



Grand President's Message

YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE



A Welcome from the Grand President

Brothers of the YMI,

I attended the Polenta Dinner at Council #40. It was a wonderful event. At this first event I stressed to the officers the Matching Funds Program from the Education Committee. It was very important to myself as I had just attended the Educational Committee meeting the night before. The Treasurer was very receptive to the idea. I explained how the money was for the Council's Scholarship Program at Santa Rosa. I also talked about the Essay Contest from the Grand Council. Our Grand First Vice President is expecting over one thousand essays this year to be judged from different schools. The requirements for the students who write the essays are that the contestants be a Catholic student from grades 7 to 12. They must be sponsored by a member of the Young Men's Institute. The tickets for the Pro Patria Raffle were out and we are looking forward to increasing the number of tickets donated for this event.

Of course, the next event was the Red and White Mass taking place in March or April of next year. This is the annual event to honor the memory of members who have passed the previous year. I also mentioned the importance of donations being made to the Seminarian Foundation students at the diocese of our members. As always, I talked about inviting the sons, grandsons, and sometimes great grandsons of our members to the YMI meetings. It is never too young to recruit new members.

One of the new programs the Grand Council is adopting this year is an application called Zoom. The Grand Council has been using this program for internal meetings in the last few years. We are now adopting the program to include the various committees and extending the program to the Councils of the YMI. This will make it easier for members to attend committee or council meetings from any phone or computer they have access to the events. The Grand Council has purchased a commercial account to make this possible.

I enjoyed the Polenta Dinner and the camaraderie among the people of Santa Rosa Council #40 this year. The previous event I attended was the Chicken BBQ at St. Christopher Council #80 in Atwater. In fact, I cooked beans for 400 people at this event. We had wonderful comments about the food.

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Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP, Business Mgr.
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Officers of the Young Men's Institute

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Grand 1st Vice President, Richard Murphy #32
Grand 2nd Vice President, Mario Balistreri #613
Immediate Past Grand President, Billy Avery #80
Grand Chaplain, Fr. Agnel DeHeredia #32
Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech #613
Grand Treasurer, Bob Bartoli #32, PGP
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Grand Outside Sentinel, Paul Larson #32

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Young Men's Institute
P.O. Box 281047
San Francisco, CA 94128-1047
www.ymiusa.org

Before that I did my annual visit to San Jose Council #2 at the American Legion Hall. I met with the old and new people and my wife, Cora, got to meet with their wonderful widows and wives. Prior to that I attended the Indigenous Peoples Parade in San Francisco. My wife and I got to ride in a '63 Impala while my grand daughter and her boyfriend rode in another car. It was a fantastic trip and we got to hand out candy to many children. It was very looong! Also, I attended a Seminarian Foundation meeting early this September. I spent a lot of time working with the various committees at this time looking for members. I will present a copy of the new members chosen so far at the next Grand Directors Meeting. I attended the Steak Dinner Event at Brother Carinelli's ranch at a new venue this year. His daughter organized the event in one of their barns. It was a great dinner. The people were very nice. The picnic at Junipero Serra's Park for Saint John Bosco's Council #613 at San Bruno was a very well attended event. I was very welcome at the last two events with my wife, Cora. She enjoyed them very much. I did an unscheduled meeting with Council #613 at St. Cecilia's in San Francisco. They had a very good turnout, and I got meet a lot of new faces in the YMI. I was able to cover a lot of Grand Council business at the meeting. Lastly, I attended a meeting at Saint Columba's Council #94 in Chowchilla. There were four councils present at this meeting from the Central Valley including Dos Palos Council #99, Saint Christopher's Councils #80. Holy Rosary Council #44 and Saint Columba Council #94. Sharing this meeting with so many members to share my goals as the Grand President was very rewarding. Keep up the good work.

Pro Deo

Pro Patria

Br. William Walls

Grand President 2025-2026



NEW MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

WELCOME!!!

