

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

13 May 2025



James, Kevin, me, Chris, and Mariano at the fourth Trustees Gathering hosted by Christian Brothers School at City Park

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The needs of Pope Leo XIV;
- In thanksgiving for our Office of Education team;
- For Rafael and Halen as they renew their vows;
- Healing for Brendan Madden, Valery An, Brian Dybowski, Ken Boesch, Peter Tripp, Peter Dudenheffer, Trevor Watkins, Andy Kuffner's father, and Liza Ribera;
- Our students as they prepare to graduate;
- Healing and peace for victims of abuse and those accused;
- The Holy Spirit to magnify the efforts by our Vocation Ministry Team.



City of Los Angeles honored Rafael Rodriguez for his service as educator

My travels and assorted news...

Traveled to New Orleans to attend Thursday's 75th anniversary celebration for De La Salle HS. Met proud and dedicated alumni, was impressed by the school's talented student orchestra, and enjoyed yet another delicious meal. President Paul Kelly was the keynote speaker; delivering a moving and eloquent challenge to the assembly: Honor the past but adapt. **John Mai**, **James Joost**, **Gale Condit** and I represented the Brothers.

On Friday I, first, joined the Office of Education team and some of our Mission Advocates. Each board has a Brother and a Lasallian Partner who are assigned this crucial role of helping the board see decisions through a Lasallian lens. We explored how to do this more effectively and discussed the growing challenges of providing a Brother for each board. Later, trustees from De La Salle, Saint Paul's, Christian Brothers School, and Mullen gathered for ongoing formation. **Kevin Slate** (St. Paul's), **Mariano Lopez** (Christian Brothers School), **Matthew Chiantella** (SMCHS), **James Joost** (DLSNO), **Chris Brady** (DeMarillac Academy), and I participated in a day and a half of prayer, keynotes, small group discussions, two breakout sessions, and time for

"[The Church] was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the the holy Spirit it grew in numbers." Acts 9:31

Trustees to discuss next steps. We're grateful to **Joey Scaffidi**, AFSC, and his team for their southern hospitality. The four Trustee Gatherings have been a major and wise investment of time and energy by the Office of Education. The boards and the District are now speaking the same language and have clear goals. Kudos to Maria Ribera, Director of Board Formation, who spearheaded the efforts and many thanks to the team.

Earlier in the week, I attended the Benilde Trust semi-annual meeting with representatives from the Royal Bank of Canada, the trustees of this major endowment. They review our investments and district finances to evaluate that we are good stewards of these resources. Set up over two decades ago, it ensures that there will be a check and balance with these funds. The Magnolia Lafayette Corporation also had its annual meeting. This Louisiana corporation exists to facilitate business matters for the legacy New Orleans Santa Fe district. It handles patrimony, legacy gifts, La Salle Auxiliary funds, and Brothers retirement. **Richard Kovatch**, **Peter Tripp**, and **Chris Brady** also serve as trustees.



James, John, Gale, and me at De La Salle HS's 75th Anniversary Dinner celebration in NO

Miscellaneous...

Charlene Wetzel, a faculty member at Rummel HS, informed me that the school garden honoring **John Fairfax**, beloved former principal, is taking shape. The landscaping is almost completed. They're awaiting the installation of artwork later this summer. After being the symbol at four Trustee Summits, **James Joost's** thought-provoking art piece (the base of bayou cypress and a MLS vine on which to hang keys representing each school) will become part of the permanent art collection in the Office of Ed. We've been blessed to have **Luis Angelo Enríquez** with us for two years. He's been in two communities, done vocation ministry, and worked with Mission and Ministry at SMC. He'll be graduating with a MA in a few weeks. Luis has been assigned to the De La Salle Medical and Health Services Institute in Dasmariñas City in the Philippines. He will be the Director of Lasallian Formation and Ministry.



Mariano Lopez exchanging ideas with members of the Christian Brothers School Board during a breakout session



Thomas Jones discussing matters at the recent District Council meeting



Alumnus Laurence Konersmann welcomed Mullen president Raul Cardenas to CBS



Kevin Slate, Matthew C, and Kenenna Amuzie at a Mission Advocate session in New Orleans



After dinner, Melvin Pelton appreciates walking outside to check out the moon



Met Derek Cummiskey, the artist who painted all the Brothers who lived at CBS

"...to make oneself small so that He may be known and glorified, to spend oneself to the utmost so that all may have the opportunity to know and love Him." Pope Leo XIV

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of
**SAN FRANCISCO
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