

# UNDER THE LAMP POST



Pro Deo Pro Patria

Vol. 128 Fall 2017

## GRAND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Grand President's Message

Greetings my Brothers,

Thank you for putting your trust in me to lead the YMI for the ensuing year. It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the Grand Council Session in Lake Tahoe. I look forward to meeting more of you during my travels as the coming year unfolds.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My wife Sylvia and I met in high school and were married after we graduated from college. We have been married 36 years and have two children, Sarah and Matt. Between them we have four

grandchildren. I am a convert to Catholicism, having converted after our children were born. I consider that to be one of the greatest blessings in my life. It always amazes me that so many "cradle Catholics" don't understand or appreciate the blessings of being raised Catholic. I have had a varied work career (Sylvia says I have a short attention span). My degree is in Agriculture and I have worked as a farm manager, the safety director for the local frozen food plant, a firefighter, a politician, and I am currently self-employed as an environmental assessor for commercial real estate transactions.

I would like to thank those who have helped me on my YMI journey. I have been a member of St. Christopher Council #80 in Atwater, CA for 21 years. Thanks to the encouragement of brothers like PGP Larry Silva, PGP Rudy Albritton, and PGP Luther Evans I stepped forward to move up the ladder.

As I started to work on my program for this coming year, I looked at past Grand President programs. The common theme was that of "moving forward". But how do we do that if we don't know where we have been? We need to ask ourselves "who are we and what is our purpose"?

#### Our Purpose

Our purpose is three-fold: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism.

- Faith – We pledge ourselves to be practicing Catholics and we are active participants supporting our parishes.
- Patriotism – We love our country, respect its laws and show our public

support for America by voting, flying our flags and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting.



- Fraternalism – As members of the YMI, we extend our hand to each other in brotherly love and call each other "brother". Family and family values are important to us, so our families are included in many of our functions.

That is why we are here and involved in the YMI. But we must move beyond just that. How do we do this? I believe a look at our Mission Statement provides a clue.

#### Our Mission

The Mission of the YMI is to provide for the mutual aid and good will, the moral, intellectual and social improvement of its members, devotion to the Catholic Church, and loyalty to our country in accordance with its motto: "Pro Deo, Pro Patria – For God, For Country." To achieve this mission, the YMI dedicates itself to the education of its members in things Catholic, in things American and in all things, that will lead all men to their ultimate salvation.

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Grand Secretary, Michael Amato #613  
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### **Mutual Aid and Good Will**

Mutual aid is a term first coined in 1530 and is the cooperative as opposed to the competitive factors operating in the development of society. Good will is defined as friendly disposition, benevolence and kindness. For our use, both can refer to the support we give each other as Brothers of the fraternity and the support individual Councils give to each other and to the Grand Council.

When was the last time your Council went as a group to a neighboring Council either for their monthly meeting or to one of their fundraisers? When was the last time you came to a Grand Council social event such as bowling, Bocce ball, or the Pasta Bingo dinner? These are examples of mutual aid and promote good will among Brothers. I encourage you to attend Grand Council events and I especially encourage you to consider visiting other Councils. It might be what struggling Councils need for them to realize they are part of a larger group. A group that wants them to succeed.

### **Moral, Intellectual, and Social Improvement**

How can we as YMI members become better Men of God? How do we show our fellow parishioners that being a YMI Brother has helped us improve morally, intellectually, and socially? Do we do that by talking bad about our Brothers or do we do it by supporting our Brothers on their journey to become better men and better Catholics?

Listening to the homily on Sunday and then going back to our secular life on Monday morning has never been the answer. There are a variety of ways to improve ourselves. Have you thought about what you can do during the week to strengthen your faith life such as watching EWTN when you get home, listening to Catholic radio on your way to work, or reading the Daily Mass readings?

