

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

01 October 2024



The Berkeley community celebrated Luis Enriquez' move to SMC with dinner and "friendly"(cutthroat) game of cards

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- In thanksgiving for our benefactors;
- Peace in Gaza, Lebanon, South Sudan, and the Ukraine;
- The needs of our community directors;
- The Spirit's blessings on our vocation efforts everywhere;
- Those in discernment and transition;
- Parents struggling with their children;
- Healing for Ron Gallagher, Brian Dybowski; Fred Van Haaften, Liza Ribera, and Tom Southard's wife.
- Healing and justice for victims of abuse.



Was interviewed by two La Salle Milwaukie students during an assembly

My travels and assorted news...

Wrap up to SMC community visit: **Thomas Jones** is transitioning well to a slower pace after completing a year as interim president at SMC. Sadly, issues with his knees are delaying trips he plans to visit good friends. He is a Resident Director and volunteers at the college's counseling center. **Fr. Tom McElligott** continues as community chaplain, crafting well-prepared sermons for daily Mass. He also serves as a Resident Director and is working on a draft manuscript. This is a vibrant group of older men!

Traveled to Portland for the meeting of the chief administrators of our schools (DCAA). I was the speaker on the opening night. After expressing the gratitude of the Brothers for their faithful ministry of leadership, my remarks centered on a vision of church based on Christ's tenet of belonging. I highlighted the great importance of students encountering Christ in their teachers. For increasing numbers, our schools are their first experience of the Church. With full transparency, I updated them on our ongoing legal issues with lawsuits. Closing, I ensured them that they enjoyed the full confidence and prayers of the Brothers.

*"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord!"* Job 1:21

Because of its' close proximity, the group walked to De La Salle North Catholic HS to get a tour of their beautiful campus with renovated classrooms, new admin/student services/cafeteria building, and a new gym. President Ashleigh de Villiers shared the role of Providence in the school's history. There was also a presentation and facilitated discussion on the negative impact of cellphones and recommendations for effective school policies on electronic devices. There was also time for breakout sessions on topics suggested by the administrators.

After DCAA wrapped up, I visited La Salle Milwaukie for a student tour, a presentation at a student assembly, and an afterschool social with staff. Two student leaders asked me a series of questions about faith and being a Brother. The spirit of the school is casual but serious about education with passionately engaged students and committed faculty. I found students to be very friendly and proud of their school. Faculty warmly greeted me and shared their journey to La Salle, their second home. This is an impressive Lasallian community. The Holy Spirit blows through these halls!



Javi Hansen holding up his unique birthday gift: reflective gear for safety during his runs

Miscellaneous...

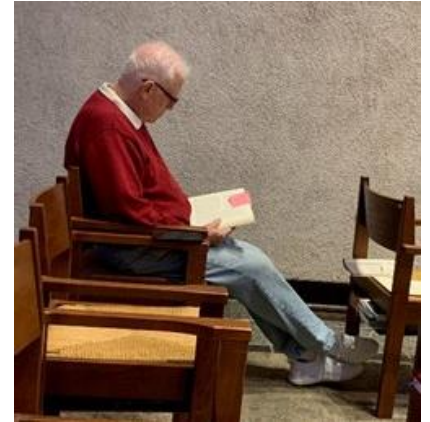
David Sinitiere hosted his first cousin and wife for a week at MLS. Together they explored the treasures of Napa Valley. **Ricardo Palacio** reported a record collection of 54 fresh eggs in one day from our happy hens! **Peter deGroot's** tomato plants have gone into overdrive with a one-day haul of 14 kilos for our kitchen! The **Los Angeles community** celebrated the 28 years of faithful service by cook/housekeeper Dora Gandarela with dinner out. She is retiring and will be greatly missed! Brother **Aikee Esmeli** visited MLS with a delegation from La Salle University Medical School in Dasmaringas, Philippines. They are gearing up for a major campaign to build a new hospital. Their hope is to engage alumni support in the western US. The DLSI finance office provides support for this philanthropy. Kudos to **Matthew Chiantella** whose Lasallian reflection is included on the regional website: [Called to Serve: Living our Lasallian Heritage - RELAN.](#)



The Holy Family Community gathered recently for the first of their Community Annual Program (CAP) discussions



Charles Miller smelled the roses while enjoying delightful Napa weather



Thomas Jones led prayer in chapel for the Saint Mary's College community



Bethlehem University's community celebrated Joseph Pham's birthday



Tom Westberg and Richard Orona enjoying a return to beloved CBHS in Sacramento



The Capo Isetta Winery provided LCBF Label sparkling wines for our Br. Timothy Wine Tasting

“Community life cannot be maintained without self-denial. The Brothers try to be friendly to everyone and a burden to none.” Rule 49.1

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