

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

22 July 2025



Jubilarian Lawrence Haley with six of his "uncommonly good" siblings at his jubilee celebration at the Mont

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Blessings on our District Retreat;
- The safety of our students, staff, and their families during summer break;
- School leadership teams as they prepare for a new year;
- Healing for Brian Dybowski, Bernie LoCoco, Bosco Truong, Joseph Pham, Brendan Madden, Sister Dorothy, Walter Durham, and the fathers of Andy Kuffner and Tom Southard;
- The needs of our vocation team;
- Our Brothers in formation and contacts.



One secret to the longevity and vigor of our District dean is water aerobics

## My travels and assorted news...

At Mont La Salle, **Kevin Slate** celebrated his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday with the community and eight invited friends and their families. It was perfect weather for dining *al fresco* in the Pebble Garden. Julia Mayer, chair of Young Lasallians Commission, drove over from the LYA in Santa Clara to visit with Donald Johanson. They worked together at the Generalate. **Dianne Larson**, AFSC, generously drove her down. Julia joined the community for prayer and dinner. She works in Lasallian schools in Austria.

My community held our CAP meetings on Wednesday through Friday of last week. Starting with the recognition that we are a new community because of personnel changes, we were able to have honest conversations about a number of issues. Most importantly, we were able to arrive at a healthy consensus about practical adjustments to practices and schedules. Our summer outing was to explore nearby Sonoma. Some of us checked out the historic barracks, Mission San Francisco Solano, and the Vallejo homestead. We enjoyed lunch off the town square before heading home.

On Saturday, **Lawrence Haley** hosted a joyous jubilee celebration for his large family, friends, and Brothers. It began with a Mass at which he renewed

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*"The Lord Himself will fight for you;  
you have only to keep still." EX 14:14*

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his vows. The worship aid included photos from his novitiate group as well as the program cover from first vows! Three members of that group were present. It was followed by a social and delicious dinner on the patio. The weather was perfect and the everyone treasured the evening. Photos from the event will be shared soon.

Our District Retreat was this week. The theme was The Spirituality of Aging. It was expertly facilitated by **Tom Johnson** (MW). Each day began with Mass, followed by an engaging presentation, and a small group discussion on the material. There was an optional discussion in the afternoon followed by evening prayer. After a delicious dinner, there was an optional movie or card games (no gambling allowed). It was good to be together. There was plenty of time for community, rest, prayer, and exercise. Retreatants received a copy of Sr. Joan Chittister's *The Gift of Years*. Kudos to **George Van Grieken** for organizing the retreat plus the worship, and **Ken Boesch** for the musical accompaniment. The following communities were represented: CHSLA (1), HFC (5), SMCHS (2), Saint Paul's (3), Lewis University (2), Alemany (2), and MLS (2).





Albert Ahedo, former student of Lawrence Haley, and Tony Lenz at the jubilee dinner

## Miscellaneous...

**James Meegan** and **Chris Brady** were among the Brothers who celebrated Alumni Weekend at Saint Mary's College. Graduates for years ending in zero or five were welcomed back to campus for the celebration. There were lectures, tours, hikes, Mass, cocktails, and lots of meals.

**Richard Kovatch** drove back to Covington after his time in Santa Fe. He reported that the Brothers community there is doing well and that he enjoyed being with them. **Alphonse LeBlanc** and **Gale Condit**, both at St. Paul's, arrived early for district retreat. They were able to catch up with old friends in the MLS and HFC communities.

Apart from participating in our summer teaching ministry, contact Jake Theriot was also a collegian volunteer at the Young Lasallian Assembly. The widow of Diego Vincent De Vargas thoughtfully sent us his robe-taking and profession crucifixes. He passed away last November.



Holy Family's Melvin Pelton, Bill Hughes, and Art Carroll with Scott Smetzer at an outdoor concert in Napa



While visiting in Santa Fe, Rich Kovatch with Chela and Joe Butler, AFSC



While at Lewis University for JJI, David Caretti ran into Pierre St. Raymond



Julia Mayer (RELEM) visited Napa for the first time to catch up with Donald Johanson



Tom Johnson (MW) and Mark Murphy leading a discussion at the District Retreat



Contact Jake Theriot (MS State University) joined Tim Phelps for a week at SMCHS

*"It is Christ whom we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."* COL 1:28

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of  
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