Brothers,

It is with great sadness that I write this column. The recent fires in the Santa Rosa/Sebastopol area have left many of our Brothers without a home. I cannot imagine having to live in circumstances where my home and community have been devastated. We must continue to keep our YMI Brothers and their families in our daily prayers. The Board of Directors have made several suggestions as to where donations can be sent to help with relief efforts. Disaster recovery will be ongoing for quite some time. Please give generously.

Sylvia and I had the pleasure of riding with Brother Bob Fiorito and his daughter in the annual Italian Heritage Parade. It was great seeing the streets of San Francisco from a different angle and finding new restaurants to try next time we visit the City.

My Council visits have been coming along. If I haven’t visited your Council yet, give me a call so we can set up a date to visit. One of the recurring themes in my visits and from the District Deputy reports is the need for help with membership. I am happy to report that the Grand Council Membership Committee has been meeting to discuss ways to help Councils with their membership issues. The Committee report is elsewhere in this edition of the Journal for your review. There are some very good ideas listed. As I pointed out in the Grand President’s Program, I encourage Councils to become partners with other parish groups. This includes the parish pastor and the school principal. Sitting around complaining about it won’t change the situation. Now it’s up to you to get to work to turn your Council around.

Another aspect of the Grand President’s Program is the Coordinating Committee. One of the points that is in there is support for the annual West Coast Walk for Life. The event this year is January 27, 2018 and will start at 12:30 at Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco. Many parishes come by bus and I encourage you to be part of this event.

Also as part of my Council visits, I am encouraging Councils to send more members to the annual convention. Your participation and voice are what is going to keep YMI going.

continued on Page 2
Continued from page 1
The more your members are engaged in Grand Council activities, the better able they are to explain to other men why they should become members of the YMI.

Sylvia and I had a great time on the Official Visit to Council #497 In Huntingburg and Council #612 in Richmond, Indiana. The hospitality we received was truly appreciated, and we were made to feel like we were part of the family. I am looking forward to some of our Indiana Brothers coming to the Grand Council Session in Reno next June.

Brothers, I sincerely hope you enjoyed the blessings of Christmas. 2017 has been a trying year for many of our Brothers and are still in need of our prayers. Please take time from your endeavors to focus on what really is important and remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria
Mike Nelson
Grand President

Helping Santa Rosa!!!!

The October 2017 Northern California Fires destroyed much in the form of tangible items for our Brothers in Santa Rosa Council #40, however, it did not destroy their spirit. Despite having many Brothers and their families lose their homes, vehicles, personal belongings, schools, jobs, etc. they have pulled together to help each other in these worst of times. The Council from their own treasury has set up a fund to specifically help their Brothers. If any YMI Council or individual Brother would like to donate to this fund, please make checks payable to “Santa Rosa Council #40 – Fire Relief” and send them to the Grand Council Office at PO Box 281047, San Francisco, CA 94128. Brother Tom Fourie, Business Manager, will forward any donation directly to the Council. May God Bless and take care for all our Brothers.
RED AND WHITE MASS  
Saturday, March 10, 2019  
St. Columba Catholic Church  
213 Orange Street  
Chowchilla, CA 93610  

3:30 p.m.  
Banner procession of YMI Councils and Ceremony honoring past/present YMI Brothers  

4:00 p.m.  
Mass  
Fr. Agnel de Heredia, Grand Chaplain, Celebrant  

Dinner following Mass  
O’Laughlin Hall  
213 Orange St., Chowchilla  

RSVP BY February 26, 2018  

For more information:  
Br. Mike Thissen 559-223-4830  
Or - mjthissen@hotmail.com  

DINNER RESERVATIONS  
Name: __________________________  
Council #: ______________________  
Phone: __________________________  
Email: __________________________  

Will your council be participating in the Banner Procession? Yes_____No_____  

Number attending Dinner:  
Adults _____@$20 each $ _________  
Children _____@$ 10 each $_________  
(12 and under)  

Steak _____or Chicken_______  

Total amount enclosed: $_________  

Checks payable to YMI Council #94  
P.O. Box 216  
Chowchilla, CA 93610  

Menu  
Rib Eye Steak  
Chicken Roulade with white wine mushroom sauce  
Green Salad  
Grilled Squash  
Garlic spinach mashed potatoes  
Rolls  
Cake
Report of the Death Benefit Committee: Death Benefits for Associate Members

In 2015, as part of our review of the financial condition of the Order’s death benefit program, we surveyed the Brothers to see what features of our death benefit program we should consider improving. One of the findings of that survey: roughly half of the Brothers who responded expressed some interest in providing a death benefit to the families of our Associate Members (Brothers who join the YMI after reaching age 45).

