



**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613  
JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**Please join us at our next business meetings on ...**

**January 14<sup>th</sup> (Tues) 7:00 p.m. @ St Cecilia's Lower Church**

**Dinner organized by Br. Cosmo & Br. Mike Amato**

**Meeting Highlight: Grand President Mike Thissen Official Visit**

**President's Message**

Brothers & Friends of YMI St. John Bosco Council #613....First, let me extend my profound gratitude to **Br. Dick Pisciotta and his wife Connie**, as well as to **Br. Cosmo Amato** for another sensational job of organizing an awesome Christmas Party at Dominic's Restaurant. The event went smoothly for the most part, although there was a hiccup as a few people at one table did not receive the ordered entrée (please accept our regrets!). Otherwise, the dinner was truly delicious, the wine was top-notch, the room was nicely decorated, and the raffle was robust. Most importantly, we had a very good turnout and I enjoyed socializing with each of you during the event. I also want to extend my sincere thanks to my YM brothers for presenting me with a beautiful YMI ring in recognition of my service these past 12 years as your council president. I was quite surprised as such rings have become cost prohibited to the Order and I had frankly given up on the notion of receiving one! Fortunately, our **Business Manager, Br. Tom Fourie**, found a YMI ring while searching through the YMI inventory. I will wear this ring with pride, particularly at YMI functions.

As those who attended the Christmas Party know, I am very proud of YMI #613 and our many outstanding accomplishments this past year. For your reading pleasure (particularly for those unable to attend the party), I have attached my Christmas Party remarks at the end of this newsletter. Happy New Year to all!

**Council News & Activities:**

**Grand President Visit:** **Grand President Mike Thissen** will be making his official visit to the San Francisco area YMI Councils on **January 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will gather in the **St. Cecilia Lower Church** that evening, along with YMI brothers from Council #1 and #32, to hear from the Grand President and other officers of the YMI Grand Council. Please plan to attend this special business meeting so we can go over important YMI news and show appreciation to our Grand President for travelling all the way from the Chowchilla area to visit us.

**Dues:** Your timely payment of **2020 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 slightly increased the 2020 dues (i.e., **\$55 for Associate Members and \$65 for Benefit Members**). For those that pay **after January 31<sup>st</sup>**, there will be an **additional \$5 late fee to cover administrative costs incurred to send a reminder notice**. Please be timely so we can avoid sending our reminder notices,

Please note that Honorary Members (i.e., priests/religious), Junior YMI (those attending school) and those Members with at least 50 years of service in YMI #613 **are exempted** from paying dues. However, they should advise us any changes in personal info (e.g., address, e-mail, phone). 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 2020, **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 pass away during the year. The cost is just \$30 per member. Participation in this program is optional and you must opt in on yearly basis (i.e., it does not automatically continue because you purchased death benefits in the past). For those participating, we urge 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 person that we can distribute funds after your passing.** If questions about your beneficiary, please contact **Br. Cosmo Amato at 415-392-3560**.

**Red & White Mass:** Please save the date of **Saturday, March 14, 2020**. The YMI will be celebrating its annual **Red & White Mass/Dinner** commemorating 137 years of YMI brotherhood. The event will take place at **St. Sebastian's Church in Sebastopol** beginning at 4:30 p.m. with a banner procession, followed by a Mass, then dinner and ending with the Pro Patria Raffle. **See the attached flyer for event details.**

**Jim Calabretta Essay Contest:** We received 62 essays (College: 13; High School: 17; & Middle School: 32) in response to our 17<sup>th</sup> annual essay contest. The announced contest prize fund involved 55 prizes totaling \$20,000. The contest awards' ceremony is scheduled for **Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Cecilia's Lower Church**. If questions, please contact **Br. Mike Amato at 650-296-6297**.

**Pro Patria Raffle/Essay Contest:** Please take a few moments to submit your YMI raffle tickets sent on September 1<sup>st</sup> with a check to the YMI Grand Council Office. About 27% of our members have already purchase tickets but I would like to see this percentage over 50%. **See the attached sheet for raffle tickets.** Moreover, please encourage students you know to participate also in the **YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest**, which is a separate contest from the Jim Calabretta one. The YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest has a January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline and seeks a 500-word essay. You may download the entry application with contest rules and information from the YMI website at [www.ymiusa.org](http://www.ymiusa.org). **Remember the YMI raffle proceeds support the Pro Patria Essay Contest prize fund, so your generosity ultimately benefits the youth!**

**Birthdays:** Happy Birthday to the following YMI #613 Brothers celebrating birthdays in January:

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

## **Monthly Reminders**

**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 2019, we donated so far approximately 1,250 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 or faded, we do have spare YMI 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 14<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Lower Church)**  
**Grand President Mike Thissen Official Visit to SF YMI Councils**  
**Dinner coordinated by Br. Cosmo & Mike Amato**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – YMI #613 Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ St. Cecilia's Green Room)**  
**Dinner coordinated by Br. Art Jimenez**

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

**March 14 (Sat) – YMI Red & White Mass**  
**(beginning at 4:30 p.m. St. Sebastian's Church @ Sebastopol, CA)**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> (Sun) – Jim Calabretta Essay Contest Awards Ceremony**  
**(@ St. Cecilia Lower Church)**

**Ladies and Brothers.....It's now time for the State of Council Address This would be Version #12**, being it's my twelfth (and I will add final) year as the St. John Bosco Council President. I again stand here with pride to report the many accomplishments in 2020 by **YMI St. John Bosco Council #613**.

