

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

30 July 2024



Group photo of the young men and staff who attended this summer's Contact Retreat at St. Mary's College

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- The needs of our directors;
- For children suffering from war; especially in Gaza and Ukraine;
- Blessings as some schools begin faculty meetings and those starting classes;
- Justice and healing for victims of sexual abuse;
- Those in need of healing; especially Charles Miller, Fr. Donald Kinney, O.Carm, Ron Gallagher, Richard Orona, Brian Dybowski, Fr. Rico Hernandez, and Fred Van Haften;
- Blessings on our vocation team's efforts and on our contacts.



Martin Vu addressing the San Miguel faculty while the school mascot hisses

My travels and assorted news...

The ten day period of masking and some isolation mandated by the county finally ended the minor COVID outbreak at the District Retreat with only two Brothers testing positive. The two communities at MLS celebrated with a maskless outdoor BBQ together! **Charles Miller** developed a serious intestinal condition which required immediate surgery. He is recovering well and back to his usual quips. *"We'll figure it out"* was his reflection on life after surgery.

I asked **Dan Fenton** for a summary of this summer's Filipino adventures. Some excerpts follow: *"Months prior to our departure, we filled three balikbayan boxes with 13 microscopes (rescued by Dave Galaz, physics teacher), games, electronics learning kits, and a great many brand-new soccer and polo shirts donated by CHS principal, Art Lopez, and we sent them on ahead of us. Once we adjusted to the tropical warmth and humidity, members of the volunteer group enthusiastically joined the Bahay Pag-asa residents in their learning and recreational activities. In no time at all, kids were carrying microscopes and electronics kits all over the center and learning to play Battleship in the afternoons."*

"The community shows affectionate concern for the Brothers who are elderly, sick, discouraged, or distressed..." The Rule 51

Dan and **Halen Gamino** were joined by volunteers Dave and Gloria Galaz. He teaches at CHS LA and she teaches PE at a parochial school. *"We didn't have a formal schedule of classes, so the idea was to bring out our donated materials, capture the interest of anyone watching, and then seize the educational moment. I spent most of my time cleaning, organizing, and updating the library."* Thanks to generous donors, the library at Bahay Pag-asa continues to grow.

Pleased to report that 18 SFNO staff representing 9 schools attended this summer's Johnston Institute for Lasallian leadership. The week-long training was held at Lewis University. Katie Abeyta, Ben Brummel (**Mullen**), Kristin Boyle, Matthew Owen (**La Salle Catholic Prep Milwaukie**), Nick Denny, Keenan Kurihara, Ernest Siy, Ryan Villaverde (**La Salle Prep Pasadena**), Michael DeSanctis (**St. Mike's**), Ford Dieth, Jen Finney (**CBS New Orleans**), Will Dunford, Chris Trinidad (**DLS Concord**), Julian Elorduy (**Justin-Siena**), Erin Lithgow, Hannah Reese, Justin Woodard (**SHCP**), and Amanda Murrillo (**CHS El Paso**). Andy Kuffner represented our Office of Education and accompanied this powerful Lasallian formation experience.



Visiting with a philosophical post-surgery Charles Miller and director Lawrence Haley

Miscellaneous...

In Santa Fe, **Fred Van Haften** was released from the hospital with his lung infection finally under control. He's happily resting at home. **James Joost** was in the area for a family funeral. He reported that the rot and termite damage to the beams in the St. Paul's community residence was more extensive than expected. Repairs will take longer than expected. He's been working on getting rooms renovated and ready for **Alphonse LeBlanc**. Kudos to **David Caretti** for recently directing the retreat for University of Portland's PACE volunteer teachers. There were over thirty motivated graduates who learned about the vocation and spirituality of a teacher. **Chris Brady** is taking a well-earned break with a road trip to southern California and Las Vegas to visit friends and family. **Javi Hansen** reports that San Miguel began school this week! **Rafael Rodriguez** finished his first course at Boston College. He found it most challenging and he developed many skills for working with students.



Bob O'Kane and John Montgomery enjoyed Emmet Sinitiere's joke while at the District Retreat



Ted Kanelopoulos in the new McGree Admin wing at La Salle HS in Yakima



Best friends JD Macioce and Rafa bantering in front of Boston's Federal Hall



Told Dan Fenton to keep a close eye on Halen Gamino but he got in trouble anyway...



Matthew Chiantella and contact Isaias Garcia at the Lasallian Young Leaders at SMC



Four staff from La Salle Pasadena at the Johnston Institute formation at Lewis Univ.

“Community life cannot be maintained without self-denial. The Brothers accept and love one another in their differences...” The Rule 49.1

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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