Has your Council thought about partnering with other parish groups to sponsor a parish retreat or Dynamic Catholic book giveaway at Easter? In this era of decreased participation nationwide in fraternal groups, partnerships are a way we can all benefit to strengthen our local parishes and, in turn, promote the YMI.

### **Devotion to the Catholic Church**

What does devotion mean? Devotion is an earnest attachment or a profound dedication to a cause or person. One cannot be considered a true member of the YMI without a devotion to the Catholic Church. Our meetings begin and end with prayer. Our Councils regularly contribute to their respective parishes. Our members actively participate in parish activities, ministries, etc. Is that enough? Each Brother must answer that for himself and Councils need to figure that out collectively.

### **Loyalty to Our Country**

All Brothers I have met, regardless of their political ideology, have a deep, abiding loyalty to the United States. How can we show and encourage others in our parishes to do the same?

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From the Podium – 132 Grand Council Session  
By Brother Michael Dimech # 613 JGP



Given that it has been a few months since our 132nd Grand Council Session in South Lake Tahoe, I had some time to think about the Session and what we as a Brotherhood accomplished while there. Before providing you with my thoughts on the Session, I wanted to first thank the Grand Council Session Planning Committee. Brothers Tom Fourie, #32 Michael Amato, #613 Bob Bartoli, #32 and Richard Pisciotta, #613 and their wives Pat, Mara, Nancy and Connie did an outstanding job preparing for the Session. Many of you are probably unaware of how much work and preparation goes into the planning of our yearly Session. There are many meetings and phone calls with the Planning Committee members and a great deal of work goes into assembling the Advance Proceedings which this year was 111 pages long. I want to extend my thanks to the Planning Committee for their service to the YMI. Lastly, I would like to thank Dick and Connie Pisciotta # 613, for their efforts with our 50/50 raffle. This year's proceeds of \$1,150.00 will be split between our two foundations.

At this year's Session, 58 delegates attended from 15 of our 26 Councils. Looking back at the attendance at our Sessions over the last five year, I can see that attendance at this year's Session was pretty much on par with previous Sessions, except for last year when 67 Brothers attended. It would be nice to have more Brothers attend our annual Session and with this in mind, I ask that our Brothers mention the Sessions at your monthly council business meetings. If you enjoyed this year's Sessions and the time you spent in South Lake Tahoe, discuss the Session with your fellow Brothers. Maybe next year we can increase the attendance at the Reno Session.

Our time in South Lake Tahoe began with an opening and remembrance ceremony and mass at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church on Monday evening. It was a very nice mass where we paid tribute to our past, present and future Brothers. The mass was a great way to begin our Session. Later that evening many of us went out to dinner and then reconvened the following morning at the Grand Breakfast at the Mount Bleu Hotel. We had a great breakfast and Grand Second Vice President Carlos Rivas, #40 provided us with some wonderful words of wisdom about the YMI.

Our session began later that morning with the Call to Order followed by the Rules of the Session read by Grand Secretary, Michael Amato. A motion was made and the rules were passed unanimously. Following this motion, we proceeded to discuss any unfinished business from the 131<sup>st</sup> Grand Session. The one item that remained from this session centered on the feasibility of a Death Benefits Program for Associate Members. This was deferred at this time so that it could to be discussed later in the Session workshop.

The Credential Committee Chairman, Michael Amato provided us with his report and I followed with announcing that this year's charity box will be divided evenly with 50% of the proceeds going to Educational Foundation and 50% going to the Seminarian Foundation. Br. Tom then welcomed all of the delegates on behalf of the Planning Committee and made some announcements regarding the day's events including the Dinner Cruise later that evening.

Grand Chaplain, Fr. Angel, # 32 then welcomed everyone to the Session. In his presentation to us he discussed the appearance of the Blessed Mother at Fatima that occurred one hundred years ago in 1917 as well as the three secrets that the Blessed Mother revealed to Lucy. Fr Angel also stated he had the honor of meeting and speaking with Lucy on a couple of occasions. It must have been a great experience. Fr. Agnel also asked us what we remember our fathers telling us as young children. He then spoke about the words from the fathers of Columbus, Michelangelo, Einstein and Johan. He concluded his remarks that morning by providing us with a powerful story of a young boy wanting to play football and how he overcame the death of his father.

