Nancy Souza will represent Branch #48, Modesto as our delegate. The convention offers a variety of informative programs and workshops throughout the weekend. Saturday evening's banquet is always a memorable event, and on Sunday, attendees will celebrate Mass before welcoming the newly elected officers.

A heartfelt thank you to Presentation Branch #395 for hosting this year's Bishop's Burse Dinner. It was a beautiful afternoon filled with elegant decorations, a delicious meal, and the wonderful opportunity to meet several of our seminarians.

Upcoming Events:

Aug - No Branch meeting.

Sep 9 - Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Hall at 7th and K Streets.

Cecelia McGhee

Lodi

Br. 82, St. Anne's

Our parish's St. Anne's Festa was enjoyed by many. A heartfelt thank you to our ICF volunteers who generously served ice cream donated by Leathery's Family Creamery. Special thanks to Lisa Fugazi for coordinating this wonderful donation and helping make the day even sweeter.

Our August Stockton District Picnic at Hogan Park in Escalon was another relaxing and enjoyable gathering. As always, the steaks were barbecued to perfection, complete with all the delicious fixings, while hot dogs kept our younger guests happy. One of the greatest joys of the picnic is spending time with members from our neighboring branches—sharing stories, laughter, and friendship. It truly reflects the wonderful sense of family that makes the Italian Catholic Federation so special. Chris and Lori are our delegates for the convention during Labor Day in Reno, they are looking forward to the weekend and bringing back new ideas and new friendships. Mark your calendars for the September 8th meeting – Chris and Lori will be bringing all the convention highlights!

*Ciao, Elizabeth Calloni Holladay
Corresponding Secretary*

Manteca

Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio

Branch #139 met in June and July in St. Anthony's Cafeteria. President Agostini presided over the meetings. The usual business was conducted including reading and approval of the Minutes from the May and June 2026 meeting and balances provided in our Checking Accounts as of June 1 and July 1. Members are always encouraged to read the *Bollettino*.

At our June meeting our Pastor, Father Banka, joined us for part of our meeting. We shared with him plans for upcoming events. Branch #139 recently lost a Member, Dino Cunial. Orator Tim Cabral read the "Farewell to a Member" prayer during the meeting. As part of the funeral President Ron Agostini also read the "Farewell to a Member" and asked all ICF Members to stand while he read the prayer.

At our July meeting discussion continued on fundraising. One very viable idea was presented by member Elizabeth Demichelis. She will report back at the next meeting on her findings. We continually pray for our members and their families. Special prayers went out to Marion Elliott who recently suffered a stroke. Marion has been a vital part of Branch #139 for many years, including as the writer of *Bollettino* articles until recently passing the torch to me. Get well, friend. We miss you.

President Agostini will represent Branch #139 at the annual Convention in Reno over Labor Day weekend. Always a fun event with lots to learn.

Bye for now, Michela

STOCKTON DISTRICT



Branch 390 Celebrates its upcoming 40th Anniversary at our June Dinner Meeting. 40-year Charter Members in continuous standing are pictured here: (left to light) Chuck & Marilyn Tuso, Annette Elissagaray, Lucy Orsi, and Stephen Ridolfi.



Branch 390: Our Happy Cooks - Tony, Bob, Louie and John - preparing our annual meatloaf meal for our June Dinner Meeting.



Branch 390: Our members, families and guests happily await their meals at the June Dinner Meeting!



Branch 390 celebrates its 40th Anniversary and recognizes its Charter Members. We are grateful for their contributions and dedication to our Branch!



Branch 48



Branch 48



Br. 395, Jo Weber presents Bishop Cotta with the Spiritual Bouquet.



Branch 395 hosts the 2026 Bishop's Burse. Thanks to our incredible committee.



Branch 395 members, Pat and Geof help with Bishop's Burse 2026.



Stockton District Bishop Burse welcomes Bishop Cotta and our Seminarians.

STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



Mike Rossi, Lisa Crudo, GP Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Denise Antonowicz, Leonard Rossi, Dante Galeazzi at Stockton District



Devoted Seminarians Micheal Kelly and Joseph Wise with Life Member Dante Galeazzi



Head table with Deacon Karl Welsbacher, His Excellency Bishop Myron Cotta, Pastor Mark Wagner, Branch President Maryann Piana Chapman.



Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. discusses the importance of Seminarian Funding for Bishop Myron Cotta.



