
YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

Est. March 4, 1883



The Past and Present History of the Young Men's Institute

As many of the Brothers of the Young Men's Institute (YMI) are aware, our fraternal organization began in the in early 1883 when a group of men in San Francisco had a discussion after a service had taken place at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Howard Street near Tenth. Not much is known of the discussion or the men who were in attendance however one detail that was born from this discussion was that an organization of Catholic Action should be formed.

Legend has it that the above meeting took place near a gas lamp-post since the lights at St. Joseph Church were extinguished. Like many lamp-posts that lined the streets of San Francisco during this time period, it was a steel pole surmounted by a single glass-sided chamber in which a flame burned that was lit every evening at dusk. Little did we know at that time that this lamp post would serve as an ongoing symbol of the YMI.

Within a month of this initial meeting, six young men from San Francisco decided to hold a meeting on March 4, 1883 at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. The men in attendance were John J. McDade, James F. Smith, Edward I. Sheehan, William T. Ryan, William H. Gagan and George R. Maxwell. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the formation of a society for the moral, social and intellectual betterment of Catholic laymen. At the time of this meeting, American Catholics believed they had to organize to defend social and political discrimination of Catholics which had developed during the 19th century after the immigration of several million Catholics to the United States from Ireland. A plan was also needed to deter the attraction of Catholic men to other fraternal organizations that came into effect in the 19th century. Some of these organizations were social, benevolent or were exclusively set up for insurance purposes and it was difficult to determine if these organizations would be harmful to the Catholic Church.

With this in mind, many influential Catholic men of San Francisco including priest and laymen were invited to the March 4th meeting. Although many individuals were invited only the six individuals mentioned above attended the first meeting. James Smith was elected the temporary chairman, Edward Maxwell the temporary secretary and George Maxell the temporary treasurer. Bringing in new members was discussed and it was decided that each man would need to be committed to this purpose.

The Founding Fathers of the YMI

Of the original founding fathers of the YMI, John J. McDade and James F. Smith stood out. John McDade known as the "Father of the Order" was born in New York City and came to San Francisco at a young age. According to newspaper accounts, John McDade was the leader of the men who attended the March 4th meeting of the Young Men's Institute and was instrumental in selecting officers, gave the organization its name (Young Men's Institute) and shaped the YMI policy. At the time of the first meeting, John McDade was a teacher of mechanical drawing at Lincoln Night School. He subsequently served as a State Senator, Sheriff of San Francisco County

and later had a successful law practice. John McDade was also the first Grand President of the YMI and the only man to serve three terms. He would later serve as the first Supreme President of the YMI.

A second Brother who had an impact on the founding of the YMI was James F. Smith who was the first officer of the Order when he was elected as temporary chairman and later a Grand President. At the time of the first YMI meeting James Smith was a captain in the National Guard and later would become Colonel of the First California Regiment, United States Volunteers. He eventually served in the Philippines as the deputy provost marshal of Manila. In 1909, he accepted an appointment as one of the five judges of the newly created United States Court of Customs Appeals in Washington, D.C.

Growth of the Order

Within a few months of the initial March, 1883 meeting, a constitution and by-laws were adopted in June. A charter was eventually agreed to and it included the names of one hundred sixty-five Catholic men from all walks of life. Members were meeting in San Francisco at different locations and eventually would rent quarters in Saratoga Hall.

The Order was recognized for the first time in The Monitor, the archdiocese newspaper, as a mutual aid and beneficial organization composed of Catholic young men. The article went on to indicate that "This Society has made wonderful progress for the last few months," and went on to state that "several applications have been made for charters for branch institutes."

The original group that formed the YMI's first Council was known as Pioneer Council No.1. In 1885, under the leadership of John McDade, expansion of the YMI began to take place. By June of 1885 the YMI expanded by the addition of six additional councils (see below).