The Board takes the opinions of our members seriously, and formed this committee to explore issues relating to the death benefit program. We contacted an attorney and obtained his opinion that the monies in the existing death benefit fund could not be used to pay for death benefits on behalf of Associate Members. Our Business Manager, Br. Tom Fourie, provided information about our membership that allowed us to quantify the cost of a proposed new death benefit for Associate Members. We learned that a new death benefit program for Associate Members that provided a death benefit of only $500 would cost $36 per Associate Member per year.

This information was presented to the delegates at the 2017 Grand Council Session in South Lake Tahoe. At that time we distributed a new survey, asking the Brothers if they would support a new death benefit program for Associate Members, given the anticipated cost. The overwhelming majority of those responding to the survey said NO. There was almost no support at all for adopting a new program for Associate Members.

After reviewing the results of the survey, the YMI Board of Directors agreed not to pursue the matter any further.

I wish to thank the members of the Death Benefit Committee for their comments, wisdom and support: Brothers Mike Nelson, Jack Albrecht, Cosmo Amato, Mike Amato, Domenic Carinalli, Mike Dimech, Tom Fourie, and Frank Hepburn.

For God and country,
Br. Nick Franceschine, Council 54, Sebastopol

Educational Foundation Memorials/Donations

Raymond Crosat: South San Francisco Council #32
Joseph M. Fantazia: Holy Rosary Council #44
Mel Nelson: Tom and Pat Fourie, Bob and Nancy Bartoli, Mike and Sylvia Nelson
Marlene Prouty: Steve and Linda Cresci, Mary Giusti, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Realty
Charles (Jack) Schroeder: Gonzaga Council #612
Wendell Serrao: Tom and Pat Fourie, Jack and Alice Albrecht, Michael and Mara Amato, Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Enea, Jim and Helen Mullen, Beverly Ferreira, Ann Medeiros, Thomas and Rosanna Figueira, James and Janet Souza, Bob and Nancy Bartoli, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde
Janet Souza: Tom and Pat Fourie, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde, Clement A. Gusman
Manuel C. Souza: Holy Rosary Council #44

All YMI Brothers, family members and friends are thanked for their generous contributions to the Educational Foundation. We also acknowledge everyone’s minimum donation of $10 towards the requested Mass.
The State of the Institute
By Michael Dimech

To all of our Brothers of our Great Order

We all have an important role and share in the direction of our Brotherhood. Along with the Grand Council, I am seeking suggestions from all of our Brothers on how to improve our fraternal organization and especially ideas on ways to increase our membership. If you have a suggestion please send it to the Grand Council, Attention Br. Tom Fourie at P.O. Box 281047 or send me an e-mail at Mdimech7@gmail.com.

Please remember that all of your ideas are welcome and need to be received for consideration by March 1, 2018. Once your suggestion has been received, the Grand Council will review and determine if the proposal will be published in the Institution Journal and subsequently presented to the Delegates at the June 2018 Session in Reno, NV.

As I stated above and during my term as Grand President, it is also important that all of our Brothers seek ways to increase our membership numbers. We need to think outside the box if we are going to bring in new members and remain a viable fraternal organization. The Membership Committee has met and have shared some suggestions to increase membership with the Grand Council.

I obtained our membership numbers from the Advanced Proceeding for the past couple of years and inserted them in the table below for everyone to review. These numbers speak for themselves. As you can see, our membership has dropped by 335 Brothers since 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Benefited</th>
<th>Associated</th>
<th>Jr. Members</th>
<th>Hon.</th>
<th>Yr. End</th>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>1307</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>1548</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1531</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2207</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Data for 2014 & 2015 was not available as some of the Semi-Annual Reports were not received, incomplete or membership numbers were not received at the time of the Advanced Proceeding printing.

