



BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



ICF is Keeping Our Heritage Alive!!!



ICF Heritage Parade Float Crew

The day started bright and early Sunday morning, October 13th. The Heritage Committee gathered – Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and Bob Basuino, Co-Chairs, along with Leonard Rossi, Deborah Rodondi, Lisa Crudo, Jo-Ann Maggiora-Donivan, Andy Pappani, and Maryann Friebe. Also, a very special THANK YOU goes to Jim Friebe for driving the trailer for us.

This group of ICF decorators met at our spot #54 to start creating the design of our float. This time of year, San Francisco really comes alive with the Blue Angel Dignitaries driving past our float, getting ready for their Fleet Week performance. Walking through North Beach, everyone witnessed a vibrant

scene: different nationalities coming together to enjoy each other's company, people stopping to thank military members for their service & dedication, and sidewalks bustling with energy as visitors enjoyed local food and wine.

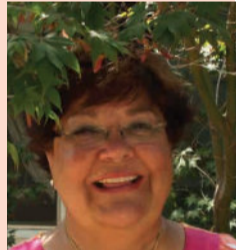
The parade began at 12:30 p.m. at the intersection of Jefferson and Powell Streets in Fisherman's Wharf, proceeding south through North Beach along Columbus Avenue before concluding at Washington Square in front of Saints Peter and Paul Church.

*Until we meet again, let's keep our Italian Heritage Alive!!!
Come join us next year !*

Grand President's Monthly Message *Buon Natale!*

Denise Antonowicz

Buon Natale, Joyeux Noel and Wesolych Swiat, or however you say it, Merry Christmas!



As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate the joyous occasion of Christmas, let us take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of this special day. The birth of Jesus Christ is a reminder of the immense love that God has for us, and the great blessings we have received.

May this Christmas season bring you peace, happiness, and time to cherish the company of family and friends. May we be inspired by the values of faith, hope, and charity that are at the heart of our Italian Catholic heritage.

As we celebrate, let us also honor the cherished family traditions that have been passed down through generations. Whether it's preparing a special Italian feast, exchanging heartfelt gifts, or participating in beloved holiday customs, these traditions help keep our heritage alive and strengthen the bonds of family.

Continued on Page 5

Heritage — Saint Lucy

Louise Vento, Committee Member



Saint Lucia was a virgin who came from Sicily and is the Patron Saint of Light. She was an early Christian martyr. When an admirer mentioned her beautiful eyes, just hearing his words compelled her to pluck out her eyes and send them to him on a platter. She would not subscribe to the temptation of love. The suitor denounced her to the Roman authorities. The authorities sentenced her to live in a brothel. When she refused, she was condemned to death and subsequently executed.



Her feast day is December 13th. In parts of the Lombardy region of Italy, it is Santa Lucia who gives out presents in December to children instead of Father Christmas or the Befana.

Legend says Santa Lucia travels on a donkey to bring presents to the children and the children leave carrots for the donkey. The children write letters to Santa Lucia and drop them in special mailboxes. On the eve of December 13th, the children leave their shoes on the windowsill and in the morning, they are filled with tiny sweets.

In Palermo and Syracuse, Sicily, the Sicilians still commemorate Santa Lucia's intervention during a severe famine in 1582. The Sicilians prayed as food was in short supply. Like magic, a Flotilla of ships arrived in the harbor loaded with wheat and grain. Even today, the Sicilians honor the memory of Santa Lucia with a festival on December 13th. They do not eat anything made with wheat but instead eat potatoes and rice in the form of arancini.

Merry Christmas, Natale com I tuoi (Christmas with your family)

TIME SENSITIVE: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY!

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
January/February issue is
January 2, 2025**

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

Thank you!

Message from our Spiritual Director

Dear Friends of the Italian Catholic Federation:

Christmas is the time when we commemorate the greatest and most far-reaching event in human history. The good news has been brought to us by no less a person than the Son of God himself. He came not as a mighty prince or a heroic king but as a vulnerable baby, born of a human and poor mother. We have become accustomed to the Christmas story. It has been mainly told as a children's narrative, full of angels and shepherds, kings and drummer boys, straw and wise men. We put up little cribs in our homes to remind us of something else amidst the 'presence' of the Christmas tree.

But let us face it. Whether we like it or not, Christmas is generally a time when we cannot escape, even if we wanted to, from the present-buying, the dressing-up, the turkey and all the other things that we associate with this time of year. And that is O.K. so long as we understand that we are commemorating an event so revolutionary, so completely new, so amazing that even the familiar ceremonies and traditions cannot take away its challenge to us.

What is so different and revolutionary about this event? It's just that it was so completely unexpected. At the time of the birth of Jesus, the people were expecting

a Messiah alright. They waited patiently for the one who would save them, just as Yahweh had brought them out of Egypt in the time of Moses. They were waiting for the outstretched arm, the mighty hand that would roll back the sea and herald the good news of salvation. The word of God was to live and dwell among them. And so, they waited for their king to arrive.

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

And yet this baby was the Son of God, the Word made flesh, the one who would grow up in Nazareth and affect the lives of more people on earth than anybody else ever had or indeed has since. By choosing to be born in such a desolate and poor place, God was making a very definite statement about our value system. Change everything, he was saying, forget everything you once held dear, sell off your riches, give to the needy, share your cloak, follow me. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was the prologue to a life of



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Spiritual Director

service and challenge. The stable was an indication of the need for us to see grace and goodness and reality in the very poorest of places. If we call ourselves 'Christian' then this is what we cannot forget.

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

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

Blessings.

Fr. Chris

**Apostolate/Charity**

Carmen Kilcullen,
Apostolate/Charity Committee
Chairperson

I have been so preoccupied this past month with my surgery and physical therapy that I did not write an article.

However, I do encourage every branch to continue its works of apostolate and charity. Last year, we did so well and many people benefited from all your work. I can't say enough for the kind and thoughtful people that you are. With the Christmas season upon us, we need to be extra generous to those in need so that they may have a better Christmas.

To all of you wonderful members, I extend from my house to yours, blessed tidings for the season and wonderful Christmas memories with all your loved ones.

We will be celebrating with my family at my home.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

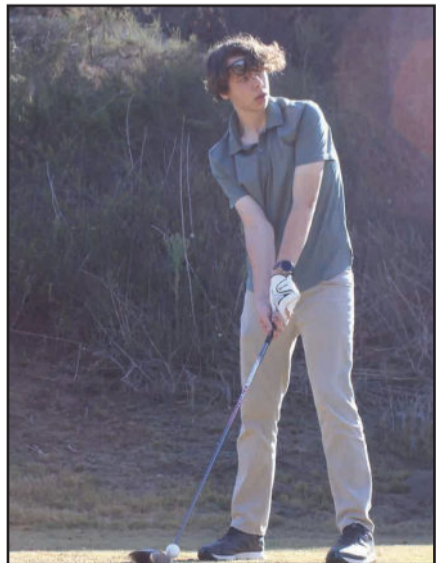
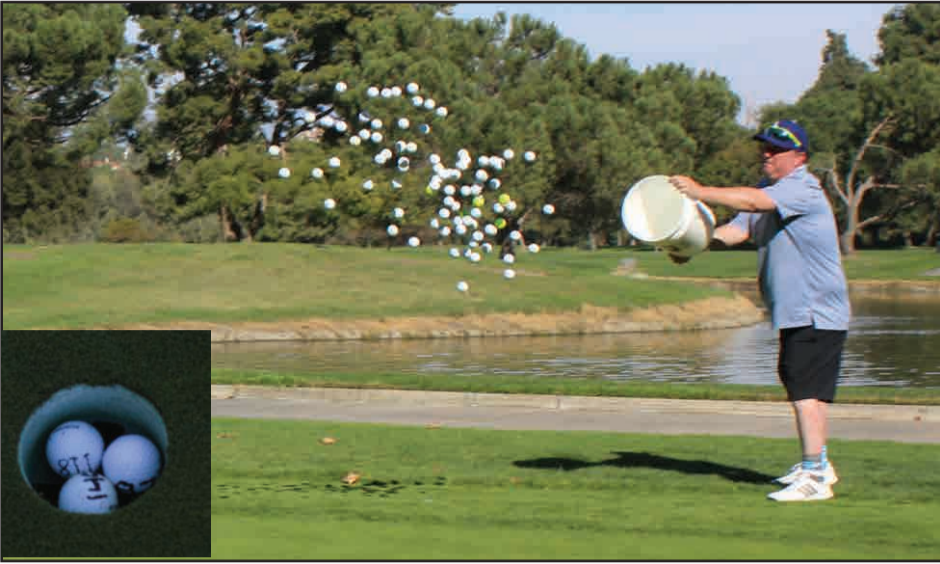
Carmen

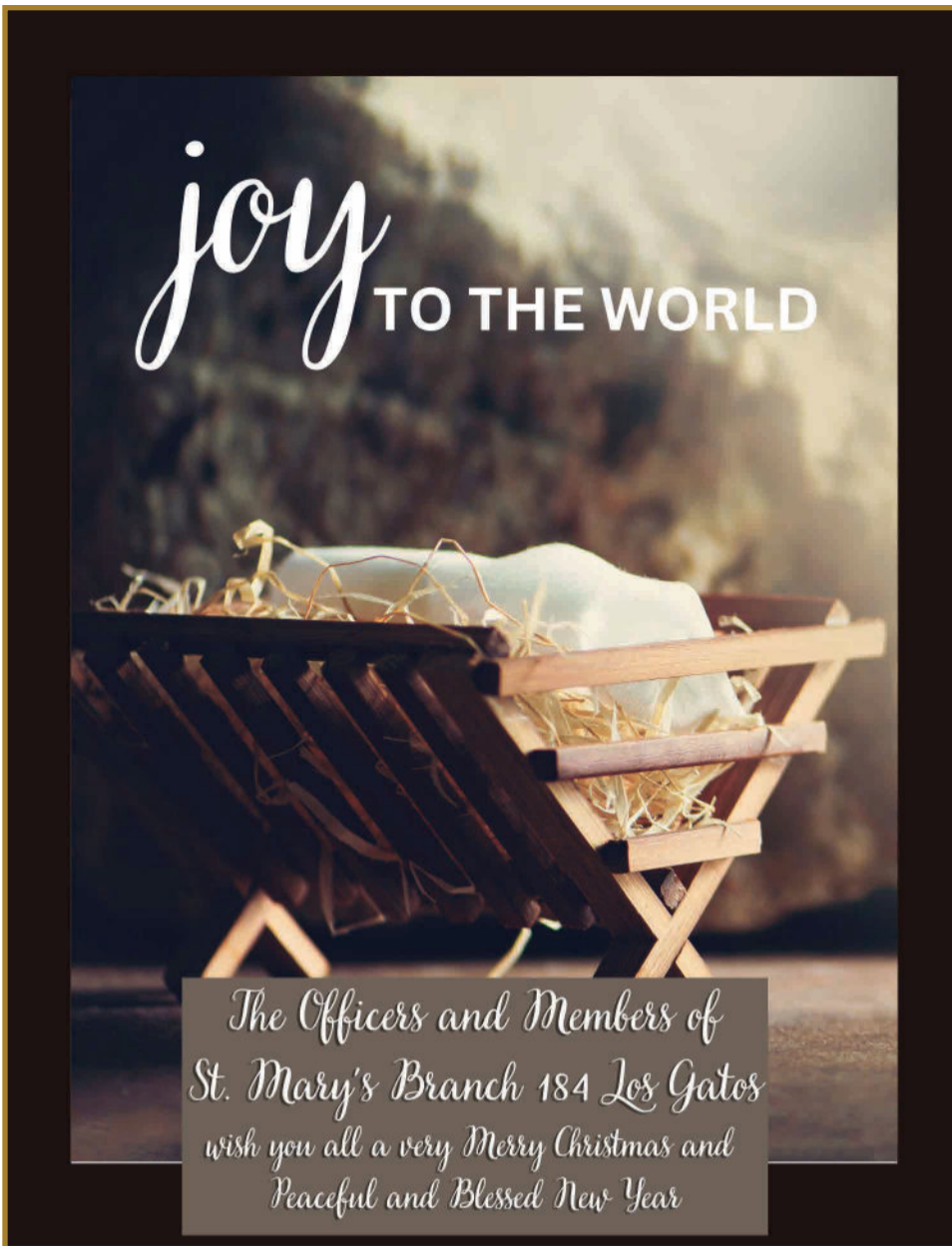
**Get Your 2025 ICF Calendars Now!**

The ICF 2025 Calendars are great gifts and great raffle prizes and offer beautiful stories, fun facts, and recipes that remind us about our theme, "Dinner and A Movie," and an opportunity to win money.

Please keep this in mind with the Holidays coming up. This is a fantastic fundraiser for our Branches and 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.

The Annual Southern California ICF Golf Tournament at Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula





joy TO THE WORLD

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



Santa's Snowball Fight!

There is a new story for Santas and adults to read to the children. The second edition is being published for Christmas 2024!

Story and illustrations by:
Sue Ann Alton Sanders

Photography and assembly by:
Rev. Santa Paul H. Behrens, Br. #210

May God Bless You All. AMEN

Available on line at all book sellers.




Merry Christmas
Buon Natale
E FELICE ANNO NUOVO!



As per Italian folklore,
La Befana,
the Christmas witch,
delivers gifts to children
on the eve of Epiphany.

Buon Natale from Branch 413, Angels Camp.
May the Christ Child bring you His peace all through the year.




Buon Natale
&
Felice Capo De Anno
Branch 390 Tracy, Ca
Saint Bernard's Parish

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

Received as of November 10, 2024:

IN MEMORY OF:	DONATED BY:
James Smith	Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Mark Shriwise	Denise Antonowicz
Jim Smith	Richard and Valerie Vote
Betty Tully	Officers/Members of Br. 91
Betty Tully	Jo-Ann and John Donivan

GET WELL WISHES:

Carmen Kilcullen	Alison Coughlin, Janine Boone and Mary Teves
Carmen Kilcullen	Elaine Osorio
Carmen Kilcullen	Len and Karen Rossi

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR BISHOP'S DAY:

Denise Antonowicz	Officers/Members of Los Angeles Archdiocese District
Leonard Zasoski, Jr.	Officers/Members of Los Angeles Archdiocese District
Denise Antonowicz	Officers/Members of San Bernardino District

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:

Heidi Ambiel	Richard and Valerie Vote
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*Named after the co-founder of the ICF, the Sir Luigi and Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund provides I.C.F. members a lasting way to memorialize and/or extend greetings to friends, relatives, and loved ones. Members' donations provide scholarships to seminarians studying for the priesthood in dioceses where the Italian Catholic Federation is located. A monthly Mass is offered for the intention of those listed.

GP Message--Continued

Denise Antonowicz *continued from p. 1*

Let us also remember those in need during this holiday season and extend a hand of kindness and generosity to those less fortunate. Through our actions, we can help bring the light of Christ's love into the world.

you and your loved ones a Buon Natale and a prosperous New Year. May God bless you abundantly.

