

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

15 September 2026



At blessing of Mt. Veeder grapes with Matt, COO of Hess Persson Estates, Pamela, and Nate, vineyard manager

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Communities rebuilding after natural disasters;
- Peace in our hearts as we commemorate the 9/11 tragedy;
- Healing for John Hoover, Kenneth Cardwell, David Sinitiere, Joseph Pham, Brian Dybowski, Bernie LoCoco, Richard Orona, Ingrid Jimenez, and those battling addiction;
- The needs of our presidents and principals;
- Consolation for those in mourning;
- The needs of the 14 Bishops in our District;
- The Spirit's blessings on vocation ministry.



Paul-André and Lawrence at the Labor Day BBQ for HFC and MLS communities

My travels and assorted news...

Began Wednesday with the Blessing of the Grapes at the Hess Persson loading dock. Brothers and DLSI staff joined office and field staff from the winery to take a moment of thanks for the harvest and ask God's blessings on all involved.

The District Council met and welcomed three new members: neophyte **Rafa Rodriguez**, auxiliary **David Caretti**, and veteran **Donald Johanson**. DC is chaired by **Chris Brady**. The Council reviewed the standard reports and received updates on the District Chapter's work, the revision of the upcoming District action plan, and a clarification of the portfolio of the new Auxiliary Visitor. I was happy to hear that we had added one Contact from SMC over the summer and I thanked the Council for their evaluation of the Visitor.

On Wednesday night I sat in on a conversation between the SHCP community and **Rafa Rodriguez** on vocations. They discussed ways they could be more present and visible to the students and how they could invite individuals to meals to form allies in creating a culture of vocation. The Holy Spirit was definitely at work!

"Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?" Sirach 28:4

Our Review Board met on Thursday morning. Attorney Bruce Inman, canonist Fr. Kenneth Laverone, OFM, and diocesan safety officer Mary Hesser joined **Thomas Jones** in reviewing Safety Plans for Brothers who committed offenses. They also received updates on new allegations against Brothers and pending independent investigations to clear their names. (I will note that Brother's names are never used.) **Chris Brady** provided an update on Praesidium accreditation. I reported on pending litigation in Louisiana cases and the wrap up of California cases. **Edmond Larouche** had a conflict and could not attend. **Mary Hesser** was re-elected as Chair. Flew to Washington, DC, for the Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting at the USCCB offices. We are given the documents for the upcoming meeting of the Bishops and asked for feedback on some. We were also presented two areas to discuss and make recommendations. As always, it's a Spirit-filled three days with Catholics who love and live their faith. The DCAA (presidents and principals) gathered in charming New Orleans early this week for their fall meeting. The theme was: Authentic Leadership Amidst Today's Realities. Please keep our leaders in your prayers.



Rafa facilitating a conversation about vocations with the SHCP community

Miscellaneous...

Poor **John Hoover** was attacked in a BART station in San Francisco by a mentally ill person. As a result, he got 9 staples on his scalp and a serious concussion. John will be out of school for two weeks. Please keep him in your prayers during his recovery.

Shout out to Kim Yuers at DLSI who handles our car fleet. She's recently had to outfit various Brothers with vehicles due to moving, accidents, etc... She's done it thoughtfully and efficiently. We're blessed!

Kudos to **John Montgomery** who drove a van full of boxes from Covington to Napa. **James Joost** drove the van back and stopped at communities along the way to fill up with needed items for Covington.

Holy Family Community member **Richard Orona** fell and hit his head which resulted in a brain bleed. He has been hospitalized but is now out of the ICU. Please keep his medical team and him in your prayers.



Tim Froehlich, CFO, and Bobby Schaefer, Visitor, toured me around DENA headquarters in Eatontown, NJ



CBS City Park Principal Michael Prat addressed the NOLA Convocation



At the USCCB: Sr. Mary Beth is a proud West Catholic grad from Philadelphia!



Sally Jamison, former SMC staff member, visited with good friend John O'Neil



Schoolyard bully Javi guarding a future Yakima Lightening at a La Salle HS event



Nice work if you can get it! Assistant Girls Golf Coach Timothy chilling on the course.

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He put our transgressions from us." PS 103:11-12

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