

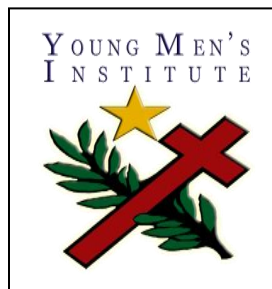


GRAND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Grand President's Message

The year 2020 is thankfully ending soon. It has been an exceedingly difficult year given the impacts of the Covid-19 virus. This disease has affected many of our YMI families in some manner, whether it has been 1) through direct contact with the virus itself, 2) from having loved ones fall ill, 3) from the frustration of being kept apart from loved ones as we safely quarantine, 4) from the unemployment and economic consequences it has levied upon us and

5) from sadness and frustration of YMI Councils not meeting in person or holding socials. Personally, Covid has directly impacted my family as my son Chris came down with it in May and my daughter Melissa became unemployed at about the same time. Fortunately, my son regained his health and my daughter found employment elsewhere, but the stress of going through these situations has indeed been a challenge for my family.



Moreover, in 2020, my mother, Mara Balanesi Amato died in mid-September, after battling through heart attacks and other serious health maladies. My family is feeling grief as she is sorely missed. She was the heart of our family and often provided us with encouragement, wisdom, and wit! Fortunately, she remains in our hearts and memories forever. My mother loved attending YMI conventions and socials and talking with the many great YMI people at those events. On behalf of my father Br. Cosmo Amato, I would like to extend my gratitude to the many YMI Brothers and spouses who contacted us over these past several weeks via mail, e-mail, text, or through Facebook to extend their sincere condolences, share a beautiful memory, or offer us prayers or Masses for her eternal rest. Thank you! **Continued Page 2**

INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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Grand 1st Vice President, Nick Franceschine #54
Grand 2nd Vice President, Darrell Fonseca #99
Immediate Past Grand President, Michael Thissen #94
Grand Chaplain, Fr. Agnel DeHeredia #32
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Young Men’s Institute

P.O. Box 281047
San Francisco, CA 94128-1047
www.ymiusa.org

Despite the challenges of 2020, I have been able to make some “virtual” Official Visits as Grand President to YMI Councils mainly by teleconference call or by Zoom, having joined meetings with YMI Brothers from Councils #2, #8, #32, and #80. Although two of these virtual visits experienced unexpected technical communication glitches, the meetings were able to take place in a reasonably, effective manner. In one of the Zoom meetings, I had the privilege of announcing Council #32’s Br. Paul Larson (GD) as the 2020 YMI Man of the Year Award. In addition to virtual visits, I had physically visited with the Council #54 Brothers in August as they held a BBQ/meeting outdoors while practicing good Covid-19 safety in keeping social distances. That evening I was able to present Council #54 President Br. Charley Wallin and their officers with the 2020 YMI Council of the Year Award. Finally, I was able to travel with our Business Manager, Br. Tom Fourie in October to meet the officers of Council #40 at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa for a combined Council audit and education seminar that Council #40 President Br. Angel Vera (GD) requested to learn more about YMI administrative processes and procedures. On many of these visits with Councils, I have been very ably joined by Br. Nick Franceschine (GFVP) and Br. Darrell Fonseca (GSVP). I deeply appreciate their efforts in being key part of these gatherings. As I reflect on my own experiences with the Council visits thus far, I have enjoyed the opportunity to chat with my YMI Brothers about upcoming events/activities and my Grand President’s Program. Consequently, I am looking forward to meeting with other YMI Brothers from other YMI Councils in the coming months!

In the prior edition of the Lamp Post, I had discussed the “Reason” pillar of St. John Bosco’s three pillars of action that I have embraced for the YMI in my Grand President’s Program. For this edition, I am covering the second pillar “Religion”. The pillar of “Religion” refers to our Catholic faith. To St. John Bosco, emphasizing this pillar meant encouraging people he met to come to God,

continued on page 4

The YMI Red and White Mass

Saturday, March 13, 2021



Where: Sacred Heart Catholic Church

1650 Lucerne Avenue
Dos Palos CA 93620

When: Saturday, March 13, 2021

- 4:30pm: YMI Banner Procession
- 4:45pm: Mass
- 6:00pm: Social Hour
- 7:00pm: Dinner
- 7:45pm: Pro Patria Raffle

