November 2026 Italian Catholic Federation Anno 102 No. 9

BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage

Honoring Our Traditions, Celebrating You: A Season of Thanksgiving for Our Members' Community

As we enter this season of reflection and gratitude, take a moment to celebrate our rich history and honor the dedicated members who make our mission possible.



Heritage chairman Bob Basuino, Karen Rossi, Leonard Rossi, Jim Friebel, and Lisa Crudo!



CC Life Member Dante Galeazzi discusses with Cristoforo Colombo for a "ICF" cruise adventure for our members.



Gianna Enea Branch 36.

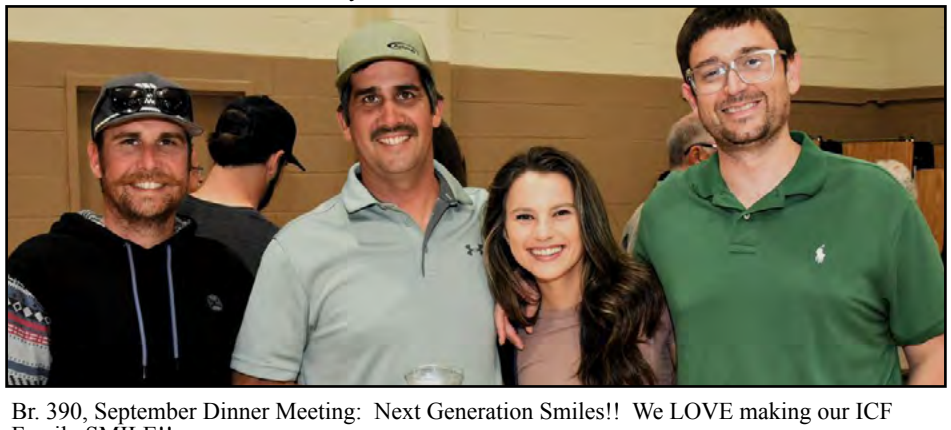




Ruby Dirksen Hula Hoop Winner Branch 36.



Br. 352, Joan Marx, Patti Bellici, Suzi Reynolds, chef Russ Bellici, Margie Favro, and Sally Panella workers on the Russi Family dinner.

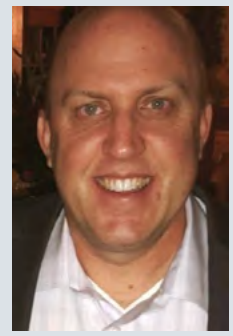


Br. 390, September Dinner Meeting: Next Generation Smiles!! We LOVE making our ICF Family SMILE!!

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

Grand President's Monthly Message

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.



Happy Thanksgiving to all ICF members. It is hard to believe that the holidays are here; where has the time gone? I have such great memories of this holiday: going to Nanny and Papa's house, having my whole family around the table, enjoying great food and conversation, and giving thanks for all God has blessed us with. Let us remember how precious life is; you never know what the next day may bring, so enjoy your family and friends.

Having just completed my first year as Grand President, I attended Bishops' Days in San Bernardino, Monterey, Sacramento, and Contra Costa/East Bay. It is great to see all the members of our Federation and how welcoming they are.

Over the past month, branches and districts should have elected their officers for the coming year; now comes the task of planning, budgeting, fundraising, etc. Remember to post in your church bulletins, meetings, fundraisers, and other events so your fellow parishioners can also partake in the festivities. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Central Council members; we are here to help.

Below is a listing of the Committee Chairpersons:

Apostolate-Charity/Live to Give - Michael Rossi, K.L.J.
By-Laws and Ritual - Leonard Rossi, K.L.J., M.M.E.
Convention Directors - Lauren Kilcullen
Convention Awards - Andrew Pappani
Mentor Program/Troubled Branches - Lauren Kilcullen and Lisa Crudo
Finance - Deborah Rodondi
Gifts of Love - Teresa Helfand
Hospitalization - Andrew Pappani
Membership - Andrew Pappani
Public Relations - Rosemary Cook Shaw
Scholarship - Carmen Kilcullen
Ways and Means/Heritage - Robert Basuino
Workshop - Vincent Piro

Continued on Page 3

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 December issue is November 10, 2026

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

Thank you!

Message from our Grand Chaplain
"Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage"

Dear Friends of the Italian Catholic Federation:

November has always touched a tender place in my heart. It arrives quietly, almost reverently — like a soft Celtic breeze moving through autumn leaves, or the gentle warmth of an Italian kitchen where memory and faith mingle. This month, *Il Mese dei Defunti*, invites us to pause and remember the people whose love shaped us long before we understood its depth.

I find myself thinking of the ones who blessed my life in ways I still carry.

The grandmother whose whispered prayers were the first theology I ever heard.

The grandfather whose steady faith was a shelter I didn't know I needed.

The relatives whose stories, sacrifices, and laughter became the soil of my vocation.

Their faces come back to me in November — not in sorrow, but in gratitude.

Perhaps you have faces like that too.
People whose absence still aches.
People whose love still guides you.
People whose memory still warms your heart.

The Church, in her wisdom, gives us this month to honor them — not with despair, but with hope. The theology of the Communion of Saints is not abstract; it is profoundly personal. It tells us that we remain connected to those we love — truly, spiritually, sacramentally — because Christ has woven us together in His Body. Our prayers help them. Their love helps us. And God holds all of us in one great circle of mercy.

The Celts spoke of "thin places," moments when heaven feels close enough to touch.

The Italians spoke of *i nostri cari,* loved ones whose presence lingers in the heart.

Both traditions whisper the same truth:

Love endures. Faith remembers. Christ transforms.

This November, I invite you to let your heart wander gently to those who shaped your life.

Remember the sound of their voice. The warmth of their hands. The way they blessed you without even knowing they were blessing you. Let yourself feel gratitude for the faith they handed down — sometimes quietly, sometimes imperfectly, sometimes heroically. And trust that they are held now in the mercy of God, where every wound is healed and every love is made whole. As members of the Italian Catholic Federation, we honor them by living the values they cherished: Faith rooted in Christ, Family strengthened by love, Heritage carried with gratitude.

This month, consider simple acts of remembrance:

- Light a candle at home — una candela di memoria.
- Visit il cimitero and speak their names aloud.
- Cook a family recipe and remember who taught it to you.
- Pray the rosary for the Holy Souls.
- Offer a Mass for someone you love.

And let your heart rest in the promise that Christ has conquered death, and that every love entrusted to Him is kept safe forever.



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Grand Chaplain

O God of gentleness and glory, receive our parents, grandparents, godparents, friends, and all deceased members of the Italian Catholic Federation into Your eternal embrace. Let Your light surround them like the Celtic flame that never dies, and let Your mercy hold them as tenderly as an Italian mother holds her child.

May their love continue to shape us, their memory continue to bless us, and their faith continue to guide us until we meet again in the Kingdom where every tear is wiped away and every longing finds its home.

L'eterno riposo dona a loro, Signore, e splenda ad essi la luce perpetua.

May Christ wrap their souls in peace — *suaimhneas Chríost*.

I promise to remember you in my prayers, even as I would be grateful for a place in yours. May God bless you and those that you love.

Fr. Chris



Welcome New Members

(Report as of October 9, 2026)

Branch 036	**Martha Carota**	**Esther Enea**	**Gianna Enea**
	Nico Enea	**Bryan Stewart**	**Patricia Stewart**
Branch 218	**Nicholas A Genovese Jr**		
Branch 432	**Dominic J Fresch**	**Joann M Fresch**	**Robin L Gordon**
Branch 438	**Kathleen G Goetzger**	**Martha Grupe**	**Patricia Roche**
Branch 442	**Elias N D'Angelo**	**Miranda S D'Angelo**	**Nicholas J D'Angelo**
	Oliver N D'Angelo	**Ursula I D'Angelo**	
Branch 445	**Shirlee Nickell**		

Convention Article:

"Our Legacy: Faith, Family, Heritage" Recap

Convention Director's Committee



The Convention Director's received a month off, however, they returned to work planning the 2027 Convention in October. We went to Orange, Ca on October 19 for a site visit to the Hotel Fera. Photos and more information from the visit will be in the December *Bollettino*.

The Committee also reviewed the 2026 Convention evaluations. 71 evaluations were completed.

Some of the statistics:

Breakdown of respondents:

First Time Delegates: 18%

Returning Delegates: 82%

Clergy: 0%

Overall Convention Rating:

Excellent: 44%

Very Good: 37%

Good: 18%

WORKSHOP RATINGS:

	Excellent –	**Very Good –**	**Good –**
Spiritual	77.42%	19.35%	3.23%
Paving your Way to the Future	32.26%	29.03%	38.71%
Open Forum: Membership	63.16%	15.79%	21.05%
Open Forum: General	44.19%	39.53%	16.28%
Kaleidoscope of Italian Spiritual Treasures			
	81.48%	11.11%	7.41%
Cooley's Anemia	92.86%	7.14%	0%

Overall comments were positive with some helpful suggestions the committee will take into consideration in planning next year's convention. The raffle baskets were well received, as was the Marketplace.

There were several comments about technology and how to modernize the Federation. This is something the Central Council will be looking into. A hands-on workshop, next year, is also being considered.

As branches prepare their 2027 budgets, please allocate enough money to send your delegates to the convention. The hotel rate is $145.00 per night plus tax.

Please consider continuing the friendship and camaraderie from the Convention to our post-Convention cruise to Ensenada and Catalina Island on the Ovation of the Seas! A flyer was included in your bag at registration. OR contact Lisa Crudo for more information.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Lauren Kilcullen
Convention Director

Heritage —

All Saints' Day/All Souls' Day!

Louise Vento, Committee Member



Since the early Middle Ages, Halloween has been part of a trio of major church observances known as Allhallowtide. But what are these feast days, and what do they commemorate?

Halloween does not truly end on October 31st. November 1st is All Saints' Day. In the calendar of the Catholic Church, nearly every day is dedicated to a saint—often more than one. November 1st commemorates them all, serving as a celebration for all holy men and women, including those without a specific feast day.

While modern views of saints are gentle, medieval saints were viewed as formidable and powerful figures. They were believed to intercede fiercely, protecting the faithful or confronting anyone who crossed them. Originally established in Rome by Pope Boniface IV in 609 AD (and originally observed in May), Pope Gregory IV officially extended the November 1st celebration of All Saints' Day across the Western Church in 835 AD.

November 2nd is All Souls' Day. St. Odilo of Cluny established this observance around 998 AD as a day to pray for the souls of the departed in Purgatory. Medieval Christians believed that while the unrepentant faced damnation, most faithful souls would undergo a period of purification in Purgatory before entering Heaven—making prayers from the living essential.

Halloween, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day all occur midway between the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice. Historically, they reflected deep anxieties about the coming winter and fears of harvest shortages. In a world where surviving until spring was uncertain, seeking the goodwill and prayers of the holy dead held immense importance. Today, many cultures around the world continue this tradition with a three-day festival celebrating and remembering the dead.

GP Message--*Continued:*

Frankyn Lopes, Jr. *continued from Page 1*

Please contact the committee chairs with any ideas or concerns.

Once again, ICF members came out for the annual Columbus Day Parade in San Francisco on Sunday, October 11. Thanks to Jim Friebel for getting our trailer ready so we could decorate it with our Italian colors. It is always a pleasure to see the men and women in uniform walking by our float and thanking them for their service. A special thanks to the Ways and Means/ Heritage Committee for making this possible.

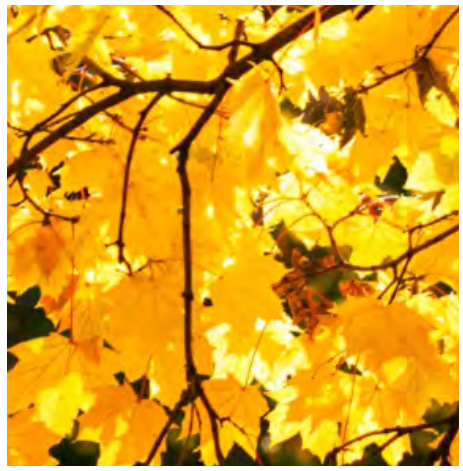
As the aroma of turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes, or whatever fills your homes this Thanksgiving holiday, we realize how important our religion and the people around us are. Communicate with them and tell them how important they are to you.

I leave you with this Thanksgiving blessing:

Heavenly Father, we come to you today with gratitude for all of the blessings you've given us, especially our friends and family members, and for the nourishment you provide.

-Amen.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.



Live to Give Blood Drive Donation Donations

Lou Mages (Convention)
Advocate for Cooley's Anemia

Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of October 10, 2026)

Central Coast District

Annette Novi
In Honor of the 80th Birthday of Donna Barnes

Eva Stern
Speedy Recovery Wishes for Marie Yurosko

Teresa and Cory Helfand
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen



Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library
OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Carmelo Sabatella

The Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library welcomes visitors such as Bill Lowendick of Plainfield, Illinois who recently attended a Pilgrimage at the National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini in Chicago, Illinois. After the Pilgrimage, Bill was reading Mother Cabrini's life story and found Her Chapel in Burbank and scheduled a tour on October 4, 2026.

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

November 15, 2026:

Mother Cabrini Annual Mass 10 a.m. (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 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Host: San Fernando Region.

2) Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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







Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee Chair Carmelo Sabatella provided a tour of the Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, CA for Bill Lowendick of Plainfield, Illinois on October 4, 2026.

Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library at St Francis Xavier Church
3801 Scott Rd, Burbank, CA 91504

OCTOBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
10/1	Phyllis Lynch	47	Los Altos, CA	$30
10/2	Leo Capovilla	130	Fremont, CA	$30
10/3	Jeanette DeWitz	281	Bakersfield, CA	$30
10/4	Faith Hill	213	Oakdale, CA	$30
10/5	Mario Rossi		So. San Francisco, CA	$30
10/6	Joe Aguilar	73	North Highlands, CA	$30
10/7	Joe & Angie Ring		Napa, CA	$30
10/8	Nick Gilardi		Dos Palos, CA	$30
10/9	Mary Elizabeth Van De Car	210	Forest Falls, CA	$30
10/10	Bob Marx	352	Alamo, CA	$30
10/11	Joseph Verno		Greenwood Village, CO	$50
10/12	Cathy De Maria	391	Campbell, CA	$50
10/13	Jim Raccanello	332	Novato, CA	$30
10/14	Diana Plescia	108	South Pasadena, CA	$30
10/15	Marilyn Ramacher	395	Stockton, CA	$30
10/16	Kristin Rossillo		San Marcos, CA	$30
10/17	Jack Millpointer		Alameda, CA	$30
10/18	Michael & Krystel Imboden		Dixon, CA	$30
10/19	Abe Ferguson		Altaville, CA	$30
10/20	Louie Cordich	28	Gilroy, CA	$30
10/21	Maria Ortega		Union City, CA	$30
10/22	Theresa Shaw	108	South Pasadena, CA	$50
10/23	Donna Vaughan	39	Le Grand, CA	$30
10/24	Janet Hieronimaus		Odenton, MD	$30
10/25	Terri Dalton		Lathrop, CA	$30
10/26	Richard & Lauren Tignor		Windsor, CA	$30
10/27	Fr. Francisco Miramontes		Gilroy, CA	$30
10/28	Lore Borsoni	1	San Francisco, CA	$30
10/29	Carol Orfino	403	Millbrae, CA	$30
10/30	Steve Barnes	19	Daly City, CA	$30
10/31	Toni Green	144	Arcata, CA	$50

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT
Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Committee

Presents

SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
PILGRIMAGE, MASS AND LUNCHEON

"CELEBRATING THE 80TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MOTHER CABRINI'S CANONIZATION"

at

Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church
3801 Scott Rd., Burbank, CA 91504

DATE: Sunday, November 15, 2026

MASS/BENEDICTION: 11:30 AM. PILGRIMAGE: 12:30 PM. LUNCH: 2:00 PM

COST: $30.00 / Adults & $10.00 / Children under 12
"Each paid ticket includes one Raffle Ticket for a Special Raffle Prize."

MENU: BAKED CHICKEN, PASTA, MEAT BALLS, SALAD, VEGGIE, COFFEE, TEA WINE AND DESSERT (Catered by Jouni's Catering)

RESERVATION(S) DUE BY: OCTOBER 17, 2026

CONTACT: ANDREA LINN
T. 909-762-1392
E: andilimn@gmail.com

SEND CHECK TO: ICF c/o ANDREA LINN
929 Sunburst Drive
Beaumont, CA 92223

I wish to reserve ____ Dinner(s) at $30.00; _____ Dinner(s) at $10.00 (Under 12)
Enclosed is $ _____

"All proceeds to help fund the ongoing operations and development of the Cabrini Chapel and Library."

(Please make checks to Italian Catholic Federation); memo: Cabrini Pilgrimage 2026)

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

(Received as of October 10, 2026)

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
Larry Kilcullen	Mike and Marcie Rossi
Eddie Leonard	The Antonowicz Family
Edward Leonard	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Eddie Leonard	Bob Basuino
Larry Kilcullen	Jim and Patty Jarrett
Mary Prolo	Louise Vento
Steven Giuntoli	Leonard and Karen Rossi
Larry Kilcullen	Donna and Steve Barnes
Eddie Leonard	Mike and Marcie Rossi
Mary Prolo	Mike and Marcie Rossi
Della Spinelli	Officers/Members of Br. 380
Steve Giuntoli	Fran La Torre
Larry Kilcullen	Marlene Farber
Dr. Jerry Deck	Officers/Member of Br. 21
Annie Zingarelli	Bob and Kathy Acquistapace
Ann D'Angelo	Louise Vento
Larry Kilcullen	Roselynne and Aaron McNeal

IN HONOR OF:

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.	Officers/Members of San Bernardino District

IN HONOR OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF:

Fr. Alan Acevedo	Carmen and Lauren Kilcullen

IN HONOR OF THE DEACONSHIP OF:

Deacon Malcolm Barrack	Carmen and Lauren Kilcullen

IN HONOR OF THE 2026 ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD RECIPIENT:

Father Ron Shirley	CC Spouses' and Family Association

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:

Angie Heumann	Jim and Patty Jarrett

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:

A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by the Central Coast District.

*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 priesthod in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.

2026 – 2027 CENTRAL COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OFFICERS:
Grand President - Franklyn Lopes, Jr., Br. 227
Grand 1st Vice President - Lauren Kilcullen, Br. 52
Grand 2nd Vice President - Lisa Crudo, Br. 343
Grand Secretary - Perry Shurko, Br. 362
Grand Treasurer - Deborah Rodondi*, Br. 19
Grand Parliamentarian - Leonard Rossi, K.L.J., M.M.E.* (Karen), Br. 343
Grand Trustee - Denise Antonowicz, Br. 184
Grand Trustee - Robert Basuino*, Br. 191
Grand Trustee - Rosemary Cook Shaw (Griffin), Br. 13
Grand Sentinel - Michael Rossi, K.L.J.* (Marcie), Br. 391
Past Grand President - Denise Antonowicz, Br. 184
Spiritual Director - Rev. Christopher Bennett, Br. 445

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Dante Galeazzi* (Julie), Br. 139
Teresa Helfand* (Cory), Br. 392
Annemarie McCarthy, Br. 210
Roselynne McNeal* (Aaron), Br. 442
Andrew Pappani* (Siria/Sid), Br. 28
Theresa Shaw (Tad), Br. 108
Leonard Zasoski, Jr.* (Betty/B.G.), Br. 281
(*denotes life member)

LIFE MEMBERS EMERITUS:
Robert Acquistapace (Kathy), Br. 198
Michael Cannady (Donna), Br. 154
Steven Fuentes, Br. 173
James Jones, Br. 191
Carmen Kilcullen, Br. 52
Nina Malone, Br. 438

MEMBERS EMERITUS:
Gerald Delfino, Br. 368
Maria Di Paolo, Br. 379
Angelina Iarossi-Armenio, Br. 218
Patricia Mages (Louis), Br. 380
Kenneth Marshall (Elizabeth), Br. 342
Vincent Piro (Robyn), Br. 39
Chris Valentini (Elizabeth), Br. 14
(Revised 09/26)

2027 ICF Calendar Sales

12 Months of Impact: Make a Difference with Every Calendar You Sell.

The ICF 2027 Calendars are great gifts, great raffle prizes and offer wonderful stories, fun facts and recipes which remind us about our theme "At The Baquet Table With The Apostles" as well as an opportunity to win money.

Please keep this in mind with the Holidays coming up.

This is a wonderful fundraiser for our Branches as well as a way to fund many of our organization's programs.

So, let's focus on selling our calendars!!!

Branches have been given their allotment of calendars—contact your local Branch if you are interested in buying one.

In Loving Memory

(Report as of September 30, 2026)

Jerome Deck	Branch 021	Teresa Racowschi	Branch 115
Angela Wecker	Branch 036	Dino L Cunial	Branch 139
Sara L Shaw	Branch 108	Sharon L Cunial	Branch 139
Carmela Gioiello	Branch 115	Jeannie A Iverson	Branch 227
Joy Rackemann	Branch 115	Robert J Mattos	Branch 332

Membership Committee: *ICF Workshops for One and All*



Vince Piro

Over the next couple of months, the Workshop Committee will be presenting a series of workshops via Zoom that will enhance your branch and ICF participation. These workshops are run as interactive presentations and discussions, so bring your ideas and experiences to share and join in the fun. All members are welcome.

You can join the workshops by clicking on the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84096910300

Meeting ID: 840 9691 0300

SCHEDULE

Special Workshop:

November 12, 6:30 p.m. - ICF Charities. In this workshop, we will explore ICF's various charities, how they impact our communities, and how branches can donate to them.

Leadership Workshops: The following workshops are designed to help new and experienced branch leaders as they prepare for next year. There is a presentation detailing the roles and responsibilities of each position as well as lively discussion and sharing. Whether you are a new officer or an experienced officer, come and share your ideas and questions.

November 19, 6:30 p.m. Presidents

December 1, 6:30 p.m. Vice-Presidents

December 3, 6:30 p.m. Financial Secretaries and Treasurers

December 8, 6:30 p.m. Secretaries (Corresponding and Recording)

December 10, 6:30 p.m Trustees

December 29, 6:30 p.m. Sentinels and Orators

Future workshops - We will hold workshops on other topics of interest. If you have any workshop ideas or would like to discuss a topic, please contact Vince Piro at 209-756-4817.

Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Received as of October 10, 2026)

Branch 108
Central Coast District
LA Archdiocese District BBQ
Officers/Members of Br. 442
In Celebration of the Golden Jubilee as a Dominica Sister for Sister Dominic Marie Bonnici, OP
Officers/Members of Br. 442
In Celebration of 70 Years Ordained to the Priesthood for Fr. Brian Timoney
Officers/Members of Br. 442
In Celebration of 55 Years Ordained to the Priesthood for Fr. Gerry Moran
Officers/Members of Br. 442
In Celebration of 35 Years Ordained to the Priesthood for Fr. Paulson Mundanmani
Officers/Members of Br. 442
In Celebration of 20 Years Ordained to the Priesthood for Fr. Lee Chompoochan
Michele Silveri
In Memory of Sara Shaw
Judy Scott
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen
Julie Baldocchi Schurba
In Memory of Giuseppina Baldocchi
The Shaw Family
In Memory of Sara Loretta Shaw
Carmelo and Linda Sabatella
In Memory of Sara Loretta Shaw
Heather Shaw
In Memory of Sara Loretta Shaw
Marlene Farber
In Honor of the 100th Birthday of Ralph DeRango
Barbara Firpo
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Scholarship Donations

(Received as of October 10, 2026)

Scholarship Donations - 1st Year

The Antonowicz Family
In Memory of Richard Salciccia

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

CC Spouses' and Family Association
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Officers/Members of Central Council
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Bob Basuino
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Shirley Catania
In Memory of Tom Rosenthal

John and Natalie Canata
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Leonard and Karen Rossi
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Steven Fuentes
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Diana Quaresma Bacigalupi
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Donna and Richard Pfaff
In Memory of Mike Martignetti

Janine and Alan Boone, Mary Rose Teves, Tom Dawson and Alison Coughlin
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Frank and Alberta Freitas
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Laurice Levine
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Dino De Ranieri
In Memory of Daniel Wayne Gallinetti

Bob and Kathy Acquistapace
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Giulia Gallego
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Doreen O'Rourke
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Officers/Members of Santa Rosa District
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Officers/Members of Br. 435
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Antoinette and Angelo Pecora
In Memory of Ronald O'Rourke

Antoinette and Angelo Pecora
In Memory of Janet Maria Herring
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Steven Fuentes
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Diana Quaresma Bacigalupi
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Donna and Richard Pfaff
In Memory of Mike Martignetti

Janine and Alan Boone, Mary Rose Teves, Tom Dawson and Alison Coughlin
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen

Scholarship Donations - 2nd - 4th Year

Gerald H. Delfino
In Memory of Larry Kilcullen



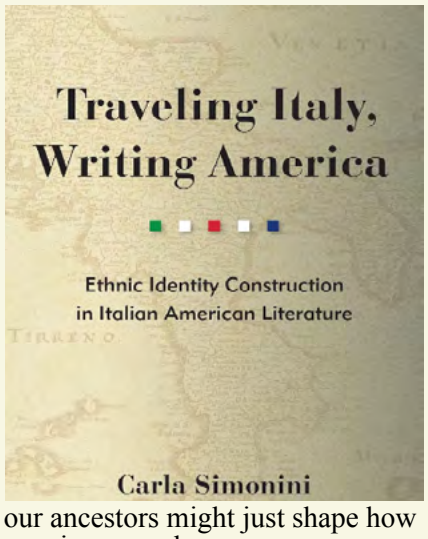
Book Review -- *Traveling Italy, Writing America*

Vince Piro

Traveling Italy, Writing America: Ethnic Identity Construction in Italian American Literature (Critical Studies in Italian Migrations)
By Carla A Simonini
Fordham University Press, 2026



This month, I'm exploring a book that delves into a central idea: how writing shapes our understanding of a place and how that understanding can then shape our own identities. Whether they're writing about home or a foreign land, authors have the power to influence our beliefs, thoughts, and ideas. What they focus on, what they leave out, and the perspective they offer create a mental image that might be as much fiction as reality. This is definitely true of how Americans (and Italian-Americans) see Italy. Often romanticized in novels and travel stories, Italy might be as much myth as reality in the minds of American readers, and for Italian Americans, how we view the land of our ancestors might just shape how we view ourselves.



Traveling Italy, Writing America by Carla Simonini investigates why Italy continues to captivate the American imagination, connecting classic literature to modern memoirs and popular media that still view Italy as a place of transformation, desire, and reflection.

Simonini argues that the American perception of Italy—a harmonious blend of sunshine and shadows, refinement and excess—has played a pivotal role in shaping both the U.S. national identity and the identity of Italian Americans. The book uncovers how this concept emerged in nineteenth-century American travel writing and later evolved by early Italian American authors as a means to establish cultural credibility in the United States.