First, let me start with our **various goodwill projects** that we worked on together in 2019 following the example of St. John Bosco. These included:

- Providing **over \$20,000** in academic awards to 56 students through our annual **Jim Calabretta Essay Contest**; now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year!
- Awarding 8 **scholarships** totaling **\$4000** through our **St John Bosco "Pro Deo, Pro Patria" Scholarship Award** program, which benefits 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students from St Cecilia, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Thomas More and St. Gabriel Schools!
- Sponsoring through the YMI Seminarian Foundation **5 scholarship awards** to seminarians totaling **\$3500**.
- Contributing **24 donations** totaling **\$7000** to various charities serving our faith, community, youth programs, and people in need.
- Donating over **1000 pounds** of canned foods and toiletry items to the **San Bruno Catholic Worker's Hospitality House** as a result of our regular collection efforts at monthly business meetings and events.
- Supporting the **YMI's Pro Patria fundraiser** and for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year among the council leaders in raffle ticket sales percentage (38%)! And we're off to a good start for 2020, already hitting 27% with about 2.5 months to go. Anyone out there wanting to buy tickets, please see me afterwards!
- If you consider all these goodwill projects altogether, **YMI St. John Bosco Council #613 and its members** have contributed an estimated **\$45,000 to our church and community in 2019!**

Second, our financial status has never been so good! Our portfolio has reached its highest peak and it has **doubled over the past 10 years!** Many thanks to our Investment Committee of **Brothers John Cleary, John Kavanagh and Paul Wuerstle** for providing strong stewardship. Also need to acknowledge our Treasurer, **Br. Cosmo Amato**, for ably handling the books and making sure we're have enough money to pay the bills

Third, YMI #613's membership remained steady as we continued to have over 100 members on hand. I would like to take a moment here to welcome two of our new members that joined us either at the end of 2018 or 2019: **Br. David Tresmonten and Br Fred Dayoan**,

Fourth, YMI #613 has been extremely active in 2019 hosting **eleven** successful YMI events. To briefly recap,:

1. In March, we coordinated the **YMI's Red & White Mass** at St. Cecelia's Church drawing a very well-attended turnout of 135 people consisting of representatives from 11 YMI and 2 YLI Councils.
2. In April, we held our **16th Annual Jim Calabreta Essay Contest Awards Ceremony** at St. Cecilia, utilizing a new format and venue that easily surpassed expectations in many ways.
3. In May, we treated our lovely ladies to our traditional **Ladies Night** outing at Bertolucci's Restaurant and we heard nothing but compliments.
4. In June, we again took leadership of the **YMI Golf Tournament** working with the Santa Rosa YMI Council to manage yet another terrific tournament (only a couple of years ago, the YMI golf tourney was floundering and now it is doing well!)
5. In August, we enjoyed a fun & relaxing day at the **Summer Picnic** in San Bruno where we enjoyed terrific BBQ, sunshine, and a raffle.
6. In September, we held our **12<sup>th</sup> Annual YMI Bocce Ball Tournament**. This tournament has become **the most popular YMI sporting event** and we again drew an impressive field of participants from 5 YMI Councils.
7. In October, we held another entertainer-based dinner. This time, it was an **Elvis Presley Tribute Dinner Show**. The event featured an awesome meal, an enjoyable show, and a highly profitable result.
8. In October, we participated in the **Italian Heritage Columbus Day Parade**. Our entry again was top-notch, featuring several old classic cars and a restored Muni Coit Tower Bus.
9. In November, we reverently remembered our past YMI brothers at a beautiful **Hour of Memory Mass** attended by several YMI widows.
10. Also in November (just a few weeks ago), we worked cooperatively with our YMI #32 brothers from South City and held a very successful **YMI Pasta Bingo Dinner**.
11. And tonight, we end the year celebrating our **Christmas Party** with about 73 VIP's in the room.

These events were ultimately successful because of **YOUR** support. However, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those YMI #613 brothers that displayed true leadership at these events by either chairing, co-chairing, or regularly supporting us: **Br. Bob Fiorito, Br. Mike Dimech, Br. Rod Ordon, Br. Joe Soracco, Br. Cosmo Amato, Br. Dick Pisciotta, Br. Steven Goulding, Br. Paul Wuerstle and Br. Mario Balistreri.**

Finally, in looking back at our many 2019 accomplishments, I would be very remiss if I did not mention that:

- **Br. Bob Fiorito** was the recipient of the **2019 YMI Man of the Year** (which incidentally is our 5<sup>th</sup> Man of the Year award winner over the past ten years).
- Our chaplain, **Fr. Joe Landi**, was honored by the YMI Grand Council with a **YMI Resolution** issued during the Grand Council Sessions to recognize his devoted service to our council and his monthly words of wisdom.
- **YMI St. John Bosco Council #613** was the recipient of this year's **YMI Council of the Year Award** (we are first two-time winner of this award!)

Looking ahead towards 2020, I am optimistic we can continue to proceed in a positive direction. As a preview, I can tell you that:

- We are already gearing up to host the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest with announced prize fund of \$20,000 on March 29th. For those wondering, I can report that we have received 62 essays this year.
- We are expanding our Pro Deo, Pro Patria Scholarship Program by raising the eight \$500 scholarships to \$1000!
- Finally, barring any unforeseen developments, I hope to be elected as the **YMI Grand President** in June, .....which will mean that we will have a new Council President next summer as I devote energies to work more broadly with the YMI Grand Council and our other YMI Councils.

Folks, we have done extremely well in 2019 and we deserve another big round of applause.