



**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613  
JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

**Next Meetings: January 11th @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Please remember to wear your YMI Shirt and bring a mask!**

***Our next Meeting will be in-person to be held in St. Cecilia's Lower Church (room below the church).***

***Dinner: likely from Mozzarella di Buffalo (no dinner fee that evening).***

***In addition, we will be providing ZOOM meeting access ---see the next meeting agenda (to be sent a later date) for ZOOM access info:***

**Past Grand President & Past President's Message**

Brothers & Friends of YMI #613...Attached at the end of this newsletter, please find my remarks which I shared at our YMI #613 Christmas Party. If you were NOT at the party to hear them, please take a moment to read them. It is inspiring to know that YMI #613 is a very generous organization doing many great things for our community this past year. We are truly an awesome YMI Council!

Wishing all a **Happy (& Healthy) New Year!**

Pro Deo, Pro Patria!  
Mike Amato

**Council News & Activities:**

**Jim Calbaretta Essay Contest:** We received 68 contest essay submissions for our current contest (#19 in our Council's history). The distribution was as follows: 41 from junior high, 22 from high school and 5 from college. At this time, the essays are being reviewed by several qualified judges for an independent and blind review. We will be **awarding essay prizes totaling \$20,000** in the Spring. Given that we have more prizes than contestants in college, we will likely move the unused prize money to the other divisions so that a few more contestants can benefit.

**2022 Dues:** In mid-December, you should have received a notice form our Treasurer (**Br. Cosmo Amato**) to pay your 2022 membership dues. We have held steady our Council dues for 2022 keeping them at prior year levels. Your notice indicates the specific amount owed depending on whether you are a Benefit or Associate Member. Your dues need to be paid before the end of January to avoid any late fees.

**2022 Death Benefits:** Also, the Treasurer's notice covers the YMI #613 optional death benefit program. A fee of \$30 is owed by January 31<sup>st</sup>, which provides coverage of \$1000 for 2022.

**Grand President's Visit:** We will be hosting our Grand President, Br. Nick Franceschine #54, for a visit on **January 11<sup>th</sup>**. We will be joined that evening for a special meeting by several YMI Brothers of South San Francisco #32 to enjoy fraternalism and to hear from our YMI Grand Officers about upcoming events and activities. Because meeting attendance is expected to be more, we plan to meet in the larger Lower Church Room. Please try to attend!

**Christmas Party Photos:** For those with Facebook access, you can view YMI #613 Christmas Party photos (courtesy of Mara Amato) on the Young Men's Institute page. If you search on Facebook for "Young Men's Institute", it should bring you to this page, with those photos as well as other YMI info and event photos.

### **Membership News:**

- **Welcome:** Let's welcome **Br. Dominic Bordachar**, who joined us at our December meeting. He was sponsored by **Br. Dominic Panina**. Br. Bordachar is a retired fire fighter from St. Gabriel's Parish. He is married to Renee and has a teen-aged child.
- **Congratulations:** We congratulate the Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC) football team for winning the **State Championship** in their division (1<sup>st</sup> time in the school's football history!). The sons of Br. Panina, Bower and Totah play on the SHC football team.
- **Sick Bay:** We kindly ask that you pray for the following Brothers who are experiencing health issues and going through various medical procedures to regain their health.
  - **Br. Dick Pisciotta**
  - **Br. John Campus**
  - **Br. Mike Bottarini**
- **Greetings:** We send out a warm greeting to **Br. Joe Basuino**. Although Br. Joe's health situation limits his ability to attend our meetings, we understand he keeps abreast of our YMI Council by faithfully reading our monthly YMI newsletter. Take care Joe! You are missed!
- **Birthdays:** Happy Birthday to the following YMI #613 Brothers who will be celebrating birthdays in January.
  - **Br. John Repetto,**
  - **Br. Art Jimenez,**
  - **Br. Paul Wuerstle**
  - **Br. Mike Bottarini**
  - **Rev. Phil D'Auby**
  - **Br. John Cleary**
  - **Br. Joseph Grazioli**
  - **Br. Dominic Panina**
  - **Br. Thomas O'Connor**
  - **Br. Brendan Dimech**

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Christmas Party Remarks  
Br. Mike Amato

**Ladies and Brothers....**It's great to be back here after a one-year break from hosting our Christmas Party. It's truly awesome to see so many of you here tonight to celebrate the Christmas holiday together. I had feared that we might see a drop-off in attendance, but I'm very pleased to report that the 77 people here tonight, are more than those who attended our last Christmas Party in 2019!

