



BOLLETTINO

ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage



ICF is Keeping Our Heritage Alive!!!



Branch 36, Children waiting for Jolly Santa



Branch 115, (L-R) New members father and son Nicholas and Nunzio Boccanfuso, Br. 115 Pres. Neal Di Leva, member Giovanni Boccanfuso with new member daughter Francesca Boccanfuso.



Our young members from Branch 14 enjoying the evening with Santa. Fun evening at our Christmas Social.



Cooking for Branch 191 Christmas party

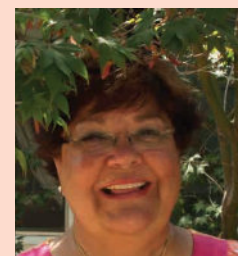


Br. 446 Carrey Rossie receiving president's gavel from Tony Santorufo

Grand President's Monthly Message *Buon Natale!*

Denise Antonowicz

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Italian Catholic Federation, It fills me with great joy to stand before you today as we initiate our new leadership. For a century, the ICF has stood as a beacon of values, fostering fellowship, faith, and family across generations.



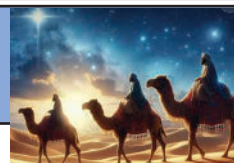
Today, I'm thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative that will strengthen our beloved Federation: **ICF 101**. This innovative program represents our commitment to nurturing the next generation of ICF leaders while ensuring our cherished traditions continue to thrive.

ICF 101 is designed to be a comprehensive introduction to our organization's rich history, values, and mission. Through this program, new and prospective members will learn about:

- Our founding story and the visionary leadership of Sir Luigi Providenza
- The core values that guide our Federation: faith, family, fellowship, and heritage

Heritage — The Epiphany

Louise Vento, Committee Member



The Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th, marks the end of the Christmas season. According to tradition, the Magi traveled through Egypt, following the star to Bethlehem, where it is believed they arrived on January 6th. Upon their arrival, they worshiped the baby Jesus and presented him with gifts.



In Italy, children do not receive presents on December 25th, Christmas Day. Instead, they receive gifts on January 6th during the Feast of the Epiphany. Interestingly, it is not Santa Claus who brings these presents but La Befana, an old, toothless woman.

According to legend, La Befana flies on her broom, leaving gifts and filling children's socks with sweets. However, she is also known to leave garlic or lumps of charcoal for those who misbehave.

The Epiphany is celebrated across Italy with festivals featuring booths selling toys, food, and handmade items. On the eve of the Epiphany, January 5th, many towns host processions where participants dress as the three Magi. Boys often carry torches to light the way for the Magi, and these processions typically end at the local church with a mass celebration. Most Italian families keep their Christmas trees up until January 6th to mark the conclusion of the holiday season.

Tutte le feste punta via. Buon Anno.

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
March issue is
February 10, 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:

It's often difficult to see the light when life feels consumed by darkness. Harder still, when we lack the support of others to help us navigate through the shadows and catch a glimpse of hope. Yet, even in our most trying moments, there's a profound truth we must hold on to: light always exists, even if it feels hidden. This year, proclaimed by the Pope as the Year of Jubilee, carries a message that resonates deeply with this reality. While many might interpret this declaration as a promise of joy and prosperity, we all fervently pray for it to hold a deeper, more transformative meaning.

The 2025 Jubilee will be centered on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." As His Holiness Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." The Jubilee began on December 24, 2024, with the official Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, and runs to January 6, 2026, the Feast Day of Epiphany, with the Closing of the Holy Door.

I think we can see in the manger the model of finding hope that lifts our souls so they may soar! "Hope in a manger" is a phrase that refers to the idea that hope can be found in the birth of Jesus Christ: The phrase suggests that hope comes from the person of Jesus, who was born in a manger, died on a cross, and rose from the tomb. It can also be a reminder that hope is not dependent on predictions about the future or the promises of politicians.

The hope of the world in a manger. Imagine that. This year more than any other, I have been pondering Christ's coming to the earth. His humble and ordinary birth was not by chance.

Like everything, it was strategically and purposefully planned by God for the saving of His people and His glory on earth. We've seen the nativity scenes and heard all the facts, but how often do we experience the beauty of the gospel that came in the form of a baby to serve, save, and reign forever. It is staggering that He came at all! But He did. He willingly came to this earth He created. Emmanuel, God with us, as one of us. Not in the form of an angel or a magnificent creature. No, He came clothed in the weakness of flesh and bone. Jesus became human to endure with us and bear our grief and sin. And in that fullness of God and man, our Hope laid as a baby in a feeding trough.

The Gospel of Luke provides one of the most detailed and vivid accounts of the Nativity. His description captures the humble and miraculous birth of Jesus, highlighting the themes of hope, divine intervention, and the fulfillment of prophecy. Luke describes how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, how there was no room for them in the inn, and how Jesus was born in a manger. The scene of the shepherds being visited by angels and then going to see the newborn Jesus is particularly moving and symbolizes the good news of great joy for all people. Reflecting on Luke's Nativity story, during this time of renewal and hope, can bring a sense of peace and a deeper understanding of the significance of Christ's birth in our lives.

Joseph and Mary retrace their steps to Jerusalem, where they find the son, who reassures them in their concerns that he is okay. He says, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Indeed, the light of Christ coming into the world through such humble beginnings is a powerful symbol of hope, love, and salvation. The manger scene reminds us of the humility and simplicity with which Christ entered our world, bringing with Him a mes-



Father Christopher Bennett
ICF Spiritual Director

sage of peace and redemption.

The essence of this Jubilee is a call to remember: no matter how overwhelming the darkness, we must not forget to seek the light. It is an invitation to give thanks, regardless of our circumstances, and to place unwavering trust in the salvation of Jesus Christ. In Him, we are reminded that our race is not merely physical but spiritual. Whatever we undertake this year, let us walk with Him, trusting in His guidance and grace. Let us allow the light of the Lord to shine brightly, illuminating even the darkest corners of our lives.

As we embark on this journey together, we may find strength in His promise, hope in His love, and peace in the knowledge that we are never alone. Wishing you a year filled with joy, hope, and countless blessings. May this year bring you closer to your dreams and fill your life with moments of peace and happiness.

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

Blessings.

Fr. Chris

**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 as we continue to celebrate our New Year. 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.

Convention Article: "Gateway to God's Bounty."

We hope all members had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Convention Directors Committee is continuing the planning the 2025 Convention. We are excited to announce two added items:

The first is our Thursday, August 28 event which will be a baseball game at the Visalia Rawhide Baseball Club.

The team is the single-A franchise of the Arizona Diamondbacks. We have 60 tickets for our own private area – "The Saloon" (see photos). The ticket price is to be determined, as we're working on catering. The price will include a game ticket, all you can eat buffet and non-alcoholic drinks. Alcoholic drinks and extra food may be purchased at the game. Time: 6:30 p.m. Gates open: 5:30 p.m. The Rawhide are playing the San Jose Giants. The baseball park is 9 minutes from the hotel and has free

parking! Plan to arrive early to the Convention and attend the game. The Saloon has seating under an overhead with misters for those who want to socialize more than watch the game and stadium seats for those who are serious about watching the game.

The second item is our donation project, which this year will benefit the Salt and Light Organization.

They are a local organization in Visalia who transform the lives of our Central California neighbors at risk of or experiencing homelessness by fostering community and belonging. They offer dignified housing, essential case management services, purposeful work opportunities, and outreach programs rooted in dignity and radical hospitality. They have recently opened a village of tiny homes to move the homeless off the street and into housing. Salt and Light are requesting household clean-

ing items (dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.) and hygiene products (deodorant, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.). You've been more than generous the past two years with donations. Please bring your donations to the Convention to give to the group. More information about Salt and Light may be found at their website: <https://www.saltandlight-works.org/>

I'm still looking for branches to volunteer to be a part of the "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

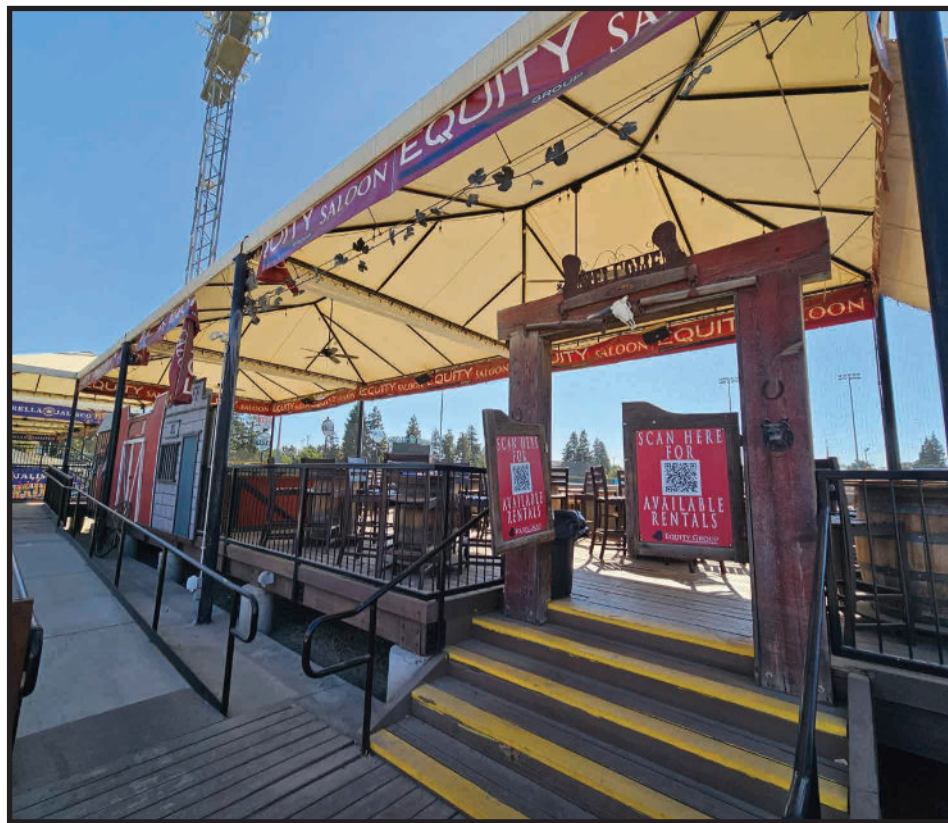
thoughts include:

- 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 take place on Saturday during lunchtime.

Convention registration will remain at \$385.00 per delegate and includes Friday Night Opening Dinner, Saturday Night Banquet, and Sunday Awards Lunch.

Lauren Kilcullen
Convention Director



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION CONVENTION AWARD CATEGORIES

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

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

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

POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII AWARD

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

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA AWARD

GRAND PRESIDENT'S AWARD

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

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

FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

The new deadline for submissions is April 1.

IRS AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

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

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

The IRS limit for the tax year ending 2024 is the following:

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

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

The State limit for the tax year ending 2024 is the following:

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

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

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

Both Forms must be filed no later than May 15, 2025. The IRS and State strictly adhere to this date, so please take this process seriously.

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

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

Please make sure all District or Branch finances are in order and that Bank Statements are reconciled through December 31, 2024. Remember that the Gross Receipts are total amounts received without subtracting any costs or expenses. These amounts include, but are not limited to, Membership and Hospitalization Dues, Dinners, Fundraisers, Raffle Tickets, Income from Convention Raffle Tickets and Calendar Sales, Interest from all Bank Accounts, Monetary Donations, etc.

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION AWARD NOMINATION

Nomination Year: 20_____

Award:

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

Nominations must be postmarked on or before April 1.

Please include with this application:

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

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

Statement of Endorsement:

Nominee:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Branch #/City: _____

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

Nominated By Individual, Branch or District:

Contact Person:

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications Summary:

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

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

Sir Luigi & Lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund Donations*

Received as of January 1, 2025:

IN MEMORY OF:

Marilyn Renna
 Marilyn Renna
 Steve Infantino
 Gay Tortorici
 Nonna Jo Grant
 Most Reverend John S. Cummins
 Council
 Most Reverend John S. Cummins
 Jeanne Bencharsky
 Mike Nunziata
 Mike Nunziata
 Kathryn Oliver
 Kathryn Oliver
 Kathryn Oliver
 Ange Demanti
 Chuck Lamon
 Emily Corral
 Emily Corral

DONATED BY:

Officers/Members of Br. 308
 Susan Mencarini & Jay Newsome
 Officers/Members of Br. 191
 Officers/Members of Br. 380
 Giovanni and Nancy Corsi
 Officers/Members of Central
 Council
 Joan and Jerry Delfino
 Donna and Steve Barnes
 Mike and Marcie Rossi
 Denise Antonowicz
 Denise Antonowicz
 Officers/Members of Br. 191
 Mary Rossetto
 Joan and Jerry Delfino
 Patty and Jim Jarrett
 Franklyn Lopes, Jr.
 Louise Vento

HEALING PRAYERS FOR:

Diana Vallorz Donna Rossi

IN HONOR OF 75 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN BR. #52, HEALDSBURG:

Miria Garfagnoli Bob and Kathy Acquistapace

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVIDENZA FUND:

A donation was made to the Providenza Fund by Branch 342 - Auburn.

*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*

- Our charitable works and commitment to supporting seminarians
- The structure of our branches and districts
- Opportunities for leadership and community involvement

What makes **ICF 101** special is its interactive approach. Participants will connect with seasoned members who'll share their experiences and wisdom. They'll learn about our traditions firsthand, from our festive heritage celebrations to our dedication to charitable works.

We're rolling out **ICF 101** across the ICF starting next month. We will be creating user-friendly materials that blend traditional wisdom with modern learning approaches, making our organization's rich history and values accessible to all.

This initiative isn't just about teaching – it's about building bridges between generations, strengthening our community bonds, and ensuring the ICF remains vibrant and relevant for the next 100 years.

I invite each of you to embrace **ICF 101**, whether as a mentor sharing your experience or as someone eager to deepen your understanding of our beloved Federation. Together, we'll ensure that the torch of our Italian Catholic Federation burns brightly for generations to come.

Before I close, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated leaders who have made ICF 101 possible.

A special thank you goes to Rosemary Cook and the Public Relations Commit-

tee, whose innovative ideas are helping us refresh and modernize the ICF for today's generation. Your vision for our future is inspiring.

To our Ways and Means/Heritage Chairs, Bob Basuino and Franklyn Lopes, Jr., and your committee, thank you for your steadfast commitment to preserving our traditions and for very successful Galas and fundraisers.

