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**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613
JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER**

**Please join us at our next business meeting & dinner on ...
January 10 (Tues) -7:00 p.m. @ St Cecilia's Green Room**

Dinner to be coordinated by Br. George Rehmet. The meeting is expected to cover discussion of the new Student Award Program and Presidential Rings.

President's Message

Brothers & Ladies of YMI #613...We truly enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party on December 11th at Dominic's Restaurant. As always, the meal was first-rate and the company that evening was even better. As a bonus, several of you went home with fabulous raffle prizes. Although yours truly went home empty handed, I went home happy knowing we celebrated another successful year for YMI #613. My remarks at the party (the so-called "State of the Union") are provided at the end of this newsletter for those that missed the event and for those that just want to review our accomplishments for 2016. Many thanks to **Br. Dick and Connie Pisciotta** as well as **Br. Cosmo Amato** for once again securing this great venue and handling many of the planning arrangements allowing us all to enjoy the evening.

Coming up in January, there are three more events (listed immediately below) that I hope many of you consider attending. In particular, let me promote the **Pasta Bingo Dinner** on January 14th as an exciting new event that our **Grand President Mike Dimech** initiated last year. The talented cooks of YMI #32 have agreed to cook a pasta dinner again and we will have plenty of spirits on hand to enjoy. Moreover, we will have variety of different bingo games and a few of you may end up going home with more money in your pocket than when you started the evening. At \$25 per person, this is a modest cost for an evening of entertainment. A flyer has been attached and I strongly recommend you submit your reservation today! The proceeds earned help support worthwhile programs like the YMI Grand Council's Pro Patria Essay Contest.

In conclusion, let me extend my best wishes for a safe, healthy and blessed 2017. **Happy New Year to all!**

Council News & Activities:

Grand President's Official Visit to San Francisco District: Grand President Mike Dimech will be making his official visit to the three SF District Councils (i.e., San Francisco #1, South San Francisco #32 and YMI St. John Bosco #613) on Thursday, January 12th. Council #32 will be hosting the gathering this year, which begins at 6:00 p.m. for cocktails, 7:00 for dinner and 8:00 for the business meeting. **Reservations are required** as Council #32 wants to assure that there is enough food on hand. If attending, please contact **Br. Cosmo Amato at 415-392-3560 by January 9th.**

YMI Pasta Bingo Dinner: Please plan to attend **our Pasta Bingo Dinner**, which will be co-hosted by Councils #32 and #613. The dinner will take place on **Saturday, January 14th at St. Veronica's Parish in South San Francisco**. Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 and bingo and a raffle thereafter. The cost is just \$25 per person (children: 13 and under are \$12) and the fee includes two bingo cards. **See the attached flyer for event details**. If questions, contact **Br. Mike Dimech at 650-922-2667**.

St John Bosco Feast Day: Please come join us to honor our patron saint at a special 8:45 a.m. Mass at **Sts. Peter & Paul Church on January 29, 2017**. Afterwards, we will gather with parishioners of all ages to enjoy coffee, tea, and donuts at the 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. I know the 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.

2017 Dues: IMPORTANT! By now, you should have received a notice that your 2017 YMI membership dues should be paid and remitted **by January 31st**. **Dues are \$62 for Benefit Members and \$50 for Associate Members**. To avoid unnecessary postage costs and added work for our Treasurer to send additional notices, please make your 2017 dues payment today. If questions, please contact **Br. Cosmo Amato (415-392-3560)**. Checks should be made payable to **YMI #613** and sent to our mailing address:

**YMI St John Bosco Council #613,
c/o Sts. Peter & Paul Church,
666 Filbert St,
San Francisco CA 94133.**

February Meeting Change: IMPORTANT! Since the 2nd Tuesday in February falls on Valentine's Day and our meeting attendance is likely to be affected adversely by husbands not wanting to upset their Valentines, we will move the February business meeting up one week to **Tuesday, February 7th**. Please make a note of it

March Meeting: As discussed at the last business meeting and in following up on an idea suggested by our Grand President, our **March Business Meeting (March 14th) will be a Membership Recruiting event**. We invite all YMI #613 brothers to bring a non-member guest to this recruiting-oriented event to help bolster membership in our council. We plan to begin the evening with a corned beef and cabbage dinner, followed by introductions of prospective members. I will strive to abbreviate the business meeting that night so we can enjoy a social evening and hopefully initiate many new members for YMI #613.

Jim Calabretta Essay Contest: We have received 64 essays this year for our annual essay contest (15 college, 19 high school, & 30 middle school). At this time, the judges have the essays in hand and are in the process of scoring them. By early February, we plan to send out invitations to the essay banquet to those students scoring well enough to earn a prize. This year's banquet will be held on March 25th at Sts. Peter & Paul Auditorium. Further details will be provided at a later date, but please save the date on your calendar.

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

**Brian Stableford, John Repetto, Art Jimenez, Paul Wuerslte,
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- Please consider sponsoring a new member and sharing the opportunity of participating in the YMI brotherhood. Besides being part of an organization that does great work for our faith and community demonstrated by the fact that we contributed nearly \$25,000 in donations and scholarships each year, new members will be able to participate in many fun, social events (e.g. dinners, sports tourneys, picnics). **Note: our March meeting will be a membership recruitment event.**

#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. In 2016, we donated an estimated 810 lbs. of canned goods, fruit and toiletry items.