<u>Council</u>	<u>Organized</u>
San Jose Council No. 2	March 20 th
San Francisco Mission Council No. 3	May 14 th
San Francisco Washington Council No.4	May 15 th
Stockton Council No. 5	May 31 st
Oakland Council No. 6	June 21 st
San Francisco Council No. 7	June 24 th

With the addition of the six new Councils to the Order, membership had increased from two hundred to seven hundred.

The First Grand Council

The first Grand Council took place on July 3, 1885 when five delegates from each of the seven Councils assembled at the Knights of the Red Branch Hall in San Francisco. It was here that the YMI Constitution and By-laws were adopted and Grand Council officers (see below) were elected.

Grand President: John McDade

First Grand Vice President: A.L. Veuve

Second Grand Vice President: John Smith

Grand Recording Secretary: Frank Stone

Grand Corresponding Secretary: E. Sheehan

Grand Treasurer: A. McGovern

Grand Lecturer: John Smith

Grand Marshall: A. McGuire

Board of Grand Directors: F. Murphy, J. Fleming, Dr. A. Prevost, T. Watson, F. Grimes, R. Orme, T. Barry, H. Von Detten

Growth Under the Grand Council

After the adjournment of the First Grand Council, the Brotherhood in the YMI began to spread. By the time of the second Grand Council in San Jose, California membership had increased from 700 to 2,500 and Councils went from 7 to 30. The Brother who spear headed this growth was John McDade and he traveled up and down the California Coast and sought out young Catholic men to join the order. Eventually the YMI would organize its first out-of-California state council in Virginia City, Nevada.

The Third Grand Council would take place in Sacramento, California in 1887 in the State Assembly chambers of the Capitol Building. By this time membership increased to 4,080. According to Grand President's McDade's report, he recommended that it was time to reach beyond the Rocky Mountains to embrace our eastern friends who were interested in joining the Order. Eventually, Councils would be organized in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 30, 1888 and a day later on July 31st 1888, a Council was installed in New York City. The YMI had become the first fraternal order to span across the continent from west to east. The Order also spread to the Washington territory and internationally to British Columbia, Canada.

The Supreme Council

As membership in the order continued to increase, having delegates attend the Grand Council began to become a problem since Councils were located in different areas of the country. At the fourth Grand Council, it was decided that there should be a separate Grand Council for the east. The east was now known as the Atlantic jurisdiction and the west as the Pacific jurisdiction. During these Grand Councils, a Supreme Council was planned composed of delegates from the Grand Councils.

The First Supreme Council met in Denver on February 15, 1896. Each Grand Council sent delegates to this meeting. Eight from the west and 12 from the east. John McDade was elected the first Supreme President and the meeting resulted in establishing seven jurisdictions. The existing Pacific jurisdiction was divided into two and the Atlantic jurisdiction was divided into five.

Pacific, Northwestern

Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois

Many Brothers thought that the establishment of a central governing body would be of benefit, however the Supreme Council never did assume real authority. Both the Pacific and Atlantic jurisdictions had passed motions ceding to the Supreme Council all powers it chose to exercise however its Constitution and By-laws were to modest. The Supreme Council planned to deal with Grand Councils and the so-called "detached" subordinate Councils. In practice, it had no real authority over Councils subordinate to any Grand Council. The Supreme Council was a good idea however it had many obstacles and remained in existence for several years until it eventually dissolved on September 2nd 1913.

As time went only the Pacific Grand Council was able to survive. On July 15, 1932 the last surviving Grand Council, the Atlantic Jurisdiction was abolished. This did not mean the end of the YMI in the East. Some councils have survived as autonomous local units and have maintained friendly relationships with the Bay Area Grand Council.

In 1944 the Grand Council took action to clarify the status of their Councils. The Constitution was amended to recognize two types of Councils: (1) Subordinate and (2) Affiliated. The Subordinated Councils participated fully in the program of the Grand Council including payment of the per capita tax. The affiliated councils did not fully participate in the YMI program, did not pay the per capita tax, were councils outside of the continental limits of the United States or were originally organized under the Atlantic jurisdiction.

