



ICF Celebrating Faith, Family and Heritage

#### ICF Valentine Opera Fundraiser a HEART-felt Success

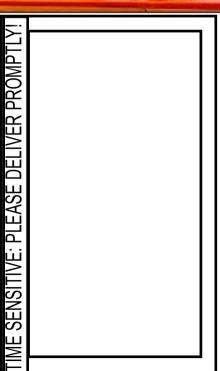
Francesca Taylor

parish in South Pasadena on February 1st, with ICF Branches 67 and 108 collaborating with Opera Italia for a worldclass event!

The afternoon began with cheerful red Valentine décor brightening Connolly Hall, and ICF members from up and down Southern California stepping into style. Tickets included a hearty pasta & meat sauce lunch, with an eye-catching spread of chocolate from Venchi, Ghirardelli and Perugina ~ and ~ a special homemade brand of fudge from Branch #108 member Jacqueline Ficht. The chocolate tasting was a fun add-on for dessert!

Il Segreto di Susanna (Susanna's Secret) by Erman Wolf-Ferrari took the audience to Piedmont, a region of Italy's northern climes, where all were treated to the clever story of Countess Susanna, played by Emily Gallagher, and her husband Count Gil, played by Jamie Sanderson, with their newlywed antics. Set in 1909, the social dictates saw few if any women smoking...but Susanna in secret enjoys





Love, humor and great music graced this "svago favorito" (favorite 'hobby') the Valentine Opera held at Holy Family without a word to Gil. Gil senses the odor of tobacco, however, and suspects Susanna has brought a paramour into her life who "must be the fumatore (smoker)!" Thus, the misconceptions begin...

> The count's villa employs two servants, played by Marina Beeson and Christopher Walters, who silently caper between the actions of the 'nobility,' bringing more smiles to the show. All ends in bliss when the Count finally figures out his wife has always been faithful to him -- just a bit wily! The music, provided by a live ensemble conducted by Oliver Chan, made a splashing finish. Supertitles with enlarged English words and the original Italian beneath helped all to follow this elegant story.

> Lovely raffle prizes with romantic themes graced the display tables. We thank everyone for donating these pretty prizes! Opera Italia crew, ICF members and Girl Scout volunteers staffed several information tables and played games with the opera-goers.

> The Telephone, a staple of American comic opera and composed by Italian-American Gian Carlo Menotti, transported us several decades ahead to New York of the 1950s, where two sweethearts frolic again, this time around a telephone! Ben (Jamie Sanderson) only wants to ask Lucy (Emily Gallagher) to marry him...

but first he has to extricate her from her little old-fashioned telephone with "miles of cord" and a rotary dial. Sung in English, this witty and endearing comedy shows that life hasn't changed so much after all, despite our new smartphones! Can Ben connect with Lucy long enough to pop the question? We were all on the edge of our seats to hear him!

Very special guest Laurice Levine flew down from Northern California to speak to the audience about Thalassemia and the challenges, as well as the progress being made to address this genetic illness of the blood. Disproportionately affecting peoples of Mediterranean origin, Thalassemia in its severest form necessitates regular blood transfusions for life, in those affected. Laurice, a loyal ICF member and frequent speaker at ICF events and conventions, will be pleased to accept the funds raised from this event for the benefit of patients at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She was joined by Michelle Lahat, director of CHLA's Red Blood Cell program, and others who support patients with Thalassemia, including a new Children's Thalassemia camp coming this spring. The total funds raised at our Valentine opera came to just over \$2,000.

Opera Italia was so pleased to bring these entertaining operettas to ICF, and is delighted to continue the collaboration.





#### Grand President's Monthly Message

The Journey Forward

Denise Antonowicz

These walls have witnessed eighty years of our fam ily's life—first steps, family prayers, holiday gatherings, and wonderful Sunday afternoons. Now, as boxes fill famil



iar corners and empty spaces echo with memories, we find ourselves in a season of profound change.

Just as in Gilbert and Sullivan's 1882 operetta Iolanthe, its characters experienced sleepless nights when anxiety kept their minds racing. We too face moments when rest doesn't comewhen change makes our thoughts beat like a drum. Continued on Page 3





#### BOLLETTINO

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#### Important Notice

The email address for ALL *Bollettino* submissions is:

#### editor@icf.org

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

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

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

Br380.StJoseph.servers.jpeg

Include photo captions with your article submission.

Please keep your submission positive and informative.

Deadline for the April issue is March 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:

We do not know a lot about Joseph—we know that his Father's name was Jacob and that he was the husband of Mary. We know that he was a carpenter and that he lived in Nazareth. We know that before he and Mary lived together, after their engagement, he found out that she was pregnant and instead of shaming her or causing scandal, he decided to divorce her quietly. The Gospel tells us that he did this because he was an upright man, a man of principle.

We also know that he was a righteous man who followed the law: He observed religious law. We know he went to Jerusalem for the Jewish festivals. He also followed civil law. He went to Bethlehem for the census. We also know that Joseph had dreams. God spoke to him in his dreams, and he followed his dreams.

What is also interesting to me, is that nowhere in the Gospels do we ever hear anything Joseph says. He never says anything. But he is a man of action: he does what the angel tells him; he takes Mary as his wife; he goes to Bethlehem; he finds a place to stay for the night; he takes his family to Egypt... He is a man of action – not a man of words

St. Joseph is a wonderful example of faith and action! Here are some ways we can follow his example and become people of action within the Italian Catholic Federation.

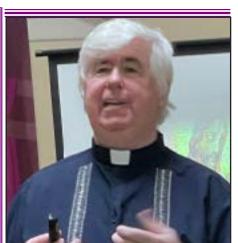
1. Create a Visionary Goal: Develop a long-term goal for the next one hundred years that can inspire both the branches and your church community. This could be related to education, community service, or spiritual growth.

2. Intergenerational Programs: Initiate programs that connect different generations within the church and family. Mentoring programs, intergenerational worship services, and family retreats can foster deeper connections.

3. Community Outreach: Strengthen ties with the local community through outreach programs. Organize events like food drives, free workshops, or health clinics to serve and uplift those in need.

4. Technology and Innovation: Embrace technology to enhance communication and engagement. Virtual bible studies, online prayer groups, and social media campaigns can reach a broader audience.

5. Cultural Celebrations: Celebrate the diverse cultures within your community. Host events that highlight various traditions, foods, and customs,



Father Christopher Bennett ICF Spiritual Director

fostering inclusivity and appreciation.

6. Spiritual Growth: Focus on deepening spiritual practices. Offer regular meditation sessions, prayer circles, and spiritual workshops to nurture personal and collective growth. Dream big and bold, and your branches will surely be inspired to follow.

May the blessings of St. Joseph also be with you and your loved ones. His example of dedication, humility, and unwavering faith continues to inspire us all.

Blessings, Fr. Chris



#### Gifts of Love Donations

(Received as of February 8, 2025)

Branch 39

Deborah Nunes

In Memory of Frances Bruno Officers/Members of Br. 285

In Memory of Mary Grubbs Joan and Jerry Delfino

In Memory of Alicia Rodondi

Mark, Kelly and Madeleine Teglia In Memory of Fernando Teglia Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fuentes In Memory of Bob Osorio



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

Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us.

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

Lauren Kilcullen Convention Director

We hope all members are having a great beginning to the New Year!

Registration for the hotel will open in April. Please keep an eye out for information to reserve your hotel room at the Wyndham Visalia.

Thursday, August 28, the baseball game at the Visalia Rawhide Baseball Club will be a fun event! We've reserved "The Saloon," a private area of the ballpark. The price will be \$65.00 per person and include a ticket to the game, and an "all you can eat" buffet of hot dogs, carne asada nacho bar, potato salad, coleslaw and sodas. Reservation information will come in April. Plan to come early to the Convention and attend the ballgame. 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!

Reminder to start collecting items for Salt and Light Organization. Salt and Light are requesting household cleaning 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.saltandlightworks.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, answer questions and share ideas with other branches. Initial thoughts are - how to do a fish fry, how to do a bingo luncheon, how to do school outreach or outreach to other organizations. I'm looking for branches who have a successful idea and want to share their knowledge. Please email me at Ltek1965@comcast.net if you would like to participate. The "Idea Hall" will take place on Saturday during lunchtime.

The deadline for nominating people for our awards is April 1. Please complete the nomination form and send it to the office. Also, review the Federation by-laws and submit any proposals for by-law changes.

Lauren Kilcullen Convention Director

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

Received as of February 8, 2025:

IN MEMORY OF:

Emily Corral

Mike and Marcie Rossi

Maureen Benito

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Arthur Parziale

Jean Inferrera

Bettie Lusardi

Maureen Benito

Dottie Smith

Dr. Bruce Dunn

Michael Costabile

Bruce Dunn

Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

Bruce Dunn

Dottie Smith

Officers (Marchenese

Alverda Orlando Officers/Members of Br. 21

Maureen Benito Officers/Members of Br. 21

Amelia Corral Officers/Members of Br. 191

**GET WELL WISHES:** 

Dave and Ann Stow Franklyn Lopes, Jr.

IN HONOR OF:

Denise Antonowicz

Franklyn Lopes, Jr. Officers/Members of Santa Rosa

District

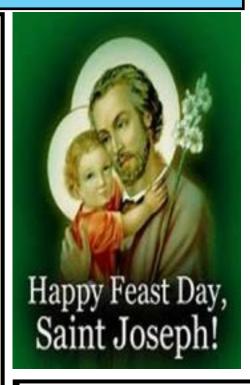
Denise Antonowicz Officers/Members of East Bay District

Officers/Members of Central Coast District

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY:

Rob and Laurie Correia Jim and Patty Jarrett

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



Denise Antonowicz continued from p. 1

But unlike the sleepless anxiety expressed in their comic opera, we find ourselves armed with something far more powerful: unwavering faith. In these moments of transition, when the familiar gives way to the unknown, we are reminded that God's plan unfolds in His perfect timing.

GP Message--Continued

The process of leaving a home is much like the journey through Lent—a period of reflection, sacrifice, and trust. We strip away the comfortable and familiar, preparing our hearts for something new. Each empty wall and packed box represents not just an ending, but a beginning waiting to unfold.

Our friends have become God's hands at work, appearing with boxes, sharing memories, and offering us strength when ours wavers. Their presence reminds us that home isn't confined to four walls but is found in the connections we've built, the love we share, and the faith that guides us forward.

In quiet moments, when doubt tries to creep in, we remember:

Faith lights the path when we cannot see, Family anchors us when waters rise, Friends surround us with grace divine, As God's plan gradually comes to light.

This transition asks much of us—to trust in what we cannot yet see, to embrace uncertainty with hope. Yet just as spring follows winter, and Easter joy follows Lenten sacrifice, we move forward knowing that each ending opens the door to new beginnings, guided by faith, surrounded by love, and blessed by the community that walks beside us.

May God bless you all, Denise Antonowicz, Grand President



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.

#### ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION **CONVENTION AWARD CATEGORIES**

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

#### POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII AWARD

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

3. Charitable and/or Religious Activities. A \$1,000 donation will be made to the award recipient's charity of choice.

The Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award was created to acknowledge

SAINT TERESA

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.

OF CALCUTTA

#### **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 FAMILY OF 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.

THE YEAR AWARD

## AWARD

YOUNG ADULT This award recognizes a member (39 years or younger) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and possesses the **LEADERSHIP** 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.

Nominee: Name:

#### TALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION AWARD NOMINATION

Nomir	nation Year: 20
Award	l:
	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 -Copies of awards or publications, if available, to support the nominatio

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 immediate families are not eligible for

Address:			
City: State:			
Zip: Phone: ()			
E-mail:			
Branch #/City:			
Nominated By Individual, Branch or District:			
Contact Person:			
Phone: ()			
E-mail:			

Statement of Endorsement:

#### 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

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.

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

#### Results for Prizes as of February 10, 2025

Top Selling Branches in each of 4 categories receive Five (5) 2025 Calendar Stubs placed in the Raffle Drawings.

Branches placing 2nd and 3rd in each of 3 categories receive One (1) 2025 Calendar Stub in the Raffle Drawings.

Top Selling Individual receives \$50.00.

2nd Place Individual Seller receives \$30.00.

3rd Place Individual Seller receives \$20.00.

