Grand President’s Message

As we move from Fall to Winter, we continue to nurture our Councils. I have visited many Councils these last few months; the welcoming has been great. I see Councils vary in size, but all have faith and fraternalism. If I have not visited your Council, call me so we can set a date. I know many feel there is lack of communication with the Grand Council, however, as your Grand President, you can always call me at (559) 223-4830 (cell).

I am fairly new to the workings of the Grand Council; I went to my first Grand Session three years ago. I encourage all members to get involved in the Grand Council activities. Attend a Grand Session, which is held in June, just after Father’s Day on Tuesday through Thursday. This year we will be meeting in Reno NV. I had little knowledge of the Grand Council function and could not tell the new members of this. We sometimes limit ourselves knowledge of the YMI to just within our local Council, and that is unfortunate. I invite all Brothers who can, please plan to attend a Grand Session. The more we get involved with other Councils; we may get ideas that will make our Councils stronger. Let’s continue to Nurture our Councils.

As I write, I note the shortage of priests. I attend Our Lady of Miracles in Gustine; our pastor is going to have surgery this week and is close to retirement. Our bishop twinned our parish with a parish in Hilmar which is 20-30 minutes away. One priest will be assigned to both parishes and will be responsible to administer both independently. With this thought, the Grand Council has a Seminarian Foundation that is funded by donations, we need to consider donating and assisting those who choose this vocation.

Another aspect of the Grand President’s Program is the Coordinating Committee. One of the points of this Committee is the support for the Annual West Coast Walk for Life. The event this year will be January 25, 2020, in San Francisco. Many parishes come by bus; I encourage you to be part of this event.

Let’s remember our Brothers who are in need of our prayers and have a blessed season of Advent.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria

Mike Thissen

Grand President
A JOYOUS SEASON IS UPON US….

FROM THE GRAND COUNCIL

OF THE YMI!!!!!!

Seminarian Search……..

The Seminarian Educational Foundation of the YMI is beginning its advertisement and search for Councils to nominate Seminarians who are currently studying for the priesthood for their Diocese. Paperwork from the Foundation will be in the mail soon and Seminarian applications are available on the YMI Website. We all know there is a shortage of priests and this is one way we can encourage young men to fill that void. Financial Awards are determined on May 1 and announced at the Grand Council Convention in June. Every Council should be a part of this effort.
The YMI Red and White Mass

Celebrating 137 years of Brotherhood
Saturday March 14, 2020

Where:  St. Sebastian's Church
7983 Covert Lane
Sebastopol CA 95472

When  Saturday, March 14, 2020
4:30 pm - YMI Banner Procession
5:00 pm - Mass
(Celebrated by Fr. Agnel de Heredia
YMI Grand Chaplain)
6:00 pm - No Host Bar
7:00 pm - Dinner
7:45 pm - Pro Patria Raffle

Cost  Dinner Prices
Adults $25  |  Children (16 and under) $15

RSVP by February 28, 2020
For more information, please contact:  Br. Nick Franceschine
GSVP
Tel: 707-824-9600  E-mail: nick@northbaypensions.com

Please make checks payable to YMI #54 by February 28th and mail to:
Br. Nick Franceschine, GSVP, 550 Du Franc Ave., Sebastopol CA 95472

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YMI Red and White Mass</th>
<th>Saturday, March 14, 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Email Address</td>
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| Number of Adults | $25 |
| Number of Children (16 and Under) | $15 |
| Total Enclosed   |     |
Reflections on The Lord’s Prayer

The petitions in the Lord’s Prayer are interesting. The first three petitions have to do with God and the glory of God. The second three petitions deal with our needs. First, we ask for our “daily bread” – the needs of our present. Then we ask forgiveness for our sins – the needs of our past. Finally, we ask guidance – the needs of our future. In these few words, we are presenting our entire lives (past, present, and future) to God.

But there is much more here. Asking for our daily bread is a direct plea to the Father, the Creator. Asking forgiveness is a plea to the Son, the Redeemer. Asking for guidance is a plea to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Guide. Thus we are praying to the fullness of God. In this amazing prayer, Jesus teaches us to bring the whole of life to the whole of God, and to bring the whole of God to the whole of life.

Re-phrased from: The Daily Study Bible Series, Matthew volume 1 by W. Barclay.

