



Grand President's Message

Two years ago, I started this journey to the Office of Grand President by attending my first Grand Session, and with a little arm twisting of Brothers from St. Christopher #80. As I moved through the chairs of the 2nd and 1st Grand Vice President, my eyes were opened to the workings of the Grand Council. With the knowledge I gained these past two years and with guidance from the Board of Grand Directors, the wisdom of the Past Grand Presidents, and Past Grand President/Business Manager Tom Fourie, I am prepared and honored to be your Grand President. I look

GRAND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

forward to representing you in this upcoming year 2019-2020. Thank you for your trust in me.

I would like to introduce myself to those who do not know my background. I was raised in Chowchilla and always wanted to be a farmer. I was raised Catholic (my great uncle John was a priest). My grandfather and great uncle Jack were charter members of St. Columba #94. I joined this Council in 1983. I was active in the first few years and then became inactive. I became active again in Council #94 in 1998 and served as the Council President for many years, currently I am the financial secretary. As for my career as a farmer, it did not happen. I started my career in law enforcement in 1981.

My sister introduced me to my wife Toni and we married in 2005. I have a daughter, two step-daughters and four grand-children.

My great spiritual experience occurred in September of 2003. I was attending a Portuguese Mass late one evening when a statue's heart started turning red, I cast a shadow on it. The statue continued glowing. The president of the Portuguese Society was speaking in Portuguese. In my heart I felt when the message was revealed that I would know what to do with it. The president of the society then spoke in English that Pope John

Paul II had announced the Illuminous Mystery of the Rosary in October 2002. As a Correctional Counselor, I guided Catholic inmates to seek out these mysteries and Protestants to follow the path of the light of Jesus Christ. This changed me from being callous to being more compassionate.

YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE



Now some of you know that I grow a large garden, this started as relief to the crimes I read about that were committed by the inmates on my case load. It took the desire to beat some of them to a pulp away. I retired from the California Department of Corrections in 2014.

In my retirement, I have more time for my garden. I know how to nurture plants, let's nurture our Councils into the future.

How do we nurture our Councils' membership in growth and participation, as many Councils are declining in membership? How do we attract new members to ensure the future of the YMI?

Continued on page 2

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Grand 1st Vice President, Michael Amato #613
Grand 2nd Vice President, Nick Franceschine #54
Jr. Past Grand President, Michael Nelson #80
Grand Chaplain, Fr. Agnel DeHeredia #32
Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech #613
Grand Treasurer, Jack Albrecht #1
Grand Marshal, Bill Avery #80
Grand Inside Sentinel, Charlie Wallin #54
Grand Outside Sentinel, Christopher McCann #8

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Steve Cresci #32
Angel Vera #40
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Bob Fiorito #613

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We each have to look at our parish and make changes within our Council to make our Council more attractive and convenient. All Councils have a different challenge. As the younger members have more family commitments, we have to be open to their ideas. I saw many older members deep rooted in their ways and being close minded to new suggestions. I even find myself fighting change. When we get new members, we need to listen to them, encourage participation and groom them to take over (especially the younger ones). As they grow within the Councils there must be a balance of structure and social life. They will get their friends involved. Most of all we must invite members of our parish community to our meetings to let them see what we can offer them.

Growth within our Councils will ensure that our fraternal organization will survive into the future and keep the per capita assessment lower. Most know what the per capita assessment is for: the operational cost of the Grand Council business (insurance, compliance to non-profit laws, tax filings, Institute Journal, etc.)

As a recently new participant and attendee of Grand Council and convention, I have to rely on the Past Grand Presidents, Officers and Board of Directors for direction and guidance. I chose to use some of Grand President Mine Nelson's program as it fits in the direction of nurturing our local Councils. Our Councils can use the YMI mission statement as a guide to nurture our Councils into the future.

YMI MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Once again, thank you for support and trust in me.

Nike Thissen #94
Grand President



***From the Podium – 134th Grand Council Session
By Brother Michael Nelson #80, Immediate Past Grand President***

As the Immediate Past Grand President, it is my duty to write a recap of our recent Grand Council Session in Stateline, Nevada. For the rest of his report, I will simply refer to the location as Tahoe.

