

BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

23 December 2025



At Saint Paul's, Terrence, Peter, Jerry, Bill, Gale, and Alphonse welcome James Joost to the 65 and Up Discount Club!

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- The blessings of Christmas;
- the Spirit to enlighten our Chapter delegates;
- Peace in warring lands;
- Healing for Bosco Truong, Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, Richard Orona, and Joseph Pham;
- Those in mourning, especially the Meister family;
- Those traveling during these holidays;
- Immigrant families living in fear;
- Those discerning a vocation and those who accompany them;
- The needs of our young Brothers.



Laurence Konersmann, Kim Yuers, and Emmet Sinitiere join in season's cheer

My travels and assorted news...

On Friday, Scott Smetzer resurrected a **Holy Family Community** Sing-a-Long with 36 people (healthcare staff, HFC, and various departments of DLSI) in full-throated attendance. Most were sporting (ugly) Christmas sweaters and delicious snacks were served. There were Emmet Sinitiere's coveted homemade pralines, Christmas cookies, and piping hot cider. **Melvin Pelton** was especially heartened by the chance to sing and joined in when he could. Avid singer Jean Perez, an HFC assistant, performed and led a few musical numbers. (Mel and he can often be heard signing together as they walk around the property.) Thanks to the staff for bringing back this treasured pre-COVID annual tradition.

On Saturday, the entire **Lasallian Sisters community** of San Jose as well as **Phong, Valery, Simon, and Peter** made their annual trek to Mont La Salle to bring flowers and gifts for the two Brothers communities. Former Visitor, **Gregoire Tan**, joined them. He has been in the US for a month connecting with former students. Two of Valery's former students and their wives also came up. It was a special treat for **Joseph Pham** to catch up with the Vietnamese community.

"If you wish to profit by the coming of Jesus in you, let Him be the master of your heart..." Med 85.2

On Monday, the Mont La Salle community hosted DLSI staff for their annual Christmas Open House. The kitchen staff, housekeeping, finance, facilities, grounds, and administration were all represented. A few Brothers from the **HFC** also dropped by.

It was a united effort by the Brothers. **David Sinitiere** and the facilities staff handled the set up. **Bob O'Kane** made sure there were enough drinks on hand. **Tom Westberg** handled desserts. **Ken Boesch, Nick Gonzalez, and Donald Johanson** made a charcuterie board that popped with color, textures, and flavors. **George Van Grieken** handled the variety of hot *hors d'oeuvres*, including his famous spicy meatballs. **Kevin Slate** set up the drinks ranging from sparkling cider to wine to Oat Eggnog. Everyone chipped in with the cleanup.

Happy to report that **Bosco Troung** returned home to the HFC yesterday after a lengthy hospital stay. He's on oxygen but quite happy to be back in familiar surroundings. A hospital bed was ordered and has been delivered. This should help him with rest. Mary Kelly tried to have a CNA with Bosco whenever possible in the hospital. It was a great comfort to him.



Bill Hughes faithfully refilling the hummingbird feeders – I got dive bombed by hungry birds!

Miscellaneous...

Shout out to **George Van Grieken**, author of the MEL 65: *The Pedagogical Spirituality of DLS and the Early Brothers*. Kudos to **Dylan Perry** (MW) for co-authoring an article on improving synodality skills in the November 05, 2025, edition of *America* magazine.

Earlier this month, the Pavilion, the central courtyard on the **San Miguel High** campus, was completed and blessed during a ribbon cutting ceremony. It now boasts four ample ramadas with lighting and seating for students to gather and work. Longtime benefactor Jim Click was the impetus behind this latest campus improvement.

The novitiate restoration and renovation is now at the unremarkable stage of essential but out-of-sight plumbing and electrical work. Tucson has a new bishop – Father James Misko of Austin has been named and will be installed in mid-February 2026.



San Miguel HS students eagerly taking photo with Guardian Angel/local legend Jim Click at the blessing of the Pavilion



On a rare outing, Ron Roggenback listened to the community sing



Joe Kirk, with Dan and Javi, was in Yakima and visited with his blood brother



Donald Johanson greeted his old friend Gregoire Tan, former Visitor of Vietnam



Denise Mancuso, Donald, Brian, Ken, and John at the HFC Christmas Sing-a-Long



Matthew Chiantella and CM team going over the Pavillion blessing with Bishop Kicanas

“Let us love what is most humiliating in our profession in order to share in some way in the lowliness of Jesus Christ at his birth.” Med 86.2

De La Salle Institute

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



LASALLIAN DISTRICT
of
SAN FRANCISCO
NEW ORLEANS