The Building Program

The founding fathers of the YMI had envisioned erecting a building which would serve as a headquarters not only of the Grand Council, but also for the various subordinate Councils in San Francisco. The building would have a meeting hall with recreational facilities for the membership. Funds were raised and a location was eventually agreed upon. Ground was broken for the building at 50 Oak Street in San Francisco and on Memorial Day, May 30, 1914, Archbishop Riordan laid the corner stone for the building. A year later on July 25, 1915 his successor, Archbishop Hanna officiated at the dedication ceremony.

In 1923 an annex almost as large as the main building was added. Together the buildings occupied a frontage of 155 feet. Each building had two basements with the main building being 5 stories and the annex four. The building contained a gymnasium, a basketball court with bleachers, a swimming pool, billiard rooms, three hand ball courts, a ballroom, a library, reading and lounging rooms.

Over the years other Councils built or bought facilities especially in the Atlantic Jurisdiction for use of their members.

The YMI Motto

The YMI order has as its motto Pro Deo, Pro Patria (For God, For Country). The motto dates back to pre-Christian days however the Young Men's Institute was the first fraternal organization to use it as a motto. No one knows when it was officially adopted by the order but Col. J.J. Tobin was credited with suggesting the motto.

The Emblem

American Council #8, Oakland came up with the Order's emblem containing the cross, the palm branch and the star. The design was presented to the Grand Council in 1888 and after a few minor changes it became the official emblem of the Order.

The Institute Journal

The official news magazine of the Young Men's Institute celebrated its 132nd volume in the spring of 2021 and contains news, pictures and articles of general interest. Among its features is the "Under the Lamp Post," where each Grand President has addressed the Order since the title was originated in 1915. The Institute Journal is published on a quarterly basis and is sent out electronically and placed on the YMI's Website.

Official YMI Prayer

For Young Men's Institute members and their families

Oh God, who has created all men to know, love, and serve You, through the intercession of St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family and Patron of the Young Men's Institute, grant us the grace and strength by our prayers, works and example to draw ever closer to you. Guide and assist us to spread among our fellow men the kingdom of Your truth and love and peace. Amen.

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.

YMI Monuments

The Young Men's Institute has three monuments in place. The first monument is a statue of Reverend William D. McKinnon a member of the Board of Grand Directors of the Young Men's Institute of 1894. The Statute stands in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The second monument a shrine memorializing the war Dead of the YMI and stands on the grounds of the Jesuit Retreat House at El Retiro, in Los Altos, CA. The third monument is located at the Veteran's Park in Richmond, Indiana and honors our past, present and future veterans. YMI Council #612 was responsible for the placement of this monument (see below).



The Order Today

COUNCILS' MEMBERSHIP REPORT April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

Council	4/1/20	In	Out	Deaths	Gain/Loss	Benefit	Assoc.	Hon.	Jr	3/31/21	Delegates
1	51	0	51	0	-51	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	46	0	4	4	-4	17	24	1	0	42	3
5	32	0	0	0	0	16	13	3	0	32	3
8	22	0	0	0	0	16	5	1	0	22	3
13	18	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	18	3
32	190	16	13	5	3	110	66	17	0	193	6
40	148	0	66	2	-66	20	59	3	0	82	4
44	192	4	6	6	-2	166	24	0	0	190	6
54	43	0	1	1	-1	24	17	1	0	42	3
59	27	2	0	0	2	26	2	1	0	29	3
60	51	0	0	0	0	45	6	0	0	51	4
80	111	1	5	0	-4	65	41	1	0	107	5
92	63	6	5	2	1	45	19	0	0	64	4
94	59	0	9	6	-9	30	19	1	0	50	3
99	16	0	0	0	0	11	4	1	0	16	3
100	20		No	Report						20	3
137	20	0	1	1	-1	4	12	3	0	19	3
497	238	10	21	2	-11	175	51	1	0	227	7
573	46	1	1	1	0	34	10	2	0	46	4
612	25	0	0	0	0	13	12	0	0	25	3
613	97	10	4	3	6	39	50	10	4	103	5
900	214	8	75	7	-67	147	0	0	0	147	5
Total	1729	58	262	40	-204	1020	435	46	4	1525	

