

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

12 November 2024



In Thailand, Dat Hoang, his 83-year old mother, and nine siblings assembled together for the first time in a decade

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Victims of war, especially children;
- The spirit of civil discourse to be prevalent in our schools;
- The needs of our boards;
- In thanksgiving for our veterans and their families;
- The needs of our young Brothers;
- Healing and justice for victims of sexual abuse;
- All in need of healing; especially Peter Tripp, Ron Gallagher, Bill Hughes, Brian Dybowski, Mary Jane Hagan's mother; and Liza Ribera;
- Young people discerning a vocation.



Richard Kovatch laughing with Charlie Legendre, AFSC, at Saint Paul's

My travels and assorted news...

I neglected to thank the SMCHS community in Berkeley for their fraternal hospitality while I was accompanying the De La Salle Academy leadership and traveling to Tijuana. They are always kind and curious.

Chris Brady and I attended another mediation session with our attorneys in San Francisco. Various possible strategies were explored with the mediator. Praise God that at least one insurance carrier is cooperating. We concluded that the next step is for our attorneys and the mediator to meet with each carrier separately to discuss their position on our cases. This will clarify the picture of their possible contribution to the settlements. We finished up before lunch. Visited **Bill Hughes** at a local rehab facility after he finally tested negative for COVID. He described, in detail, his challenging symptoms which have now largely disappeared. Although his progress has been slow, Bill remains in good spirits. **David Sinitiere** and **John O'Neill** hosted Carol Swain and Sally Jaimison at Mont La Salle for a few days. They surprised Sally with a retirement dinner celebration. She hadn't had a retirement party at SMC before because she'd been out for medical reasons.

“By faith, the Brothers find God in their work, in their concerns, and in their joys.” Rule 1.6

The All Board Chairs group met at MLS this past weekend. I gave a short presentation to them on why and how to be a Lasallian Catholic school. I reiterated the three foci of our District Action Plan: belonging, formation, and sustainability. Underscored how imperative it is to have all board members attend one of our four board training sessions in Spring 2025. Finally, we had a constructive dialogue which addressed their various concerns and questions. Their development as a community of mutual support and resources has been impressive. I give a shout out to Maria Ribera for her tremendous work with these essential Lasallian partners.

While in Montana, **Ricardo Palacio** had a Native student begin to speak to him in the Blackfeet language. When Ricardo explained that he did not speak it, she asked what he was. When he pointed out that he was Mexcian, she was in shock. It seems she'd never met one. He's wrapped up his time there and will be returning to MLS. Kudos to Ricardo for responding to a need when asked to be of assistance.



Alphonse Le Blanc helping James Joost prepare dinner for the Saint Paul's community

Miscellaneous...

Dat Hoang reported from Thailand: *The second semester commenced last week. I am immersed in my teaching with both secondary school levels. I am also serving as an advisor for the English intensive program. With two other teachers, I oversee La Salle House, a residence that supports 50 students from impoverished families in rural villages and mountains. These students come from various ethnic groups, including Mon, Karen, Thai and Myanmar. Being present for these students, interacting with them each day, and guiding their personal and academic growth have always been one of my greatest pleasures. Despite their diverse cultural backgrounds, these students get along very well with each other. We hope that they not only receive an education at La Salle House but also create lasting friendships among themselves. My family was finally able to organize a long-awaited family reunion in Thailand, culminating in a Thanksgiving Mass."*



Joe Kirk and fellow Golden Grads attended Mass at their alma mater, Justin-Siena High School, in Napa



Martin DeMartini with Nurse Tami enjoyed the HFC Halloween Fiesta



Antony Doss spoke with Saint Paul's and DLSNO seniors about Hinduism



George VG with Andy Kuffner (SFNO formation) and Heather Ruple in Rome



Fred Van Haaften and Art Carroll getting a tour of Ricardo Palacio's farm at MLS



At MLS, John O'Neill and Carol Swain lauded Sally Jaimeson on her 25-years at SMC

"By faith, the Brothers learn to discern in every event, and in every person, especially in the poor, a sign and a call of the Spirit. Rule 1.6

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