

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

04 February 2025



Lasallian Student Leaders and Partners hosted me for a pizza lunch at Christian Brothers High in Sacramento

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The grace to be disciples of hope;
- Blessings on our District Days;
- The needs of Saint Mary's College;
- Healing for Stanislaus Campbell, Peter Tripp, Richard Moratto, June Kirk, trustee Bill Powers' wife; Liza Ribera, and Fr. Rico;
- Those in hospice care, their families, and caregivers; especially Victor Ribera;
- The needs of our directors;
- Parents of teenagers;
- Eternal rest to Peter LoCoco and the consolation of his family;
- The Holy Spirit's guidance to those discerning a vocation.



RELAN Visitors with Dr. Collette Geary at gathering of presidents and chairs

My travels and assorted news...

Traveled to Christian Brothers HS in Sacramento last Tuesday for a campus visit. Student leaders took me all around to experience everything from stumbling through greeting the AP French students to doing warm up exercises with the freshmen Theatre class! Everywhere there were engaged students with hands on learning using technology as a useful tool. The student leadership programming, formation, and opportunities were most impressive. They possess a sense of ownership and responsibility through a Lasallian lens. The school has a welcoming and calm atmosphere with a beautiful space, immaculately maintained. When I visited the television studio, I asked about the origin of the program. The moderator joked: "**Roch Dufresne** certainly started this but he didn't build *everything*!"

On Wednesday, the DLSI Investment Board met. Our representatives from Crewcial Investments were in person to discuss the state of the market, our returns, and suggestions for changes to our portfolio. We welcomed back **Donald Johanson** to the board. His past experience plus his membership on the International Economic Council are valuable to our deliberations.

"May Christians always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future." SNC 13

Next, I traveled to Washington, DC. The presidents of the region's six Lasallian colleges convened to discuss next steps in possible collaboration to streamline costs, increase program offerings, and enhance admissions efforts. Visitors and board chairs were also invited. Roger Thompson, SMC president, Eric Flowers, SMC chair, **David Caretti**, vice-chair, and I represented Moraga. The facilitators of the process shared a good deal of wisdom from helping other colleges do the same. They noted that sharing the Lasallian charism, mission, and history gave our colleges a distinct advantage. Also, we are not competing in the same market areas. Next steps include an honest self-assessment of the financial state of the college to share with the others. Also, nail down simple first step collaborations with one or more of the Lasallian colleges. The big question on everyone's mind is: How much financial runway does each college have?

I went in a day early and stayed an extra day in Philadelphia to see old friends. Enjoyed taking the train (it's been 40 years!) and exploring the beautiful train stations in DC and Philadelphia.



John Mai with parents at Christian Brothers School Casino Night fundraiser in New Orleans

Miscellaneous...

Welcome to **Noel Lal**, from Myanmar, who is on his way to Tucson for a three-month sabbatical program with the Redemptorists. Thank you to **Mark Murphy** for helping with the arrangements. Kudos to the Berkeley and Tucson communities for hosting Noel. Last week, Nurse Mary Kelly travelled to the **Saint Michael's community** in Santa Fe then on to the **Saint Paul's community** in Covington. She was checking on the health of our brothers.

Last Sunday, consecrated religious were honored in various dioceses. **Matthew Chiantella**, **Javi Hansen** and **Martin Vu** attend a Mass celebrated by Bishop Weisenburger of Tucson. Javi celebrated 10 years since habit taking. **Joe Kirk** and **Victor Kenneth** attended the Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone in San Francisco. **Fortunat Phong** attended the Mass celebrated by Bishop Cantú in San Jose.



Visited KBFT studio at Christian Brothers HS in Sacramento; posed with the impressive crew at the news desk



Edmond Larouche listened to the dinner conversation at the SMCHS community



Javi, Martin, and Matthew joined consecrated religious in St. Augustine Cathedral



The formation library of the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa with the MLS book donations



A young member of the Lasalle Troupe led the audience in singing God Bless America



Natalia Schorn was a LV in Tucson with us when SMHS started; now teaches at her alma mater

“The Christian community should be at the forefront in pointing out the need for a social covenant to support and foster hope...” Hope Does Not Disappoint 9

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