Following Fr. Agnel's remarks we proceeded with the nominations of the Grand Council Officers, which at the time did not include a candidate for the second Grand Vice President position. Br. Jack Albrecht, our Grand Treasurer from Council # 1, then presented the 2017-2018 YMI budget. JGP George Terry, #32 presented his State of the Institute Report and made one recommendation to our bi-laws.

Below are a few items that I want to highlight from the Grand Council Committee Reports:

1. Over the past few years, at the Grand Director meetings, we discussed making changes to how the Lamppost is delivered. Currently the Lamppost is mailed to almost two thousand brothers and it is a manual process. Due to the increased cost of publishing and mailing the Lamppost, it was decided that moving forward; the Lamppost will be sent via e-mail to as many of the YMI Brothers as possible. The Lamppost will also continue to be available via our YMI website. The hope is that over time; more Brothers can be added to the email list so we can eventually eliminate the need to mail the Lamppost completely. This will in turn have a dramatic effect on our budget. Currently we budget \$6,800.00 for the Lamppost.
2. The second item involved our membership. With our declining membership, we must continue to think outside the box so that we can find ways to increase the number of Brothers in our fraternal organization. Looking over our membership numbers

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### Member Education – Catholic, American, and Our Ultimate Salvation

We should always consider ourselves to be "lifelong learners". It seems that many of us have only a rudimentary knowledge of our faith. We learned what we know during catechism classes in grade school and then we stopped. Our ultimate salvation depends on the recognition of squaring our actions with the requirements of our Faith. Everything in Christian life – from our ethical behavior, to prayer, to the liturgy, to the works of justice – all of it is meant to lead us to our ultimate salvation. Member education on how to be better Catholics and better Americans can help each of us reach that goal. So, listen to the voice of the shepherd and follow him wherever he goes.

### In Conclusion

I cannot tell you how to implement these points in your individual Councils but I encourage each Council to choose at least one of these ideas to see how they can implement them into the "culture" of their individual Councils. By strengthening our individual Councils, we strengthen the YMI organization. If we want the YMI to continue through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, all of us, from our newest to our most senior member, must play a part in making that happen.

It will be interesting to see how well this Program plays out but I hope it will be a platform for future Grand Presidents to emulate.

My first official act was to address the Young Ladies Institute Convention in Reno the week after the YMI Session in Lake Tahoe. My remarks there were short and well received. They centered on the need for partnerships. I feel lucky in Atwater we have not only a YMI Council but also a YLI Institute to partner with. As I pointed out to them, the great era of fraternalism in America is long gone. To survive, we need to work together with other parish groups (and they with us). As I take the reins this year, I will be encouraging my members to partner with YLI Institutes and other groups as they exist in their parishes.

I proceeded to give them an example of how partnering works in my parish, St. Anthony's in Atwater, CA. Each year, St. Christopher Council and Yosemite Institute hold a joint installation of officers in January and a joint picnic in August. Additionally, both groups have partnered with the Knights of Columbus to give away free Catholic books to families attending Easter Mass. None of our groups could accomplish this on their own. It requires us to work together. This not only helps families in our parish, it gives recognition to each of our organizations as we give something of value to the parish.

As members of the YMI encourage their wives, daughters, grand-daughters, and daughters-in-law to join the YLI, I suggested that they might also encourage their husbands, sons, grandsons, and sons-in-law to join the YMI.

I also encouraged them to reach out to groups we haven't traditionally reached out to such as our youth and young adults, as well as various ethnic groups in our parishes. After all, we are all working to glorify God through our activities and the more we support each other, the more we will all succeed.