Cost: Dinner Prices

Adults \$25 Children (16 and under) \$15

RSVP by February 25, 2021

For more information, please contact: Br. Darrell Fonseca GSVP

Tel: (209) 587-0356 E-Mail: cm@dospalos.org

The YMI Red and White Mass

NAME: _____

COUNCIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS: _____ @ \$25

NUMBER OF CHILDREN (16 AND UNDER): _____ @ \$15

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

**Celebrating
138 years
of Brotherhood**



Make checks payable to
Dos Palos YMI #99 by February
25th and mail to:
Darrell Fonseca
1418 East Blossom Street
Dos Palos CA 93620

Saturday, March 13, 2021

President's message continued from page 2

which in turn allowed them to find a fullness of meaning, a commitment to serve others, happiness, and other benefits from gaining spiritual faith.

Just as St. John Bosco did over a century ago, the YMI needs to be emphasizing Religion as a key part of its normal activities. If a YMI Council has not already, each Council should be working with their local pastor and priests to be more prominent as supportive organizations within their parishes. This can be accomplished by becoming active in Sunday Mass celebrations (e.g. volunteering to do the readings, presenting the offertory, joining the choir, etc.), by serving as church ushers or on parish committees, or by hosting or assisting with parish events (breakfasts, picnics, festivals, etc.).

To follow St. John Bosco's way, the YMI also needs to emphasize the "Religion" pillar outside the parish church walls in the way we conduct ourselves in our local communities. Sadly, some Catholics do not attend Mass regularly, so we would miss reaching these Catholics if we just are visible at Church. Accordingly, YMI Brothers should consider providing positive examples of Religion in our communities by helping at local food kitchens, collecting canned goods and used clothes for those in need, or volunteering at neighborhood schools (e.g., traffic guards, school monitors, etc.).

During my tenure in the YMI, I have seen evidence that several YMI Councils already actively support the "religion" pillar. While this is encouraging to see, it would be even better if ALL YMI Councils took some time to review how they are supporting religion in their communities and to consider new ways they can build onto this pillar. I do recognize these our difficult times with Covid-19, as some Councils may not be able to meet and some Churches may have restrictions on services/events. Nonetheless, YMI Councils can still review its religious-related activities and be ready to support this pillar when the normalcy returns. Through the efforts, the YMI can expect to gain more awareness from its community, which in turns will help with membership goals.

In closing, please let me extend my best wishes to all to keep healthy and safe and to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pro Deo, Pro Patria

Mike Amato

Grand President



NEW MEMBERS

<u>Member</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Council</u>
John Gill	Michael Amato	613
Eric Monteiro	Duarte Monteiro	44
Reagan Calaguas	Reginal Calaguas	613
Steven Ureta	John Kavanagh	613



State of the Institute and Membership

We all have an important role to play in our Brotherhood. Along with the Grand Council, I am seeking suggestions from all of our Brotherhood on how to improve our fraternal organization and especially ideas to increase our membership. If you have a suggestion send it to the Grand Council, Attention Br. Tom Fourie at P.O. Box 281047 or send me an e-mail at mjthissen@hotmail.com.

Please remember that all your ideas are welcome and need to be received for consideration by March 1, 2021. Once your suggestion has been received, the Grand Council will review and determine if the proposal will be published in the Institute Journal and subsequently presented to the Delegates at the June 2021 Grand Council Session in Lake Tahoe, NV.

While it is important for the Grand Council to support increased membership numbers, it is equally important for individual councils to review their own membership outreach and retention efforts. What are you doing to make YMI meetings a welcoming place for men of the parish? Are you keeping your members informed during this time when are being restricted from meeting and the decision of your officers'?

The Membership Committee has materials available to help you in your membership outreach efforts. Please take advantage of these resources.

Working together we can strengthen our fraternity so that it remains viable for our sons and grandsons.