Provided by Br. Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP
Support the YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest

Reminder to please buy Pro Patria Raffle Tickets (Raffle) to support our YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest (Essay Contest)! Each year this Raffle provides much of the funds supporting our annual Essay Contest. This essay contest, now in its 46th year, is the largest YMI outreach effort awarding 24 prizes totaling $8000 for students between the 7th and 12th grades! As the contest benefits all YMI Councils who sponsor students, it is fitting for all YMI Brothers to support our essay contest by buying raffle tickets.

The Pro Patria Committee has made a notable change to this year’s raffle ticket process. Instead of receiving two books of raffle tickets and having to write your name/address repeatedly, we have provided all YMI brothers with a one-page sheet of raffle tickets in the Grand 1st Vice President’s Mike Amato’s September 1st letter. This process change has already resulted in major cost savings from not printing and mailing thousands of heavy books of raffle tickets; savings that are better used for contest prizes!

Each raffle ticket sheet includes 8 raffle tickets and various donation level options are available to consider. While we encourage all to make a $40 donation by buying all 8 tickets (the best value!), the Pro Patria Committee requests each YMI Brother buy at least 3 raffle tickets for $25. The committee understands that some brothers may be experiencing financial challenges, so even a $10 donation for one raffle ticket will be gratefully appreciated. Proceeds raised in excess of the budget for this year’s essay contest will be reinvested in next year’s contest in the form of more and even larger student prizes.

Please complete the ticket stubs and return them along with a check payable to the YMI by early March 2020. The raffle tickets and your check should be mailed to the YMI Grand Council Office, P.O. Box 281047, San Francisco, CA 94128-1047. The raffle will be held during the YMI Red & White Anniversary Mass Celebration in March 14, 2020. Should you need more raffle ticket sheets, please feel free to copy the raffle ticket sheet or call or text Br. Mike Amato (650-296-6297) for more raffle ticket sheets. Thank you for your support

Sell those tickets
By Mike Nelson

To all Brothers of our Great Order

We all have an important role to play in the of our Brotherhood. Along with the Grand Council, I am seeking suggestions from all 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 mnelson935@reagan.com

Please remember that all your ideas are welcome and need to be received for consideration by March 1, 2019. Once your suggestions have been received, the Grand Council will review and determine if the proposal will be published in the Institute Journal and subsequently presented to the Delegates at the June 2020 Grand Council Session in Reno, NV.

While it is important for the Grand Council to support increased membership numbers, it is equally important for individual councils to review their own membership outreach and retention efforts. What are you doing to make your YMI meetings a welcoming place for all men of the parish?

The Membership Committee has materials available to help you in your membership outreach efforts. Please take advantage of these resources.

Working together we can strengthen our fraternity so that it remains viable for our sons and grandsons.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria

Mike Nelson, IPGP

Ideas Welcome

Believe it or not – the search is on again!!!

Although the present YMI year is about half over, it is time to look to the future for Grand Council Officers. All current offices are open with the exception of four seats on the Board of Grand Directors (a two-year term). When the next issue of the Institute Journal is published and distributed, it would be greatly appreciated if Brothers will step forward to run for office. If anyone would like to inquire on the different responsibilities of the offices, please feel free to speak to any current Grand Council Officer, read the YMI Grand Council By-Laws (on the website) or contact Br. Tom Fourie at the Grand Council Office.
New Members – What Have You Done Lately???

Membership seems to be the major discussion point at all our Grand Council Sessions. The decline in our existing members along with few new members have placed the longevity of the Young Men’s Institute in jeopardy. When was the last time any of you have asked a Catholic man to share in the activities of your Council with the hope of having him join? Each of us was asked by a YMI member to join at some point, so why not consider doing the same thing now. It doesn’t take much. It is certainly worth the effort, so why not make that effort today.

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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Bonfigli</td>
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<td>Dino Boito</td>
<td>Bob Vioalin</td>
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<td>Gino Arnaudo</td>
<td>Michael Bacchetti</td>
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<td>Mario Arnaudo</td>
<td>Garrett Arnaudo</td>
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<td>Kevin Baptista</td>
<td>Michale Bacchetti</td>
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<td>Stephen Alegre</td>
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<td>Jay Tovar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Johnson</td>
<td>George Guy</td>
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YMI Pins

As all of the Grand Council Officers, District Deputies and Councils Officers are aware, the YMI Grand Council Office has always had a supply of lapel pins, etc. for Councils to award to their members on special occasions. At the last Board of Grand Directors Meeting, a discussion was held concerning the current inventory of pins, the need to order more, costs, etc.

The inventory was presented as follows:

- 50 year pins – 0
- 40 year pins – 37
- 30 year pins – 0
- 25 year pins – 62
- 15 year pins – 45
- 10 year pins – 0

There are 190 large membership lapel pins and 53 small membership lapel pins on hand.