First off, I want to thank the Grand Council Session Planning Committee. Brothers Tom Fourie #32, Michael Amato #613, Bob Bartoli #32, Richard Pisciotta #613, and Domenic Carinalli #54 along with their wives Pat, Mara, Nancy, Connie and Lynda who 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 and mailing the Advance Proceedings which this year was 111 pages long. Also, thank you to Dick and Connie Pisciotta #613, for their efforts with our daily 50/50 raffle. This year's proceeds of \$1,165 were given to the Bread & Broth Ministry of St. Theresa's parish in South Lake Tahoe. Bread & Broth provides feeding programs for those less fortunate in the Tahoe Basin area.

At this year's Session, 63 delegates attended from 18 of our 21 Councils. This is an increase from last year AND we had 13 First Time delegates. This is a great improvement over years past. If you were a delegate and enjoyed this year's Session and the time you spent in Tahoe, please let your fellow Brothers know. Let's continue to increase our attendance.

Our time in Tahoe began with an opening and remembrance ceremony Mass at St. Theresa's 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.

Tuesday morning, we had a great breakfast (in fact, all the food served at MontBlue was great) and Grand Second Vice President Michael Amato #613, 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 Opening Prayer by Fr. Agnel de Heredia #32, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Grand Marshal Br. Bill Avery #80. Since Br. Richard Guaraldi #32 was in attendance, he led us in singing the official "YMI Song". The Roll Call was taken.

Grand Chaplain Fr. Agnel #32 welcomed everyone to the Session. In his presentation he spoke about the status of the Church. He reminded us that as YMI Brothers we are stewards of our Faith and we are called to holiness in our own individual way. Further, we need to help our priests during this difficult time in the Catholic Church, so please pray for them. Evil is in the Church but so is Jesus Christ. We must pray to overcome these obstacles. The delegates gave Father Agnel applause for providing an excellent presentation.

Follow Fr. Agnel's remarks we proceeded with the nominations of the Grand Council Officers. A motion was made and seconded that the Grand Secretary cast a ballot for all the uncontested offices and they be declared elected by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

Grand Treasurer Br. Jack Albrecht #1, presented the 2019-2020 YMI budget. He reviewed all the accounts of planned expenditures. He noted that the total budget being proposed was basically the same as the year previous.

Grand Secretary Michael Dimech #613, presented the State of the Institute Report and read aloud two proposals. Brother Dimech read the first proposal concerning the change of title for the Junior Past Grand President. Only one comment was made by delegates present and that comment was to change the proposed title from Past Grand

Continued page 4

President Emeritus to Immediate Past Grand President. Brother Dimech read the second proposal concerning setting guidelines for expenditures from the Reserve Fund.

Grand Council Committee Reports were presented. The Grand President thanked all his District Deputy Grand Presidents for being the eyes and ears of the Grand President.

It was announced by the Grand Secretary that the Board of Directors had met with their newly elected members earlier in the day. It was reported that Br. Mario DeVita #1 was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board and that Br. Steve Cresci #32 was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Balloting was conducted for the two State of the Institute proposals.

After our meeting ended for the day, many Brothers, friends and family members partook in a dinner cruise aboard the Tahoe Queen. It was a great evening to relax and bond with our Brothers.

We resumed our Session on Wednesday morning with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. We heard the results from our Election Committee made up of Jim Rohe #612, and Darrell Fonseca #99. Proposal #1 was adopted and Proposal #2 was not adopted.

We later had a very productive workshop given by Business Manager and PGP Tom Fourie #32. the Workshop include the new procedures for the Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle.

Br. Nick Franceschine #54, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the two resolutions:

1. Resolution for Tom Burke, writer for the *San Francisco Catholic* for many years publicizing the YMI.
2. Resolution for Rev. Joe Landi #613 for his support of the YMI at both the Council and Grand Council level.

The Grand President then introduced Br. Mike Thissen #94 as YMI Grand President for 2019-2020 who was greeted with applause from all the delegates in attendance. Br. Thissen #94 stated that he was honored to become the YMI Grand President and he provided us with his opening remarks and vision for the YMI. Br. Thissen #94 then installed the District Deputy Grand Presidents for the coming year.