This study, starting with Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Dean Howells, Mark Twain, and Henry James, explores how Italy became a place where Americans began to think about taste, class, and their national identity. It then examines Antonio Arrighi, Pascal D'Angelo, and Giuseppe Cautela, highlighting how these writers used familiar ideas about beauty and passion to discuss their Italian American identity in a world where race was a significant theme in literature. Instead of simply suggesting that people suddenly developed a preference for Italy, the book reveals a complex mix of attraction and dislike, with admiration and concern intertwined, and immigrant writers skillfully navigating this dynamic.

Simonini illustrates how Italy functions less as a real, fixed geographical place and more as a psychological and cultural stage where Americans and Italian Americans project their desires, anxieties, and transformations. She also looks into how the dominant cultural norms in the U.S. viewed European and immigrant backgrounds, and how writers responded to or navigated these power structures. We find that Italian American writers used travel to or memory of Italy to bridge the gap between their ancestral roots and their desire to belong fully to the American story.

Traveling Italy, Writing America, offers a fresh perspective on the development of Italian American identity, illustrating how the language of travel itself became a crucial means for individuals to express their ethnic identity, cultural influence, and their place within America.

Carla A. Simonini is the former Paul and Ann Rubino Endowed Associate Professor of Italian American Studies at Loyola University Chicago and served as Editor-¬in-¬ Chief of Italian Americana: Cultural and Historical Review from 2016 to 2024.

Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

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

Dear Members:

On Sunday, November 8th at 12 p.m. President Vic will host an Italian luncheon at his Daughter and Son-in-law's house in San Francisco. Invitations were sent to Branch 1 Members. Please call Vic at 650-755-1369 if you are able to attend.

Please call Vic at 650-755-1369 if you would like to purchase the ICF calendars—$30 each.

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Cordiali Saluti
Diana Cresci

SAN MATEO District

Colma
Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli

It amazing how the year passes by so fast. Our final meeting of the year will be November 9, 2026 at Deborah's House. There will be a hosted dinner along with the meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. Reservations to Deborah by November 6th.

The Branch will be having its Christmas and 98th Anniversary Dinner on Monday December 7, 2026 at Sharp Park Golf Course. Non- Host cocktails at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and raffle. Dinner choices are Prime Rib, Chicken Cordon Blue, or Salmon at $50.00 per dinner, and, Lobster at $55.00 per dinner. This event is open for any ICF member wishing to attend. Please make sure you place your reservations early because of limited seating. Information and reservations to Donna Barnes – Phone 650-991-0178

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

ICF Branch 130 Halloween Potluck Party a Spooktacular Success!

ICF Branch 130 members, families and friends gathered to celebrate Halloween with their annual potluck that was filled with delicious food, creative costumes, and great company! The room was decorated in a Halloween theme, creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere. An impressive variety of main dishes, desserts, and treats made the potluck table a highlight of the celebration. From savory favorites to spooky sweets, there was something for everyone to enjoy. One of the most anticipated parts of the evening was the costume contest. Participants arrived dressed as everything from classic Halloween characters to Octoberfest partiers, adorable deer, butterflies, a fairy and even a caveman! The colorful costumes added excitement and plenty of laughs.

Beyond the food and festivities, the party reinforced the strong sense of community that defines ICF Branch 130. Members shared stories, laughter, and friendship, strengthening the bonds that make the branch such a welcoming and supportive organization.

A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers and members who helped organize the event, contributed dishes, and participated in the festivities. Their efforts made the Halloween potluck party a huge success!

We are looking forward to coming together again next month for our polenta dinner fundraiser and enjoying each other's company in the months ahead.

Happy Halloween from ICF Branch 130!

Burlingame
Br. 173, Our Lady of Angels

The months are going way too fast as the Holidays are right around the corner.

On September 18th, we had our Branch Mass and enjoyed shared appetizers in the Hall of Saints.

Branch 403's polenta dinner will be held on October 18th. Cocktails at 4 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m. Please support Branch 403, Millbrae, as they always support us

October being the month of St. Francis one of our priests, Father Joy, agreed to say Mass in Italian at the Shrine of St. Francis in San Francisco followed by lunch in North Beach. I'm sure those who attended loved the idea with Father Joy driving.

MISC. ITEMS:

NOVEMBER 12th Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Bob and Bea Tomasello. We have invited Laurice Levine to join us.

OCTOBER: ELECTIONS and our new calendars have arrived. They will be $30.00 and the Branch keeps $5.00 for every one sold.

Our parish is celebrating our 100-year anniversary with various days scheduled to enjoy the Capuchin Franciscan Centennial. Example: Saturday, 11-14-26 is Stained Glass Appreciation—Explore faith through our windows.

Prayers for Fr. Brian, Fr. Gerald, Fr. Harold, Mary Bodisco, Maria & Victor Camicia, Rina Cassanego, Virginia Fuentes and Richard Ruiz. From Branch 19: Cheryl Simon & Kathy Trevisco.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
God Bless, Roz Emery

South San Francisco
Br. 213, St. Augustine

We had a successful rummage sale in October, thanks to our members who gave their time to make it a success, as well as our president, Marianne Cameron, for spearheading the event, and our moderator, Dorene Campanile, for the use of her house and time. All proceeds will go to charities supported by Br. 213, St Augustine.

Due to the construction at St. Augustine's Hall our meetings will be held at different locations to be announced at a later date.

Thanks to Gloria and Marianne for hosting the September meeting and Judy for hosting the Rummage Sale meeting. They always make going to the meeting interesting.

Keep in your prayers our members Jackie Smith, Faith Hill, Lorraine D'Elia and Barbara Gabriel for a speedy recovery.

And a Big Happy Birthday to Norma Flores and Julie Poulet

See you next month.
Joe Crosetti

Millbrae
Br. 403, St. Dunstan

I would like to thank the Millbrae Lions Club & Mike Gianni for preparing the main dish for our Polenta Dinner Fundraiser on October 18th. Much appreciation also to Rose Marie Morando for preparing the Antipasti, and to Faye Dawdy of Dawdy photography for taking the reservations & for donating a raffle prize of photography. Thanks also to those who helped with set-up and clean-up: It takes a lot of volunteers to put on an event like this and we appreciate your valuable time. Much thanks as well to the members, businesses & restaurants who donated money, goods, & gift certificates to our event raffle: we really appreciate your generosity!

Our next branch meeting is our "Lasagna Dinner" meeting on November 3rd at 5 p.m. The cost is only $15. RSVP to Eunice Danli by Oct 30th or call her at 650-692-3740. Our "Christmas Dinner" will be on December 1st at 5 p.m. The cost is TBD but it will be catered. The info will be in your December Newsletter.

The calendars are now available so bring your $30 to the November meeting & secure a chance to win some $$!

You can also call me & I will get one to you.

Adonna Amoroso, Secretary



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE
District Council

The Los Angeles Archdiocese District honored the Seminarians at St. John's Seminary on October 11, and presented the burse from the District. Also, the burse from Central Council was presented by Grand Secretary, Perry Shurko, to Father Leon Hutton, Rector of St. John's Seminary. Archbishop Jose Gomez had a scheduling conflict for our Bishop's Day event. The ICF members enjoy the peaceful and spiritual ambiance of the campus and visiting with our future priests.

The next District meeting is scheduled for November 21, tentatively scheduled at Branch 111, St. Benedict in Montebello. We will finalize our plans for installation of officers in January at Branch 108, Holy Family in South Pasadena. We look forward to these events for the exchange of information to support the events of the branches.

The Cabrini Pilgrimage is scheduled for Sunday, November 15 in Burbank, CA, and everyone is invited. Previous Pilgrimages attracted people from different locations outside the Southern California area. The information is in the *Bollettino*, or you can find information on "icf.org." Just let the Committee know you are coming.

November is the time we celebrate the memory of loved ones who have passed to their reward, Dia De Los Muertos. Some churches set up memorial alters and there are many scheduled events throughout the country. Then later in the month, we give thanks to God for all things He provides.

Lou Mages



Br. 67, National Branch, St. Peter

On September 9, 2026, LAADC President Lou Mages, Central Council Member Theresa Shaw and ICF National Branch 67 President Carmelo Sabatella visited the new Pastor of St. Peter's Italian Church, Father Esteban Marquez from the Los Angeles Archdiocese. After introductions, the meeting was a meet and greet opportunity with an understanding that we would like to work together supporting our ICF mission in solidarity with the Los Angeles Archdiocese especially now that Branch 67 will reach its 90th anniversary in 2027!

Member Francesca Taylor reported on show dates for her Opera Italia productions in the fall 2026.

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 want your input as we continue to develop this branch online.

Please 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.

Carmelo Sabatella, President

ICF National Branch 67

SAVE THE DATE

- Nov 14, 2026 - NBr 67 Gen Meeting via zoom from 10:30 to 12:00 pm.

- Nov 15, 2026 - Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage and Luncheon at St. Francis Xavier Church, Burbank, CA

- Nov 21 & 22, 2026 - Opera 'The Consul" at Cathedral High in Downtown LA.

- Nov 28 & 29, 2026 - Opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Los Felix Los Angeles and on

- Dec 5 & 6, 2026 in San Pedro.

ICF National Branch 67

South Pasadena
Br. 108, Holy Family

On October 4, 2026, Branch 108 General Lunch Meeting was held at Delizie Romano Ristorante in Pasadena, CA.

President Michele Silveri opened the meeting and handed out the meeting agenda and History of Italian Immigration to America. Also noted was that October celebrates the annual Italian American Month in California. Members also brought up good news or what they were grateful for.

Michele also congratulated members Danielle Silveri and Quinto Bianchi (96) celebrating their October Birthdays, sang Happy Birthday then congratulated Carmelo and Linda Sabatella celebrating their 52nd Wedding Anniversary.

We continue to pray for our sick members and ask that you keep them in your prayers for a speedy recovery and to our former Branch members and friends of ICF who recently have gone to their eternal reward; may they rest in peace.

Keep safe and stay healthy,

Carmelo Sabatella, AIA

Past President, ICF Branch 108

C 626 372-7812. E cas1810@aol.com

SAVE THE DATES

- Nov. 1, 2026 - ICF Br. 108 General Meeting in Connolly Hall from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Nov. 2, 3, 2026 - ICF Br. 108 Cook for HFC Hot Lunch Helpers.

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

- Dec. 13, 2026 - ICF Br. 108 Christmas Party in HF Connolly Hall from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Montebello
Br. 111, St. Benedict

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Our November General Meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, in Montebello. It has become our tradition for our November general meeting to celebrate Thanksgiving with a potluck dinner. Everyone brings their favorite dishes to share with everyone and the Branch will provide the main dish, turkey, and drinks. Thank you to everyone for your participation.

We would like to congratulate the following members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of November: Timothy Lambert, Rene Mata, David Estrada, Massimo Sorce, Georgia Albanez, Gary Cruz, Joe Canzonieri, Christina Orofino, Bella Fugueroa, and Celia Ramos. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

A group of ICF 111 members will attend the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction & Luncheon at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, on Sunday, November 15, 2026. This year marks the 80th anniversary of Mother Cabrini's canonization to sainthood.

SAVE the date for the following event: more information will follow.

Saturday, December 12, 2026 - ICF 111 Branch Christmas Dinner, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Salvatore Italian Restaurant in Montebello.

We pray for our beloved deceased members and members families, for sick members and those in need; let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

A Presto!
Frank Salomone

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

A heartfelt thank you to all who joined us for our October 20th day trip to Harrah's.

Your support helped make the trip a wonderful success and a great fundraiser.

There is still time to join us for our Mother Cabrini mass and pilgrimage on Sunday November 15. The bus will leave from the Boys and Girls club at 10 a.m. The cost is $30.00 and lunch is included. Please call Barbara West for reservations: 310 548-1693.

We are also excited to announce that our seminarian Christian Eguaroje will be ordained to diaconate on Saturday November 21 at 9 a.m. at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels. A reception will be held later in the day at 4 p.m. at Mary Star of the Sea auditorium. Please join us in celebrating this special occasion and supporting Christian as he continues his journey towards the priesthood.

Christian will celebrate his first mass as a deacon on Sunday November 22 at 9 a.m. at Mary Star of the Sea.

Our next general branch meeting will be held on November 19th at 7:30 p.m. in parish center. Please join us.

Up for discussion will be our annual Christmas party which will be held on Saturday Dec 5th at 6 p.m. in church auditorium. The dinner is free to members $15 for guest. Please bring a gift for the gift exchange $15.00 value. Please call or text Giovanna Gioiello for reservations 213 605-3060

Also please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share. Please drop off your cookies at 1 p.m. to the auditorium as we will be assembling the cookie platters at that time.

Our branch mourns the loss of 2 long time members Virginia Joy Rackemann and Teresa Racowschi. Both will be deeply missed.

Happy Thanksgiving to all
Anita Trujillo

Glendora
Br. 179, St. Dorothy

St. Dorothy Glendora Branch 179 held their quarterly Load the Truck event on October 6th. We raised $3,900 to support our various charities. After all the hard work loading 10,960 pounds of clothing, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved pizza and salad dinner.

One of our charities, Shepherd's Pantry, hosted members Bruce Brancato, Debbie Felt, Josie Bresee and Patricia Auriemmo at their annual Recognition Breakfast. We were honored as a Silver Sponsor due to our support of their mission to help feed and clothe those in need.

And, finally, please join us in wishing members Cathy and Vito Napoli a very happy 50th anniversary. They reaffirmed their vows at mass and partied afterwards with family and friends. Congratulations and God's blessings.