*With warmest wishes,
Denise Antonowicz
Grand President*

On behalf of me and my family, I wish

Welcome New Members

(Report as of November 10, 2024)

Branch 026	Nancy J Bozzo	Linda J Daugenbaugh
	Kim M Hawk	Phyllis I Lanini
	Marianne S Miller	
Branch 028	Michael T Giluso	Alex A Larson
	Charles A Larson	Elia Salinas
Branch 036	Elizabeth B Aliotti	Giovanni G Aliotti
	Leona Aliotti	Luca Aliotti
	Joyce Elaine Dawson	Donna D Gionfriddo
	Robert P Gionfriddo	
Branch 045	Melody Hitt	
Branch 144	Enrique Esparza Ii	Caleb M Pitlock
	Faith S Pitlock	Grayson L Pitlock
	Moira M Pitlock	
Branch 145	Luciano Marazzo	Trisha M Marazzo
Branch 173	Rick Bonaduce	Tracy Bonaduce
	Marlene Malchow	Gina San Pietro
Branch 332	Anne Fennell	
Branch 351	Mark D Doherty	
Branch 352	Cheryl Frasca	Orlando Frasca
	Elaine Reisert	
Branch 418	Emma Liberio	Giuseppe Liberio
Branch 438	Kathy Neuburger	Steve C Neuburger
Branch 446	Teresa Tristan	

In Loving Memory

(Report as of November 8, 2024)

Tom Di Maggio	Branch 036
Cathy Leiker	Branch 036
Frank S Martin	Branch 036
Sophie Collins	Branch 173
James I Smith	Branch 227



Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Received as of November 10, 2024)

Branch 213
Branch 218
Renee Wege
In Memory of Connie Buccini-Caranfa
Anne Rabin
In Memory of Connie Buccini-Caranfa
Aurora Pensa
In Memory of Concetta "Connie" Caranfa

ICF General Fund Donations

(Received as of November 10, 2024)

Pietro Gentile
In Memory of Connie Caranfa
Catherine Rozanski-McNamara
In Memory of Concetta "Connie" Caranfa
Carmen Beidleman
In Memory of Connie Buccini-Caranfa
Jim and Franca Garland
In Memory of Connie Caranfa

Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of November 10, 2024)

Branch 213	Robert and Beatrice Tomasello
Jim Lee	In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Carla Del Carlo
Elaine Meier	Mary Amitrano
In Memory of Bobbie Farrington	In Memory of Concetta Caranfa
Officers/Members of Br. 285	Joseph and Giovanna Nardulli
In Memory of Bobbie Farrington	In Memory of Connie Caranfa
Women In Touch II	Maria Perna
In Memory of Josephine Jimenez	In Memory of Connie Caranfa
Barbara Firpo	Rosetta De Francesco
In Memory of Jeanne Bencharsky	In Memory of Connie Caranfa
Nicole Laubenthal	Francesca Bevente
In Memory of Concetta "Connie" Caranfa	In Memory of Connie Caranfa
Tina Kotupova	
In Memory of Connie Caranfa	



Book Review-- Children's Books

Vince Piro

As has become my tradition, the December book review column will focus on children's books. Hopefully, this list is useful when shopping for Christmas gifts for your children or grandchildren.

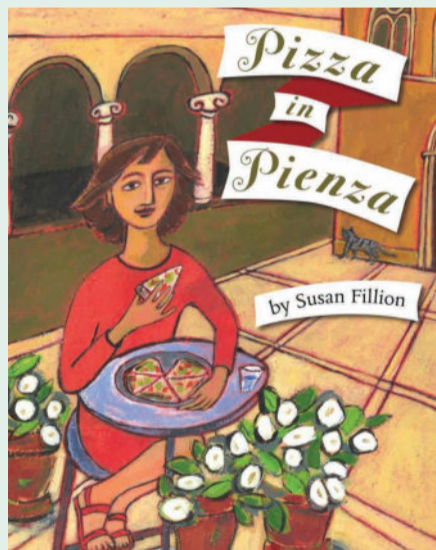


Pizza in Pienza

By Susan Fillion

What do children and adults love in equal measure? Food! And what food inspires rapture in the hearts of children and adults alike? Pizza! Have your children ever asked where pizza comes from? Who invented the pizza? How did anyone think of combining such scrumptious ingredients as mozzarella, tangy tomato sauce, and fresh-baked bread? Thanks to *Pizza in Pienza*, you and your young charges will have all the answers, in English and Italian, including a recipe for homemade pizza.

Here is the essential history of pizza, told by a charming Italian girl who lives in Pienza and whose favorite food is . . . well, you can guess it: pizza. Life in Pienza is pretty old-fashioned, and our young heroine knows everyone on the street and at the market by name. She comes home from school at midday to eat meals with her family, but in between her snack of choice is pizza, and her favorite place is Giovanni's, where Giovanni cooks pizza the old-fashioned way in a hot brick oven heated by a wood fire.

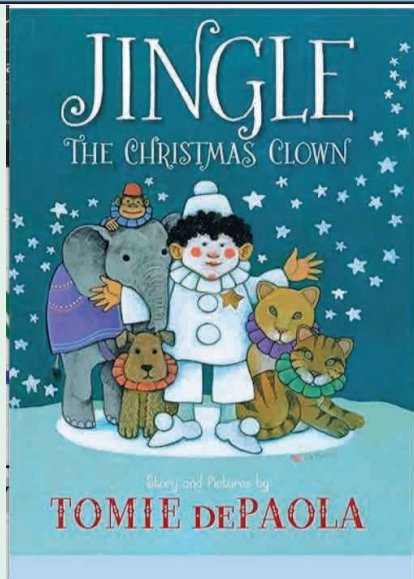


Jingle The Christmas Clown

By Tomie dePaola

With a little bit of magic, one plucky clown is determined to turn Christmas around for a village that's down on its luck in this enchanting tale from Tomie dePaola.

Every midwinter, little Jingle and his family, Il Circo Piccolo, The Little Circus, travel through the countryside to the city for their special Christmas performance. Each year, they stop at the same little village to put on a show for



its residents. It's Jingle's favorite night.

This year, though, things are different. There is no smoke coming out of the chimneys. Everything is closed up. And the few people still in town have fallen on hard times and don't have the money to see the circus anymore.

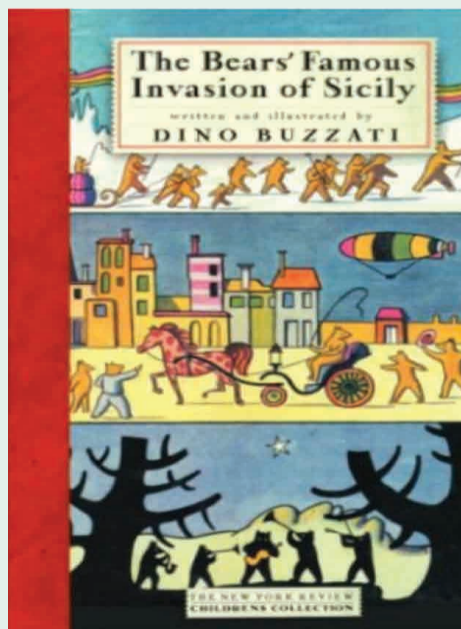
But Jingle is not so easily deterred. With the help of his baby animals, he is determined to put on a show that no one will forget.

The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily

By Dino Buzzati

Starving after a harsh winter, the bears descend from the mountains in search of food and invade the valley below, where they face fierce opposition from the army of the Grand Duke of Sicily. After many battles, scrapes and dangers, the bears' reign is established over the land, but their victory comes at a price.

The novelist, journalist and painter Dino Buzzati is one of the most important voices of twentieth-century Italian literature. He is best remembered today for his novel *The Tartar Steppe* and the story *The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily*, which he illustrated himself and has become a classic of Italian children's literature.

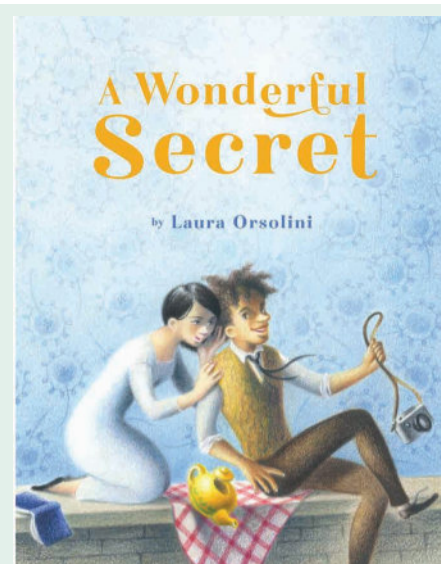


A Wonderful Secret

By Laura Orsolini

Mom looks for a bit more of time and a bit more of space. What does she need them for? This is secret, one she cannot say out loud but just softly whisper. Luckily everybody from Dad to the busy Mr. Time, including the sturdy House Maker and the old Mrs. Earth, finds Mom's secret absolutely wonderful and is more than happy to assist her! With their help, enough time and enough space are finally found and Mom's secret can be revealed! And it is... a new baby!

Laura Orsolini is a children's book author and illustrator born in Rome. She has lived many years in Asia and she is currently based in her hometown. Her books have been published in various countries, and samples of her artwork have been selected for different international exhibitions including the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's book Fair.

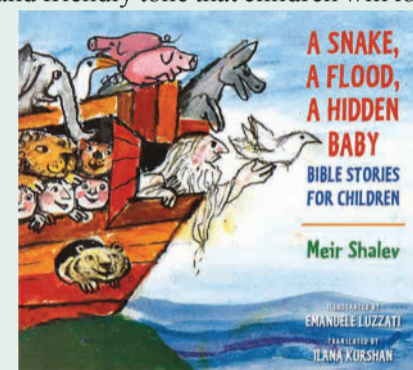


or a bunch of babbling builders, parents and their children are sure to enjoy these tales anew. Emanuele Luzzati's playful collage illustrations pair beautifully with this witty retelling, while Ilana Kurshan's translation creates a light and friendly tone that children will love.

A Snake, a Flood, a Hidden Baby: Bible Stories for Children

By Meir Shalev

A Snake, a Flood, a Hidden Baby: Bible Stories for Children features six popular stories from the Hebrew Bible retold with whimsy by one of Israel's most celebrated authors. With irresistible humor, Meir Shalev introduces a lively cast of characters. Whether it's a sneaky snake



NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
11/1	David & Eloisa Finnen	390	Tracy, CA	\$30
11/2	Monica Ficher		Fresno, CA	\$30
11/3	Renee K. Perkins	308	Fresno, CA	\$30
11/4	Jim & Alissa Daschbach		Lummi Island, WA	\$30
11/5	Steve & Peggy Simoni		Dayton, NV	\$30
11/6	Germaine Orlando	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
11/7	Branch 39		Merced, CA	\$30
11/8	Grace Gallego	435	San Martin, CA	\$30
11/9	Daniel McGhee		Bolingbrook, IL	\$30
11/10	Sharon Vannetti	209	Sebastopol, CA	\$30
11/11	Sue Moglia		Walnut Creek, CA	\$100
11/12	Pat & Julie McDermott		Meadow Vista, CA	\$30
11/13	Fr. Roberto Vera	354	Soquel, CA	\$50
11/14	Nancy Souza	48	Modesto, CA	\$30
11/15	Jane Kotila	227	Soquel, CA	\$30
11/16	Lauren Bilich-Johnson		San Ramon, CA	\$30
11/17	Kristin Kladstrup		Watertown, MA	\$30
11/18	Gerald H. Delfino	368	San Jose, CA	\$30
11/19	Julie Richards	25	Chualar, CA	\$30
11/20	Fr. Zacarias Martinez		Fresno, CA	\$30
11/21	Kathy Kladstrup		Eagan, MN	\$30
11/22	Fr. Paolo Gobbo	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
11/23	Sacred Heart Church		Merced, CA	\$30
11/24	Alice Flocchini		Bayside, CA	\$30
11/25	Branch 198		Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
11/26	Teresa Rimmer		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
11/27	Jason Simon		Somerset, CA	\$30
11/28	Carrie & Dale Anthenien		Gustine, CA	\$100
11/29	Nancy Carlos	14	Crockett, CA	\$30
11/30	David Rossi		San Jose, CA	\$30

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

ICF's 100th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Italy

- Submitted by Lisa Crudo

Under the guidance of our Spiritual Director, Fr. Chris Bennett a group of pilgrims traveled to beautiful Italy to celebrate our faith and heritage.

After a very long 16 to 20 hours of travel time, we made it to the stunning city of Assisi. A picturesque place, so peaceful and ethereal. We all felt transported to the Middle Ages, walking in the footsteps of St. Francis. We had a lovely Mass in the tomb of St Francis, then a walking tour of the walled city. We visited the Basilica of St. Francis and the Basilica of St. Clare to see the original San Damiano cross. We visited the church of St. Mary Major, which houses the remains of Blessed Carlo Acutis. We then went to the village of Santa Maria deli Angeli, visiting the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels containing the Porziuncola, a small chapel called the "Blessed Virgin Mother of God."

On Friday and Saturday, we traveled to Loreto, Italy's Marian Shrine to visit the Holy House of Loreto. We celebrated Mass in the Crypt chapel, then continued on to Lanciano to

visit the sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle. Then, we went on to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of Padre Pio. These first few days have been so magnificent, peaceful, and spiritual especially under the kind guidance of Fr. Chris.

Day 6, on to Pietrelcina which is the birthplace of Padre Pio.

We celebrated Mass at the Church of St. Anna. This little church is the authentic "treasure chest of the experience of Padre Pio's spiritual journey:" birth, baptism, confirmation, Eucharistic life, ecstasy and visions. Here is where we celebrated Mass and he confessed the simple souls of Pietrelcina and had numerous mystical experiences.

Such was the end of the first half of our wonderful pilgrimage. Now, on to Rome for 4 days! We are looking forward to a wonderful and Spiritual visit to this ancient city and the most Holy Vatican.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Crudo



Mass in the chapel housing St. Francis's tomb



St Francis Basilica



Basilica of St. Clare



Miracle of the Eucharist



Basilica of St Mary of the Angels



The spot where St Francis died.



Pilgrims at Mass in the chapel which houses the tomb of St. Francis.



2025 ICF Convention "Gateway to God's Bounty"

The theme for the 2025 Convention is "Gateway to God's Bounty".

It seems like we just finished gathering in Burlingame for our 2024 Convention and the Convention Director's Committee is already starting to plan the 2025 Convention.

The 2025 Convention will be held at the Wyndham Visalia from August 29 – 31, 2025. Grand President Denise Antonowicz, Grand 1st Vice President Franklyn Lopes Jr. and I took a road trip in October to visit the hotel. We enjoyed our overnight stay (the beds are comfy) and touring the hotel with our Convention Services Manager. The hotel has plenty of free parking (650 spaces!), a restaurant with reasonable prices, flexible meeting space, spacious lobby for gathering and very nice staff. I've attached some photos of the hotel.

A new item the committee is working on is an "Idea Hall" or "Lunchtime Learnings." The concept is - if your branch has a successful idea that you would like to share with other branches, but don't want to do a full workshop, you will have a table where you would be

available to present your idea to interested delegates as they come by. You'd have handouts, if applicable, and answer questions and share ideas with other branches. Initial thoughts are - how to do a fish fry, how to do a bingo luncheon, how to do school outreach or outreach to other organizations. I'm looking for branches who have a successful idea and want to share their knowledge. Please email me at Ltek1965@comcast.net if you would like to participate. The "Idea Hall" will probably take place on Saturday during lunchtime.

