

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

11 February 2025



Brothers listened to a presentation by Javi Hansen and Rafa Rodriguez at District Day hosted by the SPS community

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- In thanksgiving for the graces of District Day in the South;
- Healing for Brendan Madden, Peter Tripp, Victor Kenneth, Richard Moratto, and Liza Ribera;
- Those in hospice care; especially John Niemietz, AFSC (longtime Rummel HS faculty);
- Those in mourning; especially the Palacio family;
- Parents of struggling teenagers;
- The needs of our faculty members;
- The graces received on Called and Chosen retreat to grow as young men discern and for the upcoming retreat for girls.



Matthew and Rafa working with students at Called & Chosen Retreat

## My travels and assorted news...

Made my canonical visit to Vietnam House in San Jose. **Simon Hoang** continues his work of translating Institute documents into Vietnamese. He's completed the Founder's *Meditations*, the recent publication on Lasallian Spirituality, and Circular 475. He's currently working on John Johnston's letter on consecration. Young **Peter Phu** has completed his first year in the USA. He continues to work diligently at his graduate studies in Youth Ministry at Santa Clara University. Currently, he's taking two online classes. **Fortunat Phong**, the director, is quite busy preparing the Youth Troupe for two major upcoming summer performances in Missouri and Washington, DC. He also travels the country developing youth leaders in parishes with Vietnamese ministries. **Valery An** has begun planning a jubilee trip to Vietnam in August for a reunion of Brothers and former Brothers. He organized these in the past. Also, he hopes to be with his older sister whose health is declining. The community values prayer, meditation, spiritual reading, and meals together. It was a blessing to be with them.

Traveled to DLS Concord to meet with the Admissions and Financial Aid committees to note the importance of accepting and providing sufficient aid

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*"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective." I Cor 15:10*

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to DLS Academy graduates this year and for the current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the future. In San Francisco, joined the SHCP community for dinner out to celebrate **Joe Kirk's** birthday.

Travelled to Covington for the District Day in the South. It was a wonderful gathering. The Brothers from CBS came up along with **Pierre St. Raymond** who flew in from Lewis University. The first presentation was by two of our young Brothers: **Javi Hansen** and **Rafa Rodriguez** (via zoom). It was a welcome message of pride in our mission, vocation, and hope for the future. I followed with updates and challenges facing our District. Director **James Joost** prepared a moving prayer service. I had the privilege of sharing my thoughts on living with **Alphonse LeBlanc**, the jubilarian honored for 60 years! He will travel to celebrate at Napa's District Day as well. We were all treated to a sumptuous southern banquet. Kudos to the St. Paul's community for hosting us.,

Twenty-four young men from seven of our schools attended the Called and Chosen Retreat near Portland. The vocation team, two college contacts, and four partners made up the staff for this event.





Jerry Vincent and Christopher Brady in the Saint Paul's community room for District Day

## Miscellaneous...

The atmospheric river wreaked havoc on the roads leading up to Mont La Salle. There were closures due to mud, water, and debris on the roads. Kudos to Katie Batt and **Janell Kloosterman**, AFSC, for pivoting immediately to move the Discerning Leaders gathering to Justin-Siena HS and arranging for hotel rooms in Napa. There's been a water leak at MLS so we're all drinking boiled or bottled water. Makes you appreciate the first world luxury of drinking from the tap.

Shout out to **Kathy Calder**, AFSC, for putting out the Winter edition of *St. LaSalle Auxiliary News*. As usual, there's great stories and history. CNA Brenda Iturralde Torres began work on Monday at the Saint Michael's community as cook, housekeeper, driver, and healthcare for the Brothers there. Pamela Gleeson and **Donald Johanson** traveled to Rome for a meeting of the International Economic Council. *Buon compleanno Donato!*



Phong, Simon, Valery, me, and Peter enjoyed spicy phở in the Huế province style in San Jose during my canonical visit



Pierre St. Raymond relished authentic gumbo at District Day in Covington



Valery and Phong doing the dishes after dinner in San Jose



The team and participants of the Young Men's Called & Chosen Retreat near Portland



Javi Hansen at CHS in El Paso with former student; Javi serves on their board



Celebrated Joe Kirk's birthday at Boudin's; Joe K, me, John M, Joseph F, and V. Kenneth

*“May the God of peace furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ...”* Heb 13:20-21

De La Salle Institute

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