

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

24 December 2024



In Tucson, the San Miguel school community sang songs and processed in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Peace in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and the Ukraine;
- Rest and refreshment for our school communities during break;
- The blessings of the Christmas season to take root in us;
- In thanksgiving for our healthcare staff;
- Healing for Ron Gallagher, Peter Tripp, Liza Ribera, Walter Durham, and those battling cancer;
- Healing and justice for those accused of and for survivors of sexual abuse;
- Holy Spirit's blessings on those discerning a religious vocation;
- Faith and zeal for our vocation team.



Richard Moratto and Ronald Gallagher festooned in ugly Xmas sweaters at HFC

My travels and assorted news...

Attended an all-day meeting in Chicago of the six Lasallian college presidents and the three American Visitors. Because of a previous family obligation, SMC President Roger Thompson attended via zoom. Half of the presidents have years of experience and half have seven months or less. It was an opportunity to provide Lasallian formation for all focusing on their mandate from the Brothers, the charism, and the value of association. We discussed how the Brothers can be of support to the colleges and explored models for possible collaboration between schools going forward.

Flew back from Chicago on Friday and stayed in Berkeley to meet with **Chris Donnelly** to discuss potential renovation projects for the new year. Along with **Kenneth Cardwell**, **Jonathan Cord**, and **Mark Murphy**, I attended the Vigil Service for the late Bishop Cummins, AFSC, at Christ the Light Cathedral. **Edmond Larouche** was chosen to lead a decade of the rosary and to give a brief reflection. He highlighted the Bishop's strong commitment to Catholic education and accessibility for all. On Saturday, many Brothers from the Bay Area attended the SRO funeral.

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Luke 1:45

On Wednesday, the generous healthcare staff hosted the Annual Ugly Xmas Sweater Party for the **Holy Family community**. All the delicious homemade treats, gifts, and punch are provided by the staff. There were amusing games, raucous carol singing, and a spirited white elephant gift exchange. Some staff even brought children who were enthralled by **Martin DeMartini's** train set under the tree. A big holiday *gracias* to our extraordinary and caring staff!

Last Thursday afternoon, the **Provincialate community** hosted the DLSI staff for their annual Xmas Reception. A record number of staff members and even six HFC Brothers attended! The Brothers prepare all the food and drinks themselves. It's a simple way for the community to express their thanks to our wonderful staff.

As is their Advent custom, **Fortunat Phong** and **Valery An** visited the Mont La Salle communities to distribute sweets and flowers from their community and the Lasallian Sisters in San Jose. Their thoughtful visit is always most welcome and appreciated!



Edmond Larouche and Sr. Rose Marie Hennessey prepared for Bishop Cummins' Vigil

Miscellaneous...

Joseph Pham and the Bethlehem University community will join Brothers from Jerusalem for a Christmas lunch. Joseph wrote: *"Thank you to all brothers of SFNO who support my presence here which contributes to the Institute's mission."* **George Van Grieken** was invited to do a formation session with the two campuses at Christian Brothers School New Orleans. Via zoom, George also did an outstanding session on association for the Lasallian college presidents and Visitors. Kudos to our vocation team! **Luis Angelo Enríquez**, **Rafa Rodriguez**, and **David Caretti** conducted an Advent retreat for some of our contacts at a retreat center in Scottsdale, AZ. At the Deutches Haus in New Orleans, **John Mai** made a presentation on his book, *Escape From Vietnam*. **Peter Tripp**, **James Joost**, **Gale Condit** and a sizeable crowd attended. **Chris Patiño** will spend about a week the CHS community in Los Angeles to spend time with his family and the Brothers.



Tom W, David S, Stanislaus C, Robert O, Nick G, George VG, Kevin S, and Michael M at the tree trimming/decorating



Even Ronald Roggenback got into the holiday spirit at the HFC Xmas party



Peter Tripp and Bill Ray joined the community in wishing James Joost b'day greetings



Bill Hughes continues his physical therapy with therapist Peggy LaRochelle at HFC



Golfer Rafa Rodriguez enjoyed his "Thir-tee" themed surprise party at CHS LA



The Tucson community treated director Martin Vu to dinner out for his birthday

"Do not forget that closeness, proximity, was God's most authentic language... until it reached the essential closeness: the Word made flesh, God became one of us."

Pope Francis

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