Perry Shurko and the Expansion Committee, your work in growing our Federation continues to be remarkable.

Also, thank you to my chairpersons: Lisa Crudo, Andy Pappani, Vince Piro, Carmen Kilcullen, Bob Acquistapace, Leonard Rossi, Teresa Helfand, and Leonard Zasoski. Your leadership has been invaluable to me and the ICF.

And last, I must recognize Lauren Kilcullen for her exceptional work with our Conventions. Lauren, you've consistently raised the bar, creating memorable and meaningful gatherings that strengthen our ICF family bonds.

These leaders exemplify the spirit of service that makes our Federation strong. Their combined expertise and dedication have been instrumental in bringing **ICF 101** from concept to reality. This is the beginning of our next 100 years of success. Let us be open and welcoming to the new ideas that will be presented over the next year.

And finally, May God bless you all, and may God bless the Italian Catholic Federation. *Grazie.*

*Denise Antonowicz
 Grand President*



In Loving Memory

(Report as of January 1, 2025)

Sharon M Brunetti	Branch 010	Clifford D Stiner	Branch 218
Terry E Wolfe	Branch 028	Monte Valpredo	Branch 281
Phyllis Campo	Branch 036	Roselie F Moresi	Branch 332
Giuseppe Savona	Branch 036	Jeanette B Papapietro	Branch 342
Mabel M Willmon	Branch 039	Angelo Travaglini	Branch 352
Verona M Devito	Branch 045	Elizabeth A Hernandez	Branch 362
Mabel M Willmon	Branch 054	Maxie W Millingar	Branch 390
Adele Sanchez	Branch 130	Concetta Caranfa	Branch 392
Donald R Merucci	Branch 135	Virginia A Sellers	Branch 435
Angela Teal	Branch 210	Loretta Wilson	Branch 435
Thelma Maggio	Branch 214	Tom King	Branch 443
Linda J Auzenne	Branch 217		

Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of January 1, 2025)

Branch 115	Officers/Members of Br. 342
Branch 391	In Honor of Deacon Mark Ruiz
Branch 438	Officers/Members of Br. 342
Annette Novi	In Honor of Deacon John Sheehan
In Memory of Jeanne Bencharsky	Officers/Members of Br. 342
Eva Stern	In Honor of Deacon Adam Crawford
Speedy Recovery Wishes for Rose Arnaudo	Officers/Members of Br. 362
Officers/Members of Br. 218	Merry Christmas Wishes for Christine Ragusa
In Memory of Cliff Stiner	Dorene Campanile
Tina Piraino	Get Well Wishes for Melanie and Fred Yeager
In Memory of Concetta Caranfa	Eva Stern
Yelena Kaminsky	In Memory of Mike Nunziata
In Memory of Concetta Caranfa	Eva Stern
Carol Schell	In Memory of Emily Corral
In Memory of Aldo Ausano	
Harold Fuentes	
In Memory of Robert Osorio	

Book Review-- *Italian Women in Chicago*

Vince Piro

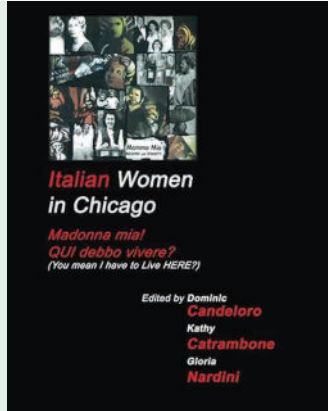
Italian Women in Chicago Madonna mia! QUI debbo vivere?

Italian Women in Chicago II: Siamo arrivate!

In recent years, two books have been published about the Italian women who live in Chicago. These women have led lives full of challenges and successes and deserve to be part of the story of Italian-American life in our country. Their stories illustrate a variety of experiences and inspirations. These two anthologies are a reminder that when we write history, we must be sure to include all voices in the story. The women described in these portraits illustrate strength and fortitude and faith as they live their lives in the Windy City. Below, you will find the publisher's description of each volume.

Italian Women in Chicago Madonna mia! QUI debbo vivere is the first volume in the series, published in 2019. This volume is "edited by Dominic Candeloro, Kathy Catrambone and Gloria Nardini...and published by the Italian Cultural Center at Casa Italia. The spotlight has always been on the men. This anthology is a preliminary effort to 'write' that wrong and to focus on women in [an] effort to document and share the full Italian experience in Chicago. The purpose is S.O.S.—Save Our Stories! Dominic Candeloro, lead editor, recruited the almost 50 contributing authors; Gloria Nardini managed the section on creative writing, edited individual pieces, and refined the Italian language usage in the text; and Kathy Catrambone edited individual pieces and copyedited the entire volume. Diane L. Cosentino designed and formatted the book for printing...Contributors include some of the most prestigious scholars in the field of Italian American Studies, experienced journalists, freelance writers, researchers and first-person narrators with varied backgrounds. This book is [ground]-breaking in that it increases enormously the amount of published material on the [Italian women in Chicago]. The names of more than 500 individuals and groups are mentioned and discussed in varying degrees of depth. Inexorably, the history gathered took the form of biography.

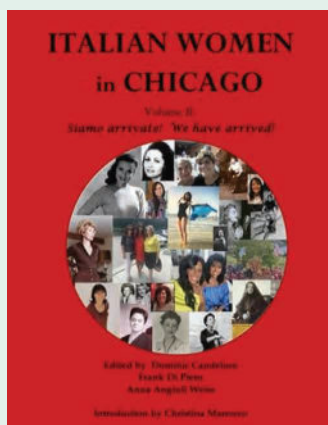
An anthology is a tool that marks out the territory and invites the reader to go beyond the samples, to delve into original sources for a deeper understanding of the subject. The big picture that emerges is a varied one. Chicago Italian women have been ragpickers, needle workers, midwives, labor organizers, farm workers, club women, county commissioners, lawyers, doctors, dentists, writers, entrepreneurs, broadcasters, performers, homemakers, and mothers. [The book] also offer[s] a Note on Sources and suggestions for further research which mostly lead back to the Florence



Bartolomei Roselli Library at Casa Italia and to the library archival website "Chicago Italian Archives."

New to 2024, *Italian Women in Chicago II: Siamo arrivate*, the second volume in the series, "was published by Casa Italia Library volunteers. This anthology is about the famous and infamous in Chicago, and those lives that were only known to their families, with all the joys, loves, losses, and struggles within the Chicago Italian community. It will tug at your heart and stimulate your mind. It will bring back memories of life where it was, how it was, and what it can become. It is a perfect companion to the *Italian Women in Chicago* first volume, but also stands proudly on its own as a tribute to the women in our lives. It is divided into sections on "Saving Our Stories," "Pop Culture," "Entrepreneurial Spirit," "Shattering Glass Ceilings," "Activism," "Spiritual Life," and "Cultural Influences." Within its pages, you will find stories on reality TV stars, playing Bocce with Marlon Brando, the "Sicilian Sappho," of journeys from Rovella, Calabria to Harlem Avenue, modern renaissance women, Saint Francesca Cabrini, Florence Scala, the Maria Adelaide Club and even splitting the atom in Hyde Park. You will also find poetry and book excerpts that include Mezzogiorno in Chicago: Love and Trouble on Ogden Avenue. If you are curious about opera, Rock and Roll, the world of cosmetology, how to make Italian bread, Mama Celeste's early life on Kedzie Avenue, or the three most influential books in one of our editor's life," this book is for you.

And as a bonus, there is a story about ICF Central Council Life Member and Chicago leader, Teresa D'Alessandro Helfand and her life. The title of the story is "The Life of a Faithful Young Spiritual Immigrant." It is an inspiring tale for us all.



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.



DECEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
12/1	Carla Contestable	14	Point Richmond, CA	\$30
12/2	Rob Basuino		San Jose, CA	\$30
12/3	His Eminence, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich		Chicago, IL	\$30
12/4	Steve & Nancy Stedman	209	Sebastopol, CA	\$30
12/5	Lillian Dal Porto	39	Merced, CA	\$30
12/6	Shirley Linscott		Kerrville, TX	\$30
12/7	Jody Moore		Alameda, CA	\$30
12/8	Steve Grisenti	191	San Jose, CA	\$50
12/9	David Zanini	354	Paso Robles, CA	\$30
12/10	Wendell Barnes	413	Angels Camp, CA	\$30
12/11	Antone Chicca		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
12/12	Al Vallorz	391	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/13	Adrianna Dianda		Altaville, CA	\$30
12/14	Branch 406		Orange, CA	\$30
12/15	Amy Corral	191	San Jose, CA	\$30
12/16	Gwen Gorman		Salinas, CA	\$30
12/17	Barb Pybas		Salinas, CA	\$30
12/18	Irene Simoni	145	Arcata, CA	\$30
12/19	Branch 218		Arcadia, CA	\$30
12/20	Judith Segale	209	Forestville, CA	\$30
12/21	Donald Wilson		San Bruno, CA	\$30
12/22	Teresa Rimmer		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
12/23	Geraldine McGrath	52	Hayward, CA	\$30
12/24	Gennifer McClure	237	Carson, CA	\$50
12/25	Mary Petroni	39	Merced, CA	\$100
12/26	Rebecca Collins	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
12/27	Cash Silva		Tracy, CA	\$30
12/28	Kathie Boothby		Alameda, CA	\$30
12/29	Paula Reynolds	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
12/30	Yvonne Nannini		Westmont, IL	\$30
12/31	Pat Mages	380	Thousand Oaks, CA	\$50

SEE THESE FIRST ON OUR WEB SITE: ICF.ORG

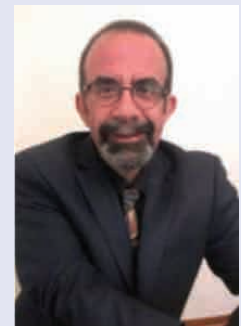
Membership Committee

Andy Pappani and Vince Piro



In an effort to recruit new members, the Membership Committee is conducting a brief survey of current members in order to create a marketing campaign for the Federation.

The survey is only 4 questions long and should only take a few minutes to complete.



If you are interested in participating in this survey or a focus group regarding it, please contact Andy at pappani1@yahoo.com or Vince at vpairo@icloud.com.

We appreciate your interest and support of the Federation.

2025 1ST YEAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

The **Deadline for Donations and Applications is April 1, 2025**. This will allow additional time for students to apply and for Branches and Districts to follow up with the high schools in their areas.

Please discuss participating in the program by making a **donation of a full scholarship of \$400**, if possible, or a partial donation of any amount. **Partial Donations do help** to make other scholarships possible when that money is grouped together. **Individual Donations are welcomed** as well.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren or anyone you know who is eligible to apply. They can contact their high school counselors about the Italian Catholic Federation 1st Year \$400 Scholarship. They can **download the application using the link on the homepage of the ICF website** or they can fill out and submit the application, with required documentation attached, online.

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

A High School Senior, a total cumulative **GPA (3 ½ years) of at least 3.2** and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2:

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

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

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

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.



Branch Reports

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco

Br. 1, Maria S.S. Immacolata

Dear Members:

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

Happy February Birthday Wishes to our member Joe Matranga.

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

Cordiali Saluti
Diana Cresci

SAN MATEO District Council

I hope everyone enjoyed a Blessed Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

Our next District potluck and meeting will be January 23. Please make sure you contact Leo Capovilla at leoski555@aol.com or call him 650-465-7310 with meal selection.

Thank you to Branch 213 for a District Night of Recollection on December 10. It was a spiritual evening.

Our District Installation of Officers will be at St. Pius in Redwood City:

Saturday, February 8, 2025, 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be catered by Sapore Italiano Ristorante and is \$45/person. Please make sure you talk to your branch President for reservations and payment. A raffle prize valued at \$30 is requested by each District Branch. Please make sure you bring your Officers scarves for the installation. The deadline is Monday, January 27, 2025.

Ciao,
Barbara

Colma

Br. 19, San Vincenzo De-Paoli

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Blessed start to the New Year. A special thanks to Branch 213 for hosting the "Night of Recollection," which was the first time in many years that we had the opportunity to gather and reflect, especially in preparation for the upcoming Jubilee Year in 2025. We also want to express our sincere gratitude to all who participated in the Simbang Gabi (novena of Masses in preparation for Christmas).

As we enter the New Year, several important events are scheduled. The General Meeting Dinners will take place at

5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 13, and February 10, at Deborah Rodondi's home. Reservations should be made by calling (650) 583-0805 or emailing drodondi@comcast.net. The reservation deadlines are January 10 for the January 13 meeting and February 7 for the February 10 meeting. Additionally, the St. Joseph Table Potluck Dinner and Meeting is scheduled for March 10, with reservations due by March 7 to Deborah. When making a reservation, please indicate the dish you will prepare and bring to the event.

In terms of upcoming dates of interest, the District Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, hosted by Branch 130 at St. Pius, Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame. Another important event, the Installation of Officers, is set for Saturday, February 8, 2025, at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City. The Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by the Installation of Officers and lunch in the Church Hall. The cost of this event is \$45 per person, and the reservation deadline is January 20, 2025. Reservations should be sent to Deborah Rodondi, and checks should be made payable to ICF Branch 19.

Redwood City

Br. 130, Our Lady Star of the Sea

Polenta Fundraiser, Raffle & Silent Auction Dinner a success for Italian Catholic Federation Branch 130 at St. Pius Parish.

Our sold-out annual Polenta Fundraiser Raffle & Silent Auction dinner was held Saturday, Nov. 16. It turned out to be a resounding success and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Members of the community gathered and enjoyed cocktails, Italian antipasto, appetizers, rolls, salad, homemade stirred polenta with a wooden paddle (not instant), sugo, stufato, vino Rosso & Bianco & sweet treats.

We have been blessed by the younger generation, being the new driving force, learning from the elders. Getting a more diverse group our membership has increased (300x) involving ICF Branch 130 with our church, school, community events, charities and service projects.

Some of our service projects are:

- Supporting St. Pius Parish & School
- ICF Scholarship Program
- Cooley's Anemia / Thalassemia
- Sir Luigi and lady Augusta Providenza Seminary Scholarship Fund
- St. Patrick's Seminary
- Gifts of Love Program
- St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Anthony, Menlo Park (parish/dining hall) & OUR BIGGEST accomplishment yet was an A.E.D. that we just installed in the St. Pius Church Multipurpose Room/Senior Center.