Patricia
Trustee, Branch 179

Arcadia
Br. 218, Holy Angels

Our next very important date is the Christmas Boutique November 14 and 15. This is always a very successful event chaired by Jenni Hauge. It is a wonderful way to start your Christmas shopping as Jenni always has very interesting vendors. Also, this year Santa will be on the premises and will be available for pictures with the family. Sandwiches will also be sold, plus a baked goods table. Sunday, December 6 is the date of our Christmas party. This year Maria's Italian Restaurant will be providing the food—chicken parmesan, pesto pomodoro pasta, pinwheel rosemary bread, salad, drinks and dessert. Price - $20.00. Please RSVP to myself, ph. #626 533-0505. The wonderful Holy Angels' children with Jose Soto at the piano will be performing again this year and Santa will also be making his appearance. This is also the time that the branch hands out many of our yearly contributions. Finally, Mary Rovarino is already working on our New Year's Eve party. Watch for more on that. And, speaking of Mary, a huge thanks for putting together the Casino bus trip.- lots of fun. To everyone from the branch, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope to see everyone at our meetings and these events.

Lolly M



DEADLINE

November 10th for the December issue of the *Bollettino*.
Send your articles & photos: editor@icf.org

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT















Branch 108



Branch 380



Branch 380



Branch 380



Br. 67, Lou Mages, Fr. Estaban, Theresa Shaw, and Carmelo Sabatella



Br. 111, Happy Birthday to Giuseppina, Ruben, Joey, and Artemio.



Br. 115, Patricia Bristol, Isidoro Colonna and Lisa Boccanfuso helping at the St. John Joseph dinner



Branch 115 Feast of St. John Joseph of the Cross. President Neal Di Leva and wife Anna Di Leva.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 179, Shepherd's Pantry Breakfast



Br. 115, (L-R) Mary Stiles, Vincenzo Lauro (from Ischia, Italy), Patricia Bristol, Anna Di Leva and Lisa Boccanfuso at the St. John Joseph dinner.



Br. 179, Cathy & Vito Napoli



Br. 115, (L-R) Frank Amalfitano, Vincenzo Lauro (from Ischia) and Anthony Amalfitano (Chef) and Sal Mattera at St. John Joseph dinner.



Br. 179, Truck Load



Branch 218 in Arcadia sponsored the Rock & Roll Cannoli bus trip in September to Harrahs Rincon Casino. A fabulous time was had by all!

Downey
Br. 362, St. Raymond

Happy November to you all. I hope you all had a Spooktacular Halloween and are over your candy coma. Last month the LA District gathered at St John's Seminary for our annual Bishop and Seminarian Recognition Day. We had about 50 members show up and presented Fr. Leon Hutton a check for $6,000 as well as a check from the Providenza Fund for $2,000.

Next up is our branches general meeting which will be a Thanksgiving Potluck and then we have our next Bingo luncheon. Don't forget that we will have our branch elections this month. If that's not enough, the annual Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage takes place on the 15th at St. Frances Xavier parish in Burbank.

I'd like to wish all of our veterans a blessed Veterans Day and thank you for your service to our country. Finally, we give thanks to almighty God for all of the blessings he has bestowed on us. Happy Thanksgiving.

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

The "Denim & Diamonds" celebration of St. Bede's 75th anniversary was a great success! Parishioners enjoyed fun activities for adults and children, along with a delicious barbecue dinner. ICF members volunteered while other members attended to show their support for our parish.

We are now looking forward to our Branch Christmas Party on Thursday, December 3, 2026, in the parish office building. Chairperson Joani Bartoli-Porto is overseeing the planning committee. The evening promises holiday spirit, delicious entrees, and fellowship among our members.

It is never too early to start planning for spring and our annual St. Joseph's Table, Bake Sale,

Luncheon, and Silent Auction. Phyllis Harb, President, will oversee the Silent Auction, which has become a very successful fundraiser supporting our numerous charitable donations. The Dykes family will once again organize a delicious catered luncheon.

At our next meeting, ICF member and avid hiker Matt Natalizio will be our featured speaker.

Matt will share stories from his adventures hiking the San Gabriel Mountains, including his

favorite trails, breathtaking views, and challenging climbs. Join us for an evening of outdoor adventure.

Dates to Remember:

Branch Christmas Party on Thursday, December 3, 2026

Sunday, February 7, 2027: Donut Sales and Membership Drive

Saturday, March 13, 2027, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.: St. Joseph's Table Setup

Sunday, March 14, 2027, 8:00 a.m.–noon: St. Joseph's Table, Bake Sale, and Luncheon

Sunday, March 14, 2027, 1:30 p.m.: Silent Auction Closes

Happy Thanksgiving to all!
Gloria McGaughey

Thousand Oaks
Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon

Fall is in full swing at Chapter 380 in Thousand Oaks CA. After a long summer break. We began October with our meeting dedicated to the Blessed Mother Mary. A guest speaker, Paul Maxey, presented his book "John Henry Newman's Defense of the Immaculate Conception." A flower arranging activity followed resulting in many bouquets in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We are now looking forward to the remainder of the year with anticipation of the following activities:

October 9–11 St. Paschal Baylon Parish Festival. Branch 380 will sponsor the beer and wine booth add this festival.

October 11 Bishop's Day & Seminarian Recognition Mass St. John's Seminary – Camarillo, CA. Branch 380 will be represented at this memorable occasion.

November 6 ICF General Meeting – Program: Thanksgiving. This would be a traditional Thanksgiving dinner complete with appropriate decorations and traditional fare.

November 15 Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage St. Francis Xavier Church – Burbank, CA. This annual visit to the Mother Cabrini Shrine is always well attended by our Branch.

December 19 ICF General Meeting – Program: Christmas Party. This is one of the highlights of festivities during the year.

Respectfully submitted Don Modaro

Manhattan Beach
Br. 447, American Martyrs

Autumn is in full gear and we are heading into winter very soon. Be prepared, it could be a wet one.

Last month we held our annual Limoncello Festival. Close to 70 people showed up and Jean Cordero and her staff provided a great dinner. Thanks to all of those who donated auction items. It was a huge success! We also presented Monsignor Berry with a check for $1,000 in support of the Guatemala Food Packing ministry.

The Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage takes place on the 15th at St. Frances Xavier parish in Burbank. 11:30 a.m. mass with the procession around the parish, benediction and lunch.

We need to plan our branch Christmas party as it will be here before we know it.

A special thank you to all of you who have served in our Armed Forces and a very Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

EAST BAY
District Council

Our Annual Bishop's Day—celebrated with and this year hosted by Contra Costa District—was at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Richmond on September 20th. Mass at the historical Church (built in 1902) was celebrated by Bishop Michael Barber with Fr. Larry Young, CCD Chaplain, Fr. Mario Rizzo, EBD Chaplain, and Fathers Luis Lopez, Salvador Lopez, Albert Mengon and Luke Vu Branch Chaplains. Dinner followed at the Galileo Club where Bishop Barber was presented with the Seminary burses and spiritual bouquets from the two districts in his diocese.

Fall is election season for the branches and districts. Our district Mentor, Karen Rossi and Grand Mentor, Lisa Crudo encourage all of us to prayerfully consider where we can contribute our time and talent to keep the ICF strong, vibrant and relevant. They have offered to advise any Branch having challenges filling offices.

EBD mourns the passing of Maria Raphael on 10/7/2026. Maria was a faithful member of Branches 91 and then 343 for many decades. She held ICF offices at Branch and District levels and volunteered at St. Lawrence O'Toole until she was unable. We miss her warm, generous personality and remember her and her family in our prayers.

November is a month of Thanksgiving-beginning with gratitude for the lives of the Saints and our loved ones who have the have gone before us and ending with gratitude for family, friends and the bounty we experience. EBD wishes all a warm Thanksgiving.

Please see Branch reports for year-end events!

Sincerely
Roberta Madej

Alameda
Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

Our busy branch wraps up its 2026 social calendar with our combined East Bay District—Branch 10 Christmas Party on Saturday, December 5. The location is Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. The evening starts with social hour at 6:00 p.m. We will have a hosted bar (but mixed drinks will not be served after 7:00 p.m.). The dinner of salad, risotto, roast pork and dessert, to be prepared by Ben Ratto, will be served starting at 7:00 p.m. Also on the program will be a visit from Santa Claus with gifts for the children present. As Santa will arrive early, families with children should also arrive early. Prices are $35 for adults and $12 for young persons, 12 and under. For reservations, please contact Terry Greig, 510-504-9498, by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1. Payment by check made payable to ICF Branch No. 10 and sent to the Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Parish Office, Attn.: ICF Branch No. 10, 3101 Van Buren Street, Alameda, CA 94501. Payment is advance is requested.

Under the agenda item "Heritage," we played a "Name That Pasta" quiz game at our membership meeting of October 8. One of our members placed 15 small bags, each containing a type of pasta, on a poster board. In the game members were to identify the type by name. Three members tied for first place with 10 correct answers apiece.

Some belated recognitions:

To officers Ken and Peggie Dorrance for attending the ICF convention and providing us with a thorough report.

To Kathy Kugler for relating her Italian and Irish ancestry at our September membership meeting.

To those who staffed the Branch 10 pizza booth at the September Parish Fun Fair.

To secretary Jeanette Zugnoni for winning the $50.00 September calendar prize.

John Zugnoni,
Branch 10 publicist

Fremont
Br. 215, St. Francis of Assisi

November is a month of transition for the branch: wrapping up what remains of 2026 and finalizing the plan for the upcoming year.

The branch was well represented at the September 20 Bishop's Day with seven members in attendance. Fr. Luis Lopez and Fr. Salvador Lopez, the pastor and the assistant pastor of our sponsoring parish, Corpus Christi-Fremont, were also in attended. Both concelebrated the mass with Bishop Michael Barber, an honor that brough great pride to the Branch 215 members in attendance.

The September All Cash Raffle winners were all parishioners! The Grand Prize went to Lupe Carlos. The second and third prize winners were John and Shirley DeLucchi who turned around and donated their winnings towards the branch's 2027 First Year College Scholarship

Elections of 2027 Officers were held at the October branch meeting. The branch welcomes a new First VP, James McGee. President Fran and all other 2026 branch officers were re-elected.

The final event of the year is the December 8 Christmas party at Giorgio's Italian Restaurant in Milpitas. Besides branch members, all friends and supporters of the ICF are invited. Be on the lookout for the information flyer coming out soon.

Starting 2027 with a splash will be Branch 215's 60th Anniversary dinner celebration. Final details are still in process. But do lookout for the invitations coming out the first of November. Festeggiamo insieme!

Submitted by: Shirley DeLucchi

EAST BAY DISTRICT



Christine Aro, Patty Stowers & Georgeen Tringali's fascinating presentation to Branch 285 about their Holy Year pilgrimage.



Carlotta and Paula at Branch 285's booth at St. Michael's Fall Festival.



Br. 343, Ed McGuirk Calling Bingo Numbers



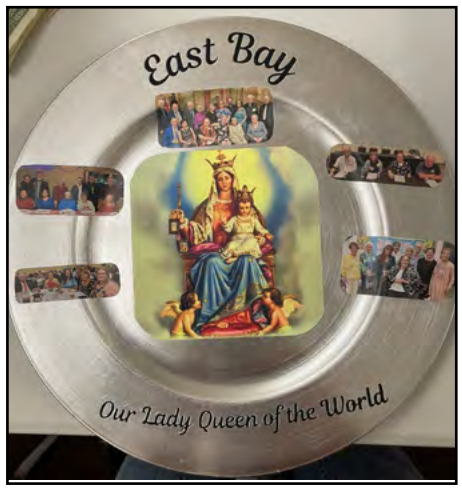
Br. 343, Ron Ladley and Crew Preparing Our Baked Rigatoni Dinner



Br. 343, Baked Rigatoni Ready to Eat!



Melody Klever EBD - Branch 343 recieved the Grand Presidents award at the Annual Convention



The EBD Medallion for Convention Opening Ceremonies- made by Lisa Crudo





Bishop Michael Barber preaches at the Annual Bishop's Day Mass- Sept. 20 Our Lady of Mercy Church



Maria Raphael. Branchs 91-343 and EBD. Rest In Peace.

Livermore
Br. 285, St. Filomena

Ciao Amici,

At our September meeting, we enjoyed delicious Oktoberfest fare and fellowship. We also had the pleasure of hearing Georgeen Tringali, Christine Aro, and Patty Stowers speak to us about the wonderful Holy Year pilgrimage they took to Rome. We enjoyed hearing about their experiences and seeing their beautiful photos. Also, thank you to Toni for informing us of the latest news from the ICF Reno Convention.

Members have recently participated in St. Michael's Parish Festival with an ICF booth featuring games and prizes for the kids. The following week, other members enjoyed participating in Bishop's Day at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Point Richmond.

The topic of the Italian Conversation Group's September meeting was the annual Rificolona festival in Florence. On the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, revelers parade through the streets with colorful and intricate paper lanterns. The tradition started in ancient times when farmers, coming to the city to sell their products, traveled down from the mountains early in the morning carrying lanterns to guide their way. We also tasted a traditional Florentine Autumn chestnut cake, castagnaccio.

We hope you will be attending our annual Mass of Remembrance on Friday November 20th at 6:00 at St. Elizabeth Seaton. The Mass will be followed by a festive Thanksgiving turkey dinner with members bringing every type of holiday dish.

Please keep those members who are ill or have other needs in your prayers.

Also, *Buon Compleanno* to all those with November birthdays!

Ciao,
Paula Flessatti

Castro Valley
Br. 343, Our Lady of Grace

The cooler temperatures and the days with shorter sunlight remind us that the season is changing.

Our delegates and alternates enjoyed the convention in Reno. It is always a great time meeting up and socializing with so many ICF members! Hopefully, the ideas that we learned at the convention we can bring back to help our branches grow and thrive!

In September, our branch hosted our annual "Bites and Bingo" event. We had over 90 participants in the event. Many won bingo games and raffle prizes, and everyone left with full tummies! Also, at our monthly meeting in September, our own Chef Rod Ladley and his helpers cooked and served a wonderful dinner highlighted by healthy portions of delicious baked rigatoni.