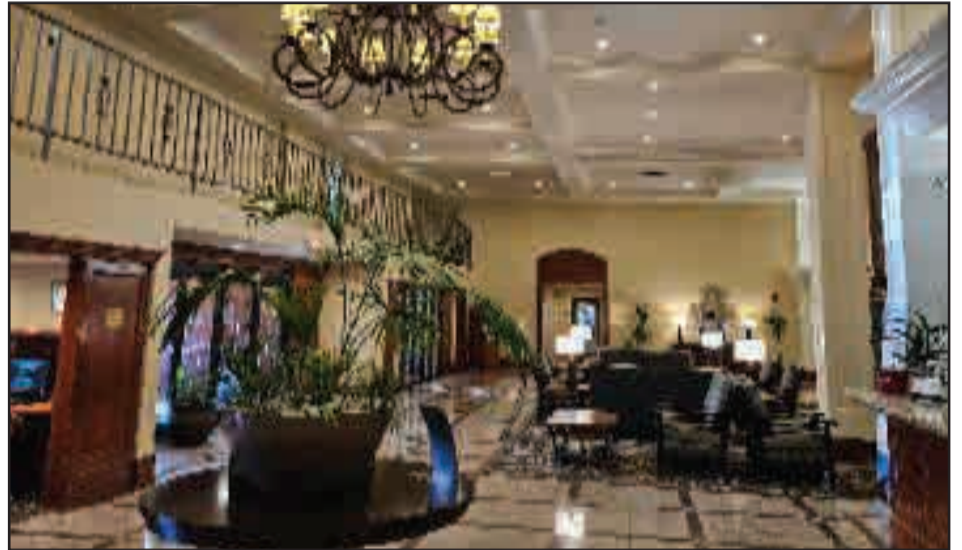
The committee is also working on a "Road Trip" game for delegates to participate in, as they drive through California to Visalia. Prizes will be given. Stay tuned for more information.

As your branch is doing its budget for 2025, remember to budget for your delegates to attend the Convention. The room rate is \$109.00 per night plus tax.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lauren Kilcullen

Convention Director



Wyndham Visalia Hotel Lobby



Wyndham Visalia King Bedroom



Wyndham Visalia Ballroom

Scholarship Donations

(Received as of November 10, 2024)

Scholarship Donations - 1st Year

- Richard and Donna Pfaff
In Memory of Anamaria Falcone
- Mary Ridi
Thank You to Joan and Jerry Delfino for All of Your ICF Support
- Mary and Marcello Ridi
In Memory of Sabina Solari
- Kellanova North America Wellbeing and Regulatory Department
In Memory of Concetta Caranfa
- Elaine Osorio
In Honor of the 66th Wedding Anniversary of Joan and Jerry Delfino
- Denise Antonowicz
In Memory of Anamaria Galindo Falcone

Antoinette and Angelo Pecora
In Memory of Marilyn Renna

Scholarship Donations - 2nd - 4th Year

- Joan and Jerry Delfino
Get Well Wishes for Carmen Kilcullen
- Joan and Jerry Delfino
In Memory of Anamaria Falcone
- Vanni and Humphrey CPAs
In Memory of Josephine Jimenez
- Officers/Members of Br. 213
In Honor of Br. 213 Mentor Dorene Campanile



Interested in learning more about the ICF's National Charity, Cooley's Anemia (Thalassemia)?
If so, Laurice Levine, ICF Liaison for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, would be honored to come and speak at one of your branch meetings or any special event (at no cost to your branch).
Contact Information:
360-860-2023 or LLevine430@aol.com

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

Membership Committee

Vince Piro and Andy Pappani

Over the next couple of months, the Membership Committee would like each branch to focus on membership retention, keeping members from dropping. Here are a few ideas that help keep members from dropping.



- Treat every member as a first-time member; welcome them, respect them and include them.
- Remember that new members are evaluating whether they want to stay.
- Recognize and Welcome New Members.
 - Share this responsibility with the entire branch.
 - Introduce them at their first meeting.
 - Assign them to a table of welcoming members.
 - Initiate new members to make them feel a part of your branch.
- Provide New Members with Plenty of Resources.
 - Membership Contact List
 - Annual Calendar of Events
 - Branch Newsletter
 - ICF By-Laws and Ritual Book
 - Website address
- Accept New Ideas and Ways.

New members can reinvigorate a branch with new ideas and ways of doing things. Members will want to learn about traditions and "ways." However, they will also want to put their own touches on things, making them become an integral part of the branch rather than just a worker.

- Plan activities for the children at Branch meetings.
- Focus on family during special times of the year:
 - Christmas Party: Please include the children. Have Santa Claus present, give small gifts, candy canes, read Christmas stories, have the children sing Christmas Carols.
 - Have a Giving Tree, where the children bring an item of food for a needy family.
 - Valentine's Day: Have someone work with the children, making valentines for their parents or elderly at convalescent homes.
 - Easter: Sponsor an egg hunt at your local club. Join up with another club to do this.

- Keep Business Meetings Short and Focused
 - Provide Written Agendas
 - Take Care of the Day-to-Day at Board Meetings
 - Email Minutes and Treasurer's Report for Review
 - Make It Interesting
 - Heritage Presentations
 - Guest Speakers
 - Entertainment for Special Occasions



New members will stay with a branch if they feel it adds value to their life. What does your branch have to offer that adds value to the member's life?

MAY YOUR LOVE LIVE IN ME

Great Holy God, King of the Universe, Creator of all things,
My father
I adore you, I love you, and I pray that I may be one with you and
your son Jesus.
May your love live in me.
Thank you for all the good things you have given me this day.
Grant that I may lie down to rest with a quiet mind and
rise again healthy and strong, ready to do your will.
Spread your shelter of peace over me and let your blessing be upon
me.
Forgive my sins, I am sorry,
Protect me from sin, evil, sickness, injury, and harm.
Guide my choices, that my life may be happy.
I rejoice in you God, my savior.
May I see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you
more nearly every day.
- Amen.

ATTENTION BRANCH PRESIDENTS, FINANCIAL SECRETARIES AND MEMBERS

2025 Will Be an Another Open Enrollment Year For The Hospital Plan

As a special offer for the Italian Catholic Federation, the Central Council voted to continue the changes in the Hospital Plan for Individuals and Branches in 2025.

FOR INDIVIDUALS:

During all of 2025 the Hospital Plan will be open to every member, regardless of their age. The age 70 restriction is temporarily suspended for 2025, only, as an invitation for all members of the ICF to take advantage of this opportunity to enroll in our special plan.

FOR BRANCHES:

For any Branch member who becomes a NEW member of the Hospital Plan and pays their \$25.00 in January, February or March, the Federation will only bill the Branch for \$20.00. Thus, for each Member who joins the Plan as a NEW member the Branch will earn \$5.00.

The \$5.00 reduction is only for those joining NEW in January, February or March. So, you must act right away to get this benefit. After March, the Branch will again be billed the entire \$25.00 for any new members to the plan.

HOSPITALIZATION PLAN – FACT SHEET

The following information briefly outlines the benefits, conditions and costs:

BENEFITS

After ninety (90) days of membership in the plan, the fund will pay:

- \$75.00 for the first day, \$50.00 for the second day and \$25.00 for the third day and any additional days thereafter.

NOTE: A member must stay overnight in an acute care facility unless an outpatient surgery is performed. Stays in convalescent hospitals and rehabilitation facilities are not covered by this plan and do not qualify for reimbursement.

- **\$100.00 for the use of the operating room** during a hospital stay or outpatient procedure at a state-licensed surgical center.
- **\$500.00 per calendar year.**
- **\$500.00 lifetime maximum per illness.**

FEATURES

- Payments are made directly to the member.
- No medical examination is required to join.
- All claims are accepted for up to one year after a hospital stay or outpatient procedure.

COST

- **\$25.00 per year** - paid to the Branch Financial Secretary
- If you have any questions, please contact the ICF Office.

I give you this prayer to say at bedtime. It is a combination and paraphrase of the "other" prayer of Jesus (not the Our Father) in John 17:22, plus some Jewish prayers, and the hymn Day by Day. It includes prayer of adoration, of thanks, of petition, of contrition, and of rejoicing. If you omit the phrase "lie down to rest with a quiet mind and" it can be prayed at times other than bedtime. -- Michael Belluomini Branch 39 Merced

Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco

Br. 1, Maria S.S. Immacolata

Dear Members:

On Sunday, November 10th, Branch 1 Members and Friends enjoyed a meeting and Italian lunch.

Laurice Levin touched the hearts of all sharing her personal story with Cooley's Anemia. Mary Perata's 100th Birthday was joyfully celebrated.

Special healing prayers to Judy Mattranga and Patricia Arnaudo.

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

Beautiful December Birthday Wishes to Loredana Borsoni.

Wishing you and the family a very Merry Christmas.

*Cordiali Saluti
Diana Cresci*

SAN MATEO District

Colma

Br. 19, San Vincenzo De Paoli

In October, we held our election of branch officers, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to all who volunteered their time and dedication.

Our branch is thriving, and we're enjoying our monthly dinners and gatherings thanks to the support and participation of each one of you!

Looking ahead, we invite you to our Annual Christmas and Anniversary Dinner on December 9th at the Sharp Park Golf Club. It will be a wonderful celebration of the season and our branch's achievements.

In January, we will also have our Installation of Officers and continue with our regular monthly meetings.

Don't forget to pick up an ICF calendar to enjoy throughout the year!

From all of us to you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May the holiday season bring you joy and blessings in the coming year.

*Thank you,
Don Simon*

Burlingame

Br. 173, Our Lady of Angels

Well, we have had a full year of activities and now looking forward to the new year. We had a couple of events coming up in November—Chaplain's Night on November 8th and our branch Christmas Party at O Sole Mio in Millbrae on December 12, 2024. The Christmas party restaurant will include a raffle. If any members want to donate canned goods for St. Vincent de Paul for the holidays, please bring them to our November meeting.

Our President, Dorene Campanile is looking for some help in writing the monthly branch newsletter. She will take care of the printing and mailing. Those interested, please see Dorene,

Please mark your calendars for Installation of Officers on February 8, 2025 at St. Pius Church, Branch 130 in Redwood City. More details to follow.

Please keep in mind all those who need our prayers and may all of members and all others stay grateful for all we have and for our family during this Thanksgiving Season!

God Bless, Roz Emery

South San Francisco

Br. 213, St. Augustine

Our November 12 meeting was held at the Parish Hall and was hosted by Barbara Gabriel and Kathy Amiot. Reports were given on the Chaplains Night/Bishop Day event held on November 8.

Our branch Christmas luncheon held on Sunday, December 1, at the Basque Cultural Center went very well as usual. We had about 20 guests and enjoyed seeing members who we haven't seen for awhile!

REMINDER: December 10 (Tuesday) San Mateo District Night of Recollection to be held at St. Augustine Parish Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and hosted by our Branch 213.

Compliments to Branch 403, Millbrae for the delicious Polenta Dinner on October 20. We all really enjoyed it!

Regarding election of officers held at our October meeting, the only changes are: First Vice President: Donna DeVoe; Second Vice President: Barbara Gabriel; Trustee: Joe Crosetti; and Sentinel: Diane Pangburn. All other officers remain the same.

SUNSHINE: Please keep in your prayers our member Faith Hill who had an accident last month and will have surgery.

Hope everyone had a delicious Thanksgiving dinner and are ready for Christmas.

*Best wishes to all for a Blessed
Christmas and Prosperous 2025!*

Millbrae

Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao! Hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family & friends. Our November Lasagna Dinner meeting was tasty and plentiful. Thanks to all the usual suspects who helped put it together, especially Eunice Danli who did all the shopping this time!

Our branch Christmas Party on December 3rd will feature chicken breast stuffed with spinach & mushrooms, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, wine & dessert. The cost is only \$25pp. The social starts at 5pm with dinner at 5:30pm. RSVP with your check (payable to "ICF BR 403") by November 29th to Eunice at 4 Spring Valley Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030. Her phone: 650-692-3740.

Our branch officers have agreed to stay on for another year of fun & dedication! Thank you!!

Now that our Polenta Dinner Fundraiser has concluded, I wish to thank all involved for its great success.

Millbrae Lion Mike Gianni's wife passed away less than a week before the event but he still shopped and organized a group, headed by Lion Don Byer, to cook for us in his place. Thanks also to our fabulous donors and branch volunteers! See our pics of the event & our holiday greeting in this issue.

There is no branch meeting in January.

*Buon Natale a tutti!
Adonna Amoroso, Secretary*

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Happy Advent!! Here we are, it's December and I can't believe we've made it to the end of the year.

Last month we celebrated the feast day of one of our patron saints—Mother Cabrini. Thank you to the Cabrini committee for putting on another great pilgrimage.

Our next event will be our district installation of officers. It will be held on Sunday, January 5th at St. Raymond parish in Downey. Mass will be at 12 p.m. with a wonderful lunch to follow. Not only will we be honoring all of the officers, but we will also celebrate the feast of the Epiphany and our districts 85th anniversary. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

Looking further into 2025, the ICF will once again be at the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim the weekend of February 21 - 23.

I would like to wish each you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Perry Shurko
LA District President.*

Br. 67, National Branch, St. Peter

On November 10, National Branch 67 members attended the 2024 Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage & Luncheon at St. Francis Xavier Church in Burbank, California. Mass celebrated by Pastor Fr. Sebastian Vettickal of SFXC followed by Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon in Holy Cross Hall.

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

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

Please keep our sick members in your prayers that they may reach a speedy recovery. And to our former Branch members who recently have gone to their eternal reward; may they rest in peace.

SAVE THE DATE - 1/5/2025 ICF LAADC Mass, General Meeting and 2025 Board Election at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, Downey, CA.

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

South Pasadena Br. 108, Holy Family

Thank you, members of Branch 108 and of the Mother Cabrini Chapel Committee for staffing and/or attending the Mother Cabrini Chapel Mass, Pilgrimage and Luncheon at St Francis Xavier Church in Burbank on November 10, 2024.

Thank you Branch 108 members who staffed the successful Holy Family School Luncheon on November 19, 2024.

SAVE THE DATES

- 12/8/24 Mother Cabrini Chapel Open House at SFXC Burbank from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 626 372-7812 or email cas1810@aol.com for more information.

- 2/8/25 ICF Branch 108 Wine Tasting in Holy Family Connolly Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Email cas1810@aol.com for more information.

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

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

San Pedro

Br. 115, St. John Joseph of the Cross

On November 10, 44 members and guests attended the annual Mother Cabrini

pilgrimage held at St Francis Xavier parish in Burbank. Everyone had a lovely time. Our branch Christmas party will be held on Saturday Dec 7th at 6 p.m. Party is free for

members nonmember guest \$15.00. Please call in your reservation to Giovanna Gioiello at 213- 605-3060. Cookie donations would be appreciated for our party. Please drop off cookies at 1p.m. in auditorium as we will be assembling cookie trays for tables. Also please bring a small gift for our gift exchange.

2025 calendars are now available for sale for \$30.00. They make great gifts and offer a chance to win money every day of the year! This is a fundraiser for our branch. If interested in purchasing please call Neal DiLeva 310 433- 1044

It is time to renew your ICF 2025 membership. Branch 115 dues are \$42.00 per member. Please mail check to Pauline Iacono 1072 W 8th St. San Pedro, CA 90731. Dues can also be paid at our 1st general meeting of the year Jan 16th at 7:30 p.m.

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

Happy 90th birthday to member Josephine Tuberosi. Wishing you a day filled with love and joy!

Wishing you and yours the blessings of the Season Merry Christmas to all!

Anita Gioiello Trujillo

Glendora

Br. 179, St. Dorothy

St. Dorothy Branch 179 hosted St. Dorothy Parish first Catholic Crossroads event. Catholic Crossroads spearheaded at our church by Fr. Daniel Vega. This is an attempt for cohesiveness between ministries at our parish.

