



March 21, 2007

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- Thanks to David Schuyler who is very helpful to me when it comes to questions about Canon Law. David clarifies issues and has always been available to me! Thank you, David!
- Thanks to Terry Weik for inviting a young man from St. Joseph's Catholic Community to speak with me about our Marianist life.
- Thanks to Norb Karpfinger from the East St. Louis community for speaking to middle school students about Marianist religious life.
- What have you done for vocations today? This week? This month?
- Jim Fitzgibbons from the Cape May Point Community is preparing a day of reflection for the local Serra Club. Jim will share with the groups the gift of the vocation of "Brother." Thank you, Jim!
- Thanks to Ralph Neumann for all his vocation efforts in San Antonio! Ralph lives at Holy Rosary Parish.
- I need to give a special thanks to Michael McAward, our Secretary General in Rome. Michael has helped me on several projects. Michael has been a valuable resource person for me and I am very grateful! Thank you, Michael!
- Inquirer Carlos Blanco visited the Marybrook Community this a past weekend. Thanks to my community and to the St. Louis area Marianists for their hospitality to Carlos.

- Did you pray for vocations today? Thank you if you did. If you did not, please do so after reading this exciting newsletter.
- Thanks to Luis Gamboa for his help with calls to some young Hispanic men and for his help in translating vocation material into Spanish! Gracias, Luis!
- In the last newsletter, I thanked Tim Pieprzyca for writing our vocation prayer service. Tim contacted me and thanked me, but informed me that he did not write the service. My apologies and thanks should go to Armando Añeses. Thank you, Armando, for the prayer service.
- I visited the community at Casa San Isidor in La Chinantla, Veracruz , Mexico with Dan Richter (the national director of our volunteer program) last month. Special thanks to the community: Roberto Rapp, Miguel Barber and Raymundo Dominguez. Congratulations to Raymundo on the occasion of his perpetual vows.
- Thank you for praying for vocations! Now what else can you do to help our vocation efforts? Prayer and Action go together!
- Most people have heard by now that Sr. Gretchen Trautman, FMI, will become the regional vocation director for the San Antonio office located at St. Mary's University. I am grateful to Gretchen for her willingness to work in this very important ministry. Gretchen and I have already have met here in St. Louis, and I am looking forward to working with her. I also must thank Mike Sullivan and Evangeline Escobar, FMI, for their work in direct vocation ministry for both the Marianist Province of the United States and the former St. Louis Province. Thank you both for all you have done for young people and for us.
- Last week I was able to go out to dinner with my first Marianist mentor, Carmine Annunziata. Carmine is in the States from Zambia for a home visit. I am a Marianist because of him and Frank O'Donnell, my vocation director. I am grateful to God for both of these men. (Michael O'Grady says that Carmine and Frank are the ones to blame for me.)
- Norb Brockman reports that the Woodlawn Community hosted a social, dinner and discussion with six St. Mary's students who may be interested in a religious vocation. Norb reports that the evening will be followed up with a similar discussion and dinner with the five official contacts (4 SM and 1 FMI) living in the San Antonio area. Thank you to the Woodlawn Community!
- Thanks to Dennis Schmitz and the brothers from Hawaii for hosting a fine discernment retreat at Ewa Beach at the end of January. I am also grateful for

Brandon Alana-Maugaotega, our aspirant, for his participation in the retreat. It was really good to see Brandon take a leadership role in the weekend.

- Contact Reynard Nivera also participated and led prayer for the start of the Ewa Beach retreat. Congratulations to Reynard for having his thesis – “Synthesis of Symmetrically-Functionalized Tris (4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine) ruthenium (II) Cation” approved. Reynard and I went out to dinner and talked science.
- A special thanks to LeRoy Viera, who participated in the Ewa Beach retreat. LeRoy was a very grace-filled witness to our Marianist way of life. LeRoy’s quiet, but strong, presence was an important part of the weekend.
- This newsletter is long, but that is a good problem. Many things are happening in the Province concerning vocations! But, more could happen! **Vocation ministry is not just my job! Vocation ministry is not just the job of the vocation team! It is the job of the entire Province!**
- John Habjan and I gave a presentation to the freshman classes at St. Mary’s High School on the Founder. I was lukewarm that day, but John was hot! Thank you, John!
- Thanks to the Dayton office led by Tom Pieper for their organizing of a discernment retreat at Governor’s Island. I am grateful for all of the vocation efforts that come from this office. Thank you! Thanks also to the community at Governor’s Island for your support!
- Thank you to the Stonemill-Kiefhaber Community for their hospitality last month. They hosted me for a week and really didn’t seem to mind, although Ed Brink kept asking me when I was leaving.
- I met with Joe Melendrez, a member of our Contact Program, while I was visiting Dayton. Joe is doing well spreading our Marianist charism. He also forced me to ride on his motor scooter. I survived!
- Our Artist Retreat went very well. Retreat organizer, Brian Zampier writes:

“The vocation office sponsored a unique retreat gathering of Marianist and art related folks at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center in Eureka, Missouri. The diverse group included three students from Villa Angela-St. Joseph: Dan Hernandez, William Koch and Nathan Raddell; two college students: Amy Policino (Cape May) and Contact Gabe Torno (Hawaii); three Marianist high school teachers: Mark Laury (Chaminade, St. Louis), CaSandra Johnson (Gross) and Moira

McCarthy (Nolan). Sr. Jody O'Neil from St. Mary in the Woods also joined six of our Marianist brother artists: Cletus Behlmann, Gary Marcinowski, Mel Meyer, Don Smith and Brian Zampier. Mike Lisbeth and Joe Markel helped with music and the liturgies. The sharing was rich and hopefully some Marianist art vocation seeds have been planted for the future networking and continued growth."

Special thanks to Brian Zampier for his effort before, during and after the retreat!

- Already some results from the retreat – Don Smith and Brian Zampier will be visiting Gross High School next month to speak with students!
- Jim Wisecaver writes the following about the LA Congress:

"The Marianist Province of the United States has staffed a vocation booth at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Religious Education Congress for the last five years. The convention is held at the Anaheim Convention Center and over 40,000 men and women participate in the event. Dennis Schmitz is in charge of staffing the booth and Jim Wisecaver brings the West Hills Community living room furniture for the booth. The living room motif really illustrates our Marianist hospitality. People come to our booth sit down, relax and find out about our Marianist charism. This year there was even a Franklin Stove in the booth! Over 40 young people stopped by and asked for information about the Marianists. Both Jim and Dennis follow up with these young men and women and invite them to Discernment Sundays and maybe the Memorial Day Retreat!"

Special thanks to Dennis Schmitz, Jim Wisecaver, David Betz, John McEnhill, Ray Dominguez (and his brother Charles), Contacts – Mike Chiuri, Luis Guerra, Brandon Paluch and Marcela Yerena (a lay Marianist teaching at Chaminade College Prep) for staffing the booth during the weekend.

- I cancelled our Hispanic retreat scheduled for this past weekend. We did not have enough participants signed up. We are working on some new ideas concerning our Hispanic vocation ministry!
- I would like to thank Bro. Charles Cumiskey for the vocation communications and information that he sends me.
- Thanks to Bob Jones and Bob Politi for the vocation display they exhibited at Purcell-Marian High School.

- **Vocation Booth at the NCEA!!** Staffed by: Nicole Trahan, FMI, George Kemmett, Sean Downing, Oscar Vasquez and me! Stop by the booth!
- Thanks to Mike Sullivan and Evangeline Escobar for their efforts with the Discernment retreat held in San Antonio last month!
- I gave a talk to the Chaminade College Prep's Mothers Club on "Mary, Prayer and Family" during their recent day of reflection. Oscar Vasquez and Ralph Siefert participated by hearing confessions and celebrating Mass. Bro. Ken Jung also participated in the day by baking some goodies and reciting some of his own poems.
- Mike Sullivan writes the following about his two high school seminars held at St. Mary's University:

"Each school is asked to send two students and an adult moderator to San Antonio. During the conference the students were asked to act as ambassadors on behalf of the Marianist Vocation Office and help bring the topic of vowed religious life into the conversation of the schools. Students were given a great deal of information to use in their own presentations. St. Mary University students helped run the program with several professed Marianists. The conferences were held during the weekend of Feb. 2-4, 2007 and March 2-4, 2007."

Thanks to Michael and Evangeline and all of those who helped make the weekends a success.

- Thanks to Tim Pieprzyca for sending me the Central Catholic High School – "Friday Flash" (the school newsletter). This last edition had articles about the vocation seminar just held at St. Mary's. There was also an article from one of the student participants. These articles can be read on "Family Online." Thanks, Tim!
- A very special thanks to the Brothers in Hawaii for the care, hospitality and fraternal love they shared with Sr. Patrica Knopp, SND (from our Dayton office) and her friend Sr. Susan Keferl, SND during their visit to Hawaii. Many of us know that Sr. Susan passed away while in Hawaii and she now rests in the Peace of Christ. I just want to once again thank our Brothers! I am not surprised by your wonderful actions, because that is the way we are as a group! I am grateful to God for you and very proud to be a Marianist and your Brother.
- **Once again- if you have any vocation news-please send it to me so that I may share it with the Province!**

- **If you or your community has not been in the newsletter, go out and do something for vocations and please send me the information.**
- **INVITE! INVITE! INVITE!**

Christ's Peace,

Charlie