Seminarian Joseph Wise talks with members of Br 82.



Branch President Chris Whiting presented a special Branch Seminary Donation to Bishop Cotta.



Seminarian Joseph shares his life decision to be a Seminarian.



District President Robert Pachinger presented \$4,000 Seminary donation to Bishop Cotta.



His Excellency Bishop Cotta gives his appreciation to All the ICF members for their devotion and the gift of dedication of the Seminarians.



Karen Rossi leads our members to sing "Noi Vogliam Dio."

STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



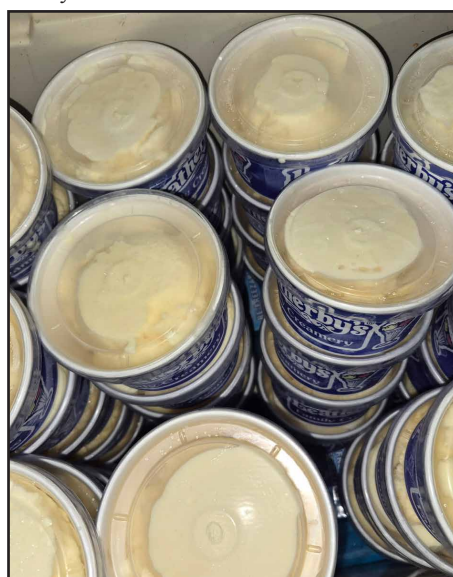
Br. 48, Enjoying our Bishop's Burse with Seminarian Joseph Wise.



Br. 48, Members feasting with Seminarian Michael Kelly.



Seminarian Michael Kelly talks with Juliana Midwin Mandolati visiting her hometown.



Branch 82 Generous donation for St. Anne's Festa from Leatherby's.



Branch 82 Lorenzo Puccinelli at St. Anne's Festa.



The ICF and the Manteca community mourn the loss of Coach Dino Cunial, a deeply active member of Branch 139 and beloved high school coach. Known for hosting our annual Summer BBQs, dinners, and bocce tournaments, Coach Cunial touched countless lives. East Union High Stadium was named in recognition of his extraordinary dedication. He will be missed immensely.



Br. 48, Members feasting with Seminarian Jacob Harder.



Br. 139, President Ron Augustini shares the day with officers Birdie Neri and Ida Queirolo.



Br. 139, Deacon Karl Welsbacher gives a closing prayer.

CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Where are the big winners??? Crockett #14 members gathering together after a visit to Cache Creek for an enjoyable afternoon.



Crockett #14 has lost a special lady from our branch. Helen Petersen, we will miss you. Rest in Peace.



Branch 432 July Scholarship Dinner



Branch #432 Scholarship winners



Branch #432. Four of our Scholarship winners



Branch 352, Diana Ferraris celebrated her 93rd birthday with a table, full of family and a beautiful birthday cake!



Fr. Wayne, Chaplain Br. 352.

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

Taking the summer off...not really! So, after our always successful June dinner of homemade meatloaf, real mashed potatoes and all the trimmings, 12 of us also attended the Presentation Branch's Bishop's Burse and provided both our Spiritual Bouquet and a monetary donation to the Bishop's ongoing projects. It was a nice evening out together.

Our next get-together is our Annual Branch Picnic in the park and we're bringing the steaks and our favorite BBQ experts. Hope to see you all there.

Another annual event happening is St. Bernard's Festival beginning Thursday, September 10th, and ending Sunday, September 13th. ICF will be there helping out again. Anyone who will be able to volunteer please let a board member know that you are available and thank you in advance for your help.

We've lost another lovely lady at Branch 390 this past month and most of you will probably remember Eileen Morri and her recently deceased husband Stan, sitting at table number one at our monthly dinner meetings. She will be missed. Our condolences go out to her large family and even larger group of friends. May she rest in peace.

You can share family memories in our Heritage section. We would love to hear where all your ancestors came from. www.icfbranch390.org

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



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

Stockton**Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM**

Several weeks ago, our Branch had the opportunity to host this year's Bishop's Burse. It was a lovely afternoon, and we were delighted to have three seminarians join us. One seminarian spoke about his journey and his decision to enter the priesthood. The future looks bright!

None of this would have been possible without our dedicated committee. Grazie mille to Josephine Weber, Jenn Peterson, Virginia Osborn, and Marilyn Ramacher.

