

UNDER THE LAMP POST



Pro Deo Pro Patria

Vol. 131 Summer/Fall 2020



Grand President's Message

As the incoming Grand President, let me start by offering "Thanks!" to all my YMI Brothers. Specifically, I want to express my gratitude to ALL of you for overwhelmingly supporting me and my fellow Grand Council Officers during the recent YMI elections. While sadly we were not able to meet in person at the Grand Council Sessions this year, our technology-based virtual session resulted in the most

GRAND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

delegates participating and voting on business matters in many decades! Also, I want to convey my appreciation to the many YMI Brothers who have supported my efforts on behalf of the YMI during the past twelve years while I was serving as either the YMI Grand Secretary or as one of the Grand Vice-Presidents. Any accomplishment achieved during this period while leading or actively supporting Pro Patria Raffles, Essay Contests, Red & White Masses, bust trips, fundraisers, sports tourneys, etc., we did it together!



In addition, I would like to formally express gratitude to our past Grand President, Mike Thissen #94 for honorably serving the YMI well as Grand President last year. Br. Mike faithfully visited many YMI Council during the past year, while urging members to nurture growth and participation. While he was unfortunately not able to preside at the Grand Council Sessions in Reno in June as a result of the Covid pandemic, his service as Grand President was greatly appreciated and he deserves a round of applause at some future YMI event. Thank you for your service Br. Mike!

As the new Grand President, I probably should next share some background about myself. I joined the YMI back in 2004 at a young man of 46, when my dad, Br. Cosmo Amato, GOS #613, (YMI #613)

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He had actively tried to recruit me for many years to join, but I simply did not have the time as I had worked full-time managing a department of about 60-80 people and actively coached sports during my leisure time (i.e., basketball, baseball, and softball). As my children grew up and my coaching career ended, I finally relented and joined YMI #613. Within a short time, I became a YMI #613 officer and delegate. In 2008, I was elected as the YMI #613 President and served in that post for twelve consecutive years thereafter. Besides leading YMI #613, I have concurrently served proudly on the YMI Grand Council, being elected as Grand Marshall (2007), Grand Secretary (2008-2017), Grand 2nd Vice President (2018) and Grand 1st Vice President (2019). Hence, my resume includes much leadership experience in and outside the YMI!

It is fitting that my YMI Council's patron saint is St. John Bosco, as I grew up attending a Salesian school in San Francisco (i.e., Saints Peter & Paul School) and playing sports at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club. As such, St. John Bosco has been a role model for me in my life having heard many terrific stories of how this 19th century priest advocated for young men in his time and help them reach their potential as good, productive Catholics. Although the Church struggled in those days from apathy, distrust, and loss of faith (much like today), St. John Bosco successfully renewed interest in being Catholic by focusing his mission to the betterment and education of young people and by developing a revolutionary teaching method of his era focused on three basic pillars: Reason, Religion, and Loving Kindness.

For this edition of the Lamp Post, I will focus on the "Reason" pillar, while deferring discussion of the other pillars to future Lamp Post editions. The pillar of "Reason" is an important one, as it provides the explanation or justification for being a member. As I examined our "reason" for being a YMI member, it was apparent we have a clear three-fold purpose and a mission, as well as solid membership recruiting tools thanks to good to the work of brothers who served on the Membership

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Re-cap of the 135th Grand Council Session “Technology based”

First of all, I would like to thank Business Manager Tom Fourie and the convention committee for their time and effort putting this convention together in a technology based. This was first to comply with the social distancing measures that were in effect for health concerns of the Covid # 19 virus. The convention was started by sending the Board of Director, Grand Officers, and convention delegates the advance proceedings for review. The technology-based convention was conducted from 4-13-2020 to 6-27-2020. On 6-13-2020 a special Board of Directors meeting was conducted for questions and answers of the advance proceedings. A ballot was sent electronically or mailed. The voting was completed on 6-20-20. Roll call was conducted by ballots submitted.

The fellowship and meeting other members from other Councils was greatly missed. Also, the Masses and Father Agnel were missed. I would like congratulate our Grand President Mike Amato, all the new Officers and Board of Directors elected and thank them accepting the position. These times offer new challenges. I would like to thank all of you who supported me during this past year and look forward to seeing you at the next time we can meet in person.

Mike Thissen **IPGP**

President’s message continued from page 2

Committee in past years (Brothers Cresci, Dimech, Andreatta and Kavanagh to

name a few). We also have some core files of YMI historical data spanning 137 years of operations, which was developed way back in 1948 and updated about 20 years ago when Br. Fourie was the Grand President. Sadly, my perception in talking with YMI Brothers is that many do not know much about the YMI history and that may be because access to our history is extremely limited. Hence, under the Reason pillar, there are two specific areas that we can work to improve:

1. The YMI Grand Council’s Organization Committee should take the lead and build on the YMI History to bring it up to date and to make it available to all the YMI via the website. This way we can fully understand our roots.
2. Each YMI Council should review their own outreach methods to recruit new members and should designate a YMI Brother (or a Group of Brothers) to be the Membership Recruiting Coordinator. Recruiting needs to be an active process each month and not just a once of year activity.

