



**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613
MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER**

**Next Meeting: March 10th @ 7:00 p.m. (St. Cecilia's Green Room.)
Irish Corned Beef Dinner coordinated by Br. Mike Amato
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 Red & White Mass: Please plan to attend our YMI anniversary celebration, (aka YMI Red & White Mass/Dinner) on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**. **Br. Mario Balistreri, the Grand 2nd Vice President** is organizing this celebration, and we expect to be joined by many YMI Councils throughout California. Being our Council is hosting the event, we hope to see many YMI Brothers and their wives/families there that evening. The Red & White event will begin with a YMI Banner Procession & Mass in St. Cecilia's Church starting at 4:30 p.m. Afterwards, we will enjoy an excellent dinner in the Lower Church followed by the Pro Patria Raffle. The cost for the dinner is just \$30 per person. **To make reservations, please see the attached flyer.** If any questions about the Red & White Mass, please contact **Br. Mario Balistreri at 650-922-2667.**

Jim Calabretta Essay Contest: The **Essay Contest Awards Ceremony** is scheduled on **March 28th at 3:00 p.m.** 78 essays were submitted for our 23rd Essay Contest back in December and about 50 students will be receiving prizes that day. More information about the awards ceremony will be provided by the event chair, Br. John Kavanagh to the students and to our members at the next YMI Meeting. If any questions, **please contact Br. John Kavanagh at jkavesq@gmail.com.**

Ladies Night: Please save the date of **Sunday, May 3rd** for our popular **Ladies Night Dinner**. The event will take place once again at the **Westlake Joe's Restaurant**, starting at 5:00 p.m. for cocktails and 5:45 p.m. for dinner. **To make reservations, please see the attached flyer.** If any questions, **please contact the event chair, Br. Bob Fiorito at 650-867-6702.**

YMI Golf Tourney: Get ready to hit the links on **Sunday April 19th**. The YMI will be hosting its annual golf tournament at nearby **Crystal Springs Golf Course** this year. The cost per golfer is \$150, but YMI #613 will likely subsidize a good portion of the golf fees from those playing for YMI #613. If any questions about this event, please contact **Br. Bob Fiorito at 650-867-6702.**

YMI Bowling Tourney: For those interested, the YMI Bowling Tourney is scheduled on **May 17th** in Stockton, CA at Pacific Lanes. The cost for a 5-person team is just \$75 (and the fee will be subsidized by YMI #613 for those members that bowl). To make reservations, please complete the entry form on the YMI website at: https://ymiusa.org/files/events/YMI_Bowling_Tournament_2026.pdf

YMI Family Mass: The YMI's turn to host the St. Cecilia's Family Mass is Sunday May 31st. Please save the date to help as we will need volunteers. Specifically, we will need YMI #613 Brothers to assist at the 9:30 a.m. Mass and afterwards to serve coffee and donuts. We will likely take sign-ups at the May Meeting.

YMI Raffle Tickets: Last September, you should have received a YMI letter asking you to buy YMI raffle tickets for the **YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest** (*this is separate essay contest than the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest discussed above*). We kindly ask all our members to buy YMI raffle tickets as the funds collected ultimately support students who participate in the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest. **So far about 27% of our members have bought tickets.** It's not too late! If you lost the letter, please contact Br. Dimech or Br. Amato for raffle ticket forms.

YMI Pasta Bingo: The **YMI Pasta Bingo**, which was held on February 14th. was a huge success raising almost \$2600 for the YMI's Pro Patria Essay! Nearly 90 people attended and they enjoyed a wonderful pasta dinner, 10 games of bingo, and a terrific raffle. Kudos to the event co-chairs, **Br. Mike Dimech and Br. Steve Cresci #32**. Also, a big "thank you!" to the many YMI Brothers who helped with the set-up, the event itself, and/or the clean-up (i.e., **Br. Mike Amato, Br. Mario Balistreri, Br. Bob Fiorito, Br. Joe Soracco, Br. Mike Baglin, Br. George Totah, Br. Tom Fourie #32, Br. Alex Schmidt #8, Jeanne Dimech, Teresa Balistreri, Mara Amato, Pola Fiorito, Pat Fourie and Linda Cresci**).