Branch 130 extends its heartfelt thanks

to everyone who attended, contributed and made the event a memorable occasion. As the holiday season approaches, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your holidays be filled with joy, love, and peace.

Grateful, Blessed & Thankful,
Leo Capovilla, President & ICF Branch 130 Members

South San Francisco

Br. 213, St. Augustine

Hope you all survived the Christmas Holidays and are ready to take on the new year - 2025!!

Our January meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, will be a potluck dinner. Hopefully we will have a good turnout to start the new year off right!

On December 10, San Mateo District Night of Recollection, hosted by our branch, was a success. Father Ray gave a great presentation on Advent and Jubilee 2025, and we had about 20 guests attending. Thanks to all our members who brought cookies and thanks to the branches who attended.

The San Mateo District Installation of Officers will be held on February 8, 2025 (Saturday) at St. Pius Church in Redwood City. Mass at 11 a.m., followed by the installation, then to their church hall for a luncheon. All branch officers should be at the installation. Cost of luncheon is \$45 per person. More information to follow at our January meeting.

Our February branch meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 11th.

More information will follow on email.

SUNSHINE: Continue praying for our member Faith Hill who is still recovering from her accident in November. Also, our long-time member Chuck Baumann is recovering from an illness, so please keep him in your prayers. Get well, Chuck, we miss you!

March meeting is on Tuesday the 11th.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to All!!

Millbrae

Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a festive New Year celebration. Our Branch Christmas party dinner was wonderful, thanks to Leonardo's Deli Cafe and all who helped to decorate & serve. If you missed it, check out the photos in this issue. We had a raffle and also played some games. President Paul dressed up as Santa and we had some laughs at his expense.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 4th. This is a dinner meeting featuring Mountain Mike's Pizza--- including a VEGETARIAN selection. The social begins at 5pm with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and also includes salad, wine, soda, coffee & dessert for \$15pp. Send your

check (payable to "ICF BR 403") to Eunice Danli, 4 Spring Valley Ln., Millbrae, CA 94030. The deadline is Fri., Jan 31st!

All branch officers should plan to attend the Installation Mass on Saturday, Feb 8th at 11a.m. at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road in Redwood City. Following the mass, a catered luncheon by Sopore Italiano will be served at their Parish Hall. The cost of the luncheon is \$45pp. They would like us to send them ONE check, so send your check for \$45 to Eunice (as noted above) by our deadline, which is Wednesday, Jan 22nd!

Our March meeting is Tuesday, March 4th and is a dessert & coffee, no cost meeting that will begin at 6:30 p.m. Just RSVP Eunice at 650-692-3740 by Fri., March 1st. so we know how much dessert to buy.

Save the date! Wednesday, March 19th is St. Joseph's Day and we will be having our "St. Joseph's Table" potluck (no meat) at our Parish Hall. The social begins at 5:30 with dinner at 6 p.m. This is a no-cost event. RSVP to Eunice at 650-692-3740 by March 14th and let her know what you are bringing.

Ciao!
Adonna Amoroso, Secretary

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

Hello everyone. Here we are in 2025! A quarter century into the 21st century. I hope you all had a great Christmas and didn't over indulge too much.

On January 5th we gathered together at branch 362—St. Raymond in Downey for our annual Officers Installation. Thank you to our caterer Park Place, to Lauren Kilcullen for coming down from Healdsburg to install us, and to Francesca Taylor for giving us a Heritage report on La Befana.

The ICF will once again be at the annual Religious Education Congress in Anaheim on the last weekend of February. Be sure to stop by and say hello. Thank you to everyone who came out and worked the booth this year.

Let's make sure that we support our fellow branches at their fundraisers this year. It really means a lot when we show our support for one another.

We will chat again next month when we will all be gearing up for our St. Joseph Tables.

Have a great New Year!

**Deadline February 10
for the March issue of
the *Bollettino*.
Send your articles &
photos:
editor@icf.org**

Montebello Br. 111, St. Benedict

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Joyful, & Prosperous 2025 to everyone! Tanti Auguri per un Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!

Our January General Meeting will be on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, Montebello. Come join us! We would like to congratulate all the members who celebrate their birthdays in the month of January and February: Anthony DeLorenzo, Rita Estrada, Frank Gomez, Kathleen Rabago, Frank Salomone, Joey Wadzinski., Irena Scoria, Steven Ochoa, Carmelina Palmeri, Lynn Enrico and Francesca Palmeri Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!

Mark your calendars - our St. Joseph Table this year will be held on Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23, 2025 at St. Benedict Parish Hall. The monies we will raise at this event will allow us to support our parish, offer Phillip & Phyllis Pace scholarships to St. Benedict Parish School graduating students, Pace College Scholarships to graduating Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School students, support our clergy and Seminarians, scholarships to graduating high school students, Cooley's Anemia, and other worthwhile charities. We need everyone's support to make this a successful event! Thank you for all you do for the ICF and may St. Joseph and God Bless you abundantly.

Let's reflect on the inspirational quote of the month: "Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things".

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

*Ciao! A Presto.
Frank Salomone
ICF Branch 111 President*

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

Greetings to you all. I pray that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Our branch Christmas party was held on Dec.8. We enjoyed a delicious meal and each other's company. Neal thanked all the attendees for the support given to our branch throughout the year.

Officers for the 2025 year were introduced and are as follows Neal DiLeva President, Bob Hohman 1st VP, Anna DiLeva 2nd VP, Recording Secretary Nancy Ventimiglia, Financial Secretary Pauline Iacono, Treasurer Anita Trujillo, Sentinel Isodoro Colonna, Orator Barbara West, Trustees Frank Amalfitano, Letizia Chaparro, Carmela Funicello, and Giovanna Gioiello. Thank you to MaryAnn Lauro outgoing Correspond

ing Secretary for her many years of service to our branch.

Our first meeting of new year will be held on Thursday Jan 16th at 7:30 p.m. to be held in parish center.

Up for discussion will be our annual Crab dinner to be held on March 8th. Dinner dance will begin at 6 p.m. For additional information call Neal DiLeva 310 433-1044

The 2025 dues are now payable. Branch 115 dues are \$42.00 per member. Dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to Pauline Iacono 1072 w 8th St. San Pedro 90731

February meeting will be held on Feb 20th at 7:30 p.m. in Parish center

We are in process of updating our contact list. Please let Neal DiLeva know of any changes to your home address, phone number. Neal can be reached at 310 433-1044 or by email ndileva211@aol.com

*Hope to see you all at our meetings!
Anita Trujillo*

Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

On December 12th, St. Dorothy Branch 179 in Glendora celebrated Christmas. We ate a delicious Italian buffet from local restaurant Spaghetti Eddie's. And extend a huge thank you to the St. Lucy's Benedictine Priory for allowing us to use their beautifully decorated facility. Everyone had fun singing Dominic the Donkey led by our church cantor and member Greg Lima, who brought our newest member, Carmela. We followed that with the 12 Days of Christmas and Silent Night, accompanied by member guitarist Ate Rojas. Member Vince Daigneault was a great emcee, giving away raffle prizes that were donated by our Board. Amidst all the festivities, thoughts and prayers were with members with major health issues and unable to join us. Cathy Napoli, Debbie Felt and Bill Bresee.

Arcadia Br. 218, Holy Angels

A very Happy New Year to everyone.

Backing up a bit, I would like to thank all that helped out at the Christmas party and especially Tanya Mazzolini who led us in a sing-along and Jose, the phenomenal piano player who accompanied her.

Our general meeting is January 12 where we will be discussing the pancake breakfast on January 28th. Watch for Jeane's newsletter on all the details.

And very soon we will begin planning the St. Joseph's Table.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Lolly M.

Gardena Br. 237, St. Anthony of Padua

Happy 2025,

Here are a few updates from last year....

We had a great Columbus Day dinner in October. Many thanks to our table sponsors that made the dinner a big success...the proceeds fund our many charities.

In December our branch met for the annual thank you to all our sponsors and Christmas party for all the children. Santa made a surprise visit and listened to all the little ones wishes

We are praying for a safe, happy and healthy new year.

*Respectfully,
Connie Bohannon
President*

Grant that I may love You with all my heart while on earth, so that I can continue to love You perfectly throughout all eternity, dear Jesus. -Padre Pio

Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

Happy New Year! Ok, so we haven't chatted since December and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. On January 5 the LA district gathered at St. Raymond to hold its annual Officers Installation Mass and lunch. We also celebrated the district's 85th anniversary and we had a special visit from La Befana played by Francesca Taylor of Branch 67. A special thank you goes out to our Grand 2nd Vice President Lauren Kilcullen who represented our Grand President Denise Antonowicz, who wasn't able to be there due to other duties.

Our branch is holding its next Bingo luncheon on February 2nd - Groundhog Day, and no we're not serving groundhog lol. The Super Bowl will be coming up soon, and I'm hoping one of LA teams will be making it. At the end of February, the ICF will once again be represented at the annual Religious Education Congress held on the last weekend of the month. If you're there, be sure to stop by and say hello.

Of course I can't forget Sweet Hearts' Day, St. Valentine's Day. Be sure to give your loved ones a big hug and kiss.

We will chat again next month when we will be gearing up for our St. Joseph's Tables. Can you believe it's already time for that! See you soon.



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

Looking back, our branch ended the year with a fun party with delicious food and members sharing their Christmas childhood memories. Thank you Fiora, for your leadership. It was also very inspiring to sponsor two needy L.A. families and purchase food and toys for them. Appreciation goes to members Michael Richardson and Joel Wynton and their families for coordinating this beautiful outreach event.

We acquired many new members in '24 from the membership drive and from members reaching out to friends and had many successful fundraisers that enabled large amounts of donations to our charities. We are excited and look forward to the dedication of the new parish hall with its state-of-the-art kitchen which will provide the venue for more ambitious future ICF events.

Looking ahead, the current board was re-elected and introduced at the Christmas Party. We thank them for another year commitment to continue to oversee the direction of our branch, especially President Phyllis Harb, who works tirelessly to keep us on track. Currently, the focus is on another successful St. Joseph Table/Silent Auction event. Many donations have already been acquired for the auction and the Table committee has been busily getting commitments for baking. As this is the major branch fundraiser, all members must participate in one way or another. We can only fulfill a large part our charitable mission if we have the resources.

Dates to Remember:

-Sat., February 8th – Br. 108, Holy Family S. Pasadena Wine & Beer Tasting, 6 p.m., \$40.00 Wine and Dinner, \$25.00 Dinner only

-Sun., March 16th – Donuts/ Membership Drive –after all morning Masses

-Sat., March 22nd – St. Joseph Table/ Auction Prep, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

-Sun., March 23rd – St. Joseph Table/ Silent Auction-after all morning Masses

Thousand Oaks Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon

Branch 380 met in December for a potluck Christmas party at Pat & Lou Mages's home. We selected officers, planned the upcoming calendar, and enjoyed delicious treats together.

There was a branch meeting on January 10. Upcoming branch meetings include February 7th at 6:30 p.m. and March 8th at 5:15 p.m. We will be having St. Joseph's table on March 23 with setup and bake sale preparation on Match 22. We look forward to joining together to make this a fun event for all.

*What we do for ourselves dies with us.
What we do for others and the world
remains and is immortal.*

— Albert Pike

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 408, Mike Rossi, Ric Shimshock, Fr. George, Debbie Piro, and Mary Ridi



Br. 408, Debbie Piro and Eva Stern



Br. 408, Mr. X, Fr. George, Jackie Anderson, Patricia Look



Br. 408, Fr. George Arahna - Diocesan Chaplain - SCVD 2024 Christmas Mass and Dinner



Branch 391's Steve and Cathleen Lencioni



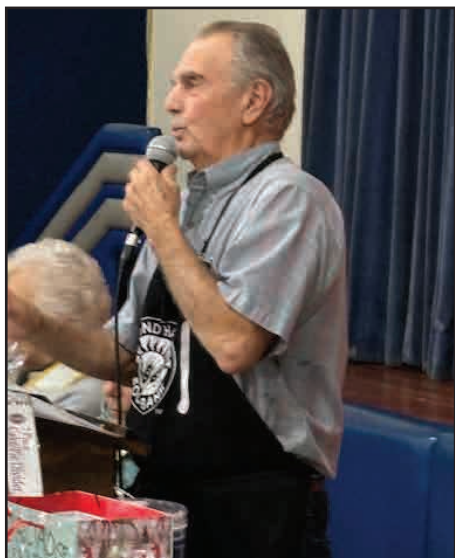
Br. 28, Kim Filice swearing in 4 new members. From left to right Kim Filice, President branch 28, Charles Giluso-Larson, Michael Giluso-Larson, Elia Salinas, Alex Larson.



Br. 28, Sal Campagna, Veteran, looking handsome in his World War 2 uniform. Thank you for your service, Sal!



Bill and Kathy Napoli at Branch 28 Christmas Dinner



Vince Saso honoring the Branch 28 veterans.



Callers of Branch 28. Hard working members keeping everyone informed of activities. Thank You!

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 47, Christmas Party



Branch 47, Christmas Party



Branch 391's Father Tony Famave of St. Martin of Tours



Branch 391's Alba Salciccia's Ave Maria



Branch 47, Christmas Party



Br. 445 December Birthdays - Nino, Jim, Richard, Andy, Julie



Br. 445 RIP Dear Emily



Sienna Louise, Great Granddaughter of Giulia Gallego, Branch #435, 4th Generation "Ravioli Maker"!



Br. 445 Christmas Party



Br. 445 November Pancake Breakfast

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 368 Christmas Party

Br. 368 Christmas Party



Br. 184, Watching the festivities are Deanna Meyer, Marie Yurosko, Denise Antonowicz and Rich Pfaff.

Br. 191 District Christmas party winners



Br. 184, Our Christmas Party enjoyed live music by Reno Di Bono, as well as the company of Fr. Greg Kimm and Fr. Angelo David.

Br. 184, Virginia Giacomini, Denise Antonowicz and Donna Pfaff visiting at the Christmas Party.



Br. 184, Pictured here at our Christmas Party are Mary Romeri, Rich Amico, Dave Romeri and Larry Vollman.

LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Branch 218 Holiday Boutique



A grand time was had by all at the Christmas party for Branch 218 at Holy Angels church in Arcadia. Lolli Magnolia, Chairman for the fun event, arranged a delicious catered luncheon and beverages included some bubbly to celebrate the Christmas season. Highlight of the afternoon engaged the group in singing Christmas carols lead by Tanya Mazzolini with Dr. Jose Soto accompanying on piano.