Before concluding my remarks, I want to emphasize that St John Bosco was also a person that was not afraid to make changes to the status quo. Although he had some opponents high in the Catholic church that did not like his new approaches, St. John Bosco was not deterred and kept going forward to build a successful order that extends throughout the world today. Similarly, the YMI has made some good important changes over the past few years, which I have listed several in my Grand President’s Program. Currently, we are dealing with a serious Covid pandemic, which has caused some Councils to resultingly suspend operations in response to public health restrictions. As a cure for Covid may be awhile away, we will need to look at making new changes in how Councils meet and hold events. I have noticed that a few Councils are meeting over Zoom or using teleconferencing, while other Councils are meeting outdoors keeping social distance apart and wearing masks. Moreover, the YMI Grand Directors will be using Zoom at its next meeting in September for the very first time. I applaud all these innovative steps to respond to the pandemic and I encourage other Councils to consider changes they can make, so that we can meet safely in the short-run and allow the YMI to succeed over the longer term.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria

Mike Amato

YMI 2020 AWARDS

Although we did not have a formal Grand Council Session in Reno this year, the important work of the YMI went forward in June during our Virtual Session using advanced technology (internet and conference calls). Among those work efforts, the Grand Council announced the following 2020 YMI Award Winners:

YMI Council of the Year

Sebastopol Council #54

Actively served on YMI Grand Council with three Brothers assuming Grand Officer positions (i.e., Brother Franeschine, Brother Carinalli and Brother Wallin)

Led organizing efforts for the 2020 Red & White Mass (unfortunately had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic)

Ardently supported Pro Patria essay contests of the years by sponsoring students at local schools Sebastopol and doubling the sale of their raffle tickets

Participated with the local YLI Institute on hosting several successful events (e.g., Christmas luncheon, St. Patrick's Day fundraiser)

Faithfully supported parish church and pastor as needed to become a dependable organization for the community



YMI Man of the Year

Brother Paul Larson #32, GD

Assumed various leadership positions within his Council, including three stints as Council #32's President (including one year when Council #32 received Council of the Year honors)

Chaired Council #32's Food Basket Program and Christmas Parties as well as selflessly took on other duties as needed (e.g., tending bar, working on raffle committees)

Participated regularly at Grand Council events (e.g., Red & White Mass, Grand Council Sessions and YMI Golf Tournaments)

Agreed to step up and become a YMI Grand Director for 2020-2022

Faithfully supported both his parish and family over the years in various capacities



CONGRATULATIONS



YMI 2020 Resolution

Father Armand Oliveri, #613

Celebrated his 100th Birthday in March 2020

Faithfully served the Catholic community as a Salesian priest for about 70 years, most notably at Saints Peter & Paul Church in San Francisco, where he is truly adored.

Long-time YMI member and former Chaplain of St. John Bosco Council #613 (his roots in the YMI go back to the 1920's when his father and uncle joined our Order)

The most recognized and respected man in the North Beach area of San Francisco



ARCHIVE FINDINGS

As reported during the July Board of Grand Directors Meeting, a group of four YMI Officers visited and cleaned out the remains of the YMI Archives, located in a closet at All Souls Catholic School in South San Francisco.

Looking through much of the YMI history and keeping in mind one of Grand President Michael Amato's goals for this year, a record of past Institute Journals and Advance Proceedings was recorded.

Advance Proceedings (programs for each year's Grand Council Session) were found for every year going back to 1952. In addition, Advance Proceedings from 1932, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1945 and 1946 were also located. This totals 76 years of recorded history of the YMI.

As for the Institute Journals (the Lamp Post) copies dating back to 1960 were found as well as very old volumes going back as far as the late 1800s. However, there is one significant gap – that being issues dating from 2002-2015.

If any Brother or Council has copies of any missing documents to fill in the void – the Grand Council Office would be happy to accept them in order to complete the YMI story from the past 135 years.

Please contact Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager if you can help or have any questions (leads would be most helpful).

Educational Foundation Memorials/Donations

Rev. Brian Costello: South San Francisco Council #32

Frank De Luz III: Clement Gusman

Matthew Fantazia: Holy Rosary Council #44

Mark Ferreira: Manuel and Celeste Drumonde, Holy Rosary Council #44

Darlene Guaraldi: John West

Antone Mello: Holy Rosary Council #44

Mary Mosier: Jim and Helen Mullen

Dan Ramos: Holy Rosary Council #44,

Manuel and Celeste Drumonde, Christopher and Sandra Freeberg

Ralph Serpa: Holy Rosary Council #44, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde

Bernard Souza Jr.: Holy Rosary Council #44, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde



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.

