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**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613  
JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER**

**Please join us at our next business meeting & dinner on ...**

**Jan. 9th (Tues) -7:00 p.m. @ St Cecilia's Green Room**

**Meal coordinated by Br. George Rehmet**

**Meeting Highlight: The Grand President Mike Nelson's Official Visit**

**President's Message**

Brothers & Ladies of YMI #613...For those that may have missed my remarks from our December 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party, I have included them at the end of this newsletter for your reading pleasure. Please look over the various goodwill efforts that YMI #613 engaged in 2017. It's quite impressive!

Hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and I sent out Happy New Year's wishes for a healthy, successful and prosperous 2018 filled with love, joy and peace!

**Council News & Activities:**

**Grand President's Official Visit:** Grand President Mike Nelson #80 will be making his official visit to San Francisco, when he attends our 7:00 p.m. council meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>. That evening, we will also be joined by brothers from **YMI Council #1 and #32**, including the **YMI Business Manager, Br. Tom Fourie**. The Grand President is expected to share his message and YMI news, along with fellow Grand Council Officers in attendance. **I strongly encourage you to attend to hear and learn more about the YMI organization!**

**St. John Bosco Feast Day Mass:** Br. Cosmo Amato is coordinating with Salesian religious to organize a **Feast Day Mass Celebration for St. John Bosco on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Sts. Peter & Paul Church**. The Mass will be at **8:45 a.m.** and we will be serving coffee and donuts to the parish community after the Mass. **All YMI #613 brothers are invited to participate with their blue shirts! For the Mass, we will likely have the first few rows of pews.**

**Jim Calabretta Essay Contest:** The judging for 15<sup>th</sup> annual essay contest is now underway. We received a total of 67 essays from students this year (College:14; High School: 20 and Middle School: 33). On April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting an awards banquet at Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, where we will issue 50 scholarship awards totaling \$17,000!. So save the date and plan to attend!

**Dues:** Your timely payment of **2018 Dues by January 31<sup>st</sup>** would be kindly appreciated. By now, you should have received a letter from our **Treasurer, Br. Cosmo Amato**, informing you that YMI #613 dues are now owed. We have maintained 2018 dues at the same level as 2017 (i.e., **\$50 for Associate Members and \$62 for Benefit Members**). Please note that Honorary Members (i.e., priests/religious), Junior YMI and Members with 50 years of service in YMI #613 are exempted from dues. If any questions, please contact **Br. Cosmo Amato at 415-392-3560**.

**Death Benefits:** If you are planning to participate in **YMI#613's Death Benefit** program for 2018, your **payment must be postmarked by January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Our program provides your designated beneficiary with \$1000 in death benefit coverage should you die during 2018. The cost is just \$30. Participation in this program is optional and on a year-to-year basis (i.e., it does not automatically continue because you purchased death benefits in the past). For those participating, we strongly encourage you to review your beneficiary info and update us in writing, if there have been any life change impacting your designated beneficiary. **The person identified as your beneficiary on our records is the only one we can distribute funds after your passing.** If questions, please contact **Br. Cosmo Amato at 415-392-3560.**

**Meal Coordinators Needed for 2018:** We still need a few meal coordinators for the following months: **March, July, and December.** YMI #613 will fully cover the dinner costs incurred and will provide you a modest stipend for your efforts.

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

**David Burbank, Brian Stableford, John Repetto, Art Jimenez, Paul Wuerstle, Vincent AhSam, Alfred Bacchianeri, Mike Bottarini, John Cleary, Valentine Guajardo, Frank Bottarini, Thomas O'Connor, Brendan Dimech**

### Monthly Reminders

**YMI#613 Membership:** Please consider bringing a relative, friend or neighbor to our next business meeting.

**YMI#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 2017 we donated approximately 1,050 lbs. of canned goods and toiletry items to San Bruno's Catholic Hospitality House.

**YMI Polo Shirts:** If your YMI polo shirt has been misplaced or is looking worn, we do have spare shirts for purchase in a variety of sizes ranging from Small to 2XL. Shirts are just \$25 (cash or check payable to YMI #613). Contact **Br. Mike Amato at 650-871-9164** to order a shirt or see him before or after the meeting.

### YMI #613 Calendar: Upcoming Meetings & Events:

**January 1<sup>st</sup> (Mon) - HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**January 9<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room)**  
**Special Meeting to welcome Grand President Mike Nelson on his official visit to SF**  
**Dinner coordinated by Br. George Rehmet**

**January 28<sup>th</sup> (Sun) – St. John Bosco Feast Day Mass**  
**(8:45 a.m. @ Sts. Peter & Paul Church**

**January 31<sup>st</sup> (Wed) – ST. JOHN BOSCO FEAST DAY!**

**February 13<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room)  
Dinner coordinated by Br. Ryan Casey**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat) - YMI Red & White Mass (4:00 p.m. @ Chowchilla, CA)**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room)  
Special Recruitment Meeting featuring Corned Beef Dinner coordinated by Br. ??????**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room)  
Dinner coordinated by Br. Art Jimenez**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat) – Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet  
(6:30 p.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Lower Auditorium)**

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**President's State of the Council Address  
Presented at the Christmas Party on December 10, 2017**

**Ladies and Brothers....It's time for the State of Council Address!** I stand here before you tonight for my tenth year as your Council President. As I have for the past nine years, I am very proud to report the many accomplishments that we, **YMI St. John Bosco Council #613**, have achieved this year.