Our first-year scholarship recipient, Zachary Sanguinetti, joined us for our August meeting. He shared his plans for the future and spoke about his recent summer school experience in Assisi. We also awarded a second-year scholarship to Gabrielle Robledos and appreciated hearing how her studies are going.

Our Italian Mass scheduled for September needs to be rescheduled. We will share the new date as soon as it is available.

This year, we are sending two delegates to the convention, and we look forward to hearing their updates upon their return.

See you in Reno!

*Alla prossima,
Mary Ann*

**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>

**SAN DIEGO
District****San Diego****Br. 246, St. Vincent De Paul**

Cari amici,

The summer season has been a restful yet impactful one for Branch 246.

On June 13th, several of our members volunteered their time at "The Million Meal Event." This massive community service initiative was organized by Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, bringing thousands of volunteers together to pack meal bags for communities facing severe poverty and food insecurity. An incredible 2 million meals were bagged that day! Half of these meals were distributed locally to San Diego families, while the other half were sent internationally and across the border to regions like Tijuana and Africa.

On June 22nd, the ICF hosted a lovely steak dinner at Father John's residence for the auction winners from the St. Joseph Feast. Following that, on June 25th, we continued spreading good throughout the area as our President and Treasurer delivered many checks to the community using funds raised from St. Joseph's feast. One of the grateful recipients was The Huddle, which was awarded a check for \$5,000.00 for all the good work they do in the community.

Finally, on July 6th, several members attended Italian Heritage Night at the San Diego Padres game. A wonderful time was had by all, even though the Padres lost 8-0 to the Diamondbacks!

*Blessings,
Margherita Cianflone*

**SAN BERNARDINO
District****Fontana****Br. 210, St. Joseph**

As always, our Branch meeting was fun as well as busy. We had so many things to discuss on the agenda, but we made quick work of it. The highlights of our meeting included our upcoming Bishop's Lunch, where we discussed the Burse, the Basket and who will be coming from our Branch. At this point, it looks like we will have between 5-6 of our members who will attend, plus of course, our caterer, Chef Bernard who is also a member of 210. For a small Branch, we strive to represent the ICF in as many ways as we can! I always tell my fellow members that while we may be small, we are MIGHTY! The next important thing on the agenda was our DoubleGood Popcorn fundraiser, presented by Ralph Segarra. We hope to raise some much-needed funds so we can continue to help others. We are hopeful that with all of us pulling together, with God's help, we can achieve our goal.

*Till next time,
Annie McCarthy Branch 210 President*

Redlands**Br. 217, Sacred Heart**

Even though we are on our summer break, we still got together to celebrate our Branch's \$500 scholarship winner. Every year, we give a graduating 8th grader from Sacred Heart Academy a scholarship as they get ready to go into a Catholic High School. This year's winner was Savannah Rojas. Our president, Paul Emerick presented Savannah with her check after the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass on June 20. Our Pastor, Father Erik gave her a blessing and afterwards, her friends and family were treated to a nice reception in our Parish Hall.

We're all looking forward to our Bishop's Lunch coming up on September 22. Our Director of Vocations for the San Bernardino Diocese Father Hau Vu, always brings along 4-6 Seminarians and discerners, and it's great getting to know them.

*Till next time,
Annie McCarthy, VP Branch 217*

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT



Branch 246



Branch 246



Branch 246



Branch 246

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 368 Bocce Ball Lake Almaden



Br. 368 Bocce Ball



Br. 368 Crowning Mary in May



Br. 391, Sara and Family



Br. 391, Steve with Sara Maitland Zazueta-Charles



Br. 391, Deacon Thien



Br. 47, Bishop Andy Ligot and priests celebrate Mass.



Br. 47, President Natalie Canata with pastor Fr. Engel Gammad and banner.



Br. 47, cake

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 191, IAHF guests and Fr. Paolo at the BBQ in the Bocce Court



Br. 191, 250th Celebration of America



Br. 191, 250th Celebration of America



FRESNO DISTRICT



Branch #39 Members at our Annual Lake Yosemite Picnic

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 445, Members gathered for the 10th Anniversary Celebration photo!



Br. 445, Suzanne Lo Bue Welcome Back! and Marti Rao thanks for your help.



Br. 445, Happy Anniversary to Edna & Bill Perry 51 yrs. and Barbara & Bill Howell 73 yrs.!



