

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

22 September 2026



My discussion group in the John 23rd Room: Peter, Ben, Chris S., Michael, me, Christy, and Chris P. (Missing was Armin.)

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The Spirit to magnify the efforts by our Vocations team;
- In thanksgiving for Charlie Legendre;
- The needs of the Plenary Session;
- Healing for John Hoover, Richard Orona, Peter deGroot, Peter Tripp, David Sinitiere, Brian Dybowski, Bernie LoCoco, John Arnaudon, BFSC, Joe Welling's father, and those struggling with addiction;
- The finance office workers in our schools;
- The needs of our young Brothers and Contacts;
- Consolation for those in mourning.



At DCAA in NOLA: Joey (CBS City Park) with Maria (OOE) + Kim (CBS Canal St)

My travels and assorted news...

The DCAA gathering in New Orleans of SFNO school leaders went quite well. Dr. Nate Sessoms facilitated an excellent workshop on Belonging. Maggie Nass and **Donald Johanson** provided a well-received update on each school's financial data which will help inform decisions. Janell Kloosterman reported that the leader mentorship program was solid. **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, announced that this is his last school year before retirement. Later in the week, I sent a letter thanking Charlie for his exceptional leadership and innovative contributions over the decades.

I am blessed to be the regular recipient of fraternal kindness. On Tuesday afternoon, after hosting me for three days, **Bobby Schaefer** (DENA) and I flew to Rome out of Newark, NJ. The joy of traveling with Bobby is that he does all the planning. I simply follow behind him with complete confidence. **Michael Fehrenbach** (MW) met up with us in Rome and we explored Rome together. One highlight was a day trip to Assisi. It's the 800th anniversary of the death of Francesco. We visited his crypt as well as that of Chiara. We lit candles for our vocation teams as we venerated the glass-sided crypt of

*"Go and learn the meaning of the words,
I desire mercy, not sacrifice."* MT 9:12

young Carlo Acutis. My Franciscan college chaplain and mentor, Fr. Loren, was present to me in prayer. On Sunday, we attended the *Angelus* at Saint Peter's. It was a thrilling first for me!

On Sunday afternoon, the plenary session began with a welcoming address by Vicar General. We've been asked to have synodal discussions in small groups about four major topics. Thus far, we've discussed Formation and Accompaniment, Institutionalized Consultation as a Synodal Dialogue, and the Community of Brothers. To translate – we're wrestling with the challenges of accompaniment/animation in community and creating communication processes so that every Brother feels that he could participate and be heard. The results of the consultation on consecrated life serve as a backdrop. (I note that our own recent District Chapter dealt with some of these issues.) My small language group (English 1) consists of Visitors: **Peter Bray** (ANZPPNG), **Christy Croos** (LASAD), **Michael Fehrenbach** (MW), and **Ben Hanlon** (IGBM). **Chris Patiño**, **Chris Soosai**, and **Armin Luistro** from the Generalate complete our group.



Luis Bernardo Bolivar with me during a much-needed *expresso* break

Miscellaneous...

We are blessed with amazing Lasallian Partners who embrace the mission. One example is **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, who announced that this will be his final school year of ministry. We pray that it's his best year yet!

In Rome I was happy to meet young **Jerad Matthews** (Sri Lanka) who is on staff for the Commission for Consecrated Life. He was in the LEAD novitiate when **Dat Hoang** was the sub-director. Vicar **Carlos Gomez** inquired about all of Brothers at Saint Mary's College and sends his best. **Luis Bernardo Bolivar** (Norardino) wanted me to give his warm regards to the community in Berkeley who hosted him during his English studies. We're exploring student exchange opportunities.

On Sunday, a group of former juniors from Vietnam – led by **Michael Thai** (DENA) dropped by Mont La Salle to pay their respects at the Brothers cemetery. **Joseph Pham** and Dat hosted them.



Mike (CBS City Park), Martín (St. Mike's), Andy (Office of Ed), and Ernesto (San Miguel) at the DCAA gathering



Old friends Tom Westberg and Joe Kirk caught up with one another at a BBQ



Gratitude to Charlie Legendre, AFSC! We wish him all the best this year!



Chris making a point during small language group discussions at the plenary session



Leadership mentor Adolfo (CHS EP) with mentee Stephen (CRDLS) in New Orleans



Halen, Timothy, and Victor joined San Francisco Archbishop Cordileone for dinner

"I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love." EPH 4:1-2

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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of
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