

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

23 July 2024



John Hoover welcomed students from La Salle Prep in Pasadena to SMC for Lasallian Young Leaders 2024 gathering

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- The grace to live out our consecration to community;
- Our alumni, living and deceased;
- Healing and justice for victims of sexual abuse;
- Those in need of healing; especially Fred Van Haaften, Richard Orona, Ron Gallagher, Brian Dybowski, Jonathan Cord, Walter Durham, Armand St. Raymond, the mother of Nurse Tammi Ellis;
- SMC president Roger Thompson as he transitions;
- Blessings on the final weeks of summer;
- Needs of our young Brothers.



In San Jose, John Mai reconnecting with a former student from Vietnam

My travels and assorted news...

Was picked up at the San Francisco airport by the generous **Victor Kenneth** on Monday night. Drove to MLS to join in the District Retreat where I presented on community by reflecting on some passages from The Rule. Mike Daniels and **Patrick Moore** gave the two other talks. In attendance were **Emmet Sinitiere, Edmond Larouche, James Meagan, Laurence Konnersman, John Mai, John O'Neil, Robert O'Kane, Stanislaus Campbell, Mark Murphy, Michael Avila, Lawrence Haley, Patrick Moore, and Jim Reardon**. Many thanks to **George Van Grieken** for organizing a well-paced and balanced retreat. The wonderful Fr. Donald Kinney, O.Carm, was the chaplain. (Unfortunately, there was a COVID outbreak at the end...)

Joined **Lawrence Haley** on his daily visit to bring **Ron Gallagher** communion at a Napa rehab center. Ron continues his IV antibiotics treatments to fight the heart infection and a daily round of physical therapy to improve his strength, balance, and speech. He was in great spirits. Also visited with **Richard Orona** at the Holy Family Community. Richard was happy to have company and eager to share the story of his mishap. He had surgery on Friday to repair his broken wrist and is recovering well.

“...the community is the privileged place for being evangelized” Rule 45.1

Traveled to St. Mary's College on Thursday to spend some time at the Lasallian Young Leaders assembly. Was able to connect briefly with an effusive **Matthew Chiantella** who was there with the San Miguel HS students. He reported that the week had gone very well. Sat at beautiful student-led Mass with **David Caretti** and Isaias Garcia, a contact and a collegian who helped with LYL. Was delighted to have some of the students I'd met at La Salle Pasadena come up to greet me and share what's they'd learned from the week. Made sure to welcome the group from CHS El Paso and connect with the sons of a former student. While on campus, I joined the Brothers who were hosting the new president and his wife, Roger and Debbie Thompson, for a casual social and dinner. Both are happy to finally be on campus.

While in Cambodia, **Íñigo Riola** connected with **Fortunat Phong** and his volunteers at the La Salle Pouthum School in Phnom Penh. The school was started by Vietnamese Brothers a decade ago and serves 450 poor students. Phong helped significantly with fundraising in San Diego for the new 3-story construction (15 classrooms) and the purchase of a neighboring field.



Lawrence Haley regularly visits Ron Gallagher at the Meadows Rehab Center in Napa

Miscellaneous...

While visiting the San Jose community, **John Mai** reconnected with people from his home village as well as with former students from Vietnam. One was overjoyed when John presented him with a photo of him playing guitar in sixth grade! Kudos to **John Montgomery** for his volunteer work here at Mont La Salle. For the past weeks, he's been organizing the de-cluttering of neglected storage spaces. We recently threw away two dumpsters and will have a garage sale for employees to move out the rest. While representing Christian Brothers Services at the Religious Brothers Conference in Newark, **Peter Tripp** was able to connect with many Midwest Brothers in attendance. He's been working on losing weight and looks great! **Richard Kovatch** is visiting his beloved Santa Fe and was able to join the local Carmelite community for their feast day. **Jack Henderson's** been enjoying his return to Tucson with overnight excursions to mines in search of "interesting rocks."



My time in Rome allowed for quality encounters with rarely-in-Rome Chris Patiño; he left last week for South Sudan



Patrick Moore speaking at the District Retreat on Lasallian spirituality



Phong and Íñigo at new building for primary school in Phnom Penh



Peter Tripp, Mark Englemeyer (MW) and Tom Hetland (MW) at Newark, NJ, cathedral



Javi Hansen enjoyed time with his parents in cool northern California



Jane and Charlie Legendre, AFSC, in the Motherhouse dining room

"[Charity] is the principle driving force of the Brothers' life and the primary commitment of their religious consecration." Rule 46.2

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