

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

03 June 2025



Richard Kovatch with alumni lectors and Eucharistic Ministers at the final 11:00 AM Sunday Mass on St. Paul's campus

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The needs of the Lasallian Education Corporation (LEC);
- Healing for Joseph Pham, Brendan Madden, Brian Dybowski, Valery An, Pete Dudenheffer, Bernie LoCoco, Alphonse Leblanc, and Walter Durham;
- Families dealing with a difficult pregnancy; especially Nolan Lambert's daughter;
- Consolation for those in mourning;
- A just and timely resolution to our abuse cases;
- Those discerning a religious vocation;
- Needs of our young Brothers and Contacts.



De La Salle Academy sixth and seventh graders received achievement awards

My travels and assorted news...

A final Sunday morning Mass was held for the public at Saint Paul's School's Our Lady of Peace Chapel. Originally for the boarders and Brothers, it gradually became a Mass for neighbors, alumni, and student families. Generations have attended. Sacristan **Rich Kovatch** reported that alumni served as lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the event. It was standing room only. **Ken Boesch** led the music ministry for decades. He liked to claim: *"I always have a seat at Mass."* **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, and other volunteer musicians/singers led the congregation in song. Kudos to President Joe Dickens who has handled this challenging situation with positivity and transparency.

Traveled to Yakima with Mike Daniels to meet with La Salle High School faculty, staff, and supporters to announce the community of Brothers who will serve there next year. They are grateful for the commitment by the Brothers and felt that it will galvanize much needed support for the school. It's an exceptional staff, highly motivated and overworked, but committed to the Lasallian Mission. Bishop Joseph Tyson was on hand to add his support. In the afternoon, we attended a reception of past benefactors, board

*"Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! RV 22:20*

members, and local Catholic school leaders. The board has secured a four-bedroom house for the Brothers community and will cover the costs. On Thursday, I attended **De La Salle Academy's** final Mass and awards assembly. Although it was an end, the focus was on celebrating young scholar success and challenging students to carry the Lasallian spirit with them to their new schools. President Chris Giangregorio deserves a shout out for his exceptional leadership during this challenging transition. The passion and commitment of this young staff for the students was inspirational.

On Monday, I picked up a tired **Joseph Pham** at the airport. He'd flown from Tel Aviv to Dubai to San Francisco. Physicians in Bethlehem and Jerusalem ran tests but recommended that Joseph seek specialists elsewhere. We decided he return so that he can be diagnosed at UC San Francisco, a leader in neurological research and treatment. Joseph is having difficulty speaking and swallowing. Please keep him in your prayers. He's eager to return to Bethlehem to continue to serve there.



Valery An and Joseph Pham celebrating Valery's birthday at Holy Family Community

Miscellaneous...

Robert O'Kane traveled to Memphis for a week to attend the wedding of a former student. He taught there for 19 years. **Gale Condit** reported that he's officially moved over to Saint Paul's and is adjusting. **Laurence Konersmann** flies into Sacramento on Thursday to move into HFC.

The **Office of Education** team met in Denver for their biannual in-person meetings. They evaluated the year's programming, identified way to improve, and scheduled for the new year. I zoomed in to initiate a discussion on new ways to design the upcoming Mission Assembly. They created a working team to flesh out possible paths.

A shout out to the **SMC Baseball Gaels** for winning the West Coast Conference and advancing to the NCAA Baseball Tournament. This summer marks their second appearance! Kudos to **Rafa Rodriguez** for being elected to serve on the La Salle University Alumni Board.



Yakima: Mike Daniels, Ted K, Chair Dave Hazel and me at the end of a reception with benefactors and past board members



A beaming Brendan Madden at HFC while he regains his health



John Hoover and Dan Morgan enjoyed the BBQ at St. Mary's College



Pope Leo XIV greeted Chris Patiño on the Founder's feast at the Vatican



Chris Giangregorio, Anthony Lenz, and Fr. Rico at the DLS Academy Mass and Assembly



Director Chris Brady teased "Weegee" at community BBQ to bid him farewell

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

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