On November 16 & 17, ICF Branch 218 at Holy Angels Church in Arcadia held a very successful Christmas Boutique thanks to the hard work of our energetic Chairman, Jenni Hauge. Over 20 vendors participated in the two day event. ICF members were busy serving our famous sausage or meatball sandwiches, baked goods and drinks so no one went hungry during the festive event. Many thanks to Chairman, Jenni, and all who participated to make the Boutique a truly lovely event!



Br. 179, Members Mike Sideri, Frank & Susan Pirolo, and John Sugar



Br. 179, Christmas 2024, Greg & Elaine Lima with newest member Carmela



Br. 179, Sr. Elizabeth of the Priory with members Carol DeToro and Dick Paulus



Br. 179, Emcee Vince



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 374

Branch 374

Br. 111, Christmas Dinner

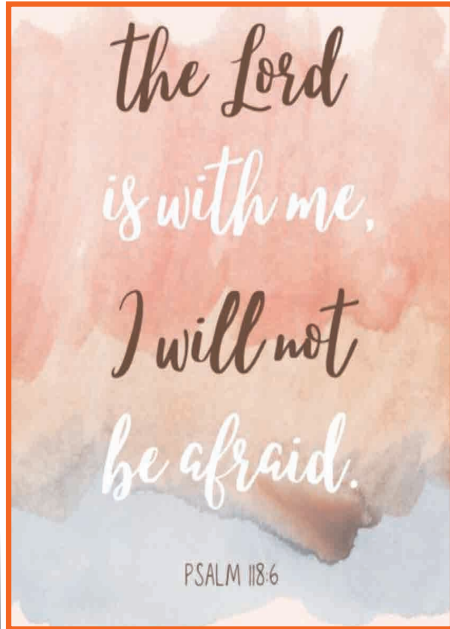


Br. 111, Christmas Party

Br. 111, Christmas Dinner



Br. 111, Christmas Party



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 115 charter member Financial Secretary Pauline Iacono (right) with sister Recording Secretary Nancy Ventimiglia.



Br. 115, Santa Claus aka Jerry Di Leva



Br. 444, Betty, Tonia, Antoinette, Don, Fran and Mary



Branch 115 officers 2025 at Branch Christmas Party (From: near and far) Anita Trujillo, Isidoro Colonna, Barbara West, Frank Amalfitano, Letizia Chaparro, Giovanna Gioiello, Carmela Funicello, Nancy Ventimiglia, Anna Di Leva, Bob Hohman and Neal Du Leva (Seated)Pauline Iacono.



Br. 444 Members



Br. 380, Christmas Party



Br. 444 Group photo



Br. 444, Hany Francis

Gifts of Love Program

Teresa Helfand, Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope and pray that the holidays were a time of grace and blessings for you and your families. Now, a New



Year is upon us. The Gifts of Love Committee will hold its first meeting of 2025 to select recipients for our Gifts of Love Awards in the month of February. As we contemplate Valentine's Day and think of those we love and care about—let us also open our hearts, thoughts and prayers to our fellow parishioners and neighbors in our communities who may be in need. We still continue to face many challenges in our world and our daily lives. We send our thoughts and prayers to everyone. We need healing in our world more than ever and so we are asking for help in finding the value in kindness, respect and helping others. We know these are difficult financial times, but we encourage our Branches, Districts and Individual Members to continue to contribute to the fund in any amount. With your help, we can continue the important work of this very vital program.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Gifts of Love program, we have a fund from which we make awards to individuals with disabilities or agencies that assist individuals with disabilities. We do this throughout the year, in order to provide funds to individuals with disabilities to help lead

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

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year and
God Bless You,
Teresa Helfand



Scholarship Donations

(Received as of January 1, 2025)

Scholarship Donations - 1st Year

Wing Him Tsang
John G. and Kim Filice
In Memory of Terry Wolfe
Officers/Members of Br. 39
In Memory of Mabel Willmon
Dorene Campanile
In Memory of Jeanne Bencharsky
Shirley Catania
In Memory of Anamaria Falcone
Richard and Elaine Valentine
In Memory of Marie Antonowicz

Scholarship Donations - 2nd - 4th Year

Giulia Gallego
In Appreciation of
Giovanni and Toni Foggiato
Joan and Jerry Delfino
In Memory of Mike
Nunziata
Giulia Gallego
In Memory of Mike
Nunziata

2025 Calendar Winners

We held off pulling the calendar winners to give everyone a chance to return their ticket stubs to the ICF office by the January 31st deadline. The winners' names for January 2025 and February 2025 will be printed in the March 2025 issue. The winners' names will also be available in the Bollettino on the ICF Web site at www.icf.org beginning with the March 2025 issue.

Welcome New Members

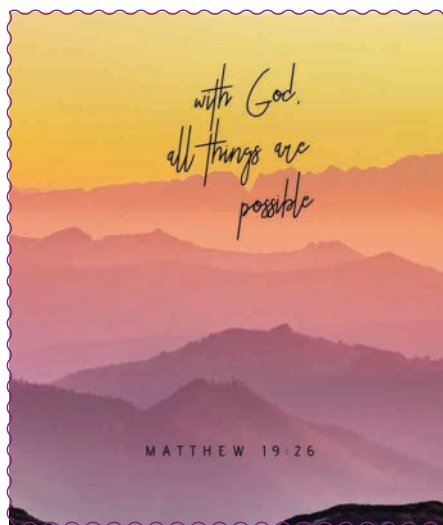
(Report as of January 1, 2025)

Branch 014	Corrine Scofield	
Branch 021	Katherine R Aspesi	Jone E Balesteri
	Carol A Ghio	
Branch 026	Jeannette Velasquez	
Branch 028	Ben Levine	Laurice M Levine
	Matt Levine	
Branch 036	Charles Sullivan	Perla Sullivan
Branch 191	Helene L Trester	
Branch 209	Pauline Pellini	
Branch 281	Arlo Zasoski	Estrella Zasoski
Branch 352	Jennifer F Gallinatti	Thomas D Gallinatti
Branch 374	Michael Richardson	Matt Vincent
Branch 432	Brenda Gorball	Gary Gorball
	Caroline B Gray	Martha A Gutierrez
	Natalia Joyce	Linda Lambert
	Mark Lambert	Sally Ortega
Branch 435	Christine T Conti	Laura Leon
	Andrew L Mattioda	
Branch 438	Mark Perry	Rebecca Perry
Branch 444	Joseph Locascio	Marian Locascio
Branch 445	Sylvia Ortiz	Reyne M Rafoth

Cooley's Anemia Donations

(Received as of January 1, 2025)

Branch 179
Branch 352
Branch 438
Anonymous Donor – Branch 352
Rosalinda Brady
Roy Shackel
Deacon Karl and Thelma
Welsbacher
Charlyne Pacini
In Memory of Leroy Taddei
Dean and Jeanette Hudson
In Memory of Terry Wolfe
Donna Rossi
In Memory of Betty Ford



ICF General Fund Donations

(Received as of January 1, 2025)

Genie Sorensen
Mark Neuburger and Arianna Smith
Merry Christmas Wishes for
Mary Perata



Simi Valley**Br. 443, St Rose of Lima**

On Sunday, December 15, 45 ICF members, family and friends gathered at St. Rose of Lima Church Hall for the annual Jingle and Mingle Christmas Party. After eating a variety of appetizers, drinking tasty wines, exchanging conversations and listening to music by DJ Sean Reeves, it was time for an Italian Dinner prepared by Viva La Pasta.

Deacon Dave led us in prayer. Rita Downey asked Trivia questions provided by Barbara Tweedy to determine which table would get on line first.

Father Joe, Father John and Father Larry joined us for dinner. Raffle tickets were sold for gifts donated by members.

And then Rita announced, "It's time to dance as she and Art Saenz headed to the dance floor. Others joined them including the children. A wonderful time was had by all.

*Merry Christmas - Buon Natale!
Happy New Year - Buon Capo d'Anno!!
Peace and Blessings,
Josephine M. Perini*

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

Buon Anno to everyone, 2025. Thanks to every member who helped make the Christmas Party a Success. Hany, Carol, Dolly, Mary, Tonia, Gina, Bruno & Cristina worked hard to make it all work.

Our Parish, "Adopt a Family" was led by Tonia. She bought gifts for a family of five to make their Christmas much happier.

January 5, members of the board are attending the Annual Installation of Officers at St. Raymond's, Downey, CA. The New Film about Mother Cabrini, will be shown to the Parish, January 10th, Friday at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit ICF Charities & Our Parish Campaign 21. Keep Guido F., Joe Trani & Marianne Canetti in your prayers.

Save the Date, Feb. 14th, Friday, 7 p.m. for our Valentine's General Meeting. Save Thursday, Jan. 30th, 7 p.m. Board Meeting.

Ciao, Patty Longo Hansen

OAKLAND**EAST BAY
District Council**

Felice Anno Nuovo!

2024 ended with a Christmas celebration co-hosted by the East Bay District and Branch 10 at St. Philip Neri in Alameda. After the social hour featuring "potluck" appetizers, celebrants feasted on a pork dinner prepared by Chef Benny Ratto. Raffles, a visit by Santa and good company completed this festive event!

In December, the East Bay District also bid farewell to Branch 91, St. Lawrence O'Toole/ Divine Mercy in Oakland. The Branch was established over 50 years ago. Founders were parents and relatives of the current Branch 91 members and other East Bay branch members. Over the years, members have moved and currently very few live in the Branch 91 area. We thank President, JoAnn Maggiora Donovan and the officers of Branch 91 for working through this very difficult decision and providing information for the current members to join the ICF Branches in their area of residence.

Elections were held in November for the Officers of the EBD. They are being installed in a joint event with the Contra Costa District on January 19th, 2025. Mass is at Transfiguration Parish Hall in Castro Valley, with the installation and dinner following. Buon Appetito is catering the dinner.

The EBD Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed is February 8th, at St. Phillip Neri in Alameda. Chef Benny Ratto is preparing plenty of crab, pasta with pesto, salad and more!! Gift baskets made and donated by each branch will be raffled.

*Sincerely
Roberta Madej*

**Deadline February 10
for March Issue of the
Bollettino.
Send your articles &
photos:
editor@icf.org**

Alameda**Br. 10, Nostra Signora Delle
Grazie**

Upcoming doings include the East Bay District Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday, February 8; our Lenten Fry Dinners beginning on Friday, March 7; our Irish Social on Saturday, March 15, and our Saint Joseph's Day Table on Wednesday, March 19. All events will take place in Monsignor O'Brien Hall, High Street at Van Buren Street, Alameda. Information regarding the Dave Rose Crab Feed can be found in the preceding East Bay District article. For information regarding the Branch 10 events, you may contact John Zugnoni, 510-326-3474 or john@zugnoni.net.

Thirty members of Branch 10 were among the 200 relatives and friends who attended the memorial Mass for trustee Sharon Brunetti on November 30 in Saint Philip Neri Church in Alameda. We joined in the ICF Farewell, and "Noi Vogliam Dio," the ICF anthem, was sung—with spellbinding clarity—as the closing hymn by the daughter of the music director of Saint Philip Neri-Saint Albert the Great Parish.

We all enjoyed the combined East Bay District-Branch 10 Christmas Party held on Saturday, December 7 in Monsignor O'Brien Hall. We especially recognize Jeff Branchaud for assisting Sant Claus in presenting gifts to the children in attendance. Thanks also to the 16 guests who contributed raffle prizes, to those who purchased tickets and, as usual, to chef Ben Ratto for his dinner of roast pork.

Finally, we are welcoming a new member who is no stranger to the ICF. JoAnn Donovan, the president of the East Bay District, has decided to join Branch 10 following the closing of Oakland Branch 91.

*John Zugnoni,
Branch 10 publicity*

Livermore**Br. 285, St. Filomena**

Felice Anno Nuovo to all our families and friends.

Here it is, a new year and so much to look forward to in ICF.

Our Christmas party was well attended and we were happy to welcome special guests, Leonard Rossi, Grand Parliamentarian, and his wife Karen, our mentor, Joyce D'Angelo and family and Aurora Roselli and family.

How about the new calendars? It might be fun to use one of the movie suggestions for a future social!

This month is off to a busy start: our first social meeting of the year is on Jan.12, featuring Barry and Michelle Buckett sharing their trip to So. Africa. Installation of officers is on Jan. 19, at Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley. Our scholarship duo, Carolyn Cardinalli and Janet Marie Petric will be

at the scholarship fair at Foothill High School on Jan. 28.

Our new officers for 2025-26 are:

President: Shared by, Carlotta Schauer, Elaine Meier, with Virginia Williams and Janet Marie Petric, Toni Manzetti with Patty Brick, Carolyn Cardinalli with Shirley Koenig.

1st VP: Carolyn Cardinalli and Janet Marie Petric

2nd VP: Kathy Elm

Fin. Sec/treasure: Nancy Navarini

Rec Sec: Virginia Williams

Orator: Anna Yocham

Trustees: Shirley Koenig, Patty Brick, Anne Bernhard and Margaret Meyer

Sentinel: Toni Manzetti

Happy Birthday to all our January and February members!!!

February is looking like a fun month for Branch 285. We start off the month helping St. Michael's Golden Friends with Mardi Gras Bingo. Our social meeting will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton church on Feb. 16. One of our members may be cooking dinner for us...what a treat that will be!

St. Michael's will be hosting their annual crab feed on Feb.22.

Until we meet again, may the new year be a blessing for you and your family.

Toni Manzetti, Sentinel, and Patty Brick, Trustee

**CONTRA COSTA
District Council**

We hope that all of you have had a great start to the new year. As I am writing this report due to the editor January 2, we are getting ready for our first District meeting to be held on January 9. Therefore, I will write about the meeting details next month. We are also getting ready to attend the joint Installation of officers in Castro Valley on January 19. A summary of the festivities will be given next month as well.

I am pleased to share the news of a new appointment in our District. The ICF chief mentor has appointed a new District mentor for Contra Costa—Mary Cook. Mary has been working on mentors for each of our branches. We offer congratulations to Mary and to all the new Mentors.

We also offer congratulations to our newly elected District officers for 2025. And we thank all of our outgoing officers as well.

We wish to thank the East Bay District for hosting the first joint Installation of officers for Contra Costa and the East Bay districts.

That's all for this report.