#### Category 1: 1 – 45 Members

1st Place: Branch 25, Salinas Sold 46 calendars 2nd Place: Branch 91, Oakland Sold 41 calendars 3rd Place: Branch 213, South San Francisco Sold 33 calendars

#### Category 2: 46 – 70 Members

1st Place: Branch 281, Bakersfield Sold 81 calendars 2nd Place: Branch 214, Concord Sold 20 calendars 3rd Place: Branch 198, Santa Rosa Sold 15 calendars

#### **Category 3: 71 – 129 Members**

1st Place: Branch 10, Alameda Sold 65 calendars 2nd Place: Branch 342, Auburn Sold 50 calendars 3rd Place: Branch 391, San Jose Sold 45 calendars

#### **Category 4: 130 and Above Members**

1st Place: Branch 28, Gilroy Sold 66 calendars 2nd Place: Branch 39, Merced Sold 49 calendars 3rd Place: Branch 14, Crockett Sold 34 calendars

#### **Individuals**

1st Place: B.G. Zasoski – Br. 281 – Bakersfield Sold 81 calendars 2nd Place: Carol Salmeri – Br. 39 – Merced Sold 49 calendars 3rd Place: Peggie Dorrance – Br. 10 – Alameda Sold 36 calendars

#### In Loving Memory

(Report as of February 9, 2025)

Judith M Matranga	Branch 001	Amelia L Corral	Branch 191
Gloria Galeotti	Branch 007	Kathryn L Oliver	Branch 191
John H Prouty	Branch 007	Maureen Benito	Branch 227
Maureen Benito	Branch 021	Bruce L Dunn	Branch 227
Alverda Orlando	Branch 021	Filippo Brascia	Branch 392
Kenneth J Kiser	Branch 028	Bernice P Nickols	Branch 395
Russell E Wolfe	Branch 028	Amelia L Corral	Branch 445
Ottavio Luchini	Branch 045		
Domenica Dusi	Branch 048	*We also remember A	Anthony
Esther V Partido	Branch 051	(Tony) Marino, a form	•
Mary Ellen Higgins	Branch 127	of Br. 317	

#### **JANUARY CALENDAR WINNERS**

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
1/1	Giulia Gallego	435	San Martin, CA	\$100
1/2	Bob & Stacey Varela		Gustine, CA	\$30
1/3	Most Reverend Jose H. O	Gomez	Los Angeles, CA	\$30
1/4	Jeremy & Anna Mason		El Sobrante, CA	\$50
1/5	Christine Prudenciado	19	Daly City, CA	\$30
1/6	Suzan Di Ricco		San Ramon, CA	\$50
1/7	Norma Harris	342	Applegate, CA	\$30
1/8	Laura Burch		Rodeo, CA	\$30
1/9	Lori Gallo	39	Merced, CA	\$30
1/10	Carmen Kilcullen	52	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
1/11	Andrew Klis		Davie, FL	\$30
1/12	Terri Dalton		Lathrop, CA	\$30
1/13	David Hollister		Redwood City, CA	\$30
1/14	Marilyn Ward	198	Santa Rosa, CA	\$30
1/15	John Ghio	21	Santa Cruz, CA	\$30
1/16	Brock Parsons		Los Angeles, CA	\$30
1/17	Kathy Curtin		Livermore, CA	\$30
1/18	Diana Berry	28	Gilroy, CA	\$30
1/19	Norene DeLuca	214	Lafayette, CA	\$30
1/20	Most Reverend Robert I	F. Vasa	Santa Rosa, CA	\$100
1/21	Virginia Ethier	380	Oxnard, CA	\$30
1/22	Matthew Rayta		Maple Grove, MN	\$30
1/23	Robert Delpippo	73	Orangevale, CA	\$30
1/24	Stephen & Alyssa Fanue	echi	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
1/25	Robert Britton	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
1/26	Richard & Sharon Mutta	anen	Monterey, CA	\$30
1/27	Bill Antongiovanni	281	Bakersfield, CA	\$30
1/28	Rudy De Zordo	368	San Jose, CA	\$30
1/29	Amanda Novak-Murano	362	Downey, CA	\$50
1/30	Peter Pernarelli		Grants Pass, OR	\$30
1/31	Donna Piezzi	127	Petaluma, CA	\$30
	SEE THESE FIRST	ON O	UR WEB SITE: ICF.OR	G

#### FEBUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

DAY	NAME	BR	CITY	WINS
2/1	Pat Botta	14	Crockett, CA	\$30
2/2	Gretchen Curry		Corvallis, OR	\$30
2/3	Barbara Crear		Bakersfield, CA	\$30
2/4	Lauri Taylor	5	Santa Clara, CA	\$30
2/5	Al Proietti	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$30
2/6	Sue Moglia		Walnut Creek, CA	\$30
2/7	Laly Savoy		Gardena, CA	\$30
2/8	Vonnie Ramos		Kalispell, MT	\$30
2/9	Peter Pernarelli		Grants Pass, OR	\$50
2/10	Elaine Young		Santa Clara, CA	\$30
2/11	Christine Ragusa	362	Downey, CA	\$30
2/12	Terri Post	31	Los Banos, CA	\$30
2/13	Lisa & Larry Zerwig		Sanger, CA	\$30
2/14	Patrice Marvulli39		Merced, CA	\$50
2/15	Vonda Lesti-Egan	14	El Sobrante, CA	\$30
2/16	Thomas J. Silvaggio	48	Modesto, CA	\$30
2/17	Dorothy Cassani	343	Castro Valley, CA	\$100
2/18	Lisa Kingshill		Belmont, CA	\$30
2/19	Paul H. Behren s	210	Hemet, CA	\$30
2/20	Joe & Judy Crosetti	213	San Bruno, CA	\$30
2/21	Gena Lesti		Brentwood, CA	\$30
2/22	Marie Fregosi	342	Auburn, CA	\$30
2/23	Carlotta Schauer	285	Livermore, CA	\$30
2/24	Mark & Arianna Neub	urger	Sacramento, CA	\$30
2/25	Sacred Heart Church		Planada, CA	\$30
2/26	Charlyne Pacini	135	Reno, NV	\$30
2/27	Shannon Rohrbach	144	Arcata, CA	\$30
2/28	Stacey Rosati		Saratoga Springs, UT	\$30

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#### Book Review -- The Long Loneliness

Vince Piro

The Long Loneliness By Dorothy Day Harper One Publishers

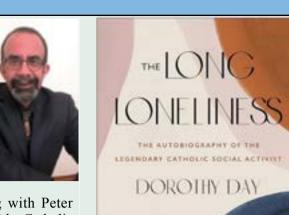
The Long Loneliness is the autobiography of the Catholic social activist

Dorothy Day. Day along with Peter Maurin was the founder of the Catholic Worker movement, which focuses its "the scandal of businesslike priests, of energies on helping the poor and creat- collective wealth, the lack of sense of ing social justice in a world too often responsibility for the poor, the worker, given to indifference and excess. This the Negro, the Mexican, the Filipino, autobiography is a frank and honest ac- and even the oppression of these and count of this Servant of God's journey the consenting oppression of them by

journalist in Greenwich Village's po- more like Cain than Abel." Holding litical and literary world of the 1920s up the mirror to her own church and to and 30s. Day often wrote about the society in general did not always make struggles and plight of the poor working her popular, but over the years, both the class, often immigrants searching for a church and society came to respect her better life only to find discrimination because she was driven by her love of and oppression. At a time when power Christ and others. served the wealthy and treated dissent At their 2012 annual meeting, the Cathmore spiritual life.

conversion to Catholicism that meant admired: "In these times when social the end of her Bohemian lifestyle and concerns are so important, I cannot fail common-law marriage. And then, she to mention the Servant of God Dorothy met Peter Maurin, a man who gave her Day, who founded the Catholic Worker life focus. It was friendship that lasted Movement. Her social activism, her pasa life time. Together, they formed the sion for justice and for the cause of the Catholic Worker Movement in 1933. oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, Its aim is to "live in accordance with her faith, and the example of the saints" the justice and charity of Jesus Christ." (reported by Jim Forest). Maurin and Day believed in hospital- For Day, the love of Christ and the ity towards those on the margins of love of each other - especially the most society, the immigrant, the worker, the vulnerable in our society - cannot be homeless, the orphan, the imprisoned . separated. As she writes, "We cannot for us, they and with those who joined and to love we must know each other. their movement created communities We know Him in the breaking of bread, that empowered others. As Day writes, and we know each other in the breaking "Community - that is the social answer of bread, and we are not alone anymore. to the long loneliness." And for Day, this Heaven is a banquet and life is a bancommunity was built on the foundation quet, too, even with a crust, where there of seeing Christ in each other.

that she was never afraid to call out as it was in Day's time. those in power for their hostility or indifference to the poor and marginalized. She even criticized the church for



our industrial-capitalist order - these It begins with her early life as a young made me feel often that priests are

as traitorous, Day was inspired to speak olic bishops of the United States unaniout against injustice. She worked with mously recommended the canonization socialists, communists, and anarchistics of Day. By then the Vatican had already although she never really identified with given her the title "Servant of God," the any of them fully. She considered herself first step in formally recognizing Doroa journalist who was obligated to speak thy Day as a saint. On Ash Wednesday, for the dispossessed and marginalized in 2013, preaching in Saint Peter's Basilica society. However, she also felt a certain in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of void - a "long loneliness" - in her life Dorothy Day as a model of conversion. and was consistently drawn toward a Speaking before the U.S. Congress two years later, Pope Francis singled out Day After the birth of her child, she had a as one of four Americans he especially

. Inspired by Christ's love and grace love God unless we love each other, is companionship."

Those who know Day's writing knows And this truth is still as relevant today

#### **Mother Cabrini Chapel & Library**

Carmelo Sabatella

On February 9, 2025, Sister Regina and the Cabrini Companions hosted the Open House at the Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library. The Cabrini Committee also took the opportunity to hold a meeting on the Cabrini Patio to review the Cabrini Chapel 2025 Calendar of events.

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

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

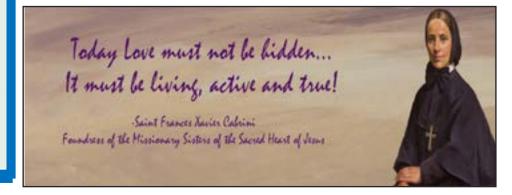
- April 13, 2025 - Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House at St Francis Xavier Church, 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. hosted by the ICF San Fernando Region.

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



Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House on February 9, 2025 hosted by Sr Regina and the Cabrini





#### Apostolate/Charity -- St. Brigid's Cross

Michael Rossi,

Apostolate/Charity Committee

While traveling through a rural area of Ireland, I met a man on the side of the road who was creating a special work of art

called Saint Brigid's cross. He made one for my wife, which is pictured with this article. I wanted to know more about this cross so I did a little research.

The cross is named for Saint Brigid of Kildare, who with Saint Patrick, is one of the patron saints of Ireland It is traditionally made from rushes or straw and is believed to bring the blessing and protection of the saint. It

is often found mounted in homes on February 1st, the feast day of Saint Brigid. Although there is little historical record of her, legend says that she made the cross from rushes she found on the ground while converting a dying pagan. Today, Saint Brigid's cross is a symbol of Irish heritage along with the shamrock and Celtic harp. You can make your own cross from straw by following instructions found on the

Saint Brigid, pray for us. Michael Rossi





# Elaine Osorio

Contra Costa District, Br. 214, Accepting our donations for GROW

#### Scholarship Donations

(Received as of February 7, 2025)

**Scholarship Donations - 1st Year** Sarah Westfall

Denise Antonowicz In Memory of Emily Corral

In Memory of Emily Corral

Stephanie Lucich In Memory of Nettie Descalso-

In Memory of Mabel Willmon

Del Nero Stephanie Lucich

In Memory of Mabel Willmon Rita and Louie Mondo

Dorene Campanile Get Well Wishes for Patricia Arnaudo

**Scholarship Donations - 2nd -**4th Year

Joan and Jerry Delfino In Memory of Ray Viotti Joan and Jerry Delfino In Memory of Emily Corral

#### 2025 IST 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 % years) of at least 3.2 and meets all of the requirements in either #1 or #2:

- 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
- Are Roman Catholic but need not be of Italian Descent or live where Branches of the Federation are established if either Roman Catholic parent, quardian or grandparent is a member of the "Italian Catholic Federation" - membership of a Roman Catholic parent, quardian 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 I-888-423-1924.

#### IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE **GIVE, BUT HOW MUCH WE** PUT INTO GIVING.

- MOTHER TERESA

#### 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

#### **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

• \$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

- \$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.

and do not qualify for reimbursement.

\$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**

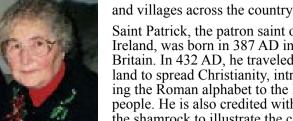
• \$25.00 per year - paid to the Branch Financial Secretary If you have any questions, please contact the ICF Office.

#### Heritage — Ireland Louise Vento, Committee Member

If you watch the Hallmark Chan*nel*, you may notice that many of its movies are filmed in Ireland. The country's serene countryside, lush green pastures, historic stone towers, and

dramatic seaside cliffs create a picturesque setting. Ireland is also known for its traditional pubs, famous for serving Guinness, and cultural landmarks like the Blarney Stone. Many travelers visit Ireland to reconnect with their heritage and explore their ancestral roots.

Ireland has a strong Roman Catholic presence, with grand cathedrals in major cities and churches in towns



Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in 387 AD in Great Britain. In 432 AD, he traveled to Ireland to spread Christianity, introducing the Roman alphabet to the Irish people. He is also credited with using the shamrock to illustrate the concept of the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. According

Every year on March 17, millions of people worldwide celebrate Saint Patrick's Day by wearing a shamrock, Ireland's national emblem. Wishing you a happy Saint Patrick's Day!

to legend, he also drove all the snakes

out of Ireland.



