



UNDER THE LAMP POST



Pro Deo Pro Patria

Vol. 137 Summer 2026

Grand President's Message

**YOUNG MEN'S
INSTITUTE**



A Welcome from the Grand President

Many of you were not at the conference when I presented my program for the year "Look For A Sign".

My sign was re-joining the church in 1990, because I was missing something and believed the church could help me. I am happy to say, we are still with our parish of St. Gabriel in San Francisco. I attend Mass each Sunday, trying to battle with the weather, politics, sports and technology. There are so many factors in each day of our lives. Sometimes we are looking for a sign, but other times a sign appears to us via an ask, a handshake or doing a good deed without any thought.

What began as an innocent ride to a meeting in 2017, has led me here. I was offered a ride to a few meetings and in 2019 decided to sign up at Council #32 in South San Francisco. Now this was a different city than where I lived, but came to know and respect the members at #32, deciding to enroll there. Signs to stay did prosper after Covid, and I was Council President from 2022-2024.

Pro Deo brings us to our faith in the Church. That faith is being found by many more, since Pope Leo is American, there has been a surge of people joining or rejoining the Church. At our St. Gabriel's this past Easter, we added seven new members to the flock.

We should be using our time at church to see if any of our fellow parishioners would be interested in joining our Institute. I know my friend who began bringing me to meetings knew I was a practicing Catholic, since we asked him and his wife where the local church was near his vacation house.

INSTITUTE JOURNAL

USPS Permit No. 92
Young Men's Institute
P. O. Box 1161
South San Francisco, CA 94080-1161

Published 4 times yearly as its official organ of:

Young Men's Institute

Grand Council Office
Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP, Business Mgr.
P.O. Box 281047
San Francisco, CA 94128-1047
YMIUS@AOL.COM
Subscription \$2.00 per year,
included in the dues
Periodical Postage paid
at San Bruno, California
Editor: Tom Fourie #32, PGP

Officers of the Young Men's Institute

Grand President, Richard Murphy #32
Grand 1st Vice President, Mario Balistreri #613
Grand 2nd Vice President, Ed Silva #54
Immediate Past Grand President, Bill Walls #80
Grand Chaplain, Fr. Agnel DeHeredia #32
Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech #613
Grand Treasurer, Bob Bartoli #32, PGP
Grand Marshal, Mario Borba #44
Grand Inside Sentinel, Bob Fiorito #613
Grand Outside Sentinel, Paul Larson #32

Board of Grand Directors

Chairman, Michael Amato #613, PGP
Danny Avila #44
John Cleary #613
Joe Reza #59, PGP
Steve Cresci #32, PGP
Gus Solidum #94
Ron Serchia #32
Antonio Melo #44

Post Master:

Send address changes to:

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

Our support of the Seminarian Educational Foundation is represented by 25-30 scholarship awards to continue their vocation into the priesthood. We should try to support this effort either with time or contributions.

Many newcomers to Mass seem to be the 18-35 year olds, who feel loneliness and anxiety; have prompted them to search for church community. It is up to us to ask the new and the old members if they would like to come to one of our meetings. Let them get a feel for what we do and what we stand for. The signs are there.

Let's quit trying so hard and let the new members come to us. How about putting an ad in all of our parish bulletins. During church events, seek out who is in charge and see if you can help. The more visible we are at church, the more people will see you as a do-gooder, and you will feel better about yourself. Let's try and relieve our stress and put more names on the enrollment sheets of our Young Men's Institute memberships.

As I visit all the councils this coming year, please bring questions to me, whether how to better our membership or how to better your council. Invitations to Council #2 and BBQ at Council #54 is a great way to start. My goal this year is to have as many councils proud to be a part of our membership. I would like to bring stabilization and pride back to each council. This will be a challenging year. On June 17, 2026 I accepted that challenge. Join me in making the Young Men's Institute a place for new and old members to thrive. We may not be young in age, but we are young in heart.

Pro Deo, Pro Patria

Richard Murphy, Grand President

NEW MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

WELCOME!!!

