

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

10 September 2024



Lasallians on the NAC: Justin Huyck (Troy), me (El Paso), Robert Hutton (Memphis), and Fr. Thomas Gramc (Pittsburgh)

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Our faithful and generous benefactors;
- The repose of the soul of Patricia, Tom Westberg's sister;
- Brothers dealing with transitions;
- The children of Gaza and the Ukraine;
- Healing for Ron Gallagher; Richard Orona, Brian Dybowski, Fred Van Haaften, Eliza Ribera, and those battling cancer;
- Those in mourning; especially the CRDLS school community;
- Grace needed to deal positively with diminishment;
- The needs of our contacts and young Brothers.



Tucson community celebrated Matthew Chiantella's 34th birthday w/Asian meal

My travels and assorted news...

Major renovations to 60-year-old dining hall at St. Paul's were completed last week. The facility is spacious, comfortable, and attractive. It boasts beautiful new outdoor dining space for students and events. Saint Mary's College dorm students and their parents were greeted warmly by a team of students and **Chris Brady**, **Glenn Bolton**, and President Roger Thompson. I've watched Chris work these car lines and his Irish charm and quick wit are on full display. In addition to Chris and Glen, community members working as Resident Directors in the dorms are **Steven Vasoli**, **Charlie Hilken**, **Thomas Jones**, **Michael Murphy** and Fr. Tom McElligot. **David Caretti** helped with ceremony to bid farewell to parents who were dropping off students.

Last Wednesday, I traveled to Washington, DC, for a meeting of the National Advisory Council to the USCCB. At the opening reception, four members came up to proudly introduce themselves as Brothers boys; including the outgoing chair. Over the next two days, the work was fatiguing but the community was inspiring. We gave honest feedback to drafts of documents which will eventually be presented to the USCCB. We shared our concerns

“Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” 1 COR 4:1

about the challenges facing the Church. It was touching to be surrounded by lay people with a deep love for Jesus and his people. They are truly on the front lines. Our discussions were synodality in practice. Our prayer and liturgy were rich. A highlight was Mass in the Crypt Chapel of the National Basilica Former postulant, Zach Brittain, and I met up for dinner one night. He finds his new position in the Commerce department fulfilling.

Returned to the Bay Area and visited with the **Alemany community** at SMC during their monthly meeting. They gave me valuable history on their community and the development of their budgets. In preparation for a week of important meetings, **Chris Brady** and I sat down at SMC to strategize. He does most of the organizing and I do most of the listening! I was pleased to welcome **Steven Vasoli**, the newly elected member of District Council, to his first meeting. He brings a unique regional and international perspective. Appointed by me, **Javi Hansen** and **David Caretti** also attended their first District Council meeting. They were impressively well-prepared and curious about all matters. We are blessed!



Rafael Rodriguez guiding his freshmen in a class exercise on the CHS-LA patio

Miscellaneous...

A tired but grateful **Gale Condit** completed his round of radiation treatment for cancer. The doctors will review his case in a month. **John O’Neill** provided the wood for Scott Smetzer to make repairs to his fishing boat. The result was a 30 pound halibut caught in Tomales Bay! This coming Sunday, volunteers **Kenneth Cardwell** and **Chris Donnelly** head to Santa Fe to help **Brian Dybowski, Art Carroll and Fred Van Haaften** with final packing. They will load up two vehicles and drive the boxes back to Napa. The Santa Fe Brothers will fly out later with local and Napa healthcare staff. Recently **Stanislaus Campbell’s** family had a reunion at MLS. Over thirty family members were in attendance! The bounty of **Ricardo Palacio’s** garden has been incorporated into our fresh dishes at MLS. Tomatoes, squash, onions, and cucumbers are part of our early fall’s harvest. Kudos to **Luis Enriquez** who is working with students at SMCHS while doing graduate work.



Over the summer, Chris Patiño and Glenn Bolton attended a St. Mary’s College alumni wedding in Denver



Victor Kenneth letting his hair down at the end of another full day!



HFC staff member Scott Smetzer proudly shows off his halibut haul



The talented Ken Boesch joyously led the Lasallian Convocation in song during Mass



Gale Condit and CBS students process in for a Mass celebrating the Brothers cmt



Trevor Watkins, AFSC, gave me a tour of the beautifully renovated dining hall at St. Paul’s

“Prayer is a gift the Brothers receive from (God). They never tire of saying “Lord, teach us to pray.” Rule 66

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