#### **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



sign up: http://eepurl.com/ **bLaMFb** 

this link to



#### Cooley's Anemia **Donations**

(Received as of February 1, 2025)

Branch 39 Al Bronzini Darlene Pasquini Officers/Members of Br. 362 In Memory of Carlo Paolucci

#### **ICF General Fund Donations**

(Received as of February 1, 2025)

Laurie Voisinet

In Honor of the Birthday of David Madei

#### **Welcome New Members**

(Report as of February 9, 2025)

Branch 007	Linda Leggero	Ginny L Tilton
Branch 010	Fred P Costello Jr	Rev Chacko Muthoottil M
	Mandy R Tham	
Branch 014	Ardith R Bertorello	Jerrold M Parsons
Branch 031	Allison Elgorriaga	Haley A Elgorriaga
	John M Elgorriaga	Peter Elgorriaga Sr
	Peter N Elgorriaga Jr	Anthony J Parreira
	Kim A Parreira	Diana R Raineri
Branch 036	Jennifer L Geertsen	<b>Michael Geertsen</b>
	Diane M Lewis	Bridget D Luke
	Jaelyn Taylor	
Branch 047	Blanca D Montoya	Jorge A Montoya
	Paul J Neumeyer	<b>Shirley Vincent</b>
Branch 048	Martha A Anaya	
Branch 054	Alaina M Borrelli	Melanie Borrelli
	Nolan Moncrief	
Branch 067	Joseph Moffa	
Branch 067	Daniel G Bermudez	Frank Mele
Branch 111	Maddalena Bayek	Daniella Boccanfuso
	Elizabeth Boccanfuso	Francesca G Boccanfuso
	Giovanni G Boccanfuso	Lisa Boccanfuso
	Nicholas Boccanfuso	Nunzio Boccanfuso
Branch 127	Elizabeth Marshall	Kenneth G Marshall
Branch 184	Linda Gaudio Binkley	•
Branch 198	Donna Mc Culloch	Christina Tonelli
Branch 210	Bernard M Frehner	John H Kacarab
	Geraldine Papenfus	
Branch 214	Effie Carino	Denise M Rugani
Branch 227	Rita De Bernardo	Stephen M Millang
Branch 291	Todd S Johnson	
Branch 332	<b>Dolores K Boone</b>	Colleen P Knopf
	Tom H Knopf	Donna M Label
	Gayle Mc Coy	Joan Mc Guire
	Tom Mc Guire	
Branch 342	Gina Evans	Elizabeth Randel
	Marjorie L Tagliapieti	ra
Branch 362	Angela M Ragusa	
Branch 374	Brigette B Allard	Marianne Bellaccomo
Branch 390	Carolyn D Barth	Marvin J Barth
	Sally Hall	
Branch 391	Martha A Hoffman	
Branch 438	Emma Accacian	Julee Accacian

#### **Branch Reports**

#### **SAN FRANCISCO**

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

Dear Members:

Our heartfelt condolences to Joe Matranga and family on the passing of Judy. Judy was an active member since 2003 and graciously hosted delicious lunches for members in recent years.

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

President Vic says Thank you to all members who have paid their dues.

Cordiali Saluti Diana Cresci

## SAN MATEO District Council

Our Installation was wonderful thanks to Branch 130 that chaired the District event. The mass by Father Tom concelebrated by Father Michael was beautiful along with the choir from St. Pius.

The Installation following the mass went like clockwork and the luncheon immediately following was delicious. The raffle gifts, once again, were a hit. Everyone that attended had an amazing day so thank you again!

Our next District meeting will be February 27, starting at 7:00 p.m. in our regular meeting room at Our Lady of Angels. We have some important items to cover so I hope all the delegates can make the meeting. Branch 173 will be on refreshments for this meeting.

Please call me if you have any questions 650-444-6999. Thank you.

Ciao, Barbara Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

Buon Centenario Branch 7! This coming October will mark 100 years since the founding of our branch in South San Francisco. We are working hard on how we will celebrate this milestone so stay tuned.

Thank you to our members for attending our January and February branch dinner meetings and a big thank you to Donna Smith for organizing the events. Our March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11 at All Souls cafeteria. We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with Corned Beef and Cabbage.

Congratulations to our 2025 officers who were installed at a beautiful cer

emony at St. Pius church and hosted by Branch 130 of Redwood City. This year's officers include: President - Diana Ferrari, VP - Lola Migliore, Treasurer and Recording Secretary - Donna Smith, Financial Secretary - Frank Risso and Trustee - Jeanette Acosta.

We also welcome our new branch deputy, Deborah Rodondi. Deborah not only is a Central Council member, a past Grand President of the ICF and belongs to Colma's Branch 19 but she is also a long time SSF resident with deep roots in our community.

Please send your 2025 dues if you have not done so to Frank Risso, PO Box 5090, SSF, CA 94083-5090. This year the dues are \$50.

Our sincere condolences to branch member Al Banfield on the passing of his wonderful wife, Madeleine. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. *Amen*.

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

At the Installation Luncheon hosted by St. Pius, the officers of Branch were installed. President- Deborah Rodondi – 1st Vice President – Kathy Trevizo, Secretary – Cheryl Simon, Treasurer – Donna Barnes, Financial Secretary – Joann Sangiacomo, Orator – Annette Novi, Trustees -Jackie Barnes and Joanne Alvarado, Sentinel – Donald Simon

With the start of Lent, the branch will have a St. Joseph Table Dinner on March 10, 2025, with Annette Novi being the host. This is a potluck dinner and reservations to Annette by March 8, 2025.

Prayers go out to the Delfino family for the passing of Joan Delfino. Joan was a longtime member, past president of Branch 19.

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

We celebrated December/January Birthdays 381 years worth!! Buon Compleanno to: Lillian Balliet, Dennis Capovilla, Jacob Corradetti, Lou Hole, Natalie Marshall, Tammie Sweetser & Richard Tupper.

Daniela Hole our Recruitment Officer, has done an outstanding job recruiting this January 2025! We have 6 new members bringing our membership count to 80 members, new and returning Members!! Sentinel Angelo Manchia welcomed our newest member, Enrica Poggio and welcomed back member Sean Archini.

An AED machine (Automated External Defibrillator), purchased & donated by Branch 130 is now located with an antichoking device in Homer Crouse Hall & the St. Pius Senior Center. Training

was presented by retired Captain Mike Sweeney (St. Pius class of 1976) from Menlo Park Fire Department.

On February 8, 2025, ICF Branch 130 Redwood City hosted, the San Mateo ICF District Installation of Officers at St. Pius Church, Redwood City. President Leo Capovilla organized the event. District branches present were Branch 7 South San Francisco, Branch 19 Colma, Branch 130 Redwood City, Branch 173, Burlingame, Branch 213 South San Francisco, Branch 351 Menlo Park, & Branch 403 Millbrae. The Mass concelebrated by Fr. Tom Martin, Fr. Patrick Okoye, Fr. Edgardo Rodriguez & Fr. Michael Mahoney was attended by 75 district members & several ICF Branch 130 members. A luncheon immediately followed, coordinated by Denise Severi & catered by Sopore, Burlingame. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous meal while visiting and interacting and sharing ideas with other members within our ICF District. A raffle organized by ICF Branch 130; Sonia Picone & Daniella Hole followed the luncheon. Branch 130 donated 9 items for the raffle & several district branch's brought donations and we had many happy winners and a great time was had by all.

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

We are looking forward to our "St. Joseph's Table" for March and at our February meeting we will sign up to bring a dish to share.

The highlight of our March meeting will be Laurice Levine and her son Benjamin who did an awesome power point presentation at the Convention on "Blood". Looking forward to seeing both of them.

Our Branch, after March 9 when the time changes, is planning on a weekday 5:30 p.m. mass together. After Mass we can have something light to eat and weather permitting gather in the Garden or Hall of Saints in Lower Hall.

February 8, 2025 Installation of Officers was held at St. Pius Church in Redwood City with a beautiful Mass said and lunch in the hall followed.

Prayers needed for: Fr. Brian McKenna, Fr. Gerald Barron, Fr. Harold Snyder, Mary Badisco, Victor Camicia, Rina Cassanego, Anita Cecina, Patty Dugoni, Fred and Melanie Yeager. From Branch 1, Patricia Arnaudo, and Branch 19, Kathy Trevizo.

God Bless, Roz Emery

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

Our February meeting was hosted by Donna DeVoe, Diane Pangburn and Marianne Cameron. They provided a lovely Valentine's Day get-together. Thank you, ladies! Great job!. San Mateo District Installation of Officers: Held on February 8 and hosted by Branch 130, St. Pius, Redwood City.

Mass was beautiful, followed by installation and a delicious buffet luncheon. Wonderful job! Thank you!

Our St. Joseph Table celebrated on March 11 was well attended and our members did a super job, providing the delicious food. Success!

Membership yearly dues: Almost all of our members have paid their dues, with just a few outstanding. Thank you for your prompt payment.

Sunshine: Remember to keep in your prayers our members who are experiencing health problems are unable to attend meetings.

Upcoming events: We are tentatively planning a Champagne Bingo to be held sometime in July. No definite date yet. HAPPY SPRING!

#### Menlo Park Br. 351 St. Patrick

Thank you to Adreane Maestrini for organizing the dinner and to Angie and Jeannette for the dessert.

March will be Corned Beef and Cabbage with all the trimmings.

We need dinner sign-up for April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November. December will be potluck.

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your payment for \$46.80/person to

Paul Eisenman 813 San Ramon Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94085

We have (3) new members and voted to give a 2nd year Italian Catholic Federation Scholarship.

Happy St. Patrick's Day Ciao Barbara 650-444-6999



#### Millbrae Br. 403, St. Dunstan

Ciao! Kudos to Branch 130, St. Pius in Redwood City, for a lovely Installation Ceremony & luncheon: We all had a great time!

Our February 4th Pizza Dinner Meeting was a lot of fun, even though several of our members were out due to illness and vacations. The food was delicious and well worth the \$15 cost. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 4th, and is a dessert & coffee social. This is a "nocost" event and it begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall. Just RSVP Eunice at 650-692-3740 by March 1st, so we know how much dessert to provide.

We are also planning to have St. Joseph's Table on Wednesday, March 19th. This is a NO MEAT potluck, which begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social, and dinner begins at 6 p.m. Please RSVP Eunice as noted above and let her know what dish you are bringing by Friday, March 14th. Tuesday, April 1st is "April Fool's Day"! It is also when we have our VERY POPULAR "Lasagna Dinner" meeting. The cost is only \$15 for salad, lasagna, WINE, dessert, & coffee. The social begins at 5 p.m. and dinner at 5:30 p.m. at our Parish Hall, with the meeting to follow. Send your check (payable to "ICF BR 403") to Eunice Danli, 4 Spring Valley Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030. The

Good health to all, Adonna Amoroso, Secretary

deadline is Friday, March 28th!

## LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE District Council

March and Springtime greetings to you all. Last month we had some sad news. We lost our dear Nancy Dolci. Long time ICF member of branch 111 Montebello and LA District treasurer. RIP Nancy.

We held a very successful district Valentines / Love themed opera luncheon at Holy Family branch 108. Thank you to Francesca Taylor and her LA Opera Italia team and to Laurice Levine who came out to talk about Cooley's Anemia.

The deadline for the convention award nominations April 1st and that's a very firm deadline.

The ICF was once again represented at the Religious Education Congress held on the last weekend of February at the Anaheim Convention Center. Thank you to all of you who came out and volunteered your time promoting our great organization.

Looking down the road, the 3rd annual So Cal golf tournament will be held on October 25th at a new location - Lakewood Country Club. Watch for details.

I hope all of our branches have a very successful St Joseph Table. Good luck. *Till next month.* 

#### Montebello Br. 111, St. Benedict

Br. 67, National Branch,

St. Peter

On January 5, 2025, National Branch

67 members attended the 2025 ICF Los

Angeles Archdiocese District Installa-

tion at St. Raymond Church in Downey,

California. Members attended Mass

followed by Lunch and the Installation

Ceremony of 2025 Branch and District

ICF National Branch 67 is a virtual

branch that reaches out to members

and nonmembers who do not have an

ICF in their area and would like to be a

part of the ICF Family. We also would

like to have your input as we continue

Visit ICF.org and select ICF National

Branch 67 for more information. You

are welcome to join us at ICFNational-

Branch67.org, complete the application

process and join us at the next NBr 67

Please keep our sick members in your

prayers that they may reach a speedy

recovery. And to our former Branch

members who recently have gone to

their eternal reward; May they rest in

Carmelo Sabatella, AIA, President

- April 13th - Mother Cabrini Chapel

Open House at St Francis Xavier

Church located at 3801 Scott Road,

**South Pasadena** 

Br. 108, Holy Family

On January 5, 2025, Branch 108 mem-

bers attended the 2025 ICF Los Angeles

Archdiocese District Installation at St.

Raymond Church in Downey, Califor-

nia. Members attended Mass followed

by Lunch and the Installation Ceremony

of 2025 Branch and District Officers in

Please keep ICF members and their

families adversely affected by the

January firestorm that struck Southern

California and our sick members in

your prayers for a speedy recovery;

and special prayers to former Branch

members and friends of ICF who have

gone to their eternal reward. May they

April 13th, Mother Cabrini Chapel

Open House at SFXC Burbank from

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 626 372-7812

or email cas1810@aol.com for more

Please keep safe and stay healthy. Carmelo Sabatella PP

Keep safe and stay healthy,

ICF National Branch 67

C 626 372-7812

E Cas1810@aol.com

SAVE THE DATES

Burbank, CA 91504.

St. Raymond Hall.

rest in peace.

ICF Branch 108

C 626 372-7812

E cas1810@aol.com

SAVE THE DATES

Officers in St. Raymond Hall.

to develop this branch online.

Ciao a Tutti. A warm hello to everyone. Our March General Meeting will be on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine House, 200 N. 12th Street, in Montebello. Join us for refreshments and cake as we celebrate the Birthdays of all the members who have birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to everyone!! Buon Compleanno a tutti!!

On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, a group

of ICF 111 members attended the Phillip J. Pace Board Room Dedication Event at the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) headquarters in Los Angeles, who honored the Legacy of Phillip J. Pace for his service as Chairman of the Board from 1995 to 2008 by dedicating its board room as the Phillip J. Pace Board Room. Phillip J. Pace was a member of Branch111. He passed away in November 2022. In addition to his service to the MWD and running a successful real estate development and management company, he lived a life dedicated to public service and served as City Treasurer in Montebello for 12 years and the President of several service organizations: The CA State Medical Bord, The Rotary Club and the ICF.

