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**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613
JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER**

**Please join us at our next business meeting & dinner on ...
January 12th (Tues) -7:00 p.m. @ St Cecilia's Green Room.**

**Meeting Highlight: Super Bowl Fundraiser
Dinner: provided by Br. Bill Pallas**

President's Message

Brothers & Ladies of YMI #613....It was wonderful to celebrate with many of you at our Christmas Party. While the food and drinks were great that evening, the opportunity to spend time together with so many amazing people was even better! The event was yet another highlight in what has been an absolutely phenomenal year for our council! We have achieved so much in the past twelve months, most notably being recognized as the **YMI Council of The Year!** For those that missed my remarks (or perhaps fell asleep during them), I have included them at the end of this newsletter for your reading pleasure.

With so much good news in 2015, I can't help but look forward to more good times in 2016, starting with our **Feast of St. John Bosco Mass** on January 31st. I am pleased that we will be involved once again in an event to honor our patron saint and the founder of the Salesian Order. The event details are shown below. I know the 8:45 a.m. time may be early for some, but it would be great to see many of you there in our blue YMI #613 shirts to pay tribute to Dom Bosco. Until our next business meeting, I wish you all a **Happy New Year!**

Council News & Activities:

Feast of St. John Bosco Mass: Come join us to honor our patron saint at a special 8:45 a.m. Mass at **Sts Peter & Paul Church** on **January 31, 2016**. Afterwards, we will gather with parishioners of all ages to enjoy coffee, tea, and donuts in the church's parish center. Contact **Br. Cosmo Amato (415-393-3560)** to let him know you will be there or to get more information about the event. **See attached event flyer.**

13th Annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest/Banquet: We received 77 essays in total for the contest (21- College; 24 - High School & 32 - Middle School). The judges now have the essays. Once I get back their scores, the students will be contacted in February to let them know if they made it to the winner's circle. This year's Essay Awards Banquet is April 9th. If any questions or you wish to assist, you may contact **Br. Mike Amato (650-871-9164)** or **Br Rod Ordon (415-928-3355)**

Membership Dues: Your 2016 Membership Dues are now due and payable before **January 31st**. **Benefit Members pay \$60 and Associate Members pay \$50**. Checks should be made to **YMI #613** and given to our **Treasurer Br. Cosmo Amato (415-392-3560)**.

Death Benefit Fees: If you are eligible and wish to participate in the optional Death Benefit Program, the fee is \$25 for 2016. **Payment must be received by our Treasurer Cosmo Amato no later than January 31st** to participate in the program. Please also be sure to advise us of any recent changes in your beneficiary, as we are obligated to pay the benefits to the person identified in our files and we prefer to avoid any legal disputes if your designated beneficiary is no longer around.

Super Bowl Fundraiser - Br. Bob Bartoli #32, GD will be visiting us at our next Business Meeting on January 12th to promote the **YMI Super Bowl Fundraiser**. This activity also helps foster fraternalism and adds interest in viewing Super Bowl 50. *As the YMI #613 brothers set forth a policy to not run the Find The Joker Fundraiser when we have visitors, we will honor this direction and skip "Find the Joker" at the January business meeting. It will be resumed in February.*

Pro Patria Essay Contest: Besides our own Jim Calabretta Essay Contest, the YMI Grand Council holds a Pro Patria Essay Contest each year, which our council has generously supported by selling raffle tickets (see next item). Any YMI #613 brother may invite any eligible student (Grades 7 to 12) to participate in the contest, which seek a 500 word essay by **January 15, 2016**. Contest rules and entry form can be downloaded by visiting the YMI website at www.ymiusa.org.

Pro Patria Raffle Tickets: Did you buy your YMI raffle tickets yet? The raffle supports the YMI Grand Council's Essay Contest. We would truly appreciate it, if each YMI #613 brother would support this worthwhile cause by purchasing two books of tickets that were mailed to you last month. Each book contains 12 tickets and costs just \$10.00 per book. The raffle drawing will be held after the **Annual Red & White Mass on March 5, 2016**. If you need raffle tickets, please contact **Br. Mike Dimech (650-992-2667)** today. He is also willing to fill books out for you if you send him a check. **For those who have purchased raffle tickets by February 9th, we will waive your dinner fees at our February 9th meeting!**

Grand President Official Visit: Grand President George Terry will be making his official visit to the San Francisco based councils (i.e. #1, #32 & #613) on the evening of **February 17th**. Don't have specific details at this time, but Council #1 will be hosting the visit and the site will likely be at **Notre Dame des Victoires Church**.

Annual Red & White Mass: We will be celebrating our 133rd year of brotherhood on Saturday, March 5th in Atwater, CA. The event begins at **4:30 p.m.** with a banner procession at **Immaculate Conception Church** and then **5:00 p.m. Mass**. After Mass, we will travel a short distance to **St Anthony Parish Hall for dinner**. Each adult is just \$20 (children under 12 - \$10). Event information and a reservation form can be found on the YMI website at www.ymiusa.org.

Sports Tournament: The YMI Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 24th and the Bowling Tournament is set for May 15th. The tournaments will be held at the same venues. Event information can be found on the YMI website at www.ymiusa.org.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday wishes to the following YMI #613 Brothers who will celebrate their January Birthdays:

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

Monthly Reminders

Sponsor a New Member- Consider sponsoring a new member and sharing the opportunity of participating in the YMI brotherhood. **We are at 98 members and I would like us to get back to the 100 mark!** Besides being part of an organization that does good work for our faith and community demonstrated by the fact that we contributed nearly \$25,000.00 in donations and scholarships each year, they will be able to participate in many fun social events (e.g. dinners, sports tourneys, picnics).