The above Council Membership Report was taken from the 2021 Advanced Proceedings and shows what our current membership levels are. As of 3/31/21, we had 21 active Councils, not including Council 900. Membership is broken down as follows:

- Benefit members: 1,020
- Associate members: 435
- Honorary members 46
- Jr. YMI members: 4

Membership total: 1,525 (this number also includes 147 Council 900 members and 20 Council #100 members)

Taking the above into consideration our membership has been reduced by 212 Brothers from the previous year.

- Since the 2020 Session one Council has closed (Council #1) and another Council (100) is currently in a Suspension status.

The Grand Council Today

The Grand Council is made up as follows:

- 10 Grand Officers
- 8 Grand Directors
- 1 Business Manager
- 1 Assistant Business Manager
- 13 District Deputy Grand Presidents:

The Grand Council meets 6 times a year with the first meeting taking place normally within one month of that year's session. The Chairman of the Grand Directors sets the Agenda for the meeting and sends it to all members of the Grand Council.

Grand Session

The Grand Session takes place at the end of June every year and brings together delegates from many of the YMI Councils over a three-day period of time with the current Grand President presiding. In the past, the Session has taken place in California, Nevada, Indiana, Hawaii and on one occasion, on a cruise ship sailing down the California and Mexican coast.

Prior to the Session, an Advanced Proceeding document is sent to all of the delegates which contains a vast amount of information. The Advanced Proceedings includes reports from:

- All of the Grand Officers
- YMI Committees
- Sports Committees
- Council Financial Committees
- Council Membership Committee
- District Deputy Grand Presidents
- Foundations

At the Session, an election is held to determine the Grand Officers for the following year, vote on any State of the Institute proposal and presentation of any resolutions or awards.

Foundations:

We have two Foundations:

YMI Educational Foundation

History and Purpose

The YMI Education Foundation was incorporated on March 12, 1958 for the express purpose of receiving donations to support annually the education of our fellow deceased member's children. A Matching Fund and a College Scholarship Program for Councils was eventually added, which is intended for children and grandchildren of living Members maintaining active status. The Scholarship is subject to change year-to-year / funds permitting.

YMI Seminarian Educational Foundation

History and Purpose

The Seminarian Educational Foundation was incorporated on February 1, 2000 for the express purpose of receiving charitable gifts, donations, and bequests, to support annually the educational costs of seminarians.

YMI Awards

Man of the Year Award

The YMI "Man of the Year" Award is our organization's most prestigious award that is based on our three-fold purpose: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism. The award is bestowed annually during the Grand Council Sessions to a worthy YMI brother in consideration of the following criteria:

- Service to the Parish (Faith)
- Service to the Community (Patriotism)
- Council Activities (Fraternalism)
- Grand Council Activities

Council of the Year Award

Beginning in 2015, the YMI Grand Directors began to annually award a YMI Council for distinguished efforts supporting YMI events and fundraising activities, providing charity and community support, and enhancing membership growth.

Grand Council Events

YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest

For 47 years the YMI has sponsored an essay contest for grades 7-8 and 9-12. This contest is the YMI's biggest outreach program and over the years thousands of students from many parts of our country have participated in the contest. In 2021 the YMI increased the prize fund to \$10,000.00.

Golf Tournament

A yearly event that normally would take place at a Northern California golf course during the summer which includes a banquet.