This year we will be commemorating our annual Feast of St. Joseph Table at St. Benedict Church, Parish Hall, located at 1022 W. Cleveland Avenue, in the City of Montebello, on Saturday, March 22nd, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Table will be blessed on Saturday, March 22nd at noon by St. Benedict's Pastor, Father Fredric Abiera. There will be a Free pasta meal on both days to everyone

attending the special event!

Traditional Italian foods, Italian sausage sandwiches, cannoli, and other desserts will also be available for purchase. Also available for purchase at nominal prices will be homemade breads, cookies, bottles of wine, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, fresh flowers, and various blooming 1-gallon and 5-gallon nursery

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

God Bless! Frank Salomone Branch III President

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

March 2025

Our branch has been busy! Thank you to all who joined us on our February casino fundraiser to Viejas Casino. Our next event is our annual Crab dinner to be held on March 8th. This dinner is held in honor of our patron St John Joseph of the Cross. I am sure many of you have purchased your tickets to this much anticipated event. Everyone always has such a great time! Many thanks to all the volunteers who come together to put on this fun event.

Join us at the noon mass for St Joseph on March 16. Please line up behind our banner and join in procession.

General meeting Thursday March 20th 7:30pm parish center Please attend

Harrah's casino turnaround is planned for Saturday April 5th. \$40.00 per person call Pauline Iacono for reservations. 310 832-0563

Our annual Laughlin trip is planned for May 5th returning May 7th. 3-day 2 night stay at Aquarius Hotel. \$215.00 per person double occupancy. \$280.00 single occupancy. Please call Pauline for reservation 310 832-0563

Deadline for ICF 1st year scholarship is April 1, 2025. Applications can be downloaded at www.icf.org

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

I want to wish Frank Cologna a Happy 90th birthday! Enjoy your special day

Blessings to all! Anita Trujillo Treasurer

#### Glendora Br. 179, St. Dorothy

February 6th is the Feast of St. Dorothy. Our Parish celebrates our patron saint with a day of prayer, two masses, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, ending the day with a celebratory reception in the Parish Hall. St. Dorothy Branch 179 was honored to lead the rosary during the 11:00 a.m. hour of Adoration. Several of our members took time out of their busy day to spend an hour with the Lord.



#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT



Br. 28, Mara Barsi-Perez won a "Ravioli" basket donated by Louie and Pat Cordich.



Br. 28, Janice DeCosta sharing information about our Italian heritage.



Br. 445 Celebrating Jan. / Feb. Birthdays



Br. 445 Gathering after Quarterly Mass







Br. 445 January Breakfast Dinner Buffet



Br. 368 Christmas Party



Br. 368 Christmas Party

#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 47 St Joseph Mass Breakfast



Br. 47 St Joseph Mass



Br. 47 St Joseph Mass Jan 2025, our set up crew



Br. 47, Maira Gutierrez, St Joseph school principal receiving \$750 check presented by ICF branch #47 President Natalie Canata and member



Br. 184, Taken at the Installation luncheon on Jan. 4, seen here are Mike Rossi, Denise Antonowicz and Donna Pfaff.

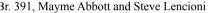




Br. 184, Installation held at St. Martin of Tours Church. Pictured here are: Back row Deanna Meyer, Larry Vollman, Marie Yurosko, and Lucy Amico. Front row Denise Antonowicz, Germaine Antonowicz and Virginia Giac

#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT (continued)









Br. 435, Priests, H. S. volunteer, and President ready to celebrate our Feb Dinner meeting



Branch 191 newly Installed Officers



Br. 28, Jeanette Hudson and Chris Filice selling tickets for great raffle prizes.



Stefan Mercer and Nolan Ugalde (Another Second Music) playing for Branch 28 Shrimp and Ravoli Dinner.

#### LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT



Newly installed NBr 67 President Carmelo Sabatella (R) with District President Perry Shurko (Middle) and Branch Presidents from many Branches in the Los Angeles Archdiocese District Council.



NBr 67 member Francesca Taylor performing "La Befana" with cast mates from "Opera Italia" at District Installation.

Branch 237 kids and Santa





Branch 108 Members Tom Haubrik (L) and Tad Shaw (Middle) with District President Perry Shurko and members of several other Branches who were installed in St Raymond Hall.



Branch 237 Table sponsor , Russ Properties, Irene Russ and family



Br. 179, Feast of St. Dorothy





#### LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 380, Sarah (left) was honored to meet Lena Prima, the youngest daughter of the great Louis Prima (right) at the IAFL Convention.

Br. 111 - MWD Phillip J. Pace Boardroom Dedication



Br. 374, Emy Mannarelli takes over the role as Orator



Br. 374, Gloria Mc Gaughey, 2nd from right, pledged to uphold her responsibilities as Secretary.



Br. 374, Mark Mannarelli takes another term as Treasurer.



Br. 111 - January Birthdays-Kathleen, Rosie & Frank



Br. 111 - 2025 Officer's Installation



Br. 111 - MWD Painting Honoring Phillip J. Pace



ICF Branch 218 at Holy Angels church in Arcadia offered a lovely continental breakfast to support our parish school during Catholic school week. Fresh fruit, muffins, Danish, coffee and juice were served with big smiles!

#### LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT (continued)



Br. 444, Bruno, Hany & Cristina



Br. 444, Front Row Tonia, Dolly, Mary, Carol; Middle Row Cristina, Don & Patty; Back Row Bruno & Hany





San Pedro Br. 115 Christmas Party. Dinner was free to all the members. Games were played, piñata, raffle prizes, Santa Claus came and singing Christmas songs and ending with Noi Vigliam Dio.

#### CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT



Br. 432 January Potluck



Br. 432, Sandy Gamble, Linda Kortuem, Mike Valenti

#### **CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT (continued)**



Crockett #14 Officers that attended the Installation hosted by East Bay District. Great job to everyone .



Br. 214, Chris Androtti, Terryann Sturiale, Karen Caballero, and Roberta Healy being installed.



Br. 352, kitchen crew for crab feed





Nancy Carlos did a great job initiating Ardith Bertorello and Jerry Parsons to Crockett #14 branch. Congratulations and Welcome to ICF.





Br. 352, Art Panella won the big salami!!



Br. 444, ICF Movie Night Mary & Carol



Br. 352, Randy Mercovich, Kyle Vallone, Ray Mattias, Fred Sanchez

#### **CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT**



Jane Gasperson- Dr Vincent Malfitano



Jane & Gary Gasperson & David Benech Branch 36









Branch 51 ICF meeting



Central Coast officers 2025



Karl Nicholas, Turie Cavaliere & Andy Cardinalli Branch 36





Father Roberto Vera, District Chaplain



Br. 354, CONGRATULATIONS to Nicholas Pepo, son of Michael and Rosanna Pepo who graduated from Recruit Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois,

#### Arcadia **Br. 218, Holy Angels**

Our next event is the St. Joseph's Table which is always our largest fundraiser. Set up will be on Friday, March 14 and finishing on Saturday, the 15th. The Table will be blessed after the 5:00 Mass (approximately 6:00) at which time all items on the Table will be available to purchase and sandwiches will be served until 8:00. Sunday the doors open at 7:00 and again sandwiches will be served. We count on our members every year to donate baked goods, entrees (no meat, please), flowers, plants and to help wherever they can. All of this is not only a bit of work, but very fulfilling as the results are quite amazing. The next meeting is March 9 and there will be more details on the event.

The branch decided on where to help the fire victims and ended up donating \$1,500 to the Matre de la Rosa, the Catholic Retreat in Altadena that sustained major damage.

Hope to see everyone at our next meet-

Watch for Jeane's newsletters for details.

Lolly M

#### Downey Br. 362, St. Raymond

Welcome to March. Springtime is right upon us. Last month we held our most successful Bingo Lunch ever and I want to thank everyone who came out and supported us.

With only a couple weeks to go, it's crunch time for our annual St Jospeh Table celebration. Spread the word and come join us for a pasta lunch, or some great baked goods. Saturday March 15 after the 5 pm mass and after all of the masses on Sunday the 16th.

Future events include a bus trip to the casino on May 3rd and our next Bingo luncheon is on June 8th.

Birthday wishes to all of our March birthday babies!!

Till next month, happy Spring!

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

Branch 380 is celebrating our 40th year!! Our St. Joseph Day Celebration took place on March 23 at St. Paschal Baylon Church in Thousand Oaks. We had a pasta dinner, Italian bake sale and homemade cannoli. There were raffle prizes and gift baskets. We had a wonderful celebration with our members and our parish community.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday April 5th at 5 p.m.

Sarah Mirabilio Farello (Br. 380, St. Paschal Baylon) was selected by the Italian American Future Leaders

(IAFL) Executive Officers to attend the annual convention at the Amerant Bank Arena in January. Italian American Future Leaders (IAFL) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between younger and older Italian American generations by cultivating a nationwide network of dynamic individuals. See photo in LA District.

As a proud IAFL alumni and ICF member, Sarah is offering mentorship to guide and support fellow Italian Americans, aged 21 to 35, in promoting their Italian heritage, deepening their Catholic faith, and foster connections with fellow young Italian Americans to collaborate and shape the continued evolution of their cultural identity. Sarah can be reached at (805) 279-7174 or smfarello@gmail.com.

Ciao!! Jean Fontana Bridges

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

Excitement is building as our branch prepares to hold its annual Feast of St. Joseph Mass, Procession, Table and Silent Auction event. This year our biggest fundraiser's venue will be the brand- new Parish Hall with its stateof-the art kitchen and amenities. Since we anticipate a larger than average crowd, your participation baking and cooking prepared casseroles and sauce is critical. Bring your item/s to the hall on Sat. March 22nd, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Your presence setting up the Table or helping with sales is also greatly apeciated. In addition to our regular ÎCF charities and scholarships, we will be giving substantial profits to the St. Bede Eaton Fire Fund. Sadly, so many of our Altadena parishioner families have lost their home or have suffered great damage. We pray for all the L.A. residents who have been impacted by

A big thank you to Phyllis Harb for the purchase of the beautiful new brass magnetic name badges. Since these were quite costly, we ask that you take special care not to lose them because, unfortunately, you will have to incur a replacement charge.

Dates to Remember:

the recent fires.

Sunday, March 16th-Donuts/ Membership Drive- after all morning Masses Saturday, March 22nd-St. Joseph/Auction Set-Up

Sunday, March 23rd-St. Joseph Table/ Auction- after all morning Masses, Procession before 11:00 Mass.

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

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

The new film about Mother Frances Cabrini was shown at our last General Meeting. Everyone enjoyed the film about Mother Cabrini, her early life & her accomplishments In the United States building Hospitals & Schools across the Nation in the face of ugly racism & prejudice against Italian immigrants. She is not only a Heroin, but the first Canonized Saint in the United

The film was 2 hours long, so the meeting began earlier. A freewill donation, including a small price for snacks allowed us to donate to ICF Charities & our Campaign 21 to build a Parish Center, in honor of our past Pastor, Msgr. Eugene Gilb.

Our next General Meeting will be on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. Everyone will bring a dish to share, drinks & coffee will be provided. For the evening entertainment we will play two trivia games with prizes.

Let us continue to pray for Marianne C, Guido F, Joe Trani & our pastor, Msgr. D. Sork. Prayers continue for the Fire Victims & their families in Pacific Palisades, Altadena, the plane crashes in Washington DC & Alaska. Mother Cabrini & Sr. Ann Seton pray for us.

Ciao, Patty Longo Hansen

#### **Oakland**

#### **EAST BAY District**

#### Alameda

Br. 10. Nostra Signora Delle Grazie

We found ourselves in a good financial state at the end of 2024. At our December meeting we voted to donate funds to our parish for assistance in the centennial celebration; to Smile Train, in memory of member Sharon Brunetti; to the John Rosa Scholarship Fund, which is named for a deceased member who taught in a low-income, primarily Hispanic, public elementary school in Oakland; to the eighth-grade class of Saint Philip Neri School, which helps in the set-up of Monsignor O'Brien Hall for our dinners; to the Missionaries of Faith, the order consisting mostly of priests from the subcontinent of India who have guided our parish since 2008: and to the Midway Shelter of Alameda, which provides safety for domestic violence victims and their children

Over 100 members and friends attended our Polenta Dinner on January 11. The East Bay District's Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed, hosted in our parish hall on February 8 attracted 117 fans of chef and member Ben Ratto.

Our ongoing Fish Fry Dinners will

be held every Friday evening in Lent through April 11. Reservations are not

At the due date for this article, we were preparing for our annual Irish Social neduled for Saturday, March 8. The slightly early Saint Patrick's function is followed by our Saint Joseph's Day Table on March 19. We anticipate setting a due date for reservations of March 12—or so. For information and reservations, please telephone the undersigned at 510-326-3474 or send an email to john@zugnoni.net.

John Zugnoni Branch 10 publicity

#### Livermore Br. 285, St. Filomena

Ciao Amici,

At our last social meeting, we enjoyed an interesting presentation by Barry and Michele Buckett recounting their recent trip to South Africa. We learned about South African wines and the amazing wildlife there. We also heard from Kathy Elm about a young Catholic woman of Italian descent who was fundraising for her work with the college FOCUS ministry. A collection was taken for this worthy cause.

In early February, we hosted Mardi Gras Bingo with St. Michael's Golden Friends. We were pleased that our District Council President Jo-Ann Donivan attended our fun event.

We will be savoring a special Italian dinner prepared by Chris Carrano and his crew at our February social meeting. The upcoming March meeting will be just in time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day. To celebrate, we will be enjoying Irish songs with Sharon Murphy as well as preparing our St. Joseph's Table with your donations of non-perishable foods. We will also be testing our knowledge of Italian trivia.