*Happy Valentine's Day.
Patty Jarrett, Past President*



LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 237, Table sponsor, Russ Properties, Irene Russ and family....



Br. 237, kids and Santa



Simi Valley Br. 443, ICF Members, family and friends enjoying Christmas Jingle and Mingle.

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Branch 145 members enjoy their Christmas dinner meeting at the Village Pantry Restaurant in Eureka on December 10th.



ICF Branch 144 member Tony Gonsalves displays his carving of a shoveler duck that won the blue ribbon at the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association convention in July.



Br.144 Advent Breakfast Happy Kitchen Crew



Br. 144 Pete Stagnoli flips the pancakes



Br. 144 Advent Breakfast



Br. 144 Crew of Knights for Advent Breakfast



Branch 52



Branch 52

CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Hey one more drink before we leave the Casino on Branch 14 Bus trip. What a happy bunch.



Happy Faces of members from Branch 14 on their Annual Casino Bus trip .



Members from Branch 14 at the Crockett Christmas gathering bringing Holidays cheers to all.



Contra Costa District Christmas party members from Branch 14 enjoying the evening.



Br. 214, The branch president Roberta Healy with the Marines for Toys 4 Tots



ICF Branch 214 Xmas brunch



Branch 214, District Xmas party at Wise Girl



Branch 214 Xmas brunch

Martinez Br. 13, San Martino

As we begin every new year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Feast of our Patron St. Elizabeth Seton, the Epiphany, and the Feast of LaBefana. Then, we enter the peak of winter, the season of stillness and darkness. February allows us to carefully listen—listen to God in the silence. Revel in its pace, you may hear winter's wishes. *What are your wishes for 2025?* Taking time to cultivate your purpose is one of winter's many gifts. A simple warm thought can ignite anything. *Let your heart be light.*

The Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist marks the end of the Christmas season, this year on Sunday, January 12th, which was a sign of Jesus' willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Although, many consider Twelfth Night or Epiphany Eve as the time to cease celebrating. Keep energized by His Christmas spirit and turn ever toward God.

Candlemas is celebrated on Sunday, February 2nd, 40 days after Christmas. It's when Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem by his parents, and Mary's postpartum purification. It falls within Ordinary time, which is a time for growth, maturation, and deepening our understanding of Jesus' life and teachings. It is a time to celebrate the return of light after winter and occurs between the Baptism of the Lord up to and including Shrove Tuesday.

These months of January and February offer us the opportunity to get to know Jesus better. Let's.

Sempre Avanti!
Mary Cook

Crockett Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

I hope by now you have recovered from all the holiday fun and festivities.

We had a great time at the Christmas Social this year. Our wonderful Santa (Johnny V.) delighted both young and old with his jolly laugh and warm heart. Along with the cutest elf ever (Sylvia), gifts were distributed to the children and we all had the opportunity to tell Santa our special wishes. Everyone contributed to make the event a success. Thank you to Roni Jimenez for organizing the holiday shindig, and to all the ladies who made the fabulous appetizers and desserts. All of this fun was accompanied by the music of our own Arron Cargo, who led us in singing Christmas Carols. A fine time was had by all!

We also thank the members who came and supported the ICF table at the Community Tree Lighting. We served prosecco and Italian treats to the community, shared information about our organization, and spread a little Christmas cheer.

As we look forward to a wonderful new year, we also send our get well wishes and prayers for members who are under the weather, especially Lois Ramos and Tony Scardina. Hope to see you up and around very soon!

Our first meeting in the new year will be January 14th. Mass will be held at 5 p.m. Remember that Fr. Leo holds this Mass especially for us. So, please try your best to attend. Dinner will follow at 6 p.m., and will include soup, salad, garlic bread, panettone, and eggnog. Cost for dinner is \$15.00. Come ring in the new year with your ICF friends!

It's time to pay our annual dues of \$42.00. Dues can be paid at the January meeting, or can be sent to Roni Jimenez (1990 Vista Del Rio, Crockett CA 94525) prior to the meeting. If you are in the hospitalization plan, please add another \$25.00.

Our February meeting will take place on the 11th. We'll enjoy a Valentine's dinner of Chicken Marsala and all the trimmings from chef Al DiPrima. Cost is \$15.00. Not sure if Cupid will be there, but be sure to brush up on your most romantic Italian phrases just in case.

Blessings,
~Helen

Concord Br. 214, Todos Santos

Happy New Year to all members of ICF branches and their families. A new year is upon us hoping for good health, happiness and peace.

I hope you all had a wonderful Xmas and enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends.

On November 21st we had our Toys 4 Tots at our branch meeting. So many wonderful gifts were donated by our generous members. The Marines who collected the toys were so grateful which will make so many children happy on Xmas.

We had a busy time this holiday with parties and branch activities.

We enjoyed our district Xmas party that was held at Wise Girl on Pleasant Hill. There were 50 people in attendance and all branch presidents were there. Each of the five branches donated great raffle prizes. A delicious buffet was served and we had beautiful table decorations by Roberta Healy. It was a fun night and enjoyed by all.

We had our ICF Branch #214 Xmas party and meeting at Zio Fraedos. It was a brunch buffet which was delicious. The room was beautiful with holiday decorations. Many door prizes were given by our President Roberta Healy. What a great way to start the holiday season!

We had some sad news that Thelma Maggio, who was one of the original members of our branch has passed away at the age of 95. We will attend her services on Friday, January 3rd. May she rest in peace.

We are having a board meeting on January 4th to discuss our branch activities for 2025. We will meet at our President's house Roberta Healy.

CIAO for now.
Buon Anno
Norene Deluca

Danville Br. 352, St. Isidore

Ciao from branch 352, Danville

We were honored to have Laurice Levine come to our last dinner meeting to speak on Cooley's Anemia, which is our national ICF charity. Laurice has Thalassemia herself and has needle infusions regularly. She gave us information on the disease and answered questions for our members. She wanted to go around to all the tables and speak to everyone. Thank you, Laurice.

We also had our election of officers. Here are the results: President: Fred Sanchez,

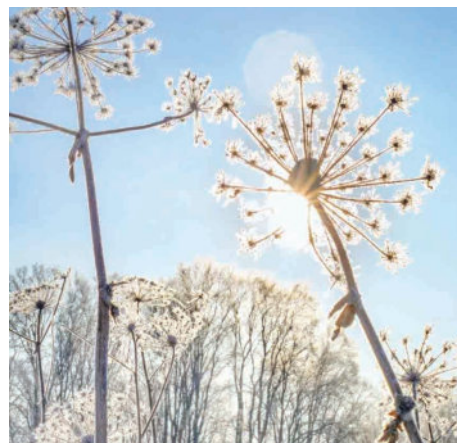
Vice President: Joan Marx, Second Vice President: Russ Bellici, Treasurer: Brian Morasco, Secretary: Sis Baatz; Orator: Sally Panella, Sentinel: Bob Marx, Trustees: Margie Favro, Susie Reynolds, Lisa, Sager, and Patti Bellici. Marianne Bordogna will serve as District Trustee. Congratulations to all!

Thank you to those that have served us so well the last few years, Marianne Bordogna as president and vice president, and Art Panella as treasurer. Ray Mattias, Patti Fontana and Joey Rago as trustees. We are looking forward to another good year Faith, Family, Fellowship and good food!

The next meeting was a potluck on 16 December. Russ got a break and we were able to share our favorite foods!

Until next year...Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo, Sally Panella

**Deadline
February 10 for the
March issue of the
Bollettino.
Send your articles
& photos:
editor@icf.org**



Pleasant Hill Br. 442, Christ the King

At Christ the King, Branch 442, in Pleasant Hill, the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas were filled with cheer and gratitude.

Christ the King Branch 442 Christmas Party "non-meeting" was held at the parish hall with ravioli from Rocco's restaurant and beautiful desserts created by members. 'Secret Santa' gifts were fun and funny!

The district-wide Christmas party was held at Wise Girl restaurant in Pleasant Hill and Branch 442 was well represented at the event.

The annual nomination and election of officers was completed with a full slate of dedicated officers for the 2025 year. The installation of new officers will be on Sunday, January 19th at a 2 p.m. mass at Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley.

The 2025 calendar of events will be presented at the January meeting, January 12th. Thank you to all those volunteers who keep the branch going.

May 2025 be healthy and happy for all.

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT District

Sacramento Br. 45, St. Mary

Happy New Year!! Our first dinner for 2025 will be held on Sunday, February 23rd in Giovanni Hall. Our Branch meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Menu includes Salad, Rolls, Polenta, ½ baked Chicken, Dessert, Wine, and Coffee. Pasta available by pre-order only at time of reservation. Cost is \$22 for Members, \$30 for non-members, \$10 Ages 12-7. For reservations or information, call me at 916-508-1199 by Monday, February 17th.

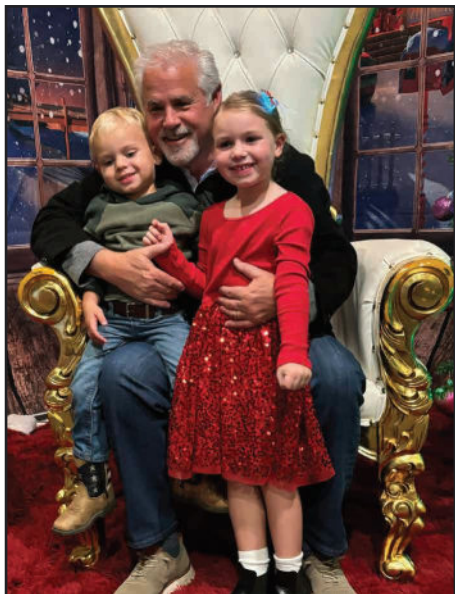
Our District Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday, March 1st at St. Clare Church in Roseville beginning with Mass at 11:30 a.m., followed by Installation and Lunch. Further details will be provided at our February Branch meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!!

On Saturday, April 26th, we will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Branch 45. Plans are in the works for a great event, so mark your calendars now. More information to follow.

Ciao, Janine

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT



Doug Otmar - Audrey - Owen Branch 36



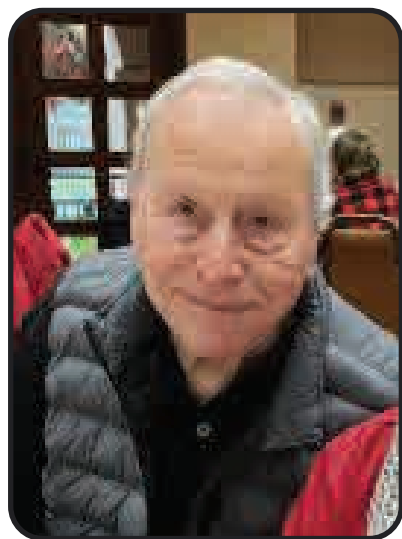
Sandie Russo Branch 36



Phyllis Aiello - Maria Burns - Liz Spadaro Branch 36



Branch 291's 2025 Officers are pictured above. Back row: Trustee David Sanchez; Br. Mentor Dave Zanini; Orator Pat Fairbanks; President Pete Gallagher; Treasurer Beth Nakamura; 2nd V.P. Jim Rallis. Front row seated: Trustee Patti Rorrer; Secretary Keely Sanchez; Trustee Margi Carducci. Not pictured: 1st V.P. Theresa Aston; Financial Secretary Laura Vopatek; Sentinel Ellen Bavaro.



Giuseppe Savona 1934 - 2024 Branch 36



Phyllis Campo 1950 - 2024 Branch 36



Br. 51, Thanksgiving breakfast

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



Br. 210. St. Joseph members & guests enjoying lunch



Br. 210. St Joseph Annie setting up drinks



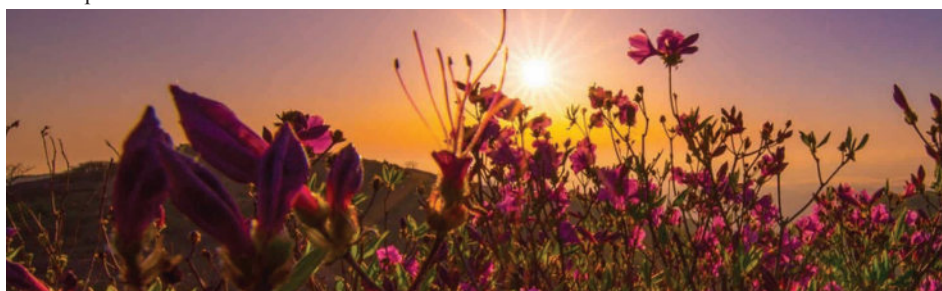
Br. 210. St. Joseph, Annie & Linda Auzenne at Bishop's Dinner



Br. 210 St. Joseph, Chef Bernard getting ready to serve



Br. 446 Christmas dinner



Br. 446 Pres. Santorufo presenting donation to Religious Education



Br. 446 Pres. Santorufo presenting donation to Legion of Mary



Br. 446 singing Christmas carols in Italian

FRESNO DISTRICT



Br. 39, Vince Piro, President of Branch 39, reads "It was the Night Before Christmas" to children at the ICF/Italo-American Lodge Christmas Party



Michael Belluomini, Vice-President of Branch 39, and Chuck Defina lead the children in "Jingle Bells" as Santa visits.



Br. 308, Merry Christmas and a blessed 2025.



Br. 39, Loretta Symes, Anne-Marie Bandoni, Maryellen Mazzei, and Ruth Redondo of Branch 39 decorated the ICF "Pasta Tree" at the Merced County Courthouse Museum.



An Italian Christmas Tree decorated by members of Branch 39 at the Italo-American Lodge, Merced.



St. Anthony's ICF Branch 308. Christmas dinner at Old Spaghetti Factory.



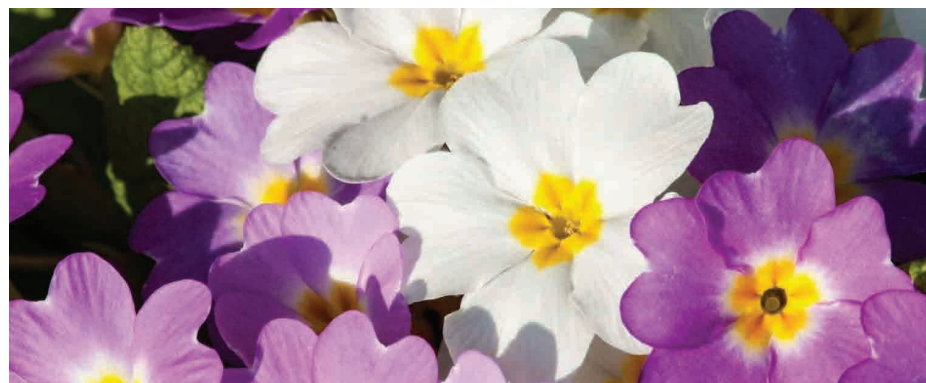
Br. 308, Wonderful evening filled with good food and friendship.