Brothers, I know that was a lengthy read but I hope it will inspire you to join with the Grand Council in promoting YMI in your respective parishes. By working together, we can keep our noble organization strong and headed to future success.

## NEW MEMBERS

**W  
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<i>Member</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Council</i>
Rev. Marcelinus Edenedo	Christopher Freeberg	44
Edwin Rocha	Gary Fenandes	44
Jorge Vieira	Manuel Drumonde	44
Roberto Couto	Manuel Drumonde	44
Frank Marques	Manuel Drumonde	44
Gerard Kelly	Liam Derby	613
Chase Parker	Michael Amato	613
Ralph Bowman	Steve Azevedo	40
Dennis Dankbar	Steve Azevedo	40
Robert Dixon	John Nelson	40
Jim Andrade	Bill McNeany	40
Gary Lazzarini	Don Malvestiti	40
Samuel Licursi	Harry Licursi	40
Ron Perotti	Harv Licursi	40



## **Brother Nick Franceschine #54 IS SELECTED AS**

### **2017 YMI MAN OF THE Year**

The YMI "*Man of the Year*" Award is the YMI's most prestigious individual award, which is based on the YMI's three-fold purpose: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism. The award is bestowed annually during the Grand Council Sessions to a worthy YMI brother in consideration of the following criteria:

- **Faith** as defined by one's service to the parish;
- **Patriotism** as shown by one's service to the community;
- **Fraternalism** as demonstrated by one's efforts supporting YMI Council & Grand Council Activities.

**For the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Session in Lake Tahoe,  
YMI recognized Br. Nick Franceschine of Sebastopol Council #54  
As the YMI Man of the Year for 2017.**

With regard to **Faith**, Brother Nick is currently a member of his Parish Finance Council and works with the pastor to prepare the annual parish budget. He has served as a Lector at Mass since 1980, and as a Eucharistic Minister both at Mass and bringing the Lord to those unable to attend Mass since 1989. He has worked with the St. Vincent de Paul for more than twenty years, furnishing food to the hungry. For many years, he scheduled the parish's Lectors for Sunday Mass. He has participated in numerous parish work groups, committees and liturgies, whenever requested by the pastor.

With Respect to **Patriotism**, Brother Nick has donated blood in community blood drives more than 100 times. For the last 7 years, he has "given back" to the community by teaching night classes at Sonoma State University, sharing his experience and knowledge with young people. He is an active supporter of Project Graduation at the local high school.

Finally, **Fraternalism**, Brother Nick joined Council 54 in 1986 and has been actively involved in their activities since at least 2000. He has served in various capacities as a council officer, including three terms as Vice-President from 2005 through 2007 and most recently as Financial Secretary since 2008. He has actively participated in nearly all Council activities in the last 17 years. Brother Nick leads Brothers in saying prayers at funeral services, and serving as needed in numerous dinners, breakfasts and other events. Brother Nick has attended Grand Council sessions for the last several years, and has served as a Council delegate each time. He assisted with the 2011 Grand Council Session held in Santa Rosa. He has served 4 years as a Grand Director, 1 year as Grand Inside Sentinel, and has chaired the Resolutions Committee the last few years. He has also served on various Grand Council Committees. He initiated an investigation into the viability of the Orders' Death Benefit program, and performed actuarial valuation of the solvency of the program at no cost to the YMI. His advice, suggestions and leadership resulted in an increase in the Death Benefit for our Benefit Members.

## **Congratulations Brother Nick**





## **SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO #32 NAMED 2017 COUNCIL OF THE YEAR!**

The YMI "Council of the Year" Award was presented at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Sessions in Stateline, Nevada in June 2017. This award is a fairly recent one initiated by the Board of Grand Directors in 2015. The award recognizes several criteria including:

- participation in YMI Grand Council events/activities, including the Pro Patria raffle
- demonstration of being an active YMI Council with various events/activities and fundraising activities
- successful achievement with membership recruitment
- a record of notable charitable efforts or community service.