As October is Italian Heritage Month, we hosted a potluck dinner and invited the entire parish. We had a speaker, Ann Potenza from the Italian American Federation, led us in Saints Bingo. Everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about our Italian saints.

Another truck loading event is planned for Sunday, November 10. We hope to finish the year with several donations to our charities, as well as thank you gifts to our clergy.

We pray everyone has a wonderful Christmas and that 2025 is healthy and happy for all.

Patricia Auriemmo
Corresponding Secretary

Arcadia

Br. 218, Holy Angels

A huge thank you to Jenni Hauge for chairing our Christmas Boutique. As of this writing the event has not occurred, however, we do expect that it will be very successful.

Our next event, the Christmas Party, is Sunday, December 8th from 1:00 to 4:00. Assuming that the *Bollettino* will be delivered before the event, please contact myself for reservations. Stonefire Grill will be providing the luncheon. The cub scouts will again be serenading us this year and Santa will make his appearance.

The New Year's Eve party is in the planning stages. Watch for Jeane's newsletter for the details.

On a very sad note, Cliff Stiner passed away very suddenly. Cliff was a very kind person and among his many talents he arranged the most beautiful floral arrangements for our St. Joseph's Table. Our condolences to David and the family.

To everyone, from myself and the branch, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Lolly M

Downey

Br. 362, St. Raymond

Advent greetings to you all. Can you believe we made it to December?

Last month, our members held their annual officers' elections. Congratulations to our president Christine Ragusa, vice president Perry Shurko, treasurer Angela Ragusa, secretary Frances Ladd, orator Amanda Novak Murano, sentinel Christina Ladd, and our three trustees Mickey Murano, Ryuko Murano, and Mila Persico. We had a glorious potluck and were joined by our associate pastor, Fr Justin.

A few of us went to the Mother Cabrini pilgrimage and were joined by other district members, and it was a beautiful day.

We will have our annual branch Christmas party on December 10th at Frantone's restaurant in Cerritos. Don't forget to bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the gift exchange. Installation of officers will take place at our parish on January 5th, 2025. Mass will be at noon with installation and lunch to follow.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

La Canada Flintridge

Br. 374, St. Bede the Venerable

Recently, Fr. Lorenzo Gomez, a Legionary of Christ, author, evangelist, and head of Guadalupe Radio was our guest speaker. Fr. Lorenzo, through Spanish speaking radio station 87.7 FM, reaches the Hispanic segment of the community to give them a sense of connection and inspiration. Our branch made a significant donation to Fr. Lorenzo's mission.

Other recent generous donations were made to St. Peter's Italian Church Maintenance Fund and Brother's Helpers. In addition, the last installment payment was made by our branch to ANEW which completes the total donation of \$25,000 and places an ICF permanent recognition inscription on the Patron Wall.

Thank you, Fiora Murphy for chairing our annual Christmas Party, "Winter Wonderland", December 17th at 6 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please be sure to get your reservation in early so that an accurate catering and supply order will be provided. This event is always a branch highlight.

The biggest fundraiser of our branch is quickly approaching. The St. Joseph Table/Silent Auction event requires ALL members to participate with Table and auction items. We are anxious to have the new, large, beautiful, parish hall that will host the day, so a fully supplied room is essential. Please help our hard-working chairpersons, Gloria McGaughey, Lila Nastro, and President Phyllis Harb when they request your assistance.

Welcome to new members, Matt Vincent and Michael Richardson. We continue to focus on recruiting younger members to ensure the mission of ICF continues well into the future.

Mark your calendar:

December 17th- "Winter Wonderland" Christmas Party 6:00 p.m. Parish Center
Sunday, March 16th- Membership Table/Donuts- After morning Masses

Saturday, March 22nd- St. Joseph Day Set-Up 10:00-2:00

Sunday, March 23rd- St. Joseph/ Silent Auction -After morning Masses

May God grant you peace and serenity this holiday season. Good will, good health, and good tidings for the new year.



Rancho Palos Verdes

Br. 444, St. John Fisher

Happy Thanksgiving to all! The evening began with a delicious dinner, including entre, desserts & Vino, provided by all members. During the meeting officers were nominated, followed by a vote by the board. Many will be staying in their regular office position again.

Bruno purchased the new film of Mother Cabrini & we hope to show it to the entire Parish.

Our next meeting we will be discussing the Annual Christmas Celebration and the adoption of a family in need from a sister Parish.

All Veterans were honored at a Special Mass & Breakfast Sunday, recognizing their service to our country.

Continue to pray for Marianne Canetti, Guido Frassinelli, Joe Trani & any member who needs our prayers.

Ciao, Patty Longo Hansen

Manhattan Beach

Br. 447, American Martyrs

Branch 447 gathered together to celebrate our annual Halloween Potluck, Costume Party, and Bingo Night. Members were invited to dress up and bring wine, an appetizer, side dish, or desert. We had a contest with prizes for the Spookiest Dish and the Best Halloween Costume. Melissa Whitehead won the spookiest dish contest with her Gabaghou Char-boo-terie Board. Tom and Luanne Donahue won for the best Halloween costumes, a pilot and airline stewardess. Each won a cute Halloween throw pillow.

Rich Romano, our branch Bingo Caller led us in five games of Bingo. Our first winner was Deacon Bob and he had the option of choosing a gift bag, or a large tray of lasagna. He chose the lasagna. We had four other winners each winning a Halloween mug and candies.

We had a small but enthusiastic gathering. Those that came in costume showed up as The Grinch, a veterinarian, a runner, a cowgirl, a pilot, a flight attendant, a spooky pirate, an ice cream cone pun, a butterfly, a honeybee, and Velma from Scooby Doo. We listened to Halloween music as we sat together and ate a variety of dishes that members brought.

We are looking forward to our next event at the Mother Cabrini Shrine!

Save the date for our Christmas Party on Friday, December 13th 2024. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Melissa Whitehead, Social Media Chair

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

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 445 Chili Dinner Buffet Line



Br. 445 Tre Amici: Andy La Scola, Larry Farro, Bill Howell



Br 445 Birthday Celebrations: Robin Ledbetter & Jean Cosentino



Branch 047, November Pasta Grab N Go



Laurice spoke to Branch 28. Kim Filice is our Branch President.



Br. 28, Dave and Valerie Vanni



Br. 28, Vanni Family enjoying their meal.



Anamaria Falcone

Br. 445 RIP Anamaria

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 184, Our cooks, L to R Jeff Buonaccorsi and brother Richard in blue shirt, Donovan Erba, Larry Vollman and Dave Romeri. Ryan Meyers, also on the cooking crew, was busy as Bartender at the time photo taken.



Br. 184, Pictured are Branch Presidents, past and present. Left to right, Denise Antonowicz, Donna Pfaff, Denise Campagna, Marie Yurosko, Lydia Norcia standing. In for husband Dom Norcia who passed, and Deanna Meyers.



Los Gatos, St. Mary Br. #184, Ryan Meyers tended bar, after his cooking duties earlier in the day!



Br. #184, Victoria Nguyễn is our raffle ticket seller, shown with Mike Rossi from Br. #391.



Br. 191, SFC Donut Sunday October 20.



Branch 435 Polenta Family Dinner



Branch 435 Polenta Family Dinner



Santa Clara Valley District Bishop's Day October 27, 2024



SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 368 at Bishop's Day



Branch 435 Polenta Family Dinner



Branch 435 Bishop's Day



Branch 391's Jessie Romero with her sister, Libby Berry, hosting dessert table at fundraiser



Branch 391's Sister Jane Garrison selling raffle tickets at October Lasagna Fundraiser



Branch 391's Lynda Vallorz serving at our October Fundraiser



Bishop Cantu, Andy and Denise with Br. 408



Fr. Phong at Br. 408 ICF Bake Sale

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Branch 444 September General Meeting



Br. 444, Cabrini Film to be shown to Parish



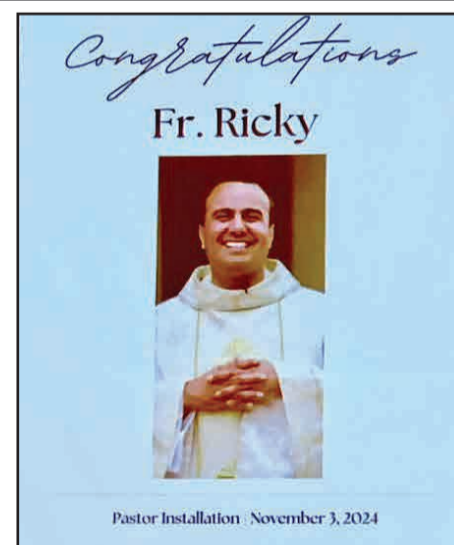
Br. 447, Halloween Party



Br. 179, Italian Heritage Celebration October. Left to right, President Bruce Brancato, Ann Potenza, Fr. Daniel Vega, Monsignor Norm Priebe.



Br. 447, Halloween Party



Congratulations to Fr. Ricky who was installed as the new Pastor of Holy Family Church on November 3, 2024 at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena by Brian Nunes, the new Bishop of the Los Angeles Archdiocese San Gabriel Region.



ICF Branch 108 member Karla Rivera congratulates Holy Family Student Jase Flores, winner of the Spaghetti eating Contest at the Holy Family Fall Festival on October 20, 2024.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



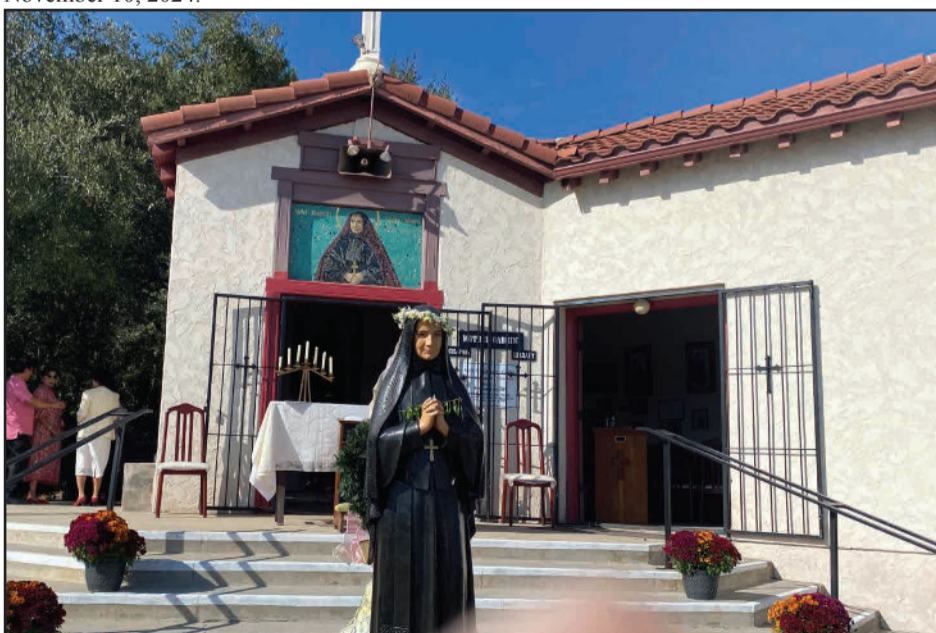
LA District banners at Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage



Br. 115 attended Mass during the Pilgrimage to St Frances Xavier Cabrini in Burbank, CA on November 10, 2024.



Br. 115 front of Chapel and Library of St Frances Xavier Cabrini during the annual Pilgrimage



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Chapel and Library in Burbank, CA



National Branch 67 Members: President Carmelo Sabatella with Jacob and Assistant of Jacob Catering, Carmelo with Harry Culotta with Members of Branch 380, Eugene Salandra with Missionary Sister Regina Palamara and Yvette Pappalardo (Holy Cross Hall), Eugene with Francesca Taylor (Cabrini Statue), Kris Kaiser and Carmela Funicello (Gift Table).

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Br. 209 Chefs Roy Spadoni & Donovan Dorr preparing our delicious Chicken & Polenta Dinner.



Judy & Brian Bushnell from Br. 209 selling our homemade salad dressing & biscotti cookies at our Chicken & Polenta Dinner.



Br. 209 serving up delicious chicken and polenta.

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

St. Michael, Br. 209
Sebastopol



Judy Barbieri and Lorraine Vannetti from Br. 209 taking tickets at the door at our Chicken and Polenta Dinner.

Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle
(You Come Down from the Stars)

Tu scendi dalle stelle
O Re del Cielo
E vieni in una grotta
Al freddo al gelo
E vieni in una grotta
Al freddo al gelo
O Bambino mio Divino
Io ti vedo qui a tremar
O Dio Beato
Ahi, quanto ti costò
L'avermi amato!
Ahi, quanto ti costò
L'avermi amato!
A te, che sei del mondo
Il Creatore
Mancano panni e fuoco
O mio Signore!
Mancano panni e fuoco
O mio Signore!
Caro eletto Pargoletto
Quanto questa povertà
Più mi innamora!
Giacché ti fece amor
Povero ancora!
Giacché ti fece amor
Povero ancora!



Peace and joy to you from Branch 403



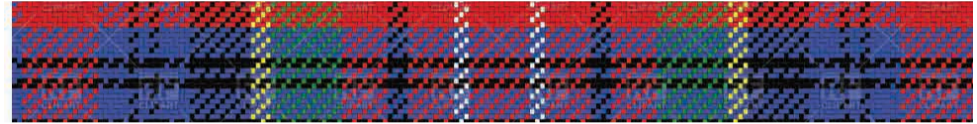
May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path

*Buon Natale
Leonard and Karen Rossi*



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

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

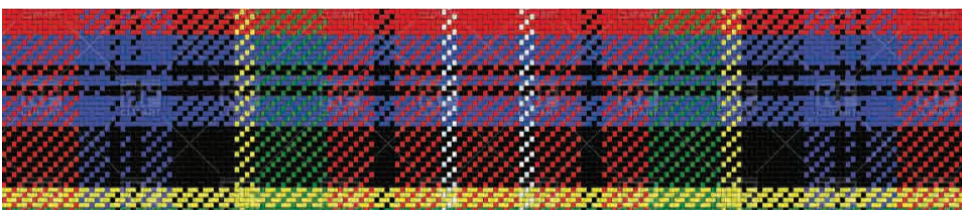


Buon Natale

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and always!

Wishing all my wonderful ICF family and friends a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

*Much love to you all,
Lisa Crudo*



Best Wished for A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

From the Officers and Members of Branch 213, St. Augustine, So. San Francisco, CA



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

EAST BAY District Council

The year is moving fast and is full of activities for ICF. The East Bay District was well represented on the ICF float at the Italian Heritage Parade in North Beach in October. Italian flags and fans celebrating our 100 Years' Anniversary were given out to the appreciative crowd. Thanks to JoAnn Donovan-Maggiore, Lisa Crudo and Leonard Rossi.

At our EBD meeting in November, we took time out to wish Lisa Crudo (Branch 343) Happy Birthday!

The East Bay District will be co-hosting a Christmas Celebration with Branch 10, at St. Philip Neri, Alameda, on Dec. 7th. Cocktails and appetizers start at 6pm followed by dinner. Santa Claus will be making a guest appearance.

In 2025 (already?) the East Bay and Contra Costa districts will hold their installation of officers together. The date is January 19th at Transfiguration Parish Hall in Castro Valley. Mass will begin in the afternoon, with installation and dinner to follow. Buon Appetito will be catering the dinner.