The Grand Directors are asking each Council to provide the Grand Council Office with their input of their need for pins in the future. Many Councils do not participate in this type of award. Please e-mail Br. Tom Fourie with your input so the Board can move forward. Your suggestions will be of great value given the increased cost of having these pins made. Please let Br. Tom know before January 1, 2020. You may contact him by phone or e-mail the office.

Given the increased cost factor, all future order of pins for Councils will come with a charge of $20 per pin.

In Memoriam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Rajeski</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Moore</td>
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<td>86/900</td>
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<td>John Pedroni</td>
<td>06-26-2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond Yoschak</td>
<td>06-03-2019</td>
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<td>David Cresto</td>
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<td>Anthony Michael</td>
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<td>Charles A. Fuhs</td>
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<td>Raymond Raffaelli</td>
<td>09-15-2019</td>
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<td>Valenti Guajardo</td>
<td>08-27-2019</td>
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PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS
Let’s Keep CHRIST in Christmas!

In this happy season, many religious authorities will encourage us to “Keep Christ in Christmas”. This is a great idea – and here are some practical ways that we can all do this:

· Christmas cards – when you buy Christmas cards (if you haven’t already), pick ones with a religious theme.

· Postage stamps – by tradition, every year the US Postal Service offers two stamps for the holidays: a secular one (Santa Claus or a wreath, etc.) and a religious one (usually a reproduction of a famous painting showing the Madonna and Child). The government has to be careful not to officially endorse any particular religion, but they know we want religious Christmas stamps, so this is their compromise.

· Say an Advent prayer before dinner, together, as a family. This can include lighting candles on your Advent wreath.

· Put a nativity scene in a prominent place in your home. Everyone who visits you will see it! And be sure to:

· Hide the Baby Jesus – then bring Him out with a flourish on Christmas eve or morning. Sing a carol, maybe read the Christmas story from the gospel of St. Luke with a candle burning. And all this before we all open gifts for each other. This will especially impress the children, so they will see what Christmas is really all about.

· Give God a special gift, just from you to Him. No one else needs to know about it. This should be a sacrifice of some kind. Some ideas: forgiving someone that you need to forgive, or praying for someone who has wronged you.

· Sing Christmas carols in a nursing home or hospital with friends (check with the facility first to make sure it’s ok, and when it will be convenient for them). This is much easier than it sounds. Afterwards you can have lunch together somewhere, make a day of it.

· Compliment businesses and stores that publicly display a nativity scene. This used to be much more common than it is now. Scenes showing a mythical Santa Claus are considered ok, even Muslim symbols are accepted, but anything explicitly Christian seems to evoke hatred. These days, it takes courage for a business to show a nativity scene.

· Greet people with “Merry Christmas” instead of Happy Holidays or Seasons Greetings.

· At your Christmas dinner, set a place for the Guest of Honor. It’s His birthday!
Once again, the YMI Educational Foundation is proud to announce our Matching Funds Program for 2020. 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 $800.00 in Matching Funds. Upon approval of the submitted request, the Educational Foundation will in turn write a check of any amount not to exceed $1,600.00 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 no later than April 1, 2020. Barring a special circumstance request, Matching Fund checks will all be issued and mailed on April 30, 2020. 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
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 $800.00): ______________________

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 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, 2020.

ALL CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED ON APRIL 30, 2020.
Checks will be mailed directly to the participating council’s official address.
135th GRAND COUNCIL SESSION – “NUTURING OUR COUNCILS”

In a few months the YMI Grand Council will conduct its annual gathering for all Grand Council Officers, Council Delegates and any YMI Brother who wishes to attend. Beginning on Monday, June 22, 2020 we will all gather at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada for registration and then to Immaculate Conception Church in Sparks for our Opening Mass. For the next few days we will review the workings of the YMI this past year and plan for the future. On June 24, 2019 we will celebrate our Order, initiate the new Grand Council Officers and enjoy our world-famous Grand Banquet.

Grand President Michael Thissen is hoping for a great response this year from all the Councils. The Silver Legacy Hotel is now accepting room reservations by calling 1-800-687-8733 and using the rate code YMI620. Our special room rate ($65.00 per night) is available from June 21 – 26, 2020.

You can make your reservations now!!!

Don’t forget

Spring 2020 Issue

Due Date: March 31, 2020 ~ Please submit articles, pictures, etc. to

YMI Business Manager: YMIUS@aol.com