Bowling Tournament

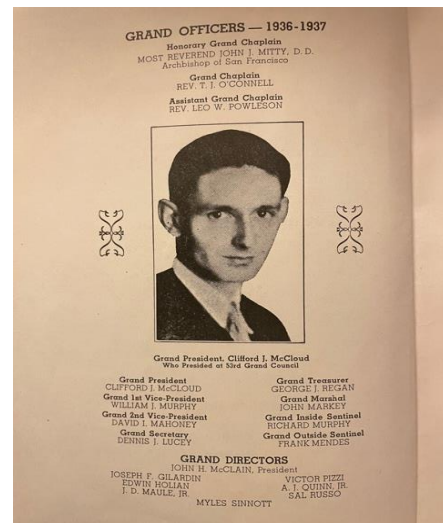
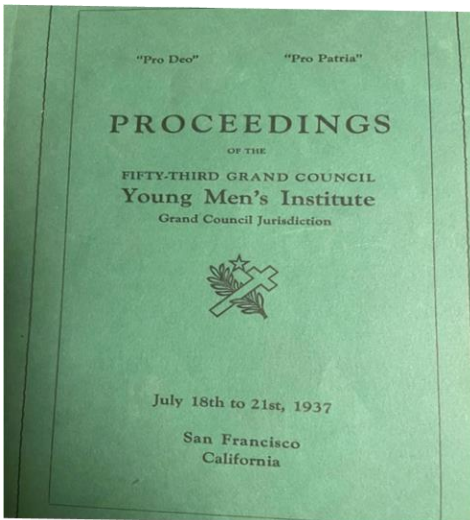
A yearly event that has taken place in Stockton, California.

Pasta Bingo Dinner

A yearly event that takes place at St. Veronica Parish in South San Francisco with the proceeds benefiting the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest.

Pictures from the YMI past

Advanced Proceedings – July 18th – 21st 1937



Reports of Subordinate Councils - 1937

REPORTS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS

Council No.	MEMBERSHIP								FINANCES							
	Membership Last Report	Initiated	By Card	Reinstated	Transferred	Withdrawn	Died	Retired	Present Membership	Gain	Loss	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash Treasury	No. Relieved	Sick Benefits Paid
1	185	20		1		4	3	28	171		14	\$3,402.37	\$3,591.71	\$2,694.88	15	943.00
2	133	9	2	2			2	19	125		8	1,470.84	1,447.54	3,365.90	12	262.00
3	315	61				1	2	56	317	2		6,004.24	5,993.45	4,615.71	21	944.84
4	88	7					2	13	80		8	1,683.03	1,541.38	1,278.60	4	153.15
5	264	38		3	3		4	32	266	2		3,503.18	3,117.67	19,531.72	21	942.10
6	110	14					1	24	99		11	1,859.84	1,673.25	3,050.84	4	96.85
7	77	16			4		2	3	84	7		891.47	775.00	535.81	7	214.31
8	192	5	1		1	3	1	18	176		16	2,021.71	1,538.32	3,217.74	18	418.59
9	86	18		1		1		32	72		14	1,399.25	1,183.47	1,617.66	6	168.71
10	176	3				8	3	25	150		26	2,117.12	1,903.03	6,069.89	10	183.64
13	294	41	1	6			8	35	291		3	5,003.44	5,830.93	5,650.54	41	1,294.50
14	50							4	46		4	428.67	374.86	1,430.73	3	60.00
16	130	5				3		20	112		18	1,803.57	1,411.11	4,254.36	13	369.00
21	50	7		4			2	3	56	6		628.37	619.77	488.15	3	60.00
24	54	2			1	1	1	6	48		6	525.04	512.80	448.45	1	105.00
25	73	4		2		1		18	60		13	712.78	743.44	1,600.34	5	195.50
34	336	11		3	3	7	5	44	291		45	4,782.64	4,664.61	5,698.40	24	1,058.17
35	879	76		4	2	9		212	736		143	8,060.14	9,034.35	11,897.10	40	1,803.61
41		25							25	25		67.40		67.40		
45	82	2	1				1	18	66		16	638.76	861.57	859.04	4	327.14
49	31							2	29		2	144.00	145.60	128.94		
50	14							4	10		4	100.00	100.00	117.23		
54	46	2					1	4	43		3	450.26	499.37	511.43	7	135.47