Pascal Atalor #573 sponsored by Brother Thomas E. Figueira
Juan Vasquez #94 sponsored by Jorge Vasquez
Jorge Vasquez #94 sponsored by Jorge Vasquez
Alberto Valencia #94 sponsored by Gus Solidum
Michael Nerney #32 sponsored by Greg Tallerico/John Figone
Athanasus Okure #94 sponsored by Maximo Martinez
Erik Doran #32 sponsored by Robert Carl
Thomas Brandon #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
Blake Ornellas #92 sponsored by Mark Ornellas
Filiberto Duarte #99 sponsored by Darrell Fonseca
Harvey Fonseca #99 sponsored by Darrell Fonseca
Derrick Billena #573 sponsored by Thomas Figueira
Almar Valenzuela #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
Brad Dias #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
Tomes Casas #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
Martin Loretz #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
Matthew Bacchetti #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
Larry Diggs #92 sponsored by Michael Bacchetti
James Callaghan #613 sponsored by Dominic Panina
Robert O'Neill #612 sponsored by Brendan Falvey
James Lewis #613 sponsored by Arthur Jiminez
Michael McNaughton #613 sponsored by Dominic Panina
Francis Custodio #613 sponsored by John Kavanagh
Rene Tanjuakio #613 sponsored by John Kavanagh
Juan Carlos Noble #613 sponsored by John Kavanagh

Rest in Peace Brothers.....

Alex Aragon #32
Edward Guidotti #32
Luigi Duri #32
Joe Bettencourt #94
Jerry Campbell #900
Richard J. Silva #44
Edward Guidotti #32
Reno Cornaggia #94
Sam Balestieri #32
Manuel N. Lima #44



Educational Foundation Memorials

Name	Donor(s)
General	Domenic Carinalli, Jr. #54
In memory of Manuel Lima	Holy Rosary Council #44
In memory of Manuel Lima	Manuel Drumonde #44
In memory of Celeste Drumonde	John West #32
Donation	Richard P. Murphy #32
Anita M. Andrade	Clement Gusman #573

Seminarian Educational Foundation Update

The Seminarian Education Foundation of the Young Men's Institute continues to assist young men preparing for the priesthood. During this past YMI year the Foundation was able to provide funding for seminarian education to thirty-four individuals who are currently studying for the priesthood. These funds were distributed to the Councils present at the recent Grand Council Convention in South Lake Tahoe.

YMI Brothers are reminded that they can send financial contributions individually or as a Council to the Seminarian Education Foundation in honor or memory of birthdays, anniversaries and any other special occasions.

Greetings From the Hawaii District!

The Hawaii District and its one Council, Francis Council #573, welcomed a new Council term with its Installation of Officers on Sunday, July 19, 2026. Brother Maisa Faletoi Jr. was installed as the new President, succeeding Brother Thomas E. Figueira, who had served as Council President for more than a decade. The Council looks forward to Brother Faletoi's leadership along with the leadership of his fellow officers.

As for Brother Figueira, alas, his work is not done. He has now become the Council Recording Secretary.

In welcoming the new term, Francis Council is currently in the process of setting forth a calendar of events for the coming year to continue to enrich its membership and to continue to pursue the ideals of the YMI.

In Hawaii happenings of note to both the Hawaii District and the entire Diocese of Honolulu, on July 28, 2026 a new shepherd, Bishop Michael T.T. Castori, SJ, was ordained and installed as the new bishop. Bishop Castori replaces Bishop Clarence "Larry" Silva who reached the mandatory retirement age for bishops after twenty-one years of service as Bishop of Honolulu. We look forward to a great relationship between Bishop Castori and the YMI in the State of Hawaii.

As an addendum to the greetings from the Hawaii District, this is to report that, although parts of the State of Hawaii, and particularly on the Big Island, where Francis Council #573 is located, sustained significant and, in some cases, catastrophic damage from the recent Kona Low storms in March, and, more seriously, Hurricane Lala earlier in August, we have had no reports of serious concern regarding any of our YMI brothers and their families. As noted, several areas, particularly on the South side of the Big Island and on Maui, did sustain catastrophic damage and the Hawaii District continues to pray for all those affected as they slowly recover. We ask all of the YMI to join in our prayers.

