

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

03 December 2024



Javi Hansen's parents joined the San Miguel community for Thanksgiving dinner in sunny Tucson

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The repose of the soul of Thomas Canty and the consolation of his community;
- A strong beginning to our Advent practices;
- In thanksgiving for the life of Bishop Cummins, AFSC;
- Peace in our hearts and in the world;
- Healing for Bill Hughes, Peter Tripp, and Ron Gallagher;
- Those on hospice care; especially Mary Jane Hagan's mother and Walter Durham;
- Healing and justice for abuse survivors;
- Families in mourning; especially the Miranda family in Tucson;
- Vocations to religious life and our contacts.



Jim Brown and Brenda Iturralde in the community kitchen in Santa Fe

My travels and assorted news...

From Denver I traveled to Santa Fe for a visit. On Sunday, I met with College of Santa Fe Alumni Association representatives who are stewards of the funds painstakingly raised (mostly through weekly Bingo games and hall rentals) and managed over the decades. We discussed proposed updates to the annual allotments; mostly to benefit students with need at Saint Michael's High. The alumni enjoyed sharing stories about the beloved Brothers who positively impacted their lives: **Brian Dybowski**, **George Hetzel**, and **Ferdinand Jenschke**.

Took a student-led tour of Saint Michael's High. I had not realized how many new classrooms had been added since 1986 or fully appreciated the size of the Tipton Gym addition (shout out to **Richard Kovatch** for this important growth in the campus footprint). My tour guides were examples of the happy students who appreciate the positive changes in recent years. Had a productive meeting with principal Martín Sandoval to learn about the challenges St. Mike's is facing. Was blessed to hear about the significant progress the school is making in enrollment, stability, and school culture.

“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another so as to strengthen your hearts...” 1TH 3:12

I'm happy to report that the three Brothers in Santa Fe are doing well despite the tremendous reduction in community size and the departure of the nurse and CNA staff. Like the Brothers who faithfully accepted moving, those who remain are examples of radical availability by graciously adjusting to new realities. Former CNA Brenda Iturralde comes in to cook once a week. She preps additional entrées to be used later in the week. Brothers also volunteer to cook and do the shopping. Arrangements are being finalized for house cleaning. Jim Brown keeps up his health with three daily walks and communicating with friends at Santa Fe Community College. He's also doing a great job of keeping the kitchen spotless. **Mariano Lopez** serves a chaplain to the Horsemen sports teams, so he was on hand to witness the football team capture another state title in a nail biter finish. He crisscrosses northern NM to support the various teams. This year, he's teaching one Religion course and one section of NM history (the legacy of **Eddie DeReyna** lives on). **Joe Haras'** brother Steve joined the community for Thanksgiving. Joe reports that more chaplains are being trained because there is great need for communion ministers at the local Saint Vincent's Hospital. Joe also



Rafa Rodriguez, his two sisters (foreground), and friends at the Los Angeles Turkey Trot 5K

Miscellaneous...

serves as the community sacristan.

Paul-Andre Durham traveled to Los Angeles area to visit his twin, Walter. The doctors have run out of treatment options and are making Walter comfortable. I received the tragic news that Ginger, the daughter of Christine Miranda, staff member and founder at San Miguel HS, passed away over the holiday. Please keep her family in your prayers.

I forgot to share that San Miguel HS students hosted *Trunk or Treat* in their parking lot on Halloween. Over 300 neighborhood kids came by for treats and frights. Twenty San Miguel cars decorated their trunks plus a semi-truck and even a haunted bus! Shout out to **Matthew Chiantella** for organizing the titillating event.



Donald Johanson, Chris Patiño, and the General Council enjoyed a birthday dinner out in Rome



Mariano Lopez pouring over the sports section of The New Mexican



Jerry Vincent conferring with James Joost in the Saint Paul's community room



Mark Murphy with Leroy "Brother B" Baker, longtime Religion teacher at Rummel HS



Joe Haras proclaimed the Word at Mass in the Saint Michael's Community Chapel



Ricardo Palacio hosted a thank you picnic for all who assisted him with his bountiful garden

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from... the anxieties of daily life, that day catch you by surprise like a trap." LK 21:34-36

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