



YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613 DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting: December 9th @ 7:00 p.m. (St. Cecilia's Green Rm.)

Menu: Dinner coordinated by Br. Bob Fiorito

Stop by between 6:30-7:00 p.m. for a beverage; dinner at about 7:00 p.m. The meeting concludes with our popular "Find the Joker" game.

YMI #613 Events & Activities:

YMI Christmas Party: The annual YMI #613 Christmas Party will take place on **Sunday, December 14th**. The event will take place at **Dominic's Restaurant @ Oyster Point** beginning at 6:00 p.m., and it will include a spectacular Christmas Raffle. **See the attached flyer for event details and to make reservations.** The deadline for reservations is **December 2nd**. Please contact **Br. Mike Amato at 650-296-6297**, if questions about the Christmas Party. In addition, please contact **Br. George Totah at 415-418-0553**, if you would like to donate a prize for our Christmas Raffle. Please also remember to bring canned goods/toiletries to the Christmas Party to help those in need.

Jim Calabretta Essay Contest - Essays for our 23rd Essay Contest are due soon with the **submission deadline being December 6th**. The contest features 50 cash prizes for college, high school, and middle school students totaling \$21,000! **See the attached contest flyer for topics, rules, and entry form.** Please share this contest flyer with any student in your family. You may also sponsor 2 non-family students to help build awareness and interest in the YMI. If any questions about the contest, please contact **Br. John Kavanagh at jkavesq@gmail.com**.

2026 Budget/Dues – We plan to discuss and vote on a 2026 Budget & Dues Proposal at our December 9th meeting. As covered during our November meeting, a Budget Committee (i.e., Kavanagh, Fiorito, C & M Amato, Cleary, Goulding & Wuerstle) was formed and it met on November 18th to discuss ideas for the 2026 budget. Our Treasurer Br. Kavanagh will present a proposal at our next meeting reflecting the committee's consensus. Most notably, the proposed 2026 dues will remain the same if the proposal is adopted. The committee also is recommending a few increases to our annual donation program (**see the proposed by-law changes at the end of this document**), as well as increasing the Cosmo Amato YMI Scholarship program. Please plan to attend the December meeting to vote on the 2026 Budget/Dues.

Council #32: Louis Guraldi Food Basket Program – Each year during the Christmas holidays, Council #32 collects and distributes canned goods, toiletries, toys, etc. to give to those in need in Northern San Mateo County. Council #32 plans to surpass past good work efforts and give out 300 boxes this year! If you are interested in doing something good for the community this Christmas season by either donating money/goods or working to prepare/deliver boxes (Dec 19@1:00 p.m. &/or Dec 20@8:00 a.m. at All Souls Church Auditorium), please contact either **Br. Paul Larson (415-215-2297)** or **Br. Steve Cresci (415-297-5816)** for more information about helping with this worthy cause.

YMI Grand President Official Visit: YMI Grand President Bill Walls #80 will be visiting the YMI SF District at our scheduled meeting on **Tuesday January 13th**. We will be joined that evening by several Brothers from YMI #32 from South SF and possibly a few Brothers from YMI #80 in Atwater. As the meeting will involve more people than usual, we will meet in the **St. Cecilia Lower Church**. Please plan to attend this meeting and hear from the YMI Grand President.

YMI Pasta Bingo: Please save the date of **February 14th**. The YMI Grand Council plans to hold its popular **Pasta Bingo** event this year on **Valentine's Day at St. Cecilia's Lower Church**. **Br. Mike Dimech #613 and Br. Steve Cresci #32** are working on event details to come. Plan to bring your special Valentine, as well as your family to this event! Proceeds will support the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest Fund.

YMI Red & White Mass: Please also save the date of **March 14, 2026**. Our **Grand 2nd Vice President Mario Balistreri** is organizing the YMI Anniversary celebration event this year to be held at St. Cecilia's. The Red & White event includes Mass at St. Cecilia's Church and dinner afterwards with YMI Brothers from many YMI Councils in the state. More details will be provided as we get closer to the event date.

YMI Raffle Tickets: In September, you should have received a YMI letter asking you to buy raffle tickets for the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest (this is separate essay contest than the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest discussed above).