FIFTY-THIRD

45	31							2	29		2	144.00	145.60	128.94		
49	14							4	10		4	100.00	100.00	117.23		
54	46	2					1	4	43		3	450.26	499.37	511.43	7	135.47

REPORTS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS

Council No.	MEMBERSHIP								FINANCES							
	Membership Last Report	Initiated	By Card	Reinstated	Transferred	Withdrawn	Died	Retired	Present Membership	Gain	Loss	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash Treasury	No. Relieved	Sick Benefits Paid
57	42	12						8	46	4		697.66	676.36	334.63	2	35.00
58	43			1				2	42		1	480.10	495.79	283.51	8	152.83
59	107	18		2		4		34	89		18	1,791.90	1,850.28	1,090.75	2	96.00
60	104	23						127	127	23		1,421.22	1,351.92	424.91	10	156.07
63	97	10				1		2	104	7		1,010.84	1,011.83	998.16	11	237.80
65	12								12					39.16		
66	43							43						9.04		
67	58	8		6	1	2	1	9	59	1		894.25	928.21	1,774.92	2	113.22
68	20							1	19		1	60.00	76.02	317.18		
69	41								41					236.68		
70	33							1	32		1	268.95	254.86	500.19	4	97.40
71	66	22				1	2	11	74	8		443.89	475.62	7,418.92	1	65.00
72	408	106	3	14	1	7	5	94	424	16		7,881.10	8,011.49	7,157.17	31	1,490.72
73	28					1		9	18		10	25.21	91.29	78.16		
75	13							2	11		2	29.71	33.17	187.97		
76	22								22							
77	56	21						23	54		2			518.81		
78	25	8						1	29	4		320.11	226.37	172.17		
79	42							13	29		13	105.50	179.61	79.28		
80	73	14		8				30	65		8	729.70	777.04	196.98	2	45.65
81	26	2							28		2	429.55	405.56	123.99		
82	26	8							34		8	219.00	215.45	106.50		
85	90							24	66		24	280.02	524.87	411.38		

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	Membership Last Report	Initiated	By Card	Reinstated	Transferred	Withdrawn	Died	Retired	Present Membership	Gain	Loss	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash Treasury	No. Relieved	Sick Benefits Paid
86	51	4	....	....	....	....	....	14	41	....	10	206.50	191.26	370.95	1	17.50
108	42	13	....	2	1	....	....	2	54	12	....	541.06	569.70	1,082.01	3	62.80
154	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9	....	....	112.89	189.15	1,769.68	5	162.00
201	....	75	....	....	....	....	....	....	75	75	....	170.00	112.00	58.00	....	....
307	56	1	....	1	....	1	....	9	48	....	8	692.05	822.22	913.81	6	310.60
460	22	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22	....	....	123.10	123.10	494.47	....	....
563	62	1	....	....	....	....	....	5	58	....	4	427.92	540.55	2,740.66	8	460.00
565	203	28	....	7	....	3	1	15	219	16	....	3,431.65	3,430.82	4,965.27	13	762.05
573	136	6	....	....	....	1	1	22	118	....	18	1,514.29	967.75	3,772.29	6	394.98
576	96	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	96	....	....	1,127.04	1,049.89	2,416.44	22	507.00
609	93	7	....	....	....	....	1	16	83	....	10	1,152.42	1,084.04	1,058.11	7	229.97
613	173	17	....	5	....	6	2	3	184	11	....	2,261.62	2,189.23	1,357.55	26	943.22
614	84	8	....	1	....	....	....	4	89	5	....	928.47	740.30	3,321.59	3	142.00
638	17	1	....	....	....	....	....	6	12	....	5	119.55	61.70	329.76	....	....

FIFTY-THIRD GRAND COUNCIL

Pictures from 1962 YMI – YLI Diamond Jubilee



