

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

04 March 2025



Partners from Cathedral HS and LaSalle Pasadena met with the General Councilors at the Brothers residence in Los Angeles

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- Spirit's blessings on the Trustee Gathering in Portland;
- Blessings on the visit by the General Councilors;
- The needs of Pope Francis;
- Healing for Valery An, Victor Kenneth, Richard Orona, Jerry Vincent, Richard Moratto, Peter Tripp, and Liza Ribera;
- Justice and healing for victims of abuse;
- Needs of our formators;
- Our students struggling with mental illness;
- Needs of our young Brothers;
- Young people discerning a vocation.



Martin Vu and Joe Kirk joked around during a break at District Day at MLS

My travels and assorted news...

Appreciated the warm welcome by **Dan Fenton**, guest master, in Los Angeles. He's got non-stop guests and a full house for a few weeks (on top of his other duties). I watched he give a helpful demonstration on chlorophyll to AP Biology.

Attended the LASSCA gathering of presidents and principals from across the region. Shout out to **Joey Scaffidi**, AFSC, who served as vice-president and will now become president. We're also grateful to **Joe Welling** (JSHS) and Dr. **Crystal LeRoy** (CBHS) who were on planning committee. The three-day conference is an effective way to create a learning community of Lasallian Partners. It's an opportunity for them to pray together, learn, celebrate, and be re-energized by the Mission. It reminded me that God answers our prayers for vocations by sending us Partners committed to Lasallian schools.

A meeting of the Visitors and district education officers followed. There were frank and spirited discussions with **Chris Patiño** and Tom Southard, executive director of the CB Conference. Some major discussions centered on potential

"Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then... remove the splinter in your brother's eye." LK 6:42

regional archives, partnering more effectively with Fe y Vida (leadership formation for Latino youth), and following up on the seven pathways from the 46th General Chapter. We also discussed upcoming cluster meetings in Rome which the Visitor and two Partners will attend.

Vicar General **Carlos Gomez**, along with Councilors **Ricky Laguda** and **Chris Patiño** arrived in Los Angeles to kick off their 10-day visit to SFNO. Administrators and board chairs from LaSalle Pasadena and Cathedral High joined the Brothers community for a discussion and dinner. They explained how the Mission was lived out on their respective campuses as well as how they worked together on formation. On Tuesday morning, **Fortunat Phong** zoomed in to outline San Jose's ministry to Vietnamese American youth through religious formation, leadership formation, the dance/drum troupe, and volunteer summer experiences in Cambodia. **Lawrence Haley** and **Roch Dufrense**, Co-Chairs of the Directors Association, discussed the state of communities and the challenges facing directors today. There was also an opportunity to meet with a group of students from CHSLA.



Brian Dybowski, Mariano Lopez, and Jack Henderson shared a laugh before Mass

Miscellaneous...

Western Jubilee Day was held at Mont La Salle last Saturday. Kudos to **Chris Brady** and his team for organizing a wonderful event. Almost two-thirds of the district were present for this warm and fraternal gathering. **Halen Gamino** and **Matthew Chiantella** gave a challenging and uplifting presentation on hope. I followed up with the state of the district. Thank you to **George Van Grieken** for organizing the prayer service and Mass. **Victor Kenneth** provided humor and fun as MC of our jubilee luncheon. **Michael Avila** (60), **Lawrence Haley** (50), **David Caretti** (25), and **Joe Kirk** (25) spoke personally and eloquently about their vocational journey. **Valery An** (60) was unable to stay for the program due to illness. Huzzah to jubilarians who celebrated 65 years: **Alphonse LeBlanc**, **Art Carroll**, **Bill Hughes**, **Charles Miller**, and **Mark Murphy**. Other jubilarians were: **Jim Meegan** (55) and **Dan Fenton** (40). Affiliated members were also in attendance.



LASSCA participants were treated to a mini-concert by CHSLA's liturgical choir; they were a talented group!



Valery An is responding well to treatments and will enter rehab soon



Alphonse Leblanc and Emmet Sinitiere at a social at Mont La Salle



Halen Gamino learned that I relish an old time diner breakfast so we tried one nearby



Presidents LeRoy, Huelskamp, and Skrade at District meeting during LASSCA



Jubilarians Michael Avila and Dan Fenton conferred with Charlie Hilken at District Day

“Be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 COR 15:58

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LASALLIAN DISTRICT
of
SAN FRANCISCO
NEW ORLEANS