

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

22 October 2024



MX Norte Visitor Carlos Castañeda and Daniel Novelo, director of Centro La Salle, joined me in front of Br Armand classroom

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The children of Gaza, Israel and Lebanon;
- The needs of our Directors;
- Brothers dealing with issues of aging;
- Blessings on Russian River gathering of campus ministers and activities directors;
- Healing for Brendan Madden, Peter Tripp, Bill Hughes, Ron Gallagher, Jess Southard, Manuel Valdivia, and Walter Durham;
- Repose of the soul of Daniel Novelo's nephew and the consolation of his family;
- Blessings on our various vocation efforts.



Matthew Chiantella with San Miguel HS seniors at a monthly Viper Forum

My travels and assorted news...

Last week, **Carlos Castañeda** and I made the visit to the joint-sponsored Centro La Salle in Tijuana. Seeking to access NGO grants, the Center has become adept at record keeping. In the current semester, there are 1729 students, 271 course offerings, and 115 volunteer teachers. Students can be divided thus: 15-29 yrs (16%), 30-59 (54%), and over 60 (30%). Thanks to targeted outreach, the percentage of youth has grown and new *barrios* of great need are accessing the Centro.

Daniel Novelo, the Center's director, sent his regards to all the SFNO Brothers he met last spring when he visited the Bay Area. He's busy with maintenance, budgeting, and planning. Young **Stiven Tordecillas**, from Columbia, has been assigned for the year as he prepares for final vows. He brings a curiosity and positive energy to the community. Elder **Carlos Martinez** continues with a full load of classes and overseeing the house kitchen. The community director, **Rafael Cuellar**, was at RELAL meeting on Leavening Project sites. A final member of the community is Emilio Chavez, immigration attorney and former Centro volunteer, who has returned to direct the El Otro Lado project so that it has more outreach to migrants.

"...whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant, the first will be the slave of all." MK 10:43-44

Enjoyed dinner with the SMCHS community. Although he moved out of the residence, **Larry Puck**, AFSC, continues to cook once a week for the Brothers and joins them for prayer. He tried out a tasty chicken parmesan recipe!

The Directors Association met on Saturday at St. Mary's College. Directors **Roch Dufresne**, **Lawrence Haley**, **Fortunat Phong**, **Kenneth Curley**, **Tom Westberg**, and **Chris Brady** were in person. **Martin Vu**, **James Joost**, and **Mariano Lopez** joined us via zoom. The new co-chairs, Roch and Lawrence, organized the well-run meeting. The highlight was the quality of sharing each Director had. All could point to the challenges of aging Brothers but many also noted being inspired by the grace and courage displayed by some saintly Brothers. Positive changes in the community were also celebrated. Each Director discussed the CAP process in their community. There were many questions and an exchange of useful ideas.

De La Salle HS in Concord featured **John Hoover** in one of their video messages during their Giving Week. It's a well-earned recognition. Check it out at: <https://vimeo.com/1020687281>.

Miscellaneous...

Peter Tripp is out of hospital, thank God, and spending nights at St. Paul's as he adjusts to new health realities, especially dialysis. Thank you to Nurse Brandi and **James Joost** for accompanying him. In the middle of preparing the meal for the final wedding reception of the season, the county health inspector dropped by! Chef Ismael and his crack crew pivoted and passed easily. We are blessed! Kudos to **David Caretti** and Chris Swain (CBC) for their webinar regional presentation last week: *Fostering a Culture of Vocation: The Call of Everyone Within Our Lasallian Family*. It was a well-crafted presentation with many opportunities for viewers to interact. **Brendan Madden** will be in the hospital for a few days due to buildup of fluid. He is in good spirits. Poor **Halen Gamino** can now be considered a native Angelino as he got into a car wreck this past weekend on the LA freeway. He's a bit bruised, without a car, but otherwise healthy – praise God!



Two proud De La Salle eighth graders toured Mike Daniels and me around the campus



Robert O'Kane joked with Halen Gamino and Rafa Rodriguez when they joined the Provincialate community for a social



Steven Tordecillas (Norandino) leading his spirited bi-weekly salsa class



The ever-ebullient Roch Dufresne chaired the gathering of District directors



David Caretti delivered a report on vocation ministry to the Directors Association



Bob Wickman (DENA) is mentoring Javi Hansen on the Cathedral HS-LA board



The Directors Association sat down to lunch in the Arnaudon Dining Room at SMC

“...the community, a forum for dialogue and a home, is the context, the recipient and the agent of formation for the Brothers.” Rule

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