Diana Berry swearing in new Branch 28 members.



Br. 445, Celebrating June Birthdays: Geri, Joanie, Bill, Barbara and Sylvia



Br. 435, A delicious BBQ Chicken and Pesto Pasta Dinner was prepared and cooked by the Guglielmo Crew at the Guglielmo Winery in Morgan Hill at the July Fundraiser.



Branch 435 President Giulia (centered in picture) welcomes July Fundraiser visitors including Grand President Franklin Lopes, Jr., Past Grand President Bob Bausino and many other past and current Branch Presidents and members.



Fabulous Branch 435 June Dinner highlighted by Polenta Lasagna with Bolognese sausage and antipasto prepared by Andy Mattioda. Salad and Tiramisu were prepared by Toni and John Foggiano, and dessert was provided by Louie Cordich.



Many thanks to Branch 435 Pastor Gerardo Menchaca for volunteering to help distribute the strawberry shortcake and even clean tables at the July fundraiser.

Gifts of Love Program

Requesting Applications

Teresa Helfand, Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to face the challenges in our world and our daily lives, we send our thoughts and prayers to everyone. We pray for God to bring healing to our world and to help us to find the value in kindness, respect and helping others. The Convention theme that was chosen this year "Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage" is most appropriate as we continue our work with the Gifts of Love Program. We are one family in the eyes of God and always moving forward thankful for the blessings we have received. It is in faith and to share our heritage that we do our work to help those in need, by bringing them hope, by bringing light into their lives and we would like to select recipients for our Gifts of Love Awards.

As of the end of June, we have received \$818,261.83 in donations and granted awards of \$786,950.41 since the inception of the program. We know these are also difficult financial times, but we encourage our Branches, Districts and Individual Members to continue to contribute to the fund in any amount. With your help, we can continue the important work of this very vital program. Our next meeting to review applications will be held in October. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Gifts of Love program, we have a fund from which we make awards to individuals with disabilities or agencies that assist individuals with disabilities. We do this throughout the year, in order to provide



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

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

In order to generate applications, the Gifts of Love Committee is again asking each Branch President to continue to mention the program and also, when possible, to publish a request for applications in their respective Church and/or School Bulletins. The application form is available on the ICF Web site (www.icf.org). Applications should either be mailed to the ICF Office at 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621, e-mailed to the ICF Office at info@icf.org or faxed to (510) 633-9758.

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

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

God Bless You,
Teresa Helfand

AUGUST CALENDAR WINNERS				
DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
8/1	Michael Codiga	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
8/2	Donna Vaughan	39	Le Grand, CA	\$30
8/3	Charlene Drobeck	362	Downey, CA	\$30
8/4	Greg Jensen		Crockett, CA	\$30
8/5	Christina Rudie		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
8/6	Maryclare Alfonso		Sunnyvale, CA	\$30
8/7	Paula Engineer		Lincoln, CA	\$30
8/8	Marilyn Bell		Twain Harte, CA	\$30
8/9	Sylvia Real	332	Novato, CA	\$30
8/10	Daniel Rossi & Edwin		San Francisco, CA	\$30
8/11	Kimberly McNeil Kutsch		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
8/12	Carol Paradiso	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
8/13	Rudy De Zordo	368	San Jose, CA	\$30
8/14	Carol Smith		Morgan Hill, CA	\$30
8/15	Thomas Nguyen	198	Santa Rosa, CA	\$50
8/16	Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan	10	Oakland, CA	\$30
8/17	Barbara Allen	450	Lincoln, CA	\$30
8/18	Branch 10		Alameda, CA	\$30
8/19	Nadine Mattier	215	Fremont, CA	\$30
8/20	Rose Bond		Bayside, CA	\$30
8/21	Madeline Scudder	438	Roseville, CA	\$30
8/22	Connie Bohannon	237	Gardena, CA	\$30
8/23	Barbara Branco	39	Merced, CA	\$30
8/24	Branch 28		Gilroy, CA	\$30
8/25	Rev. Msgr. Sal Pilato	115	Gardena, CA	\$30
8/26	Rose Morando	403	Millbrae, CA	\$30
8/27	Teresa Borba		Modesto, CA	\$30
8/28	Cody & Hank Anthenien		Gustine, CA	\$50
8/29	Matt & Jennifer Hansen		Rockledge, FL	\$30
8/30	Debbie Piro	191	Sunnyvale, CA	\$30
8/31	Patrick Kelley		Salinas, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library

OPEN HOUSES

The Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee wishes all ICF Members and Friends of Mother Cabrini a very Happy End of Summer and would like to extend an invitation to all members, families and friends of Mother Cabrini to come visit the Chapel and Library.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Chapel continues regularly scheduled Open Houses through 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 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.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE(S)

- September 13, 2026:

1) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Open House 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Host: Santa Barb/ Ventura Region.

2) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee Meeting 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.

- October 18, 2026:

1) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Open House 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Host: Los Angeles Region.

2) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee Meeting 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.

- November 15, 2026:

Mother Cabrini Annual Mass 10:00 am (St Francis Xavier Church), followed by Pilgrimage to Benediction (Cabrini Chapel) and Luncheon (SFXC Hall).

- December 13, 2026:

1) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Open House 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Host: San Fernando Region.

2) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee Meeting 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.

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

Forging Friendships through Italian Catholic Heritage

By Francesca Taylor, Br. 67

On June 28th in Akron, Ohio, a group of interested friends and family were treated to Francesca Taylor's new presentation, "Italian Catholic Highlights," at a friendly Knights of Columbus South Akron Council Hall. Francesca connected with fellow ICF member David Doyle to plan and produce the talk; both are members of ICF's National Virtual Branch #67.

Designed to be a "Flight of Spiritual Luminaries," the talk wove through four Italian and American saints and their remarkable journeys. Although the spiritual legacy of each saint was emphasized, the talk incorporated photos and music that illustrated each saint's unique experience.

Icon and patroness of ICF St. Francesca Cabrini led the way, and new stories and attributes were told about her, revealing the penchant she had for getting out of narrow straits with unparalleled equanimity. She was ever armed with unfailing reliance on the Sacred Heart.

St. Elena Guerra, canonized in 2024, was profiled next. She left a unique legacy of devotion to the Holy Spirit, a relatively neglected feature of Catholic spiritual focus, and established a rosary to the Holy Spirit with meditations on the encounters with the Spirit during the life of Christ and the early church. Beautiful views of her home city of Lucca, Tuscany, graced the screen.

Following was St. Pier Giorgio Frassati of Torino (Turin) in Piedmont, the young mountaineer/alpinist whose extensive social and charitable works remained largely unpublicized until his untimely death at age 24 from severe illness. His public story and his personal family tale testify to the power of pure faith.



One of our church's most unforgettable saints, gentle Francis of Assisi, came to life in this presentation with a multitude of photos taken in the beautiful Umbrian town of Assisi itself. Most Catholics know the salient aspects of his life of dedication, but many sparkling details give depth to his humble and inspired ways.

Akron friends and contacts shared their own connections and encounters with the saints at the close of the presentation, and questions and answers were lively. The same presentation will be given in Reno at our upcoming convention on Labor Day Weekend, 2026. Hope to see many of you there ~ Blessings!

Francesca Taylor



BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Branch 450 Board - 1st Anniversary Dinner (L-R) Father Karun, Carol Silva, Janet Vicencio, Greg Federico, Jim Peterson, Ron Morin, Barbara Allen, Nina Malone, Patrick Senge, Karen Mosca and Peggy Kavanagh.



Branch #438 members guessing board members from baby pictures.

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION 95TH ANNUAL

CONVENTION MARKETPLACE

Interested in renting a table?

\$100 refundable no-show deposit

Hours of Operation

Friday, Sept. 4

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sept. 5

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, Sept. 6

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

For more information, contact:

CC Life Member Emeritus

Nina Malone @ 916-759-3607

nmalone.stjoseph@gmail.com

Additional New Entertainers Announced for 93rd Festa Italia at the Custom House Plaza – Monterey State Historic Park in Downtown Monterey on Sept. 11 – 13 – Free Admission

The award-winning 93rd Annual Festa Italia, also known as Monterey’s Santa Rosalia Fisherman’s Festival, invites locals and visitors alike to celebrate Monterey’s rich Italian Sicilian heritage while honoring the enduring contributions of Monterey’s local fishermen, past and present. The festival is proud to add even more great entertainment to its line-up.