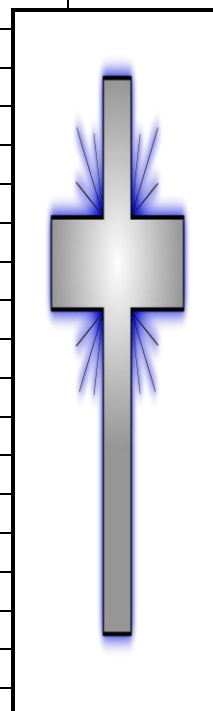
Pro Deo, Pro Patria

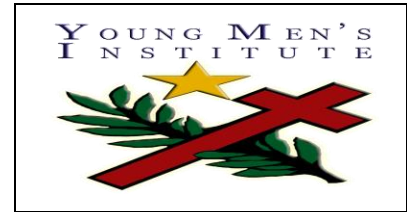
Mike Thissen, IPGP



IN MEMORIAM

<i>Member</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Council</i>
Jim Nichols	02-19-2020	44
Rev. Brian Costello	07-2020	32
Roy Bava	08-18-2020	32
Lawrence J. Marsalli	07-02-2018	#84/#900
Henry M. Burke	10-2016	#26/#900
Arthur Matoza	04-14-2014	#49/#900
Salvador Gil	05-14-2020	#84/#900
Ben Hiraga	02-2016	#86/#900
Peter Frechou	06-11-2020	60
Manuel Mendes Sr.	09-06-2020	44
Jerry DeGroot, PGP	09-19-2020	#88/#900
Timothy Silva	08-07-2020	44
Antonio DiVittorio	06-01-2020	2
Philip J. Zizzo	09-29-2020	2
James L. Fitch	02-17-2020	497
Andy Otton	10-20-2020	32
Patrick Kidd	10-21-2020	32
Richard Quesada	10-26-2020	#26/#900
Ralph Thissen	09-23-2020	94





GRAND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Br. DARRELL FONSECA 2020-2021

RED & WHITE MASS: Scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church in Dos Palos, CA. It will include a Presentation of Banners, Mass, Pro Patria Raffle, Meeting, and Dinner across the street in our Parish Hall. Spouses and guests will be welcome. YMI Grand Chaplain Fr. Agnel Heredia will celebrate the Mass. Our parish pastor, Rev. Dr. Anthony Iromenu will concelebrate. On October 8, 2020, our county was authorized to allow worship services to be conducted indoors limited to 25% or 100 people during the virus pandemic. Our community has experienced a 76% drop in virus cases, so we pray that the Governor will not reverse this status and that by March full capacity will be allowed. Sacred Heart Church and its Parish Hall are large enough to accommodate the usual YMI Red & White Mass attendance with adequate social distancing. Watch here for updates.

COUNCIL VISITS: July 14, 2020, Council 99 Dos Palos: My home council was hosted at Historic Guler Manor. We dined on fresh green salad, Italian sausage rigatoni with mozzarella, fine wines, discussed Grand election results, received scholarship thank you's, appointed our council officers as the Red & White Mass Host Committee, had closing prayers, and enjoyed apricot cobbler for dessert. July 22, 2020 Council 54 Sebastopol: We met at Carinalli Vineyards hosted by Br. Domenic Carinalli, GD, members enjoyed a fine barbecued steak dinner. GP Mike Amato presented the well deserved Council of the Year Award, discussed the life of St. John Bosco and its influence on his program. GFVP Nick Francechine promoted the Pro Patria Raffle and Essay contest. I spoke about the Red & White Mass and enjoyed talking with fellow (Guernsey) Dairy Farmer Domenic Carinalli. I also shared a brief discussion with Br. Angel Vera from Santa Rosa about recent happenings in Santa Rosa. September 1, 2020 Council 40 Santa Rosa/Postponed