First-time delegates were invited to the microphone to give their impressions of being a delegate. Comments were generally positive and the feeling that Grand Council had a lot going on.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve as your YMI Grand President for the past two years.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria
Mike Nelson #80
Immediate Past Grand President

Educational Foundation Memorials/Donations

George Carmone: South San Francisco Council #32
Anthony Michael: Gonzaga Council #612
Rev. Kevin Morris: Gonzaga Council #612
John Muccini: John West
Dave Novi: South San Francisco Council #32
Al Phenis: Gonzaga Council #612
Deacon Frank Roberts: Gonzaga Council #612
Michael Silva: Richard Silva
Raymond Yoschak: South San Francisco Council #32



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.

BR. BOB FIORITO #613 NAMED 2019 MAN OF THE YEAR

The YMI "*Man of the Year*" Award is the YMI's most prestigious individual award. It is based on the YMI's three-fold purpose: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism. The award is bestowed annually during the Grand Council Session 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 134th Grand Council Session in Stateline, Nevada, the YMI recognized the former **Chairman of the Board of Directors, Br. Bob Fiorito of St. John Bosco Council #613 (YMI #613) as the YMI Man of the Year for 2019.**

With regards to Faith, Br. Fiorito has been a parishioner in his parish for many years and has regularly participated in YMI organized Masses at both our Red & White celebrations and during our Grand Council Sessions. With respect to Patriotism, Br. Fiorito is a veteran, who served honorably in the Air Force during the Vietnam War between 1968-1972. During his years of service, he was deployed to Thailand and worked as a jet mechanic. After returning home and starting a family, he began to active volunteer in his community as a coach and referee in youth sports programs for many years.

Finally, in terms of Fraternalism, Br. Fiorito has excelled in this category since joining the YMI in 2007. At YMI #613, he demonstrated strong leadership skills by annually chairing Council events, namely the very popular Ladies Night Dinner and the YMI's annual entry in the Italian Heritage Parade. Besides the events he chairs, Br. Fiorito is frequently offering to man the bar, barbeque, set-up, clean-up, and do whatever role is necessary to support other YMI #613 events.

Br. Fiorito's demonstrated fraternalism extends to the Grand Council too, as for many years., he has:

- participated in many YMI bowling, golf, and bocce ball tournaments;
- served as a delegate at many Grand Council Sessions;
- coordinated the bar for 4 years' worth of YMI Pasta Bingo Dinners;
- became a Grand Director in 2015 and ascended to the Chairman of the Board position between 2017-2019.



In 2018, Br. Bob Fiorito took over the Chairman position of the YMI golf tournament. Since the 2017 YMI golf tournament had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest, he took on a major challenge in trying to revive an event that looked to be near dead. His efforts proved to be quite successful, as we had many teams compete in both the 2018 and 2019 golf tournaments. However, perhaps the most noteworthy item about this brother was that as Chairman of the Board, he pursued the Board's authorization to dedicate all the proceeds from the 2018 YMI golf tournament to the YMI families of Santa Rosa Council #40 that had been victimized by the October 2017 Santa Rosa Fire. With this authorization, he then went forward actively inspiring businesses owners, organization leaders, and YMI Brothers to contribute funds for hole sponsorships, to donate raffle prizes, and to make cash donations. In total, Br. Fiorito is largely responsible for the YMI raising nearly \$10,000 in 2018 for the Santa Rosa fire victims.

Congratulations Br. Bob Fiorito on your well-deserved award!

ST JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL #613 NAMED 2019 COUNCIL OF THE YEAR!

The YMI “Council of the Year” Award was presented at the 134th Grand Council Sessions in Stateline, Nevada in June 2019. This award is a 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 was **St. John Bosco Council #613 (YMI #613)**; the Council’s 2nd “Council of the Year” award since the award’s inception in 2015.

