

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

18 November 2025



The MLS conference staff (Elaine, Jovita, and Mary Jane) visited with Ken Keenan and Joe Powers at Saint Joseph's Camp

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Blessings on our District Council;
- In thanksgiving for our benefactors;
- Blessings on the Huether Conference;
- The various needs of immigrants;
- Healing for Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Joseph Pham, Andy Kuffner's mother, Patricia Vega, Chance Crews, and Jesusita Barela;
- Families dealing with addiction;
- Healing and justice for victims of abuse;
- Those in mourning;
- Just end to our litigation;
- Increase of vocations to religious life;
- The needs of our young Brothers.



Matthew smiling in his office cluttered with projects and notes for leaders

## My travels and assorted news...

The Conference Center staff spent a day last week at Saint Joseph Camp at the Russian River. They wanted to get to know Ken Keenan, the new caretaker, and Joe Powers, his assistant. Ken is a union carpenter with experience managing a camp. He has moved in and has gotten right to work addressing maintenance issues. Last Friday, Ken spent the day at the DLSI offices to finalize his contract, meet the staff, and to have a better sense of who we are and how we function. We will continue to study how to improve the camp experience for those who rent the camp as well as the pricing. The Office of Education hosted another meeting with our seven schools impacted by the underfunded CBS Retirement. This zoom focused on the experiences learned from schools who opted out of the program. The US Conference of Bishops released a letter on immigration early last week. It reminds Catholics of the fundamental importance of recognizing a brother/sister in the most vulnerable. This fills me with joy because the potential letter was one focus of the National Advisory Council's meeting earlier this year. At that point, a number on the Council cautioned that the bishops might ignore the request but the Holy Spirit has spoken!

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*"We pray for an end to dehumanising rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement."*

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On Friday night, **Mark Murphy** shared a bottle of Christian Brothers' 1977 Pinot St George with the **MLS community**. He'd found it forgotten in a closet. After much fanfare in opening it, the unanimous conclusion was that it was not drinkable! A shout out to **George Van Grieken** for completing a six-year project of synthesizing various longer Institute histories into a single volume. *Holy Audacity*, the working title, will be a one volume short Lasallian history. During dinner, George was peppered with questions about large trends he saw and identifying pivotal moments in our history. All were impressed by his mastery of the 350-year history.

Thank you to your community and you for having or planning to have a synodal discussion over the four questions proposed by the Central Committee of the District Chapter. You've also been asked to respond online individually and anonymously. All this vital feedback will inform the District Chapter delegates, who will gather for the first session, next month. The Holy Spirit is revealing our hopes, fears, and aspirations for the Chapter to consider with eyes of faith. A shout out goes to Brothers **David, Rafa, Christopher, James, and George** for their preparatory work.





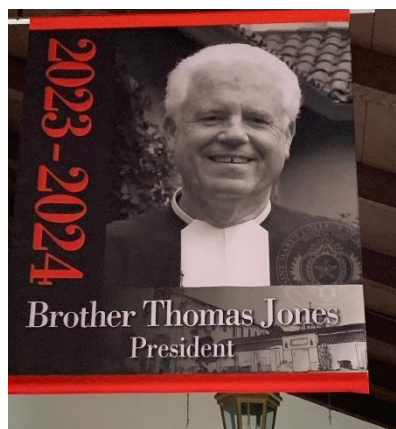
Laurence Konersmann asked Chris Donnelly about the novitiate renovation project

## Miscellaneous...

Four EOL students from Cathedral El Paso participated in Tucson's *El Otro Lado* experience. Since they always host visiting student participants, this exchange provided an opportunity for CHSEP students to experience the immersion as participants. In the spring, Tucson EOL students will travel to El Paso to have that border experience. These opportunities are how we help to create Lasallians who become passionate life-long advocates for social justice. The demolition in the former novitiate continues with all plaster on ceilings and walls gone in one first floor hall and it's almost finished in the upstairs bedroom wing. The huge container for hauling away debris is already filled. This \$2 million building project is being funded by the proceeds from the sale of the two donated Paris Street properties (San Francisco). Our staff was able to participate in a lottery to take furniture and items that aren't going to be used in furnishing the renovation.



Four Cathedral El Paso students and moderator Yolanda Solano participated in the EOL program in Tucson



A banner hangs at SMC honoring Thomas Jones' service as president



Kevin Slate opening a bottle of 1977 Pinot St George for the MLS community



Addressing the student body of Christian Brothers HS during a prayer service



All plaster removed from 1<sup>st</sup> floor walls and ceiling in two future breakout rooms



During a social, Carlos Gomez chatted with religion chairs to learn about their challenges

*"May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ."* USCCB

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