

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

13 January 2026



SMC Brother Trustees with new officers: Amy Walters (Secretary), David Caretti (Vice-Chair), and Anthony Scalini (Chair)

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Safety and peace in immigrant communities;
- Our schools supporting immigrant students and their families;
- In thanksgiving for our board members;
- Healing for Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Joseph Pham, the Kuffners, Patricia Vega, and Chance Crews;
- Those in hospice and for those who care for them; especially Larry Swanson and Josephina Ramos;
- The Spirit's blessings on our vocation efforts;
- Needs of our young Brothers and Contacts.



Welcome to Maggie Nass; pictured with husband, children, and godchild

## My travels and assorted news...

Kudos to the Election Committee for beginning the Visitor Nomination Process. Special thanks to **Roch Dufresne** for handling the electronic voting. A reminder that the first round of nominations closes Thursday night. Please let your director know if you require assistance.

Last Thursday, our exceptional MLS Conference Center staff hosted 180 staff from Saint Ignatius Preparatory in San Francisco. The group was so large that they held whole group meetings and Mass in the large chapel. Breakout spaces were spread throughout the complex and they ate meals on the patio. Their day included wine tasting, yoga, and biking. Our team was quite busy with the set-up, event, and clean up. Kudos to them for their quality work! Former Aspirant Hermès Ruiz, now teaching at SI, visited with his former SHCP community members: **Tom Westberg** and **Martin DeMartini**.

On Thursday and Friday, I attended the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees. We received updates on enrollment and finance. We elected the new board officers who will be installed in the summer. We had an

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*"We respond faithfully, step by step, in the life we share and the mission before us; even when hope challenges or unsettles us." Br. Rafael*

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excellent formation experience with a board member from a college that just completed a capital campaign. SMC is exploring this. David Caretti offered a relevant reflection on stewardship; asking not from scarcity but from a confidence in Mission. As the SMC nursing program grows, so have the learning spaces for this program. The Provost, Dr. Carol Gittens, gave us a tour of space being renovated to become updated nursing classrooms and state-of-the-art labs meant to simulate hospital situations.

The Conference Center is hosting the District Chapter for the Voluntas Dei Institute USA. Fr James Burns, their District Director, is president of Saint Mary's University of MN. Another member, Fr. Rico Hernandez, just retired as our District's sustainability director.

We welcome our new Director of Sustainability, Maggie Nass. She's a former Lasallian Volunteer who has worked in Catholic education (with various charisms) in the Chicago area. Maggie has broad experience in school finance and sustainability. She brings a faith and zeal to her new ministry.



Former Aspirant Hermès Ruiz visited with Martin DeMartini and Tom Westberg

## Miscellaneous...

The place to be this past weekend was Atlanta with many members of the Office of Ed and Brothers at the matrimony of Kennena Amuzie (Young Lasallians). She married into another Nigerian family and will have a traditional wedding ceremony later. **John Hoover** reports that Chance Crews, the students seriously injured in an accident, continues his miraculous recovery. Please keep Chance, his therapists, and family in your prayers.

The LA Religious Education Conference is next month. SFNO Brothers will man our Lasallian Vocation booth. Nationally recognized speaker, **Fortunat Phong**, is scheduled to lead two workshops for Vietnamese parishes: *A Pilgrimage with AI for Generations Z and Alpha* and *How to Build Bridges with Our Young Vietnamese American Catholics Within the New Religious Landscape in the USA*.



DLS Concord freshman Chance Crews, recovering from serious accident, with classmate, and teacher John Hoover



Jim Riordan and John O'Neill having a conversation in the HFC living room



The SPS community welcomed Ernest Miller (DENA) to their Xmas feast



Dan Morgan shared scores from La Salle Yakima Lighting sports with Javi Hansen



Delegate Thomas Jones during the first session of the District Chapter



Kennena Amuzi with David Caretti and Chris Patiño (with whom she lived as an LV in Tucson)

*“Hope asks for truthfulness rather than mere positivity; it asks us to find the courage to stay present; to act without the guarantee of success...” Br. Rafael*

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