

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

23 June 2026



Physical therapist Peggy Larochelle and Ulisses Vasquez use the lift chair to assist Bill Hughes get into the MLS pool for exercise

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Lasallian Partners and Brothers traveling in France;
- In thanksgiving for the father figures in our lives;
- Those in hospice, their families, and caretakers;
- The needs of our school presidents and principals;
- Healing for Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybwoski, Richard Kovatch, Ron Rogenback, Raoul Viguerie, and Alisa Macksey's mother;
- Families dealing with children who make poor choices;
- The needs of our young Brothers and future postulant.



SMC Vice-Chair David Caretti thanked Eric Flowers and Liz Phelan for service

My travels and assorted news...

Returned to Napa from Chicagoland to attend the two-day retreat for the Saint Mary's College Board. Fortunately, it was held at Mont La Salle so I got to sleep in my own bed! **David Caretti** and three other members led the board in a formation movement before each session began. This was a very effective way to keep the Mission front and center. The board worked with a consultant team to formulate board and leadership goals for this coming year. Difficult choices continue to necessary to right-size the college's budget and we're on track to eliminate structural deficits for next year. Outgoing Board Chair, Eric Flowers, and Board Secretary, Liz Phelan, were honored for their tremendous contributions and leadership.

The District Chief Administrators Association (DCAA) gathered at MLS at the beginning of this week for their annual retreat and formation. The theme was *Utilizing Spiritual Anchors as Pathways to Resilience*. It was led by Mike Daniels. At the end of a school year, the presidents and principals deeply value the opportunity to reflect on the year through the eyes of faith. They were invited to consider the north stars in their lives which guide their

"I will give you a new heart; I will place a new spirit in you." Ezekiel 36:26

actions and decision. They also treasure the Lasallian community of support they experience with their peers. They blew off a good deal of steam at the evening impromptu sing-a-long led by **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, on guitar.

After Mary Alice Spinelli (JSHS), Tom Guro, and Dr. Seth Alexander (both CBHS) wrote a textbook introducing freshmen to the Founder and Lasallian schools, they were awarded a grant by the Christian Brothers Conference to travel to France to prepare ancillary materials for teachers. Alonzo Aguilio (CBHS) is creating media content and GVG is along as guide. They're walking in the footsteps of the Founder. Six other Partners asked to join them for the first-hand experience. We all look forward to seeing their final product. I'm heartened by our Partners for creating this value resource.

Steven Vasoli (initial formation director) and **David Caretti** have designed a two-week pilgrimage in France to serve as **Rafa Rodriguez'** pre-final profession retreat. The plan is to visit significant Lasallian sites. They arrived safely in Paris on Sunday. On Tuesday they traveled to Rouen.



David, Rafa, and Steven at *Église Saint-Sulpice* on their first morning in Paris

Miscellaneous...

Novitiate Renovations update: HVAC units for bedrooms are installed and functioning. Some bathroom mirrors, solid wood doors with card-activated locks, balcony decking, Saltillo-style tile, and ceiling light fixtures have been installed. Tables and chairs for the conference rooms have begun to arrive and are being stored.

Dat Hoang began an Alaskan cruise with ten members of his family. This is a wonderful opportunity for him to reconnect with his cousins. While at MLS, Dat has been volunteering in the Archives with projects and splitting fire wood for exercise.

Javi Hansen attended his first in-person board meeting for *Fe y Vida*, a Lasallian ministry which creates leadership formation opportunities for Latino youth through their local parishes. **Alan Parham** (MW) is also on the board. The group celebrated moving into a larger facility at Lewis University.



Stop at *Rue Princess*, first Lasallian school in Paris: George, Fabrice, Mary Alice, Seth, Tom, and Alonzo



Joseph Fabiano and John Montgomery *en route* to the MLS cemetery



Legacy NOSF Leo Burkhard is buried at Parménie whose restoration he led



Joseph Pham's brother and sister-in-law attended Bosco Truong's funeral



The new deck on the novitiate balcony is under construction; new HVAC units visible



Walter (Nicaragua) and Juan Manuel (Colombia) with Javi at *Fe y Vida* event on Lewis U campus

"(To respond to God's call), we need to adapt and enhance our Lasallian formation, learn to discern together, and accompany one another." Declaration 2020

De La Salle Institute

Mont La Salle | 4401 Redwood Road | Napa, CA 94558
Covington | 104 W. 11th Avenue | Covington, LA 70433



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