Please pray for our recently deceased member Mary Grubbs, for her family, and for all members who need our prayers. Also, please pray for those who have suffered losses in the tragic Los Angeles wildfires.

Mark your calendars for our Polenta and Chicken Cacciatore Dinner Fundraiser at St. Augustine's on April 12th. Proceeds from this much anticipated event will benefit our scholarships and charities. Watch your email for details. You can contact Toni at (925) 557-6552 for tickets.

Ciao, Paula Flessatti



#### SANTA ROSA DISTRICT



Bob Aquistapace tells history of ICF Br. 198 at 59th Anniversary Dinner St. Eugene



Branch #209's dinners would not be successful without nese two: Roy and Leona Spadon

March 2025



Branch 209's Chef Donovan Dorr stirring up a delicious pot of polenta!

Branch 209, December 2024 Christmas Party



Branch 209, A general meeting of Branch #209

#### **SANTA ROSA DISTRICT (continued)**



Br. 144 Enrique Esparza (new member) is initiated by Bob Acquistapace at the Installation



#144 Ruth (in-coming Pres), Chris Casaro caterer, and Bob Acquistapace



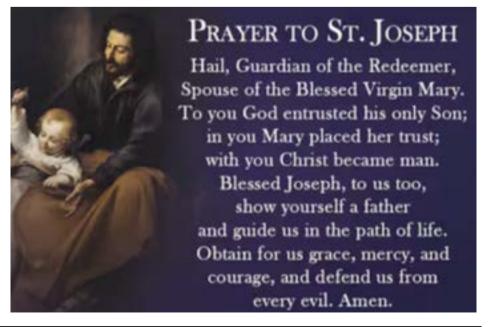
Br. 144 Installation buffet luncheon



Br. 144 members-Rosemary, Barbara, Joan, Tony, Jim and Pete survey the PB&J collected so far



Br. 198 St. Eugene 59th Anniversary Dinner Santa Rosa. L-R Doreen O'Rourke, Father Moses Brown, St. Eugene, Bob Aquistapace,



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

On January 19th our Branch #343 hosted the very first Officers Installation combining both the East Bay and Contra Costa Districts. The installation was held at Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Christopher Bennett, Fr. Mario Rizzo, and Fr. Larry Young, and the pastor of Transfiguration and Our Lady of Grace parishes, Fr, Raphael Zwolenkiewicz. The installation was followed by a wonderful catered Italian meal enjoyed by over 120 guests!

At our upcoming February branch meeting we will be enjoying a tasty Chinese dinner in honor of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

We are looking forward to once-again hosting our popular Bites and Bingo event later this year.

And, with the hope of growing our branch, we will continue to reach out to our community to explain the many benefits of joining the ICF, not the least of which are our social activities and the great food!

We will continue to keep the victims of the LA fires in our prayers.

All the best to you and the ICF!
Edoardo McGuirk

## CONTRA COSTA District Council

Our District was pleased to join the East Bay District for the first joint Installation of Officers on January 19. Mass was celebrated at Transfiguration church in Castro Valley. Followed by the Installation, Dinner and a raffle. We thank the East Bay District for hosting and Paster of Transfiguration church for his warm welcome. Both District chaplains celebrated the Mass as well.

The following have accepted chairperson positions this year. Apostolic: Juliette Cote, Heritage: Marianne Bordogna and Membership: Donna Hoffman. Thank you, ladies. I will give an update next month of our newly installed mentors.

Please join us for our Night of Recollection, Wednesday, March 12. An Italian dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by an Inspirational talk given by Deacon John Kortuem at Christ the King Hall at 199 Brandon Road Pleasant Hill. Dinner is \$15.00. Branches please mail checks to Diana Mackinson by March 7 to 568 Sherrie Drive Martinez, CA. We extend get well wishes to our Treasurer, Walter Costa.

Our next meeting will take place April 10 at 7 p.m. At Christ the King meeting rooms A and B.

Happy Saint Joseph's Day and Saint Patrick's Day to all. Fraternally, Patty Jarrett. Past President

#### Crockett Br. 14, San Carlo

Ciao Amici!

Each year, the Feast of St. Joseph is celebrated in Italy, and especially in the region of Sicily where St. Joseph has been long-regarded as their Patron Saint.

Interesting St. Joseph's Table Traditions:

- Pasta is not sprinkled with grated cheese. Instead, a mixture of dry bread crumbs, fennel, and sardines is used. The bread crumbs are said to represent saw dust in commemoration of St. Joseph's work as a carpenter.
- Blessed fava beans are often given out. Once considered cattle feed, fava beans were the one food which survived the Sicilian drought and saved them from starvation
- St. Joseph's Day is also the day that the "swallows return to Capistrano".

Please join us on March 11th as our branch celebrates with our own St. Joseph's Table. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. (No Mass). Please bring a meatless dish to share. The branch will provide yummy pesto pasta.

A big thank you to Al DiPrima and crew for the wonderful Chicken Marsala dinner at our February meeting. Delicious as always!

Many healing prayers are being said for Cookie Maricich and Tony Scardina who are both under the weather.

We send our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Sante Cerri and John Barassi. We will think of them often and remember them fondly.

Pull out your green socks (or shirts, pants, hats...) and join us on March 22nd for our famous Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Enjoy a fabulous Irish feast with all your friends. (\$30/Adults and \$10/Children 12 and under). And don't forget about all the great raffle prizes! Please contact Donna (510) 367-5669 or Helen (510) 990-2139 for tickets.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all! Blessings, ~Helen

#### Concord Br. 214, Todos Santos

Buon Giorno Tutti:

Well, the much-needed rain is here. I hope you are all well and keeping warm and safe

We had our branch meeting on January 15th. We had donations to GROW (Grass Roots Outreach Warriors), who help the unhoused people in Concord with food, hydration, and hygiene care among mental health assistance. We received many warm coats, jackets, and sweaters. Thank you, members for your generous donations. It is truly appreciated.

We had a potluck dinner that night. The delicious ham was prepared by Diane Hasty. We are so lucky to have great cooks in our branch to provide the side dishes and great desserts.

Mary Cook, mentor for Branch 214 installed three new members. Vince and Pam Piscitelli and Effie Carrino. Welcome to our Branch. Our President, Roberta Healy installed Maria Marshall, trustee, who was absent at the installation

We discussed giving scholarships for Seniors who wish to apply.

On January 19th our board members were installed at the Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley. President, Roberta Healy, Vice President, Chris Androtti, Treasurer, Terryann Sturiale, Secretary, Ed McGuirk, Correspondence Secretary, Norene DeLuca, Trustees, Allison McGuirk, Sue Giorgetti, and Sentinel, Karen Caballero. It was a wonderful mass followed by the installation of officers, and then we had a delicious buffet dinner and many great raffle prizes.

We have many volunteers to speak at St. Agnes masses on the weekend of February 15th and 16th to discuss our branch functions, etc. We hope to get many new members to join.

We will be celebration St. Valentines Day at our meeting in February with Chinese food catered by Panda Express to honor the Year of the Snake for Chinese New Year.

We will have a guest speaker from a member of the board of directors from the Contra Costa Water District.

Flyers were mailed out for our Pasta/ Bingo on March 8th. This is a big fundraiser for our branch with fun games, good food and great raffle prizes.

Coming in March we are asking for donations for socks, underwear, sleeping bags, and blankets. We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a pot luck dinner.

Take care and stay healthy and warm. Con Affetto, Norene DeLuca

#### Danville Br. 352, San Isidore

Happy New Year to all from Branch 352!

We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at Branch 352. Christmas time we always do a potluck and everything was delicious. We invited the choir from San Ramon high school and they did not disappoint. They sang a cappella Christmas songs capturing the Christmas spirit.

Before Christmas, we were part of the Christmas market at our church. The report was that everybody had a fun time trying to hit the big salami. By the end of the evening all our prize salami were gone and a good time was had by all.

We had our annual crab feed on January 13. Antipasto salad, pasta and delicious marinated crab. The food was delicious.

Russ and his crew did a great job as usual. Dan serenaded us with Italian songs on his accordion, Russ and Patti joined in with their singing encouraging all of us to sing along. Those old Italian songs are the best. We had such a good time. Thank you to everyone that works so hard!

March 2025

On February 15, we had pizza and bingo night. We haven't had bingo in a while so we were looking to a new venture.

On February 24 we held our heritage dinner meeting, Judy Lloyd talked about Lipari in the Aeolian Islands off Sicily. We will had Pasta Alla Norma, Arancini and Limoncello Taartufo for dessert.

Many blessing, Ciao, Sally Panella

## Brentwood Br. 432, Immaculate Heart of Mary

Greetings to all,

We came together in this New Year on January 25 with our traditional potluck to look back on the old year and make plans. We added 30 new members last year and Mike Valenti would like to see our numbers back up to 100 this year. He and our wonderful Membership Committee plan on making that happen.

Sandy Gamble shared her heritage with us. She has French and Canadian ancestors and told us some fascinating stories dating back to the 1600s! Sandy did her research and found she had an ancestor, Murdock Mackenzie, who emigrated from Scotland to Quebec. He became a wine merchant and Tom and Sandy visited his establishment when they were in Canada.

We talked about raising the amount of scholarship money and giving to fewer students. Discussion ensued and we will revisit the topic next month.

Our February meeting will of course be a Valentine theme with Tom and Sandy providing the meal. Our themed dinners are attracting new members, and we appreciate Carol, our parish bulletin editor, including the announcements in a timely manner.

This year's fundraisers include:

June 21, 50's Sock Hop with a DJ, bar and dancing. The cost is \$25 per person and \$40 per couple.

July 19, Wine Tasting event to include a DJ, music and catered hors d'oeuvres. Sept. 26, our Annual Car Show and

Pasta Feed.
We reviewed Branch Officers for the

Pat Rebollar reminded everyone she needs help setting up before our monthly

See Mike and Shelia Nilo if you need a

Name Badge.

See you all at our Knights of Columbus Crab Feed on Valentin's Day. Love is in the air!

Next meeting on Monday, Feb. 24. *Ciao for now, Mary M.* 

#### SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT



San Bernardino District Installation, District Officers



Br. 446, 210 & 217 SB District Installation, All members present



San Bernardino District Installation, Chef Bernard Frehner, Br. 210



San Bernardino, Branch 210, Fontana, St Joseph's Ralph Segarra, Alba Segarra, Marlene Clark, Joyce Coccia, Branch Mentor John Guerin, Leslie Segarra, Mauro Romagnoli, RoseAnn Rovere and Annie McCarthy



Br. 446 Fr. Ochetti Installation



Br. 446 Carrey Rossie installation

#### **SAN DIEGO DISTRICT**









Branch 229

#### **BLESSED SACRAMENT DISTRICT**



Guests enjoying Branch 342 Polenta Dinner



Br. 342, Linda and Julia prepare raffle baskets for Branch 342 Polenta Dinner



#### **EAST BAY DISTRICT**



Installation of EBD and CCD Officers at Church of the Transfiguratio



Fr. Chris Bennett installs Chaplains: Fr Raphael Zwolenkiewicz (foreground)- Br 343 and Deacon John Kortuem -Br 432



Br. 215 at Installation



Fr. Chris Bennett addresses dinner guests at EBD CCD installation



East Bay District Trustee & ICF Br. 215 President Fran LaTorre with Br. 215 Officers



Branch #215 at the ICF East Bay District Installation of Officers and Mass in Castro Valley on 1/19/2025

#### **EAST BAY DISTRICT (continued)**



Br. 343, Priest and Officer Installation



Br. 343, Officer Installation: EBD-CCD Joint installation Dinner. L-R John Donivan ,Fr. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, Diana Mackinson, Fr. Larry Young, Denise Antonowicz



Br. 343



Br. 343, Priests and Denise Officer Installation:: EBD-CCD Joint installation Dinner. L-R John Donivan ,Fr. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, Diana Mackinson, Fr. Larry Young, Denise Antonowicz



#### STOCKTON DISTRICT



Br. 390, Mangia, Mangia



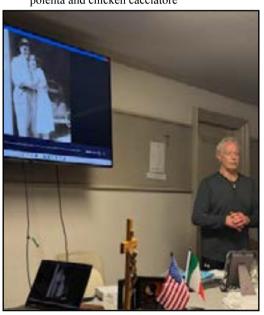
Br. 390, Group prayer before dinner



Br. 390, The Arnaudo girls always bring so much joy with their beautiful smiles



Br. 390, The Tuso Family ready to enjoy polenta and chicken cacciatore



Br. 395, Member Bob Langone shares his family's journey to America



#### FRESNO DISTRICT



Br. 54, ICF meeting January 15, 2025 with the new officers and new



ICF Branch 250, Clovis, CA--Verona De Luca, a charter member of Branch 250, Clovis, passed away January 9, 2025 just three days after her 91st birthday. May she rest in peace





#### Pleasant Hill Br. 442, Christ the King

"If we had not winter, the Spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. – Anne Bradstreet

Winter greetings from Branch 442 at Christ the King parish, Pleasant Hill where we are reverently honoring the losses of winter. We pray for the passing of our bishop emeritus, John Cummins and for those who have been impacted by the SoCal fires.