CHICAGO AREA



Branch # 392 pictures of the Live Nativity of December 15, 2024

BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT



Br. 342, Christmas Party

STOCKTON DISTRICT



Branch 395 Membership Group Photo from our Christmas Party



Branch 395 Fr. Mark joined us during Christmas Party (2nd chair from right)



Branch 395 Fr. Madhu also joined us during Christmas Party (4th chair from left)



Br. 139 getting ready for Prime rib with Tony's homemade raviolis



Br. 139, Jack & Dan Cunial sitting with George



Br. 139 Mario and Master Chef Tony Quierolo



Br. 139 Nonno Dante feast with Giovanni



Br. 82 Celebrating 6th Anniversary of Reestablishment

STOCKTON DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 390, Our members waiting for Chicken and Ravioli dinner.



Br. 390, The Landen Arnaudo loves Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Br. 390, The Mifsud Family



Br. 390, We always have lots of help with the serving of food.

RENO AREA



Br. 135, Father Felix Kiko; Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg; Branch President Charlyne Pacini; Father David Micheal



Br. 135, Branch President Charlyne Pacini presents a check to Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg.

SAN MATEO DISTRICT



Branch 130 Chef, Giovanni Manchia stirring polenta with a wooden paddle (not instant), assisted by Frank Sanfelice, & Angelo Manchia



Branch 130 Silent Auction/Raffle Chairs: Denise Severi, Sonia Picone & Daniela Hole



Branch 173 Christmas dinner.



Branch 130 Roberto Manchia preparing veggies for the stufato



Branch 130 Chef Brian Tupper, Frank Sanfelice, Angelo Manchia & John Malanca preparing antipasto



Branch 213 St Augustine, South San Francisco had their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Thanks to Judy Crosetti and Roberta Franchini for organizing the luncheon.

SAN MATEO DISTRICT (continued)



Branch 19, Christmas Party



Members of Br. 403 at their Christmas party.



Members of Br. 403 at their Christmas party.



Branch 403 President plays Santa at our Christmas party.



Branch 130 Giovanni Manchia and Nadine Figone, preparing the sugo.

Auburn
Br. 342, St. Joseph

Happy New Year!

A big thank you to Lisa Stockman and her family who graciously prepared our 2024 Christmas dinner. Everything was so delicious and we appreciate the donation of your time and talents to our branch. We also thank the members who brought desserts to share, set up, and cleaned up after the dinner. It was great to visit with my fellow members and see the joy on the faces of the little ones when Santa arrived.

I also want to give a big thank you to those who helped to put on our very successful Polenta Dinner. This event is always one I really look forward to and it could not have been done without Bridget Piziali, MaryAnn Mikles, Mark Piziali and his kitchen crew, Linda Wuelfing (who created the fantastic raffle baskets), and everyone else who helped to sell tickets, set up, clean up, or work at the event.

I am looking forward to a wonderful 2025 with our branch. Our Board is planning a few new events and tweaking the favorite ones in order to keep everything fun and lively for our members. We are always looking for members to help us run our events. If you would like to help, feel free to contact any board member and we can let you know where we need help.

Ciao!
Pam Andersen

Roseville
Br. 438, St. Clare of Assisi

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is now 2025, and there are so many exciting events that we are preparing to make this year the best one ever!

We have planned our monthly dinners so that we can have many different meals to share with our members and those who are not yet members. Starting with our Chili for Chilly Nights in January, to our yearly favorites of Cinco de Mayo and Mama Mia Dinners. We have had quite a few people attending our dinners, which makes our ICF family share their joy with all who attend. Everyone is always delighted with the dinner and social hour.

As we start to plan for 2025, we will be having our very first Chicken & Polenta Dinner. We are very thrilled to bring this dinner to our church and our community. It will be an entertaining evening for this new fundraiser.

In February, we are having the installation of all the officers from our district at our church, St. Clare. It is an honor and a pleasure to have all of the branches joining us at the Corporate Mass, followed by the installation and a luncheon. Our branch is very thankful and grateful that we are so supported by our priests and the church staff. We are able to do many things because of their help.

Ciao for now...Irene Perez

SANTA ROSA
District

Healdsburg
Br. 52, San Francisco Di
Sales

Our Christmas Party on December 10 was very festive. Those attending enjoyed the variety of holiday appetizers, bubbly and negronis made specially by Ken Spadoni. We distributed our Christmas donations to the Church, School and St. Vincent DePaul Society. Please see photos in the *Bollettino*

Upcoming Events:

Polenta Dinner: Saturday, February 1. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Price: \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 6 – 12. Richard Passalacqua will be cooking the polenta with his famous sausage sauce! We are asking members to bring their favorite dessert to share at our dessert table. Tickets will be sold after Mass, starting on Sunday, January 12. Or call Carmen and Lauren: 707-595-3111. Deadline is Wednesday, January 29. We are holding firm with this deadline, as last minute reservations put a strain on the kitchen and set-up.

Fish Fry: Friday, April 11. Save the date for our Fish Fry. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and always is a fun event. More details, next month.

Lauren still has a few of 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. Only 2 calendars remain!

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day! -Lauren

Petaluma
Br. 127, St. Vincent

Happy New Year all. We can pray it will be good.

I hope you all enjoyed a blessed and merry Christmas.

Thanks to all who participated in our party. Gifts, games and food. We welcomed Bob Aquestapace. We always enjoy his visits and we were sorry Kathy was not able to come. Who could ask for more? My report is short as nothing has happened.

Please consider attending meetings. We miss you. In case you forgot we meet second Monday at 3 p.m. At Saint James meeting room.

I am sorry to report our sweet Mary Ellen Higgins is not well. She battled pneumonia and now has a more serious illness. I am asking all ICFers to pray for her. Prayer is powerful.

Stay well. Ciao for now.
Margaret Cordrey

Arcata
Br. 144, St. Mary

Buon Anno!

We put on our annual Advent Breakfast "Gift of Love" for our parishioners on Dec 8. It was well received with about 150 attendees (photo) between 9-12:15.

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus were very helpful in set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up! (photos).

Some of them are also ICF members! Pete Stagnoli manned the pancake-making station (photo). They were light and fluffy...the best!

We continue to host coffee hour the second weekend of the month for all three Masses. Our members bring in some wonderful snacks!

We will be celebrating Befana on Sunday Jan 5 with a visit of the good witch, played by Barbara Vanni, to the children at the Religious Education classes.

We will also be having a potluck for our members and the Knights at 4 p.m.

We are hosting the Installation of Officers for Branches #144 and 145 on January 26th beginning with 11 a.m. Mass followed by a catered luncheon by Cassaro's Catering.

February will find us having a Sweet-heart Stew Supper on the 14th at 4 p.m. Yum!

Planning starts for the March 2nd Chicken & Polenta Dinner. This will continue to be both a sit-down (5 p.m.) and take-out event (4-5 p.m.). Call Toni Green @ 707-633-5679 for reservations!

Anne Carlisle Eanni
Secretary

Eureka
Br. 145, St. Ambrose

Despite the cold weather the Eureka Branch 145 Christmas dinner meeting held at the Village Pantry restaurant on Broadway was a warm and joyful evening. The food was good and plentiful. And the service was excellent.

After dinner Arcata ICF member Tony Gonsalves gave an interesting talk on his award-winning hobby of carving lifelike and detailed replicas of birds out of wood.

The Bette Chinn Super Bowl of peanut butter and jelly collection competition gets underway on Jan 11th. The collection boxes are in all of the Humboldt County Catholic churches.

The Branch 145 and 144 combined installation luncheon will be held at St. Mary's Leavey Hall after their 11:00 a.m. mass on Sunday January 26th. Members are encouraged to attend both the mass and the luncheon in Arcata.

High school seniors can now complete their applications for the Jerry Colivas Scholarship on line at the ICF.org website. Encourage high school seniors you know to apply now. Four first year Colivas scholarships are available this year.

Santa Rosa
Br. 198, St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We celebrated the anniversary of our Branch which opened on January 9, 1966 and is still going strong. There are only 3 charter members left: Rose Anderson, Kathy Acquistapace and Bob Acquistapace.

Today's officers help to continue the good work done by our branch over the years.

We owe a big "Thank you" to Lynette Lucia for organizing the candy sale and to those who bought the candy. We made a profit of over \$550.00. GREAT!!!

Here are our upcoming events:

February 3 — our wonderful cookie exchange. A real favorite. March 3 - our corned beef dinner. The best beef is served.

December marked the end of service as an officer of our branch for Linda Sherman. Over the years she has been true leader for the ICF. She served as a member of the Central Council; president of the Santa Rosa District Council; president of the St Eugene's Branch 198; and most recently as financial secretary for our branch. Her service and loyalty will be missed, but it's time we waited on her instead of her serving us.

Ciao,
Robert Acquistapace

FRESNO
District

Merced
Br. 39, St. Cecilia

In December, we held a biscotti sale and sold 430 dozen cookies. The crew worked hard for 2 days prepping, baking, cutting, and packaging under the excellent leadership of Maryellen Mazzei and Janet Pugliese. Thank you to all who helped.

Also in December, Maryellen, Ruth, Anne-Marie and Loretta decorated the ICF Christmas Tree at the Merced County Courthouse Museum. Our Pasta Tree is always a town favorite.

On December 8, we held our annual Family Christmas Party in conjunction with the Italo-American Lodge. We had a pasta lunch, desert, accordion music by Chuck Delfina, a reading of The Night Before Christmas, and a visit from Santa. It was a large crowd with many children who loved visiting with Santa. Thank you to Janet Dal Porto for chairing the event and Bobby Dal Porto for cooking lunch. A good time was had by all.

Happy New Year to all in the ICF.
Robyn Piro

Clovis
Br. 250, Our Lady of
Perpetual Help

Here are the birthday acknowledgements for December, as well as those for January (there are none for February: December celebrants were Carol Rice, Cynthia Silva, and Darlene Smay; January celebrants are Sharon Arnold, Verona DeLuca, and Ron Travis.

Thank God for the rain! Wasn't much but much appreciated!

Little known Pope's department: St. Sylvester I (the 33rd Pope) 314-335. Held office for just short of 22 years becoming the longest serving pope at the time; was highly respected and considered a man of great wisdom.

The Zanarini's Granddaughter, Sarah Diener, completed two years with the Peace Corps in Colombia, S.A., teaching English. She returned home in Salt Lake City where Rich and Mary joined her in celebrating her 26th birthday on Christmas Eve.

Our November and December meetings were well attended and were highlighted by the beautiful decorations and great food! The November meeting featured homemade soups followed by the awarding of several door prizes and bingo.

Thought for the month:

*"Two thousand years have come and gone,
And still the Christmas light shines on,
Its light as bright, its hope as true;
Its glory old, yet never new."*

Ciao,
Angelo Lavagnino

Fresno
Br. 308, St. Anthony of
Padua

Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2025.

Thank you to Betty Zanoni, John Mulligan and Paula Savino who helped call all members, when the St. Anthony's bulletin had incorrect information for our Christmas dinner.

Prayers for Paulo & Teresinha Maria Dos Santos.

We are all happy Italians whether we are Italian or not. Our next meeting will be January 8, 2025, and Susan Squeo will be preparing tamales for dinner. See you in the new year.

Debbi Jorgensen



CENTRAL COAST
District

Happy New Year's to all. May the New Year bring you joy, happiness health and love.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2025 District Officers:

Elaine Valentine- President
Julie Richards- 2nd Vice President
Jim Friebel - 2nd Vice President
Roseann Costabile- Rec Secretary
George Leonard - Fin Secretary
George Leonard. Treasurer
Pete Gallagher- Trustee
Vickie Howell - Trustee
David Zanini - Trustee
Pat Fairbanks- Orator
Maryann Friebel- Sentinel

Central Coast District will have their installation of 2025 officers on Saturday January 18, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Hall in Tres Pinos, CA at 11:00 a.m. Each branch is to bring a raffle basket/gift. A silent auction table available for any individual donations. Hosted by Br. 26- Hollister - Santa Barbara.

Save the date: Bishop's Day
September 13, 2025 hosted by
Br. 36- Monterey-Santa Rosalia.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Valentine, President
Central Coast District

Monterey
Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

Buon Anno - May the New Year bring you an abundance of joy, health and prosperity with each day filled with blessings and new opportunities.

12-5-24: ICF Annual Family Christmas Party at Moose Lodge - Monterey. All enjoyed a chicken dinner served with salad, vegetables, mashed potatoes, garlic bread, and dessert.

We all had a very festive evening with our family and friends. The Moose Lodge was presented with a donation of \$500 from Br 36. Sandie Russo was honored with a certificate of appreciation for all her hard work, dedication, and her creative centerpieces. Also, given a gift card and a poinsettia. We thank all our members for donating unwrapped toys that were given to Monterey Fire Department, and all canned goods were given to Loaves and Fishes. There was a surprise visit from Santa, which was the highlight of our evening.

January 23, 2025: New Year Dinner/ Meeting will be held at the Moose Lodge of Monterey.

Menu: Chicken cacciatore, Caesar salad, pasta, garlic bread, and dessert.

Price \$25.00-member, \$30.00 non-member, \$10.00 kids.

In February, we will be planning an

Appreciation/ Volunteer Dinner at San Carlos Cathedral Hall. This is our preparation meeting for our Lenten Dinners. Date likely to be Thursday February 20, 2025.

Beginning March 7, 2025, and continuing for 6 Friday through April 11, 2025, Lenten Dinner will be held at San Carlos Cathedral Hall. Menu: Fish (catch t of the day) Pasta, salad, ICF famous garlic bread. More information to follow soon.

We are saddened to report that Phyllis Campo and Giuseppe "Pino" Savona recently passed away. Our condolences to their families, may they Rest in Peace.

A new Blessing

A new Hope

Auguri Di Buon Anno,

Elaine Valentine
President Br. 36

Castroville
Br. 51, Santa Caterina de
Siena

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Branch 51 was very busy during November and December.

