

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

05 August 2025



Chris Patiño getting *gelatos* with student delegation from Bethlehem University in Rome for Jubilee on Youth events

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Blessings on the start of school;
- The needs of our caregivers;
- Grace as communities participate in CAP;
- Repose of the soul of Brendan Madden plus Ricardo Palacio and the consolation of their communities;
- Healing for Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Joseph Pham, Bosco Truong, James Joost, Pat Bonacci, AFSC, and Russ Ricetti's wife;
- Brothers in transition and discernment;
- Our young Brothers in formation and the formation team;
- The needs of our District Vocation Team.



Ricardo Palacio's funeral Mass will be on Sat, Aug 16th, at 10:30 AM at MLS

My travels and assorted news...

On Friday, I met with the Preparatory Committee for the upcoming District Chapter to present some context for my suggestions for the gathering. I believe we already possess a solid District Action Plan to address ongoing concerns of the Mission: sustainability, formation, and belonging. I expect that the Mission Assembly will vote to continue these foci. Thus, I feel that our Chapter needs to honestly address the impacts of the aging of our Brothers. This might best use a non-legislative process/model involving synodal discussions and discernment. Finally, I suggested we engage an outside facilitator. The committee listened, will deliberate, and lay out their vision later. (Rightly so, a Visitor can only make suggestions.)

Father Andrew Sypro, longtime friend of **Ricardo Palacio**, anointed his body before the cremation. As a young man, Fr. Andrew worked at our retreat house and later was a mortician before the priesthood. He will be the celebrant for Ricardo's funeral Mass. Other priest friends of Ricardo will concelebrate. Volunteer Dale Barclay has generously returned to finish the construction projects with the farm and chicken coops.

"Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days." PS 90:14

On Friday, **Ken Boesch**, **Donald Johanson**, **George Van Grieken**, and I received an amazing private tour of the Hess Museum collection by its director, **Índigo Ceballos** (JSHS '87). I was the only one who had never seen this modern art collection. Índigo provided fascinating context about what drew the late Donald Hess to begin to collect art. I was deeply moved by some artwork, amused by others, and some pieces stumped me. It was a wonderful learning experience.

Brendan Madden's passing on Monday morning was peaceful with CNA Ana Gonzalez and Nurse Mary Kelly present. He was able to be with his close friend, Sister Dorothy, and received the Anointing of the Sick by Father Donald. **Michael Meister** and **Charles Hilken** were able to spend time with him. Brendan was on a morphine drip and slept comfortably. I continue to give thanks to God for our dedicated healthcare staff and the quality of care we are able to provide for our Brothers. Our prayers go out to Brendan's community, family, and friends.



Peter and Michelle Pham visited Joseph at the Holy Family Community for three days

Miscellaneous...

Due the financial drain on Australia because of lawsuits, RELAN helped to support Lasallian works in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea for the past three years. The District prepared this beautiful video with students and teachers expressing sincere thanks for our support. It's worth a look!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7p6zqAYgYJ4>

The Christian Brothers Conference has struck **Blessed James Miller** medals and sent some to this office. They're quite nice. Please let me know if you'd like one or some for your community.

James Joost and **Charlie Legendre**, AFSC, attended a board retreat for Saint Michael's trustees. **George Van Grieken** left for Mullen High in Denver. He was invited to help lead their faculty and staff formation retreat before their school year begins. Escaping the Roman heat, **Chris Patiño** is traveling to cool Ireland for a retreat and some well-earned rest.



The new community (John, Dan, and Javi) in front of the La Salle HS chapel on the sprawling Yakima campus



Edmond Larouche and James Meegan caught up on the MLS veranda



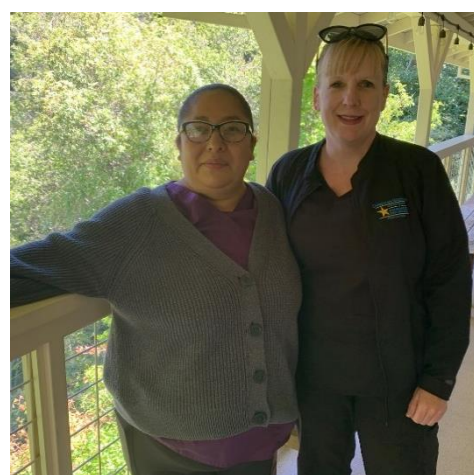
Visited with the always good-humored Richard Moratta in his room



Roch Dufresne with his sister and family in London to visit shows on the West End



A young Brendan Madden during his studies at Saint Mary's College



CNA Eli Martinez and Nurse Mary Kelly at the Russian River camp for the first time

"You fool, this very night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?" LK 12:20

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