In conclusion, let’s work together to make our organization stronger and keep this important fraternity in place for our children and our grandchildren. Now is the time to get involved. Please work with your councils and fellow Brothers to send in your ideas and suggestions to me or to the Grand Council.

In God and Country
Br. Michael Dimech, PGP

Institute Journal Goes High Tech!!!

The Grand Council has directed the Institute Journal Committee to send this issue of the Journal via e-mail to those Councils who send their Council Newsletter via e-mail. Councils will then forward it to their respective members. Those Brothers who do not have e-mail will receive the Journal via regular mail.
TIME TO GIVE BACK TO THE NORTH BAY COMMUNITY

2018 ANNUAL YMI GRAND COUNCIL GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Sunday, June 3, 2018
11:00 a.m.
Players report at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Oakmont Golf Club
7035 Oakmont Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

COST: $100.00 per player
Includes Golf, Cart, Prize Fund and (after golf) Banquet
$ 35.00 Non-playing guest for Banquet (4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

PLAYERS: Please indicate who is captain of foursome
1. ______________________________________ 2. ______________________________________
3. ______________________________________ 4. ______________________________________

Non-Playing Guests for Banquet: ____________________________________________________________

Contact/Questions: Br. Bob Fiorito –(650) 867-6702 or email bmr850bob1@aol.com

DEADLINE: MAY 18, 2018
Make check out to “YMI Grand Council” and mail completed form with check to:
Bob Fiorito
1137 Hamilton Lane
Burlingame, CA 94010

Y M I GRAND COUNCIL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Sunday, April 29th, 2018 1 p.m.
Captains report at 12:30 p.m.

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

COST: $50.00 for five man team. Shoes & ball included. Family, friends welcome to bowl.

Players
1. ______________________________________
2. ______________________________________
3. ______________________________________
4. ______________________________________
5. ______________________________________
Please indicate who is captain with his phone number.

Let’s Roll
GRAND COUNCIL – YOUNG MEN’S INSTITUTE
Man of the Year 2018

The 2017 – 2018 Man of the Year Grand Council Committee has met and is now accepting nominations for the 2018 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 (Fraternity)
- 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, 2018. Please send to:

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, GD PGP
675 Pine Terrace
South San Francisco, CA 94080
650-871-7878
2018 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 number of hours worked.
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________

3. Did your council have an increase in membership for the period from 4/1/2017 through 3/31/2018?
   If so, what was the percentage increase from the previous year: ________________.

4. Did your Council participate in any fund-raising 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 2017 Grand Council Sessions? _____Yes _______No
   If so, how many delegates did your Council send? ______________

7. Participation at Grand Council / events – Circle all that apply:
   1. Bocce Ball
   2. Red & White Mass
   3. Bowling
   4. Golf

   Send to Br. Bob Bartoli, 675 Pine Terrace, South San Francisco, CA  94080
   Deadline: May 1, 2018
September Bocce

On Saturday, September 23rd YMI Council # 613 hosted their 10th annual Bocce Ball Tournament at Orange Park in South San Francisco. Under Sunny Skies 17 teams representing 7 YMI Councils (#1, # 2, #32, #40, #54, #80 #613) competed in this year’s tournament.

As with prior tournaments many of the games were very competitive in the double elimination format. In the finals of this year’s tournament, Council # 32’s On a Roll a team made up Dominic Franco, Hando DeAlba Norm Faria and Danny Marcucci faced off against Fellow Council #32 team and first-time finalist, the Pallbearers, a team made of Bob Bartoli, Alan Patrick, Bill Albera, George Terry and Dave Carelli. In the end, team On a Roll defeated the Pallbearers to win the 10th annual YMI Council #613 Bocce Ball Tournament. Both Finalist received trophies.