Save the date for the EBD Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on February 8th, 2025, at St. Phillip Neri in Alameda. Our chef is Benny Ratto and as usual there will be plenty of crab, pasta with pesto, salad and more!! Those creative gift baskets made and donated by each branch will be raffled. Details to follow.

Christmas Peace to you and those you love.

*Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
Sincerely
Roberta Madej*

Alameda

Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

We will open the New Year with our annual and very popular Polenta Dinner on Saturday, January 11. The location will be Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with social hour, and dinner will be served at 7:00. There will be a hosted bar, but we will not serve mixed drinks after 7:00 p.m. Reservations will be due at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4. For reservations and other information, please contact John Zugnoni. 510-326-3474 or john@zugnoni.net.

At the time this edition of the *Bollettino* was going to press, we were making final preparations for our combined East Bay District-Branch 10 Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7. Santa Claus is planning to join us and to bring presents for the youngsters in attendance.

We are sad to report the death on November 13 of a longtime member and officer, Sharon Brunetti. Sharon joined Branch in 2003 and served as secretary,

trustee and orator. She is survived by three sons, Michael, Kevin and Nicholas. Michael, his wife Lil and their two children belong to Branch 10. Sharon's husband Warren died earlier this year.

We are looking forward to the combined Contra Costa District-East Bay District Installation on Sunday, January 19 at Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley. As the oldest branch in the two Districts, we hope to fill the first row of chairs for the ceremony.

*John Zugnoni,
Branch 10 publicity*

Oakland

Br. 91, St. Lawrence O'Toole

Buon Natale 2024 e Felice Capo d' Anno 2025!

We wish all our fellow ICF members and their Famiglia a most blessed holiday season!!

Many special events have happened over the past few months that our members at Branch 91 have participated in.

This included the ICF float for the Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco, Bishop's Day in Crockett, (EBD & CCD) and the many fundraisers in The East Bay District—including Bingo Gatherings and Dinners. And of course, these included raffles as well!

For now, we are looking forward with joy, good health and continued activities in ICF.

There will be so many gatherings & activities to participate in at every branch level and our members will be a part of the ICF traditions!

In the meantime, if you are in our neighborhood—The East Bay District will do The Annual Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on Feb. 8th, 2025.

Saturday evening at St. Phillip Neri's with details to come.

This is always a crowd pleaser for all attending!

*Buone Feste a Tutti,
Jo-Ann Maggiore Donovan & Br. 91
Officers
St. Lawrence O'Toole/Divine Mercy*



CONTRA COSTA District Council

Hello Contra Costa and beyond.

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving. This year is flying by. We had Halloween, changed our clocks and had a Presidential election all within a short time.

And now it's almost Christmas. Our District Meeting will be held November 14 at the CTK meeting room in Pleasant Hill. I'm writing this report before that date. I will update the meeting details and list our newly elected District officers next month.

We have two events coming up. Our Christmas party. A flyer will be sent. Then our 2025 Installation of officers on Sunday, January 19. For the first time this will be a joint Installation with the East Bay District. The Mass and Installation will be held in Castro Valley. A catered dinner will follow. Watch for the Invitation.

Each branch should please mail your assessment to our treasurer.

*That's all for this time.
Merry Christmas!
Fraternally, Patty Jarrett*

President/District Mentor

Martinez

Br. 13, San Martino

The twelfth month holds much anticipation including Advent which is the expectation of Christ's birth and it cannot help but make us think of what is to come. December is synonymous with Christmas. But it isn't a season. It's a feeling. It is a time when celebration and togetherness take center stage. And what better way to capture the sensation of this festive holiday than tenderness for the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings and that every path may lead to peace. This is very important as our lives transition in the new year. It's time to make amends and tie-up loose ends, finish what you've started, and make your goals apparent.

At St. Catherine of Siena at 604 Melus Street, Martinez, you're invited to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on Monday, December 9 at 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.—bilingual, the Advent Reconciliation service is offered on Tuesday, December 10 at 6 p.m.; and, the Simbang Gabi novena begins on Monday, December 16 at 5:30 a.m. Come to one. Come to all.

Remember that every good and perfect gift is from above. Please live today with care for each other.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

As we close the centennial year, may your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill. God bless your good hearts always.

*Sempre Avanti!
Mary Cook*

Crockett

Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

The Holidays are here!

Please come join us for some holiday cheer on December 10th. Our Christmas Social starts at 5:30, and will include delicious appetizers and an open bar. We've all been pretty good this year, and (rumor has it) Santa will arrive to wish young and old a very Merry Christmas.

The ICF was formed to unite Italian Catholics with their community, heritage, and faith. Through our monthly meetings, fundraisers, scholarships, donations, and other activities and events, we serve those in need and also provide wonderful opportunities for socialization. Let's face it, we have fun! As a branch, let's dedicate 2025 as the year we really focus on the goals of our organization.

Let's ring in the New Year right by:

- Celebrating 5:00 Mass together before our January 14th meeting.
- Enjoying dinner after Mass, which will include soup, salad, garlic bread, eggnog, and panettone for \$15 per person.
- Actively participating in the meeting by sharing your thoughts and ideas.
- Inviting/bringing a member who no longer drives, or doesn't drive after dark.
- Sitting with someone new, and including them in your group of friends.
- Volunteering to help in some way (even if it's small). Every contribution is valuable!

We send healing prayers for Anthony Scardina, Reggie Perriera, and all our family and friends experiencing difficult times.

We congratulate our 2025 officers, and thank our members for their generous support this past year. We're looking forward to another fabulous year together, and wish you all a very Happy New Year!

*Blessings,
~Helen
Crockett*

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

FEB 1, 2025
2:00PM

TWO ROMANTIC
ONE-ACT OPERAS

Il segreto di Susanna
(Susanna's Secret)
by WOLF-FERRARI
sung in Italian with English supertitles

--AND--

The Telephone
by MENOTTI
sung in English

Tickets \$52
*Senior, Student
and Youth pricing
available
*ALL PROCEEDS to
benefit ICF
Charities, and
Thalassemia
Program at CHLA

Connolly Hall, Holy Family Parish
1527 Fremont Ave,
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Complimentary glass of
wine and hors d'oeuvres
with each ticket

www.operaitalia.com
info@operaitalia.com
213-248-2510
@operaitalia



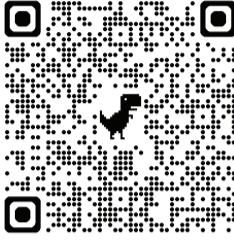


Italian Catholic Federation ~ Los Angeles District
Valentine Opera Fundraiser
In collaboration with OPERA ITALIA

Saturday February 1, 2025
Doors open 1:00pm, Opera starts 2:00pm
Connolly Hall, Holy Family Catholic Church
1527 Fremont Ave, South Pasadena, CA 91030

tickets may be purchased on Eventbrite
or via direct mail-in, using the form below

All proceeds donated to ICF Charities & Thalassemia Program at Children's Hospital, LA



If paying by check, make payable to "Italian Catholic Federation" & mail this form to:
Opera Italia, 1108 Palms Blvd, Venice, CA 90291
Info Text/Call 213-248-2510 info@operaitalia.com
www.operaitalia.com
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentine-special-two-romantic-one-act-operas-feb-1-2025-tickets-993730132577>

Each Adult Ticket includes a complimentary glass of wine
Delicious Italian appetizers served for all!
Special Italian Chocolate Tasting option for Dessert!

General Admission \$52	Senior (60 +) \$44	Student (with ID) \$34	Youth (18 and under) \$22
Name: _____		Email: _____	
Phone: _____		Phone: _____	
Specify number of tickets for each type		General x \$52 = \$ _____ Senior x \$44 = \$ _____ Student x \$34 = \$ _____ Youth x \$22 = \$ _____	
Special Add-On Dessert		Chocolate Tasting (4 samples) x \$4 = \$ _____	
Total: _____		\$ _____	

SPECIAL Group rates 10% discount for groups of 6 or more persons CALL/TEXT 213-248-2510 to arrange ~ EASY!!

Thank you ~ Grazie Mille
from Italian Catholic Federation & Opera Italia

Merry Christmas and Wishing You a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
The Pappani Family
Past Grand President Andy and First Lady Siria (Sid) Pappani



Buon Natale & Felice Capo D'Anno
Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
Grand 1st Vice President
Branch 21, Santa Cruz
Branch 227, Aptos





*Buon Natale
e
Felice Anno Nuovo*

*From
the Members of*

*Branch 14
Crockett*



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

*Sending a
very blessed
Christmas wish
to you.*

Italian Catholic Federation • Branch 28, Gilroy, CA



*May the spirit of Christmas bring you, Peace
The gladness of Christmas bring you, Hope
The warmth of Christmas grant you, Love*



*Buon Natale e
Felice Capo D'Anno*



*The Todos Santos Branch #214
Concord, Ca.*

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



*To: Our ICF
Family
From:
St. Cecilia's
Branch 39*

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

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 111- Happy Birthday to Crocetta

Br. 111- Bishop's Day Mass & Luncheon



Br. 111, October Mass

CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Branch 214 members who attended the pasta/bingo



Branch 214, member Sandra Cordoni celebrating her birthday.



Branch 214, President Roberta Healy.



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Santa Rosalia Branch 36/Monterey

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!**



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



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from the Officers and Members of the Santa Clara Valley District

Br. 5	St. Clare	Santa Clara
Br. 28	St. Mary	Gilroy
Br. 47	St. Joseph	Mountain View
Br. 184	St. Mary	Los Gatos
Br. 191	St. Frances Cabrini	San Jose
Br. 368	Santa Teresa	San Jose
Br. 391	St. Martin	San Jose
Br. 408	Resurrection	Sunnyvale
Br. 435	St. Catherine	Morgan Hill
Br. 445	Transfiguration	San Jose



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



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



The members of Branch 342, Auburn wish their fellow ICF members a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2025.



May the Christmas message of peace, hope and joy shine brightly...

Buon Natale e Felice Capo D'Anno

Past Grand President Bob Basuino

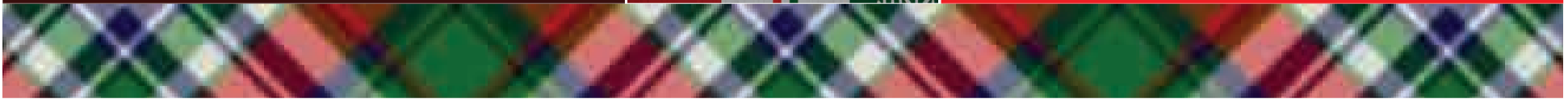


Merry Christmas from Officers and Members of San Mateo District



Wishing you a festive Christmas!

Roselyne & Aaron McNeal



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

Merry Christmas from the Land of Enchantment. Fraternally, Jim and Patty Jarrett



The weary world rejoices with Branch #13 in Martinez

CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 352, Fred, Sandy, Sally, Sis, Suzi, Margie



Br. 352, Tom and Lucy Oneto, Ed and Eileen Perez



Br. 352, Fred and Margie dancing with Atomic DJ



Branch 432, Members enjoying the Octoberfest apple strudel



Wow Crockett Branch 14 has 4 Chefs in the kitchen preparing for our Polenta and Sausage Dinner. Mmm good



Br. 432, Eleanor, Hildegard and Mike Valenti



Branch 432 new members



Br. 14, Thank you everyone from Crockett #14 who helped decorate the hall for our Successful Polenta Dinner. Great job!

Richmond Br. 154, St. Raymond

Our November Meeting was preceded with a beautiful mass said by Father Al Mengon, for our deceased members. We then enjoyed salad and a nice warm minestrone soup from our chef, Walter. Our meeting included a yummy fall dessert as we discussed our 2025 plans for the branch.

Our next meeting date is Monday, December 9th at 6:30. We will have a very short meeting after we celebrate our members and the Christmas Season with a delicious polenta dinner. This dinner is FREE for branch members and only \$15.00 for guests (please bring a guest). Hopefully, many members can be there for our year end celebration. Call Lorraine to reserve at 510-697-3128.

Also, at the December 9th Meeting, we will have a Cookie Exchange after our dinner. For those that want to participate, please bring 2-3 dozen cookies/treats to share. Everyone will go home cookies/treats from other participants. It will be fun!

One more thing, if anyone needs a ride to and from the December dinner/meeting, please call Walter and he can arrange it for you.

BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO
Sally Costa

Concord Br. 214, Todos Santos

Well, the Fall is upon us and we are enjoying cooler days.

Our branch went to a fun event in Castro Valley on November 2nd. It was a pasta/bingo with great food and many wonderful raffle prizes. It was hosted by St. Vincent de Paul. We had 9 members from our branch and we celebrated president Roberta Healy's birthday. Ed and Allison helped make this event special with their hard work.

On our October 17th meeting we celebrated our members Sandra Cordoni's birthday.

We had our election of officers for our branch for 2025. Gratefully our board members accepted their positions once again. Looking forward to another successful year ahead with hopefully new members and great charities to donate to.

On November 21st we are having our Thanksgiving feast and Toys for Tots hosted by the Marines. They will give a speech about Toys For Tots and join us for a delicious dinner. Roberta Healy makes the turkey and members provide the sides and desserts. It is a good cause and our members are generous with their donations.

Our Christmas meeting/ brunch is December 8th at Zio Fraedos' restaurant. It should be a fun event to kick off the

holiday spirit and we are so grateful for our health, family and friends.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

Please stay healthy and safe this during these holidays.

Gobble, Gobble
Norene Deluca

Danville Br. 352, St. Isidore

Happy November everyone, the month of gratitude!

Our annual fundraiser, raffle and auction, dinner dance on Saturday, October 19 was a success. We had fantastic Danville community support, 27 businesses donated to our raffle, and our members made beautiful baskets filled with assorted goodies, plus 5 live auction items. As usual, Russ and crew made a delicious dinner, followed by spumoni bomba dessert, always a treat. After the live auction this year we had Atomic DJ and he seemed to read the crowd really well because so many people were dancing. A good time was had by all. Unfortunately, I was so caught up in everything that I forgot to take a picture of our raffle tables that the team put together. Thank you to everyone that works so hard on this event, Sis Baatz, Sandy Stamates, Joan Marx, Suzi Reynolds, Margie Favro, and Fred Sanchez.

Our next event will be Monday, November 18 for dinner. We will have Laurice Levine speak on Cooley's Anemia which is a disease that affects people of Mediterranean descent. Cooley's Anemia is one of the Italian Catholic Federation charities.

Bona Ringraziamento Tutti
Sally Panella

Brentwood Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

Seven new members were present at our October meeting: Francisco and Martha Guitierrez, Sally Ortega, Natalia Joyce, Caroline Gray, Mark and Linda Lambert. Thank you for choosing to join our ICF Branch.

We all enjoyed the Octoberfest meal provided by Hildegard, Mike and Eleanor Valenti. The apple strudel was superb! Mike also provided us with his Heritage report, and it was fascinating. He included many old photos of his family in his PowerPoint presentation which we all enjoyed, especially the one of Mike in the short pants! Sandy Gamble has stepped up to provide a Heritage report in January 2025.

Our next meeting takes place on January 27, 2025! Before this year ends, please try to sell as much Sees' candy with the info that Laura provided.

We look forward to our Christmas dinner at Wence House on Dec. 10 with our new and old members ready to party.

May we be filled with kindness, patience, and understanding toward one another, and may we always seek to bring joy and harmony into our home.

Merry Christmas and Buon Anno a Tutti
Ciao for now! Mary M.

