

YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

Since 1883

Grand President's Program

YOUNG MEN'S
INSTITUTE

Pro Deo



Pro Patria

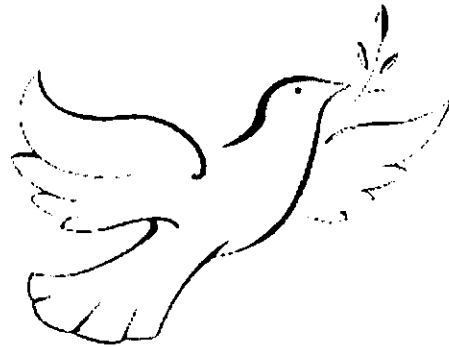
Pro Deo, Pro Patria Returning to Our Roots

MIKE NELSON
GRAND PRESIDENT
JUNE 21, 2017

Faith ~ Patriotism ~ Fraternity

YMI MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the YMI is to provide for the mutual aid and good will, the moral, intellectual and social improvement of its members, devotion to the Catholic Church, and loyalty to our country in accordance with its motto: “Pro Deo, Pro Patria – For God, For Country”. To achieve this mission, the YMI dedicates itself to the education of its members in things Catholic, in things American and in all things that will lead all men to their ultimate salvation.



***Approved by the YMI Board of Grand Directors
May 4, 2002***

Grand President's Program 2017-2018

Pro Deo, Pro Patria Returning to Our Roots

Introduction

As you probably know, the YMI is a fraternal order of Catholic men that has been in existence since 1883. Today, we operate with 25 Councils across three states and our membership is over 2000. But how many of our Brothers are active in our organization, their parishes, and are truly "fraternal"?

As I started to work on the program for this coming year, I looked at Past Grand President programs. The common theme was that of "moving forward". But how do we do that if we don't know where we have been? We need to ask ourselves "who are we and what is our purpose"?

Our Purpose

Our purpose is three-fold: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism.

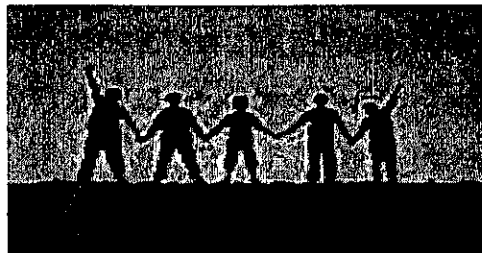
- Faith – We pledge ourselves to be practicing Catholics and we are active participants supporting our parishes.
- Patriotism – We love our country, respect its laws and show our public support for America by voting, flying our flags and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting.

- Fraternalism – As members of the YMI, we extend our hand to each other in Brotherly love and call each other “Brother”. Family and family values are important to us, so our families are included in many of our functions.

That is why we are here and involved in the YMI. But we must move beyond just that. How do we do this? I believe a look at our Mission Statement provides a clue.

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Mutual Aid and Goodwill

Mutual aid is a term first coined in 1530 and is the cooperative as opposed to the competitive factors operating in the development of society. Goodwill is defined as friendly disposition, benevolence and kindness. For our use, both can refer to the support we give each other as Brothers of the fraternity and the support individual Councils give to each other and to the Grand Council.

When was the last time your Council went as a group to a neighboring Council either for their monthly meeting or to one of their fundraisers? When was the last time you came to a Grand Council social event such as bowling, Bocce ball, or the Pasta Bingo dinner? These are examples of mutual aid and promote goodwill among Brothers. I encourage you to attend Grand Council events and I especially encourage you to consider visiting other Councils. It might be what struggling Councils need in order for them to realize they are part of a larger group. A group that wants them to succeed.

Moral, Intellectual, and Social Improvement

How can we as YMI members become better Men of God? How do we show our fellow parishioners that being a YMI Brother has helped us improve morally, intellectually, and socially? Do we do that by talking bad about our Brothers or do we do it by supporting our Brothers on their journey to become better men and better Catholics?

Listening to the homily on Sunday and then going back to our secular life on Monday morning has never been the answer. There are a variety of ways to improve ourselves. Have you thought about what you can do during the week to strengthen your faith life such as watching EWTN when you get home,

listening to Catholic radio on your way to work, or reading the Daily Mass readings?

Has your Council thought about partnering with other parish groups to sponsor a parish retreat or a Dynamic Catholic book giveaway at Easter? In this era of decreased participation nationwide in fraternal groups, partnerships are a way we can all benefit to strengthen our local parishes and, in turn, promote the YMI.