YMI #613 excelled in each criteria area. With respect to participation in the Grand Council, YMI #613:

- actively participated on the Grand Council filling several Grand Council Officer and Grand Director positions, as well as participated on the Education Foundation and the Seminarian Educational Foundation Boards;
- coordinated the Bocce Ball and Golf Tournaments for the YMI as well as the Pasta Bingo Fundraiser;
- actively supported the YMI Pro Patria raffle;
- hosted the Red & White Mass held in San Francisco and had many of its brothers in attendance.
- sent a strong delegation of eight brothers to the 134th Grand Council Sessions in Stateline Nevada.

With respect to being an active YMI council, YMI #613:

- held monthly dinner meetings and distributed a quality monthly newsletter to its membership;
- organized several YMI council events (e.g. picnic, ladies’ night, Sinatra dinner show).
- hosted several Family Masses at St Cecilia’s Church handling readings, ushering and providing hospitality after Mass.

In terms of membership and charity/community service, YMI #613:

- has a strong membership base (just over 100 brothers) that grew by 2%
- provided \$24,000 in scholarships and student awards;
- donated about \$7000 to various charitable organizations in the area, as well as over 1100 pounds of canned goods and toiletries to a local homeless shelter.



The YMI congratulates the YMI #613 brothers and their families on this achievement.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS



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<u>Member</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Council</u>
Larry Shanahan	Frank Hepburn	2
Brian Mullin	Michael C. Amato	613
William Murray	Richard Murray	32
Michael Klinger	Paul Larson	32
Gilbert Tan	John Kavanagh	613
Reginald Calaguas	John Kavanagh	613
Kevin Costa	Daniel Santos	44
Leonardo Arriola	Dan Ramos	44
Joe Freitas	Leonard Costa	44
Jack Costello	James Kany	40
Robert Morrison	Andy Koski	40
James Daly	John Smith	613
Kevin Butler	Paul Larson	32
David Tresmontan	Bob Fiorito	613

CONGRATULATION AND WELCOME

Dos Palos Council 399 Member becomes Priest!



We are proud to recognize that one of our home-grown Dos Palos regular YMI benefit members has completed his education at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, partially funded by the YMI Seminarian Fund (living proof that it works!), has served as a Transitional Deacon, and has now been **Ordained to the Priesthood!** **Reverend David Lopez is now assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. John's Cathedral in Fresno, CA. Pro Deo!!!**

Red and White Mass Confirmed!!!!!!

Br. Nick Franceschine #54, GSVP is happy to announce that our Red and White Mass for this YMI year will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at St. Sebastian's Catholic Church in Sebastopol, CA. Mass will be held at 5:00 p.m. and dinner following in the parish hall. Br. Domenic Carinalli and his wonderful staff will be cooking the dinner...no YMI Brother and family will want to miss this event...save the date. More information to come.



Mark your Calendars for the following upcoming events and deadlines.....

- 1. September 30, 2019....Councils to receive their paperwork for the next Semi Annual Report and Assessment #176.....try to complete as soon as possible.*
- 2. October 5, 2019....Council #613 presents "A Night with Elvis - Dinner and Show" Contact Br. Dick Pisciotta at 415-334-6429 for information and reservations.*
- 3. November 16, 2019 - Grand Council Pasta Bingo Night at St. Veronica Church in South San Francisco (see page 9 for more details.*
- 4. November - the month we set aside as individual Councils to have our Mass/Hour of Memory Ceremony.*
- 5. September 2019 - March 2020 - sell those raffle tickets please!*
- 6. March 31, 2020 - Semi Annual Report to be mailed for the end of this YMI year..be ready.*
- 7. YMI Grand Council Golf Tournament - to be held again in the Santa Rosa area during early June 2020...more information from Chairman Br. Bob Fiorito soon.*
- 8. 135th Grand Council Session in June 2020 at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada....more to follow.*
- 9. A partial list.....*

Add your own Council's calendar of events and let us all be involved.



BINGO Night

What: YMI Grand Council Pasta Bingo Dinner

When: Saturday, November 16, 2019
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: \$30.00 per person
Includes: Pasta dinner, salad, dessert
2 Bingo cards

RSVP with payment by November 9, 2019

For more information contact: Br. Mike Dimech
Cell - 650-922-2667
E-mail - mdimech7@gmail.com

Proceeds to benefit the 46th Annual YMI Essay Contest

YMI Grand Council Pasta Bingo Dinner

Name: _____ Council # _____

Number of adults attending dinner: _____ @ \$30.00

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



Pro Patria Essay Contest Underway.....