YMI #613 Calendar: Upcoming Meetings & Events:

January 1st (Sun) – Happy New Year

January 10th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room).
Dinner coordinated by Br. George Rehmet

January 12th (Thurs) – Grand President's Official Visit to SF District Councils
(@ All Souls Church – 6:00 p.m. Cocktails; 7:00 p.m. Dinner; & 8:00 p.m. Meeting)

January 14th (Sat) – YMI Pasta Bingo Dinner
(@ St Veronica Parish – 6:00 p.m. Cocktails & 7:00 p.m. Dinner)

January 29th (Sun) – St. John Bosco Mass and Coffee/Donut Reception
(8:45 a.m. @ Sts. Peter & Paul Church)

January 31st (Tues) – St. John Bosco Feast Day

February 7th (Tues) - YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room).
Note Date Change
Dinner coordinated by Br. Art Jimnez

March 11th (Sat) – YMI Red & White Mass (@ Santa Rosa)

March 14th (Tues) – Special YMI #613 Membership Recruitment Meeting
(7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room).
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner coordinated by Br. John Smith

March 25th (Sat) – Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet
(6:30 p.m @ Sts. Peter & Paul's Church)

April 30th – YMI Golf Tourney (@ Manteca)

May 7th – YMI Bowling Tournament (@ Stockton)

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Ladies and Brothers.... I stand here before you tonight for the ninth consecutive year as your Council President. As I have in past years, I am very pleased to report another great year for YMI St. John Bosco Council #613.

- Although no council or man of the year awards were earned in 2016 and we did come in 1st in any sports tournaments, 2016 was still a great year for #613.
- On January 31st, we successfully re-instituted an old tradition of celebrating the feast day of our patron saint ...**St. John Bosco**. That morning we hosted a very nice Mass and breakfast gathering at Sts. Peter & Paul that drew a nice crowd. Thank you, **Br. Cosmo Amato**, for organizing this event.
- April was a particularly busy time for us. First, we held our 13th Annual **Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet** and served a fabulous pasta meal to over 200 people and awarding **\$15,500 in scholarships awards to 50 students**. Many thanks to **Br. Rod Ordone & Br. Cosmo Amato** for chairing the banquet and to our many talented chefs from the **Campus, Goultas, Bottarini and Goulding families** who pitched in together with assistance from **Pola Fiorito and my wife Mara** to prepare an excellent meal that evening.
- Just two weeks later, we gathered at St Veronica's Parish for our first Pasta Bingo Fundraiser that we co-hosted with YMI Council #32. The event was a success as we made a nice profit and more importantly had a fun evening. Thank you, **Br. Mike Dimech** for your initiative in setting this new event up.
- In May, we treated our lovely ladies to our traditional Ladies Night outing at Bertolucci's Restaurant, providing them each with a cocktail, a full-course dinner, and a gift. Although my wife and I could not attend this event, I heard nothing but positive feedback. Thanks to **Br. Bob Fiorito** for organizing Ladies Night!
- Springtime means the YMI golf tournament. Although we did not finish in 1st place, a team comprised of **Brother Fernando, Fernando and Werblun** finished impressively in 2nd place. Congratulations!
- In June, for only the 2nd time in YMI history going back all the way to 1883, the YMI brotherhood unanimously elected a brother from St John Bosco #613 to be Grand President when they voted in **Br. Mike Dimech**. To celebrate, we gathered together in July for a celebration reception featuring an outstanding meal prepared by **Br. Jessie and Dolly Guajardo and ably assisted by Br Gus and Maria Farrell and Connie Pisciotta**. Thank you!
- In August, we enjoyed a fun & relaxing day at the Summer Picnic where we enjoyed terrific BBQ, music, and a raffle. My thanks to **Brs. Joe Soracco who co-chaired the picnic with me along with Brothers Cosmo Amato, Nick Varanis and James Vavuris** for assisting with the picnic preparations!
- In September, we hosted our **Annual Bocce Ball Tournament**. This year's tournament was our largest field ever with 18 teams from 7 YMI councils participating. Under #613 stewardship, the bocce ball tournament has become the most popular YMI sporting event! Our best team finished 5th but most importantly all that came had fun! Thanks again to **Br. Mike Dimech** for chairing this tournament and thanks to **Brothers Ryan Casey and Cosmo Amato** for doing a bang-up job preparing lunch that day.
- In October, we participated in the Italian Heritage Columbus Day Parade and were joined by our **Grand President**. Our entry was fabulous featuring many vintage cars and a 1938 Muni Bus. Not surprisingly, we earned a **1st place award of \$125** 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**. We were joined by several of our YMI #613 widows that day. Thank you, **Br. Cosmo Amato**, for chairing this event.
- Tonight, we celebrate our **Christmas Party** and again we are hosting another nice affair with 73 VIP's here tonight. Special thanks to **Br. Dick Pisciotta and his wife Connie**, as well as **Br. Cosmo Amato** for organizing this festive party.
- As you can see many great things happened for our YMI council in 2016 and many men and women from St. John Bosco #613 are responsible for making these successes possible. Thank you all for your support!
- Before I conclude my remarks, I do want to make note of all the goodwill we generated in 2016 in the spirit of St. John Bosco including:
 - **\$15,500 in scholarships** via the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest
 - **25 unique donations thus far totaling almost \$7500** to various charitable groups serving our faith, our community, youth programs, and those in need (and I suspect more will be doled out on Tuesday night).
 - an estimated **625 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.
 - **9 scholarship awards** to seminarians that we sponsored through the YMI Seminarian Fund
 - For the **10th consecutive year**, we led the way in supporting the YMI's Pro Patria fundraiser with over 55% in raffle ticket sales, which is the highest percentage of all councils
- I want to thank you also for your generosity of these worthy YMI programs.