Some interesting fact about Italian im



migration to the United States:

Those from Sicily and Campania brought wood-fired pizza, spaghetti with ragu (tomato-based) sauces, and tasty sfogliatelle and zeppoles. Immigrants to Boston brought cannoli, granita, and thick-crust (Sicilian) pizza. Many immigrants from northern Italy who settled in San Francisco influenced the local wine culture, fishing communities, and even sourdough baking. Of course, we can't forget the importance of the Bank of Italy, founded by A.P. Giannini, which later became the Bank of America.

Ciao for now!
Edoardo McGuirk

CONTRA COSTA
District Council

Dear Contra Costa Members,

At our last meeting, we elected officers for 2027. We thank them for stepping up, and we thank our outgoing officers. We are proud to report that our District received awards at the convention for 100 percent participation in the Scholarship and Apostolic programs. Our Concord branch came in third place for Heritage. Congratulations to Rosemary Cook Shaw for being reelected to the Central Council.

Our Richmond Branch hosted Bishop's Day for our District and East Bay on September 20. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy church in Point Richmond. Dinner followed at the Galileo Club. Monetary and spiritual donations were presented to Bishop Barber.

Our District Mass will be held November 1 at 9 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Brentwood. Breakfast following in the hall. Our Christmas party will be held December, 3 at Wise Girl Restaurant in Pleasant Hill No host cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6: 15 p.m. for $50.00 PP. Branches, please send one check by November 20 to Walter Costa 1122 Rolling Hill Way Martinez, CA. 94553. And donate your raffle item to Chairwomen, Roberta Healey in advance.

The East Bay District will host our joint Installation of officers on January, 17. 2027. More details to come.

Have a good month. Happy Thanksgiving.
Patty Jarrett, Past President.

Martinez
Br. 13, San Martino

All Hallows' Eve is linked to Celtic festival which celebrates the end of the harvest and onset of winter. Few sunny days will be left interspersed with cool winds, final crops, gray skies. Angels/Saints closing October and launching November reminds us bedlam will ensue shortly with the holidays bouncing around. Can we gracefully adapt to changing seasons? Is it like gracefully adapting to aging? Or gracefully adapting to losing our freedoms? I think it's probably easiest to accept seasons changing.

We need to remember we are uniquely created in God's image with something distinctive to share; part of a larger community and race—the human race. But as I write this, I'm distracted by folks defending one individual rather than the poor, powerless, sick, hungry, homeless, and immigrants; and suspect they're following someone other than Jesus. Untoward behaviors and words of powerful people at the highest level are teaching others that these actions are normal especially toward women. Young people are learning by these evil examples making it difficult to adapt. Character matters. Leadership matters. Let's all walk/talk in a manner worthy of God.

Happy November birthdays to Griffin Shaw and Bob Poirier.

For the greater glory of God,
Mary Cook

Crockett
Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici

We will be having our next meeting on Tuesday, November 10th. We will serve our delicious Thanksgiving dinner feast from Chef Al and his crew. The cost is $20.00 with drinks included. All of our Veterans in the branch will eat for free as a thank you for their service and dedication to our country. We will be collecting new, unwrapped Christmas gifts for kids that night to give away to children in need.

Thank you to everyone who came to our 99th BBQ anniversary dinner last month. Next year we will celebrate 100 years as a branch! We are looking forward to celebrating this amazing milestone on August 1, 2027.

Our annual holiday bus trip to Red Hawk Casino is coming up on Friday, December 4th. We have drinks and snacks on the bus and play bingo. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun. The cost is $55.00. Please contact Nancy or Donna if you're interested.

Thank you to all who made our annual Polenta Dinner a successful event. The food was delicious, the raffle prizes were top notch and everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. It takes hard work and a great group of members to make these dinners successful.

Wishing everyone a very happy Thanksgiving surrounded by friends and family. There are so many things to be thankful for this year. May you continue to feel the blessings.

Sempre Avanti
Nancy C

Concord
Br. 214, Todos Santos

Ciao tutti:

I hope you are glad that our hot weather has finally cooled down.

Our Representatives went to Reno on Labor Day for the convention. They enjoyed the workshops and came back with new ideas. Joann Lee won 3rd place for Heritage essays—Congratulations.

Six members from our branch attended the Bishop's Dinner in September. There was a mass at Our Lady of Mercy followed by a delicious dinner at the Galileo Club. There were many raffle prizes.

We had a board meeting to discuss the upcoming events.

We are looking forward to our Pasta/bingo in October. Should be a sold out event. It will be a Halloween themed event.

We will have elections of officers at our next meeting in October.

In November we will have our Toys for Tots followed by a delicious Thanksgiving feast provided by our members.

The holidays are among us already so I hope you are all getting ready and staying healthy and safe during this time.

Ciao for now.
Norene Deluca



SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Donna Devoe, Marianne Cameron - Branch 213, Barbara Firpo (Branch 351) - San Mateo District, President Michael Valenti - President of Branch 432 (His First Convention), Dorene Campanile, Donna Cervelli & Brenda Wemiz - Branch 173, Mickey Modena - Branch 432.



Mickey Modena (Sophia) Branch 432 - Finally Made It On The Throne!



UNITING IN PRAYER FOR OUR HOLY FATHER

In light of the recent announcement regarding Pope Francis's cancer diagnosis, we invite our entire community to unite in faithful prayer for his healing, strength, and peace. As he begins medical treatment, we offer his care into the hands of the Divine Physician and ask for God's grace to sustain him.

A Prayer for Healing, Strength, and Wisdom

Heavenly Father, Divine Physician,
We lift up Your servant, our Holy Father, in this time of trial.



Grant him Your deep and abiding peace as he faces treatment. Strengthen his body, ease his discomfort, and wrap him in Your comforting embrace so that he may feel the prayerful support of the universal Church.

Guide the minds, hands, and hearts of his medical team with divine wisdom and skill. Grant our Holy Father patience in suffering, unwavering hope, and the daily grace to continue shepherding Your flock with love and fortitude.

We also seek the intercession of Our Lady, Health of the Sick, and St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer patients, to surround him with heavenly protection.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

SAN MATEO DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 130, Halloween Tupper Family 2026



Br. 130, Grand Treasurer Deborah and Br. Mentor Kathy



Br. 130, Halloween Cheers



Br. 130, Halloween Br. President Leo Capovilla and Al



Br. 130, Halloween Butterflies, Pirates & Pizza 2026



San Mateo District at Convention





Br. 213, Pictured Standing Left to Right: Joe Crossetti, Kathy Amiot, Gloria DeVincenzi, Dorene Campanile, Marianne Cameron and Diane Pangburn. Seated Left to Right: Donna De Voe and Judy Crosetti.



158th San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade on October 11, 2026

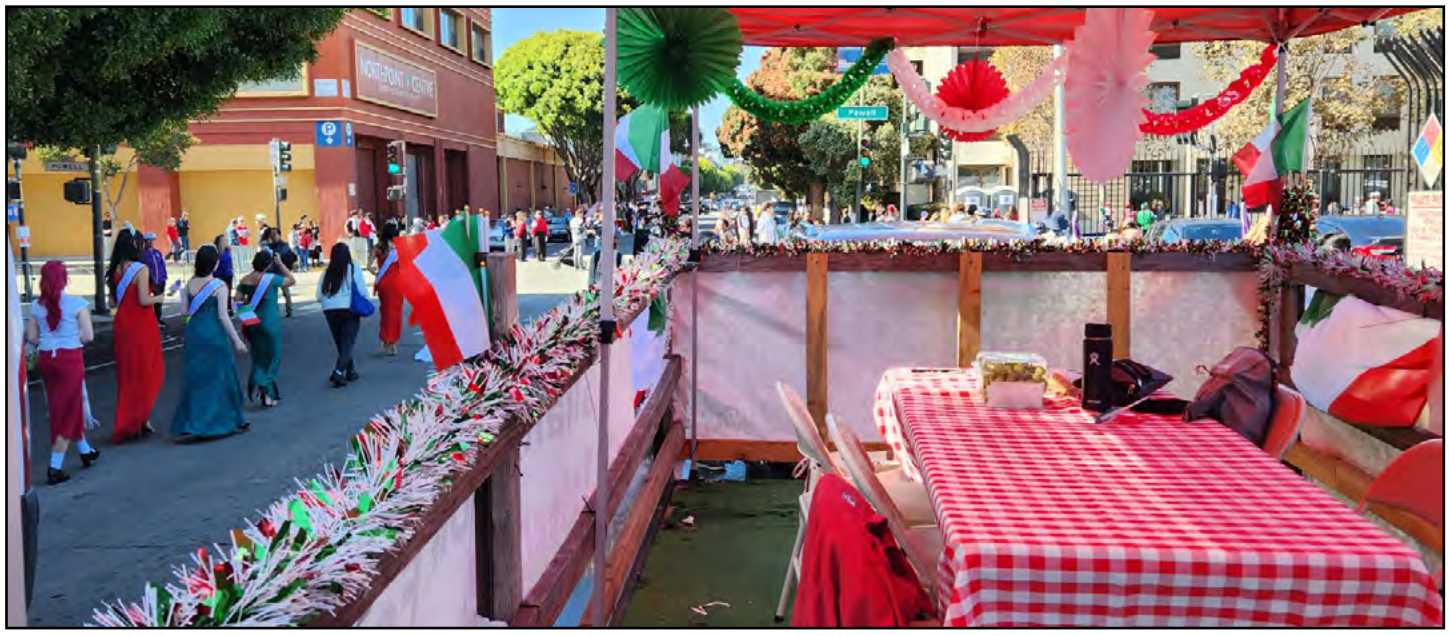














John Cugia, son of Mario Cugia, Past Grand President and *Bollettino* "Editor" discuss today's parade with Dante Galeazzi





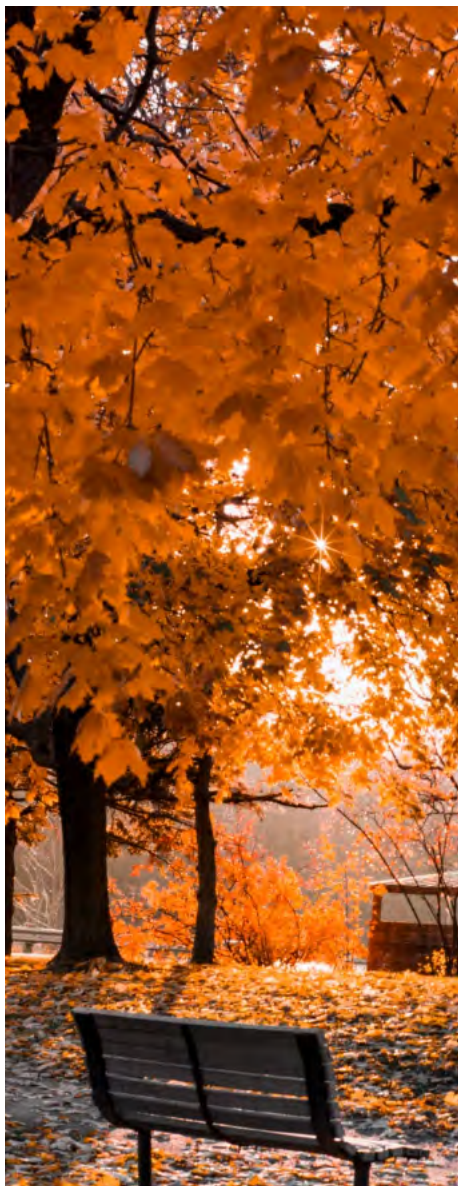
CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Br. 432, President's choice: 1957 Corvette, Pastor's choice: 1927 Bugatti, People's choice: 1955 Chevy Belair, Best of Show: 1955 Chevy Belair.



Branch 432 Classic cars





Having a good time at Branch 432 Classic Car Show and Pasta Feed



President, Branch 432, Michael Valenti and member, Tom Gamble, making " The Sauce."



Branch 442 members enjoying quarterly Sunday brunch.



Branch 442 Sandi Leoni and Anne McEntorffer at Loaves and Fishes this Summer.



CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)



Donna, Carl, Carla and Lois from Crockett #14 attending Bishop's Day for Contra Costa and East Bay hosted by Richmond Branch. Great job!



Br. 352, The Russi Family and Joan Cardoza enjoying dinner.



Linda W. is with Johnny V. our chef that night at Crockett # 14 dinner. Johnny isn't giving away his secret recipes for his fabulous BBQ.



Roni and Pat greeting the members in Crockett #14 to our 99th meeting Anniversary BBQ Dinner. Great Smiles!



Br. 352, Sis Baatz, Suzi Reynolds, Sally Panella, not pictured, Marianne Bordogna and Carmie Smith attended Bishop's Day.



Br. 352, Jack and Jodi Russi bid on and attended a lovely dinner at Bob and Joan Marx's beautiful ranch. This is the Art Gallery - Mount Diablo and surrounding areas.

Danville
Br. 352, San Isidore

Bongiorno, ICF from Branch 352!

It's always a good time to visit Italy, especially when so many of our members have been traveling to their homeland! Meanwhile, we gathered for our monthly meeting, where Lazy Barbecue catered a delicious meal. Good food and good company—what could be better?

Bishop's Day Mass and Dinner

On September 20, five members of our branch attended Bishop's Day Mass and dinner: Marianne Bordogna, Carmi Smith, Sis Baatz, Suzi Reynolds, and Sally Panella. We enjoyed visiting Our Lady of Mercy Church in Point Richmond, followed by dinner at the Galileo Club. It was a lovely day of faith, friendship, and fellowship.

