

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

14 July 2026



Matthew Chiantella with San Miguel students who helped run an *Arcoíris* Youth Retreat at neighboring Santa Monica Parish

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The safety of all students and staff in our schools;
- Healing for Melvin Pelton, Joseph Pham, Brian Dybowski, Bernie LoCoco, and Liza Ribera;
- Buttimer participants and staff;
- Immigrant communities living in fear;
- Our new Auxiliary and new Director of Vocation Ministry;
- The consolation of those in mourning; especially the Powers and Lund families;
- Healing and justice for victims of sexual abuse;
- Young people to respond to the call to consecrated life.



Jack with two volunteer fire fighters at the annual 4th of July pancake bkfst

My travels and assorted news...

Since last week, **David Caretti**, **Chris Brady**, and I have had our first two meetings as a team. We began to outline responsibilities, schedule our year, and organize our actions responding to the District Chapter. We will all be attending the CMSM Assembly in Phoenix next week since their foci are Community Life Today and Safe Environment which dovetails well with the District Chapter and our Praesidium visit.

This past Thursday and Friday, Praesidium representative Yulieth Reina was on site at Mont La Salle for the final part of our reaccreditation process. She was a wonderful partner who helped us understand what policies and practices needed adjusting to be comply with the updated standards. Sixteen Brothers were interviewed by her either before or during her visit. That's 22% of the District! Mary Hesser, the Chair of our independent Review Board also met with her. Yulieth noted that we work with our Brothers who have had allegations made against them to help them clear their names. Kudos to **Chris Brady** who has been preparing for this visit since last October. We're now working to make the suggested changes and to prepare packets for our

"Thinking is difficult, that's why most people judge."

Carl Jung

September Review Board meeting. This is the independent board which makes recommendations about our safety plans and reviews how we're handling allegations.

Due to their large number, I broke up my visit to HFC into two parts and just finished. **Art Carroll** is doing so well that he's travelling with Mary Kelly on her visit to his beloved Santa Fe. **Martin DeMartini** shared lessons he's learned in facing life's challenges. His sunny optimism comes from his mother. **Fred Van Haaften** has returned after an extended stay with one daughter in NM. He's now planning a trip his second daughter in Tennessee. We both agreed that he's blessed to have women planning his life. **Dat Hoang** is appreciating time to hike the hills of Napa. Wise Sub-Director **Paul-André Durham** shared his thoughts with me about how to be of support to this community.

Novitiate construction is making great progress. Bedroom furnishings are moved in, light fixtures have been installed, and the upstairs hallway carpet is in. Downstairs, the beautiful wood ceilings and light fixtures in the meeting spaces are almost finished.



SHCP staff celebrated Victor Kenneth's 76th birthday during summer school

Miscellaneous...

Richard Lemberg just finished up a week at Camp Wente in Willits where he assisted 11 Boy Scouts to earn their fishing badge. All managed to catch a live one! He now pivots to hosting Brothers at the Russian River.

When not working with the novitiate remodel, **Chris Donnelly** has been putting his talents to use at the Russian River. He's got the camp tractor working again to deal with deferred maintenance on landscaping. **John Montgomery** has been up to help with gardening. Chris is also exploring ideas on potentially upgrading the camp.

Dominic Ehrmantraut (MW) passed into eternity last week. He was an indefatigable and creative leader who was instrumental in the creation of the Lwanga District.

Napa has caught World Cup fever with both communities eating meals huddled in front of televisions to catch all the matches!



Mick Nunez and Mimi Monterro (both SPS) with Artie Lopez (CHSLA) and Ricky Dominguez (San Miguel) at Buttimer Bar



In Covington, the physical therapist working with Terrence Richmeier



A new wheelchair ramp will replace stairs at the entrance of the old novitiate



Future postulant Timothy Phelps visited Javi and Dan to school them in putt-putt golf



Yulieth Reina, Praesidium accreditation representative with Chris Brady during visit



Rafa with his novitiate buddy, JD Macioce, in Providence; Rafa commuting to Boston College

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the Word and it bears no fruit." MT 13:22

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