Patrick Lingle #44 sponsored by Brother Duarte Montiero

John Falvey #613 sponsored by Brother Michael Amato

Patrick Germann #44 sponsored by Brother Manuel Drumonde

Joshua Lesan #44 sponsored by Brother Manuel Drumonde

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

141ST GRAND COUNCIL SESSION

JUNE 15 – 17, 2026

RETURNING TO

BALLY'S HOTEL AND CASINO

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Entry Form

(Please type or print clearly)

Name: _____

Last, First

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City or Town

Telephone Number (____) _____

School Name: _____

Grade: _____

School Address: _____

Street

City State Zipcode

Sponsor _____

YMI Member's name or Council 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

Fifty-Second Annual

Essay Contest

Cash Prizes to be Awarded:

	Grades 7-8	Grades 9 - 12
Grand Prize	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
2nd Place	\$500.00	\$800.00
3rd Place	\$500.00	\$800.00
4th Place	\$400.00	\$600.00
5th & 6th Place	\$200.00	\$500.00
7th – 15th Place	\$100.00	\$200.00

Contest Rules:

1. Topics

7th & 8th Grades

When have you gone out of your way to help a stranger in need?

9th – 12th Grades

When have you felt that possessions were becoming too important in your life?

- 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
- All entries must be received by January 16, 2026
- 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 Young Men's Institute.

YMI AT THE ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

On October 12th, the YMI participated again in the San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade (the oldest Columbus Day celebration parade in America). Led by the efforts of **YMI Inside Sentinel Bob Fiorito (YMI #613 President) and Grand Director Mike Amato (YMI #613's Board Chairman & Past President)**, St. John Bosco Council #613 partnered with a local auto club to provide 9 exquisite American classic cars from the early 1960's. Each vehicle was adorned with large signs prominently bearing our YMI name and logo, as well as decorated with American/Italian flags. Each vehicle also had several bags of hard candy, which the YMI Brothers shared with the many children that viewed the parade.

As has become the tradition, **YMI Grand President Bill Walls and his wife Aurora** led this year's YMI parade delegation. Besides **Br. Fiorito and Br. Amato**, other Grand Officers participating in the parade included **Grand Second Vice-President Mario Balistrieri #613 and Grand Outside Sentinel Br. Paul Larson #32**. In addition, the following YMI #613 Brothers either attended or rode in the parade: **Brothers Cosmo Amato, John & Jack Kavanagh, Joe & Kevin Soracco, Dave Allan, Mike Baglin, Frank Weber and Aaron Dilleshaw**. All the YMI participants reported having a wonderful experience, while witnessing thousands of people cheering the YMI entry as they traveled along the parade route beginning in Fisherman's Wharf and ending in North Beach at Saints Peter & Paul Church.

YMI GRAND COUNCIL GOLF TOURNAMENT – 2026

Golf Chairman and Vice Chairman, Brothers Bob Fiorito #613 and Paul Larson #32 have scheduled the YMI Golf Tournament for April 19, 2026 at the Crystal Springs Golf Course in Burlingame, California. The 1:00 p.m. shotgun start and banquet to follow after the tournament will cost \$150 per player and \$600 per foursome. A flyer will follow on the YMI website. Start thinking about your foursomes and come out and have some fun.

Grand Director Board Meeting Recap

The YMI Board of Grand Directors (GD) met twice during the Fall of 2025 via Zoom on September 20th and November 15th. The meetings were led by the Board Chairman (**Br. Mike Amato #613**), with many YMI Grand Directors/Officers/District Deputies participating. The following list highlights the more significant matters discussed at those GD meetings:

- **Grand President Bill Walls #80** shared status reports of his official visits and his plans for the coming months, including a trip to Indiana in late November.

- **Grand 1st Vice President Richard Murphy #32** reported on his Fall mailing to YMI Brothers about the upcoming Pro Patria Essay Contest & Raffle. He urged YMI Brothers to support the essay contest by buying raffle tickets. The Essay Contest application is now available on the YMI website and published in this issue of the Institute Journal, with a submission deadline of January 16, 2026. Members are encouraged to distribute contest applications.

- **Grand 2nd Vice President Mario Balistreri #613** shared his work efforts to date for the next Red & White Mass being planned for Saturday March 14, 2026 at St. Cecilia's Church in San Francisco. Efforts are also underway to charter a bus from the Central Valley to encourage greater attendance that evening.