Pleasant Hill Br. 442, Christ the King

Branch 442 at Christ the King Parish in Pleasant Hill got into the holiday state-of-mind at their Thanksgiving-themed, November 17th meeting. Members had the opportunity to meet and spend time planning for 2025 activities and events.

A special November event was held on November 13th at the 9 a.m. mass. ICF members attended the mass and celebrated the feast day of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini. St. Francis Cabrini is one of the two patron saints of the ICF.

Mother Cabrini became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1909 and became the first U.S. citizen to be canonized a saint by the Catholic Church. She had entered the United States via New York City, and is now the patron saint of immigrants. Teri Hurlbut, our First Vice President, spoke briefly about Mother Cabrini's life and the ICF gifted all mass attendees with a holy card honoring Mother Cabrini.

All members of Branch 442 send their best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas season. May we all enjoy the beautiful Christmas traditions and recipes that our Italian heritage has given to us!

Buon natale a tutti e Dio vi benedica!
Diane Delucchi
Christ the King, Branch 442, Pleasant Hill

Deadline January 2

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT District

Sacramento Br. 45, St. Mary

Members and guests are invited to our Annual Christmas Dinner being held on Saturday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. at Vince's Restaurant. Details were provided to members at the November dinner. For more information, contact me at 916-508-1199.

Welcome new member MELODY HITT, who joined in October. Melody already has a connection to ICF through her grandmother, a longtime member. We look forward to your participation in the Branch.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of VERONA DEVITO who passed away in November. Verona and her husband Louis, were longtime members of our Branch. We will remember her beautiful smile and kindness. May she Rest in Peace.

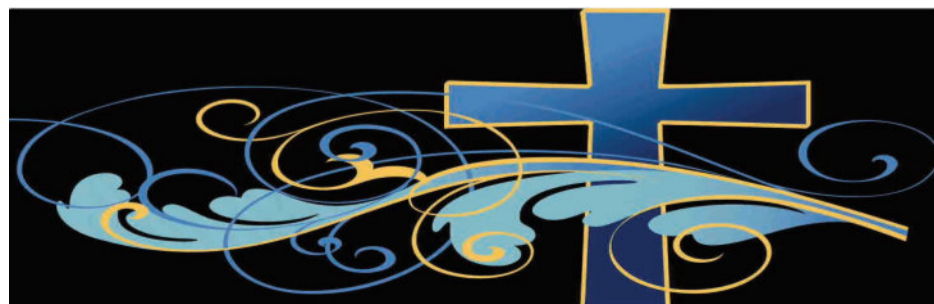
Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Holiday!
Ciao, Janine

Auburn Br. 342, St. Joseph

We hope you will be able to join us for our Christmas Dinner which will be held at St. Joseph's Hall on December 14th from 4 to 7 p.m. For only \$5.00 a person, there will be a delicious homemade pasta dinner, bread, salad, drinks and dessert. The Big Guy himself will be visiting after dinner and there will be an opportunity to win some great raffle prizes. If they haven't already done so, the calling committee will be contacting you soon to see if you will be able to attend.

If you haven't already had the opportunity, get your Polenta Dinner ticket! This very popular event will be held on Sunday, January 19th at St. Teresa's Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner includes polenta, chicken, sausage, salad, rolls and dessert. After dinner there will be dancing and a raffle drawing for great prizes. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased from Bridget Piziali at 530-906-0634 or MaryAnn Mikles at 916-759-8466. Hope to see you there.

Ciao! -Pam Andersen



CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



As part of his high school service project, Br. 291 member Vinny Orlando asked members to donate non-perishable snacks, first aid items, liquid IVs, toiletries, etc. to fill boxes to send overseas to service members. Due to the overwhelming amount of donations from our members, Vinny was able to fill 16 boxes!



Br. 227, November Thanksgiving dinner meeting (left to right) Officers Heidi Ambiel, Manny Martinez, Franklyn Lopes Jr., and Deanna Musler.



Branch 36 Initiation



Br. 227, November Thanksgiving dinner meeting (left to right) Sharleen Hedgpeth and Mary Christensen.



Branch 36 Michael Leonard Family 1st Prize Halloween Costume



Branch 36 Initiation Leona Aliotti



Kevin Cardona 1966 - 2024 Branch 36



Catherine Leiker 1951 - 2024 Branch 36



Frank Martin 1941 - 2024 Branch 36

EAST BAY DISTRICT



Br. 91 Italian Heritage Parade



Bishop's Day by Br. 91



Br. 91 Meeting - Dave Madej, Maria Raphael, Jo-Ann Donovan



Br. 91 Meeting - Donna Santich, Karen Rossi, Annette Maggiora, Fran La Torre



Happy Birthday Lisa Crudo



East Bay District Meeting & Raffle



East Bay District Meeting & Raffle

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Br. 446 Greg Ruffalo, Kevin Cavanaugh, Frank Deligio



Br. 446 President Santorufo dancing with Dr. Miranda



Br. 446 Festa Italiana



Br. 446 Amy and Danny Centurioni



Denise Antonowicz (Grand President) & Bishop Alberto Rojas



HEAD TABLE: Denise Antonowicz, Rev. Jerry Ochetti, Bishop Alberto Rojas, John Guerin, Carmen Hynds (friend of John Guerin-Pres. of San Bernardino District)



Bishop Alberto Rojas & Barbara Keough



Denise Antonowicz (Grand President) & Annie McCarthy



Bishop's Day invited guests with priests and seminarians



San Barnardino Bishop's Day : Rev. Arinze Ezeoke, John Guerin, Barbara Keough, Annie McCarthy, Ruben Chavarria, Bishop Alberto Rojas, Tony Santorufo, Denise Antonowicz (Grand President), Paul Emerick, Rev. Jerry Ochetti, Rev Carlos Flores, Rev Duong Nguyen, SVD, Declan Osueke, Rev. Hau Vu, Jesus Navarro, Fr. Thomas Davis, Jonathan Lopez

SAN FRANCISCO AREA



Branch 1's Heart warming presentation by Laurice Levine



Branch 1's 100th Birthday celebration for Mary Perata



Branch 1's Italian lunch



Branch 1's Italian lunch

FRESNO DISTRICT



Br. 308, Jo-Russ-Marilyn



Br. 308, Marilyn Renna

★
 FOR
 FOR
 unto us a
 Child is
 born,
 unto us a Son
 is given; and the government
 will be upon His shoulder. And
 His name will be called
 Wonderful
 Counselor,
 Everlasting Father
 MIGHTY GOD
 FATHER OF THE
 FATHERS
 DDINCE NE DE ACE
 I NINCE UT I LAVE
 ISAIAH
 9:6

STOCKTON DISTRICT



Branch 395 Members busily packaging donated cookies for our ICF Bake Sale!



Br. 395 Guest Speaker Laurice Levine, speaking during our October 17th ICF Branch Meeting.



Br. 395 A cake we presented to Laurice Levine, thanking her for her presentation, and her time.



Br. 395, Lots and lots of cookies packaged, ready for purchase!



Robert Bacchetti and Kenny Palmbo cooking the Polenta



Head chef Mike Bacchetti stirring the sauce



Our happy servers, Liz, Betty, Eleina, Chuck, & Annette



John Arlington preparing the chicken

STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 82 guest speaker Ralph Clark Italian Catholic contribution to Lodi



Br. 82, Past Pres, Lisa Fugazi & Lou celebrate 33rd Wedding Anniversary at our Polenta Dinner.

SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Millbrae Lions Leos preparing to serve Br 403's Polenta Dinner.



ICF Br. 403 Polenta 2024 - Paul and Adonna making shirley temple drinks for the Leos



Millbrae Lions kitchen crew for BR 403's Polenta Dinner Fundraiser.



Attendees at Br 403's Polenta Dinner.

Roseville

Br. 438, St. Clare of Assisi

As we go into the holiday season, we want to pause and be thankful to all the people that have helped us this year. We are ending the year with so much to be thankful for. Some things have remained the same such as our monthly dinners. They are always full of fun, laughter and lots of fellowship. Most of our members like to arrive early so they can talk about the latest happenings with their friends and meet the new members. The dinner delights this year were the Cinco de Mayo, Delectable Ribs, and Mama Mia.

In addition to our monthly dinners, were the fundraisers we organized. These were our ever-popular Bingo, a new Paint & Sip fundraiser, and a Spaghetti Feed and Raffle. We also had a Harvest Bake Sale that was very successful. This is thanks to all the donations we received from our members, along with all the volunteers who helped with all the fundraisers.

Our board wants to thank each and every member who participated in our dinners and fundraisers. Your time, talent and treasure have made this all possible. Working together always creates a family atmosphere because we are all working to make our ICF Branch a happy and inviting place to be!

As we move towards a new year, we are beginning to plan for our delicious dinners. We are also selecting fundraisers, in order to donate the funds to our favorite charities and help those who are in need.

Ciao for now...
Irene Perez

SANTA ROSA District

Healdsburg Br. 52, San Francisco Di Sales

Thank you to everyone who came to our Polenta Dinner on November 2! The energy in the gym was amazing. Thank you to Richard Passalacqua and crew for the polenta and his almost world famous sauce!

Upcoming Events:

ICF Christmas Party: Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. at The Agency Realty Office, 119 North Street. Celebrate some festive cheer and bring your favorite holiday appetizer to share. We will be distributing our Christmas charitable donations at the party. Please call Carmen and Lauren: 707-595-3111 to let us know you're coming!

Lauren is selling the ICF 2025 Calendars. Price is \$30.00 and you have 365 chances to win between \$30 to \$100. We've had several winners this year.

The 2025 calendar theme is "Dinner and a Movie." \$5.00 from each calendar sold stays with our branch.

We are hosting the Santa Rosa District Installation on Sunday, January 12. Mass: 10:00 a.m. with Installation and lunch following. Even if you're not an officer, this is a great event to attend to meet people from other branches and the Central Council.

For those of you who plan ahead, here are some important dates for 2025:

Polenta Dinner: Saturday, February 2, 2025

Fish Fry: Friday, April 11, 2025

Merry Christmas!
Lauren

Petaluma Br. 127, St. Vincent

Br. 127 Petaluma wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Reno Iezza is doing well after his surgery I am told. Also, we miss Marilyn Sylvestri and Mary Ellen Higgins who had bouts of pneumonia. Keep them all in your prayers.

Not much to report as we didn't have a Nov. meeting. I hope we can look forward to seeing you in 2025. We need to keep our branch active. Come and share any ideas you have to make our meetings more enjoyable.

Dessert and coffee are always served. And as I said before you could win the meeting money prize. It's a win-win deal.

Ciao for now, Margaret Godfrey

Eureka Br. 145, St. Ambrose

The Jerry J. Colivas Memorial Scholarship Dinner on October 12th (Columbus Day) was very successful. Jerry A. Colivas, his brother Sam, and friends Dana Hendricks and Joe Hall cooked up their best batch of spaghetti sauce yet. Over 80 people attended and there were 25 takeouts.

This is the second year we auctioned an apple pie made with the apples from the late St. Bernard parishioner Tom Bronchetti's apple tree.

Thank you, Erin McBride for making the delicious apple pie.

Along with the dinner ticket sales, the raffle, the bar, and generous non-dining donors the scholarship fund netted \$2092.

Also, a big thank you to Branch 145 members and Colivas family members who donated raffle baskets and items for the raffle and made generous donations to the fund.

Happily, the St. Vincent de Paul dining facility in Old Town was thrilled with our donation of four gallons of leftover sauce, pasta, and loaves of French

bread. They instantly had a spaghetti lunch for their next day's menu!

Special thank you to our new members Luciano Marazzo and his wife Trisha for the live entertainment. Luciano played classical guitar and gave an outstanding operatic song performance.

Santa Rosa Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As our year comes to a very successful end we should recognize and thank our Branch President Doreen O'Rourke for her leadership, her hard work and her personal relationship to all of our members. She has been the key to a great year for Branch 198.

The turkey dinner on November 4 was not only tasty but a sign of the fraternal relationship for which we can really appreciate THANKSGIVING. Thanks to Tom Nguyen, Ernie Giampaoli, Ryan McCalmont, Steve Azevedo and those who helped serve.

Remember: Calendars are still on sale. See Doreen at the December meeting.

Pray for all our members but especially Lorraine Castelli and Marc Bisio. May you and your family have a happy and a Holy Christmas.

Buon Natale
Robert Acquistapace

Sebastopol Br. 209, St. Michael

Greetings from Branch #209!

We had a wonderful turnout at our October 19th Chicken and Polenta Dinner! The chicken was cooked to perfection, our polenta was creamy and cheesy, and many people commented it was our best sauce (gravy or sugo) ever! If you've never been to a Branch #209 Chicken and Polenta Dinner, you should think about it for the future! Our next one is scheduled for February 15th, 2025.

We are now focusing on our upcoming Anniversary Ravioli Dinner, scheduled for December 7th! This dinner is a favorite for many, who wait all year to have our fresh raviolis and amazing meat sauce. Tickets are on sale now for this awesome event - call Lorraine Vannetti at (707) 527-9552 if interested!

Turkey and all the fixings will be served at our General Meeting on November 12th. With that, we wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! Also, a quick reminder that Branch #209 will be hosting its District Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8th.

Wishing everyone peace and love!

Ciao,
Yvonne Dorr
Recording Secretary
Branch #209

FRESNO District Council

President Vince Piro scheduled a meeting in Fresno where we discussed and voted on the 2025 board members, more to follow in our January article.

It was nice meeting with friends and making new friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
Robyn Piro

Merced Br. 39, St. Cecilia

Greetings to all members. Our last regular meeting of the year was held on November 13th. We enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner with salad, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rolls and pumpkin pie for dessert. Thank you to our board members for furnishing the dinner. Elections for 2025 officers were held after dinner. Thank you to all for participating in this process.

Now that things are getting back on track for the Italo American Lodge, our Biscotti bake sale was December 5th and 6th. It takes a team to mix, bake, cut, bake, label and bag the dozens of cookies, thank you to all who helped and those who planned and organized this fundraiser.

Our annual Family Christmas Party on December 8th was a success, enjoyed with family and friends. Santa's visit with toys and candy thrilled the children and some of the adults.

We continue to pray for our members, especially those who are sick and in need.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
PS, remember to pay your dues early for 2025.
Robyn Piro

Fresno Br. 308, St. Anthony of Padua

Hello Members,

Our dear member Marilyn Renna passed in October. She was a long-time member with her husband Russ. Her sweet, kind smile will be missed. Let's keep Russ in our thoughts.

Christmas Dinner will be held December 11, 2024, 6:30 at The Old Spaghetti Factory on Shaw. Bring an unwrapped gift for donation to Valley Children's Hospital.

For 2025 the Fresno District is hosting our Convention in Visalia on Labor Day weekend. Planning is underway.

I'll see you all in the new year.
Jay Newsome, Co-President

CENTRAL COAST District

Monterey

Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

A Merry Christmas blessing to our members and family. May your holidays be Bright and Merry and may your New Year give you peace, joy, health, love, and happiness.

“The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence. “Matthew 1:23

10-24-24 Halloween Dinner meeting: The evening started with 39 members on the program for new member initiation. Followed by a delicious dinner prepared by George Leonard and kitchen crew. (Roasted Italian sausage served with salad, pasta, garlic bread and pumpkin pie for dessert.) This was a very festive night with many wearing Halloween costumes with a Halloween contest. The Micheal Leonard family won first prize for best group costume.