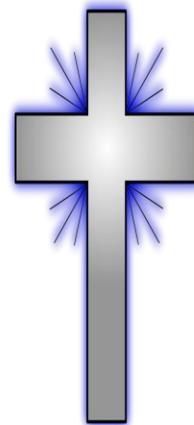
Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Member	Sponsor	Council
Michael Dutra	Vargas Michael Bacchetti	92
Manuel Martin	Castro Michael Bacchetti	92
Brian R. Alamo	Michael Bacchetti	92
Harrison L. Borges	Michael Bacchetti	92
Rev. Isaque Meneses	Manuel Druomonde Sr,	44
Justin Edleo	Danny Avila	44
Jay Sasan	Reinstated	573
Dominic Panina	Michael Amato	613
Bryan Blake	Michael Amato	613

IN MEMORIAM

Member	Date	Council
Antone L. Mello Jr.	03-22-2020	44
Matthew A. Fantazia	03-31-2020	44
Daniel A. Ramos	04-17-2020	44
Stephen Steczynski	05-13-2020	613
James F. Harris	06-26-2020	497
Orville R. Messmer	03-08-2020	497
Mark F. Ferreira	05-31-2020	44
Frank De Luz	07-26-2020	573
Marvin Colla	05-31-2020	2
Alfred L. Bucchianeri	06-02-2020	613





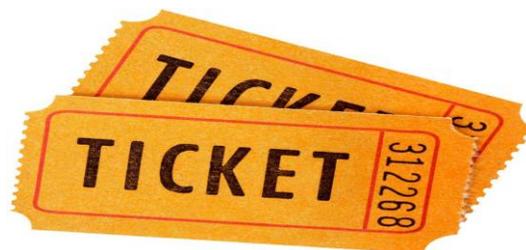
Essay Time.....

Grand First Vice President Nick Franceschine #54 is happy to announce the 47th Pro Patria Essay Contest for 2020-2021. A copy of the student entry form for this year can be found on page 10 (the next page) of this issue of the Institute Journal.

Given the general health status of our country and now the “fire season” in so many states – it will take some very creative actions on the part of our YMI Brothers to get the entry form into the hands of all our potential writers. School contacts will become somewhat more difficult and speaking with classroom teachers will require additional time and effort. Hopefully, the use of technology will be able to be employed to reach everyone. The entry form can also be found on the YMI website. Children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and family friends/neighbors should always be a source of student writers. Everyone is asked to do all that you can to solicit entrants. (Last year we were close to 1000 essays submitted).

All YMI Brothers will be receiving soon, via US Mail, their envelope containing an essay entrant form and your Pro Patria Raffle Tickets – the ultimate fund raiser to provide prize money for the student writers. Based on the tremendous success of last year’s Pro Patria Raffle we have been able this year to increase the prize money awarded. Let’s do it again this year!!! Please purchase your tickets and return them to the Grand Council Office as soon as possible.

Please remember, that the Pro Patria Essay Contest is the largest and most successful outreach program of the YMI.





Young Men's Institute
Forty-Seventh Annual
Essay Contest

Cash Prizes to be Awarded:

	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
Grand Prize	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
2 nd Place	\$500.00	\$ 750.00
3 rd Place	\$500.00	\$ 750.00
4 th Place	\$400.00	\$ 600.00
5 th Place	\$300.00	\$ 450.00
6 th - 8 th Place	\$200.00	\$ 300.00
9 th -15 th Place	\$100.00	\$ 150.00

Contest Rules:

1. Topics

7 & 8 Grades – Many people have a favorite saint who inspires them. Describe how your actions or behavior have been influenced by things that were said or done by the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, or some other saint. Provide examples to explain your response.

9 – 12 Grades – In 2020, a virus called Covid-19 affected the entire world. Based on what you observed in your own community or country, do you believe that the local or national government responded effectively to the pandemic? List several reasons why you believe it was (or was not) handled effectively. Support your answer with specific examples.

- Contest is open to any Catholic student (Private or Public School).
- A Young Men's Institute member or Council must sponsor each student entry.
- The essay must be original and not more than 500 words.
- The essay can be word processed, typed, or neatly hand printed.
- The essay must be accompanied by the information requested by the Entry Form. (See "Entry Form" section)
- All entries must be received by January 15, 2021.
- 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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Brothers !!! Are You Current???

Brothers, in light of action taken and passed under the State of the Institute proposal at our recent 135th Grand Council Session, Brothers should confirm with their Council Secretary the beneficiary listing they have on file. It is each YMI Brother's responsibility to keep this data current so that when and if needed the Order can move forward in a timely fashion.

DON'T FORGET

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Winter 2020 Issue

Due Date: ***October 31, 2020*** ~ Please submit articles, pictures, etc. to

YMI Business Manager: YMIUS@aol.com