Had planned to attend the Audit Committee meeting and Bocce Ball event but it was cancelled due to Br. Angel Vera's illness. He is recovering from the dreaded Covid virus and is in our prayers. September 15, 2020 Council 2 San Jose: With the passing of Grand President Mike Amato's mother this day, I subbed for him and enjoyed the virtual hospitality of Br. Frank Hepburn, PGP, Council 2 president and the other members. I discussed GP Mike's membership goals and program, the Pro Patria Essay and Raffle, and the Red & White Mass. Council 2 voted to buy three sheets of raffle tickets! September 23, 2020 Council 80 St. Christopher/Atwater: I'm learning to use Zoom, and met with a dozen members of Council 80 this evening. It was good to see and hear them. GP Mike Amato spoke. I extended my condolences to Brothers Mike PGP and Matt PGD Nelson for their recent loss, and asked that Council 80 consider broad participation in this year's Red & White Mass since we are so near to each other. Br. Bill Avery GD and Council President runs a good meeting. October 8, 2020 Council 44 Holy Rosary/Hilmar: Council 44 was gracious to allow me to participate under Good of the Order by Speaker Phone with the help of PGP Manuel Drummonde. I spoke briefly about participation in the Pro Patria Raffle and promotion of the Essay contest. The entire council was invited to attend the Red & White Mass in March as it will only be a 45 minute drive away. October 29, 2020 Council 40 Santa Rosa Financial Meeting: Joining with our Grand President Mike Amato, GFVP Nick Franceschine, and Business Manager Br. Tom Fourie PGP, I participated by telephone with officers from Council 40 regarding financial reporting. A lot of material was covered. We are pleased to hear Br. Angel Vera's voice and pray for his full recovery. Virtual Foundation meeting on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 and another conference call Board of Directors meeting Saturday, November 14, 2020.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2021 Pro Patria Essay Contest is Happening Now – We Need You!

Brothers! We have launched the 47th annual Pro Patria Essay Contest. This contest is open to all Catholic students in grades 7 through 12, in any public or private school. Thirty students will win prizes, and the total amount of prizes will be \$10,000!

All YMI brothers were mailed a copy of the Essay Contest application form. If you want more copies of the form, you can copy the one we sent you, or you can download the form from the YMI's web site: http://www.ymiusa.org/files/forms/Essay_Contest_Form.pdf

Or you can call Br. Nick Franceschine at 707-824-9600, and we'll mail you more.

This year, we have special challenges in running the essay contest. The Covid pandemic has caused most schools to conduct classes online. This means that teachers cannot easily hand out copies of our Essay Contest form to the students. For most of the students, everything will have to be done electronically, by email.

è So we need your help!! It will take a bit of extra effort this year to contact the schools in your area. Providing a paper copy of the Essay Contest form to the school, to the principal or even to individual teachers may not be enough. The best way to get the word out is for you to SEND AN EMAIL to the schools in your area. In your email, be sure to provide a link to the Essay Contest form on our YMI web site. Here it is again:

http://www.ymiusa.org/files/forms/Essay_Contest_Form.pdf

The teachers can then pass that email (or part of it) along to the students, and the students can then click on the link to get the entry form. Piece of cake.

Students can print out their essay and mail it to the YMI office, if they want to. Or they can just email their essay to the YMI email address: ymius@aol.com

Please do whatever you can to email the schools in your community about our Essay Contest. It costs you nothing to send this along, but this is a great way to get our name in front of lots of young people. Experience has shown that this really does lead to new members!

Another idea for getting the word out: ask if your pastor will put an article into your parish bulletin. You might be surprised at how excited the priests will be to have another activity that involves young people.

For God and country,

Br. Nick Franceschine, GFVP, Sebastopol Council #54

PLEASE SUPPORT THE YMI PRO PATRIA ESSAY CONTEST

Brothers! Please buy Pro Patria Raffle Tickets. The Pro Patria Raffle is how we get the money to support our YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest! That's it – that's the only purpose of the raffle. Our Essay Contest, now in its 47th year, is the largest YMI outreach effort that we have. This year, we are awarding 30 prizes totaling \$10,000 for students between the 7th and 12th grades! As the contest benefits all YMI Councils who sponsor students, it is fitting for all YMI Brothers to support our Essay Contest by buying raffle tickets.

Each raffle ticket sheet includes 8 raffle tickets, and various donation level options are available to consider. While we encourage all to make a \$40 donation by buying all 8 tickets, the Pro Patria Committee requests each YMI Brother buy at least 3 raffle tickets for \$25. The committee understands that some brothers may be experiencing financial challenges, so even a \$10 donation for one raffle ticket will be gratefully appreciated.

