



**YMI ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL # 613
DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER**

Next Meeting: Dec. 10th @ 7:00 p.m. (St. Cecilia's Green Room)
Dinner coordinated by Br. John Bower (\$10 per person!)

Council News & Activities:

Christmas Party: Please plan to attend our annual **YMI #613 Christmas Party** on **Sunday December 15th at Dominic's Restaurant @ Oyster Point**. The reservation deadline is coming up fast....**December 3rd**. As has been the tradition, our Christmas Party will feature a great dinner, excellent wine, a recap of YMI #613's yearly achievements, and our amazing Christmas Raffle. **See the attached event flyer to make your dinner reservations.** If any questions about the Christmas Party, please contact the an event co-chair, **Br. Mike Amato (650-296-6297) or Br. George Totah (415-418-0553)**. Also, we would welcome raffle prize donations (e.g., gift cards, liquor bottles, etc.). Please contact **Br. George Totah** if you can donate a raffle prize.

YMI Pasta Bingo: Please plan to attend the **YMI Pasta Bingo** to be held on **Saturday January 18th at St. Cecilia's in the Lower Church**. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. for cocktails and 7:00 for a delicious pasta dinner. Afterwards, we will play 10 games of bingo and enjoy a fun raffle. The cost is only \$40 per person, and it includes dinner and two bingo cards. The reservation deadline is **January 11th**. **See the attached event flyer to make your dinner reservations.** For questions, please contact **Br. Mike Dimech** at 650-922-2667.

Jim Calabretta Essay Contest: The deadline for this year's YMI #613's Essay Contest (#22) (also known as the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest) is fast approaching too. Students have until **December 5th** to submit an original essay of up to 350 words on specific topics associated with their school/grade level. The contest has a lucrative prize fund featuring **50 prizes totaling \$21,000** and it is open to all family members (sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren) of a YMI Brother. In addition, each YMI #613 Brothers may sponsor up to two students that are not in his family (*this can be a good recruitment tool to attract new members*). **See the attached contest flyer.** For any questions about the contest, please contact **Br. John Kavanagh** at jkavesq@gmail.com.

Hour of Memory: Thank you to the YMI Brothers & family members who attended our **Hour of Memory** event on November 17th. We had 26 attendees for the Mass & Dinner, including **Connie Mertes** (*the widow of Br. Chuck Mertes, daughter of Br. John Musso, and a long-time dedicated supporter of YMI and St. John Bosco*). Kudos to Br. Mario Balistreri for chairing this great event memorializing our past YMI Brothers.

YMI Grand Council News:

- **Grand President's Official Visit:** **Grand President Billy Avery** plans to make his official visit to the YMI San Francisco District on **Thursday, January 9, 2025**. This year's official visit will be hosted by YMI South San Francisco #32 at All Soul's.

- **Red & White Mass: Grand 2nd Vice-President Richard Murphy** announced that the YMI Red & White Mass will be scheduled for **Saturday, March 1, 2025**, and it will be held nearby at **All Soul's Parish in South San Francisco**. More info to make reservations is expected soon
- **Raffle Tickets:** By now, you should have received a letter from our **Grand 1st Vice-President Bill Walls** asking you to buy raffle tickets to support the **YMI Grand Council's Pro Patria Essay Contest**. Please be generous and consider buying raffle tickets, as it will support a worthy cause (namely funding over \$10,000 in YMI essay contest awards for 30 students from Grades 7 to 12).
- **Pro Patria Essay Contest:** Speaking of the **YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest**, this essay contest is also currently underway. **(Please note this contest is a separate essay contest than the Jim Calabretta Essay Contest discussed above)**. For the Pro Patria essay contest, students need to submit essays up to 500 words by January 17th on the two topics provided. YMI #613 Brothers may invite their children, as well as any child meeting the eligibility criteria to write and submit an original essay. All contest information and applications can be found at https://ymiusa.org/files/forms/Essay_Contest_Form.pdf

Membership News:

