

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

16 July 2024



Steve Vasoli gathered the young Brothers for a rare day together in Los Angeles; a great time was had by all

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- Peace in our hearts and in the world; especially Gaza and the Ukraine;
- Grace to live our vocation as faithful and joyous witnesses of the Gospel;
- Spirit's blessings on our District Retreat;
- The repose of the soul of James Joost's sister-in-law;
- Those in need of healing; especially Jonathan Cord, Fred Van Haften, Richard Orona, Brian Dybowski, Peter Tripp, Gale Condit, and Rico Hernandez;
- Success and safety for the Lasallian Student Leaders gathering;
- For our young Brothers.



Jonathan Cord and David Caretti at Luis Angelo Enriquez' final vow ceremony

My travels and assorted news...

Our three young Brothers spent the day together in Los Angeles with **Steven Vasoli** last week. Steven gathered **Rafa**, **Matthew**, and **Halen** at the CHS Community for "a day of Lasallian Prayer, conversation about our living the life of a Brother during the past year, and our sense of belonging to the District. In the afternoon we went to the Getty Villa Museum in Pacific Palisades, refreshed ourselves at the Firestone Walker Brewery with more conversation and then a plate of pasta at C&O Cucina in Marina Del Rey." Matthew returned to Tucson to pick up students for LYL in Moraga, Rafa to Boston College for a summer session, and Halen to Fresno for a family visit.

One highlight of the plenary session was an exceptional presentation by **Donald Johanson** to the Visitors and the General Council on Pathway 7. After a two year actuarial study, Donald provided clear data that reflected that the Institute did not need to ask for funds to support older Brothers in the districts of the developing world. (This was most welcome news!) The presentation also underscored the vital importance of a professional business office and proper planning in each district.

"Do you believe that you are an instrument of God's ardent desire to make all things new?" Brother Armin

Time here helped me to realize the international nature of SFNO. I made sure to express, on your behalf, our thanks to the generous Visitors of the various young Brothers who enliven our communities and contribute in a vibrant way to our Mission. I thanked **JJ Jimenez** (LEAD) for **Iñigo Riola** and **Luis Enriquez'** work with our Vocation Team. (Also, thanked him in advance "the next one...") Expressed our appreciation to **Joseph Phuong** (Vietnam) for sending **Peter Phu** for studies at Santa Clara and community in San Jose. Assured **Rodrigue Tueppen** (West Africa) that **Abel Sakone**, who is studying at UC San Diego, has a regular home and support in Los Angeles. **Bertram Perera** (India/Sri Lanka) asked if **Antony Doss'** humor has come out yet at Berkeley. He laughed at my story about Antony regularly teaching Jonathan Cord to dance at breakfast! We are blessed to be regularly reminded of the international nature of our community!

The Lasallian Student Leaders 2024 gathering is happening at Saint Mary's College this week. They welcomed 206 participants from 15 SFNO secondary schools. This is a transformative experience for students to realize that they belong to a district family. Seen the schedule and they are busy!



Ran into Grace Osbourne, DeMarillac Academy 4th grade teacher, while having lunch in Rome!

Miscellaneous...

The summer District Retreat has begun at Mont La Salle. Kudos to **George Van Grieken** for organizing the days. **Jonathan Cord** came home from the Philippines with a special gift: COVID! He's resting comfortably. **Javi Hansen** had to delay his visit home as both his parents had COVID. Now he's home and helping his dad move felled trees and with the garden. **Richard Orona** slipped and broke his wrist and nose. He's back home after a brief hospitalization. **Fred Van Haften** is battling a serious lung infection and has been hospitalized. **Ron Gallagher** is progressing well with regular physical therapy at a Napa rehab center. His heart infection is under control. Another highlight of the plenary session was the asada or BBQ put on by the South Americans Brothers. They'd grill a piece of meat, cut it up, then walk around so that everyone could sample it. The sausage, ribs, and steak were finger-licking good (you were supposed to use your fingers)!



Pamela Gleeson (IEC), Charlie Legendre (Evangelization) and Donald Johanson on the final morning of the plenary



Richard Orona still waiting for someone cool to sign his cast...



Jose Mari "JJ" Jimenez , Visitor of LEAD, has a Brother studying/working in SFNO



Visitors Joseph Phuong (Vietnam) and Bertram Perera (India) have Brothers in SFNO



Javi Hansen wins "Most Interesting Thing I Did This Summer Contest"; he moved trees!



Rodrigue Tueppen (Visitor West Africa) has Brothers studying in SFNO and DENA

"The future of this Institute is in your hands and no one else's. Not symbolically but in the Spirit and in the Truth." Brother Armin

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