Devotion to the Catholic Church

What does devotion mean? Devotion is an earnest attachment or a profound dedication to a cause or person. One cannot be considered a true member of the YMI without a devotion to the Catholic Church. Our meetings begin and end with prayer. Our Councils regularly contribute to their respective parishes. Our members actively participate in parish activities, ministries, etc. Is that enough? Each Brother must answer that for himself and Councils need to figure that out collectively.

Loyalty to Our Country

All Brothers I have met, regardless of their political ideology, have a deep, abiding loyalty to the United States. How can we show and encourage others in our parishes to do the same?



Member Education – Catholic, American, and Our Ultimate Salvation

We should always consider ourselves to be “lifelong learners”. It seems that many of us have only a rudimentary knowledge of our faith. We learned what we know during catechism classes in grade school and then we stopped. Our ultimate salvation depends on the recognition of squaring our actions with the requirements of our Faith. Everything in Christian – from our ethical behavior, to prayer, to the liturgy, to the works of justice – all of it is meant to lead us to our ultimate salvation. Member education on how to be better Catholics and better Americans can help each of us reach that goal. So listen to the voice of the shepherd and follow him wherever he goes.

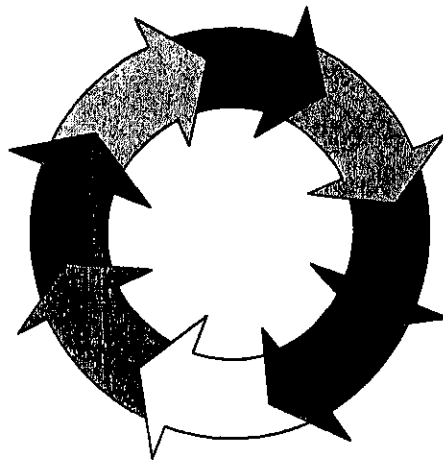
In Conclusion

I cannot tell you how to implement these points in your individual Councils but I encourage each Council to choose at least one of these ideas to see how they can implement them into the “culture” of their individual Councils. By strengthening our individual Councils, we strengthen the YMI organization. If we want the YMI to continue through the 21st century, all of us, from our newest to our most senior member, must play a part in making that happen.

Yours for God and Country,

Mike Nelson #80

2017-2018 Grand President



Our Patron Saint

St. Joseph, Patron Saint of the Young Men's Institute, watch over us as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect and guide us as you did with your adopted son and intercede for us with Him, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns world without end. Amen.



A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom, justice and brotherhood for all who make it great.

Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from compromise, fear and confusion.

Be close to our president and our statesman, give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions affecting peace and the future of the world.

Make me more deeply aware of my heritage, realizing not only my rights but also my duties and responsibilities as a citizen.

Make this great land and all its people know clearly Your will, that they may fulfill the destiny ordained for us in the salvation of the nations, and the restoring of all things in Christ.

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

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- The committee shall meet.
- The committee shall be receptive to any/all input provided by any member of the Young Men's Institute.
- All committee work shall be directed toward providing a service(s) to all Councils. Keep in mind St. Joseph, the Worker's Prayer (given at the end of this program).
- The committee shall stay focused on its purpose, as stated in the By-Laws, and strive to achieve its goals in a timely manner.
- The committee shall make use of the Institute Journal and web site as vehicles for announcing the names of committee members, meeting dates/time/site, update on work progress and other announcements. Dates for submitted articles to the Institute Journal are posted in the Journal.
- A written summary report of the committee's activities and recommendations shall be submitted to the Grand President by April 15, 2018. The Grand President shall be responsible for submitting the report to the Grand Secretary by April 30, 2018 to be included in the Advance Proceedings of the 2018 Grand Council Session.
- The committee chairman shall maintain a folder documenting committee minutes, Institute Journal articles, correspondence, and suggestions for the 2017-2018 committees. This folder shall be presented to the incoming committee chairman at the 2018 Grand Council Session.
- All committee members shall enjoy their work.
- All committee members, as they perform their tasks, shall have the support of all Grand Council Officers.
- All committee members shall have the deepest gratitude extended by the Grand President for the quality of their work.

Brotherhood Prayer

**Creator God, life is Your gift to me.
Through baptism, You invite me to share the gift of my life
in service to others.**

**Be with me as I choose each day
to show Your presence in our world.**

**Give me the courage and generosity
to respond to Your love, to Your call.**

**I pray especially for those Brothers in the
Young Men's Institute.**

May we bear the "Good News" to those in need.

Keep us close to You.

**Open the minds and hearts of many Brothers
that they may accept the challenge
to build brotherly love in YMI Councils.**

**We ask this prayer through our Brother Jesus Christ and
our patron Saint Joseph.**

