

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

20 May 2025



Dr. Carole Swain with the sponsoring Brothers community at her affiliation ceremony at Mont La Salle

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- In thanksgiving for our affiliated members and benefactors;
- Healing for Joseph Pham, Brendan Madden, Valery An, Peter Tripp, Andy Kuffner's father, and Liza Ribera;
- Expectant mothers having challenging pregnancies;
- Consolation for those in mourning;
- De La Salle Academy community as they prepare to close;
- Healing and justice in the mediation of our abuse cases;
- Holy Spirit's guidance for all in vocation discernment;
- The needs of our young Brothers.



John Hoover with a DLS student that he recently sponsored for Confirmation

## My travels and assorted news...

Last Thursday, I zoomed in to a meeting on the Lasallian Catholic Assessment Process (LCAP). **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, Bob Carrejo, Andy Kuffner, and John Roberto reviewed how this latest iteration is rolling out in the schools. They're pleased that the staff is more engaged and has more ownership of the process. This is one of the best ways that LEC and local boards can hold the president accountable regularly for mission and formation.

**Rafa Rodriguez** renewed his vows in the community chapel on Wednesday night with only his community, **Steven Vasoli**, and me in attendance. In this intimate setting, Rafa expressed heartfelt gratitude to his community for their fraternal accompaniment and support. All of us went out to a neighborhood Italian restaurant to celebrate. On Thursday morning, **Halen Gamino** renewed his vows at the Founder's Day Mass with all the students present. At the end of Mass, the assembled Brothers delivered a lusty rendition of *Honneur a Toi* to the delight of all present.

I was invited to speak briefly at the Baccalaureate Mass at San Miguel High

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*"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."* JN 13:34

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to wrap up their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It was held at the neighboring Santa Monica Parish. A jubilant Bishop Kicanas was the celebrant and Mike Daniels was also present for the event. I noted that the current sanctuary was where our original four classrooms had been. They did double duty as crying rooms/CCD classrooms and had no air conditioning. God has certainly blessed our efforts in the last two decades!

The affiliation celebration for Dr. Carole Swain was blessed with perfect weather, strong attendance by Brothers, and the presence of family and friends. Chris Brady's comments on Carole's multiple *fiats* were a highlight.

Honored to be invited to the La Salle Center's Founder's celebration in San Jose. **Valery An** and four sister's vows celebrating jubilees renewed their vows. On behalf of the District, I presented the center with the painting commemorating 50 years of service to Vietnamese youth. Two examples of how God has worked through this ministry: I sat with a young Dominican sister who was a teenage catechist here and a dynamic diocesan priest who was a young drummer with the troupe. May God continue to bless this work!



Chris Patiño visible over Pope Leo's shoulder during the papal audience

## Miscellaneous...

Turns out that our former Superior, **Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría**, and the Holy Father are old friends. They were both superiors at the same time in Rome. It was due to that mutual respect that then Father Prevost led a retreat for the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter in 2014 and, possibly, his visit with the Motherhouse staff on the Founder's feast.

**Joseph Pham** will be returning to the district for medical testing, diagnosis, and treatment. We feel that the Bethlehem medical community has done all that they can for him. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the SHCP community renewed their vows in front of the student body at Saint Mary's Cathedral. **Joe Kirk's** family was in attendance as they were celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee. Kudos to Salvador Aceves (Sacred Heart '79) on being named the new president of the University of San Francisco. He recently visited the SHCP campus and tearfully reflected on how much impact the Brothers had on him.



Peter Tripp made authentic NM green chile stew for the Saint Paul's community; with Peter Dudenheffer at social



Phong, Joseph Phuong, Visitor of Vietnam, and me at San Jose center



Steve Vasoli and Rafa Rodriguez shared a laugh before his renewal of vows



Halen Gamino renewed his annual vows at the Founder's Day Mass at CHSLA



James Joost with De La School NO board members at the fourth Trustee Gathering



Chris Brady presented Carole Swain with the Affiliation document from Rome

*"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God." RV 21:3*

De La Salle Institute

Mont La Salle | 4401 Redwood Road | Napa, CA 94558  
Covington | 104 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue | Covington, LA 70433



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of  
SAN FRANCISCO  
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