

# *FRANCIS COUNCIL NO. 573* *YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE*

*Pro Deo*

*Pro Patria*

## **COUNCIL CHATTER** *FEBRUARY 2026*

### **GRAND PRESIDENT'S VISIT/FEBRUARY MEETING CHANGE**

We are anticipating the visit from our Worthy Grand President Brother Bill Walls. The Grand President will be on the Big Island and in Hilo from February 18 – 25, 2026. The Grand President will make his official visit to Francis Council at our regular monthly meeting, **that has been changed to Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 11:30 a. m.**, to accommodate the Grand President's visit.

We will have our YMI Day/Chaplain's Night Social on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Poly Feng Yuan Restaurant (former Kow's Restaurant), 81 W. Kawaihine Street, in Hilo. A family style dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The menu will include Oyster Chicken, Sweet Sour Spare Ribs, Mongolian Beef, Shrimp Chow Mein, Abalone Pork Vegetable Soup, Char Siu Egg Foo Young, Beef Broccoli, and Fried Rice. Water and Tea will be provided. Attendees are welcome to bring their own beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and desserts are welcome. As was announced in previous Chatters, due to increased costs, commencing with this social event, Council members and one (1) guest will be charged \$10.00 per person and additional guests will be charged the full price, to be determined based upon the restaurant charge, for social events held at community restaurants. For this event, the additional guest cost will be \$35.00 per guest. Reservations are required for this event. Please call your reservations to the following by Thursday, February 19, 2026:

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thomas E. Figueira | (808) 964-5332 or (808) 895-0827 |
| Clement A. Gusman  | (808) 895-4498                   |

We do expect to have additional events in conjunction with the Grand President's visit. They will be announced via email, text, phone, etc.

### **2026 DUES BILLINGS**

For those members owing dues, enclosed with the last Chatter was your 2026 dues billings. As in years past, members may choose to make an optional donation to the 2026 YMI Educational Foundation Brother Frank Pignati Matching Funds Program along with their dues payment. Details of the program were included in a previous Chatter. Francis Council has designated the 2026 St. Joseph's High School Graduation Awards for the matching funds donation. Once again, the Council is soliciting donations from our membership to help offset the Council's matching funds request. The Council will supplement the membership donations up to the maximum \$1500.00 request. At press time, total Matching Funds donations stand at \$709.00.

### **YMI PRO PATRIA RAFFLE TICKETS**

Francis Council is issuing an urgent plea for our members to please make sure to return your raffle tickets. At the Board of Grand Directors Meeting held on Saturday, January 24, 2026, it was reported that only three out of forty-three members of Francis Council had returned their tickets. We expect that more have returned their tickets since then but we definitely can and should do better. The raffle provides all of the funds used to support the essay contest. Each raffle ticket sheet includes eight (8) tickets and various donation level options. The best value ticket purchase is twenty-four (24) tickets for \$80.00—that's three sheets for the price of two.

(over)

### **NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS**

A nominating committee is being formed in preparation for the upcoming elections of officers in June 2026. We are anticipating some critical vacancies for the 2026-2027 term. If you are asked, please consider lending yourself to the Council leadership.

### **NEW MEMBER**

At our January meeting, Francis Council was pleased to initiate Brother John Nobriga as a new member of our Order. We welcome Brother John and look forward to his presence and contributions at our meetings and functions.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 18, 2026 | ASH WEDNESDAY   |
| Saturday, February 21, 2026  | YMI Day/Chaplain's Night Social, further details to be determined.  |
| Sunday, February 22, 2026    | Regular Monthly Meeting/Grand President's Official Visit,<br>Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall, Papaikou, 11:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, March 15, 2026       | Regular Monthly Meeting, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall,<br>Papaikou, 11:30 a.m.                                  |
| Friday, April 3, 2026        | GOOD FRIDAY   |
| Sunday, April 6, 2026        | EASTER SUNDAY--HALLELUJAH, HE IS RISEN!!!   |
| Sunday, April 19, 2026       | Regular Monthly Meeting, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall,<br>Papaikou, 11:30 a.m.                                  |