

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

01 April 2025



Hermanos Gil (director), Manuel, Andrés, and me in the dining room of the Durango cmtty; a joyous experience of fraternity

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Victims of the earthquake in Myanmar + Thailand;
- The grace of a transformative Lent;
- Healing for Brian Dybowski, Brendan Madden, Valery An, Peter Tripp, John Hoover, Eliza Ribera, and those struggling with mental illness;
- Those in discernment and/or transition;
- The consolation of those in mourning;
- The needs of our community directors;
- Healing and justice for victims of abuse and for the accused;
- Needs of those in vocation ministry;
- Needs of our young Brothers + contacts.



Trustees Don Olender and John M gathered in Pasadena for formation

## My travels and assorted news...

During my whirlwind three full days in Mexico Norte, I was able to spend time with three communities and visit four works in Monterrey, Saltillo, Lerdo, and Durango. In each experience, I was warmly welcomed and *everyone* asked about **Michael Avila**. He's a rock star down here! I discovered that **George Van Grieken's** website, Lasallian Resources, is well known and utilized by the Brothers; especially the Lasallian AI. Overall, I found communities of deep faith who prayed together, shared their spiritual journeys, and were ardently passionate about their ministry. They are a vibrant and inspirational group of Brothers.

The purpose of my trip was to get to know Mexico better and to visit Santiago Papasquiaro, my parents' hometown. It's a two-hour drive from Durango through little country villages. All ranching and farming. The wonderful surprise was how similar the landscape is to El Paso, southern NM, and AZ. I realized that aside from the heat, the adjustment for my parents was not so challenging. My mother loved long drives in valley past farms and now I understand why.

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*"All this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation..." 2Cor 5:18*

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A favorite moment was sitting in the plaza in Durango at dusk, eating a snack purchased from one of the vendor carts, while watching families heading home, lovers on a stroll, and friends chatting. It was easy to imagine my parents sitting on a bench (with a chaperone) and planning a future together. From such dreams, our family was born.

I was given a tour of the beautiful La Salle Guadiana, Pre-K through high school, in Durango. Over 1200 students on an ample campus with four classroom buildings, a chapel (replica of Parmenie), and various playing fields. School hours are from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Since dismissal is lunch time, they don't have to provide any cafeteria service (brilliant!). In the late afternoons and evenings, they offer *bachillerato* (technical certificates) practically free to students of limited means.

**Steven Vasoli** and **David Caretti** hosted the Regional Vocation and Formation Committee at MLS for several days of meetings. A major topic discussed was the regional novitiate and postulancy.





Peter Dudenheffer and Alphonse Leblanc doing physical therapy with PT Jeff Picone at St. Paul's

## Miscellaneous...

Íñigo Riola reported that he was visiting **Dat Hoang** in Thailand when the earthquake hit. Thank God that none of the schools in either nation reported any major damage. The current death toll is 2000 and rising.

A shout out goes to dedicated **Dan Fenton** who has taken over the courses and will finish out the year for a CHS science teacher out for maternity leave. All the best Dan! The archives move continues under the direction of **Chris Donnelly**. Now all the shelving on tracks have been transported to and rebuilt in their new site. The boxes of the second set of shelves will follow. Most impressive is the pre-planning labels which identify where everything goes. It has greatly simplified the move. The new LED lights make the space quite bright. **Paul-André Durham** has generously taken over the sacristan ministry at MLS chapel. He handles the Sunday liturgy, weddings, and any other special occasions (like upcoming Holy Week).



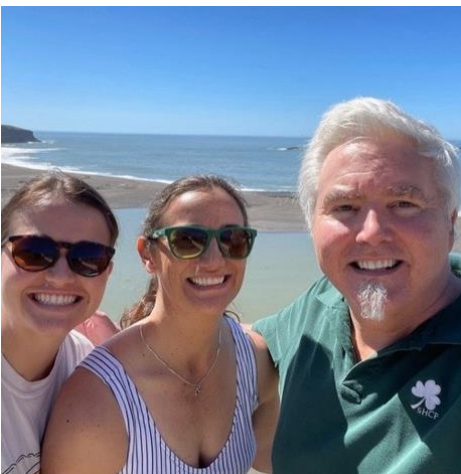
Joseph Fabiano's Cugini Italian Club at their annual pasta-making and pasta-eating event at SHCP!



Chris Brady presents Erika Williams, La Salle Pasadena trustee, with a certificate



Crucifix which hung in Sangre de Cristo Retreat Center now at San Miguel Tucson



John Hoover and DLS Concord teachers at the Russian River for some relaxation



In Sri Lanka, Chris Patiño was surprised with an early 41<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration



Enjoyed being with Andy Meyer and Beth Foster from San Miguel Tucson at Social Studies teachers meeting at Mont La Salle

*“Let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.” LK 15:24*

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