During our business meeting we held our 2025 Branch 36 officers' election.

Congratulations to:

Co-Presidents: George Leonard, Elaine Valentine

1st Vice President: Dr. Vincent Malfitano

2nd Vice President: Turie Cavaliere

Recording Secretary: Florence Cavaliere

Corresponding Secretary: Annamarie Stanton

Treasurer: Catherine Elder

Financial Secretary: Richard Valentine

Orator: Jane Gasperson

Trustee: Andrew Clarke

Trustee: Ed Leonard

Trustee: Mary Manuguerra

Trustee: Doug Otmar

Trustee: Charlene Smith

Sentential: Sandie Russo

Past President: Joe LoManto

12-05-24 Family Christmas Parry at Moose Lodge

Chicken Dinner with all the trimmings, with a visit/photo with Santa, music, raffle and a festive evening for our members.

1-23-25 Moose Lodge Dinner-Meeting .

We are saddened to report that Kathy Leiker, Frank Martin, and Kevin Cardona recently passed away. Our condolences to their families and may they Rest in Peace.

“It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.”

Mother Teresa

*Buon Natale
Elaine Valentine
President Br 36*



Santa Cruz

Br. 21, N.S. Del Soccorso

As 2024 comes to a close, we marked our 95th anniversary of the ICF in service to Holy Cross Church at Santa Cruz.

Branch Officers for 2025 have been elected and a calendar for the coming year is being planned. The calendar and list of officers will be available in January.

Sadly, we remember Fr. Milton “Mike” Marini who passed away at the age of 93 on October 9, 2024. Fr. Mike served as pastor, spiritual advisor and ICF District Chaplain. A longtime local resident, Fr. Mike was a friend to many.

Thank you to Rosa Radicchi for spearheading our 18th annual Memorial Mass honoring the deceased members of the ICF, Holy Cross Parishioners, family and friends. More than 750 names were enrolled in the November 3 Mass remembrance.

Tuesday, Dec. 3 family and friends are invited for a Polenta & Chicken Christmas Dinner. Cost is \$20 and a discount of \$10 is given for new and renewing ICF members. Doors open to Holy Cross Hall 5:00 pm with dinner at 6:00 pm. Decorate your holiday table (optional) for a festive flare! Raffle prizes appreciated for the drawing.

Let's begin this New Year with enthusiasm, faith and prayer that we may live in peace and continue our work with the Italian Catholic Federation.

*Buon Natale,
Roseann Costabile
ICF Br. 21 Santa Cruz
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Santa Cruz, California*

Aptos

Br. 227, St. Joseph

Forty-five members enjoyed a catered Thanksgiving dinner at the November meeting in our temporary location at the Mid-County Senior Center. Thanks to Nancy Prevedelli for coordinating arrangements at the Center and conducting the raffle.

At the meeting the following officers were elected for 2025:

- President - Franklyn Lopes
- First Vice-President - Vicky Howell
- Second Vice-President - Manny Martinez
- Secretary - Deanna Musler
- Financial Secretary - Nancy Harrold
- Treasurer - Jane Kotila
- Orator - Bruce Dunn
- Trustees - Heidi Ambiel, Ken Olson and Magdalena Martinez
- Sentinel - Bryan Stow

We are grateful to outgoing officers Marie Mungai and Dottie Smith for their service all these years.

Also at the meeting, members voted to make the following contributions:



- Jesus Mary and Joseph \$250
- St. Francis Soup Kitchen \$250
- Sienna House \$250
- St. Vincent DePaul \$250
- Father Romeo Evangelista \$250

We were saddened by the loss of our popular member Jim Smith. He joined ICF in 2008 and was Treasurer from 2015 to 2017. We conducted our traditional rose ceremony at his funeral. Sincere condolences to Dottie and her family.

The Christmas party is December 8 at the Senior Center. Members are asked to bring appetizers to share. Santa Claus will be there with gifts for the children.

For those of you who purchased poinsettias, they will be available for pickup at Stewarts Floral during the week of December 9.

Remember to get your 2025 calendar from Franklyn Lopes. The cost is \$30, \$5.00 of which stays with our branch.

With wishes for a blessed Christmas filled with joy and peace.

Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande

Br. 291, St. Patrick

Br. 291 will be holding our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Madonna Inn on Sunday, Dec. 1st. We'll enjoy a delicious lunch in the beautifully decorated Madonna Inn ballroom, along with lots of raffle prizes and new entertainment this year by the St. Patrick School Children's Choir! A big thank you to Beth Nakamura who took over coordinating this big endeavor this year after the sudden passing of Joanna, who passionately planned our Christmas party for many years.

Vinny Orlando—a senior at Mission College Prep and an ICF member since he was 8 years old—recently asked our members to help him complete a service project. Vinny planned to fill 10 boxes for 10 service members overseas with non-perishable snacks, first aid items, liquid IVs, toiletries, etc. He asked members to bring the items to our October General Meeting to help fill the boxes. Due to the overwhelming amount of donations from our members, Vinny was able to fill 16 boxes to send overseas to some very lucky service members! Thank you to everyone for your very generous donations!

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

Wishing everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas season!

*Keely Sanchez
Recording Secretary*

SANTA CLARA VALLEY District

Gilroy

Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

My prayer for you during the next four weeks of Advent is to prepare and faithfully wait for the wonders of the Christmas season. Just as Mary was expecting, Joseph waiting for inner guidance, the shepherds watching their flocks, and the wise men searching the stars for direction, all were anticipating the greatest event of all. Take time to pray into this peaceful time that you may know that God loves you. May you feel the hope of Christmas.

December 16, 2024, is our annual Christmas Party at Old City Hall Restaurant. Come early to enjoy this evening with our Branch 28 family. The BIG 50/50 raffle drawing will take place after dinner. Who will be the lucky winner?

*Blessings,
Jeanette Hudson*

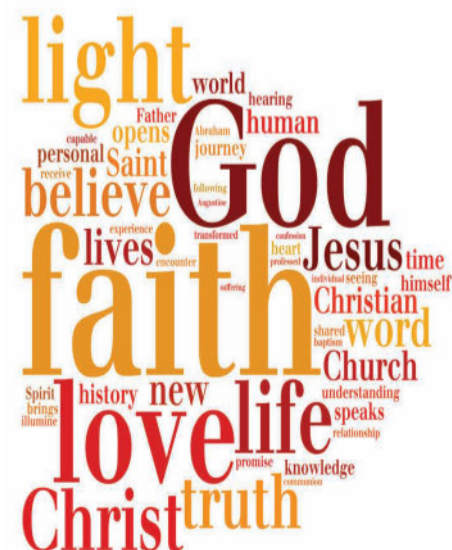
Mountain View

Br. 47, San Giorgio

Buon Natale!

Wishing everyone the Merriest Christmas and Happiest New Year! We were very excited to have our last Pasta Grab-N-Go fundraiser in November. St Joseph School donated a gorgeous pizza oven and a basket full of goodies, that we were able to include in our raffle. We donated all proceeds from the raffle to St Joseph School. We are looking forward to our Christmas party in December and seeing our members. We look forward to a wonderful New Year!

*Peace and God Bless!
Ciao, Julie*



St. Mary
Br. 184, Los Gatos

Our big news was the celebration of our 60th Anniversary on Nov. 2, with a Polenta-Chicken Cacciatore dinner. Denise Campagna, once a President of this Branch, donated the table settings, and Denise Antonowicz, Grand President, planned the decorations. Retired Fr. Greg Kim led us in Grace. The cooking committee, headed by Dave Romeri, gave us an excellent meal. The Buonaccorsi brothers, Rich and Jeff, did their father proud with the polenta. Music by Reno DiBono was enjoyed as they strolled among the tables and serenaded. The Raffle Baskets were lovely to see and exciting for the lucky ticket holders. We were honored not only by our members who attended, but the guests from neighboring branches. When the "expected" servers failed to show, members and guests of members stepped in to serve—imagine that!

By the time this letter is published, we will have a new President of the United States. We must remember that we are all bound together as one country, and we will endure no matter the outcome.

I cannot believe that soon we will be turning our attention to the Christmas Holiday. We wish you the best, now and in the coming months.

Ciao for now, Lucy Amico

San Jose
Br. 191, Saint Frances
Cabrini

Happy Holidays to all our ICF families! Hope the Holidays Season brings you much joy and renew faith in what the season is all about! Faith, Family and Fellowship much the same as our ICF!

Br.191 had a fun time at SFC Donut Sunday passing out donuts and getting our ICF name out there!

SFC will be having an Intercultural Mass Saturday November 16th with a reception to follow with the ICF providing spaghetti and meatballs!

We are gearing up for our Christmas Cookie Fundraiser taking pre-paid orders now and will hand them out December 15th at SFC Church! Turkey Bingo is Saturday November 23rd!

Happy Holidays Branch 191
Debbie Piro



San Jose
Br 368, Santa Teresa de
Avila

The numbers are in and the election is over. As we move into another day, month and a year, we need to be grateful for all that we have: health, family, friends, ICF, and our wonderful country. It may be time to remember again the positives that we have accomplished with ICF, and our church community.

The Santa Clara Valley District Bishop's Day was a wonderful day. Thank you to our board of Br. 368 for putting the day together. Bishop Cantu" appreciated the effort that Br 368 put in to make this day very special. Thanks to Fr George Aranha, and Fr. Chris Bennett for helping with the Mass. It was very special having Bishop Cantu give the homily and sharing how this gospel is part of our everyday lives. Our ICF spiritual director, Fr. Bennett completed the mass with a closing prayer. After mass we proceeded to Avila Hall for a catered luncheon. At the luncheon, Andy Pappani did introductions of guests. Debbie Piro presented Bishop Cantu with the Seminary Burse from the Central Council. Our president, Mary Ridi presented Br. 368's Spiritual Bouquet to Bishop Cantu. Denise Antonowicz, ICF Grand President, made a special presentation to Bishop Cantu from ICF.

Other news includes, Br. 368 attended mass at Santa Teresa on Nov. 8th with dinner after at Giorgio's. The board will meet on Tuesday December 3rd to discuss our calendar, the budget and fundraising events for 2025.

Bollettino is online at www.icf.org/about/news/bollettino/.

Have a wonderful November and December.
Happy Thanksgiving!
Tom Myers

San Jose
Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

In November, members were treated to a wonderful ham and scalloped potato feast prepared by Tony and Alba's Al and Diana Vallorz. President Steve Lencioni thanked our servers, those who are always there to set-up, and our callers led by Marcie Rossi.

Congratulations to our 2025 elected officers—President Steve Lencioni, Second VP Doug Schenk, Secretary Mike Rossi, Financial Secretary Tina Rossi, Treasurer Teresa Brodersen, Orator Sr. Jane Garrison, Trustees Lynda Vallorz, Marina Tilbury and newly elected Jessie Romero, and Sentinel Linda Ochiner. Thank you, Mayme Abbott, for serving as a Trustee in the past, and many thanks to the above mentioned who continue to volunteer.

In her heritage report, Louise Vento reflected on Thanksgiving and the immigration of our ancestors, who

followed the American dream by becoming productive citizens.

In December, members are asked to bring can goods for St. Martin's food drive. During our Christmas dinner, donations are collected for St. Vincent de Paul and St. Martin's Food Box program.

Our Branch 391 will be hosting the Installation of Officers at St. Martin's on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will follow and be catered by Tony and Alba's--price is \$40.

Reminders:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. social and 6:00 p.m. dinner; ICF Quarterly Mass at St. Martin's at 11:30 a.m.—December 8, 2024; and Officer installation--Saturday, January 4, 2025, 10:00 mass at St. Martin's, followed by lunch.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!
Janis Patellaro

Sunnyvale
Br. 408, Resurrection

Buon Natale!

Thank you to all our Generous Blood Drive Donors! Our December Blood Drive was a big success, and the Stanford Blood Drive looks forward to seeing you all back for our four Blood Drives in 2025.

Our Branch Christmas Party Potluck is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the Youth Room/Double Alcoves on December 9th – Please contact Patricia to declare what you will bring to Share.

Remember District Installation Mass will be the First week of January 2025 @ St Martin of Tours. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please Pray for our Members: Fr. Chris Bennet, Laurice Levine, Spike Burkhardt, Steve Richey, and Al Chantelope.

Morgan Hill
Br. 435, Santa Caterina
D'Alessandria

Our October 15th dinner meeting was prepared by the Gallego & Foggiato families. Honey baked ham, sweet potato casserole, corn pudding, salad and dessert was served.

We had an Election of Officers for the 2025 year with the help of our mentor, Pat Cordich. Bill Sheid was elected 2nd Vice-President. All other positions will remain the same, except for Toni Foggiato who is not able to continue as our Financial Secretary.

We thank Toni for her excellent work carrying out the Requirement of Financial Secretary. Catherine Ellis will assume the duties of Financial Secretary. We thank Catherine for her many years of Recording Secretary and sending out our monthly emails. Catherine and Susan Monahan check in our members for

dinner meetings. Thank you, Catherine and Susan!

Our November 5th Dinner only gathering was a great success. Polenta and Chicken Cacciatore was cooked by Tommy Palmer and Sus Chef Marcus Carpena and kitchen help, Shiela Carpena. Toni Foggiato put together a top-notch Antipasto Plate. We again welcomed Father Gerardo Menchaca who led us in prayer. Polenta was enjoyed by our members and their families and friends. It was a joy filled evening. Our Christmas Party is December 3rd at the Long House in Gilroy.

We ask for get well prayers for Charter Member and *Bollettino* Reporter, Sylvia Sorci.

Sending Peace & Love this Christmas Season.

Giulia Gallego
President Branch #435

San Jose
Br. 445, Transfiguration

Branch 445 members Jim Canger, Andy La Scola, Phil Lang and Robin Ledbetter each brought crockpots filled with their special Chili recipes for our October General Meeting. Many thanks to them and to our other members who added delicious sides and desserts for our evening dinner.

A heritage table displayed items honoring October as "Italian American Heritage Month". Heritage report featured St. Francis of Assisi, his October 4th Feast Day and the "Blessing of the Animals." Jean Cosentino raffled a variety of festive gourds for members.

Many thanks to Branch Mentor Jim Jones who headed the white ballot reelection of existing officers.

Members attended the October Installation Mass and Luncheon for Transfiguration's new pastor Rev. Chris Bransfield with Bishop Oscar Cantu. Also, Transfiguration's October Ministry Faire was an opportunity to invite parishioners to come learn more about ICF and be our guest at upcoming meetings. Jan Stumhoffer / Marti Rao manned the ICF information table and Bill Perry/ Jim Falcone the Lunch Ministry/CMO table.

Our autumn activities were overshadowed by the unexpected passing and short illness of Anamaria Falcone. She is the daughter of our Branch President and 2nd Vice President Jim and Janie Falcone. Our hearts go out them as we mourn with them and continue to keep Anamaria and the Falcone family in our prayers.

Happy December Birthday wishes to members: Julie Araiza, Antonio Costa, Jim Falcone, Andy La Scola, Verence Palma and ... Cheers to Ninety years to Richard Pfaff!

Blessings and Buon Natale to all.
Until next year stay safe and well,
Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

STOCKTON District

Lodi Br. 82, St. Anne's

Tis the season! At our November meeting we viewed Rick Steves' "European Christmas – Italy," learning how Italy's celebration lasts from Advent through Epiphany, including the Feasts of St. Nicholas and St. Lucia.