A Special Evening with the Russi Family

We had a wonderful time planning and hosting the Russi family dinner with Joyce Cardoza at Bob and Joan Marx's ranch. The family won this special dinner at our 2025 fundraiser.

The evening began with appetizers and Prosecco in the art gallery, featuring beautiful views of Mount Diablo and the surrounding countryside. Dinner followed at the house, with salad, Fiocchi Gorgonzola, roasted pork, asparagus, and dessert. Great food and wonderful company made for a memorable evening!

Our Annual Fundraiser

Our annual fundraiser brings together friends for wonderful raffle prizes, an exciting live auction, a delicious dinner, and a DJ everyone loved last year. It's always a special evening of fun, fellowship, and generosity as we raise money for our wonderful charities. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success!

Happy Thanksgiving and many blessings to you and your families!

Brentwood
Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL:

Our Annual Car Show and Pasta Feed was a great experience for those who participated with their classic cars and all those who helped to make it so. We especially thank Nita Ohlhauser, who stepped up as the Car Show Committee chairperson. We had 40 classic cars participate and it was tough to pick a winner as they were all special. There was a plethora of raffle baskets (65!) and lots of silent auction items to bid on provided once again by generous sponsors and prepared artfully by Pat Rebollar. The food was abundant and delicious. A big thank you to all who had anything to do with this fundraiser. You make it all happen by your generous giving of time and talent.

We look forward to the Contra Costa County ICF District Mass at 9am at IHM on November 1. This will be followed by our monthly Pancake Breakfast and we look forward to seeing ALL members at the 9 a.m. Mass.

Thanks to President, Michael Valenti and member Mickey Modena for attending the Annual Convention. Our branch received a certificate of appreciation among members for outstanding contributions and continued works of charity. Way to go Branch 432!

Please keep Peggy Scalise and Ana Ellenberger in your prayers. Looking forward to our Octoberfest dinner and meeting on Oct. 26 provided by Hildegard Valenti.

With gratitude for all Branch 432 members. May God bless you abundantly in the coming months.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Ciao for now! Mary M.

Pleasant Hill
Br. 442, Christ the King

Indian Summer is over and looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our Fall is off to a good start. Our September meeting had a BBQ theme. Thank you to everyone who brought wonderful side dishes and desserts. A great way to say goodbye to summer as well as to enjoy everyone's company. We had a good branch attendance at Bishop's Day this year. It was a beautiful Mass. Several members of our branch lead by Diana Mackinson provided the music. They did a great job. Everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner and presentations that followed. And, we held our quarterly Mass and brunch on October 4. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. As always thanks to the organizers for bringing us together.

Our November meeting is scheduled for November 15th. Our theme will be Autum/Thanksgiving.

And our December meeting is scheduled for December 20. We will have a Christmas cheer and make merry. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. More details to follow.

Also, look out for information regarding the upcoming District Mass and Breakfast as well as the District Christmas party.

ICF calendars are for sale. You can get one at an upcoming meeting or contact Ann Cousul at ann_consul@yahoo.com. The calendars are $30. Remember with the purchase of a calendar you will be entering to win a daily raffle and you can win multiple times. It also helps our branch.

Ci vediamo dopo.
Ann Consul and Eileen McGauran



BLESSED SACRAMENT District

Sacramento
Br. 45, St. Mary

Our District Bishop's Day was hosted by our Branch on Oct. 11th with Aux. Bishop Rey Bersabal who served as celebrant for the Mass followed by lunch in Giovanni Hall. A special "Thank You" to Grand President Franklyn Lopes Jr., Grand Trustee Denise Antonowicz, and Germaine Antonowicz for joining us. We had a great time and were proud to present Bishop Rey with a donation to the Diocese's Seminarians.

Our last Chicken & Polenta dinner for 2026 will be held on Sunday, Nov., 15th in Giovanni Hall. Our branch meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., and dinner at 6:00 p.m. The cost will be $25 for members and $35 for non-members, $10 for Ages 7-12 and Free for 6 and under. Pasta option is available by PRE-ORDER only with reservation. Call me at 916-508-1199 for more information and reservations by Tuesday, Nov. 10th.

Ciao, Janine

Auburn
Br. 342, St. Joseph

A big thank you to all those who attended our Fall Bingo Fundraiser. We had almost 100 guests spend the afternoon with us enjoying a great lunch, playing fun bingo games and winning fantastic raffle prizes. I am so grateful to everyone who helped with planning, ticket sales, food serving, bartending, set up, and clean up. A special thank you goes out to Tina Tallman, bingo caller extraordinaire! We made a great team and were able to raise a lot of money for our seminarians and local charities.

Our next event will be a Christmas brunch on Sunday, December 6th. This event will be held in the Beatitudes Room at St. Teresa's after the 10:30 Mass. A member of the calling committee will be contacting soon to see if you are able to attend. I will also be sending out an email with more details. We hope you can attend.

Ciao! Pam Andersen



Roseville
Br. 438, St. Clare of Assisi

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. A big thank you to all our members who helped sell items from the Marketplace at the Convention, and also a big thank you to our delegates.

Branch #438 is starting up a Heritage program. Yvonne Vanoni was our first participant. She gave a beautiful presentation about her and her husband Roy's trip to Italy. They toured the north end of Italy and went to a small village called Chiavenna, north of Lake Como, where they met up with Roy's relatives that lived in the area. They had an interesting and fabulous time together. I hope everyone gets involved in our Heritage Program. It is so interesting to hear all of the different cultures and heritages.

Upcoming Events; November 13—We will be serving Rotisserie Chicken. We're asking the members to bring the side dishes.

December 4,-- Christmas Party at Spaghetti Factory in Roseville, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Please remember Renato Nicolai and all other ailing members in your prayers.

Your Recorder Yvonne Anthony.

SANTA ROSA District

Healdsburg
Br. 52, San Francesco Di Sales

Upcoming Events:

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

ICF Mass: Sunday, November 8 at 8:00 a.m. Mass

Ravioli Dinner: Saturday, November 7: Price: $30.00 for adults. $10.00 for children ages 6 to 12. Please call Carmen and Lauren for reservations: 707-595-3111 or purchase tickets after Mass. The deadline is November 1. If you receive the *Bollettino* prior to November 1, we may still have a few tickets! No tickets will be sold at the door.

We are looking for members who want to be more involved in the branch and are willing to become officers. 2027 will be Carmen Kilcullen's last year as Financial Secretary/Treasurer and it will be my last year as Recording Secretary. Both Mom and I are willing to train the next people. The jobs are not difficult. Please let us know if you are willing to become an officer.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Lauren

BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Branch 342 Fall Bingo Fundraiser



FRESNO DISTRICT



Branch 250 - Members attending the October meeting.

Santa Rosa
Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

September ended on a sad note with the passing of our sister Annie Zingarelli.

Annie was a faithful member and worked hard for our branch when her husband Gene was our Branch President. She will be missed. Services will be at Resurrection Parish in November.

November is the month of All Saints and All Souls. We should all remember our family members who are no longer with us and offer up a Mass or special prayers for them.

If you celebrate Thanksgiving the way we did, you remember a special food or meal that everyone enjoyed. My mother always made her homemade ravioli and we loved them. Kathy took up the same activity and all our grandchildren and sons in-law looked forward to the dinner. Remember that special day and realize how lucky we are.

Remember November 13th as Mother Cabrini Feast Day, December 1 at 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral and our meeting on Monday December 7th.

Happy Thanksgiving!
--Robert Acquistapace

Sebastopol
Br. 209, St. Michael

Hello from Branch 209!

While Fall has officially arrived, as of this writing, we are experiencing an extension of summer with some hot weather. Meanwhile, the leaves are changing color and beginning to hit the ground, so cooler days are on the horizon!

We had our October Board Meeting and went over our 2027 budget. We were blessed with some successful fundraising this year, and this has allowed us to possibly increase some of our charitable contributions for 2027. At our upcoming General Meeting we will vote on it. We are very happy about this, and hope to continue to keep the momentum going!

Our Chicken and Polenta dinner is on October 17. We are very excited about this event, as it always draws a huge turnout. I will share how the night goes in next month's *Bollettino*. This event will be followed by our delicious Ravioli Dinner on December 5th. The Ravioli Dinner will be in honor of our Branch #209's 60th anniversary with ICF. We've been going strong for 60 years!!

This year has flown by. We hope everyone had a great Halloween, and as Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner, are able to spend time with family and friends. We are sending prayers to all for health and happiness.

Ciao for now!
Yvonne Dorr, Br. 209 Recording Secretary

FRESNO District

Merced
Br. 39, St. Cecilia

Happy Fall! I hope everyone enjoys the cooler weather. We had our biannual Pasta Sauce Fundraiser in October; it was a huge success! Thank you to all who helped make this a successful fundraiser. Your dedication is appreciated.

For our monthly meeting in October, we had a potluck dinner and as usual, we had the most delicious meal. We have again started BINGO and hour before our monthly meetings.

Wednesday, November 11 we will celebrate all we are thankful for at our dinner meeting with a Traditional American Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. Don't forget BINGO starts at 5 p.m. with dinner to follow. Come join the fun!

Make your biscotti orders early! We will have our sale the beginning of December. Sunday, December 13, 2026 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. will be our annual Christmas Party in conjunction with the Italo Lodge. This is a Family event! Lunch will be homemade pizza, salad and other treats. Activities will be available for the children. The Cake Walk is everyone's favorite and of course Santa arrives and has gifts for all the children. A good time will be had by all! We hope to see you and your family members there!

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

Happy Birthday greetings to November celebrants Rachel Bejarano, Mike Caglia, Cynthia Newton, John Rainaldi, and Rich Zanarini.

Congratulations to our new slate of officers: Co-Presidents Conrad and Val Rios; 1st Vice, Rich Zanarini; 2nd Vice, John Rainaldi; Recording Secretary, Jennifer Campopiano; Financial Secretary, Cynthia Newton; Treasurer, Mary Fontes; Orator, Shirley Mitchell; Sentinel, Betty Massa; and Trustees, Mary Zanarini, Mike Caglia, and Donna Christiansen. Committee assignments are: Food, Darlene Smay and Marge Innocenti; Heritage, Madeline, Conatser; Public Relations, Donna Christiansen; Fund Raising, LeAnne Lavagnino and Mary Zanarini; Apostolate/Charity, Betty Massa. We still need a membership chairperson.

Little known Pope's department: St. Zephyrinus (the 15th Pope – 198-217); He was a controversial character. According to some he was a disgrace to his position as bishop of Rome; to others he was a brave man heroically defending the Faith in difficult circumstances.

Be sure to attend the February meeting as we will be installing the new officers.

Please include Alice Reyes in your prayers as she recovers from a fall and for Pope Leo who will be having lung surgery (as of this writing).

Thought for the month:

"Let my words be building blocks,
rather than stumbling blocks"
(Hoff)

Ciao, Carlotta Carllucci

Fresno
Br. 308, St. Anthony of Padua

Happy November already. Time to look forward to actual cool weather (at the time of this writing it's still pretty warm), and good old fog. This month we celebrate All Saints and All Souls Days. It is also the month of Thanksgiving. We really do have a lot to be thankful for (like the Josh Groban song)—even when it doesn't seem like it. I'm always thankful for being Italian at this time of year. Some families only have turkey for Thanksgiving (vs. our elaborate feasts of antipasto, meats, raviolis…plus everything the muggles have).

Our September meeting at The Habit Grill was a success. It was nice to see so many members and their families out for a simple meal. Our October sausage sandwich sale was a success. The sandwiches are always a hit. Thank you, Bernie and crew. Our November meeting be a Thanksgiving dinner prepared by the members. And it's time to elect officers for next year. We have so many helpful, talented, and intelligent members. Please step up into leadership.

Happy November Saint Feast Days to St. Charles Borromeo, St. Leo the Great, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Cecilia, and St. Andrew. Happy November birthdays to Linda Hood, Susan Mencarini, Leslie Pendleton, Maria Pricolo, and Russell Renna.

Susan Mencarini
Branch 308,St. Anthony of Padua
Fresno District

CENTRAL COAST District Council

May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Congratulations to our newly elected Central Coast District elected on October 1, 2026 at our District ZOOM meeting.

President, Elaine Valentine; 1st Vice President, Jim Freibel; 2nd Vice President, Vicky Howell;

Recording Secretary, Roseann Costabile; Treasurer, George Leonard; Orator, MaryAnn Freibel;

Sentinel, Nancy Harrold; Trustee,

Julie Richards.

Installation will be in January 2027, hosted by Br. 227 Aptos.

Always Grateful,
Elaine Valentine, President
Central Coast District

Monterey
Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

His love endures forever." - 1 Corinthians

September 24, 2026: Our dinner meeting had an "Oldies but Goodies" theme, complete with music and decorations. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner of pasta and chicken piccata. We officially welcomed and initiated 38 new members! Congratulations to:

Hula Hoop Contest winner Ruby Dirksen

50/50 Raffle winner Tony Shepherd

Attendance Drawing winner Robin Clarke

October 22, 2026: Our Halloween dinner meeting and costume contest featured breaded calamari steak and pasta puttanesca. Full report next month.

November 19, 2026: Friendsgiving Dinner Meeting with optional Bocce Ball Tournament (before dinner, inside parish hall). Menu: Ravioli with marinara sauce, pork Milanese, salad, garlic bread, and pumpkin pie.

Please bring canned goods for the San Carlos Loaves and Fishes food pantry.

Dinner tickets will be available online beginning November 8, 2026, with deadline to purchase tickets by Sunday, November 15, 2026.

It should be a fun evening! Visit our website for ticket and event information: www.montereyicf.org

December 10, 2026: Save the Date: Family Christmas Party at Moose Lodge — more to come.