èBut wait – we have an even better deal for you! If you make an \$80 donation by buying TWO sheets of tickets – you get a THIRD sheet of tickets for free! That works out to 24 raffle tickets for only \$80, or just \$3.33 each.

Please complete the ticket stubs and return them along with a check payable to the YMI no later than March 1, 2021. The raffle tickets and your check should be mailed to the YMI Grand Council Office, P.O. Box 281047, San Francisco, CA 94128-1047.

The raffle will be held during the YMI Red & White Anniversary Mass Celebration in March, 2021. If you need more raffle ticket sheets, please make copies of the raffle ticket sheet or call Br. Nick Franceschine (707-824-9600) for more raffle ticket sheets.

Thank you for your support!

Educational Foundation Memorials/Donations

Mara Amato: Thomas and Patricia Fourie, John and Alice Albrecht, San Francisco Council #1, Clement Gusman, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde, John West

Roy Bava: Thomas and Patricia Fourie, South San Francisco Council #32

Linda Cravalho PGP, YLI: Clement Gusman

Jerry DeGroot: Thomas and Patricia Fourie, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde, Jim and Helen Mullen, Richard and Gloria Guaraldi, YMI Educational Foundation, John West

Robert A. Fiorito: Thomas and Patricia Fourie, Joe and Yvonne Soracco, The Stockwell Family

Patrick Kidd: South San Francisco Council #32

Manuel Mendes Sr.: Holy Rosary Council #44

Natalie Mendez: John West

Andy Otton: South San Francisco Council #32

Timothy Silva: Holy Rosary Council #44

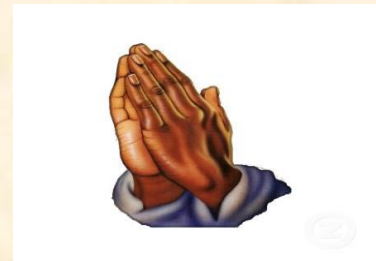
Get well wishes to David Mendez: John West

Get well wishes to John and Mary Musgrove: John West

Get well wishes to Mary Fox: John West

Get well wishes to Larry Andreatta: John West

Get well wishes to Mark Schwery: John West



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.

A SEARCH FOR COUNCIL #900 BROTHERS!!!!!!

The Grand Council Office has been attempting to contact the Brothers listed below. As you are reading this Winter Issue of the Institute Journal – if you can provide any information on the whereabouts of any of these Brothers – please call the Grand Council Office at 1-800-964-9646. We thank you in advance!

Benjamin T. Oyarzo (Formerly of Oakland Council #6)
Alexander Gomez (Formerly of Oakland Council #6)
Jose Mendoza (Formerly of Oakland Council #6)
Ralph L. Giacomini (Formerly of Petaluma Council #9)
Robert A. Villarreal (Formerly of Lawrence Council #26)
Ralph E. Bettinelli (Formerly of Petaluma Council #9)
Adolph P. Cheda (Formerly of Petaluma Council #9)
Donald J. Dalpino (Formerly of Marin Council #10)
Richard D. Woodall (Formerly of Marin Council #10)
Louis A. Langlamet, Jr. (Formerly of Marin Council #10)
Ivan Santiago (Formerly of St. Anthony de Padua Council #86)
Raymond Bastidas (Formerly of St. Anthony de Padua Council #86)
Joseph F. Mello (Formerly of St. Alphonsus Centennial Council #83)
Clifford E. Smelcer (Formerly of Junipero Serra Council #14)
George D. Dutchover (Formerly of St. Alphonsus Centennial Council #83)
Anthony J. Maselli (Formerly of St. Alphonsus Centennial Council #83)
Roger A. Formanek (Formerly of Junipero Serra Council #14)
James A. Carvalho, Jr. (Formerly of San Leandro Council #49)
Edward A. Moniz (Formerly of San Leandro Council #49)
Dr. Robert W. Mrak (Formerly of San Leandro Council #49)
John Michael Sequeira (Formerly of San Leandro Council #49)
Arthur L. Vargas (Formerly of Hayward Council #76)
Kevin J. Costa (Formerly of Hayward Council #76)
John M. Bringuel (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Thomas G. Changras (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Donald B. George (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Chet E. Lievre (Formerly of Hayward Council #76)
Louis Biagini (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Stephen A. Mello (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Richard J. Bezerra (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Edward A. Costa (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Augusto G. Luis (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Randy R. Rose (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Joe Lundy (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Stan Solid (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Robert L. Bragg (Formerly of Santa Clara Council #84)
Jeff R. Hanrahan (Formerly of Hayward Council #76)
Ronald C. Fugett (Formerly of Hayward Council #76)
Donald E. Muniz (Formerly of Hayward Council #76)
Jack Arizcuren (Formerly of Manteca Council #88)



YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BROTHER FRANK PIGNATI MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM 2021

Once again, the YMI Educational Foundation is proud to announce our Matching Funds Program for 2021. The intent of this program is to enhance and support YMI Councils, which have viable student scholarship programs in existence or are planning to have one during this school year.

All YMI Councils are encouraged to participate in this beneficial educational program. A cherished hallmark of the YMI has been to provide for the continued education of our young people.

Each Council may request any amount up to **\$800.00** in Matching Funds. Upon approval of the submitted request, the Educational Foundation will in turn write a check of any amount not to exceed **\$1,600.00** to the educational institution selected or the Council scholarship program as designated by the requesting Council. The requesting Council's general membership must vote for the request of Matching Funds during a regular business meeting, prior to submitting the Matching Funds Application, which is printed in this issue of the Institute Journal.

To participate in this program a Council must be participating or planning to participate in a scholarship program during this school year. A description of this participation is required on the application form that must be completed, submitted and postmarked not later than **April 1, 2021**. Barring a special circumstance request, Matching Fund checks will all be issued and mailed on **April 30, 2021**. PLEASE NOTE: Checks cannot be made payable to individual councils, they **MUST** be issued to a Council's scholarship program, directly to a school, or directly to an individual student. All checks will be mailed directly to the participating council's official address.

Yours for God and Country,

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP
Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP
Educational Foundation Directors





EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
 BROTHER FRANK PIGNATI
 MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM APPLICATION 2021

1. Name and number of requesting Council: _____
2. Description of your Council’s scholarship program. Please submit a written plan describing what the scholarship program consists of and how the money will be distributed.
3. Amount of Matching Funds requested (maximum amount per each Council is \$800.00): _____
4. Date of General Membership vote: _____ Number of votes: _____ YES
 _____ NO
5. Signature of Council President: _____
6. Signature of Executive Committee Chairman: _____

7. List the recipient of the Matching Funds Check below.

****PLEASE NOTE****

Checks will not be made payable to individual Councils and therefore cannot be deposited into the Council's regular checking account. The checks MUST be issued to a Council's scholarship program (which is a separate account), directly to a school, or directly to an individual student.

8. Submit completed application form and requesting Council check payable to:

**YMI Educational Foundation
 P. O. Box 281047
 San Francisco, CA 94128-1047**

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND POSTMARKED
 NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2021
 ALL CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED ON APRIL 30, 2021***

***Checks will be mailed directly to the participating council’s official address.
 Any questions please call 1-800-964-9646***

COUNCIL “BY-LAWS”

The Grand Council Office is doing an early “spring cleaning”. This effort has revealed that most copies of Council’s individual By-Laws are missing. Ten years ago, during the in-person Grand Council Audit of every Council, a request was made for each Council to submit an up-to-date copy of their By-Laws. During the past ten years we are sure your By-Laws have experienced some amending. We are therefore requesting each Council to forward their current up-to-date copy. If you need to bring your By-Laws up-to-date, please do so before submitting. If you have any questions, please contact the Business Manager at 1-800-964-9646. Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

History Request from the Grand Secretary.....

Brothers,

I will be updating the History section of the YMI website. With this in mind, if you have any pictures or documents from your Council that you would like to share with me, please make a copy of these items and send them to the World Headquarters to my attention.

For God and Country,

Br. Michael Dimech, PGP, Grand Secretary

DON'T FORGET

DON'T FORGET

DON'T FORGET

Spring 2021 Issue

**Due Date: February 28, 2021 ~ Please submit articles, pictures, etc. to
YMI Business Manager: YMIUS@aol.com**