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YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613
January 2015 NEWSLETTER

Please join us at our next business meeting & dinner on...
January 13th (Tues)-7:00 p.m. @St Cecilia's Green Room.

Dinner: Coordinated by Br. George Rehmet

Meeting Highlight: 2015 Planning

President's Message

Brothers & YMI #613 Supporters.....My thanks to **Br. Dick Pisciotta** and his wife **Connie**, as well as to **Br. Cosmo Amato** for their great work in arranging another wonderful Christmas Party at Dominic's Restaurant. We had 89 people in attendance that evening and all appeared to be in a festive spirits enjoying good food and fellowship.

As has become a custom at the Christmas Party, I shared a few remarks commenting on council activities in 2014 as well as highlighting some upcoming events in 2015. Some have referred to this as my annual State of the Union address. For those that missed the Christmas Party or for those that may simply want to read my remarks again, they are presented at the end of this newsletter for your reading enjoyment.

Let's make 2015 a year we will be proud of!

St John Bosco Council News & Activities:

2015 Dues: Dues notices were issued last week and your 2015 membership dues are now owed ----\$55 for Benefit members & \$45 for Associate (Students, Clergy & 50 Year Members are free). Also if you're eligible and interested in the Optional Council #613 Death Benefit, there is a \$25 fee due by January 31st. **Please be timely in paying your dues by January 31st, so we can save expensive postage fees from not having to mail reminder letters.**

Family Mass: We are scheduled to coordinate the Family Mass on February 1st at 9:30 a.m. with the YLI. If you can assist either in the church or serving donuts/coffee in the cafeteria, please let **Mike Amato (650-871-9164)** know.

Grand President Official Visit - Br. Cosmo Amato has made arrangements for the **Grand President Luther Evans** to make his official visit to the San Francisco area on **February 10th**. The visit will coincide with our February business meeting and we will likely have several brothers from Councils #1 and #32 joining us that evening as we hear the Grand President and possibly the Grand VP's discuss YMI events and activities. I encourage all to plan to attend this event.

YMI Red & White Mass: For the first time since the mid-1980's, YMI #613 will be hosting the **YMI Red & White Mass**. This annual YMI event celebrates the organization's anniversary. It will be celebrated at **St. Veronica Church on March 14, 2015**. The event begins with a procession of many YMI Councils into the Church starting at 4:30 p.m., to be followed by Mass and then dinner. The dinner will feature a BBQ cuisine including pork, chicken and several tasty side dishes for a low price of just **\$20**. **See the enclosed invitation flyer for details.** Since #613 is hosting it, we hope to see a large contingent from **YMI#613** there to support **Br. Mike Dimech (the Grand 2nd VP & the event chair)**. If you would like to volunteer to help Br. Dimech with set-up and clean-up duties or by handling various tasks during the event (e.g. bar, raffle sales), please contact him at **650-922-2667**.

YMI Raffle Tickets: In November you should have received YMI raffle tickets in the mail. The YMI has few fundraisers, so we kindly ask you to participate in this one by buying two books for a total of \$20. (If you can't find your raffle tickets, please contact **Br. Mike Dimech** at **650-922-2667**.) This YMI fundraiser supports the Grand Council Essay Contest which ultimately benefits students. At the Red & White Event on March 14th, we will draw raffle tickets after dinner for almost \$2000 in prizes. In the spirit of St. John Bosco (an advocate for the youth), we have managed to earn the highest ticket sales percentage of all YMI Councils for the past seven years! Brothers....let's continue that spirit into Year 8!

YMI Jim Calabretta Essay Contest: We have received 69 essays in this year's contest (21 College, 13 High School and 35 Middle School). Although we have good participation in the college and middle school divisions, we drew fewer applications (13) in the high school divisions than prizes advertised (15). Since we have two extra prizes that would be unclaimed, we will reallocate the prize fund and assign one additional prize to both the college and middle school divisions. At this time, the judges are in the process of rating the essays. Further notices to the contestants should be mailed in mid-February. The award banquet is scheduled for **April 25, 2015** and our event chair **Br. Rod Ordonez** is beginning to gear up for another fabulous banquet.