This beloved, 3-day free, family-friendly festival offers fun for all ages with great food, live music, dancing, bocce tournament, shopping, networking and more. Drawing attendees from across the United States, Festa Italia remains one of Monterey’s most cherished cultural traditions, capturing the sights, sounds, flavors, and spirit of Italy in a welcoming community setting celebrated at 20 Custom House Plaza – Monterey State Historic Park in Downtown Monterey adjacent to Old Fisherman’s Wharf. Festa Italia is proud to be the First Place winner for “Best 2025 Community Event” in the annual Monterey Herald’s Readers’ Choice Awards.

Festa Italia Entertainment 2026:

Along with Festa Italia Festival favorites entertainers, **Pasquale Esposito** (<https://pasqualeesposito.com>), **Mike Marotta and the Italian Allstars**, **The Money Band** (Saturday, September 12 only - <https://www.moneyband.org/>), **The Anthony Lane Band** (<https://www.anthonylaneband.com/>), there will also be two new additions to the entertainment schedule: **Lost and Found** and **The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis**.

The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca De Paolis

Luca de Paolis lives in Rome, Italy and began playing the traditional folk accordion (organetto) at the age of three. Jimmy Rossi lives in Carson City, Nevada and plays multiple instruments; including the mandolin. Luca and Jimmy met 10 years ago at the Salt Lake City Festa Italiana. The two of them performed in separate acts, but over the years, they often shared the stage in impromptu performances. Their love for performing together and their energy on stage was infectious and before you knew it, the SLC FESTA committee began working their collaborations into the festa schedule. This year, Jimmy asked Luca to fly out 10 days before the Salt Lake City Festa for a 10-day California/Nevada Tour, beginning at the famous Monterey Santa Rosalia Festival and culminating at the Salt Lake City Festa Italiana. Luca and Jimmy’s repertoire consists of traditional Italian songs and dances, Italian/American songs arranged by Jimmy, singer songwriter originals, lots of sing-alongs, and some really fun stories. Come on out and enjoy some of this international collaboration’s infectious energy. It’s guaranteed FUN!

Lost and Found Band

Blending authenticity with a bold, modern edge, The Lost and Found Band brings timeless songs to life with rich grooves, dynamic brass, and soulful energy—crafted for audiences who appreciate musical precision and an electrifying live performance. Here’s a sample of their performances: <https://youtu.be/wcHkOA1jIn0>

Food and Drink at Festa Italia

Held over three days, Festa Italia features an abundant selection of authentic Italian cuisine available for purchase, including calamari, steak and sausage sandwiches, pasta, arancini, cannoli, Italian cookies, fried shrimp, as well as a vegetarian eggplant Parmesan sandwich. Guests can also enjoy refreshing Italian ices, along with wine, beer, sodas, and water. Adding to the cultural experience, lively music and dancing is included all 3 days, with **Tarantella dance lessons** offered in front of the main stage on Sunday plus performances. Another highlight of the weekend will be a Classic Fisherman’s Wharf **calamari cooking demonstration** led by Gourmet Realtor Chef Tene Shake as well as the **Dessert Court on the Upper Custom House Plaza plus fun new kids’ activities**.

Festa Italia Merchandise and Vendors

Beyond the food and entertainment, Festa Italia offers Italian-themed and Festa Italia-exclusive merchandise, along with a variety of vendors showcasing unique crafts, clothing, and specialty items.

Festa Italia History

The festival’s roots trace back to 1933, when Sicilian fishermen in Monterey donated a statue of Santa Rosalia, their patron saint, to the San Carlos Cathedral in gratitude for safe voyages and abundant harvests. That act of faith and community gave rise to a tradition that continues today as a meaningful celebration of Monterey’s Italian and fishing heritage. Join us for the 93rd Annual Festa Italia and be part of a living legacy that honors the past while keeping these cherished traditions vibrant for generations to come.



Luca



Jimmy Rossi

AT A GLANCE:

What: 93rd Annual Festa Italia held by the Festa Italia Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Festival Entry Cost: Free

Where: Custom House Plaza – Monterey State Historic Park, Downtown Monterey

When: Friday – Sunday, Sept. 11-13

Friday, Sept. 11th – 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12th – 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13th – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Where: Custom House Plaza – Monterey State Historic Park, Downtown Monterey

Bocce Tournament – Saturday and Sunday, at the bocce courts at the Custom House Plaza – Monterey State Historic Park

Information: (831) 633-4444 or email mail@FestaItaliaMonterey.org
Additional information and updates will be posted on the website:

www.FestaItaliaMonterey.org

FESTA Italia 2026 Entertainment Schedule

Friday Night, Sept. 11th. 2026

4:30 to 5 p.m. The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dancing Under the STARS with The Lost and Found Band
Dance Music from Rock n Roll - Jazz - R & B - Reggae

Saturday, Sept. 12th.