We are saddened to report that longtime ICF board member and leader of our ICF kitchen, Eddie Leonard, recently passed away. Eddie was honored many times for his years of service to the ICF. Longtime member Angela Wecker also recently passed away. Our condolences go to their families. May they rest in peace. We will always remember them.

Thankful Blessings,
Elaine Valentine
Co-President, Branch 36

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



New Member Initiation Branch 36



Angela Wecker 1947-2026 Branch 36



Edward Leonard 1936-2026 Branch 36





Italian Catholic Federation
Santa Rosalia Branch #36
JOIN US • VOLUNTEER • ORDER ON-LINE
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email: info.icf36@gmail.com
P.O. Box 2286
Monterey, CA 93942

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



A Board Meeting of Branch #209



Roy and Leona Spadoni, very special members of Branch #209!



Branch #209's cook Donovan Dorr cooking Chicken and Polenta.

Aptos
Br. 227, St. Joseph

We celebrated Oktoberfest at Stewart's Floral by enjoying sausage, red cabbage, and German potato salad prepared by Jane Kotila. Also on the menu were Heidi Ambiel's sauerkraut, apple cake and snowball cookies. Thanks to both of them for a delicious meal.

The November 8th meeting will be a catered Thanksgiving dinner. We will meet at the newly-refurbished hall at Resurrection Church. Social hour is 1:30 followed by a meeting at 2:00 then dinner.

Thanks to Elena Tufo and Joyce Hopkins for their work on the Nominating Committee for 2027 officers. Election of Officers will take place at the November meeting. There will be some new faces next year.

Belated birthday wishes to Fran Boczek who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 25.

Remember to order your Poinsettias before November 20th.They are $15 each. You can pick them up at Stewart's Floral the week of December 7. Proceeds from the sale will go scholarships and our charitable contributions.

The calendars for 2027 are now available. They are $30 and $5 of that stays at our branch. You can obtain the calendars from President Franklyn Lopes, but give your check to Jane.

Our branch is hosting the Central Coast District Installation of Officers on January 9, 2027. There will be a 11:00 a.m. mass, followed by the installation, a short meeting then lunch. There will be a raffle. More information to follow.

Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. -Deanna Musler, Secretary

SANTA CLARA VALLEY
District Council

The Santa Clara Valley District October meeting was held at Santa Teresa and hosted by Branch 391, St. Martin of Tours in San Jose.

We were blessed in October to celebrate Bishop's Day Mass with San Jose Auxiliary Bishop Andy Ligot at Resurrection church in Sunnyvale. Our District presented prayers and donations to Bishop Ligot for the benefit of seminarians in our diocese. A hearty luncheon followed at Three Flames restaurant in San Jose. Special thanks to Branch 408 for hosting the event, and thanks to district branch members for attending.

All branches, please remember to hold 2027 branch officer elections in November if you missed doing it in October. All branches please send a list of 2027 branch officers to the ICF office, and to District Secretary Mike Rossi for use at the installation of officers' ceremony in January.

District officers will be elected this month, November, and reported in the December or January *Bollettino*.

All members, remember to celebrate the feast day of our ICF co-patroness St. Frances Xavier Cabrini during November. Her feast day is November 13th.

The Santa Clara Valley District wishes the ICF a Happy Thanksgiving.
Michael Rossi

Gilroy
Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

Hello everyone!

Every September, instead of our monthly dinner meeting, we have a family BBQ Picnic, which is complementary to our members. We served barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs with all the traditional toppings, side dishes, and beverages. Members brought an appetizer or dessert to share. We are especially appreciative to our past president, Diana Berry, for offering her beautiful back yard for us to enjoy a pleasant afternoon of fellowship, delicious food, and easy listening music.

Our members have been busy. Some enjoyed a bus trip to Festa Italia in Monterey for delicious food and great music. Another group of members had a great time at the ICF SCVD Octoberfest Luncheon at Teske's Germania. Other members staffed Br. 28's Information Table and Cookie Booth at our St. Mary Parish Festival. Members baked brownies, chocolate chip and sugar cookies, which were well received by festival attendees. Selling out of over 1,000+ cookies, many of those people recognized and expressed their genuine appreciation for the freshly made cookies. A hearty Thank You goes out to our volunteers!

Sunday November 8, 2026 is our Fall Bake Sale. The callers will provide more information to our members.

Monday, November 16 is our next monthly dinner meeting prepared by David Peoples and crew. We will be honoring veterans and our ICF callers. The calling committee will contact members with more information.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!
Ciao for now! Christine Filice

St. Mary
Br. 184, Los Gatos

At the recent Annual Convention in Reno, Branch 184 had plenty to celebrate, bringing home not one, but three awards! Our small but vibrant community continues proving that dedication, generosity, and unity can make a real difference.

We are proud to announce that Branch 184 earned second place among branches with 1–50 members for Apostolic Works of Charity. This recognition reflects the countless hours of service and generous financial contributions our members devote to helping others.

We are also thrilled to have received first place in the Hospitalization Incentive Program. This award is a testament to our commitment to the health and well-being of our members, ensuring that no one faces illness or hardship alone.

Branch 184 was also honored with third place for our Heritage Reports. Preserving and sharing our Italian heritage is at the heart of everything we do, and this award encourages us to keep our cherished traditions alive for generations to come.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Fr. Greg for his outstanding Genealogy Workshop. His passion for helping us discover and celebrate our roots made the event truly special. We are grateful for the time, knowledge, and enthusiasm he shared with everyone who attended.

Our Polenta Dinner was a wonderful success! A heartfelt thank-you goes to all our members and their families who worked so hard to make the evening possible. From cooking and setting up to gathering auction items and raffle prizes, your time, generosity, and dedication made the event truly special. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed and joined us for an evening of delicious food, friendship, and community spirit.

Lord, bless our families and our branch. Guide us with kindness and gratitude as we enter this season of harvest and thanksgiving. May our hearts remain open, our hands ready to serve, and our traditions continue to flourish.

Please offer special prayers for the Branch 184 members who are in need of healing.

Blessings to you all,
Denise Antonowicz
President

San Jose
Br. 191, Saint Frances Cabrini

Happy Autumn everyone!

Branch 191 continues to be very active. With Oktoberfest at the end of September and now getting ready for Bishop's Day, our members are hopping. Both events were well attended and supported by our members.

As we continue towards the holidays, we have our Alpha dinners, which have started and will continue through November. This dinner and discussion groups meet every Wednesday, for 10 weeks, and enjoy a meal and comradery with fellow parishioners. Branch 191 will cook two of the meals for this group.

On November 21, 2026, Branch 191, will have a mass in the Red Barn (original SFC Church) at 11:00 a.m. celebrating our branch. A Turkey luncheon will follow with "Turkey Bingo" after lunch. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bob Basuino.

As we get closer to the holidays, Branch 191 will hold a Poinsettia Fundraiser. If you are interested in purchasing a Poinsettia, or more, please contact Bob Basuino.

Happy Halloween to all!
Sharon Logan

San Jose
Br 368, Santa Teresa de Avila

Have you ever wondered who is keeping Branch 368 running so smoothly? Every month this group of volunteers keep us informed, understand our heritage and thank God for what we have. Our Board: Mary Ridi – Kathy Schroeder – Maureen Susino – George Taddie – Michael Clarke – Anne Cordoni – Tina Souza-Dutra – Ed Wendler – Lenore Greene – Janet Glaubke – JoAnn Bjornstad - Cathie Orlowski – Giulia Gallego – Jerry Delfino – Avis Erkel- Sharon Kroeber – Tom Myers - Mike Cordoni -Marcello Ridi - Giulia Gallego – Fr. Edgar. When you have a chance, give these members a big Thank You for their dedication to ICF. Some old business items that need to be cleared up, we need donations for a computer, for our Treasurer and we are still looking for a chair person for Dining for Dollars Fundraiser, call Tom Myers for information, and our heritage person, Sharon Kroeber, needs stories about our families' histories. Don't know much about your Italian heritage, that's okay. You can do any nationality—Asian, English, German, Irish, etc.

Please add these members to your prayer lists: Joann Bjornstad knee replacement, Sharon Kroeber neck surgery, John Gallio, Ron Sanchez, Steve Resz, Bill Rice, Janet Glaubke and Ron Morton.

Please stay safe and healthy.

DEADLINE

November 10th for the December issue of the *Bollettino*. Send your articles & photos: editor@icf.org

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Members of Branch 435 enjoy reviewing school albums with each other at the Sept. meeting to learn more about each other.



Branch 435 President Guilia Gallego and Trustee Sheila Walters meet with the ICF Grand Chaplain Christopher Bennett at the ICF National Reno Convention.



Branch 391 Raffle Winner Janis Patellaro



Branch 391 Marina Tilbury, Diana Vallorz, Joann Schiro, and Trudy Schenk.



Branch 391 Cathleen Lencioni, Jim Jones, Marcie and Donna Rossi.



Br. 445, Chili Cook-Off Buffet Line



Br. 445 Birthdays: Janie Falcone, Robin Ledbetter, Marie Adragna, Angelo Costa.



Branch 391 Dan and Rose Marie Clarke



Br. 445 Gina and Larry Farro and Vintage Table Decor



Br. 445, Members Holding High School Photos

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Central Council members celebrate Oktoberfest with the Santa Clara Valley District.



Br. 368, Rib Dinner Fund Raiser cooks and managers.



Br. 368, Rib Dinner cooks



Santa Clara Valley delegates celebrate the 2026 Convention in Reno.



Br. 191, Alpha Dinner cooks: Bob Basuino, George Midwin, and Tony Spagnolo. Servers Shirley Catania, Tilly Spagnolo and Julie Midwin.



San Jose
Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

Our November fundraiser was sold-out! Father Celso led the opening prayer, and St. Martin's Parishioner Tore Saso spoke of the "Sowing Seeds of Faith" fundraising campaign.

The successful event included a delicious meal of lasagna, Italian sausage, and garlic bread, a beautiful salad bar, and homemade desserts.

Steve Lencioni thanked all volunteers--those members who donated their time, who donated great raffle prizes, and those who made delicious desserts!

During our November meeting, Steve and Marina Tilbury, will report on the ICF Convention, which was held during Labor Day weekend.

Reminder:

Branch 391 Dinner Meetings—Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Quarterly Communion--December 6, 2026 at 10:00.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. -Janis Patellaro

Sunnyvale
Br. 408, Resurrection

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members!

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped Br. 408 host the Santa Clara Valley District (SCVD) Bishop's Day with Bishop Andy and Fr. Eric Piczon from the Vocations Office. The Mass was well attended and the Luncheon at Three Flames was delicious as usual. The Event was a Big Success and we donated over $9K to the Diocesean Seminarians.

Br. 408 hosts the SCVD Christmas Party Tuesday Dec 8 beginning with Fr George Presiding at the 6 p.m. Mass. Our Meal will be a Golden Harvest Buffet which is something to look forward to. We will need your help for this Last District Event of the Year

Our Last Blood Drive of 2026 will be Sunday December 13th from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Farana Center.

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



Morgan Hill
Br. 435, Santa Caterina D'Alessandria

The Branch 435 September meeting featured a back-to-school theme where members brought yearbooks and pictures of their school years for all to reminisce and enjoy. For instance, our president Giulia Gallego showcased a 1932 Live Oak High School album called the "La Encina". All enjoyed the meal of pulled pork cooked by Alex Gallego, corn pudding by Toni Foggiato and extras by Guila Gallego. Trustee Sheila Walters and our President Guilia Gaillego reported they enjoyed the food and renewing acquaintances at the ICF Reno National Convention. Trustee Sheila Walters noted a presentation on four Italian Saints including the Life of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati who dedicated his life to social justice and help for all.

Eight members also attended the Santa Clara Valley District Octoberfest at Teska's Germania. As usual the patio dining was pleasant, and members were very generous with the raffle. Branch 435 is now preparing to host the Santa Clara Valley District events in 2027. Final planning is continuing for the District Installation, Bishop's Day, and Christmas party. Our branch Mentor, Pat Cornish, concluded the meeting by asking Branch members to seriously consider running for an officer position in 2027.

Also, congratulations to members born in September: John Sorci and Giulia Gallego.

Finally, our President Guila Gallego also reports that Grace Gallego now a senior at UCLA continues to receive ICF scholarship support of $1000.

San Jose
Br. 445, Transfiguration

Join us Sunday November 15th, Branch 445's Annual Family Feud Game Show Fundraiser! Transfiguration Parish Hall 4325 Jarvis Ave. San Jose 95118 - Doors open 12:30 p.m. Show starts 1:00 p.m.! Tickets $30 but only $25 if you fill out a Family Feud survey. Call or email Br. 445 Pres Jim Falcone for tickets/details: (408) 806-6787 cell; email jim@jfalcone.com

Also, in November, Br. 445's Annual See's Holiday Candy Fundraiser! Order details: Pres. Jim Falcone.

Our September Meeting was a fun event with a 'Back to School' theme. Many thanks to Gina and Larry Farro who provided a variety of vintage metal lunch boxes to decorate our tables. Members brought in framed high school photos to share. All enjoyed a chili cook-off buffet. Heritage report was titled "Immigrants to Graduates" which led to an interesting discussion of our high school years! At the end of the evening, everyone gathered with their framed photos for a group photo!

Also in September: Twenty-two members enjoyed dinner together at Palermo's Restaurant.

Members also enjoyed an afternoon at the District Octoberfest Luncheon.

Branch members continue to assemble 105 sack lunches weekly for those in need. Quarterly Mass was held in September followed by members going to Huckleberries together for breakfast.