- Planning efforts for the 2026 Grand Council Session Planning Committee were discussed. Reservations have been made at Bally's Hotel in South Lake Tahoe for next June and arrangements at St. Theresa's Catholic Church are in progress.

- **Business Manager Tom Fourie #32** reported on various tasks performed at Grand Council headquarters, including death benefits paid, tax forms filed, mailing handled, and assessment/semi-annual reports collected. The Board authorized the purchase of a new laptop for the Grand Council Office to replace one that is quite old and in some disrepair.

- **Grand Secretary Mike Dimech #613** shared news of the YMI Bocce Ball Tournament held on November 8th with 12 teams participating from 3 sponsoring YMI Councils (i.e., #32, #59 & #613). In addition, Br. Dimech reported his active efforts to post info about YMI Council activities/events, newsletters, and photos on the YMI Website.

- A Pasta Bingo Fundraiser to augment the Pro Patria Essay Contest was given the green light. The event to occur on February 14th at St. Cecilia's Church in San Francisco with **Br. Mike Dimech #613 and Br. Steve Cresci #32** co-chairing.

- The Board is monitoring the healthy status of its investment portfolio supporting the Death Benefit and Reserve Funds via its Finance Committee and the Board plans to commence routine audits via its Audit Committee in the near term.

- The Board's Advanced Technology Committee led by **Br. Gus Solidum #94** is preparing Zoom and Social media Policies for the YMI to ensure various goals are met that would improve access, data handling, security, and etiquette.

The Board of Grand Directors meets via Zoom every two months. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 24th.

Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors

Rest in Peace Brothers

Joseph A. Rotolo #2
Frederick Souders #497
Rev. Raymond Finerty OP #13
Jerry Egloff #497
Gary Meagher #40
Les Baptista Jr. #44
Walter Corvello #8
Raymond Ferreira #44
Pedro Gonzalez #32
Felix Perez #32
Abel Sagon #40
Thomas Walsh #32
William J. Miller #497
Thomas Robinson #80



Educational Foundation Memorials

Name	Donor(s)
Celeste Drumonde	Clement A. Gusman, Knights of Columbus Magellan Council c/o John West, Manuel Drumonde, Bob and Nancy Bartoli
John Buddy Souza	Thomas Figueira
Les Baptista Jr.	Holy Rosary Council #44
Thomas Walsh	South San Francisco Council #32
Pedro Gonzalez	South San Francisco Council #32
Get Well Duarte Monteiro	Manuel Drumonde
Happy Anniversary Richard and Elizabeth Murphy	Steve and Linda Cresci

Greetings from the Hawai'i District!!!!

The Hawai'i District consists of one Council, Francis Council #573. We are now embarking on a concerted effort to expand the membership of Francis Council and ultimately to expand the number of Councils in the District. We are currently reaching out to parishes throughout the Big Island of Hawai'i to introduce the YMI and in the near future, Francis Council is looking to possibly taking their meetings on the road to parishes in different parts of the island to directly reach out to Catholic men.

As for Francis Council activities, with the beginning of the 2025-2026 term, the Council has begun planning the social activities for the year, including the upcoming Christmas Social and the anticipated visit of our Worthy Grand President Brother Bill Walls in February 2026. I look forward to having more to report in our next Lamp Post issue and, as always, the Hawai'i District and Francis Council #573 extends our Aloha to all in the YMI.

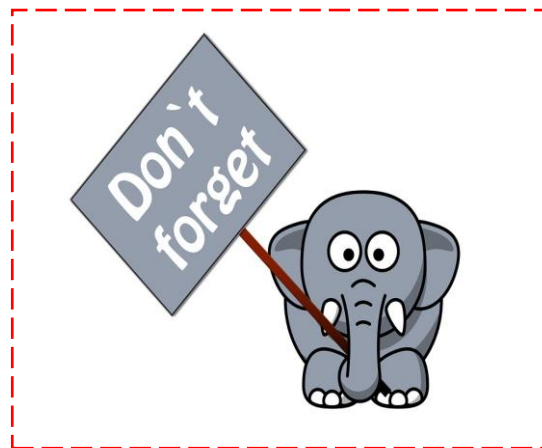
Clement A. Gusman, Hawai'i District Deputy