This year's winner, YMI South San Francisco Council #32 (YMI #32) excelled in each of the criteria. With respect to participation in the Grand Council, YMI #32:

- actively participated on the Grand Council filling several Grand Council Officer and Grand Director positions, as well as the Education Foundation and the Seminarian Educational Foundation Boards.
- had many members attend various inter-council meetings and events, including the YMI Bocce Ball tournament, YMI #613 Summer picnic and YMI #54 summer BBQ.
- sent a large delegation to the Red & White Mass held in Santa Rosa in March as well as to the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Sessions in Stateline Nevada.
- actively supported the Pro Deo, Pro Patria Essay contest in three important ways: 1) sponsoring the most contestants. 2) providing the most judges to evaluate approximately 1500 essays, and 3) selling the most raffle tickets (73 members purchased tickets).

With respect to being an active YMI council, YMI #32:

- held a monthly dinner meeting and a monthly social faithfully that drew many people.
- distributed a high quality monthly newsletter to its membership.
- coordinated a tasty BBQ a steak dinner at its annual parish festival.
- provided annual "Parishioner of the Year" awards to local churches in their community, which included hosting a Mass and breakfast afterwards.

Keep Up  
The  
Good  
Work 

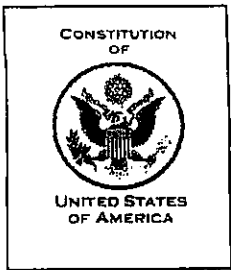
In terms of membership, YMI #32:

- has a strong membership base (almost 200 brothers) making it our 2<sup>nd</sup> largest council!
- boasted the largest base of honorary YMI members including retiring Bishop Bill Justice and our most worthy Grand Chaplain, Fr Agnel DeHeredia.

Finally, in terms of charitable efforts and communication service, YMI #32 was quite remarkable.

- hosting an annual Christmas food basket program (aka the Louis P. Guaraldi Christmas Food Basket), which raised \$10,000 to provide over 300 food baskets to the needy in their community and which depended on countless volunteer hours by YMI #32 brothers to collect food from various organizations, store it, box it and deliver it directly to those in need.
- providing \$5000 in scholarships each year to graduates of five local grammar schools as part the Kevin and Lucille Cramer Scholarship Program.

All of the YMI #32 brothers as well as the families should be very proud of this achievement.



## In God We Trust

*Lillian Salvador-Smith ~ St. Joseph Catholic School ~ Hilo, Hawaii*

**(First Place winner in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Pro Patria Essay Contest, Grades 7-8)**

The first amendment to the Constitution states the freedom to and from religion. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibition the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." It says that there is no national religion, and that Congress can't make one. There is no set religion in the United States, no religion that we must follow. The freedom to and from religion was the first thing on the founders' mind. They believed in the right of citizens to not be ruled over a religion they did not believe in. This is why I believe that "In God We Trust" should not be on the U. S. currency.

I think that if we decide to put "In God We Trust" on our money, it is one step closer to having a national religion. Since we are a country with no national religion, we shouldn't have the ideas of one religion on something that people use daily. It's important to make sure that our country always has the right to any, or no religion. If we choose to keep "In God We Trust" on our currency then we are telling people that our country has a national religion. That our country believes in God, when not all of the United States does believe in God.

The freedom of and from religion is one of the most important things that our country has. It is one of the reasons that people want to come to our country. It is one of the reasons people look up to our country. But, when we start using the term "In God We Trust" people who don't believe in God will feel out of place. When we use this term on our currency it is just one more reason for politicians to think that our country's laws should be based off of God's will. But, our laws shouldn't be based off of any religion at all. Our country was founded on the belief that the laws are in the citizen's name. It was founded on the belief of making our citizens, happy and welcome no matter their set of beliefs. If people don't believe in God, then why should something that they use on a daily basis say that the do?