On November 16 we had our annual Thanksgiving breakfast, where we all got together at a local restaurant to share a meal and count our blessings before the start of the busy holiday season.

We also conducted our annual adopt-a-family for Christmas. We chose a single mom from Castroville with four children, one of whom is currently fighting leukemia. They each provided us with a list of their needs and wants and we were able to fulfill their wishes. Thank you to our very generous members who donated so selflessly so that this struggling family could have a Merry Christmas.

I've missed some people's birthdays, so happy belated birthday to Lisa Brom (11/5), Larry Barlow (12/4), and Zachary Barlow (12/26). Happy birthday to our January member, Leonora Barlow (1/14)!

On a sadder note, we lost a beloved member of our branch, Esther Partido, after a brief battle with cancer. She was a mother and grandmother who was devoted to her family, a dispatcher with the Carmel Police Department for 25 years, and an active volunteer with many local organizations. Although she was only a member of Branch 51 for a short time, she was a long-time member of the Castroville community and grew up with many of our members.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Felice Anno Nuovo,
Stefani Cortopassi



Aptos
Br. 227, St. Joseph

Members enjoyed a sumptuous assortment of appetizers at the Christmas party on December 8 at the Mid-County Senior Center. Each member brought an appetizer, so the food was plentiful and there was a nice variety. Many thanks to Nancy Prevedelli for conducting the raffle. Because of our members' generosity there were plenty of raffle gifts.

We are happy to welcome returning members Bill and Monica Crowley, Rita DeBernardo and Past President Steve Millang.

Thanks to all of you who participated in our poinsettia fund raiser. All 50 were sold.

Get ready for pizza and a salad bar at the January meeting. It will be held on Sunday the 12th, at the Mid-County Senior Center.

It's that time of year again. No, not just New Year's resolutions, but Dues. They are \$50 this year. Please send them to Financial Secretary Nancy Harrold in the self-addressed envelope she gave you or give them to her at the January meeting.

Thanks to the Hollister branch for hosting the Installation of Officers on January 18.

Happy New Year. May God's love light your path in the coming year.
Deanna Musler, Secretary

Arroyo Grande
Br. 291, St. Patrick

Happy New Year to all our ICF members! Let's pray 2025 is a happy, safe and healthy year for all!

Br. 291 members enjoyed a lovely Christmas Luncheon celebration at the Madonna Inn on Dec. 1st that included a delicious lunch, lots of raffle prizes and new entertainment this year by the St. Patrick School Children's Choir! A big shout out to Beth Nakamura who did a great job coordinating this event for the first time!

With the new year upon us, it means that our ICF Fish Frys are right around the corner! Our first fish fry will be held on Friday, February 28th. This is our "Mardi Gras" fish fry that raises money for our Catholic School Registration Assistance Program. Our five Lenten Fish Frys will follow from March 7th - April 11th (we skip March 14th due to a St. Patrick's Day celebration at our church that weekend.) If you're in the Arroyo Grande area, we invite you to attend one or all of our fish frys. They are very popular!

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

Ciao!
Keely Sanchez
Recording Secretary

SANTA CLARA VALLEY District

Gilroy Br. 28, Santa Maria Ausiliatrice

My Dear Spiritual Friends,

The wise men journeyed to Bethlehem, meeting Jesus, their Spiritual Leader, to enhance their spiritual journey. Each wise man journeyed back to their own lands with a renewed and deeper sense of their love of God. My wish for you in the new year is that you find a deeper spiritual journey as we meet each month at our meetings.

Join us on January 27 for "soup night" by Diana Berry, Dave and Marianne Peoples.

Be sure to buy your tickets early for our "Shrimp and Ravioli" fundraiser dinner being held on February 15.

Don't forget "pizza night" on February 24 by Vince Saso, Kim and John Filice.

In sharing this spiritual journey with you,
Jeanette Hudson

Mountain View Br. 47, San Giorgio

Buon Anno! Happy New Year!

Our ICF Christmas party seemed like it was just yesterday. We all had a great time, eating, caroling and enjoying each other's company.

We are looking forward to a great year with new ideas for our branch, new members, prosperous fundraisers and fellowship.

Wishing you a year full of exciting new opportunities! Cheers and success to you all!

Blessings,
Julie

St. Mary Br. 184, Los Gatos

The Installation of Officers will take place on January 4, at St. Martin of Tours Parish. Our Officers for 2025 are as follows: President from January to June is Denise Antonowicz and from July to December is Deanna Meyer; 2nd Vice President Germaine Antonowicz; Recording Secretary Marie Yurosko; Corresponding Secretary Lucy Amico; Financial Secretary Rita Bonasera; Treasurer Donna Pfaff; Orator Virginia Giacomini; Trustees Larry Vollman and Michele Antonowicz.

Our Branch Christmas Party was held

on Dec. 13. We enjoyed a dinner catered by Tony and Alba's, then had fun with our gift exchange game, followed by Christmas Bingo! Fr. Greg Kimm and Fr. Angelo David were with us, and we even had live Christmas music by Reno Di Bono!

At our November meeting, Gr. President Denise Antonowicz presented her Heritage Report. She started her presentation speaking about the history of Veteran's Day. When WWI ended in 1919, fighting stopped on the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month. It was called Armistice Day, honoring veterans of WWI. In 1958, it was changed to Veteran's Day, honoring Veterans from all wars. Her story then became a poignant love story! Pasquale Salvatore Saltieri was an Italian-American soldier stationed in France during WWI. The barracks were next to an ammunition plant, where worked a young French girl named Germaine. Pasquale liked to bake and gave Germaine a pie every day. They eventually married and moved to the United States. They had four children, one of whom was our beloved Marie Antonowicz, who lived just short of her 100th Birthday. Now you know how our Italian/Polish ladies received French names!

We hope to see more members attend our meetings. Starting in 2025, meetings will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.
Ciao for now, Lucy Amico

San Jose Br. 191, Saint Frances Cabrini

Branch 191 Saint Frances Cabrini would like to wish all our ICF families a very Happy New Year! As we ended our 2024 year, we looked back on all that we have accomplished for our Branch and our SFC Parish!

We did Soup Night, Palm Sunday Breakfast and Egg Hunt (With the SFC Preschoolers), Pasta Sauce Fundraiser, Multicultural Mass and Reception for SFC (Cooked spaghetti and meatballs twice), Hosted Donut Sunday, Saint Joseph's Table, Crowning of Mary, 100th Gala, Convention, Oktoberfest and Christmas Cookie Fundraiser. WOW Bravo to our members!! Thank you for all the support to your Branch and SFC Church.

As we move forward Branch 191 will be celebrating its 60th anniversary, so look out for a Save the Date.

We are sad to announce the passing of our dear friend Emily Corral who pass away on Christmas Day.

May she rest in peace in God's loving hands!!

Happy New Year
Debbie Piro

San Jose Br 368, Santa Teresa de Avila

Happy New Year! and Happy Valentine's Day.

We hope everyone stays happy and healthy in 2025. Check out the pictures of our Christmas Party. This was a great time with all of us together for a very nice ham dinner with scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, bread, wine, soft drinks, and a chocolate cake for dessert. We had a raffle with 24 Santa Dolls as prizes. We sang Christmas songs to the tunes of Ed Wendler, on guitar and Zack Schroeder on piano. Sadly, Mike Nunziata went to the Lord in December. At Mike's funeral mass, ICF presented Loraine Nunziata with the ICF Rose Ceremony. Lorraine will need all the prayers we can give. Please pray for our sick members, Louie Cordich and Bill Rice. The 2025 ICF Convention, Gateway to God's Bounty, is scheduled for August 29 -31 2025 at the Wyndham in Visalia California. November's \$30 calendar prize winner for Br. 368 was Jerry Delfino. If you want to be a winner in the monthly drawing, buy a calendar from our Treasurer Tina Souza-Dutra.

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

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

May God bless each and every one of you and your families.
Tom Myers

San Jose Br. 391, St. Martin of Tours

Although we did not have a monthly meeting in December, members celebrated the Christmas holiday with food, song and holiday cheer.

Orator Sister Jane led us in a recollection about looking to Jesus for peace and of His power to bring unity into the world.

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

Also, Father Tony Famave and Sister Jane Garrison were presented with Christmas gifts for their service to the St. Martin of Tour's community.

Steve was proud to say that our branch had donated over \$11,800 to support our charities.

In the coming months, Steve will be distributing additional donations to the following programs: ICF's Gifts of Love, the Nativity School, and the Diocese Layette Program.

In a wonderful gesture, Steve also presented gift cards to the following

seven members who were in attendance and who are older than 90 years of age: Marie Patellaro, Joe De Maria, Ann Antuzzi, Carmie Jiminez, Donna Rossi, Mary Lipari, and Kay Harrison.

During the evening, Donna Rossi and Alba Salciccia entertained members with Christmas caroling, and later on, Steve led the singing of Christmas Carols. Alba closed the evening with her singing her beautiful rendition of "Ave Maria."

Reminder:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Wishing you a Healthy and New Year!
Janis Patellaro

Sunnyvale Br. 408, Resurrection

May the Lord Bless us in this New Year!

Our Santa Clara Valley District (SCVD) Installation Mass and Luncheon on

January 4th was a very pleasant event kicking off our 2025 Year.

We have another Full Schedule of ICF Events ahead of us in 2025.

Our Lenten Soup Supper Begins on Friday, 7 March, and our ICF/5th Grade Pasta Dinner will be held Saturday, 8 March.

Our Spring Blood Drive will be Sunday, 16 March.

We look forward to your continued enthusiastic Participation and Support.

Please Pray for our Members and Friends: Fr. Chris Bennett, Laurice Levine, Nelson Castelino, Spike Burkhardt, Steve Richey, and Al Chantelope.

Morgan Hill Br. 435, Santa Caterina D'Alessandria

Our Christmas party at the Longhouse in Gilroy was a wonderful and fun event and the food was great! We were grateful to have our Pastor, Father Gerardo Menchaca to lead us in the opening and closing prayers. Through a raffle, we were able to give each person a present, of either Biscotti, Panettone, Poinsettia, or Olive Oil as a thank you for their support of Italian Catholic Federation #435.

We were surprised and happy to have a visit from Luciana & John Valenti who were members of ICF #435 in its beginning. They happened to be having dinner at the Longhouse that night. It was an added joy to the evening!

Your continued prayers for member Sylvia Sorci who is still hospitalized.

Buon Natale!
Giulia Gallego
President



San Jose Br. 445, Transfiguration

After our Fall Quarterly Mass at Transfiguration Church, several members attended a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at St. Christopher's, sponsored by their Over 50's Club, in honor of Veterans Day. Donations received went to support the needs of the Parish.

Our November general meeting featured a lasagna and meatball dinner with sides and desserts. Fall decorations abounded. Jim Canger was elected to be our 3rd Trustee.

Our December Christmas Party's delicious dinner was catered by Tony & Alba's Restaurant. Members brought gifts for a fun exchange and games were also played. Holiday music, a Nativity scene and a tall Christmas decked in green, white and red lights added to all the other festive decorations. December birthdays were celebrated along with Richard Pfaff's milestone 90th! We also welcomed our newest member—Barbara Bahl!

Many thanks to all our members who help make these events so festive and special! Thanks too to those who supported our December See's Candy Fundraiser.

Br. 445 member Emily Corral passed away peacefully on Christmas morning...it was her birthday into Heaven. Emily has been an ICF member for 40 years starting with Br. 191 in 1984 and an inaugural Br. 445 member in 2016. She has been our Orator through the years. She also was an Officer in various positions at Branch / District levels for 20 years. She will truly be missed.

Happy January Birthday wishes to: Kathy La Scola, Jan Stumhoffer, Darlene Pedone and Donna Pfaff and February Birthday wishes to Jean Avram and Marti Rao!

Buon anno nuovo e buon San Valentino a tutti!

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

STOCKTON District

Modesto Br. 48, St. Stanislaus

We are finalizing plans for the Installation of Officers on Sunday, January 5, 2024. We pray you are able to attend.

It seems unbelievable that it is the start of a new year. Here are some reminders:

- It is time to submit applications for scholarships. They are due March 15, 2025. Check with your branch for applications or get one online.
- Our dues for the year are due in January. You may pay your dues at the January meeting.

- We will have our St. Joseph's Table Celebration and Potluck on Sunday, March 16, 2025. You are encouraged to bring your family and friends and your favorite dish. Members: please bring a gift for the raffle. It will be a very enjoyable afternoon.

Please keep Domenica Dusi and her family in your prayers. She passed away on September 20, 2024. She was a Branch 48 member for 59 years.

Coming up:

Sun, Jan 5 – 1 p.m. – ICF Installation of Officers, J Street Church and Hall

Wed, Jan 8 – 6 p.m. Meeting – J Street Church Hall

Wed, Feb 12 – 6 p.m. Meeting – J Street Church Hall

Wed, Mar 12 – 6 p.m. Meeting – J Street Church Hall

Sun, Mar 16 – 2 p.m. – St. Joseph's Table Potluck – J Street Church Hall

*Have a blessed New Year.
Cecelia McGhee*

Lodi Br. 82, St. Anne

Buon Anno, ICF Famiglia.

Winter season has settled in. "It's the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is a time for home." Edith Sitwell

After a December break, it was wonderful for the branch to regroup at our January meeting, chatting to catch up with each other and discussing upcoming activities.

One being, the quarterly District Meeting that we're hosting on Sun. Feb. 23rd in Dominican Hall. The dinner meeting, open to all members, begins at 1:00. This is a great opportunity to meet members from other branches, enjoy a tasty meal, learn about district matters, and possibly win a raffle prize. Contact Elisa to make your reservations and pay the \$20 dinner fee.

Our next member meeting is 6:00 p.m., Tues, Feb. 25th in the Youth Room. Bring a friend! Let's share with others the benefit of being affiliated with our religious, philanthropic, family organization.

This month is sweetly special:

Let your light shine...share God's love with all you meet.

*Patty Litts
Corresponding Secretary*



Manteca Br. 139, Nostra Signora del Buon Viaggio

Felice Anno Nuovo to all! Hopefully 2025 has been a good year for you and your family so far. I will be the new reporter for Branch 139; Mariano has decided to retire. Thank you, Mariano, for all the informative articles you have written in the past. I know I have big shoes to fill and I will do my best.

