

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

11 March 2025



Mark Murphy, James Joost, and Fortunat Phong leaving morning prayer at the District Day in Napa

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The graces needed for a transformative Lent;
- The needs of our boards of trustees;
- Healing for Pope Francis, Valery An, Peter Tripp, Richard Moratto, Jerry Vincent, Victor Kenneth, Liza Ribera, and those battling cancer;
- Blessings on the president search at CBHS Sacramento;
- Justice and healing for victims of abuse and those accused;
- Our General Council;
- Young people struggling with mental health;
- Needs of our young Brothers and Contacts.



Halen Gamino and Matthew Chiantella presented to District Day participants

My travels and assorted news...

While touring the two southern California schools was important, two powerful meetings with the General Councilors took place on zoom. One was with the Religion Department chairs of our District. They spoke honestly about the challenges they're facing with students, some dioceses, and finding qualified personnel. The Councilors were impressed by their commitment to this ministry. Carlos, Ricky, and Chris also met with the LEC to better understand our District's distributive leadership, the challenges we face, and how we're addressing them. It was an opportunity to better understand our District Action Plan's response to the General Chapter, the Mission Assembly, and the District Chapter. Both meetings were honest exchanges.

At LaSalle Pasadena, the Councilors joined the school community for Ash Wednesday Mass. They were impressed by the reverence displayed by the student body, the beauty of the celebration, and by the spirited kick off to their Lenten fundraiser for their sister school in Africa. We toured their innovation centers for medical and engineering studies. The teachers in

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart... rend your hearts...” Joel 2:12-13

charge of these programs are so impressively knowledgeable and committed to each student's learning and growth!

The first Trustees Gathering took place last weekend in Portland. By all accounts, it was a huge success. The event was hosted by La Salle HS in Milwaukie. Forty-six Trustees from LaSalle Yakima, De La Salle North Catholic Portland, La Salle Milwaukie, and San Miguel Tucson assembled for two-days of intense ongoing formation. Board members **Lawrence Haley** and **Mark Murphy** were in attendance. **David Caretti** and **George Van Grieken** were part of the formation staff. My thanks to everyone involved in this miracle.

Originally, I was to fly to Washington, DC, for a meeting but the cold I'd been fighting finally won. Appreciated two days of sleep in San Francisco before rejoining the Councilors in the South. We began with a reception of the area school leaders, board chairs, and their spouses. There was a frank conversation with the Councilors about the challenges they're facing but also a unanimous recommitment to and gratitude for the Lasallian charism.



Roch Dufresne prepared a feast to welcome the General Councilors to southern California

Miscellaneous...

Shout out to **Martin Vu** for sharing his beautiful photos of District Day with all. Kudos to **Javi Hansen** for his 12th place finish at the Irish Run 5K fundraiser at Cathedral El Paso this past weekend. He placed first in his age category. Javi serves on their school board. **Kenneth Boesch** reported that he has finally stopped driving a school bus. He's been driving students around since his days at De La Salle. It is the end of a glorious era! **Valery An** is undergoing three hours of rehab three times a week at the Queen of the Valley in Napa and three days at Mont La Salle. It's a combination of physical, occupational, and speech therapy to help Valery have a full recovery from his recent stroke. A focus of the Councilors has been to meet with Religion teachers. As a result, I've become profoundly aware of the many challenges they face teaching today's youth. I'm equally humbled by their creativity, passion for youth, and great faith in all their efforts! God bless them all!



Principal Art Lopez, toured Ricky Laguda, Chris Patiño, and Carlos Gomez around Cathedral HS in Los Angeles



A rapidly recovering Valery An with Lawrence Haley on Ash Wednesday



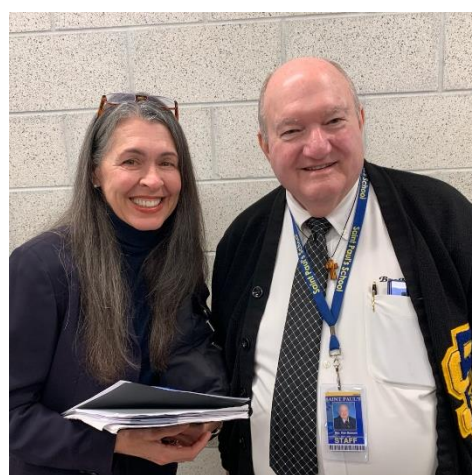
Ricky Laguda and Chris Patiño conferred at the Trustees Gathering in Portland



Ricky Laguda spoke with a group of student leaders at De La Salle in New Orleans



Vicar General Carlos Gomez helped distribute ashes at LaSalle HS in Pasadena



Candace Watkins and Ken Boesch at St. Paul's; she organized the southern visit by the Council

*"According to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."* PS 51:1-2

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of
SAN FRANCISCO
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