#613 Charity - Please remember to bring canned goods or toiletries to our next business meeting. Our continuing efforts of collecting food and personal items at monthly business meetings and various council events have directly benefitted San Bruno's Catholic Hospitality Worker's House immensely. **Special thanks to you or your very generous donations at our Christmas Party! We collected at least 5 bins of items. For 2015, we estimate we have donated 750 pounds of canned goods and toiletry items.**

YMI #613 Calendar: Upcoming Meetings & Events:

**January 12th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room).
Dinner coordinated by Br. Bill Pallas**

January 31st (Sun) - Feast of St. John Bosco (8:45 a.m. @ Sts Peter & Paul Church)

**February 9th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room).
Dinner coordinated by Br. John Smith**

February 14th (Sun) - St. Cecilia Family Mass with the YLI (9:30 a.m. @ St. Cecilia's Church)

**February 17th (Wed) - Grand President George Terry's Official Visit
(@Notre Dame des Victoires Church)**

**March 5th (Sat) - 133rd Red & White Mass / Dinner in Atwater, CA
4:30 p.m. - YMI Banner Procession 5:00 p.m. - Mass
Dinner after Mass**

**March 8th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room).
St. Patrick's Day Dinner- Corned Beef & Cabbage**

Ladies and Brothers..... As I stand here before you tonight in my Eighth Year as Council President, I am very pleased to report that 2015 was an OUTSTANDING year for YMI St. John Bosco Council #613. This year can be summed up in 4 words... "COUNCIL OF THE YEAR"

- I am pleased to report that at the Grand Council Sessions in June, our YMI Grand Council recognized our council's collective efforts of YMI participation, charity work, and fundraising support and awarded us - **St John Bosco Council #613** the inaugural "**YMI Council of the Year Award**"
- If that honor wasn't enough, we were elated to learn that the **2015 Man of Year award** went to a very deserving....**Br. Mike Dimech**
- Finally, we had a great year at YMI sporting events
 - In Bocce Ball, **YMI #613 Brothers John Campus and Kevin Soracco** finished in 2nd place.
 - In Golf, **Brothers Rich Rosemont, Joey Werblun and Leandro and Stefano Fernando** finished in 2nd Place (which would actually be 1st place if you only counted pure YMI foursomes).
 - In Bowling, led by **Br. Kevin Folan** and his 289 game **and assisted by Brother Mike Dimech, Jake Folan and yours truly**, we took 1st Place!
- In 2015 St John Bosco Council #613 continued to follow the example of our patron saint showing true generosity:
 - In April, we awarded **\$15,500 in scholarships awards to 50 students** through our popular Jim Calabretta Essay Contest.
 - Through our donation program, we approved **29 unique donations totaling almost \$9000** to various charitable groups serving our faith, our community, youth programs, and for those in need.
 - In addition, we donated an estimated **630 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.
 - For the **8th 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 at **almost 54%**.
 - Thank you for your generosity in supporting these worthy programs!
- While we did many noble things as an organization, we also had fun times in 2015. We enjoyed many successful events that were well-managed and well- supported.
 - In March, for the 1st time, we hosted the **YMI Red & White Mass** at St. Veronica's Parish. The event was well done receiving many compliments and recording its highest attendance in recent years! Thanks to **Br. Mike Dimech** for organizing this YMI anniversary celebration.
 - In April we held the 12th Annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet and served a pasta meal to a record high 200 people. Many thanks to **Br. Rod Ordon** for chairing the banquet and well as thanks to the **Campus, Goultas, and Bottarini Families** and **Br. Stephen Goulding** for preparing a phenomenal meal that evening.
 - In May, we treated our lovely ladies to our annual Ladies Night at Bertolucci's Restaurant, providing 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 Ladies Night!

- In August, we enjoyed a fun & relaxing day at the Summer Picnic where we enjoyed terrific BBQ, music, and a raffle. Many thanks to **Brs. Joe Soracco, Bob Fiorito, Cosmo Amato, Nick Varanis, and James Vavuris** for assisting me with the picnic preparations that day!
- In September, we hosted our **Annual Bocce Ball Tournament**. This year's tournament was the largest ever with a field of 18 teams from 6 councils participating! As a result, this tournament was our most profitable event to date! Thanks again to **Br. Mike Dimech** for chairing this what has become the most popular tournament in the YMI and thanks to **Brothers Ryan Casey and 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. George Terry**. We had a fabulous time representing the YMI and we earned a **2nd place award of \$100** in the antique car division. Thanks again to **Br. Bob Fiorito** for co-organizing our parade entry with me.
- In November, we remembered our past brothers at a beautiful **Hour of Memory Mass** led by our chaplain **Fr. Joe Landi**. The event was well-attended with several of our YMI #613 widows. Thank you **Br. Cosmo Amato** for organizing this event.
- Tonight we celebrate our **Christmas Party** and again we are hosting another well supported affair with 79 people here tonight. Many thanks to **Br. Dick Pisciotta and his wife Connie** for organizing this affair.

As great as 2015 has been, I'm already looking forward to 2016 for two reasons.

- First, I would like to call your attention to April 9th. On that date, we will be hosting our **13th Jim Calabretta Essay Contest**. This year we will have **77 students** competing for a record-high **\$15,500 prize fund**. As usual, I expect the event will be a great time!
- Second, in June, **Br. Mike Dimech** is likely to be nominated as our **next YMI Grand President**. If elected, he will become the 2nd brother from St John Bosco #613 to rise to this position in our 130 plus year history and following in the footsteps of **Br. Andrew Vavuris** (Br. James Vavuris's dad) who was the Grand President back in 1984.

Ladies & Brothers.....St. John Bosco Council #613 enjoyed an outstanding 2015 and as Council of the Year we deserve another round of applause.