The original motto of our country chosen by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams was "E Pluribus Unum". This motto translates to "From Many, One". Would the founders of our country have agreed to "In God We Trust" as our nation's motto? Even though having "In God We Trust" written on our currency won't harm us in any way, I do think it could make some people who don't believe in God feel unwelcome. It could make them feel like they don't belong. When in reality, everyone deserves to feel welcome and happy in our country. No matter their race, gender, or religion.

### **Membership – Where Are YOU???**

- As you might be aware, YMI membership has sharply declined in recent years. Each year the number of members who are no longer 'on the books' surpasses the number of new members who join the YMI. As Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP succinctly pointed out at the Grand Session addressing the elephant in the room "unless something is done we will not be here in five years".
- Yes, it is a genuine problem, but it doesn't mean we can't do anything about it. As a matter of fact, there are a number of Councils that are increasing their membership. Special recognition goes to the following Councils who have brought in quite a few new members this year: Santa Rosa #40, St. Columba #94, St. Augustine #497 and St. John Bosco #613.
- The membership committee will look for ways in working with all Councils to increase membership this year. Share your success stories of a membership drive. What has worked for your Council? Has your Council focused on youth groups in your District – churches, schools, teams or events? The membership committee is here to help each of you. Call Larry Andreatta #32 at (650) 583-9920 as chairman who will work with you along with Steve Cresci #32, John Kavanagh #613 and Mike Dimech #613.



## The Political Power of Freedom

*Kaya Bane ~ Seton Catholic high School ~ Richmond, Indiana*

**(First Place Winner in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Pro Patria Essay Contest, Grades 9-12)**

In the United States of America, the principle of freedom is the foundation of this country. With the freedom we are gifted, we can have a say in who leads our nation. By voting, citizens are able to decide which problems American faces are most important to them, and choose the candidate that best represents their political or religious views. Although religious beliefs can be an important factor in voting, when Catholics attend polls they should take political issues into consideration rather than their religious ideals.

The similarities between religious and political views can often be close, so Catholics can choose to vote either way. When voters are in the process of deciding what issues are most important to them during an election, they can discover that many religious concerns coincide with political issues. Economic inequality, immigration, and racial discrimination are examples of social problems we face as a country that are also classified as religious concerns. If a voter believes strongly in either religious or political views, they can compare and contrast the two to find that they may not be as different as expected.

Political realities in this nation can affect more people, are more relevant, and are ultimately a more important factor than religious ideals when voting. Issues like LGBTQ rights, in vitro fertilization, abortion, and capital punishment that are present in society today, can influence the whole world instead of a select group of people. Although Catholics may be voting against their religious beliefs when choosing to support these issues, they can help many people in doing so. Catholics are called to be selfless, and by choosing to vote on political issues, they can show conformity.

In an election, we are unable to require others in the country to agree with religious beliefs. Americans are given gifts such as freedom of speech, press, and religion. As citizens of this nation, we are able to act upon these rights by speaking our mind and believing anything we desire. When voting we can use freedom of religion to decide which candidate is the best choice according to religious views, but we are not able to force those views upon others. All people have different views on what is important spiritually, but citizens can know what is best for their country.

Political realities should be viewed as having a greater significance to Catholics than their religious values. Although the two categories are comparable, political issues are more important to America, while religious views are only taken into consideration by some. This is why political realities should be voted on to benefit the country's well-being. Freedom is a gift, and as citizens of a free country, we should do all that we can to protect this right given to us by trying our best to keep our country in our best interest.

### **Educational Foundation Memorials/Donations**

*Angelo Dimech:* Joseph Soracco

*Ronald Ennis:* Frank Weber

*Charles P. Gullo, Sr.:* Charles P. Gullo, Jr.