Prayers Requested: We continue to ask all YMI #613 brothers to remember in your prayers that several YMI brothers are dealing with various serious health issues. We wish them all the strength to overcome their ailments and we hope to see them soon at our council meeting and events.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday wishes to the following YMI #613 Brothers who have January Birthdays.

Brian Stabelford, John Repetto, Art Jimenez, Paul Wuerstle, Vincent AhSam, Alfred Bacchianeri, Mike Bottarini, John Cleary, Frank Bottarini, Thomas O'Connor, Ron Mirkovich, Brendan Dimech, Russell Vavuris, Christopher Guajardo

Monthly Reminders

Find The Joker: The pot continues to grow (hint: the amount is larger than Frank Gore's number times 100), while the remaining deck of cards gets smaller! Come to a meeting to have a chance to win!

Sponsor a New Member- Consider sponsoring a new member to begin 2015 and sharing the opportunity to participate in the YMI brotherhood. Besides doing good work for our Catholic community, as demonstrated by the fact that we contribute nearly \$25,000 in donations and scholarships on a yearly basis, we host many fun events (e.g. dinners, sports tournaments, picnics) throughout the year.

YMI Polo Shirts- If you need another navy blue YMI #613 polo shirts, because your shirt had either been misplaced or became worn or if you're looking for a Christmas present for yourself, we have an inventory of shirts of all sizes. They can be purchased for \$25. Just come see **Br. Mike Amato** before or after the business meeting.

#613 Charity- Please remember to bring canned goods or toiletries to our next business meeting. Our monthly efforts of collecting food and personal items have directly benefitted San Bruno's Catholic Hospitality Worker's House. With the donations received at our December Business Meeting and Christmas Party, we collected and donated **approximately 800 lbs. of canned goods and toiletry items!** Many thanks to you for your generosity!

YMI #613 Calendar: Upcoming Meetings/Events:

January 1 - Happy New Year

January 13th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Rm.)

January 31st - St. John Bosco Feast Day

February 1st (Sun) - YMI/YLI Family Mass (9:30 a.m. @ St. Cecilia's Church, SF)

February 10th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Rm.)
Grand President's Official Visit

March 10th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Rm.)
Irish Corned Beef Dinner

March 14th (Sat) - YMI Red & White Mass: Sponsored by YMI #613 (starts at 4:30 p.m. @ St. Veronica Church, South San Francisco)

April 25th (Sat) - YMI #613 Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet (@ Sts Peter & Paul Church San Francisco)

May 16th (Sat) - YMI Bowling Tournament @ Stockton CA

June 15-17 (Mon-Wed) - YMI Grand Council Sessions (Silver Legacy @ Reno, Nevada)

Ladies and Brothers..... As I stand here before you tonight in my seventh year as the Council President (in what appears to be a life-time term), I am very pleased to report that 2014 was another great year for YMI St. John Bosco Council #613!

