

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

09 December 2025



Rome: Mike Daniels and Janell Kloosterman, AFSC (SFNO) with DENA participants David Palank, Bob Schaefer, and Jim Logan

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- Blessings on our preparations for District Chapter;
- In thanksgiving for our benefactors;
- An increase in the impact of LCBF;
- Immigrant families to be under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe;
- Healing for Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Joseph Pham, Richard Orona, Donald Johanson, Patricia Vega, the Kuffners, and Chance Crews;
- An increased understanding of vocation in our schools;
- The needs of our young Brothers.



Mike Daniels, Janell Kloosterman, Armin Luistro, and me at a social

My travels and assorted news...

Apologies for not providing proper context for last week's *lagniappe* photo. It was of **Richard Kovatch** reading the gospel at a prayer service for Saint Paul's students. He followed with his reflection on the reading. The Religion classes make good use of the campus chapel; especially during Advent.

I flew to Rome three days early because drastic time change takes a real physical and mental toll on me. Lots of water, eating sensibly, and exercise outside helps with the adjustment. Fortunately, as this is a Holy Year, the mild weather has allowed me to visit three basilicas to pass through their Holy Doors. Rome is filled with pilgrims. It has been heartwarming to see the faithful from around the world come to feed their souls. The efforts by the local government have resulted in beautifully restored artwork everywhere. On my first night in Rome, I zoomed in to chair the Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation (LCBF) meeting. We received reports from Executive Director Tom Coughlin and Vice Chair of Operations **Mark Murphy** on the successful fundraising event, the Brother Timothy Wine Tasting, the online wine sales, and plans for the upcoming golf tournament. They also reported out on donations and asks for the 30 by 2030 Campaign.

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another” RM 15:5

Random thoughts and experiences thus far in Rome: I have been blessed by the company of **Bobby Schaefer** (DENA) who has been an engaging tour guide and opened my eyes to the hidden treasures of Rome. We make each other laugh! We joined the General Council community for a delicious Argentine dinner prepared by **Martín Digilio**. **SFNO** and **DENA** jointly sponsored the first evening social. Salty snacks and stiff drinks – the sixth core Lasallian principle! Still not sure what Compari is but it's popular... Had an opportunity to have lunch with kind **Carlos Castañeda**, Visitor of México Norte, to arrange our visit to Tijuana and compare notes on our respective upcoming District Chapters. **Chris Patiño** facilitated an excellent first day with presentation on synodality by Sr. Maria Cimperman and thought-provoking context by theologian Massimo Fagioli. **Ricky Lagunda** presented on the second day. Very struck by his idea of the need to transition from Vocation-centered to Mission-centered thinking. I'm impressed by the wisdom and experience of my small group: Jim Logan (DENA), Joe Gilson and Jo Millea (IGBM), **Christy Croos** (LASAD), and Brad Hanngab (ANZPPNG). The Holy Spirit is moving through the world to inspire exceptional Partners and Brothers.



Chris Patiño saving my life by making another expresso for me so I could stay awake

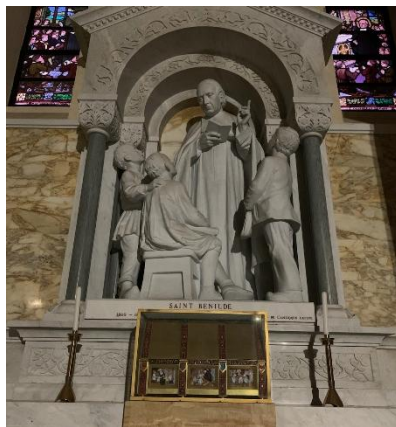
Miscellaneous...

The LASAD Brothers all inquire about **Mark Murphy** and **Antony Doss**. **Peter Bray**, the new Visitor of ANZPPNG, sends his best to **Joseph Pham**. They met at Bethlehem U. Had an opportunity to visit with **Rafael Cerón Sigala**, the newest member of the General Council. Rafael is from Antillas Mexico Sur. He'll be part of the visit to our southern schools and community next spring. He is looking forward to experiencing southern hospitality and cuisine!

The District just signed a contract with Liturgical Press to reprint **Stanislaus Campbell's** seminal work: *From Breviary to Liturgy of the Hours: The Structural Reform of the Roman Office, 1964-1971*. The company is publishing an updated Divine Office and wanted to republish Stan's reference book as well. **Richard Orona** reports that his fistula implant went well due to many conversations (and prayer) with God, family, and friends.



Saint Paul's students shared their Advent message with the Covington community: Hope especially in difficult times



Spent some time before Saint Benilde's reliquary praying for our Vocation Team



Steven Vasoli at Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer service for SMC students



General Councilor Anatole Diretenadji and Christy Croos in my small group



Janell Kloosterman, AFSC, laughing with Ben Hanlon, Visitor of IGBM, at the Cluster



Bobby Schaefer and me in the nave of the spectacular Saint John Latern Basilica

"For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor..." PS 72:12-13

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of
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