



September 12, 2005
Holy Name of Mary

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

WE'RE BACK!

- Welcome to Sister Patricia Knopp, SND! Sister Patricia, who has been working in the Dayton vocation office, will now be working full-time and assuming some new duties from the national office here in St. Louis. Sister Patricia will remain in Dayton and can be reached at pknopp@sm-usa.org. Sister has been an excellent member of our vocation team and I am grateful for her assistance.
- Welcome to Charlie Wanda! Charlie will be working part-time in the Dayton Office and will assume some of Sister Patricia's local responsibilities. Charlie can be reached at wandachp@notes.udayton.edu. Thanks, Charlie!
- Welcome to second year novice, Dennis Bautista. Dennis is spending part of his year here in St. Louis working in the Communications and Vocations offices. Dennis can be reached at dbautista@sm-usa.org. Welcome, Dennis!
- During my week as chef at the Marianist Family Retreat Center in Cape May, I was assisted by Contact Robert Bowie, and I was able to meet with Inquirer Richard Pluck.
- Thanks to our men in formation who helped out at different summer ministries!
- Special thanks to Contact Joe Melendrez, who volunteered at all three Life Programs this summer! Thanks, Joe!

- I hope your community spoke about vocations during your planning session. If not, perhaps vocations could become a topic for a community meeting!
- At the end of July the vocation office sponsored an activity at Governor's Island – "Look, Listen and Lounge at the Lake." The entire weekend was a wonderful success. Over 15 young men at different levels of formation joined together to pray, play and talk about their faith and vocation stories. Special thanks to the following members of the Province who helped with the weekend: David Betz, Dennis Schmitz, Jack Sommerville, Aaron Sonnenburg, Chris Wittmann, Andrew Kosmowski, Roberto Rivera, Charlie Wanda, Bob Jones and Sister Patricia.

A special thanks to the Governor's Island Community who hosted us for the vocation activity. Thanks to Paul Bredestege, Jim Russell and Bill Deanhofer for their support and hospitality.

An extra special thanks to Brian Halderman for his planning and organizing "Look, Listen and Lounge at the Lake." The event was productive, a good time was had by all, and I didn't have to do anything, but show up! Thank you, Brian!

- I was very fortunate once again to be able to attend the vow professions of our brothers in Mexico. Regulo Garcia Hernandez made perpetual profession and Gobi Torres Nazario made first profession. I enjoyed visiting the brothers in Mexico and I was able to speak to the young brothers about vocations. Thanks to Lorenzo McBride and Rafael Neumann for their translating skills.
- Are you praying for vocations to the Family of Mary? I hope so.
- In August I spent a week with the Pope and a million young people in Cologne, Germany. Jack Ventura organized a group of 35 from the Province. I attended with aspirants Tom Farnsworth and Luis Gamboa, and with Contacts Robert Bowie, Jacob Friesenhahn, Chris Nieport and Ken Barrett. Along with meeting the Pope, a highlight of the trip was a Marianist-sponsored Eucharist and social held at a local parish. Over 400 people from the Marianist world joined together for the Eucharist celebrated by our Superior General, David Fleming. We also had young brothers with us from Korea and Africa, who shared their gifts and culture with us. Teachers, students and chaperones came from Vianney, Chaminade St. Louis, Emmanuel Parish and St. Louis School in Hawaii. An excellent time was had by all! Thank you, Jack.
- Congratulations to the new Father Oscar Vasquez! It will be nice to have you in St. Louis!

- Discernment Retreats for Inquirers:
 - September 23-25 Governor's Island
 - October 7-9 Ewa Beach
 - January 27-29 Ewa Beach
 - January 27-29 Governor's Island
 - February ? San Antonio
 - March 26-28 Los Angeles

- Discernment Retreat for Contacts:
 - November 18-20 Cape May

- Discernment Retreat for Aspirancy Application:
 - March 10-12 St. Louis

- Hispanic Retreat:
 - TBA

- The next edition of "***Did You Know...***" will come from the Dayton Office. Please send any vocation information or activities to Sister Patricia.

- We all need to work together for vocations. All of us! We need to pray! We need to invite! We need to mentor! We need to share our life with others! We all can do something!

I would like to end this newsletter with something Jack McGrath sent me last year.

The next time you feel like God cannot use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk
 Abraham was too old
 Isaac was a daydreamer
 Jacob was a liar
 Leah was ugly
 Joseph was beat up and sold
 Moses had a stuttering problem
 Gideon was afraid
 Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
 David had an affair and was a murderer
 Elijah was suicidal
 Isaiah preached naked
 Jonah ran from God
 Naomi was a widow
 Job went bankrupt

John the Baptist ate bugs
Peter denied Christ
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
Zaccheus was too small
Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer ...AND
Lazarus was dead!

- God can use all of us! We are not the message, just the messengers! Let us spread the Marianist Message!

Bro. Charles Johnson, S.M.