Speaking of celebrations, we observed the branch anniversary on Dec. 1st by attending mass, then gathering for brunch at the Hollywood Café. Hard to believe it's been 6 years since we reestablished Br. 82.

Congratulations to our 2025 slate of Officers! Accepting the position shows your dedication to ICF and its values. President – Chris Whiting; 1st VP – Margaret Foley; 2nd VP – Tom Perry; Financial Secretary/Treasurer – Elisa Moberly; Recording Secretary – Amanda Moberly; Corresponding Secretary – Patty Litts; Orator – John Spagnola; Sentinel – Lori Johnston; Trustees – LuAnn Casey, Lisa Fugazi, and Grace Puccinelli. And special thanks to Deacon Karl Welsbacher for continuing as our Spiritual Advisor. Sun, Jan. 5th is the 2025 District/Branch Officer Installation at St. Stanislaus in Modesto. All members are invited to this mass and ceremony with a luncheon to follow.

Our branch College Scholarship and Thrive Grant were awarded to two well-deserving young adults: Ronin Cordero and Arianna Gorbet. Congratulazioni!

There will be no meeting in December. Jan. 28th will be our next meeting of the New Year!

As we prepare for Christmas, find time in your busy lives for quiet prayer, reflecting on the wonder of our Heavenly Father's love, and allow the story of our Savior's birth to penetrate your heart and mind.

Buon Natale...Patty Litts, Corresponding Secretary

Manteca Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio

After a discussion of membership issues facing our branch, as well as the Federation in general, we held elections to select our 2025 officers.

The officers elected were: Presidente - Birdie Nieri; Vicepresidente - Ida Queirolo; Segretario - Ronald Agostini; Tesoriera - Michelle Harmon; Orators - Dan and Annie Cunial; Sentinel - Ed Fichtner; Trustees - Patti Fichtner, Yvonne Chi, ente and Tim Cabral.

They will be installed at a Stockton District meeting in January.

Ciao, Mariano

Tracy Br. 390, St. Bernard

Sometimes 'thank you' isn't enough. You are the ones who make our fundraising successful year after year. In addition to awarding scholarships to member children and grandchildren, donations to seminarians, and contributions to St. Bernard's Church, year-end gratuities are also going to those who volunteer by giving up their valuable time to purchase supplies, cook the meals and set up, tear down and clean up after our monthly dinners. Thank you all!

We had 173 folks attend our October dinner meeting! We anticipated a large crowd but this was a bigger-than-expected one! Our current membership number as we near the end of 2024 is 175. We are very grateful for our members and new members joining us, and we especially appreciate new volunteers to serve on our board of directors. Our new 2025 board will be announced next month.

Please keep our ICF families and friends in your prayers as the health issues with some of our loved-ones continue. Thanks to all 'prayer partners' for their support again.

Check out our website. You can share family memories in our Heritage section. We would love to hear where all your ancestors came to America from and some of us have already shared that on the website.

www.icfbranch390.org

*Stay healthy, happy & safe.
Merry Christmas,
Betty*

ICF is Going Green!

If you prefer to read the *Bollettino* at the magnification of your choice, in full color, on your computer or portable electronic device, and like the idea of saving a tree while helping us save printing costs, visit this link to sign up: <http://eepurl.com/bLaMFb>



Stockton Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

Saluti! Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

October and November 2024 were both event-filled months for Branch 395!

We were most fortunate to have Laurice Levine, a Cooleys Anemia Spokesperson, as our Guest Speaker during our October 17th Branch Meeting. Laurice spoke extensively about her life growing up with Thalassemia, and the challenges she faced, and continues to face, throughout her life. Our Branch Meeting was well attended, which included members from Lodi Branch 82. Laurice answered all of our questions – so many questions, in fact, that our meeting ran late!

On Sunday, October 13th, we had our ICF After-Every-Mass Bake Sale. All of our baked goods, so generously donated by our ICF Branch 395 Members, were quickly and completely sold-out! This fundraising event netted a profit of \$1,045 for the day, in support of our charities.

On the evening of November 12th, Fr. Mark presided over an Italian Mass at Presentation Church. Immediately after the Mass, all present were invited to gather together in one of our meeting rooms, for fellowship and light refreshments.

In closing, we elected our new ICF Branch 395 Officers for next year. We are pleased to announce the following members as our new Officers for 2025: President: Mary Ann Piana Chapman 2nd Vice-President: Bob Langone Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Josephine Weber Orator: Robin Deiro Trustee 1: Virginia Larson Sentinel: Marylyn Ramacher

The offices of 1st Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Trustees 2 and 3 remain vacant at this time.

Wishing you and your family good health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the coming New Year!

*La pace sia con voi,
Allen Sturtevant, President
ICF Branch 395, Presentation Church,
Stockton
Stockton District*



SAN BERNARDINO District

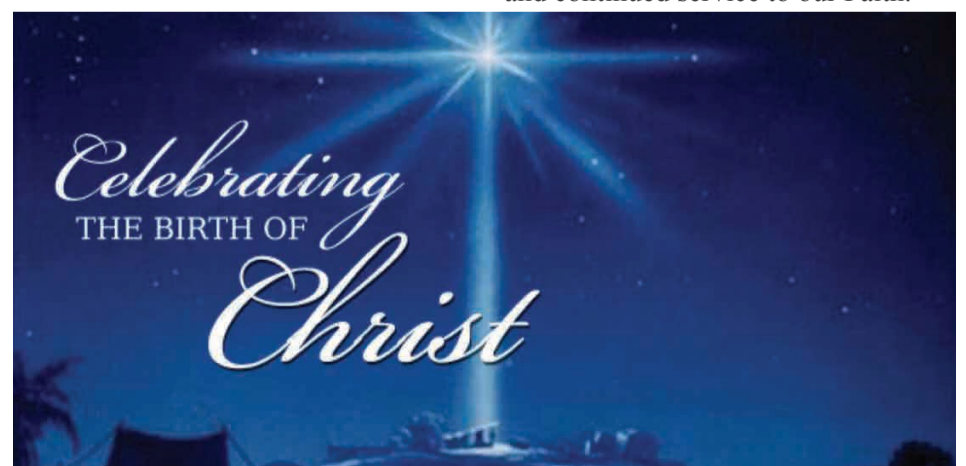
Upland Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Our Festa Italiana was a tremendous success due to the work and support of many of our members. Carrey Rossie, our First Vice-President planned a spectacular event. Over 200 guests attended. The catered buffet dinner included chicken marsala, pasta, meatballs, bread, salad and dessert for \$25. Wine, soda, and beer were available for purchase. Many of our members baked and donated all the desserts and also helped to set up and decorate the church hall. One of our wonderful members donated all the wine. Our President, Tony Santorufo, was MC for the evening which also featured our two priests who are members of our branch: Fr. Jerry Ochetti and Fr. Ned O'Donnell. The evening's festivities included a performance by an opera soprano along with a marvelous dance band that played for 3 hours. A special highlight was opportunity drawings for various gift baskets. A big hit was a bowl of "greens": cash bills disguised as a bowl of salad.

We anticipate that next year's Festa will be equally entertaining and full of fun.

We look forward to the upcoming holiday season when we will have a special Christmas event for our members. The new year will bring a change in a few officer positions. But we have our calendar in place and budget set so all the transitions will go very smoothly. We look forward to a fantastic 2025!

Best wishes and blessings to ALL the ICF branches. We wish you a year full of joyful memories with family and friends, shared commitment to our goals and continued service to our Faith.





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

*Deborah Rodondi
Past Grand President*

*Buon Natale
e Buon Capo
D'Anno!*



Lauren Kilcullen
Grand 2nd Vice President

Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and New Year! We are thinking of all of our I.C.F. members and hoping you are doing well.

Our prayers are with you. We also remember our dear members who have passed away. They remain in our thoughts and our hearts.

Officers and Members of
Br. 50, San Francisco



BUON NATALE A TUTTI FROM BRANCH 91!!



**Buon Natale e
Felice Capo d' Anno**

From the Contra Costa District

Martinez Branch 13
Crockett Branch 14
Richmond Branch 154

Concord Branch 214
Danville Branch 352
Brentwood Branch 432

Pleasant Hill Branch 442



**BUON NATALE da
Donivan
AND MAGGIORA!**



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

FROM BRANCH 442 PLEASANT HILL
CHRIST THE KING ST STEPHEN PARISH



TU SCENDI DALLE STELLE

BUON NATALE
ST. ANNE'S, LODI, BRANCH 82

YOU COME DOWN FROM THE STARS (Traditional Italian Christmas Song)



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

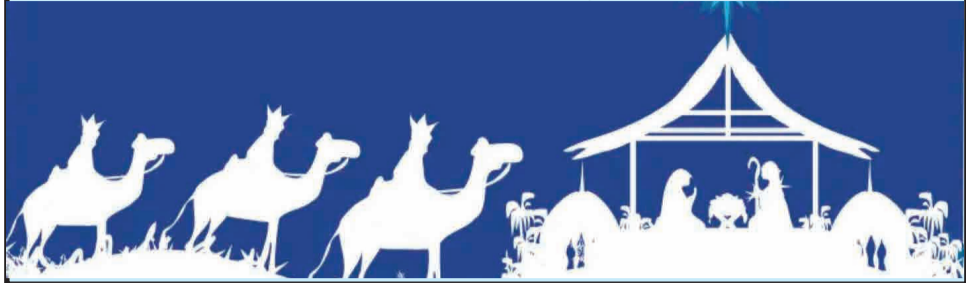
Branch 332, Novato (Darin Area) is asking God to rain down on our ICF Family all the joys & blessings of Christmas and the New Year.



Joy to the world

Merry Christmas
and
Best Wishes!
From
The Fuentes Family

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



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



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year!
From I.C.F. Br.#144 in Arcata, CA

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!
from the Officers and Members
Branch 391, St. Martin of Tours
San Jose, CA



Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo

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



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



O Come Let Us Adore Him!

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



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

Buon Natale e Felice Capo D'Anno

From the Officers and Members
of Branch 210, Fontana



St. Francis Borgia, Br. 392 Chicago, IL
Happy 100th Anniversary to the
Italian Catholic Federation
Best Wishes from Central Council Member Teresa Helfand

The tradition of singing Christmas carols originated in Italy in the 13th century. San Francesco of Assisi and his followers wrote many Christmas hymns to give thanks for the birth of Baby Jesus (il Bambino Gesù).



Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library

Carmelo Sabatella

On November 10, 2024, Mother Cabrini Mass, Pilgrimage, Benediction and Luncheon was held at Saint Francis Xavier Church in Burbank CA. Branch Members, Parishioners, guests and families joined in the Celebration of Mother Cabrini's rise to Sainthood on November 13, 2024.

Thank you Father Sebastian Vettickal, Associate Pastor and other cocelibrants celebrating Mass in St Francis Xavier Church followed by Pilgrimage to Chapel to celebrate Benediction followed by Luncheon in Holy Cross Hall to honor Mother Cabrini.

Thank you also to Cabrini Chapel Committee members and ICF Branch and National Branch members for joining us and making this a successful event. Also thank you to the Cabrini

Chapel Committee for coordinating this beautiful event.

Come visit the Chapel and Library and Mother Cabrini Chapel Store. For more information on the Chapel and Library please visit icf.org/mother-cabrini-shrine

SAVE THE DATE

- December 8, 2024 - Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House at St Francis Xavier Church at 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA from 10 am to 1 pm hosted by the ICF San Fernando Region.

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



A Natale Puoi

A Natale puoi
Fare quello che non puoi fare mai
Riprendere a giocare
Riprendere a sognare
Riprendere quel tempo
Che rincorrevi tanto
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può amare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più... per noi
A Natale puoi...
A Natale puoi
Dire ciò che non riesci a dire mai
Che bello è stare insieme
Che sembra di volare
Che voglia di gridare
Quanto ti voglio bene
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può amare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più... per noi
A Natale puoi...
È Natale
E a Natale si può amare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più... per noi
A Natale puoi...
Luce blu
C'è qualcosa dentro l'anima che brilla di più
È la voglia che hai d'amore
Che non c'è solo a Natale
Che ogni giorno crescerà se lo vuoi
A Natale puoi...
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può amare di più
È Natale
E a Natale si può fare di più
È Natale
E da Natale puoi fidarti di più
A Natale puoi...
Puoi fidarti di più...
A Natale puoi...

At Christmas You Can

At Christmas you can
Do things you can never do
Start playing again
Star dreaming again
Take back the time you were chasing so much
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can love more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more for us
At Christmas you can...
At Christmas you can
Say things you can't ever say
How nice it is being together
It feels like we're flying
What an urge to shout out how much I love you
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can love more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more... for us
At Christmas you can...
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can love more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more... for us
At Christmas you can...
Blue light
There is something inside the soul that shines the most
It's the desire you have for love
Which isn't just at Christmas
That grows every day if you want it to
At Christmas you can...
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can love more
It's Christmas
It's at Christmas you can do more
It's Christmas
And from Christmas you can trust more
At Christmas you can...
You can trust more...
At Christmas you can...

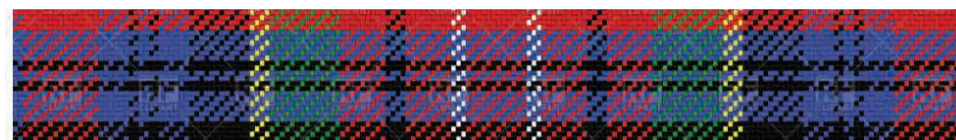
Buon Natale e Buon Anno a Tutti!
From
St. Eugene's, Br. 198, Santa Rosa



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



Buon Natale e
Felice Anno
Nuovo!
...da tutti i
Musicisti ed i
Cantanti di
Opera Italia



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



In honor of the love, faith and delicious Italian cooking my beloved Grandma Libby Farello has shared throughout her life, I hope you enjoy her cherished Italian Meatball recipe with family and friends this holiday season to celebrate our Italian traditions. Wishing all ICF members a season filled with joy and blessings!

- 2 lbs. ground beef (sirloin) 10%
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, & parsley
- 4 eggs
- 4 tbsp. grated parmesan cheese
- Italian breadcrumbs (As much as needed to make meatballs firm)

Mix all ingredients together, form meatballs in the desired size
Heat oven to 450 °F

Put meatballs in a baking pan filled with 1 inch of water, put in oven for 20 mins. then remove pan and rotate the meatballs for even cooking and put back in the oven for 10 mins.

Remove meatballs from baking pan, then simmer slowly in your favorite sauce for 2 hours.

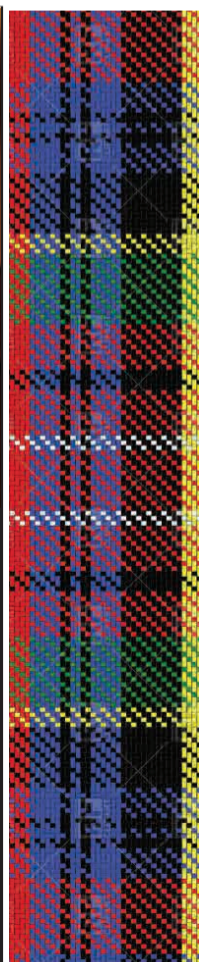
Buon Appetito!

-Sarah Farello

Br. 380, Thousand Oaks



This Christmas
May we be reminded
of the *Hope, Joy*
Love & Peace
FOUND IN CHRIST
Romans 15:13



The Officers and
Members of
Branch #191
St. Frances Cabrini
San Jose

Buon Natale



*Stockton
District*



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Angels Camp

Felice Capo De Anno