



**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613
JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER**

Next Meeting: Jan 9th @ 7:00 p.m. (St. Cecilia's Collins Center)

Please remember to wear your YMI Shirt & bring a buddy!

Dinner: Meal organized by Br. Bob Fiorito (\$10 per YMI Brother)

Council News & Activities:

Grand President Visit : Our YMI Grand President (Br Steve Cresci) will be making his Official Visit to the **San Francisco District** on **Tuesday January 9th**. YMI #613 will be hosting the event at **St. Cecilia's' Collins Center** during our next business meeting. We will be joined that evening by Brothers from YMI #32 in South San Francisco, as well as possibly by YMI Grand Officers from other YMI Councils. Please come and gather with us that evening to welcome the Grand President and hear him talk about his goals for the YMI. Beverages begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meal will follow at about 7:00 p.m. The meeting will likely start at 7:45 p.m.

Jim Calabretta YMI #613 Essay Contest: The 21st Annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest received 77 essay submissions from students attending middle school (35 received for 25 prizes), high school (25 received for 15 prizes) and college (17 received for 10 prizes). Br. John Kavanagh has distributed the essays to the judges for their review and we expect to be notifying contestants of general results in February. This year's essay contest boasts a combined **prize fund of \$21,000 for 50 talented students** and the award ceremony is scheduled for **Saturday March 23rd in St. Cecilia's Lower Church**. **For any questions about the essay contest, please contact Br. John Kavanagh at jkavesq@gmail.com.**

Dues: Notices for 2024 YMI Dues have been e-mailed/mailed. As you may have noted, we have maintained the Dues at just \$65, despite rising costs. **We kindly request you submit \$65 payment ASAP and no later than January 31st**. Dues not paid before January 31st are subject to a \$15 late fees. If you did not receive your dues notice, **please contact our Treasurer Br. John Kavanagh by phone at 415-735-8430 or by e-mail at jkavesq@gmail.com.**

Christmas Party Recap: We had a marvelous time at our YMI Christmas Party on December 10th. In total, 69 people attended and enjoyed good conversation, refreshing beverages, and a delicious meal. Our President (**Br. Bob Fiorito**) opened the event by welcoming various guests and our Business Manager (**Br. Mike Amato**) covered the many YMI #613's accomplishments in 2023. Later, we awarded 50-year membership pins to **Br. Jerry Nolan and Br. John Repetto** (*Br. John actually has 66 years, but better late than never!*). We ended the event with a fabulous raffle with two-dozen great prizes. Many thanks to share to the following folks::

- **Br. Mike Dimech, Br. Dominic Bordachar & Irma Calabretta** for donating raffle prizes;
- **Anna Totah** for helping coordinate the purchasing of many great raffle prizes;
- **Mara Amato, Shirley Ordoná & Gloria Bertolozzi** for selling raffle tickets;
- **Mia Soracco and the Panina girls** for picking raffle tickets & delivering prizes.

YMI Grand Council News:

- Info about the YMI Grand Council Pro Patria Essay Contest has been distributed by mail to all YMI Members last September. *(Please note this is a separate contest to the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest discussed above.)* The YMI Grand Council Essay Contest offers \$10,400 in prizes to 30 students from Grade 7 to High School Senior. The contest flyer with rules and topics can be downloaded from the following link.
http://ymiusa.org/files/forms/Essay_Contest_Form.pdf
The deadline to submit essays for this contest is **January 19th**. YMI Brothers are encouraged to invite students to participate in this YMI contest and they don't need to be family members.
- In the same mailing, YMI Brothers should have received info about the **YMI Pro Patria Raffle**. This raffle is a worthwhile cause, because it supports the \$10,400 prize fund for the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest. To date, we're running a bit short on the raffle funds collected, **so we respectfully ask all YMI #613 Brothers to be generous and buy raffle tickets!**

Membership News:

- **Meal Coordinators- Line-Up:** Here is the line-up of YMI #613 Brothers volunteering to serve as meal coordinators for 2024:
 - January: Br. Bob Fiorito
 - February: Br. George Totah
 - March: Br. Mike Amato (Corned Beef & Cabbage)
 - April: Br. Rod Ordon
 - May: Br. John Kavanagh (Mexican)
 - June: Br. Art Jimenez
 - July: Br. Mike Baglin
 - August: Br. Dom Bordachar
 - September: Br. Dom Panina
 - October: Br. Mike Dimech
 - November: Br. Stephen Goulding (Turkey)
 - December: Br. John Bower
- **Congratulations & Salutes:**
 - Congratulations to **Br. Brendan Dimech** and his wife on the birth of Brendan's son, Pearson Barry Dimech. We also share congratulations with **Br. Mike Dimech** on becoming a grandfather.
 - Congratulations to **Br. Kevin Soracco** for passing his electrical license exam last month. Good job!
 - Bon Voyage to our **YMI Business Manager Tom Fourie** and his wife Pat as they begin a wonderful cruise. During his absence, **Br. Bob Bartoli** and **Br. Mike Amato** will assume various Business Manager duties. Please pray for them!
 - If anyone has a personal/family milestone, event, or accomplishment to share, please send info to **Br. Mike Amato (text to 650-296-6297 or e-mail to mamato871@aol.com)**
- **Birthdays:** Happy Birthday to the following YMI #613 Brothers who will be celebrating birthdays in January

