

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

28 January 2025



Lawrence Haley, Paul-André Durham, Richard Moratto, and Martin DeMartini chatting in the Holy Family living room

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- The grace to be pilgrims of hope;
- Blessings in the lunar new year;
- Consolation for those in mourning; especially the Palacio and Southard families;
- Healing for Brendan Madden, Peter Tripp, Bill Hughes, Liza Ribera, Walter Durham, and Fr. Rico Hernandez;
- Those in hospice care;
- The Holy Spirit's movement in the upcoming Called and Chosen Retreats;
- Healing and justice for victims of abuse and their accused;
- The needs of our young Brothers and contacts.



Simon Hoang and Christopher Brady at the La Salle Center Vietnam celebration

My travels and assorted news...

I completed the first half of my canonical visit to the Holy Family Community, the largest in the district. Director Lawrence Haley assisted with setting up redactions with half of the Brothers. I enjoyed sharing their daily schedule of Mass, meals, and prayer. Their honesty, kindness, and straightforward faith were inspiring. It is common to find at least one Brother in the chapel praying and simply being in the presence of God. All of them are grateful for the healthcare staff and they take advantage of regular opportunities for physical therapy and massages.

On Wednesday, I was invited to make a brief formation presentation on the Brothers' perspective on the purpose of a Lasallian school to the board of De La Salle HS in Concord via zoom. On Thursday and Friday, I attended Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees retreat in Moraga. Mike Daniels led a timely Lasallian formation session. The session helped to center us as we took in various reports on the fragile finances of the college. The president and his team are facing great challenges. Three vice-presidents (Enrollment, Philanthropy, and Finance) begin work on February 1st.

"In their conversation, Brothers stress what is positive and avoid anything that could cause pain." Rule 49.1

The Vietnamese Lasallian Youth Troupe celebrated its' 35th anniversary of founding with a two-hour theatrical production before a 2500 capacity crowd at the San Jose Convention Center. **Chris Brady** and I were honored guests of the San Jose community. **Peter Phu** and **Simon Hoang** sat with us and the local Lasallian Sisters community, including four sisters from the community in Houston. Bishop Oscar Cantú of San Jose also attended. Together we presented gifts of appreciation to the major sponsors of the event. The two-hour extravaganza started off with major production numbers expressing the gratitude for the grandparents, parents, and religious who have passed down the Vietnamese culture and Catholic values to younger generations of Vietnamese Americans. They celebrated loyalty, family, and faith. **Fortunat Phong** wrote the script and was the producer. He noted that the cast of 96 dancers, actors, drummers and singers committed to rehearsing from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sundays for a year to prepare for the exceptional production. An additional 40 volunteers served as stage crew, ushers, promoters, and handled the house. The nationally recognized troupe will travel to Missouri and Washington, DC, this summer.



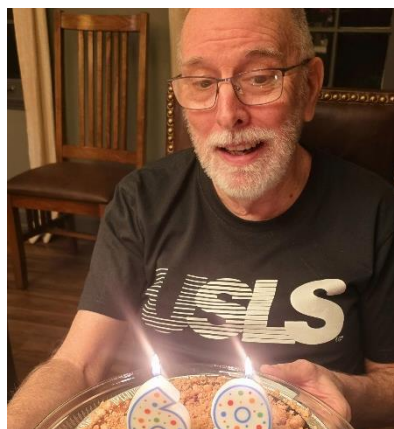
Bishop Cantú, representing the Church, and I, representing the Brothers, were recognized

Miscellaneous...

Bernie LoCoco is rushing to Chicago to be with his older brother, Peter, who has transitioned to hospice care. Peter is over 100-years old. Please keep them in your prayers. A cheerful **Fred Van Haften** returned to HFC after an extended stay in Corrales, NM, with his daughter's family. He proudly announced the birth of yet another healthy great-grandchild. **Ricardo Palacio** traveled to Santa Barbara to be with his family as they mourn the loss of his sister, Christine. **Chris Donnelly** has been busy helping the Mont La Salle staff to explore and plan various renovation projects. Initial group meetings have identified unexpected challenges and first steps. **Matthew Chiantella** organized San Miguel's first Homecoming Week and dance. Thanks to his skillful training, the students leaders organized and implemented a spirited week!



The two alumni emcees led the audience in singing the national anthem of the Republic of Vietnam



Dan Fenton patiently endured having happy birthday sung to him in LA



Richard Kovatch visited with me in front of the Saint Paul's Brothers residence



Racheal Bailey blessing the prayer ribbons at dedication of the Jesús Lara bench in Tucson



Chicken whisperer Ricardo Palacio with one of the beautiful hens in our MLS flock



Javi Hanson and me during a break at last fall's District Council meeting

"The Lord tells the elderly that our story is open, still: it is open until the end, it is open with a mission. (Our) mission: 'Get up! Look! Hope!'" Pope Francis

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