

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

03 September 2024



Alphonse LeBlanc, James Joost, Jerry Vincent, Peter Dudenheffer, and Tom Canty at the SPS Seniors Arch ceremony

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- A commitment to respect and dignify the labor of all who work with us;
- Those in discernment and/or transition;
- School staff as they begin a new school year;
- In thanksgiving for our benefactors;
- Justice and healing for victims of sexual abuse;
- Healing for Ron Gallagher, Gale Condit, Brian Dybowksi, Richard Orona, David Caretti, Liza Ribera, Bill Hebert, AFSC, Fr. Donald Kenny, the mother of Diahanne Larson, and Fr. Rico Hernandez;
- Brothers vocations.



John Mai accompanied the musicians for the CBS Mass honoring the Brothers

## My travels and assorted news...

Had a wonderful visit with the Christian Brothers Community: **Gale Condit**, **Laurence Konersmann**, and **John Mai**. I lauded their acceptance of their aging and needing more care soon. All expressed an appreciation for having a whole year to process and prepare for the closing of the community. Next year, John will live at St. Paul's but will commute to continue his current ministry at CBS. Laurence will move to Napa and Gale to Covington.

While in New Orleans, I visited with De La Salle High President Paul Kelly and Principal Richard Neider to learn about how the school is doing. I am always impressed by how happy students seem as I watch them walk around. All three area schools gathered for a Lasallian Convocation hosted by St. Paul's on Friday. The theme was Leaven Up and the mood was buoyant and positive thanks to the great planning by **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, and Candace Watkins. I attended an intriguing breakout session on Women and LaSalle given by **Diahanne Larson**, AFSC. The second session was on Fostering a Culture of Vocation facilitated by **David Caretti** and **Matthew Chiantella**. It was an fruitful discussion with invested faculty.

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*“... the Brothers commit themselves to strengthening fraternal bonds in community...”* Rule 32

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While making my visit of the St. Paul's community, I met with Brandi Talamo, RN, our new nurse. She is energetic and thoughtful; grateful for this ministry of caring for the Brothers. We discussed adding a part-time physical therapist to the staff. The Brothers are healthy (relatively) and committed to prayer, Mass, and meals together. They adjust to the limitations of each member and there is peace in the air. **James Joost** has been busy addressing some pressing concerns of the physical plant. The community welcomed **Alphonse LeBlanc** back to the south. Luckily, Al enjoys humidity and has run into former students at St. Paul's events. **Richard Kovatch** continues to create beauty in the community and school chapels as well as the gardens around the house. **Peter Dudenheffer** and **Jerry Vincent** are essential to the operations here as they do the shopping and make the various runs to the pharmacy. **Bill Ray** accepts his memory loss with good humor and honesty. Both he and **Terrence Richmeier** remain committed to daily exercise by doing laps around the halls. Terrence has also added a weight training to his regime. **Ken Boesch** is now a part of the admin team in charge of Lasallian Mission. **Tom Canty** is a spry 97 and **Peter Tripp** was out-of-town working.



Tom Coughlan (LCBF), Charlie Legendre, AFSC, James and George at CBS reception in NOLA

## Miscellaneous...

**Steven Vasoli** is settling in as SMC's newest Resident Director. He welcomed students to his dorm. Students and the Mission and Ministry Team visited Mont La Salle for a day of recollection and picnic. He is enjoying this new ministry. **Joe Kirk** is excited to attend the reunion of the Class of 1974 at Justin-Siena. It's the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! **Mark Murphy** and his aunt hosted 40 relatives at Mont La Salle over the weekend. **Terrence Richmeier** and I were discussing giants of legacy NOSF. He kindly surprised me the write up of **Alfred Ricard**'s fascinating life. Alfred was one of the founders of the College of Santa Fe. **George Van Grieken's** brother and sister-in-law spent a few days in Napa and joined the Provincialate community for dinners. Sadly, Fr. David Gentry-Akin, longtime SMC instructor passed away suddenly. LCBF joyously announced that the fundraiser honoring **Gale Condit** has already raised \$265,000! It will be in New Orleans on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Saint Mary's College students on the Mission and Ministry team spent day at MLS with Steven Vasoli



Ricardo Palacio holding up proof that our roosters are doing their one job



St. Paul's Campus Minister Jeff Ramon assisted Richard Kovatch with Mass prep



Stopped by the new Music Building on my student-led tour of St. Paul's School



Alphonse LeBlanc enjoying the vista of another beautiful Covington morning



John Hoover welcomed Donald Johanson to Mass at De La Salle HS in Concord

*"By (the vow of stability), Brothers profess that fidelity to their vocation is both a precious gift of God's love received day after day, and a daily human response to his fidelity."* Rule 30

De La Salle Institute

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