Br. John Repetto	1/4
Br. Art Jimenez, Art	1/4
Br. Paul Wuerstle	1/5
Br. Mike Bottarini	1/10
Br. John Cleary	1/14
Br. Joseph Grazioli	1/19
Br. Dominic Panina	1/22
Br. Thomas O'Connor	1/26
Br. Brendan Dimech	1/26

CHRISTMAS PARTY REMARKS

Ladies and Brothers....Let me begin, by thanking you for attending our 2023 Christmas Party. I am truly grateful that you have joined us this evening to celebrate Christmas! As has become our tradition, I'm here tonight again to proudly report YMI St. John Bosco Council #613's achievement for 2023. I will try to keep my remarks brief, but I think it's important that we reflect on all the good work we did this year while working together successfully.

- First, in 2023, YMI #613 enjoyed an **outstanding** year for **New Membership** as we **initiated 16 new Brothers!** I don't recall us ever having such a productive year for membership and as a result, our current membership roster has peaked to **114 members!** For sponsoring most of these 16 new Brothers, please let us acknowledge **Br. Cosmo Amato, Br. Dominic Panina, Br. Mario Balistreri and Br. Dennis Aicardi.**
- YMI #613's **Finances** remained healthy in 2023, largely through the astute investing by our Investment Committee. Please let us recognize our Investment Committee Reps: **Br. John Cleary, Br. John Kavanagh, and Br. Paul Wuerstle.**
- YMI #613 **Events** did quite well in 2023. Besides hosting successful events such as Ladies Night, the Summer Picnic, the Italian Heritage Parade, and the Hour of Memory, we effectively managed to revive the YMI Bocce Ball Tourney in 2023 after a 3-year hiatus due to COVID. Let us take a moment to thank the Event Chairs or co-Chairs: **Br. Bob Fiorito, Br. Joe Soracco, Br. Cosmo Amato, Br. Mario Balistreri. and Br. Mike Dimech.**
- Regarding the afore mentioned Italian Heritage Parade, please let me add two highlights:
 1. Our parade entry of gorgeous classic cars this year earned a respectable **3rd Place Award in the Antique/Classic Car Division.**
 2. The YMI proudly sponsored the 2023 Queen Isabella Court and its Queen, and our very own **Mia Soracco.**
- In 2023, YMI #613 maintained its generous goodwill programs. Namely, we:
 - **awarded over \$21,000** in essay contest awards to 50 students in our **20th Annual Jim Calabretta Essay Contest!** Let us recognize **Br. John Kavanagh** (*please stand*) for his good work running our contest.
 - provided another **\$8,000 in scholarships** to eight 8th graders in San Francisco who will be attending Catholic High Schools!
 - contributed over **\$7,000 in donations** to many worthy non-profits helping church organizations, youth groups, our military, the sick, or those in need.
 - lastly, we continued to collect canned food & toiletries at YMI #613 meetings and events on behalf of the San Bruno Catholic Workers Hospitality House. Tonight ---thanks to your generosity--we have plenty more to help those in need!
- In 2023, YMI #613 sponsored **9 seminarians** through the YMI Seminarian Education Foundation. Thanks largely to the efforts of Br. Cosmo, 9 seminarians from Salesian and St. Patrick's Seminaries received scholarship awards totaling **\$5700!**
- For the **2023 Pro Patria Raffle**, YMI #613, once again, was among the leaders in ticket sales with a **30% participation level of it YMI Brothers.** And I am hearing we're off to a decent start for 2024 with about **21% of YMI #613 Brothers already buying tickets.** (*Please buy raffle tickets if you haven't already! If you can't find them, let Br. Dimech or me know!*)
- Finally, for the most recent Grand Council Pro Patria Essay Contest, YMI #613 again had a major impact, sponsoring the 1st place winner (**Br. Brian Blake's son Matt**) and **5 of the 15 contest winners** in the High School Division for **over \$3400 in contest prizes!**

In looking back over these many achievements and doing some math, I estimate we have collectively given or enabled to be given over **\$50,000 in 2023!** Folks, we deserve a **HUGE** round of applause for all the goodwill we do! As 2024 approaches, I am confident that we will continue our good work. So let me conclude here by thanking you **AGAIN** for all you did this past year, as well as to convey my sincere wish that you **ALL** enjoy a **Merry Christmas and a great New Year!**