- **Dues:** The membership voted at our November meeting to approve 2025 Dues for Benefit Members at **\$85 per year** to cover the increased Grand Council Assessment approved in June 2024. When you receive your bill notice for dues, please pay it promptly. (Note: Honorary, Junior and 50th Year Members are exempt from paying dues.
- **YMI Jackets: I am taking orders for YMI Jackets.** We found a local vendor in Pacifica (*i.e. John the Sign Guy*) who can process jacket orders without a minimum order requirement. Please contact **Br. Mike Amato by December 10th, if you would like to have a YMI #613 jacket (phone: 650-296-6297)** Also please provide your size and the name you want to be placed on the jacket. **The cost is \$45 per jacket.**
- **Newsletter Trivia:** For those reading this newsletter, the year YMI #613 was first chartered in 1907. Tell this bit of trivia to Br. Mike Amato at our December 10th meeting before 7:15 p.m. to win a free "Find the Joker" raffle ticket.
- **Meal Coordinators- Line-Up:** Here is the line-up of YMI #613 Brothers volunteering to serve as meal coordinators for the coming months. In parenthesis, are the likely dinner entrees for the evening. As Br. Goulding switched from June to November to cover our Thanksgiving turkey meal, **we need a volunteer to handle our June YMI Meeting**. It's really not difficult to be a meal coordinator. Basically, you just need 1) to place an order for food for about 25-30 at a restaurant that either delivers or has pick-up service and 2) take a lead role with the food set-up and clean-up at that meeting.
 - January: Br. Mike Baglin
 - February: Br. George Rehmet
 - March: Br. Mike Amato (Corned Beef)
 - April: Br. Rod Ordon (Japanese)
 - May: Br. John Kavanagh (Mexican)
 - June: **Volunteer Needed**
 - July: Br. Mario Balistreri
 - August: Br. George Totah
 - September: Br. Dom Panina
 - October: Br. Mike Dimech (Pizza)
 - November: Br. Stephen Goulding (Turkey)
 - December: Br. Bob Fiorito

Congratulations, Salutes & Sentiments:

• Congratulations:

- We send congratulations to **Br. Kevin Soracco** and his wife **Brandi** on the birth of their son **Giovanni Cosmo** on November 13th. We also congratulate the proud grandfathers: **Br. Joseph Soracco & Br. David Allan**, as well as the proud great-grandfather, **Br. Cosmo Amato**.
- We also offer congratulations to **Br. Nick Bruna** on his recent engagement to his fiancé **Catie**. Br. Nick is also Br. Cosmo Amato's grandson. Understanding a wedding is being planned for the Fall 2025.

• Get Well Wishes:

- We extend "get well!" wishes to the following YMI Brothers who have been sick/injured and/or have been hospitalized recently. We wish them a full recovery and hope to see them back at our meetings:

- **Fr. Joe Landi**
- **Br. Bob Maloney**
- **Br. John Cleary**

• Best Wishes:

- We also offer our best wishes to the following long-time YMI Brothers who are living currently in senior care facilities and are unable to attend YMI meetings/events. You are missed!

- **Br. Aldo Didero**
- **Br. Richard Pisciotta**

• Condolences:

- We extend condolences to **Bruna Campus** and the family of **Br. John Campus** (including **Br. Mike & Diane Bottarini** and **Br. Nick & Donna Goultas**). Br. John passed away peacefully at the grand age of 96 on November 24th. He was a 15-year member of YMI #613 and had often attended our YMI social events until his health took a downturn. Most notably, Br. John and his family volunteered to cook an amazing pasta dinner for about 200 people at several of our Jim Calabretta Awards Ceremonies.
- We offer condolences to the family of **Br. Jerry Nolan** (including his daughters **Denise and Suzanne**, and son-in-law **Br. Peter Malatesta**). Br. Jerry passed away surrounded by his family at the grand age of 94 on November 26th. He was a 51-year-old member of YMI #613, joining us way back in 1973. While he didn't attend many meetings, Br. Jerry faithfully attended our Christmas Party annually with his family and supported the YMI Order with his generosity!
- We send condolences to the family of **Br. Mark Schwery #32** on his recent passing from cancer. For those that have attended Council #32's YMI Meetings, Br. Mark was an active Brother in his Council running the bar and providing opinions and good conversation covering sports, life, etc.
- The above three YMI Brothers will be sorely missed. We pray that they each will "Rest in Peace!"

- If anyone has a personal/family milestone, event, or accomplishment to share with your YMI Brothers, 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. Andrew (AJ) 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 (Sem)	12/13
Br. Nick Varanis	12/16
Fr. Andrew Spyrow	12/21
Br. David Mees (Sem)	12/23
Br. Rafael Guajardo	12/25
Br. Carlos Del Campo	12/27
Br. Jerick Rea (Sem)	12/28
Br. Liam Reidy	12/30
Br. Daniel Panina	12/31