As always, the Hawaii District and Francis Council No. 573 extends Aloha to all in the YMI.

Clement A. Gusman, Hawaii District Deputy

Brother Mario Balistreri #613, GSVF Named YMI Man of the Year

The YMI “Man of the Year” Award is the YMI’s most prestigious individual award. It is based on the YMI’s three-fold purpose: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism. The award is bestowed annually during the Grand Council Session to a worthy YMI brother in consideration of the following criteria.

- Faith as defined by one’s service to the parish;
- Patriotism as shown by one’s service to the community;
- Fraternalism as demonstrated by one’s efforts support YMI Council & Grand Council Activities.
-

At the 141st Grand Council Session held in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, the YMI recognized Brother Mario Balistreri of Saint John Bosco Council #613 as the YMI Man of the Year for 2026.

Brother Mario has been a member of the YMI Saint John Bosco Council #613 for eleven years. He served as the Council’s Marshal and has been involved in several of the Council activities such as the Council’s Hour of Memory, Bocce Tournament, Summer Picnic, Golf Tournament and the annual Christmas Party.

Brother Mario has been a delegate at Grand Sessions and was on the Board of Grand Directors and is currently the Grand First Vice President. Last year, as the Grand Second Vice President, Brother Mario and his committee did a fantastic job as hosts for the annual Red and White Mass. He has also served on several Grand Council Committees.

Brother Mario served both his Parish of St. Cecilia and his community having served on the parish Men’s Club Board, Chairman of the Annual Crab Dinner and Parish Festival.

For his community, Brother Mario has helped at the San Francisco Food Bank, Project One Warm Coat and has helped provide gifts at Christmas time to various schools each year. All this from an Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow Member.

Congratulations Brother Mario on a well-deserved award!

Grand Director Board Meeting Recap

The YMI Board of Grand Directors opened the 2026-27 fiscal year by meeting via Zoom on Saturday, July 18th. The meeting was led by the Board Chairman (Br. Mike Amato #613) and was joined by fellow Grand Directors (Br. Steve Cresci #32, Br. John Cleary #613, Br. Danny Avila #44, Br. Anthony Melo #44, Br. Gus Solidum #94, Br. Joe Reza #59 and Br. Ron Serchia #32).

In addition, many YMI Grand Officers led by Grand President Richard Murphy #32 and several District Deputies participated in the meeting. The following list highlights the significant meeting matters discussed:

- Grand Director Board Assignments for 2026-27 were formally announced by Br. Mike Amato #613. The duties of the various committees were contained in the YMI By-Laws and Br. Amato urged the chairs of said committees to organize meetings to communicate with other assigned YMI Brothers on matters to advance the YMI Order.
- Grand President Richard Murphy #32 discussed his official visits to date, including attending the YLI Convention. He also covered his plans for the coming months and shared news of his new District Deputy for the North Bay, Br. Rob Bisordi.
- Grand 1st Vice President Mario Balistreri #613 covered his plans to send a mailing to YMI Brothers about this year's YMI Pro Patria Essay Contest & Raffle. The contest prize fund had been increased by a prior Board action.
- Grand 2nd Vice President Ed Silva #54 shared his work efforts to date for the next Red and White Mass being planned for Saturday, February 20th. Br. Silva has been in contact with our Grand Chaplain, Fr. Agne, and more details will be announced in coming months.
- Early planning efforts for the 2027 Grand Council Session Planning Committee were discussed. The Grand President convened a committee to identify a suitable location other than Lake Tahoe.
- The Laws & Revisions Committee (led by Chair Br. Nick Franceschini PGP, #54) accepted all passed State of the Institute motions approved at the June 2026 Grand Council Sessions and prepared an updated version of the YMI By-Laws to reflect those motions. These updated By-Laws have been distributed to the YMI Councils via e-mail and placed on the YMI Website.
- The YMI Bocce Ball Tournament is scheduled for Saturday October 3rd. All YMI Councils are encouraged to participate.

Our next Board of Grand Directors Meeting is Saturday, September 19th.

Hello Brothers of the YMI!!!!