*Rev. Daniel O'Donovan:* John West

*Frank Pignati:* San Francisco Council #1

*Ratzi Sangimino:* Sadoc Council #59

*Get well soon Ed De LaTorre:* Manuel and Celeste Drumonde

*Get well soon Alice Albrecht:* Manuel and Celeste Dumonde

*Get well soon Wendell Serrao:* Manuel and Celeste Drumonde, Jim and Helen Mullen

*Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Janet Souza:* Jim and Helen Mullen, Thomas Figueira



All YMI Brothers, family members and friends are thanked for their generous contributions to the Educational Foundation. We also acknowledge everyone's minimum donation of \$10 towards the requested Mass.



# BINGO

## Night

**What:** YMI Grand Council Pasta Bingo Dinner

**When:** Saturday, November 18, 2017  
Cocktails: 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. followed by Bingo and a Raffle

**Where:** St. Veronica Parish Cafeteria (Falcon Hall)  
434 Alida Way, South San Francisco, CA

**Cost:** \$25.00 per person  
**Includes:** Pasta dinner, salad, dessert  
2 Bingo cards

**RSVP with payment by November 14, 2017**  
For more information contact: Br. Mike Dimech  
Cell - 650-922-2667  
E-mail - [mdimech7@gmail.com](mailto:mdimech7@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### YMI Grand Council Pasta Bingo Dinner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults attending dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00

Number of children (13 and under) attending dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: YMI Grand Council  
Return the attached to: Young Men's Institute c/o Br. Mike Dimech  
P.O. Box # 281047 San Francisco, CA 94128



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1. from the Advanced Proceedings, I can see that over the past year we brought in 54 new Brothers, however we lost 147. Furthermore, of our 26 councils only 10 brought in new Brothers. In addition, we closed down two councils in the past year. The numbers speak for themselves. To remain a viable fraternal organization, we have to bring in new Brothers or consider some possible changes to our bi-laws.

As our meetings ended for the day many Brothers, friends and family members took a three-hour dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe. It was a great evening to relax and unwind, and enjoy the beautiful scenery and bond with our Brothers.

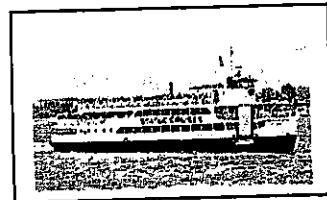
We resumed our session on Wednesday morning and received the results from our Election Committee made up of Jim Rohe of Council #612 and Jeff Morrow of Council #613. The State of the Institute proposal was approved overwhelmingly. We later had a very productive workshop given by Business Manager Tom Fourie and later, Br. Nick Franceschine # 54 provided us with an update on the possibility of a future Death Benefit program for YMI Associate Members. Br. Nick also provided members with a survey, to be taken back to their Councils, requesting feedback so that the next steps in a new Death Benefit Program can be determined.

Next, Br. Michael Sanzeri, # 59 gave us a report on this year's bowling tournament and I recapped last year's Bocce Ball Tournament. Following this, Br. Bob Fiorito, #613 gave us an update on fund raising that took place during the year. Later that morning, we adopted the 2017-2018 YMI Budget. Then, Br. Nick Franceschine chairman of the resolution committee read two resolutions involving two parish priests: Msgr. Michael Harriman a retiring priest from San Francisco's St. Cecilia's Parish and the second to Rev. Mauricio Hurtado of St. Theresa Church in South Lake Tahoe.

Worthy President Mike Nelson was then introduced as the YMI President for 2017-2018 and was greeted with applause from all of the delegates in attendance. Mike stated that he was honored to become the YMI President and provided us with his opening remarks and vision for the YMI. Mike then installed the District Deputy Grand Presidents for the next year.

In closing, I will now change my role from Grand President to Junior Past Grand President. In my new role, I will continue to support and provide assistance to the YMI in any manner possible. It has truly been an honor to be your YMI Grand President for the past year and I look forward to many more years of Brotherhood.