- We ask all our members to buy raffle tickets as the funds collected ultimately support students who participate in the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- We invite you to share the essay contest application with students you know. The contest requires a 500-word essay and the deadline is January 16th, 2026. You can download the essay contest from:
https://ymiusa.org/files/forms/Essay_Contest_Form.pdf

Hour of Memory: Thank you to those folks who participated in the **Hour of Memory** event on November 2nd and particularly to our event chair **Br. Mario Balistreri**. We had a fitting remembrance ceremony for our past YMI #613 Brothers and the dinner served afterwards at the SF Italian Athletic Club was excellent.

Bocce Ball Tourney: We had 12 teams participate in this year's Bocce Ball Tournament (*number #15 in total*) held on November 8th at Orange Park in South SF. The teams mainly came from three YMI Councils (#32, #54 & #613). Many competitive games were played that day and we were blessed to have great Fall weather. In the end, YMI #32 took 1st place again and YMI #613 finished in 2nd place with a team headed by our **President, Br. Bob Fiorito**. Kudos to **Br. Mike Dimech** for all his great work chairing this tourney each year, as well as to his family for assisting him cook and buy raffle prizes!

YMI #613 Council Info:

Personal Info Changes: If you have recently changed any of your personal info (e.g., phone number, e-mail address, mailing address, etc.), please contact **Br. Mike Amato at 650-296-6296 to update your YMI contact information**. We have noted that several of you had cancelled your landline phone or changed your e-mail accounts. If you haven't already, **please let us know in writing of any updated info** in case we need to contact you. Similarly, for YMI Death Benefit coverage, please advise us **in writing** if there have been any changes to your listed beneficiary.

Canned Good Reminder: Please remember to bring canned goods or toiletries to our monthly YMI #613 meetings. All items collected are delivered monthly by **Br. Mike Dimech** to the Catholic Workers' Hospitality House in San Bruno.

Membership Status: Our YMI #613 membership level remains at 113 members (i.e., 93 Benefit Members, 5 Junior Members, & 15 Honorary Members). **YMI #613 is now the 4th largest YMI Council!** Given that 2025 is nearly over, **we will only seek to collect 2026 dues from any new members brought to our December meeting.** We urge you to invite a brother, cousin, friend, co-worker, or a neighbor to become part of our terrific YMI Order!

Meal Coordinators: Here is the line-up of YMI #613 Brothers volunteering to serve as **meal coordinators in 2026.** As a meal coordinator, you basically just need 1) to place an order for food for about 25-30 people at a restaurant that either delivers or has pick-up service and 2) take a lead role with the meal set-up & clean-up during the meeting.

- January: Br. Jeff Wu (Grand President Official Visit---expect 40-45)
- February: Br. Rod Ordon (Chinese New Year: Asian)
- March: Br. Mike Amato (Irish: Corned Beef)
- April: Br. George Totah
- May: Br. John Kavanagh (Cinco de Mayo: Mexican)
- June: Br. Jeff Schwind
- July: Br. Mario Balistreri
- August: Br. John Bower
- September: Br. Dominic Panina
- October: Br. Mike Dimech
- November: Br. Stephen Goulding (Thanksgiving: Turkey)
- December: Br. Bob Fiorito

Congratulations, Salutes, & Sentiments:

- **Congratulations:**
 - We congratulate **Br. Mike Dimech** on his retirement from the Chevron Oil Company, after working there for nearly 38 years.
 - We congratulate **Brothers Brendan Falvey, Steven Goulding, and Joe Soracco** for each earning 50-year degrees from Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC). Each of these YMI Brothers was a member of the SHC Class of 1975.
- **Greetings:**
 - We heard recently from **Br. Dick Pisciotta** (one of our 50-year members). Dick is approaching his 92nd birthday, and he and his wife Connie are doing well living at the Oakmont Montecito Senior Center in Concord, CA. He described the living experience "like being on a cruise ship", where he can eat up to 5 times a day, watch movies, play cards, go on field trips, etc. Dick keeps up with the YMI reading the newsletter and says to say "Hello!"
 - We welcome back **Br. Jeff Morrow**. He and his wife Gloria took a wonderful trip recently to southern Italy.
 - We extend a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** wish to all our YMI #613 YMI Brothers, wives, and families!
- **Condolences:** We send out condolences to the Gobbo family on the recent passing of **Joan Gobbo**. Joan was the widow of Br. Bob Gobbo, who previously passed away in 2010.
- If anyone has a personal/family milestone or event to share with your YMI Brothers or are seeking prayers for a loved one from the YMI network, please send info to **Br. Mike Amato** (text to 650-296-6297 or e-mail to mamato871@aol.com)