Here goes: Last December 8th Branch 139 held their annual Christmas Luncheon at Tony's Kitchen. As always, Chef Tony outdid himself with prime rib and all the trimmings. We also had yummy appetizers and pumpkin and pecan pies with whipped cream for dessert. All total we had 28 members, family of members, and friends including past President, Elizabeth Demichelis, and her mom, Irma. Many beautiful raffle prizes. A good time was had by all.

President Birdie Nieri conducted a short business meeting and thanked Tony and his helpers for the wonderful dinner and announced Installation of Officers for 2025 would be January 5 at St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto.

It is with deep sadness we share the loss of a member last December, Anna Mello. Anna was a longtime member of our Branch, including serving as an officer in several capacities. Please remember Anna and her family in your prayers.

*Bye for now,
Michela*

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>



Tracy Br. 390, St. Bernard

We quickly sold out our 2025 calendars and are very impressed with this year's offering of a calendar that boasts great recipes, includes a cocktail recipe to compliment the food but adds a movie that compliments the dinner and drink! What a great calendar to give as a gift during the holidays! I bought three!

Announcing our new 2025 board as follows:

President Denis Della Nina; 1st Vice-President Joe Bacchetti; 2nd Vice-President Alena Chappell; Recording Secretary Nichole Mifsud; Correspondence Secretary Betty Hollars; Financial Secretary Annette Elissagaray; Treasurer Serene Martocchio; Orator Lucy Orsi; Trustee Kathleen Noah; Trustee Marilyn Tuso; Trustee Gary Del Carlo; Sentinel Charles Tuso. The initiation of these officers will be at the January 2025 dinner, which will be serving chicken cacciatore and polenta—all-time favorite!

Our condolences to the family of our dear member Maxie Millingar who passed away recently. Maxie faithfully attended and helped out at monthly meetings. May she rest in peace.

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*

Stockton Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

We celebrated our annual Christmas Dinner during our Branch Meeting in December 2024. We were blessed to have two of our Priests, Fr. Mark and Fr. Madhu, join us for a time of good food and fellowship. We also held our annual gift exchange and enjoyed a wonderfully delicious dessert!

We are looking forward to the new year in 2025, with Mary Ann Piana Chapman at the helm as our President. Again, welcome and hearty congratulations to all of our new Branch 395 Officers for 2025!

*Merry Christmas 2024 and Happy New Year 2025!
Allen Sturtevant, President 2024*



Angels Camp Br. 413, St. Patrick's

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone is having a very blessed 2025, so far. It is still 2024 as I type this, but I'm keeping a very positive attitude for the future.

On December 15th, our branch held its annual free Parish Breakfast and bake sale. It was a hit with the parishioners, and everyone enjoyed the delicious scrambled eggs, sausages, and pancakes. Our hats are off to our cooks! They did a great job and are much appreciated.

The bake sale went well, and the branch was able to add a little money to support the parish. Thank you to all the branch members who made baked goods for the sale, and God bless all those who bought the goodies.

Installation of Officers for the Stockton District is January 5, 2025. We hope to see all of the branch officers there. Thank you to Branch 48 for hosting the Installation and meal.

*Ciao,
Robert Pachinger
Branch President/Stockton District
President*

SAN BERNARDINO District

Fontana Br. 210, St. Joseph

Our November meeting was a delightful catered event. Since Covid, our Branch has existed by meetings by mail and before that by occasional Zoom calls, but our members didn't take to ZOOM. So, meetings by mail worked for us. We have been meeting at St. Nicholas of Myra since February 2024 and this was our opportunity to give thanks for our meeting space. We decided to invite the members of St. Nicholas to join us as a way of getting to know them better. Our caterer was Chef Bernard Frehner, well known in the Diocese of San Bernardino. He provided us with a wonderful Thanksgiving themed lunch. For dessert, he made us a decadent pumpkin cheesecake! The members of St. Nicholas who were able to join us really enjoyed their lunch. At the end, one member of St. Nicholas joined our Branch and two more took applications. Chef Bernard filled out an application and is now a member of our Branch!

We are working on fundraising and building our branch. On a sadder note, two long time members, Angie Teal, from Branch 210, passed away this month, and from Branch 217, we lost our good friend Linda Auzenne. Please keep them both in prayer.

Branch 210 will be hosting the District Installation on January 25th at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Redlands. If you can join us, please text me at 951-237-2802 and let me know. We'd be happy to see you!

*Annie McCarthy
President, Branch 210*



Upland Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Many blessings to all our fellow ICF members for a joyous 2025! Our branch came together to celebrate the holidays with a wonderful Christmas dinner party at our parish hall. Wine and beer were included with our dinner of chicken parmigiana, baked pasta, bread and salad. Of course, we had cannoli and our favorite Italian cookies for dessert. We played several fun Christmas games and many of our members won wonderful prizes and gift baskets. A highlight of the evening was the singing of Christmas carols in Italian by many of our members. Our party was planned by Nan Judge, Virginia Impastato, Carrey Rossie and Betty Cavanaugh.

Our branch ended 2024 by giving generous donations to worthwhile parish causes. We donated funds to the Legion of Mary to provide inspirational books to parish families after all the Christmas Masses. We also donated to Recharge, a branch of Religious Education at St. Anthony's, to help fund transportation for their upcoming retreat.

We look forward to the upcoming year with a few new officers. Our President-elect, Carrey Rossie was officially presented with the presidential gavel at our Christmas dinner by out-going president, Tony Santorufo. Tony has been a guiding force for our ICF branch. Due to his tireless work, we have doubled our membership and have won several ICF awards and recognitions.

We look forward to President-elect Carrey Rossie's dynamic leadership along with the new additions to our list of officers. We welcome Tom Bracuto as our Second Vice-President, Ledyia Hess as Corresponding Secretary, Edward Hess as Trustee and Pat Kersbergen as our Scholarship Chair.

Above all, our branch continues to thrive and grow due to the outstanding support and dedication of our 71 members!

CHICAGO District

Chicago Br. 392, St. Francis Borgia

Chicago Branch #392 Christmas Mass on December 15, 2024 was well attended. What a joyful occasion celebrating the Birth of Jesus with a Live Nativity.

Thank you to all that participated and thank you to our bakers for supplying the wonderful array of regional specialty!

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

RENO Area

Reno Br. 135, St. Albert

On Sunday evening, December 8, 2024, our annual dinner to honor Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, Bishop of the Reno Diocese was held to present him with monetary gifts to fund the education of the Seminarians of our diocese and money for a TV Mass that is aired on a local TV Channel every Sunday morning.

We welcomed 21 members and guests that enjoyed an excellent dinner. Special guests attending the dinner included Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, the Bishop of the Reno Diocese; Father David Micheal, Priest Administrator and, Father Felix Kiko, Parochial Vicar both at St. Albert the Great Church, Deacon Ed Callahan, Permanent Deacon at St. Albert the Great Church, and his wife, Connie.

Special thanks goes to Bobby and Rachael Ferrari and Bob and Suzanne Capurro who prepared a delicious dinner of meat balls with tomato sauce, pasta, baked chicken breasts, salad and chocolate pie and brownies for dessert. Rachael also prepared the delicious appetizers.

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

Our branch lost a valued and active member, Don Merucci, who passed away in July 2024. He will be greatly missed. Please pray for the repose of Don's soul and keep his family in your prayers.

Our next meeting will be February 02, 2025.

*Happy New Year!
Charlyne Pacini*



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION 2025 Yearbook

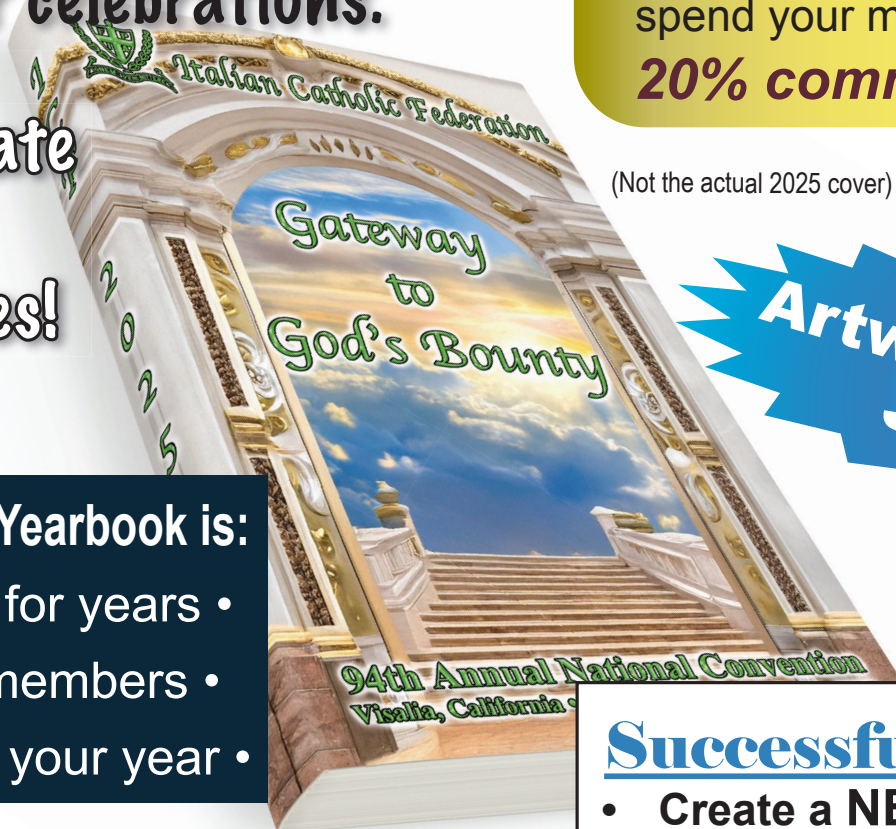
YOU Are Needed!

Show us your celebrations.

Let us celebrate your joys and successes!

The ICF Convention Yearbook is:

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



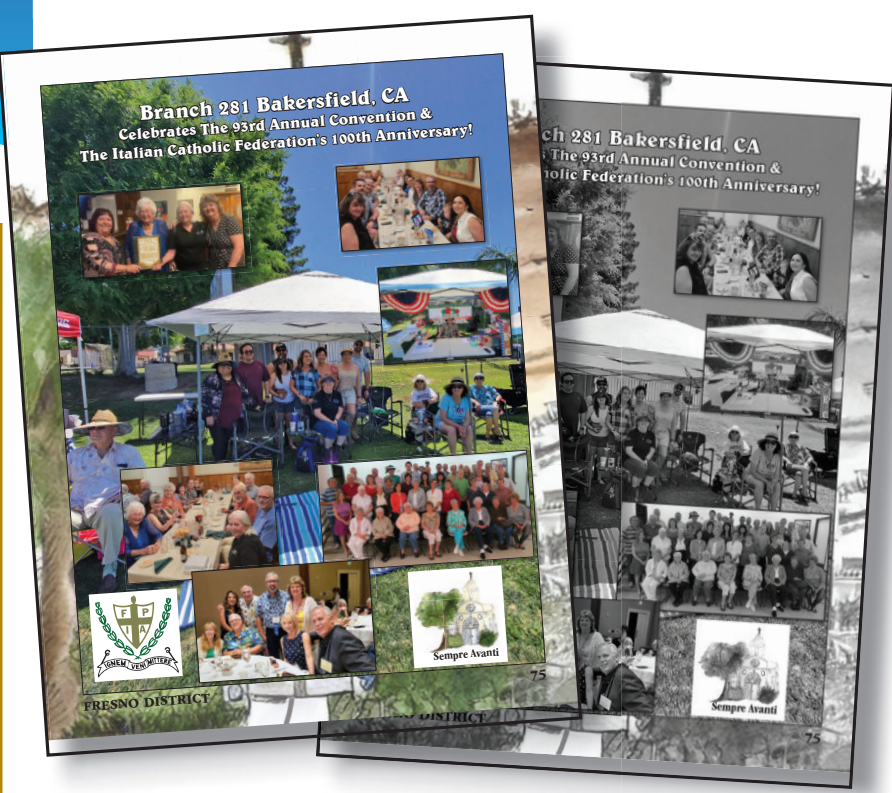
(Not the actual 2025 cover)

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

**Artwork Deadline
 JULY 1ST!**

You Need COLOR!
 The full-page entry for Branch 281 looks great in the 2024 book! (See page 75.)
 So much more impactful than black and white would have been.
Please consider color for impact.

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



Celebration Pages

Births • Weddings • Graduations
Full color 1/16th page celebration entry for only \$25. Includes a photo and details.
Let us all celebrate the joys from your year!



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



Jamie Sanderson,
Baritone



Emily Gallagher,
Soprano

FEB 1, 2025
2:00PM

VALENTINE
OPERA
FUNDRAISER

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

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ITALIAN CHOCOLATE
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Each ticket includes
Complimentary glass of wine,
Tasty Italian Pasta Platter with
Meat Sauce & Salad
Delicious hors d'oeuvres!





2024 - 2025
Season



October 19 - 20,
2024
Così fan tutte
Mozart



Feb 1, 2025
il Segreto di Susanna
& **The Telephone**
a Romantic double comedy
Wolf-Ferrari
& Menotti



May 3, 4 & 10
La Bohème
Puccini



Mar 30, 2025
Opera Ole!
Concert en
~Español~
Bizet, Falla, &
more



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Children's Opera Festival!

Tickets!

Presented by Young Opera Theater
Sunday, March 23, 2025
Casa Italiana
1051 N Broadway, LA 90012
1:00pm - 4:00pm





Your donation helps YOT to
make these events happen!

Opera mini-shows - from favorites such as:

PINOCCHIO, Hansel & Gretel,
La Figlia del Mago (The Magician's Daughter),
La Cenerentola (Cinderella)

Performed by Opera Italia professional singers
and the Opera Kids of Young Opera Theater

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/childrens-opera-festival-tickets-1044633907137?aff=oddtcreator>



Costume workshops! Opera games!
Face-painting ~ Concessions
Admission \$15 per child aged 18 & under
Accompanying adult - no charge

youngoperatheater@gmail.com
<http://youngoperatheater.godaddysites.com>
213-248-2510




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

Saturday February 1, 2025
Doors open 12:00pm,
Tasty Pasta Platter Luncheon served 12:30pm
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 Ticket includes a Complimentary Glass of Wine
And Tasty Italian Pasta Platter with Meat Sauce and Salad
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: _____	
Specify number of tickets for each type		Phone: _____	
		_____ 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