LASALLIAN DISTRICT of SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

17 November 2026

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- The needs of our Religion departments;
- Pope Leo as he travels in Latin America;
- The efforts of our vocation ministry team;
- The needs of our young Brothers and Contacts;
- Brothers in transition;
- The needs of our affiliated members and benefactors;
- Healing for Joseph Pham, Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Richard Orona, Martin Farfan, and those battling depression and addiction.
- The consolation of those in mourning;
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Thomas Jones spent a week with Javi Hansen in Yakima, WA; they went out for Mexican food



Santa Fe, NM: James Brown, Joe Haras, Steve Haras (Joe's older brother) with Brian Dybowski during one of receptions to welcome Brian during his recent visit home

My travels and assorted news…

Last Monday, I got my flu and COVID immunizations for the season. Hope that we're all being conscious of taking preventative measures to keep our local community's as healthy as possible.

On Tuesday I met with Jennifer Sturm, our archivist, for our monthly check in. She will be hosting the region's archivists at MLS in January. The Visitors and the regional office are considering major investments in this field.

I spent Thursday at Justin-Siena HS in Napa to sit in on Religion classes: Julian Elorduy (World Religions), Mary Alice Spinelli (Faith in Modern World), Calvin Nixon (New Testament), and Elias Lucero (Faith in Modern World). What was clear is that the Religion faculty have positive relationships with their students, they know them, that they invite inquiry, and that they consistently make connections between the material which is being studied and the lives of the students. Each teacher engaged student learning and had created a positive classroom environment. Students were named, known, and loved.

"To be useful, correction should be pure, charitable, just, suitable, moderate, peaceable and prudent." DLS

On Friday, I observed Religion teachers at Saint Mary's College High in Berkeley. The consistent culture of thoughtfulness, connection, and intentionally were exceptional. I sat in two upperclasses: Bunny Miller's World Religions and Jeremy Marks' Social Justice course. Conan Graham's Old Testament (10) and Jose Alvarez's Faith in the Modern World (09) rounded out my day. **Jonathan Cord** happened to be the guest speaker with the freshmen who just completed their unit on DLS and the Lasallian world. He shared his journey as a Brother responding to God's call. In typical fashion, Jonathan's dry wit peppered his observations. **Edmond Larouche** addressed another freshmen class.

On Saturday, **Joseph Fabiano**, **Anthony Lenz**, **Chris Brady** and I represented the District at the funeral of Marge (Ash) Burke, the sister of the late



Religion Chairs Thomas Guro (Sacramento) and Jeremy Marks (Berkeley) with Thomas Westberg

My travels and assorted news…

Brothers **Warren**, **James**, and **Martin Ash**. The Mass and burial were in Lafayette, CA. Marge was the office manager at SHCP for over ten years. Last weekend, **Timothy Phelps** hosted his beloved maternal grandmother from Oregon. They explored San Francisco, went to symphony with **Halen Gamino,** and checked out the Napa Valley. **George Van Grieken** joined them for a visit to the Hess Museum and a wine tasting.

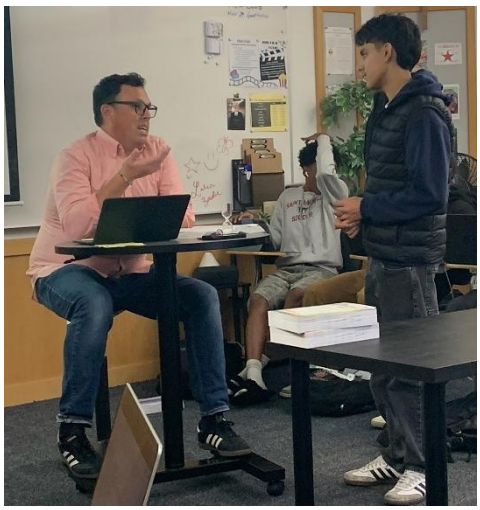
CBHS faculty Thomas Guro, Seth Alexander, and Alonzo Aguillio were at MLS on Wednesday to took create some film footage of Brothers reenacting major moments in the Founder's life: taking public vows, writing the letter calling him back to Paris, and general shots of Brothers interacting. **Joe Kirk**, **Dat Hoang**, and **GVG** modeled in habits for this project which will be part of nine videos the team will create to serve as additional materials for teaching new students about the Founder, the Lasallian world, and its' history.



Matthew and Chris visited *Proyecto Utopía* in Yopal, Colombia, to learn firsthand about how this innovative program forms grassroots leaders to empower local growers with sustainable farming methods



Calvin Nixon answered sophomore questions about the synoptic gospels; he's also the Dean at JSHS



At SMCHS, Conan Graham advised a sophomore on his upcoming semester project in Old Testament



John and Mary Montgomery on ship with the Ho Chi Minh City nighttime skyline behind them



Robert O'Kane smiled as the community sang Happy Birthday for his 80th; the director composed a sonnet to honor this life-long English teacher

"Forgiving is not forgetting; It's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning." **Desmond Tutu**