- First, in terms of our organizational effectiveness, our council is doing well.
 - Our membership remains steady with 101 YMI brothers on our roster. We continue to reach out to build on membership and we have one of our new members who joined us just last month here tonight. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to **Br. Jeff Morrow**.
 - Our finances have never looked better... now 64% greater than during my first year as President when the stock market nose-dived (*had nothing to do with that!*). Although the market has rebounded since, many thanks goes to our **Investment Committee** of **Brs. John Cleary, Bob Figone and Paul Wuerstle** for their wise stewardship this past year.
- Second, with regards to our goodwill, St John Bosco Council #613 has closely followed the example of our patron saint showing true generosity in 2014:
 - In March, we awarded **\$15,100 in scholarships awards to 46 students** through our popular Jim Calabretta Essay Contest.
 - Through our donation program, we authorized **34 unique contributions totaling over \$9000** for various charitable groups serving our faith, our community, youth programs, and for those in need.
 - In addition to our cash contributions, we donated an estimated **650 pounds** of canned foods and toiletry items to San Bruno Catholic Worker's Hospitality House from our collection efforts at business meetings and at events like this evening. Thank you for your donations and I want to recognize **Br. Mike Dimech** for coordinating this program!
 - For the **6th consecutive year**, we led the way in supporting the YMI's Pro Patria fundraiser with the highest raffle ticket sales percentage in terms of membership. Remarkably, we exceeded our usual high mark of getting 50% of our members to buy tickets and managed to pass the **60%mark!** Much credit again goes to **Br. Dimech** who has personally contacted our brothers to buy tickets.
- Finally, with respect to fraternalism, we shared many enjoyable events in 2014 that were well-organized and well- supported.
 - In March, we held the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet and served a pasta meal to over 160 people while managing to earn a tidy profit. Many thanks to **Br. Rod Ordon** for chairing the banquet and to the **Campus, Goultas and Bottarini** families for preparing a wonderful meal that evening, as well as to **Brothers Dick Pisciotta & Stephen Goulding** for ably assisting in the kitchen.
 - In May, we treated our lovely ladies to our annual Ladies Night at Bertolucci's Restaurant, where we provided them each with a cocktail, a full-course dinner, and a

gift. The event had a terrific turn-out and we heard nothing but positive feedback. Thanks to **Br. Bob Fiorito** for organizing this wonderful event for our ladies!

- In July, we went to the ballpark for a Giant's game. Though the Giants did not win that day, I will note that the Giants have won 3 World Series Championships since our council began holding this event. We may be a good luck charm, as the Giants have already contacted us about 2015.
- In August, we enjoyed a fun & relaxing day at the Summer Picnic where we enjoyed terrific BBQ, music, horseshoes, and a raffle. My thanks to **Brothers Joe Soracco, Bob Fiorito, Cosmo Amato, Art Jimenez, and James Vavuris** for assisting with the picnic preparations that day!
- In September, we hosted our **Annual Bocce Ball Tournament**. Although this tournament has become our most profitable fundraiser, it continues to get better each year! We even managed to get the YMI brothers from our newest council, Our Lady of the Pines in Pioneer, to attend! Thanks to **Br. Mike Dimech** for chairing this popular event for us as well as to **Br. Ryan Casey and Br. Cosmo Amato** for doing a bang-up job preparing the lunch that day.
- In October, we participated in the Italian Heritage Columbus Day Parade and were joined by **Grand President Br. Luther Evans** and the **2014 Man of the Year Br. Tom Fourie**. We had a fabulous time representing the YMI and we earned a **3rd place award of \$75** in the antique car division. Thanks you again **Br. Bob Fiorito** for organizing our parade entry.
- In November, we remembered our past brothers at a beautiful **Hour of Memory Mass** led by our chaplain **Fr. Landi**. The event was very well- attended and included several of the YMI #613 widows. Thank you **Br. Cosmo Amato** for chairing this important annual event.
- Tonight we celebrate our **Christmas Party** and again we are hosting another well supported event with 89 people in attendance. Special thanks to **Br. Dick Pisciotta and his wife Connie** as well as **Br. Cosmo Amato** for organizing this affair.

As great as 2014 has been, I'm already looking forward to 2015. In particular, there are 2 events I would like to call your attention to:

- First, On March 14th, our council will be sponsoring the **YMI Red & White Mass at St. Veronica Church in nearby South San Francisco**. This event celebrates the Anniversary of the YMI that began in March of 1883. It is traditionally hosted by the council of the 2nd Grand VP, which would be **Br. Mike Dimech**. The Red & White Mass will be attended by many of the YMI Councils throughout California and on behalf of Br. Dimech, I encourage all of you in Council #613 to participate *(and will note that there are flyers on the tables)*.
- Second, on April 25th, we will be hosting our 12th Jim Calabretta Essay Contest. This year we will have 69 students competing for a record-high **\$15,500 prize fund**. I expect that evening will be a special one for many students and it promises to be a great time with another great meal being served

Ladies & Brothers.....St. John Bosco Council #613 has done quite well in 2014 and we deserve a round of applause.