

UNDER THE LAMP POST



Pro Deo Pro Patria

Vol. 137 Winter 2026

A Welcome from the Grand President

First off, I would like to apologize for misidentifying the Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco. The highlight of this period is visiting the councils in Indiana. The trip began very early in the morning. We left San Francisco and flew to Denver, then on to Indianapolis, Indiana. We rented a large car and headed out for Huntingburg. We checked into the hotel and ate at a German restaurant. The food was very good. The next morning, we got up early and went to the Huntingburg Council and went to Mass at their hall. The Huntingburg Council had the honor of the Mass being said by Right Reverend Kurt Stasiak, the Archabbot from Saint Meinrad Archabbey of the Benedictine monks. After that we attended an annual breakfast with sausage and scrambled eggs. We had a meeting where Bob Bartoli did an audit of the Huntingburg Council. We introduced ourselves and got to speak with their President, Mitchell Mundy and other council members. It was a very enlightening view of the largest council for the Young Men's Institute. Next, we toured Huntingburg and visited the city. We stopped at Saint Mary's church in Huntingburg and I took some pictures. After that we drove to Huntingburg City Park and visited the baseball league stadium where a "League of Their Own" was filmed. It was the home of the Dubois County Bombers. Funny thing, the restrooms were labeled with the "Dotties and Dugans". Next, we stopped at the Southridge High School. It had no windows and the glass on the doors was half-inch plate glass. They had some tornados that took down their school earlier in their history. After that we went through Jasper, Indiana. The transmission in my truck was assembled there. Our next stop was Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. They were having a mass when we stopped there, so I took the pictures from outside the church. They also had a school for their parish. We then left for Mas at Saint Meinrad Abbey. The Mass was very different, and it was the first time I viewed a mass said by the Benedictine Monks. Their mass started in the rear portion of the monastery and then halfway through the mass, the monks and seminarians marched in single file to the altar in the front. From there we had the communion and completed the mass. After the mass we had the honor of speaking with Brother Gene. He is teaching basketweaving and art to the seminarians. He has been at the seminary for eleven years. Next, we started visiting different areas of the monastery. Our tour started with visiting the Chapel of the Repose behind a large pipe organ at the back of the monastery. It had two very ornate lamps and an altar made of gold. It was very reverent. Next, we went upstairs to the resident area of the abbots on the second floor. We visited a very special room where the conclave of abbots had their elections and made important decisions. Their halls were full of iconography and several pictures. Then we left the monastery and did a driving tour of the Archabbey which had over 2400 acres. It was established in 1854. We traveled from there to Richmond, Indiana. We

Grand President's Message

YOUNG MEN'S
INSTITUTE



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Stopped at the Warm Glow Company had had some refreshments after a long drive. Next, we traveled to Jim Rohe's Farm where he gave us a tour of his farm. He surprised us and offered to let my wife drive his Case 180 tractor. She was delighted and took him up on his offer. As we left, we traveled to the Hampton Inn in Richmond. We ate dinner that night with the YMI folks. That night Richmond had their worst snowstorm in 57 years. The schools were closed for two days. We did not get a chance to visit the two schools we were supposed to visit. Instead, we went out and visited the museums in Richmond. We also visited the Nixon Tool Company, a machine shop that Scott Vogelgesang retired from and then visited the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park. They had displays from the Civil War to the present. We then went to the Gaar House Museum, home of industrialist Abram Gaar, in an 1876 Victorian home. The museum introduced the social culture of the world to the citizens of the local community. Since there was a snowstorm, the next day we traveled to Dayton, Ohio and toured the Air Force Museum. I was able to secure a tour to the Wright Patterson Restoration as we toured through the museum. It was an area where the vintage aircraft were restored prior to being displayed at the museum. We saw aircraft from several different eras used in the many years for peacetime, war, and research – an outstanding tour. We went back to Richmond that night and went to a YMI meeting with the local council. After the meeting I was given a statue of Saint Joseph by the Richmond Council. We ended the meeting and drove back to the hotel. We slept for four hours and started our trip back to Indianapolis for our trip back to California. When we arrived in San Francisco everything went fine, however, our ride had a mechanical problem. I want to personally thank Bob Bartoli for checking on us prior to our departure. The mechanical problem was resolved and we departed for home. An excellent trip for sure. It was an honor to be introduced to our eastern YMI, I was very enlightened and graciously enjoyed the visit.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria
Br. William Walls
Grand President 2025-2026



NEW MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

WELCOME!!!