We also look forward to celebrating the pleasant times of Spring. With a new slate of ICF officers, our calendar is filling up. The ICF members sponsored a parish-wide Pancake Breakfast on February 16th. After cooking LOTS of pancakes the branch followed up with our February meeting. In March we will provide support for the annual Winter Nights program, a parish effort to house, feed and encourage selected families who are currently without a home

May our Spring bring prosperity and

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

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT

#### Auburn Br. 342, St. Joseph

We hope you can join us for "Bubbles, Bingo, and BBQ" on April 12th at the Canyon View Community Center from 11:30 to 3:00. In addition to a fun afternoon of bingo, we will be serving a delicious lunch of tri-tip, salads, bread and dessert. Prosecco, beer and sparkling water will also be available. The board is busy preparing fun raffle baskets and our fabulous bingo caller Tina will be returning to call games. Tickets are \$35.00 each and can be purchased from Adriana at 530-823-8523 or Bridget at 530-906-0634. We only have 100 tickets for sale. Don't miss out!

Ciao! Pam Andersen

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

The year has begun with much excitement! February began with a potluck for our monthly dinner. There were many delicious looking dishes that it was difficult to decide which one to select. Everybody had such a good time sharing their stories with one another. Of course, everyone always looks up to see

the slide show of the previous month's photos that were taken. It's great to see the faces of all the people who attended last month's meeting having fun!

Our Chicken & Polenta Dinner was a big success! Since this was open to the public, we had a lot of people there both members, non-members, guests, and future members. There were also some who were eating polenta for the first time and enjoying every bite! With a variety of raffle baskets, and the 50/50 raffle, it was exciting to see the reactions of the winners! Congratulations to all of you!

We had the Installation of Officers at our church. It was very moving when all the different officers were sworn in by the Central Council Officers. After the installation, a luncheon was provided. All the new officers, former officers, their families and friends were invited. It was very delightful getting to know and meet the officers, both former and new, from the different branches in our district. May all the new officers bring their time and talent to their positions so our district may be prosperous, successful and thrive!

Ciao for now... Irene Perez

#### SANTA ROSA District

#### Healdsburg Br. 52, San Francesco Di Sales

Our February Polenta Dinner was a great success! Thank you to Richard Passalacqua and the crew for a delicious dinner!

**Upcoming Events:** 

ICF Mass: Sunday, March 9 at 10:00

ICF Meeting: Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Fish Fry: Friday, April 11. Save the date for our Fish Fry. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and is always a fun event. We will start selling tickets on the weekend of March 15/16 after Mass or call Carmen and Lauren: 707-595-3111.

If you haven't paid your 2025 dues, please send them to Susan Matheny.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Lauren

## Petaluma Br. 127, St. Vincent

I hope you all had a very happy Valentine's Day. Also, St. Patrick's Day. And let's not forget April Fool's Day. Easter! Oh my gosh. We can't forget the Lord's return! So much going on.

I do have some sad news to tell you. We lost Mary Ellen Higgins Also Bruno Fomasi. We pray for their happy repose. Rest in peace both of you.

Marylyn Sylvestri is feeling better and came to meeting.

Upcoming is Day of Recollection on May 4th here at St James. More on next *Bollettino* 

I will be sending out the Bakeless Bakesale notices. As it is our only fundraiser I hope you will be as generous as you have in the past thanks to all.

Ciao for now, Margaret Cordrey

#### Arcata Br. 144, St. Mary

Our branch hosted the Installation of Officers, in conjunction with Eureka Branch #145, on Sunday January 26.

Bob and Kathy Acquistapace were in attendance and Bob did the installation for us. The luncheon was catered by Casaro Catering. It was a great time of fellowship along with enjoying a delicious meal. (photos).

We have been collecting peanut butter and jelly for the Super Bowl PB&J Competition in the Catholic parishes of our county.

This event was started over 10 years ago and was initially for the Eureka Catholic parishes. It is spearheaded by Branch #145. Our branch, St. Mary's Church, got involved in 2022. The supplies go to Betty Kuan Chinn's pantry to help through the winter. (photo)

I am writing this prior to February 14 when we are having a Valentine's Day dinner for our members. Alfred Eanni is cooking prime rib and shrimp, a "Surf n Turf" meal. Attendees are bringing appetizers, sides, or dessert. Will post photos in next *Bollettino* 

We are starting the plans for our biannual Chicken & Polenta Fundraiser. This brings in the bulk of our fundraising for the year.

It will continue to be a "hybrid" dinner with sit-down or take-out dinners being available. We are increasing to 225 tickets to be sold.

If you find you will be up in our neck of the woods, be sure to call Tony Green @ 707-633-5679 to reserve your scrumptious dinner for \$20.

Joan Dalporto ('06) will be moving to Spring, TX to be near her daughter and grandchildren. Her husband Mike ('06) passed away in 2023.

They both were very active members of our ICF branch. We wish her our best.

New member, Enrique Esparza, was also installed (photo).

Sempre avante! Anne Carlisle Eanni



#### Eureka Br. 145, St. Ambrose

Results of the Bette Chinn Super Bowl of peanut butter and jelly collection competition honoring Rev. Eric Freed were not available at press time. Results will be in the next edition.

Arcata Branch hosted a combined installation luncheon in Leavey Hall at St Mary's Church on January 26th. The food was delicious. Thank you, Casaro Catering of Arcata and Branch 144 Vice President Alfred Eanni for the delicious appetizers.

Past Grand President Bob and Kathy Acquistapace drove up from Santa Rosa and officiated the installation. They are wonderful.

High school seniors can now complete their applications for the Jerry J. Colivas Memorial College Scholarships on line at the ICF.org website.

Deadline for applications is April 1st.

Please contact Jerry Colivas at jerry. colivas@yahoo.com or Joe Bonino at 707-445-5799 (landline) for paper copies of the application.

St. Joseph Day table will once again be presented by the Eureka ICF in the courtyard between the church and the parish hall. Members, please bring baked goods for the table before the start of the 10:30 a.m. mass on Sunday March 23rd.

Finally, and sadly is the news of longtime member Joel Canzoneri's passing away on February 2nd. Funeral arrangements are pending. Our hearts go out to Lora at this difficult time. Joel was 75 years old.

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

Dear Brothers & Sisters

We are off to a really good start to 2025. Our anniversary dinner was a great

success and the cookie exchange was delightful. Everyone made their favorite cookie and did we eat!

March 3 is our corned beef dinner and also the due date for anyone who wishes to donate a scholarship to get their check to Bob Acquistapace.

With the start of Lent on March 5 it gives everyone a chance to reflect on the Birth, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Part of the title ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION calls on us as members to not only enjoy the fellowship of the Federation but to deepen the religious faith of our members. Let's make this a special season of Lent.

When you read this article say a special Hail Mary for all the deceased members of branch 198.

Pace a tutti Robert Acquistapace

#### Sebastopol Br. 209, St. Michael

Greetings from Branch #209!

On January 12, 2025 we had our District Installation. Branch #52, Healdsburg, hosted a wonderful event!

The 2025 Officers for our Branch (#209 Sebastopol) are below:

President, Pam McAlvain

1st Vice President, Steve Stedman 2nd Vice President, John Luian

Recording Secretary, Yvonne Dorr

Recording Secretary, Tvoime Don

Financial Secretary, Leona Spadoni Treasurer, Lorraine Vannetti

Orator, David Armstrong

Trustees: Nancy Stedman, Roy Spadoni, Tami Marion, and Donovan Dorr

We are excited to have another successful and fun-filled year honoring our church and heritage!

Giving back to our community is one of our strongest commitments, and starting things off is our delicious Chicken and Polenta dinner on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!!!

Other dates to note: our Fish Fry, 4/11/25; Bocce Tournament, 5/18/25; Chicken and Polenta Dinner, 10/18/25; and Ravioli Dinner, 12/6/25. The person to contact for tickets to any of our events is Lorraine Vannetti (707) 527-9552.

Our regular general meetings are the second Tuesday of every month of this year (except July). We encourage anyone who wants to attend, to please join us and see how special our group is! You can also be a part of the wonderful things we do!!

Here's to a great 2025! Ciao! Yvonne Dorr, Recording Secretary

#### FRESNO District

#### Merced Br. 39, St. Cecilia

Happy New Year! Our January General Meeting was a great way to kick off the New Year. We had a wonderful meal of Italian Sausage, peppers, pasta and salad prepared by our fabulous ICF Cooking Crew. The budget was discussed, and we are planning for a fabulous 2025.

The next two meetings will be held on February 12th and March 12, 2025.

On February 12th, prior to our meeting we have our pasta sauce sale and are hoping for a huge success.

In December, the longtime active ICF members, the Dal Porto Family, celebrated Lillian's Great Granddaughter,

Alyssa Mendoza, as she was sworn into the California State Bar, she will be practicing Environmental Law.

Join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, March 12th; at 5 p.m. we will have social hour, 6 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. meeting, located at the ITALO Lodge, 1351 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA. We can't wait to see you and hope to see some new faces.

#### Clovis Br. 250, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Happy Birthday to Kathy Christensen and Alice Reyes, our March celebrants! Since the last *Bollettino*, we lost two of our long-time members. Verona DeLuca, a charter member of our Branch, passed away three days after her 91st birthday on January 9. Verona was dedicated to her faith and to the ICF. Although she was confined to an assisted living facility for 15 years, she maintained her membership. She was

also a member of Sons of Italy, Lodge

No. 1449. Her smile and dedication will

be missed

Ron Travis passed away January 15. Ron and his four-legged buddy, Hershey, were faithful attendees at our meetings where he served as our Branch's First Vice-President for many years. He loved to tell stories that were amusing and he was an avid collector of automobiles. Ron was preceded in death by his lovely wife, Beverly.

The loss of these two loving and caring folks is a reminder that it is God's will and that he has gathered them into his loving embrace.

Little known Pope's Department: St. Sixtus II (the 24th Pope - 257-258). Sixtus was a gentle man chosen in the hope that he could solve the disputes that marred the reign of his predecessor, St Stephen I. However, he was executed by soldiers of Emperor Valerian.

Thought for the month:
"When shadows fall across my path
And barriers block my journey, Lead me

d barriers block my journey, Lead me
By the light of your love, on the
Straight, sure way to your peace''
-(B.J.Hoff)

Ciao, Angelo Lavagnino

#### Fresno Br. 308, St. Anthony of Padua

Happy Spring.

Bernie and his wife Susan Squeo generously donated the meal of tamales with beans and rice for our January meeting. February's dinner will be homemade Lasagna. Amateur wine maker Mr. Paul Gilchrist have captured the palates of our members with his outstanding "fruit of the earth" wine to pair with the Sequeo's delightful offerings!

We request prayers for the complete recovery of our longtime member Joanne DeBenedetto from hospitalization for a severe infection.

Christmas dinner at Old Spaghetti Factory was a fun successful celebration with 37 toys donated to Children's Hospital. Members enjoyed the location and would like to attend the same restaurant for 2025 Christmas dinner.

Quilt Basket Raffle for 2024 as finally held after many delays. Rita Hoffknecht was the winner 2023 and 2024 winner.

Jay Newsome is the new district secretary, as well as co-president for our branch. New corresponding officer Janet Gilchrist has replaced Debbi Jorgensen who will now the secretary.

John Mulligan Debbi Jorgensen

## CENTRAL COAST District

Central Coast District Installation was held on January 18, 2025, at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, Tres Pinos, CA. Thank you Branch 25- Hollister for hosting and serving a delicious ravioli/Italian sausage luncheon.

Thank you, Denise Antonowicz, Grand President and several Central Council members for installing us. Our next District will be on March 15, 2025 hosted by Br 21- Santa Cruz.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Valentine President- Central Coast

#### Monterey Br. 36, Santa Rosalia

"As Lent is the time of greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst-Repent and Believe." Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

We held our first dinner meeting of the New Year on 1/23/25 at the Moose Lodge. The hall was beautifully decorated, the Moose donated the cheese board appetizers, all had a very festive evening and enjoyed a Chicken Cacciatore dinner. Congratulations to attendance drawing winner Linda Casey. And congratulations and thanks to Josephine Lynn, winner of the raffle, who donated \$200 back to the ICF!

Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Feb 20 was to thank our hardworking volunteers who made all our events successful, especially during Lenten season - and for our teams to meet and prepare for these busy events.

Our annual Friday Lenten fish and pasta dinners at San Carlos Cathedral

Hall begin 3/7/25 for 6 weeks ending 4/11/25:

• Same pricing as last year for members (\$20 per person) and children's (10/under) pasta only \$10

- Non-Members will be \$25 per person (Join and Save \$!)
- Bar and dessert prices are also the same as last year.
- Ticket sales online at www.MontereyICF.org
- Mondays 12 noon-Thursday 8pm weekly.

Menu (changes weekly, based on availability)

- Fish, Pasta, Salad, and Garlic Bread. (Desserts available for purchase \$2)
- Reserve/Prepay online from Mondays 12 noon until Thursdays 8pm during Lent.

ICF Members are asked to donate a dessert weekly. We rely on these for our dessert table. Thank you for your generosity.

Lent dinners doors open at 4:30 p.m.; takeouts available 5-7 p.m., dining room service 5:30-7 p.m. See you there!

Cordially, Elaine Valentine, Co-President Branch 36

## Castroville Br. 51, Santa Caterina de Siena

On Friday, February 7, we had our general dinner meeting to celebrate Valentine's Day and discuss our calendar for the upcoming year. Thank you to DL and Linda Grier for graciously opening up their home to host this event! Thank you also to our President, Cindy Stefani, for supplying some great raffle prizes. Our "Breakfast for Dinner" menu was a huge hit, with everyone having a great time.

We will be kicking off the Lenten season by having our general meeting on March 14th, with a soup and salad menu. If you would like to join us for these fun events, please contact our President at clstefani@aol.com to get a calendar of our meetings, as well as locations, dates, and times. Everyone is welcome!

A belated Happy Anniversary to our members Leonora and Larry Barlow, who celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on February 2!