New Seminarian Education Foundation Scholarship Awards

The YMI seminarian Education Foundation (SEF) approved at its November 2025 Meeting increased awards for its seminarian scholarship program beginning in 2026. This increase was made possible largely by the rising value of SEF investments that support the scholarship program. The prior scholarship awards, which ranged from \$1000, \$500 and \$200 are being replaced as shown below:

- \$1500: Seminarians with less than 2 years to go before becoming a priest
 - (based on the anticipated ordination date)
- \$750: Seminarians within 2-5 years of becoming a priest
- \$220: seminarians with over 5 years remaining to become a priest

The SEF Board urges YMI Councils to sponsor Seminarians by submitting Scholarship applications before May 2026. Those applications can be downloaded from the YMI Website.



DON'T FORGET.....Due Date:

The next issue of the Institute Journal will be the Fall Issue.
All articles, pictures, etc. to be submitted to the Business Manager
by February 1, 2026

Send to YMIUS@aol.com

DON'T FORGET

2026 Grand Directors' Council of the Year Award Application

Date: _____

Council #: _____ Council Location: _____

Council President: _____

Recording Secretary: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

1. Number of inter-council events attended by members of Council _____

List of events: _____

2. If charity work was performed by the Council, please provide a brief description of the work performed, the number of council members in attendance, and the number of hours worked.

3. Did your council have an increase in membership for the period from 4/1/2025 through 3/31/2026? If so, what was the percentage increase from the previous year: _____

4. Did your Council participate in any fundraising events? If so, how many? _____

List of events: _____

5. Did your council participate in the Pro Patria Raffle. If so, what was the percentage of members who purchased raffle tickets? _____

6. Was your Council represented at the 2025 Grand Council Sessions?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, how many delegates attended? _____

***Send to Br. Bob Bartoli, 675 Pine Terrace, South San Francisco, CA 94080
or via email at: bbartoli@pacbell.net
Deadline: May 1, 2026***

Grand Council – Young Men’s Institute Man of the Year 2026

The 2025-2026 Man of the Year Grand Council Committee has met and is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Man of the Year. Any YMI Brother, group of Brothers, or YMI Council is invited to submit a nomination. Criteria to be considered:

- *Council Activities (Fraternalism)*
- *Service to the Parish (Faith)*
- *Service to the Community (Patriotism)*
- *Grand Council Activities*
- *Any character references for the nominee would be appreciated*

Date: _____ Man of the Year Nominee: _____

Council # _____ Council Location: _____

Council activities nominee is involved in: _____

Nominee’s service to his Parish: _____

Nominee’s service to the community: _____

Grand Council activities nominee participated in or is involved in: _____

Please attach any additional information or character references for the nominee, should more space be needed.

Please submit your nomination with supporting documentation *by May 1, 2026* Please send to:

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP
675 Pine Terrace
South San Francisco, CA 94080
650-871-7878
or email at: bbartoli@pacbell.net

**YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
BROTHER FRANK PIGNATI
MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM 2026**

Once again, the YMI Educational Foundation is proud to announce our Matching Funds Program for 2026. 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.

The Educational Foundation voted to increase the matching funds to \$1,500. Each Council may request any amount up to **\$1,500** in Matching Funds. Upon approval of the submitted request, the Educational Foundation will in turn write a check of any amount not to exceed **\$3,000** 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 and is also available on the YMI Website.

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, 2026**. Barring a special circumstance request, matching fund checks will all be issued and mailed on **April 30, 2026**. 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

**YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
BROTHER FRANK PIGNATI
MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM APPLICATION 2026**

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 **\$1,500.00**)

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 and check payable to YMI Educational Foundation*

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

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND POSTMARKED
NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2026

ALL CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED ON APRIL 30, 2026
Checks will be mailed directly to the participating council's official address.

Any questions please call Brother Bob Bartoli 1-650-871-7878