

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

09 September 2025



Valery An celebrated with former students on August 8th at well-attended annual reunion in Vietnam

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The safety of our schools' students, staff, and parents;
- The undocumented and their families;
- A just, swift, and healing end to our litigation;
- Healing for Bernie LoCoco, Bosco Huong, Carole Swain, Brian Dybowski, Peter deGroot, Richard Moratto, and family members of our partners;
- Those in discernment and transition;
- The Spirit to magnify the efforts of our vocation team;
- The needs of our young Brothers and Contacts.



Pat Rueda, Chancellor for El Paso Diocese, and me at National Basilica

My travels and assorted news...

Last Wednesday, Archivists Jennifer Sturm and **Emmet Sinitiere** hosted an Open House for the Brothers and DLSI staff to show off the new and ample SFNO Archives. It was a full turnout with guests marveling at the renovated spaces, chilled temperatures, and engaging displays. Kudos to **Chris Donnelly**, Al Sanchez, and the construction team for a stellar job.

On Thursday night, the Diocese of El Paso presented the Christian Brothers with *Deo Gratia* Award for their 98 years of service to the youth of the borderland. Bishop Mark Seitz highlighted the important and positive impact of Cathedral High on the Catholic community. Many former parents and alumni were in the audience. Former director and administrator **Mariano Lopez** accepted the award on behalf of the Brothers. Check out the short video history of Brothers in El Paso at [2025 Dei Gratia Award - Christian Brothers of Cathedral High School](#).

On Wednesday, I flew to Washington, DC, for my second meeting of the National Advisory Council to the USCCB. It was fun to discover how

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

connected we representatives are. One is an editor from Liturgical Press who is republishing **Stanislaus Campbell's** book on the Hours. Another is a Montana bishop's assistant who knows the Brothers and our school in Blackfeet very well. Still another is a former colleague of mine, the Chancellor of the El Paso Diocese. The gathering provided the 26 representatives an opportunity to weigh in on a proposed update on ethical directives regarding healthcare (especially reproduction and end-of-life) and to give input on a possible bishops' statement on immigration. The small group discussions on the latter were sensitive, thoughtful, and personal. Once again, I came away filled with hope because our Church has so many people who love the Lord and want to serve God's people.

Spent yesterday with one of our attorneys to prepare me for a deposition I'll be doing in New Orleans next week. Each encounter with attorneys reminds me of the value and necessity of a quality archives for the district. This ministry is vital, saves time, and saves us money. It enables us to understand the truth and to substantiate it. God bless their work!



A mellow Richard Moratto celebrated his 88th birthday with his requested banana split

Miscellaneous...

Jubilant **Valery An** shared some highlights from his jubilee trip to Vietnam. The Visitor, **Joseph Phuong**, surprised Valery by driving four hours to join his family in Tay Ninh, to pray for his deceased brother. Joseph joined in lighting incense and saying prayers at the tomb. When Valery finally saw his older sister, who is seriously ill, she did not recognize him initially. A few seconds later, she exclaimed, "La-San!" Everyone was surprised. He wept with joy at seeing his nieces and nephews offering flowers and incense at the graves of their grandparents and family. *"Before going back to USA, I thanked my nieces and nephews who had accompanied me during my sojourn in Vietnam including visits with many Brothers communities and, especially, attending the reunion rally. One nephew said, 'We must thank you, my dear Uncle, because you made us know and understand WHAT LA-SAN MEANS!'"* What a wonderful blessing for Valery and his family!



Blackfeet School principal Dylan Perry (MW) visited Javi Hansen in Yakima; they checked out the hops and local beer



Visitors to the SFNO Archives were engaged by the museum's displays



Archivists Emmet Sinitiere and Jennifer Sturm hosted an Open House to show off



Fr. Frank Donio, head of CMSM, and me at the National Advisory Council in DC



El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz presented the Brothers with the *Deo Gratia* Award



Jack Henderson and San Miguel faculty at a local Tucson museum for Teacher Night

"Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of God's name. O render God glorious praise. Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!' PS 66:1-3

De La Salle Institute

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



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