Happy birthday to our March members - Bethany Barlow (3/15), Nathan Cortopassi (3/3), and Frank Rossi (3/9). *Stefani Cortopassi* 



#### Aptos Br. 227, St. Joseph

We begin with the sad news that our beloved Orator Bruce Dunn passed away on January 28 after suffering a heart attack. His great prayers, both before and after our meetings, always brought God to our gatherings. At Board meetings Bruce always had us laughing or smiling, and he was very instrumental on keeping the branch alive by getting new members. In his memory, President Franklyn Lopes has asked each of us to recruit a new member. Bruce's services will be held on Saturday, March 29, at St Joseph's Church where we will conduct our traditional rose ceremony in his honor.

Many thanks to Cooks Manny and Magdalena Martinez for preparing the dinner at our February meeting. The meal of lasagna rolls, garlic bread, and tossed green salad was topped off by Magdalena's delicious and beautifully-decorated Valentine's Day chocolate cupcakes.

Save the date for our annual picnic on June 28 at Forty Thieves Park. It will replace the June and July branch meetings.

Our March meeting is scheduled for Sunday, the 9th, at the Senior Center.

Please continue to pray for Heidi Ambiel, Sylvia Beccaria, Ann and David Stow, Rosa Radicchi, and Marie Mungai. We were happy to learn that Mike Rios' lung transplant was successful, but he needs a little more recovery time before he can be back to our meetings. Keep him in your prayers also. May God bless the caregivers who look after these people.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. May the wind always be at your back, Deanna Musler, Secretary

#### Arroyo Grande Br. 291, St. Patrick

Branch 291's Lenten Fish Frys are here once again! They begin on Friday, March 7th and run each Friday through April 11th; however, we skip March 14th due to a St. Patrick's Day celebration at our church that weekend. Each week we serve up a delicious fish and chips dinner (with freshly caught cod) and homemade coleslaw! We also feature a wonderful dessert table full of delicious homemade cakes and other treats, as well as a cash bar serving beer, wine and soda. If you're in the Arroyo Grande area, you must stop by and enjoy one or all of our popular fish dinners. We'd love to have you join us!

Our Branch is currently accepting applications for our Catholic High School Scholarship, awarded to qualifying 8th grade graduates attending a local Catholic High School this fall, and our College Scholarship, awarded to qualifying high school graduates attending a 4-year college. Deadlines are quickly approaching, so we encourage Br. 291

members, or children/grandchildren of members, to apply if you qualify for one of these scholarships!

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

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

#### Paso Robles Br. 354, Saint Rose of Lima

Branch 354 is pleased to announce that our "Almost Famous Pasta Dinner" is officially in the planning stages. Please mark your calendars for April 26, 2025. That's the date you can plan on purchasing heaping plates of the best pasta and meatballs this side of Italy. Details will follow.

As in the past, proceeds will fund our scholarship program to support Catholic education at Saint Rose, and Mission College Prep; also, scholarships will be made available to deserving students at local high schools and colleges.

Through our Registration Assistance Program, we welcome the following new families to our Branch:

- 1. Ethan and Audrey Roza, and their 3 children.
- 2. Pablo and Anna Torres, and their 2 children
- 3. Brittny Garcin, and her 2 children.

All of these children who are school age are currently attending Saint Rose Elementary School. Younger brothers and sisters are future Saint Rose Students.

President David Zanini is currently serving on the committee to rewrite the ICF by-laws. Thank you, David, for your continued dedication to enrich and improve ICF.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nicholas Pepo, son of Michael and Rosanna Pepo who graduated from Recruit Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois, on February 6, 2025. Three days after graduating he was transferred to the naval base in Pensacola, Florida where he will be studying Aviation Structural Mechanics.

Thank you, Nicholas, for your service to our great country!!!

Yvonne Maddalena Recording Secretary

#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY District

The Santa Clara Valley District January Installation of Officers' mass and ceremony was held at St. Martin of Tours parish and hosted by Branch 391. New district officers for 2025 are: Diocesan Chaplain Father George Aranha, President Debbie Piro, First Vice President

Jim Jones, Second Vice President Ric Shimshock, Secretary Mike Rossi, Treasurer Steve Lencioni, Orator Julie Midwin, Trustees Germaine Antonowicz, Janet Glaubke, Tina Souza-Dutra, Sentinel Eva Stern and District Mentor Donna Pfaff.

The district members look forward to a productive year including: the annual summer BBQ picnic, ICF Convention, Bishop's Day, Oktoberfest, the District Christmas party, and Installation 2026. Stay tuned for more details of these district events.

All branches, please remember to donate to the ICF first year scholarship program by the deadline April 1st. It would be good for our district to show 100% participation of branches. And be sure to alert potential student candidates to the filing deadline, also April 1st.

Congratulations to our Diocesan Chaplain Father George who celebrates 50 years as a priest this year.

Please be generous in giving to the ICF fund for the victims of the Los Angeles fires.

Please mark your calendars for the 100th anniversary celebration of Branch 5 at St. Clare on Saturday, April 26th, at 12:00 mass.

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

The Santa Clara Valley District wishes all ICF members and their families a blessed Lenten season!

Michael Rossi

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

My Dear Spiritual Friends,

What a joy it was to watch the St. Mary School perform two songs from the musical "Annie" at our January dinner meeting. The students performing were from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. The thespians were perfect orphans for the song "Hard Knock Life" in their overalls and mops. The girls made our members of Branch 28 smile while they danced and sang to "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile". What a delightful treat that added to our meeting!

What better way to spend St. Patrick's Day than spending it with our ICF friends! Our dinner meeting at St. Mary Hall is on March 17th and will be catered by Old City Hall Restaurant. Come for a corned beef and cabbage dinner. Yummy!

Blessings, Jeanette Hudson

## Mountain View Br. 47, San Giorgio

Buon Giorno di San Patrizio! Happy St Patrick's Day!

We are off to a good start for 2025. Eleven of us made it to the Installation Ceremony and at our first meeting of the year, three new members signed up. Welcome Shirley, Blanca and Jorge!

From our November raffle ticket sales which the school helped by donating a basket and a pizza oven, we made over \$500 dollar in sales. We made up the difference and gave St Joseph School a check for \$750.

We had 32 people who joined us at our ICF Mass Breakfast in January. You can't go wrong with meatballs, ribs, fruit, panettone, an assortment of muffins and an almond cake.

We have our St. Joseph Feast coming up on March 18. Our first Pasta Grab N Go for the year will begin on March 29th. We are planning on a group van trip to Branch 36 for the Lenten Dinner on April 4th. We are working on a pilgrimage to Cabrini in November too.

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

The ICF is collecting money from all branches nationally to be donated to the fire victims in So. California. June 14 is the deadline to participate.

On Jan. 4, 2025, the Santa Clara Valley District held Installation of Officers at St. Martin Church. They held a solemn Mass and Installation, followed by a lovely luncheon. Fr. George Aranha led us in Grace.

Our Grand President and our own Branch President Denise Antonowicz presented the Heritage Report. With Lent around the corner, Denise gave a history of the Carnival of Venice. It originated in the Middle Ages, abolished in 1797, and revived in 1979. There was a great Carnival, filled with music and dance. Masks were worn for anonymity. They now hold a contest for the most beautiful mask. All festivities end the day before Ash Wednesday.

Please note the new meeting day, the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. All are welcomed. March is a busy month with the start of Lent, St. Patrick Day and St. Joseph Day, all before the start of Spring. Get those seedlings ready to plant!

We continue to pray for our members who are experiencing health issues.

Ciao for now, Lucy Amico



Branch 191 has gotten off to a wonderful start to a new year. Our members are very excited and engaged in the upcoming activities of the Branch. Our first meeting was held on Saturday, January 25, with a delicious lunch and a very busy meeting.

We will have our next Quarterly Mass and Breakfast on Palm Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Many fundraisers are in the works. Please watch for upcoming dates and activities. This is truly going to be a wonderful year.

Thank you, Debbie Piro for your leadership and guidance over the past years. We look forward to working with you as well as Jim Jones during this upcoming year.

Blessings to you all! Sharon Logan

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

Happy Valentine's Day and we found a few more Christmas Party pictures. Check 'em out.

Pray for Joan Delfino, Loraine Nunziata and Bill Rice along with Father George who is scheduled to retire in June of this year.

Our Dining For Dollars concierge, Robin Hayr has set up another night of fine food at LA PLAYITA RESTAU-RANT Redwood Plaza 1169 Redmond Ave. SanJose, CA, on February 10th and 11th. Remember that 10% of the profits go to Santa Teresa church and the rest goes to ICF.

The Polenta Dinner is scheduled for March 29th.

The date for the Luau Rib Dinner is August 16th. Notice there are lots of places to go and eat over the next couple of months, Enjoy.

Thank you, Janet Glubke for delivering all the Layette and baby items to the diocese.

Avis Erkel, and George Taddle are our new Trustees and Maureen Susino will be VP to the board. Thank you, Joyce Robba, Paula Radzinshi and Carol Bennett for their service to the Board.

The 2025 ICF Convention, Gateway to God's Bounty, is scheduled for August 29-31-2025 at the Wyndham in Visalia California. *Bollettino* is online at www.icf.org/about/news/bollettino/.

See Tina Souza-Durtra to purchase a calendar and get your chance to win \$30. Check the *Bollettino* for the win-

All members received the 100 Anniversary pins at our last meeting.

Have a wonderful safe and healthy month of February.

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

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

In January, President Steve Lencioni thanked Mayme Abbott for serving as one of Branch's Trustees over the years. He also acknowledged those members, who hosted the January Installation of Officers held at St. Martin's. Louise Vento provided an interesting heritage report on Joe DiMaggio, who was born in Martinez to a "fishing family" and who went on to become the "Yankee Clipper" for the New York Yankees.

In February, it was Tony and Alba's Pizza night! Members came out in the blistery, rainy weather to enjoy some great pizza.

Members donated baby gifts for the baby shower of our RCIA friends, Kati and Shah, hosted by our Branch.

Steve thanked Tina Rossi and members for the sale of all ICF 2025 calendars. He also reminded us of our May 17 Multicultural Celebration Fundraiser and asked for Silent Auction ideas and volunteers in helping to make this another successful event.

Rose Clarke reminded us that first-year scholarship applications are available on-line at ICF.org and that the deadline for applications is April 1, 2025.

Steve is working on Branch 391's 2025 calendar, which will include our quarterly masses, monthly meetings and special events.

In honor of Valentine's Day, Louise reported on St. Valentino, Patron Saint of Love, who was slain by the Romans for his Faith.

Reminder:

Branch 391 Dinner Meeting—Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.; Branch Dues Deadline—March 15, 2025; Multicultural Celebration Fundraiser--May 17, 2025; Bishop's Day--October 5, 1925, 11:30 Mass, St. Martin's, hosted by our Branch.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Janis Patellaro

## Sunnyvale Br. 408, Resurrection

Welcome back to our Busy Season!

ICF will once again host the first Lenten Soup Supper on Friday 7 March in the Farana Center. Please let Patricia know which kind of meatless soup you will be bringing.

This is followed on the next day of our big Fundraiser.

We have our Annual ICF/5th Grade Rez Parish PASTA Dinner and Raffle coming up on Sat 8 March @ 6 p.m. in the Farana Center. This fundraiser is focused on raising monies to support sending the 5th Grade for the one week off-site Science Camp. This is the first time away from home for many of the children. Please let Patricia know how you can help with this important Event.

The following weekend, ICF hosts the first Blood Drive of the Year. We will be accepting Donors from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Sunday 16 March. We look forward to seeing you there.

Al Chantelope has moved from Atria Sunnyvale to the Atria Facility in San Mateo to take advantage the special Nursing Care he requires.

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

#### Morgan Hill Br. 435, Santa Caterina D'Alessandria

Hello Everyone

We were once again, honored to have Father G join us in prayer and dinner on January 13th. We also had Father Franco Raspa, a visiting Jesuit from Argentina join us and give us a short introduction of himself. We also had guest John Cordich from Montana visiting his parents, Louie & Pat Cordich.

We have sent in our 1st year scholarship donation. Our quarterly mass will be held on February 23, 2025 at the 10:30 mass

We again ask for continued prayers for Sylvia Sorci and Frances Scalzo. Sylvia is doing better and hopes to relocate to a facility in Gilroy. Frances is now staying with her daughter Annmarie, getting stronger and still receiving speech therapy. Prayers for a full recovery for Carol Tacci who fell in her home in Morgan Hill and will be at Pacific Manor Rehabilitation in Morgan Hill.

Ending on a happier note, we celebrated the January birthdays for Toni Foggiato and Dr. Andy Mattioda who wore their birthday hats as we sang!

Blessings, Giulia Gallego

#### San Jose Br. 445, Transfiguration

As Spring approaches, Br.445 will host a variety of events: March - St. Joseph's Table for parishioners and start of our Easter See's Candy Fundraiser; April to include a Quarterly Mass 4/5, start of our 4th annual Mother's Day Cookie Fundraiser and a Holy Week Soup Supper 4/16 for members and parishioners.

Our January general meeting took on a Winter Wonderland and Happy New Year theme. As always, many thanks to our decorating crew! Our first ever breakfast dinner was a great success thanks to Jim Canger and his crew as well. The evening's Heritage report was "The History of Snowmen".

Under New Business the need to support the first responders and fire victims of the Southern California fires was discussed. A motion to donate \$1,000 was made and approved by all. The World Central Kitchen was chosen as the recipient of this donation per group vote.

Members also attended our 1/26 Quarterly Mass followed by breakfast for some at a local restaurant. On February 2nd, Donut Sunday including coffee and juice after mass was hosted by Br.445 to foster community building. It will continue on the first Sunday of the month going forward.