**Michael Souza #99 sponsored by Brother Doug Goodman
Armando Juarez #99 sponsored by Brother Ron Snyder
Johnathan Chavez #94 sponsored by Brother Eugene Espinola
John Nobriga #573 sponsored by Brother Patrick Ferreira
Richie Mattos #92 sponsored by Brother Mike Bacchetti
Anthony Souza #92 sponsored by Brother Mike Bacchetti
David Pimentel #92 sponsored by Brother Mike Bacchetti**

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

141ST GRAND COUNCIL SESSION

JUNE 15 – 17, 2026

RETURNING TO

BALLY'S HOTEL AND CASINO

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

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.

Rest in Peace Brothers.....

Andrew Sirí #13
Larry Silva, #80, PGP
Johnny Lane #94
Dan Palermo #2
Natale Bacchetti #92
Baldassare Scire #2
Jack Wright #612
James Barsotti #94



Educational Foundation Memorials

Name	Donor(s)
Jack Wright	Gonzaga Council #612
Larry Silva	John West, Manuel Drumonde
Felix Perez	South San Francisco Council #32
Mary Virginia Hanley Gray	Clement Gusman
Families of YMI Brothers	William Avery

Greetings and Happy New Year From the Hawaií District!

The Hawaií District and its one Council, Francis Council #573, is looking forward to a tremendous 2026. Francis Council continues to make a concerted effort to expand its membership and ultimately to expand the number of Councils in the District. Francis Council was able to begin 2026 by initiating a new member at its January meeting.

Francis Council enjoyed a well-attended Christmas Meeting and Social in December and is eagerly anticipating the visit of our Worthy Grand President Brother Bill Walls in February. The Council is looking forward to Brother Walls' sharing his program and to his participation in other events planned in conjunction with this visit, including honoring the Council's Worthy Chaplain.

I look forward to having more to report in our next Lamp Post issue and, as always, the Hawaií District and Francis Council #573 extends our Aloha to all in the YMI.

Clement A. Gusman, Hawaií District Deputy

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GRAND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

A call to all Councils and their members to attend our 2026 conference in Lake Tahoe!! Over the past three years while I attended, I have noticed attendance is dropping by 12 Brothers per year. We have enough chairs for 100 members, but last year we had roughly 68 members in attendance. If this keeps up, in two years we will hold the conference on Zoom. No sense renting the facilities for 40+ members.

Let's not have this happen. The conference is so important for our community and the importance of involvement. Although it is a formal setting, we are at ease during the meeting.

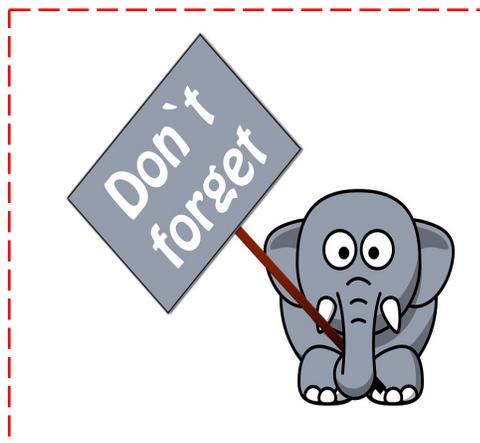
My first year attending, I was a fish out of the water. I only hung out with my fellow Council members and talked to a few members from other Councils. We are all Brothers!! We have members in Hawaii and Indiana, and even they show up to our gathering! Enjoy the beauty of Lake Tahoe with the weather behaving!

The Seminarian Committee and the Education Committee have their meetings. Issues brought up by the State of the Institute Committee are voted on by all members. This is important as it continues the betterment of the Young Men's Institute.

Throw in a Mass to start and a Mass to end the conference with a couple of scheduled dinners to attend and you have a completed Program. Everything is optional at the conference but you must show up to the meetings.

This year the Conference is June 15-17. Talk to your Council President and tell him you are interested in attending.

Richard Murphy
Grand First Vice President



The next issue of the Institute Journal will be the Spring/Summer Issue. All articles, pictures, etc. to be submitted to the Business Manager by April 1, 2026. 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

Grand Director Board Meeting Recap

The YMI Board of Grand Directors (GD) met once during the Winter via Zoom on **January 24th**. The meeting was 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 during the GD meeting:

Grand 1st Vice President Richard Murphy #32 provided an update on the status of both the YMI Pro Patria Raffle & Essay Contest.