Michael Dimech  
Junior Past Grand President



### Pro Patria Essay Contest

2017 marks the 44<sup>th</sup> Pro Patria Contest. This is a wonderful tradition that benefits our Catholic students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. With prizes awarded to the students ranging from \$75.00 to \$1,000.00, there is great incentive to participate. In order to fund this very worthwhile cause, I am asking that you purchase raffle tickets this year. The goal is to surpass previous year's sales. The contest is open to any Catholic student in grades 7-12. The entry form can be found on our YMI website. Our topics this year are as follows:

**7 & 8 Grades** – Should students in elementary school and/or junior high school be required to learn a second language? Please provide arguments to justify your position.

**9-12 Grades** – Do you support or not support the United States government building a wall along the border of Mexico and the United States? Please provide justification and facts to support your conclusion.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren and Catholic friend's children to participate in this very worthwhile endeavor. And, buy and sell raffle tickets so that we can have a successful 44<sup>th</sup> Pro Patria Contest!

Brother Carlos Rivas #40, GFVP



Young Men's Institute  
Forty-Fourth Annual  
Essay Contest

**Cash Prizes to be Awarded:**

	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
Grand Prize	\$500.00	\$1000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$350.00	\$ 800.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$300.00	\$ 600.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$200.00	\$ 400.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$150.00	\$ 300.00
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$100.00	\$ 200.00
7 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$75.00	\$ 100.00

**Contest Rules:**

1. **Topics**

**7 & 8 Grades** – Should students in elementary school and/or junior high school be required to learn a second language? Please provide arguments to justify your position.

**9 – 12 Grades** – Do you support or not support the United State government building a wall along the border of Mexico and the United States? Please provide justification and facts to support your conclusion.

2. Contest is open to any Catholic student (Private or Public School).
3. A Young Men's Institute member or Council must sponsor each student entry.
4. The essay must be original and not more than 500 words.
5. The essay can be word processed, typed, or neatly hand printed.
6. The essay must be accompanied by the information requested by the Entry Form. (See "Entry Form" section)
7. All entries must be received by January 15, 2018.
8. All entries will be judged on content, neatness, grammar, spelling, and adherence to contest rules. A panel of impartial persons will conduct judging for the Grand Award. The decision of the judges is final. All entries become the property of the Young Men's Institute

Entry Form

(Please type or print clearly)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street

\_\_\_\_\_ City or Town State Zip Code

TELEPHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip Code

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_  
YMI Member Name or Council's Name

COUNCIL # \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN ESSAY TO: Young Men's Institute  
Pro Patria Committee**  
E-MAIL: YMIUS@AOL.COM  
US MAIL: P.O. BOX 281047, San Francisco, CA 94128

Young Men's Institute  
 P. O. Box 1161  
 South San Francisco, CA 94080-1161

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<i>Member</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Council</i>
ROBERT CHAIREZ	12-02-2016	60
LARRY E. WATSON	04-05-2017	16
WALTER H. PRAWICKI	05-30-2017	32
DONALD B. DANENHOWER	03-26-2017	1
GARY L. DRAPER	03-03-2017	900/65
RUSSEL F. ARAUJO	03-31-2017	573
THEODORE A. LINDSTROM	05-11-2017	13
WALTER J. SCHULTZ	04-11-2017	40
RONALD G. ENNIS	04-16-2017	1
ANGELO DIMECH	04-19-2017	613
JOSEPH A. SILVEIRA	04-21-2017	54
NORMAN L. LIBBERT	04-02-2017	497
JOE L. COELHO	03-17-2017	44
KENNETH W. HAFER	03-07-2017	88
JIM PERRINE	05-20-2017	137
ANTHONY L. CIDONIO	05-22-2017	613

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**DON'T FORGET**                      **DON'T FORGET**                      **DON'T FORGET**  
 Fall 2017 Issue  
 Due Date: **OCTOBER 31, 2017** ~ Please submit articles, pictures, etc. to  
 YMI Business Manager: [YMIUS@aol.com](mailto:YMIUS@aol.com)