

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

13 August 2024



The sun was plenty hot in Bermuda Dunes, CA, where the CHSLA community held their two-day CAP meetings

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- New faculty and staff to embrace our Mission;
- Pray for healing; especially Brian Dybowski, Gale Condit, Fred Van Haaften, Ron Gallagher, Perry Yates, Fr. Rico, and Fr. Donald;
- The repose of the soul of Patricia O'Neill Buchanan (cousin of John O'Neill), Caroline Howard (former Mullen faculty and wife of former principal), the father of Alanna O'Brien (principal La Salle Mikwaukie) and the consolation of their families;
- Blessings on our vocation efforts.



At Mullen High faculty formation with Doug Brummel and Mikaela Degitis

My travels and assorted news...

After my presentation to the faculty last Wednesday at Mullen HS in Denver, I joined the principal, Sam Govea, and president, Raul Cardenas, for a savory dinner and great conversation. Stayed with my older sister's family since I had an event in Denver on Saturday. My niece asked me to help watch my great-nephew on the weekend. Four-year old Roman is exhausting but a true delight and gift. **Mariano Lopez**, **David Sinitiere**, and me represented the Brothers at the **Buck Hutchinson, AFSC**, Memorial service. Buck was a long-time board member, booster, and supporter of Mullen HS. He is crediting with saving the school during a financial crisis by personally guaranteeing the loans. Appropriately, Buck was affiliated by the legacy NOSF District and served on their LEC board. Many long-time Mullen faculty and staff were present to honor him; each with their own story about how Buck inspired them. Both **David Sinitiere** and **Tim Schmeckpepper, AFSC**, delivered moving eulogies.

While in Denver, zoomed with the District Leadership Team to discuss how to address critical developments in some of our schools. Many issues require a good deal of preparation which is one of the strengths of the team.

“Community grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive... for one another.” Henri Nouwen

A final reflection from **Dan Fenton**: *“Numerous residents are continuing their studies at the University of Saint La Salle and various state and city colleges. One former resident just graduated with a degree in maritime engineering while another is already at sea, working to support his family. Two residents are aiming at careers in education, one of whom is beginning his second year of college. Reflecting on the fact that nearly everyone wanted to give up on these boys, it was inspiring to see Lasallian educators discovering the real character of the BPYC residents. We traveled home appreciative of the hospitality of the Brothers, staff and residents of Bahay Pag-asa and with our minds imagining ways in which we can continue to accompany the boys on their ongoing journeys of transformation.”* Thank you to Dan, **Halen Gamino**, and Lasallian partners for inviting us to join in supporting this vital work!

Chris Patiño is getting in some time with family during a visit to southern California. His younger sister and he took a sibling sojourn together. Former superintendent and NCEA president, Lincoln Synder (CBHS grad) visited with **George Van Grieken** and Mike Daniels at Mont La Salle.



Javi Hansen dropped off two of his San Miguel freshmen students on their first day of work

Miscellaneous...

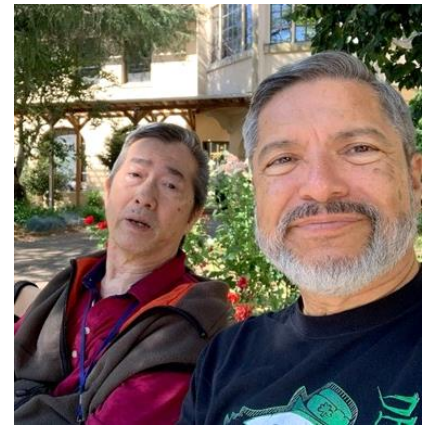
The most recent *Horizon* magazine, which deals with vocation ministry, had a provocative article on community living. It identified community skills needed in candidates who persevere. You might ask yourself how you do with three areas. Self-disclosure: *Do I share my thoughts and struggles in dialogue and faith sharing? Do Brothers know what I am when I'm not at home?* Healthy boundaries: *How do I nurture my mental and emotional health?* Other-centeredness: *How do I balance self-care with generous presence and service? Do I foster local community beyond my own needs? Am I consistently developing my listening skills?* Candidates learn community from the men with whom they live. *Are we good teachers in this area?* A new crop of board members wrapped up board formation this morning with Maria Ribera and Andy Kuffner. They were actually excited to start going to meeting! That's the Holy Spirit at work!



The St. Michael's HS Board had a day of formation led by George Van Grieken in Santa Fe



Patrick Moore, Michael Avila, and Bernie LoCoco soaked up sun at camp



Bosco Truong and me enjoyed a visit in the Novitiate courtyard



Chris Patiño visited doctoral candidate Abel Sekone (West Africa) in San Diego



Tim Schmeckpepper, AFSC, and Mariano Lopez at the Buck Hutchinson Memorial



Pamela Gleeson, Griselda Aranda, Aura Adams, and me at Sexual Harassment Prevention

“[God] did not say: You will not be assailed, you will not be belabored, you will not be disquieted, but he said: You will not be overcome.” Julian of Norwich

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