- a. To date, we had received \$9000 of the targeted 1,000 in funds via the raffle to support the **Pro Patria Essay Contest**. Several YMI Councils were noted having very low ticket sales, despite participating in the Essay Contest. He urged all YMI Brothers from all YMI Councils to support the Essay Contest by buying raffle tickets ASAP!
- b. Approximately 400 students submitted Essay Contest applications in response to the January 16th deadline. Students are generally from YMI Council locations in California, Indiana and Hawaii.

Grand 2nd Vice President Mario Balistreri #613 released details of the upcoming **Red & White Mass** scheduled for **Saturday, March 14, 206 at St. Cecilia's Church in San Francisco**. To support attendance at the event, the YMI GD's approved a \$1000 stipend to cover the costs of chartering a bus from the Central Valley. All YMI Brothers are encouraged to attend the Red & White Mass!

Grand Second Mike Dimech #613 & Past Grand President Steve Cresci #32 reported on the status of the upcoming Pasta Bingo fundraiser scheduled for **February 14th at St. Cecilia's Church in San Francisco**. Proceeds raised will augment the Pro Patria Essay Contest. An event flyer was shared and all YMI Brothers are invited to attend.

Business Manager Tom Fourie #32 updated the Board on the various tasks performed at Grand Council headquarters, including paying death benefits, filing tax forms, handling mailings, and collecting assessment/semi-annual reports.

YMI Sentinels & Golf Co-Chairs, Br. Bob Fiorito #613 and Br. Paul Larson #32 discussed the **YMI Golf Tourney set for April 19th at Crystal Springs Golf Club**.

The **YMI Bowling Tourney** is being planned for **May 17th at Pacific Lanes in Stockton**. More details to be provided by event chair **Br. Mike Sanzeri**. (See sign up sheet in this issue of the Institute Journal).

For the Grand Council Sessions in June 2026, the Board approved a subsidy to encourage YMI Councils to send elected delegates to participate. The Board voted to allot \$100 per each elected delegate up to \$500 maximum from the YMI Grand Council to each YMI Council participating in the upcoming session. Details about the upcoming Grand Council Session (hotel, events, etc.) will be available in the coming weeks.

Several of the YMI's various committees are actively at work. Some highlights:

The **Finance Committee** continues to monitor the healthy status of its investment Portfolio supporting the Death Benefit and Reserve Funds via its Finance Committee. The Board met with one investment firm in December and will meet with its other firm in February.

The **Audit Committee** completed audits of our Indiana Councils in November (#497 & #612).

The **Charter/Archive Committee** cleared out old unnecessary records in December from the YMI storage in South San Francisco.

The **Laws & Revisions Committee** approved a minor By-Law change submitted by YMI #613 in January.

The **Supplies Committee** compiled an inventory of pins and other YMI items in January that we will be posting on the YMI website, so YMI Councils will know what's available to request.

The **Advanced Technology Committee** is finalizing a draft of 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 **Saturday, March 21st**.

Increased Seminarian Education Foundation Scholarship Awards for 2026

The YMI Seminarian Education Foundation (SEF) approved at its November 2025 Meeting increased awards for its seminarian scholarship program beginning in 20. The increase was made possible largely by the rising value of SEF investments supporting the scholarship program. The prior scholarship awards, which had ranged from \$1000, \$500, and \$200 have been 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.

\$250 Seminarians with over 5 years remaining to become a priest.

Each year the SEF Board approves 35-30 scholarships for seminarians sponsored by YMI Councils. The Program is intended to increase vocations to the priesthood, as these scholarship help to offset the living costs seminarians face over multiple years in their quest to become Catholic priest. The SEF Board urges all YMI Councils to sponsor seminarians in their communities by submitting scholarship applications. A short application form can be downloaded from the YMI Website by clicking on the YMI Seminarian Education Foundation tab. Just provide the information and signatures requested on the form and mail it to the YMI Grand Council Office before May 1st.

YMI GRAND COUNCIL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Sunday, May 17th, 2026 at 1 PM
Captains report at 12:30 PM

WHERE: Pacific Avenue Bowl
5939 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA (209) 477-0267

ESTIMATED COST: \$75.00 for a five-man team. Shoes and balls available at lanes. Family, friends are welcome to bowl.

Players Roster:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please indicate who is captain with his phone number.

Contact: Brother Mike Sanzeri if you have questions:

Phone (925) 324-7403 or email at mikesanzeri@gmail.com

Send checks and roster to Mke Sanzeri at 112 Waterberry Court, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Make checks payable to YMI Grand Council.

LET'S ROLL!!!