Birthdays: Happy Birthday to the following YMI #613 Brothers who will be celebrating birthdays in December

Br. A.J. Del Campo	12/1
Br. James Daly	12/2
Br. Joe Soracco	12/3
Br. Nick Bruna	12/5
Br. George Rehmet	12/8
Br. Fred Dayoan	12/10
Br. Steven Ureta	12/10
Br. Noel Laffey	12/12
Br. Alphonse Tolenga	12/13
Br. Nick Varanis	12/16
Fr. Andrew Spyrow	12/21
Br. David Mees	12/23
Br. Rafaael Guajardo	12/25
Br. Carlos Del Campos	12/27
Br. Jerick Rea	12/28
Br. Liam Reidy	12/30
Br. Daniel Panina	12/31

ARTICLE 18

Donation Policy

Section 1 – Donation Objectives: The Council seeks to provide financial support for qualifying charitable organizations that assist youth groups, Catholic religious orders, and other Catholic or humane causes. Although the Council prefers that such organizations be locally based in the San Francisco Bay Area or Northern California, the members may grant exceptions for worthwhile organizations or for extraordinary catastrophic events elsewhere requiring humanitarian relief.

Section 2 – Donation Restrictions/Limitations: The Council provides the following restriction/limitations:

- a. Donations shall not generally exceed a \$250 maximum per charitable organization in a calendar year except:
 - for the amounts provided annually to the organizations listed below in Section 3 or
 - for a maximum \$500 amount as approved by the membership for worthwhile organizations in dire need, or to provide humanitarian relief covering an extraordinary catastrophic event.
- b. Donations for a calendar year shall be within the overall budget set forth by the Council each calendar year.
- c. Donations shall not be made for building or capital campaigns.
- d. Except for those organizations receiving annual mandatory donation awards as covered in Section 3 below, all donation requests need to be submitted to the Council in a written document (i.e., YMI donation form, letter from organization). The document needs to provide the name, address, and tax identification number of the organization, as well as the purpose for funds requested. It is permissible for a council member to prepare and submit a completed donation form on behalf of an organization.

Section 3 – Donation Process: Requests for donations may be considered by the Council when included on the meeting agenda. Any Council member may make a motion, or second a motion, to sponsor a donation request. The Executive Committee may be requested by the Council to follow-up on donation requests to determine an organization's worthiness. Each donation request requires approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a meeting. As an exception to this donation process, the Council recognizes the following donations to be annual mandatory donation awards that do not require a specific vote of the members, unless a motion and second are received to suspend or cancel the donation:

- a. St John Bosco Seminarians - \$2000 per year to be issued in January near the St John Bosco Feast Day (January 31st)
- b. St Patrick's Seminary - \$2000 per year to be issued in the ~~Fall Quarter~~ September/October period.
- c. Saints Peter & Paul Church - \$2~~50~~00 per year (\$1000 at Easter and \$1~~50~~00 Christmas).
- d. St Cecilia Church - \$2~~50~~00 per year (\$1000 at Easter and \$1~~50~~00 Christmas).
- e. Salesian Boys & Girls Club - \$1000 per year to be issued in the Summer quarter
- d-f. San Francisco-Marin Food Bank - \$1000 per year to be issued in the Fall quarter

ARTICLE 19

Council Events & Activities

Section 2 – Annual Events/Activities: Council #613 shall undertake effort to provide the following events/activities annually:

- a. Essay Contest (hereafter named the YMI St. John Bosco Council #613 Jim Calabretta Essay Contest)
- b. Ladies Night
- c. Hour of Memory for Deceased Members
- d. Christmas Party
- d-e. 8th Grade Scholarship Program (hereafter named the YMI Cosmo Amato Scholarship Award)