Member Emily Corral was our only March birthday...may she have a Heavenly one this year.

Wishing a Happy Spring to all...Buona primavera a tutti!

Until next month stay safe and well, Jan Marianelli Stumhoffer

#### STOCKTON District

#### Modesto Br. 48, St. Stanislaus

The Stockton District Installation was a wonderful and intimate affair. The food was delicious. Annette Martin always prepares a great meal. A big thank you to all the branches that helped including the appetizers and to Branch 390 for helping with setup. Thank you, Dante, for being the MC. And thanks to everyone that helped to put everything away (Ministry of the Chairs!)

The family and friends of Domenica Dusi have made donations in her memory. Domenica passed away September 20, 2024 and was a long-time member of ICF. These donations will be made in her honor to the Gifts of Love program. Domenica always helped at so many events (including growing plants annually for our St. Joseph's Table raffle) and always helped others in need (like bringing members to our events who could not get there otherwise.) It is fitting these donations be given to the Gifts of Love.

Reminder: Scholarship applications are due March 15, 2025.

Thanks to all who have paid their membership dues.

We will have our St. Joseph's Table Celebration on Sunday, March 16, 2025. It is a potluck luncheon and raffle. Bring your favorite dish. All your family and friends are invited. All raffle proceeds are donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

Coming up at – 709 J Street Church Hall: Wed Feb 12 – 6 p.m. Meeting Wed Mar 12 – 6 p.m. Meeting Sun Mar 16 – 2 p.m. – St. Joseph's Table Potluck –

Cecelia McGhee

March 2025

#### Lodi Br. 82, St. Anne's

It's hard to believe the month quickly marched in. Seems like yesterday we were ringing in the new year.

The district luncheon meeting that our branch hosted was well attended, and the meal was enjoyed by all. Margaret, you always make delicious menu choices and create a welcoming atmosphere. Grazie.

And many thanks, Margaret, for your time and dedication as 1st VP during the past year. The position of 1st VP is now open. As 1st VP, you would conduct meetings in the absence of the President and arrange programs for our monthly meetings, which most have already been planned. Interested? Contact Chris.

At our Mar. 25th meeting, we'll be celebrating the feast of St, Joseph with a potluck dinner. Come with a friend to learn about the importance of St. Joseph to Italians and the significance of the items displayed on the St. Joseph's Table.

ICF Scholarship applications are due to Central Council on Apr. 1st. If you know a college bound student who would benefit, direct them to Grace or Lisa.

On Apr. 8th at 6:00, we'll be decorating Salvation Army's Hope Harbor Dining room for Easter. It's a fun hour of fellowship with members and friends while creating a festive holiday atmosphere for their clients. To help, contact Patty.

As you practice the traditional three pillars of Lent, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, may you develop a closer, more fruitful relationship with God. Participation in the upcoming parish mission and Taize service will also enrich and deepen your Lenten experience. Many blessings await!

Patty Litts, Corresponding Secretary

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

Our meeting was held on January 28th in St. Anthony's Cafeteria. After a little social time and munching on homemade cookies, President Birdie Nieri called the meeting to order. We recited the Federation Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of officers was taken.

Minutes from our October 2024 meeting were approved with one correction.

Treasurer Michelle Harmon provided balances in our checking accounts as of January 1. One bill was presented for approval to pay.

As reported in the previous issue, we lost Anna Mello in December. Our Branch sent flowers in remembrance. Anna's daughter, Allison, sent a lovely 'thank you' note, Acknowledgement of our donation to last year's Seminarian Fund was also received.

Our next meeting will be on February 25th at Tony's Kitchen. Tony and helpers will be preparing Chicken Cacciatore and polenta. Guests are invited to enjoy this yummy meal. The next District

meeting will be on February 23rd at St. Anne's in Lodi.

Dante Galeazzi shared that there will be a Fish Fry at the Monterey Branch on February 7th. Branch #413 in Angels Camp will be holding a Crab and pasta dinner on February 22nd. Scholarship applications are available now – go to ICF.org for more information.

Our closing prayer this evening was the reading of "Farewell to a Member". Federation Anthem was played and all sang along. Meeting adjourned.

Bye for now, Michela

#### Tracy Br. 390, St. Bernard

We don't remember a larger attendance than we had to our January Chicken Cacciatore and Polenta dinner, which led to an excellent return financially for our branch and a fabulous way to kick off the year 2025.

So, now that we know that we can offer those scholarship dollars thanks to our amazing attendance and donations of raffle prizes, dessert and the hard work in the kitchen and outside the kitchen, here are the details:

Scholarship applications from our Branch and from Central Council are now available. The deadline to turn them in is March 15th. You can get them in person from Annette Elissagaray or online at ICF.org by clicking on Download the 2025 ICF Scholarship Application. Our dinner proceeds go to both, so be sure to apply for both of them if you are a graduating high school senior and qualify.

Thursday, March 20th dinner will be Italian Roasted Chicken and Pasta Pesto with all the trimmings. Deadline to make your reservations is Monday, March 17th. Our April Heritage Month dinner will be April 24th featuring great Spaghetti & Meatballs!

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.

My Mom, Licia (Bernabei) Laspina, must have received some of your prayers because we celebrated her 100th birthday on January 22! Born in Pisa, she met my father John, who was serving in the Air Corps (USAAC) during WWII, then came to Tulare as a war bride in April of 1947 to marry my father. Dad was born in San Francisco in 1917 to Sicilian parents, Salvatore and Anna (Cardile), who came here from Piedimonte Etneo, Sicily, in April 1914, shortly after their marriage.

You can share family memories in our Heritage section. We would love to hear where all your ancestors came from, as I have already done, on our website.

www.icfbranch390.org

Stay healthy, happy & safe. Betty

## Stockton Br. 395, Presentation of the BVM

In keeping with this Jubilee year, our Branch theme for 2025 will be HOPE. Everything we do will in some way embrace Hope.

Our presentation last month was by member, Bob Langone. Bob shared how his grandparents immigrated from the town on Tricarico, Italy. He also shared an incredible video that took us through their journey to America in hopes of a better life.

Some sad news. We recently lost long-time member Bernice Parenti Nickols. She was a pioneer in a male-dominated construction industry. Her seventy-year career as an architect is marked by the countless homes and numerous retail buildings that she designed throughout Stockton. She was not only our photographer, but always willing to help our branch where needed. She will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all those who were touched by her warmth and grace.

Save the Date: April 29th will be our annual Italian Mass at 6pm at Presentation Church. This year we will honor St Catherine of Siena.

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love" –Mother Teresa

alla prossima, Mary Ann

#### SAN DIEGO DISTRICT

Chula Vista Br. 229, St. Rose of Lima

The members of Branch #229 of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista enjoyed having their annual Superball Sandwich and Cannoli Sale. The proceeds will benefit the refurbishing of the St. Rose of Lima church and chapel tabernacles."

#### SAN BERNARDINO District

On January 25th, the San Bernardino

District gathered at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Redlands for our annual Officers Installation. Branch 210 hosted, but all three branches contributed, so it was truly a District Event! Father Jerry Ochetti, our District Chaplain and member of Br. 446 celebrated Mass. Ralph Segarra, Br. 210 was Eucharistic Minister. Kevin Cavanaugh, Br. 446 proclaimed. John Guerin, Br. 217 and District President cantored. Barbara Keough, Br. 217 provided piano and led us in song. Carrey Rossie, new president of Br. 446 played guitar and joined the choir. Paul Behrens, Br. 210's official

photographer, took our pictures. Catering was provided by Chef Bernard Frehner, Br. 210. At lunch, we were joined by Father Arinze Ezeoke, one of Holy Name's Parochial Vicars.

Thank you to Perry Shurko for representing our Grand President, Denise, delivering her message to us and installing us. To Scarf us, we had our Grand Trustee Teresa Shaw, CC Emeritus Pat Mages, and Lou Mages.

Our message from Denise was to let us know about ICF 101. Sounds great! It's wonderful to be able to continue to grow and learn while keeping our traditions alive. Read all about ICF 101 in our Jan/Feb 2025 *Bollettino*.

I want to thank the members of 210 who worked so hard to make our Installation a success and to our sister Branch 217 in Redlands for all the help they gave us.

Next meeting, 2/9/25 at St Nicholas of Myra Church in Fontana. Ciao for now, *Annie McCarthy, President* 

#### Upland Br. 446, Saint Anthony

Our officers were installed during the San Bernardino District event on January 25 in Redlands. Mass was celebrated by our branch member Fr. Jerry Ochetti, who is also our District Chaplain. Afterwards, we all enjoyed a delicious luncheon hosted by the Fontana branch.

The following day was our first meeting of the year with our newly installed president, Carrey Rossie. The meeting was extremely well attended by many of our 71 members. We broke into several groups to brainstorm ideas on fundraising activities. Additional ideas for branch activities were also suggested during the small group discussions. All the papers will be reviewed by the officers. Committees of members and officers will be formed to move forward on the plans. Our St. Joseph's Day cookie sale was discussed. We will be featuring homemade cookies for sale to our parishioners. Signup sheets were passed around for bakers as well as for those helping with the packaging.

We also look forward to participating again in the Lenten Station of the Cross. Last year our members led the prayers in both English and Italian at our parish.

Our members are always very generous at bringing yummies to enjoy during our meetings. Trustee Dominico Ricci and his wife Gina gave away several gigantic bunches of home-grown Swiss chard. Treasurer Danny Centurioni brought his hilarious "dirty bingo" game for us to play, and we ended our meeting laughing and enjoying the card game.

We all look forward to our upcoming meetings at which we connect with friends, sample yummy treats and promote our Catholic faith.



## TALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION 2025 Yearbook

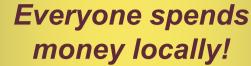
Gabeway

God's Bounty

## YOU Are Needed!

Show us your celebrations.

Let us eelebrate your joys and successes!



Sell commercial ads to the folks you spend your money with and get a 20% commission check.

(Not the actual 2025 cover)

Artwork Deadline

#### The ICF Convention Yearbook is:

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

#### **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

## 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.

## Celebration Pages Births • Weddings • Graduations

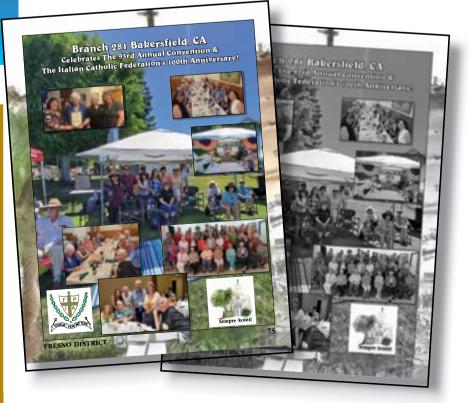
Full color 1/16<sup>th</sup> page celebration entry for only \$25. Includes a photo and details.

Let us all celebrate the joys from your year!



CELEBRATING
Mary & Tom Cook

30th Wedding Anniversary
Sep 4, 1993 - Sep 4, 2023



All of the Documents relating to the Convention Souvenir Book are available on the web site in the Officers' Portal under the Documents Ending 12/31/24.

# I.C.F. Membership

В	I	N	G	0
Host a membership drive after masses.	Connect with silent members. Invite them to the next activity. Offer transportation.	Offer member pricing at your events to extend membership value.	Place an entry in the church bulletin announcing upcoming activities.	Enter your own method:
Collaborate with other service organizations to participate in ICF activities.	Invite members to take part in our member benefit, the Hospitalization Plan.	Include a one year ICF membership as a raffle prize.	Follow-up with members who are past due on their membership.	Keep members informed by submitting a monthly entry in the Bollettino.
Hold a family night and invite the school and religious ed families.	With permission, place ICF brochures in the vestibules of local parishes.	F P A GO OF THE PER PARTY OF THE PER PAR	Announce meetings and events in the diocesan newspaper. Some have a free section.	Have a membership table at the parish ministry fair.
Contact former members, invite them to your next meeting. Invite them back to the branch.	Invite college students from the local Newman Center to a branch meeting/event.	Participate as a branch in religious, heritage, and community events.	Host an activity for your parish RCIA program. Share ICF with attendees.	Have branch representatives attend a Zoom Membership Workshop.
Include a branch calendar with dues slips to let members know what to look forward to.	Create a social media account to connect with existing and prospective members.	If your parish invites groups to be part of their website, provide the link to the ICF website and membership video.	Have Officers attend the Zoom Officers' Training Workshops.	Assign a liaison to each new member/family to orient them to ICF and keep updated on activities.
Review the above membership tips. Mark the ones which the branch will				

commit to trying throughout 2025. Form at least one "bingo" line and the branch will earn a convention raffle ticket. Mail, email, or fax your branch's bingo card to the office by March 31, 2025.

Diamon " City:	Branch #	City:
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#### **SAN MATEO DISTRICT**



Branch 130, President Leo Capovilla, foreground, at St. Pius Church, Redwood City, for the San Mateo ICF District Installation of Officers.



Branch 130, left, ICF Mentor Kathy Trevizo & Branch 130 and 1st VP Roberto Mancia at the San Mateo ICF District Installation of Officers at St. Pius Church, Redwood City.



Br. 130 Erma DeMartini, Olga Capovilla, from left, & standing left center, Gina Malanca Morales ICF Br. 130 Trustees at the San Mateo ICF District Installation of Officers at St. Pius Church, Redwood City.



Branch 130 - AED Training. Branch 130 donated AED machine, now located with an anti-choking device in Homer Crouse Hall & the St. Pius Senior Center. Training session given by retired Captain Mike Sweeney (St. Pius class of 1976).



