

# BROTHER VISITOR'S NEWSLETTER

30 December 2025



District Chapter's Central Committee: Chris Brady, James Joost, GVG, Secretary Rafa Rodriguez, and Chair David Caretti

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

- In thanksgiving for the graces received during Chapter;
- The Spirit to continue to work in the delegates;
- Healing for Joseph Pham, Bosco Truong, Bernie LoCoco, Brian Dybowski, the Kuffners, Patricia Vega, and Chance Crews;
- Consolation for those in mourning; especially the Orona and Meister families;
- Safety for all traveling at during the holidays;
- That school staff get sabbath rest;
- The needs of our contacts and our young Brothers.



Martin Vu picking guavas for his sister at her home in Orange County

## My travels and assorted news...

The Mont La Salle community hosted a Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 PM for anyone interested. We had over 200 people participate; many with young families! There were some veterans from our Sunday services but it was mostly new people. **Kevin Slate** advertised it through Justin-Siena HS and it was listed on the diocesan website. George Van Grieken created the program and led the singing. The talented **Ken Boesch** provided the organ accompaniment. Many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate in our beautiful chapel. Carmelite Father Matthew presided.

On the 27 December, we opened the first session of the third District Chapter. A shout out to the Central Committee who have expended a great deal of energy and time preparing for this Chapter over the past months: **Chris Brady, David Caretti, James Joost, Rafa Rodriguez, and George Van Grieken**. The rest of the twenty delegates to the third District Chapter are: **Ken Cardwell, Matthew Chiantella, Dan Fenton, Nick Gonzalez, Lawrence Haley, Javi Hansen, Donald Johanson, Jack Henderson, Thomas Jones, Edmond Larouche, John Montgomery, Dan Morgan, Mark Murphy, David**

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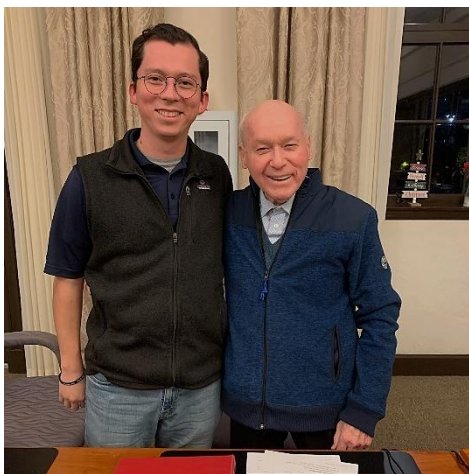
*“Willingly endure all the trials you are given and do not be troubled by any of them...”* Med on St. Stephen

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**Sinitiere**, and **Steven Vasoli**. A member of the General Council is present at all District Chapters thus, we welcomed our peripatetic brother, **Chris Patiño**, who served as observer at our proceedings. Brother Ray Vercruysse, CFC, served as the facilitator for the synodal proceedings. (Ray lived at SHCP for nine years while he studied and worked at the University of San Francisco.) Father Rico Hernandez, IV, was chaplain for the gathering.

This first session was a synod with an emphasis on thoughtful listening for the Holy Spirit's stirrings. Naturally, there was a tension (*We've never done it this way!*) but most acknowledged that this was a truly fraternal way to begin. There were many opportunities for dyads and small groups to listen to one another. Only two presentations, both exceptional, were given by **David Caretti** (Listening Together as Brothers in Association) and **Rafa Rodriguez** (A Hope Grounded in Reality). In preparation for the second session in June 2026, and after much discussion, four committees were formed and will work together during the interim period. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit help the delegates to see the path ahead.





The Benjamin (Rafa) and the Dean (David) delegates at the 3<sup>rd</sup> SFNO District Chapter

## Miscellaneous...

Please complete the **survey** sent by Rome as it's your opportunity to be heard at the Institute-level.

**Chris Donnelly** gave interested delegates a tour the three renovated ADA bedrooms/bathrooms in the HFC, the new District Archives spaces, and the ongoing novitiate restoration and renovation. There were many questions and lots of encouragement for this last project. **Richard Orona's** young cousin, Nick, was taken off life support just before Christmas. His parents opted to have his organs donated to patients in need.

Thank you to the **MLS community** for hosting the Chapter delegates in their living room for all the socials. Community members joined us for prayer, Mass, and meals if they wished. **Ken Boesch's** musical talents lent great beauty to our prayer.



Mark Murphy sharing a laugh with DLSI staff members Mayra Paniagua and Denise Mancuso at MLS Xmas Open House



Bill Hughes, Melvin Pelton, and Nurse Tammy Ellis singing Christmas carols



Chris Patiño entertained the delegates with tales from his many travels



The Yakima community was the only one with 100% representation at the Chapter



District Council Chair David Caretti answered a question by delegate Lawrence Haley



Chris Donnelly gave delegates a tour of various MLS construction projects

*“We are poor Brothers, forgotten and little appreciated by the people of the world. Only the poor come looking for us.”* Med 86.2

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of  
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