“Opening Ceremony Celebration”

10 a.m. Mass San Carlos Cathedral/ Crowning the Statue of Santa Rosalia

11:30 a.m. – 12 noon Custom House Plaza

Opening Ceremony Main Stage

Procession to Wharf & Blessing of the Fleet

12:00 noon -1:00 p.m. Anthony Lane Band

1:00 p.m. - 1:25 p.m. Cooking Demonstration, Master Chef Tene Shake

Classic Italian Calamari

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Pasquale Esposito

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Mike Marotta & the Italian All Stars

3:00 p.m. Tarantella Dancers (Approximate time)

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Anthony Lane Band

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Pasquale Esposito

6:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Dancing Under the Stars with The Money Band, Voted Best Band in Monterey County 2022

Sunday, Sept.13th. 2026

1 1Festa Italia Pasquale Esposito a.m.

-11:30 a.m. Tarantella Dance Lessons in front of main stage -- Free Phyllis Grillo, Master Tarantella Dance Instructor. Everyone welcome to attend and learn the Tarantella

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis

11:45 a.m. –12:50 p.m. Anthony Lane Band

12:30 Tarantella Dancers (Approximate time)

1:00 p.m. - 1:25 p.m. The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Pasquale Esposito

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Mike Marotta & the Italian All Stars

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Musica of Jimmy Rossi and Luca DePaolis

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pasquale Esposito

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Anthony Lane Band

Bocce Awards Closing Announcements

Schedule Subject to Change



Lost and Found Band



Gian Carlo Menotti's
classic family opera ~

Amahl & the Night Visitors




Nov 28 & 29 ~ Our Mother of Good Counsel Hall, Los Feliz
Dec 5 & 6 ~ Grand Annex Music Hall, San Pedro
Doors open 2 hours before each show,
Join us for snacks, dances, crafts & games!
Show is 50 minutes long

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Opera sung in English,
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Tickets \$16 through \$30



Olivia Kellett



AM AHL



Gabriel Quintero



Mark Hearn



Kelvin Li



Jeremy Sarmiento

Season Ticket Packages
ON SALE NOW!






IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

~THE BARBER OF SEVILLE~

ROSSINI

Sept 27, 2026 2:00pm
Dalmatian Club, San Pedro

Oct 3, 2026 7:00pm
Oct 4, 2026 2:00pm
Casa Italiana, DTLA

Tickets \$14 - 48
Add-on Lunch/Dinner Buffet



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Josh Valdes
Don BARTOLO

Zach Mascarinas
FIGARO

Andres Delgado
COUNT ALMAVIVA

Ariana Stultz
ROSINA

Johnny DiGiorgio
Don BASILIO

Olivia Salazar
BERTA

Dustin Peng
FIORELLO

Francesca Taylor ~ Producer
Oliver Chan ~ Conductor,



Eric Cornwell
JOHN SOREL



Savannah Greene
Magda Sorel



Anna Caplan
The Secretary



Zineb Fikri
The Mother

The CONSUL

Gian Carlo Menotti

A human story ~
...a migration-lost
stunning music...
...an Opera for our time

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HEAR IT





November 21 and 22, 2026
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MOZART The MAGIC FLUTE.

2027

Sat, Apr 25 7:00pm
Sun, Apr 26 2:00pm
Casa Italiana, DTLA

Sat, May 1 7:00pm
Sun, May 2 2:00pm
Dalmatian Club, San Pedro

Tickets \$14 - 48
Add-on Lunch/Dinner Buffet



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Ethan Eliafan
Tamino

Zach Mascarinas
Monostatos

Emily Gallagher
Yamina

Natalie Vatcher
First Lady

Josh Valdes
Papageno

Anna Caplan
Second Lady

Teja Kim
Queen of the Night

Ashley Likins
Third Lady

Elle Moody
Papagena

Francesca Taylor ~ Producer
Oliver Chan ~ Conductor,
Ekaterina Lynch ~ Stage Director