YMI Convention: YMI #613 may select **5 elected delegates** to attend the Grand Council Session (aka YMI Convention) to take place in Lake Tahoe between June 15-18th. These elected delegates will join up at the convention with the 5 YMI #613 Brothers who are currently Grand Officers (i.e. **Br. Mike Amato, Br. Mario Balistreri, Br. John Cleary, Br. Mike Dimech, Br Bob Fiorito**). Hence, we may have a delegation of 10 Brothers at the Convention. A good portion of a delegate's costs to attend are covered by the YMI #613 Council. If you're interested in being an elected delegate, **please let Br. Mike Amato know of your intention before or at the March 10th meeting.** (So far, I have heard that **Br. Joe Soracco and Br. Dominic Panina** are willing to be YMI #613 delegates, but we still have a few spots.). **We will vote to determine YMI #613 elected delegates at the March 10th Meeting.**

YMI #613 Council Info:

2026 Membership Dues – Please remember to pay your membership dues!

Fortunately, only a handful of members still owe 2026 YMI dues. With a **\$15 late fee, the cost to continue in the YMI rises to \$100. If no payment is made by March 10th, you will be dropped as a YMI member.** Checks are acceptable, made payable to "YMI Council #613" and sent to **YMI Council #613, P.O. Box 320584, San Francisco, CA 94132**. Venmo is also a pay option. **If any questions about the dues, please contact Br. John Kavanagh at 415-735-8430 or at jkavesq@gmail.com.**

Membership Status:

- Our YMI #613 membership level remains at 113 members, although it may be impacted soon by about 5 members till owing dues. Although we are dropping one member (i.e., Michael Echon), we welcome **Br. James Lewis** into YMI #613. Br. James joined us at the recent Pasta Bingo dinner, after being sponsored by **Br. Art Jimenez**. He is a musician and looks forward to attending a YMI Meeting.
- YMI currently 94 Benefit Members, 4 Junior Members, & 15 Honorary Members and we are **the 4th largest YMI Council!**

- Please consider bringing a relative, friend, co-worker, or a neighbor to become part of our terrific YMI Order!

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 mamato871@aol.com to update your YMI contact information. We have noted that several members have either cancelled landline phones or changed their e-mail addresses. 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 recent 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.

Elections: Per the YMI #613 By-Law, elections for the various Council Offices are held every two years in May of an even year. Each office post has a 2-year term and there are no term limits for the various Brothers holding an office or serving on a committee. As it is only a few months from May, all YMI #613 Brothers are requested to consider their willingness to serve (or continue to serve) the YMI as an officer or committee member for the term beginning July 2026-June 2028. You may contact the **Business Manager (Br. Mike Amato)** at **650-296-6297** if you are interested in being a candidate for any office or if questions about any of the duties associated with those positions. *FYI--Hearing a rumor that Br. Fiorito may seek another two-year term. Other incumbents should decide if they want to join Br. Bob.*

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.

- 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:

- **Achievements/Milestones:**
 - We congratulate **Br. George Rehmet** on recently being awarded the January "Employee of the Month" by the San Mateo County Office of Education.
 - We congratulate **Br. Mike Dimech** on the birth of his **new granddaughter McKenzie** in February. While we're at it, let's also congratulate the dad, **Br. Brendan Dimech**.
 - We congratulate **Br. Mike Amato** on the news that he will become a grandfather again after learning his daughter Rachel is expected to have a boy in late July.
 - We also congratulate **Br. Mike Amato** for winning Council #32's "Find the Joker" Raffle in February. Br. Mike teamed up with **YMI Business Manager Tom Fourie** to split the pot, after pulling the Joker from a pile of 21 cards!

- **YMI Anniversaries:** We congratulate the following YMI Brothers on attaining the 5 year membership milestones during 2026. At 5 years, a YMI member becomes vested in the YMI's \$2500 Death Benefit program, as long as he remains a member in good standing:
 - **Br. John Bower**
 - **Br. Joseph Curran**
 - **Br. Carlos Del Campo**
 - **Br. Luis Jimenez**
 - **Br. Vilaska Nguyen**
 - **Br. George Totah**

- **Thank you's:** We thank the following YMI #613 Brothers for volunteering to judge essays in the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest:
 - **Br George Rehmet**
 - **Br Bob Kensic**
 - **Br. Reggie Calaguas**
 - **Br. Jeff Schwind**
 - **Br. Mario Balistreri**
 - **Br. Mike Dimech**
 - **Br. Mike Amato**

- **Shout-Outs:** We send a shout out to **Past Grand President John West #32**. He recently called **Br. Mike Amato** to check-in and say hello. Although Br. West moved to Mt. Vernon, Washington (NE Washington by the Canadian border) not too long ago for health reasons, he keeps active in the YMI by reading organizational e-mail communications, including YMI #613's newsletter. Br. John was very complimentary of the information provided in our newsletter and urges YMI #613 Brothers to be active in the YMI.

- 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 March:

Br. John Bower	3/1
Br. John Kavanagh	3/3
Br. David Bennett	3/4
Br. James Vavuris	3/5
Br. Charles Bumamglag	3/5
Br. Mike Amato	3/17
Br. Mike White	3/26