Brothers...Please find on the opposite page, the 46th Annual Pro Patria Essay Contest Announcement with contest rules and an entry form. This year's contest covers two interesting topics; one prominently in the news and the other offering the potential for creative and entertaining responses. This year, we have expanded the prize fund from \$6125 to \$8000 as well as increased the grand student prizes by \$500 in each division. We urge you to share this contest announcement with students in your family and community. The deadline to submit essays is

Praying for Our Deceased Brothers

Submitted by Br. Nick Franceschine, #54, Pro Deo Committee Chairman

While reciting the Obligation of our Order (the pledge that we take during the initiation ceremony), we all promise to “remember our departed Brothers” in our prayers and at the altar in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

This is a serious obligation for each of us. Our deceased Brothers want just one thing from us: our prayers for their swift entry into heaven. There are lots of ways we can satisfy this duty. Here are some suggestions:

- Have Masses offered for “all YMI members, living and deceased”. Your parish office can arrange for this. At least once a year, but every month would be better. Encourage your members to attend these Masses.
- The YMI ceremonials booklet contains a short but beautiful ceremony called “Prayers for a Departed Brother”. When a Brother dies, we can say this prayer as a group (with the family’s permission) either at the funeral or at the rosary vigil, if there is one.
- Sometimes it will not be possible to say this prayer during the funeral or rosary services – in that case, it’s easy to add this ceremony to the next monthly business meeting. A candle may be lit and the lights dimmed, and all Brothers present asked to stand, to provide the proper solemnity.
- November is traditionally the month when we honor our loved ones who have gone before us. It is altogether fitting to have a simple Remembrance Ceremony (see the ceremonials booklet) during the November business meeting. The names of Brothers who died during the last year are read, and a short eulogy can be given. A nice touch would be to also list the names of other Brothers who have died, for example during the last ten years. Hearing these names will bring back many fond memories, another good way to remember our deceased Brothers.
- During the regular monthly business meeting, Brothers who have recently died can be remembered during the Good of the Order. After the Closing Prayer, a short additional prayer can be said in remembrance of deceased Brothers and their families. In my Council, we say ten Hail Mary’s after the Closing Prayer every month. It takes less time than you might think, and is an inspiring way to end the meeting.



Young Men's Institute
Forty-Sixth Annual
Essay Contest

Cash Prizes to be Awarded:

	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
Grand Prize	\$1000.00	\$1500.00
2 nd Place	\$500.00	\$ 750.00
3 rd Place	\$400.00	\$ 600.00
4 th Place	\$300.00	\$ 450.00
5 th and 6 th Place	\$200.00	\$ 300.00
7 th -12 th Place	\$100.00	\$ 150.00

Contest Rules:

1. Topics

7 & 8 Grades – *If you had the authority to create a new national holiday in the United States honoring a specific person, event or cause, what holiday would you create? Please also tell us when this holiday should be observed and why it is needed.*

9 – 12 Grades – *Is climate change a real concern threatening humanity's future or an exaggerated hoax to impose environmental regulations? Please discuss your views on climate change citing specific facts to support your assertions/arguments.*

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, 2020.
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 _____
Street Address

_____ 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 281047
San Francisco, CA 94128-1047

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For your information.....

The Long Range Planning Committee would like to inform the membership that letters were sent to the Bishops of the dioceses where the YMI has active Councils, notifying them of the election of the new Grand President and President of the Board of Directors. This is a new tradition that serves to notify the Bishops of our presence in their diocese as well as to open the lines of communication to both promote the YMI and provide opportunities to work together with our local dioceses in the future.

If any local Council is partnering with their diocese on any projects or would be interested in doing so, the Committee would be glad to hear about it.

Br. Matt Nelson #80, GD
Committee Chairman

DON'T FORGET

DON'T FORGET

DON'T FORGET

Winter 2019 Issue

**Due Date: October 31, 2019 ~ Please submit articles, pictures, etc. to
YMI Business Manager: YMIUS@aol.com**