Tonight, I stand here again at this podium filled with pride to report many YMI #613 accomplishments in 2021. Despite the various challenges created by COVID, we continued to keep working together meeting on-line over Zoom. This past summer, we were able to resume in-person meetings adding Zoom meeting access for those YMI Brothers with health issues or who live a distance away. As a result, we managed to flourish as a YMI Council this past year.

- First, YMI #613 enjoyed a phenomenal year for **Membership** as we **initiated 15 new or transferred members since last December!** As a result, our current membership roster has risen to a **modern day high of 109 members!** Let me take a moment here:
  - to thank **Br. Art Jimenez, Br. Dominic Panina, & Br. John Kavanagh** for working with me to increase our membership.
  - and to welcome **four** new YMI #613 Brothers that are here tonight:  
**Br. Bryan Handlos      Br. John Bower      Br. George Totah      Br. Kyle Dowd**
- Our **finances** this year are quite healthy! Largely through astute investing by our Investment Committee led by **Br. John Cleary** and the prudent money oversight of our Treasurer **Br. Cosmo Amato**, YMI #613 is currently at its highest financial point in at least the past 20 years, and I suspect in our 114-year history.
- Rather than sit on our good fortune, YMI #613 has generously given back much needed funds for our community. In 2021, YMI #613:
  - **awarded \$20,000** in essay contest awards to 57 students in our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest!
  - provided another **\$8000 in scholarship assistance** to eight 8<sup>th</sup> graders in San Francisco who are attending Catholic High Schools!
  - contributed another **\$7000 in donations** thus far to worthy non-profits helping church organizations, youth groups, our military, those that are ill, or those in need. I suspect we may even hit \$8000 in donations at our Tuesday meeting!
- We have also recently re-instituted our canned food & toiletry drive under **Br. Mike Dimech's leadership**. Tonight --- thanks to your generosity--we have all these goods to share with those in need at the San Bruno Catholic Workers Hospitality House.
- Through the YMI Seminarian Education Foundation and thanks primarily to **Br. Cosmo Amato**, YMI #613 sponsored **31 seminarians** from Salesian and St. Patrick's Seminaries for scholarship awards totaling remarkably **over \$13,000!**
- Once again, YMI #613 had the **highest percentage** of YMI Brothers' participating in YMI Pro Patria Raffle among Councils with over 20 members. We impressively reached a **38% participation** level in 2021! And I am hearing we're off to a nice start for 2022 with about **22% already buying tickets**. *(Please buy raffle tickets if you haven't already! If you can't find them, let Br. Dimech or me know!)*
- In this year's Grand Council Pro Patria Essay Contest, YMI #613 had a major impact, sponsoring **7 of the 15 contest winners** in the high school division for **over \$4000 in contest prizes!**
- Finally, we have resumed our popular social events following public health rules. Besides tonight's Christmas Party, YMI #613 recently renewed its participation in the Italian Heritage Parade in October and held its Hour of Memory in November honoring those YMI Brothers who passed away.

In looking back at these many accomplishments, I estimate we have collectively given or enabled to be given about **\$55,000 in 2021 to students, seminarians, and worthwhile causes**. Folks, we deserve a **HUGE** round of applause. I will note here that much credit for this success needs to go our **President Br. Bob Fiorito, his VP's Br. Joe Soracco and Rod Ordon**, and the entire group of YMI #613 Officers & Committee Members for their tremendous leadership

As 2022 approaches, I am optimistic that we can continue to proceed in a positive direction:

- We will be hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest in the Spring, thanks to our contest chair **Br. John Kavanagh**, with an announced prize fund of **\$20,000!** Hopefully this year we can do the ceremony in person after two years of relying on Zoom!
- We have a Budget already in place for 2022 that will allow us to provide a similar generous level of scholarship assistance and donations next year as we did in 2021!
- And we are moving to resume other popular Council social events (i.e., Ladies Night, Picnics, & Bocce Ball & Golf Tourneys), so we can return to normalcy!

So let me conclude thanking you **AGAIN** for all you did this past year, as well as to convey my wish that you **ALL** enjoy a Merry Christmas and a great New Year!