Let me start with the **various goodwill projects** that we undertook together in 2017 in the spirit of St. John Bosco. These included:

- Providing **\$15,500** in scholarship awards via the **Jim Calabretta Essay Contest**, now into its 15<sup>th</sup> year!
- Awarding **6 scholarships** totaling **\$3000** to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students in our new **St John Bosco "Pro Deo, Pro Patria" Scholarship Award** program!
- Sponsoring **8 scholarship awards** totaling **\$3700** to seminarians through the YMI Seminarian Foundation.
- Contributing **24 unique donations** totaling almost **\$7000** to various charitable groups serving our faith, our community, youth programs, and people in need.
- Donating an estimated **800 pounds** of canned foods and toiletry items (*Not counting the collection tonight*) to the San Bruno Catholic Worker's Hospitality House as a result of regular collection efforts at monthly business meetings and at events like this evening.
- Supporting for the **10th consecutive year**, the **YMI's Pro Patria fundraiser**. Almost half of our members bought raffle ticket earlier this year, which was again the highest percentage of any YMI council.
- Considering all these goodwill projects altogether, I estimate **YMI St. John Bosco Council #613** has contributed in 2017 an impressive **\$45,000 to our church and community!**

Besides these many goodwill projects, we also had plenty of good times too hosting many terrific events.

Looking back:

- We began the year actively hosting two successful January events. First, a YMI Pasta Bingo that we co-managed with YMI Council #32 and then the St. John Bosco Feast Day Mass/Breakfast honoring our patron saint. Thank you **Br. Mike Dimech and Br. Cosmo Amato** for chairing these two events.
- In March, we held our 14th Annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Banquet and served a fabulous pasta meal to over 200 people. Many thanks to **Br. Rod Ordone** for chairing the banquet and to our many

talented chefs from the **Campus, Goultas, Bottarini and Gouling families** who pitched in together with the assistance of many others.

- In May, we treated our lovely ladies to our traditional Ladies Night outing. This year we held the event here at Scoma's Restaurant providing each lady with a fabulous dinner and a lovely gift. Thank you **Br. Bob Fiorito** for handling Ladies Night!
- In August, we enjoyed a fun & relaxing day at the Summer Picnic where we enjoyed terrific BBQ, music, and a raffle. My thanks to **Br. Joe Soracco** who co-chaired the picnic with me along with the help of **Brs. Cosmo Amato, Bob Fiorito, Nick Varanis and James Vavuris!**
- In September, we hosted our **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bocce Ball Tournament**. Under Council #613's stewardship, the bocce ball tournament has undeniably become **the most popular YMI sporting event!** Thanks again to **Br. Mike Dimech** for chairing this tournament as well as to **Brs. Ryan Casey and Cosmo Amato** for doing a bang-up job cooking lunch that day.
- In October, we participated in the Italian Heritage Columbus Day Parade and were joined by our **Grand President Mike Nelson**. Our entry, which featured eight vintage cars and a 1938 Muni Bus, resulted in us winning a **2<sup>nd</sup> place prize 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 popular chaplain **Fr. Joe Landi**. We had a great turn-out and we were joined by several of our YMI #613 widows that day. Thank you again, **Br. Cosmo Amato**, for chairing this remembrance event.
- Also in November, only a few weeks ago, we worked again cooperatively with our YMI #32 brothers and held our second successful Pasta Bingo dinner in 2017; Kudos again to **Br. Mike Dimech** and to the many YMI #613 brothers who ably assisted.
- And tonight, we end the year celebrating our **Christmas Party** with 71 VIP's in the room. My appreciation to **Br. Dick Pisciotta and his wife Connie**, as well as **Br. Cosmo Amato** for planning and organizing this affair.

Through the outstanding combination of our good will and good times, we have become **the YMI's 6<sup>th</sup> largest council with now 100 members!** Looking ahead towards 2018, I am optimistic that we will continue to proceed in a positive direction. As a preview, I can tell you that for 2018:

- We are expanding our Jim Calabretta Essay Contest prize fund to \$17,000 and increasing the Pro Deo Pro Patria Scholarship Program to \$4000.
- We are taking over the leadership of the YMI Golf Tourney, as **Br. Fiorito** has graciously consented to be the golf chair and he has already come up with several great ideas for a tourney in June in nearby Santa Rosa. Hope many of you will participate.
- In mid-July, we are planning to host a new council event featuring a talented singer who imitates Frank Sinatra. **Br. Pisciotta** and **Br. Dimech** are working on the details for this event and we also hope to see many of you there.
- Finally, in 2018, I anticipate ending my 10-year run as the YMI Grand Secretary. Rather, I intend to seek the nomination to become the **YMI Grand 2nd Vice-President**. For those of you who may not understand the significance, becoming the Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is a typical stepping stone to becoming the YMI Grand President in three years. Before I will commit, I will first humbly seek and ask for YMI Council #613's support. The ladies may vote too. Can I ask for a show of hands of those that would support my seeking the nomination of Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> VP? **(Vote 71-0 in favor)**

Folks, we have done quite well as a council in 2017 and we deserve another round of applause.