Other teams who deserve honorable mention for playing well are:

3rd Place - YMI Council # 40 – Wondering Balls– Thomas Saksa, James Kany, Greg Nelson, Romeo Maffia

4th Place – YMI Council # 40 - Team Campus- John Campus, Mike Bottarini, Nick Goulitas, Matt Wyatt

5th Place Tie – YMI Council # 40 – Wine Country - Angel Vera, Max Vera, Steve Azevendo, Carter Brown

5th Place Tie – YMI Council # 40– The Godfathers - Corbin Goin, Gerri Goin, Ron Misasi, Julie Misasi

7th Place Tie – YMI Council # 613 – Mike Amato, Bob Fiorito, Mike Dimech, Donna Dimech

7th Place Tie – YMI Council # 54 – Just For Fun – Brad Nichols, Mary Lou Nicholls, Charlie Wallin, Debbie Wallin

YMI RIDES PROUDLY AT THE ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

YMI St. John Bosco Council #613 received news that it earned a 2nd Place Award ($100 award) from its participation in the 149th San Francisco Italian Heritage Columbus Day Parade on October 8th.

The YMI has been involved in the oldest Columbus Day celebration parade in America for ten years now. Through a long-standing partnership between YMI St. John Bosco Council #613 and the San Francisco Model -A Ford Auto Club, the YMI’s parade entry this year featured nine stunning motor vehicles (circa 1920’s-1940’s) including a 1938 San Francisco city bus that had traveled through the streets of North Beach when Joe DiMaggio was a young lad. Each vehicle was adorned with signs prominently bearing our YMI name and logo, as well as decorated with several American and Italian flags plus many, many red, green and white balloons (the colors of the Italian flag).

As has been the tradition, the YMI Grand President and his wife get to lead the parade delegation and this year Grand President Mike Nelson #80 and his wife Sylvia represented the YMI very well by riding in the rumble seat of a Model A classic driven by the Chairman of the Board Bob Fiorito #613. Also on hand was our reigning YMI Man of Year, Outside Sentinel Nick Franceschine #54, who joined Grand Secretary Mike Amato #613 and YMI#613 Vice President Joe Soracco on a vintage flatbed truck (circa 1930). Last but not least, Brothers Ryan Casey and Mario Balestreri of YMI #613 rode together with their families aboard the 1938 bus. As an unexpected surprise, four sailors passing by accepted our offer to sit with the YMI aboard the bus and we understand they had a blast!
Once again, the YMI Educational Foundation is proud to announce our Matching Funds Program for 2018. 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.

Each Council may request any amount up to $750.00 in Matching Funds. Upon approval of the submitted request, the Educational Foundation will in turn write a check of any amount not to exceed $1,500.00 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.

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, 2018. Barring a special circumstance request, Matching Fund checks will all be issued and mailed on April 30, 2018. 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.

Yours for God and Country,
Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP
Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP
Educational Foundation Directors

### IN MEMORIAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rudy Morin</td>
<td>04-07-2017</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Montanari</td>
<td>02-03-2017</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>Bart Sciacqua</td>
<td>09-04-2017</td>
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<td>Robert E. Penna</td>
<td>08-13-2017</td>
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<td>John B. Guaraglia</td>
<td>09-03-2017</td>
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<td>Ronald A. Mirkovich</td>
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<td>Antonio Medeiros</td>
<td>08-29-2017</td>
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<td>Wendell Serra PGD</td>
<td>10-05-2017</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Z. Perez</td>
<td>02-24-2017</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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 $750.00): ____________________________

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. Where Matching Funds check is to be mailed:
   NAME: ____________________________________________
   ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

9. Submit completed application form and requesting Council check payable to:

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

   APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2018.
   ALL CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED ON APRIL 30, 2018
   Any questions please call 1-800-964-9646
URGENT REMINDER....ESSAYS AND RAFFLE TICKETS!!!!!!

The Pro Patria Essays are due on January 15, 2018...please get them sent in from all your student writers. Also, the Pro Patria Raffle pays for this outreach program of the YMI. Please, please, buy and send in your tickets before the Red and White Mass.....the students are depending on you!!!!

DON'T FORGET                                DON'T FORGET                                DON'T FORGET
Spring 2018 issue
Due Date:  March 31, 2018  ~  Please submit articles, pictures, etc. to
YMI Business Manager: YMIUS@aol.com