I am your recently elected Grand Second Vice President of the YMI Grand Council as of our last Convention in June 2026 at Lake Tahoe. Some of you know me as I have attended the past five Grand Council Sessions.

I was on the Grand Council Board of Directors for 2025-2026. As GSVP I am responsible for the Red and White Mass for 2027. We have scheduled the Mass for February 20, 2027. As a member of St. Sebastian's Catholic Church and a member of YMI Council #54 in Sebastopol, CA, this is where the Red and White Mass will be held at 2:30 p.m. with Father Agnel De Heredia, our Grand Council Chaplain, to celebrate the Mass for us that Saturday afternoon. As this is also part of the Pro Patria Raffle, there will be more information on this later.

As for more about myself, I grew up in Sebastopol and attended St. Sebastian's Church, receiving baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation there. I worked on a nearby dairy farm during my high school years. After High School graduation, I served in the US Navy from November 1969 to November 1973. Upon my return home, I began work with Pacific Telephone Co, Pac Bell, and then AT&T for 30 plus years. I was married with three children, although now divorced. I also have five grandchildren. Being of Portuguese decent, I have belonged to the Holy Ghost Society of Sebastopol for many years now.

I joined the YMI Council #54 in 1999 and have been a more active member in the last ten years helping with our monthly meetings and Council fundraisers. I enjoy being a part of the YMI Grand Council and encourage all of my fellow Brothers to participate in the YMI Councils and events.

Please support eh Pro Patria Raffle and attend the Red and White Mass next February!

For God and for Country,

Edward Silva #54, GSVP

Grand 1st Vice-President Report

Since this is the first Journal since our convention in Lake Tahoe at Bally's, below are the events I have attended since then, and events that I plan to attend for the remainder of 2026:

San Jose Council #2 visit, 08-18-2026

Richard Murphy, Steve Cresci and I attended the #2 Council meeting in San Jose. After the meeting an audit was conducted, followed by a luncheon at a local restaurant.

Wine Country BBQ, Council #54, 08-19-2026

Thanks to Domenic and Lynda Carinalli for hosting dinner at their vineyard in Santa Rosa. The meal, including steaks and sides was delicious; wine was flowing during appetizers. For the first time, visitors outnumbered the number of council attendees. After the meal, Richard Murphy, Grand President addressed the attendees. I was also asked to speak about my duties as Grand 1st Vice-President. I gave a brief talk on the raffle tickets and essay contest planned for this year! The amount to be provided to students will be a total of \$12,000.

Annual Summer Picnic, Council #613, 08-23-2026

Held at Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno; there was great attendance with 72 persons, including the Grand President, Richard Murphy, other past Grand Presidents, and myself as Grand 1st Vice-President. A delicious bbq steak meal with a raffle held afterwards with many generous prizes.

Bocce Ball Tournament, Council #613, 10-03-2026

I plan to attend this event to be held at Orange Memorial Park Bocce Ball Courts and I will assist Mike Dimech with preparing the food. Includes Bocce Ball Tournament, along with breakfast, lunch, and raffle.

Italian Heritage Parade, 10-11-2026

Will be joining other members from Council #613 to participate in the Italian Heritage Parade. My wife and I will be riding in 50's and 60's automobiles. I am honored to represent the YMI as "Man of the Year" for 2026. Looking forward to a great event in North Beach.

Hour of Memory, 11-01-2026

I am proud to coordinate this event, to honor deceased members of Council #613. Mass to be held at St. Cecilia Church, S.F. at 11:30 a.m., with luncheon immediately following at Dominic's S.F.

Christmas Holiday Party, Council #32, 12-05-2026

I plan to attend this holiday event with my wife, we were graciously asked to attend by #32 Council members. Glad to support other councils as the Grand First Vice President.

Christmas Holiday Party, Council #613, 12-13-2026

In conclusion, I am also looking forward to work with Tom Fourie to send out communication regarding the raffle and the essay contest.

For God and Country,
Mario Balistreri
Grand 1st Vice-President

Sonoma County District – Moving Forward

The Sonoma County District continues to move forward with strong traditions, dedicated members, and plenty of activity in both Santa Rosa Council #40 and Sebastopol Council #54.

I recently accepted the role of District Deputy for Sonoma County, representing both councils. It is an honor to serve our brothers, and I look forward to helping strengthen communication, fellowship, leadership, and participation throughout the district.

Santa Rosa Council #40 currently has approximately 44 members. The council traditionally holds its monthly dinner and meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, primarily at St. Eugene's, with members also hosting meetings in their homes a few times during the year. Following some challenges this past Spring, recent meetings have been held at members' homes while the council works toward establishing a more stable meeting location and strengthening its parish relationships.

Council #40 has remained active throughout 2026. The Spring Polenta Dinner was held on March 28 at St. Eugene's, continuing one of the council's longtime traditions. Looking ahead, the council is putting together a team for the YMI Bocce Ball Tournament on October 3. The Fall Polenta Dinner is scheduled for November 7, with plans currently being considered for either St. Rose Parish Hall or the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Hall.

Council #40 is also focused on strengthening leadership and increasing member participation. While there is work ahead, there are dedicated brothers who care deeply about the council and its future, and there is a strong commitment to moving forward together.

Sebastopol Council #54 currently has approximately 32 members and continues to enjoy a very active year. The council holds its business meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at St. Sebastian's Parish Hall, along with a social and dinner meeting on the fourth Monday.

Council #54 began the year with its Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in March, which drew approximately 240 participants. In May, the council hosted a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast following the 9:00 a.m. Mass, welcoming approximately 80 mothers, family members, and guests.

In August, Council #54 held its Annual Steak BBQ at Brother Dominic's vineyard. Approximately 50 participants attended, including brothers from several other YMI councils, making it a wonderful evening of fellowship.

The council is also looking ahead to its Christmas Luncheon for St. Sebastian's YLI #116 in December. The date is still being finalized.

Our next YMI business meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Main topics: what to do with our Council's investments, and financial performance for the steak BBQ.

Don't forget, breakfast every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Louie's restaurant, corner of Fulton Road and West 3rd Street in Santa Rosa. All Brothers are invited. Unfortunately, we still need to charge \$25 per person, prices being what they are, but you can order any entrée on the menu.

One of the major events on the horizon for the district will take place on February 20, 2027, when Sebastopol Council #54 hosts the YMI Grand Council Red and White Mass at St. Sebastian's Church in Sebastopol. The Mass will begin at 2:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the Pro Patria Raffle drawing.

Together, Santa Rosa Council #40 and Sebastopol Council #54 represent approximately 76 YMI brothers in Sonoma County.

The Sonoma County District has much to be proud of, and an exciting road ahead.

Fraternally,
Rob Bisordi
District Deputy, Sonoma County

YMI NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

For the third year in a row, YMI Brothers, family and friends attended the San Jose Giants Single A baseball game. The game at Excite Ball Park on Saturday July 25th was a match between the San Jose Giants and the rival Ontario Tower Busters. The Giants prevailed with a win 8-3.

The weather was great, barbeque delicious, and cold beverages as well make for an enjoyable evening for all. Prior to the game we were entertained by Lucha Libre. Lucha Libre is a fast-paced, highly acrobatic style of professional wrestling that originated in Mexico and is famous for its colorful masks and high-flying aerial moves. Brother Bill Avery, PGP was spotted wearing a mask and might have his sights on entering the ring in the future.

Events like these strengthen the bond we have as an organization. An opportunity to get together beyond the Grand Convention once a year. I know everyone who was there looks forward to next year's YMI Night at the Ball Park and I hope we can increase our attendance.

Br. Steve Cresci #32, PGP

Immediate Past Grand President Report

Dear Brothers, this is my first report as Immediate Past Grand President. My travels have taken me to Sebastopol for a wonderful steak dinner. Next, I went to the picnic at San Bruno for another wonderful steak dinner. As your new IPGP, I am seeking any suggestions for the next year for the State of the Institute. My email is wallsdude@yahoo.com. See you later at another event.

William A. Walls

Immediate Past Grand President
2026-2027



The next issue of the Institute Journal will be the Fall Issue. All articles, pictures, etc. to be submitted to the Business Manager by November 15, 2026. Don't Forget!!!