

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

21 July 2026



Jim Brown, CNA Brenda Ituralde, Mariano Lopez, and Joe Haras pose with Art Carroll during Mary Kelly's recent visit to Santa Fe

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Abundant blessings for the Brothers on District retreat and LYA participants;
- The needs of President Thompson and the SMC leadership team;
- Healing for Joseph Pham, Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Melvin Pelton, and Liza Ribera;
- The needs of Brothers in leadership;
- The consolation of those in mourning;
- Healing and justice for victims of abuse;
- The Holy Spirit to inspire the young to consider consecrated life;
- Families dealing with addiction.



CNA Rosa Rojas assisted Joe Kirk during water aerobics class at MLS pool

My travels and assorted news...

Saint Mary's College received a Warning from their accrediting agency. Bay Area press noted that there are two other colleges in the area who also received that status. It's related to ongoing concerns about low enrollment and presenting a clear fiscal plan to deal with this. The Board of Trustees and the Brother Members Board are informed. President Thompson and his team have been working to right size the budget since they started two years ago. Steady improvement takes patience and faith.

Eleven representatives from SFNO participated in this summer's John Johnston Institute at Lewis University. Kudos to: Dominique Brown (CBHS Sacramento), Nicole Carlos (LS Pasadena), Nicholas Courtney (DLS NOLA), Ana Escalante (SMHS Tucson), Colin Falcon (CBS), Kelsey Hui (LS Milwaukie), Sarah Liebler (LS Milwaukie), Alberto Martinez (DMA), Nicholas Mullally (SHCP), Nicholas Norman (LS Milwaukie), and Michael Norris (DLS Concord).

The SFNO summer retreat has begun at MLS with **Bob Schieler** (DENA) as the presenter. **George Van Grieken** is facilitating the experience.

"Patience is the companion of Wisdom."

Saint Augustine

I was blessed to take a few much-needed days off in San Francisco: no email, naps, and lots of walking! **Halen Gamino** moved in while I was there so I helped orient him to the neighborhood. Timothy Phelps will move in at the end of this week.

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) is holding its' annual assembly in Phoenix from Monday through Thursday. Three major topics are being covered: handling adult misconduct, enhancing community living, and best practices with review boards. **Chris**, **David**, and I are attending. While there are no easy answers to these complex issues, it is a true blessing to wrestle with relevant challenges with a community of religious men. There is much hard-earned wisdom from which to learn. **Mark Englemeyer** (MW) and Carmelite Fr. Joseph Marie (one of the chaplains at MLS) completed the year-long leadership program sponsored by CMSM for young religious. Their cohort joined in the assembly. Congratulated Marianist Brother Ed Violet on being appointed Provincial for the US. Like me, he is graduate of Cathedral HS in El Paso.



CMSM: Mark Englemeyer (MW) with Fr. Frank Donio and Fr. Joseph Marie (a chaplain at MLS)

Miscellaneous...

Matthew Chiantella helped to organize the Lasallian Youth Assembly with three tracks for the students (faith, service, community). **Ken Boesch** is assisting with the music for the week-long event. Former contact, Noah Flood, is one of the moderators.

DLSNC Religion teacher, Lawrence Kong-Ellison, spent last week with the Mont La Salle community. He was on his annual private retreat.

Rafa Rodriguez completed his three-summer program in Spiritual Direction from Boston College. Serendipitously, his mother was in area for a conference and was able to attend his graduation.

Mary Kelly travelled to Santa Fe to check on the Brothers community. **Art Carroll** tagged along to visit with Brenda Ituralde. She reports that **Joe Haras** has added another day of volunteer work at the hospital, **Jim Brown** will begin physical therapy, and **Mariano Lopez** is always running around.



Tom was guide to John, Antony, and Mark at the Monterrey Bay Aquarium; it was on Antony's USA Bucket List



One of Richard Lemberg's fishing neophytes shows off his haul for badge



Gale enjoyed lunch out in Berkeley with Jonathan and Edmond before retreat



James Meegan, Aidan Kilty (IGBM), and GVG during social at our District Retreat at MLS



Lasallian intern Xochi and Kenenna prepared for the Lasallian Youth Assembly at SMC



Summer BBQ: District Retreat presenter, Bob Schieler, with Richard Orona and Emmet Sinitiere

*"On the day I called, You answered me,
You increased my strength of soul." PS 138:3*

De La Salle Institute

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



LASALLIAN DISTRICT
of
SAN FRANCISCO
NEW ORLEANS