Monthly snacks are hosted routinely by ICF for parishioners following 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and donuts following 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Happy November Birthday wishes to: Diane Devine, Bill Howell and Shirlee Nickell.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving...*Buon Ringraziamento a tutti!*

Until next month stay safe and well,
Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

STOCKTON District

Modesto
Br. 48, St. Stanislaus

We have a new Deacon in our branch. On September 26, 2026 the Ordination to the Deaconate was held at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Stockton. John Zamora was Ordained, on this special day, to serve as a Deacon for St. Stanislaus Parish. Our prayers are with him and his family. He will be a great addition to our Parish.

We are right in the middle of our Bake Sale so you will get the results in our next *Bollettino*.

At our October 14, 2026 we will be selecting our officers for 2027. Please think about taking an office.

Our Annual Mass will be October 18, 2026 at the 8:00 Mass at the Maze Blvd. church followed by Breakfast at the Old Mill Cafe. For Mass we will meet in the area of the choir because most of our members are in the choir.

Coming Up:

Oct 14 - Meeting 6:00 p.m. - Hall 7 & K Streets

Oct. 18 - Br .48 Mass at 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast to follow

Nov. 15 - District Meeting

Cecelia McGhee

Lodi
Br. 82, St. Anne's

It is October and still in the 90 -100 degrees weather in the Central Valley and leaves are barely beginning to change color. It does not seem as if we are in the last part of 2026, but we are already at the annual officer elections this month. Where has the time flown?

Chris has informed the group that she



will not run for re-election as President. Molte Grazie, Chris, for your efforts in the past three years!

Like our nearby Branch in Manteca, we continue to try to increase memberships and feel the loss of those not able to attend meetings and events and are hopeful that changes in the new season.

Branch 82 is in full swing planning for our December 5th Ravioli Dinner with raffle prizes and our annual Afghan raffle. The Afghans are "fatto con amore" by Grace Puccinelli! The proceeds from the raffle help fund our Thrive Grants and first year scholarships. Member Lisa Fugazi brought forth an idea for a bus trip to the Forestiere Underground Gardens in the early spring of 2027. It sounds like a fun event with a long ride down to Fresno; porta un amico and let us learn some Italian on the way! Please help with the planning of events that will foster our faith and grow our small group with God's grace.

Benedizioni,
Elizabeth Calloni Holladay
Corresponding Secretary

Manteca
Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio

Branch #139 met on September 22nd 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 August 2026 meeting and balances provided in our Checking Accounts as of September 1. Members are always encouraged to read the *Bollettino*.

Branch #139 recently lost a Member, Sharon Cunial. Orator Tim Cabral read the "Farewell to a Member" prayer to close the meeting. We continue to keep the Cunial family in our prayers as they continue to mourn the loss of Dino Cunial in June of this year to whom Sharon had been married to for almost 70 years.

Further details about our upcoming fundraiser in late October were provided by Co-Chairperson Elizabeth Demichelis. This should be a fun event and the Committee will report on the activity at the October meeting.

President Agostini as well as Grand Trustee Dante Galeazzi shared happenings at the recent Convention in Reno over Labor Day weekend. Next year's Convention will be held in Southern California.

Next meeting to be held on October 27th in St. Anthony's Cafeteria.

As the holiday season approaches, please take time to share memories with family and friends.

Bye for now, Michela

STOCKTON DISTRICT



Branch 413, Colleen Franklin and Tammy Lee



Branch 390's September Dinner Meeting was all about the SMILES!! Here we have our Set-up Crew Smiles!!



Br. 390, September Dinner Meeting: Sisters' Smiles!!



Branch 413, New Members' Initiation



Branch 395 participates in Presentation Church's Annual Ministry Fair.



Br. 390, September Dinner Meeting: Classmates' Group Smiles!!



Br. 390, September Dinner Meeting: Our Servers' Smiles!!

Tracy
Br. 390, St. Bernard

Wow, who doesn't love the all-time ICF favorite combination of Polenta and Chicken Cacciatore that we served October 29th— a few Halloween costumes, lots of candy, a very festive night. Thanks, Mike and your crew, you did it again. We had a guest speaker, multiple-year scholarship winner Sami Lieberg, who thanked our ICF organization and described how our scholarship donations were so helpful throughout her college years. She belongs to the Orsi family, who have been charter members for years and Lucy continues to serve on our board of directors, among other duties.

Menu plans for November - surprise! - Roast Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and all the trimmings that go along with the special holiday. We would like to thank all who donated canned goods last year and hope for the same—date is Thursday, November 19th.

Our prayers go out to the family and wife Diane, of Marty Cotta, a long-time ICF member who passed away recently. We've also lost a long-time ICF supporter, Gaylene Serpa, and send our condolences to her family. May they 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

Stockton
Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

Last month, our Branch participated in Presentation Church's Annual Ministry Faire. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote our organization, connect with the community, and recruit new members. We also took the opportunity to spread the word about our upcoming Italian Mass on Monday, November 16, as well as our 2027 Polenta Dinner.

All are welcome to attend our Annual Italian Mass on Monday, November 16, at 6:00 p.m. at Presentation Church. This year, we will honor the life of Saint Giuseppe Moscati, a remarkable Italian physician, pioneer in biochemistry, and university professor.

Known as the "Holy Doctor," Saint Moscati was revered for combining medical excellence with deep compassion and charity. While serving in Naples, he helped advance medical care, including the treatment of diabetes with insulin, contributed to the field of nephrology, and assisted in efforts to control cholera. He was especially known for providing free medical care to the poor, believing that medicine was a mission of service to both body and soul.

Saint Giuseppe Moscati was beatified in 1975 and canonized in 1987. Today, he is recognized as a patron saint of physicians and biochemistry. Following Mass, we will host a rinfresco (light refreshments), and our pastor, Father Mark, will lead a discussion about Saint Giuseppe's extraordinary life and legacy.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this special celebration of faith, service, and our Italian heritage!

At this month's meeting, we will elect our 2027 Branch Board. Our nominating committee has put together an excellent slate of candidates, and we look forward to sharing the election results with you in next month's newsletter.

Happy Thanksgiving a tutti!
Mary Ann

Angels Camp
Br. 413, St. Patrick

This year, we decided to celebrate Oktoberfest, and it was a success! There was Bavarian music, raffle prizes, and beer. We are grateful to all our faithful supporters for their continued generosity and support. They are much appreciated.

I am proud to welcome our newest members, Coleen Franklin, Tammy Lee and Delia and Robert Villamor. I initiated Coleen and Tammy this month and look forward to initiating Delia and Robert at our next meeting. The initiation ceremony is beautiful and meaningful. Our pastor, John Peter attended the event and appreciated learning about the symbols of the ICF.

Our final event of 2026 will be our annual Wendell's Giveaway, also known as the Free Christmas Breakfast for the parish. Branch members will make pancakes, sausages, and eggs for the parish members. Juice and coffee will also be served. This is Branch 413's way of thanking the parishioners for their support.

May all the saints be praying for all the members of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Ciao, Robert Pachinger
Correspondence Secretary

SAN BERNARDINO
District Council

New venue, new menu! After many years of hosting our annual Bishop's Luncheon at a local Italian restaurant in Loma Linda, the District Board members decided to try something new. We had honestly outgrown the restaurant, and the parking was very limited, so we asked Father Erik Esparza, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands if one of the halls was available. He offered us the Columbia Hall and even had it decorated for us! Usually, this hall is very plain jane, but this day it shone like a new penny! The food was catered by Chef Bernard, who is also a member of Branch 210, and everyone enjoyed this wonderful day. The food was marvelous, and the atmosphere was pleasant and relaxed, with music playing softly in the background. We had guests joining us from the San Bernardino Serra Club and even some from our local Catholic Daughters. Our Director of Vocations, Fr Hau Vu brought 2 Seminarians, and we had several priests. We were also blessed to have as our special guest, Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes along with our current Bishop, Alberto Rojas. Our Central Council Representative was our Grand President, Franklyn Lopes, Jr. Joining him was Lou Mages. As always, our District Chaplain, Fr. Jerry Ochettti, was there. Everyone I talked to told me this Luncheon was the nicest they have been to. Looking forward to next year! We'll keep you posted on when and where!

Ciao, Annie McCarthy
Treasurer, San Bernardino District

Redlands,
Br. 217, Sacred Heart

As always, our Branch meeting was a success. We welcomed a new friend, Marie, who is considering joining us. She's all Italian, and a lot of fun to boot! We discussed the sausage sale we were going to have, but the Parish changed the date and is now on the backburner. The big item on the agenda was a recap of our Bishop's Lunch. For the first time ever, we changed venues. Everyone who attended loved it. The hall was beautifully decorated and the food was wonderful. Our pastor, Father Erik Esparza and parochial vicar, Father Ismael Valenzuela were in attendance as well as clergy from other parishes and the Diocese. We had lots of parking and a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Our Heritage Report, presented by our Heritage Chair, Diana Hill, was on the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J Sheen. I can still remember watching the reruns of his television show, Life is Worth Living. Diana always finds great things to hold our interest. Thank you, Diana!

Till next time,
Annie McCarthy VP Branch 217

Upland
Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Our branch was very proud to have one of our youngest members represent us at the recent ICF convention. Andrea Scarpelli and her mother, Nicole, were impressed with the faith-filled event. They were overwhelmed with the hospitality, kindness, and friendship from all the other delegates. Andrea learned valuable information concerning the ICF and was very proud to accept our branch award for scholarships. Later in the month, Andrea joined President Carey Rossi at the annual Bishops Luncheon sponsored by the San Bernardino District. They enjoyed their time with the bishop and presented him with a check for seminarian formation in the diocese.

We held branch elections with most officers retaining their positions. Our new officers are: Anna Reyna as Orator, Andrea Scarpelli as First Vice-President, and Marie Garcia as Sentinel. We are grateful to all of our officers who faithfully work to support and promote the ideals of the ICF.

At a recent meeting, we enjoyed a visit by Sister Mary Immaculate of the Eucharist. Since childhood, she has been a long-time friend of Virginia Impastato and family through their Italian parents. She attended college in California with Virginia until graduation and then moved to Hawaii, eventually becoming roommates. Returning to California, she later formalized her commitment to the religious life and joined the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. Currently, she is a fundraiser for Driscoll Children's Hospital near Corpus Christi, Texas, and has previously ministered as a hospital chaplain.

Our branch was busy in October planning our 4th annual Festa Italiana on October 24, a dinner and dance featuring a live dance band. Many hands are needed to plan and create our fun-filled event. At this writing, our event is two weeks away with ticket sales going strong. We are excited to have invited 5 of our dear priests to join our festivities. We are grateful for the participation of our generous members as we continue to promote faith and fellowship in all our branch and parish activities.



DEADLINE

November 10th for the December issue of the *Bollettino*. Send your articles & photos: editor@icf.org

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Grand President Franklyn Lopes, Jr. presenting the CC Burse to Bishop Rojas. Seated is our District President, John Guerin.



Bishop Alberto Rojas, Barbara Keough Recording Scty. for 217 & District. John Guerin, President of San Bernardino District & Treasurer of 217.



Br. 446 Andrea and Nicole Scarpelli at ICF Convention

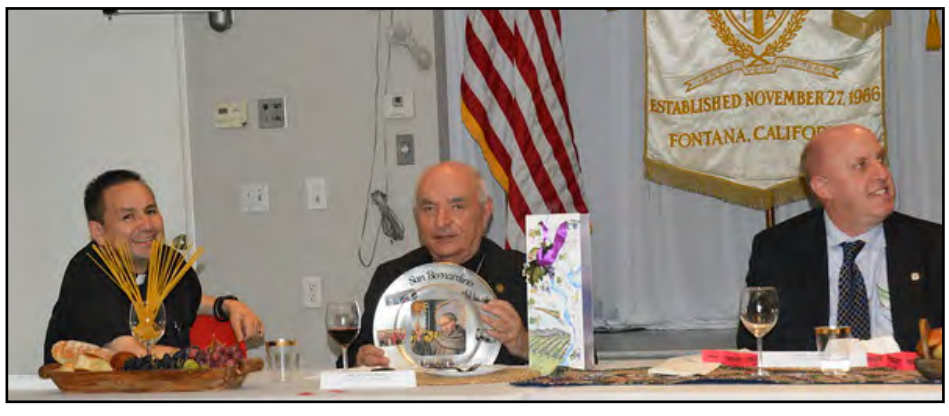


Br. 446 President Carrey Rossie with Bishop Rojas & John Guerin



Br. 446 Virginia Impastato, Sister Mary Immaculate, Jim Impastato





Bishop's Luncheon at Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands





Bishop's Luncheon at Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands



Bishop's Luncheon at Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands

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October 2026

Dear Branch President,

As you know, many Individuals, Districts and Branches traditionally place Christmas and New Year's messages in the December issue of the *Bollettino*. These can be sent in, already designed and sized, or the text may be provided and we will create the design. These are the choices and prices for the ads:

2 1/2" x 2 1/2" (one column square)	$25
2 1/2" x 5" (vertical or horizontal)	$35
5" width x 4" height (horizontal)	$50
5" width x 6 1/2" height (vertical, quarter page)	$70

To place a message, please send in your ad by e-mail, either finished or just the text you want, size selection, and your check made out to the ICF (noted Christmas ad), to:

Italian Catholic Federation
8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110
Oakland, CA 94621
Attn: Bollettino

Please send all ad files electronically to info@icf.org.

The deadline is November 10th. Thank you.

ICF Office

Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Loving Father,
We thank You for the lives of everyone present here. We thank You for the goodness and blessings over our lives. We thank You for all our achievements and our accomplishments. We thank You for new relationships and all the new things you do for us everyday. We commit ourselves into Your Mighty Hands. Bless the works of our hands. May we experience your goodness in greater proportions than we can imagine. Grant us our heart desires and let Your favor be upon us this day and all the day of our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord





