



November 26, 2007

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- My apologies to Tom Pieper from our Dayton Regional Vocation Office. I forgot to include him in our Vocation Team list. Sorry Tom!
- Please continue to remember Sr. Patricia Knopp, SND (from our Dayton Office) in your prayers.
- Welcome to two new members of our Contact Program: James Bryne from Dublin and Cruz Rios from Los Angeles.
- Our Vocation Summit held in San Antonio last month was excellent! I am grateful to the many members of the Province, the Daughters of Mary and our invited lay guests who made the weekend a success. I felt especially proud and blessed to be a Marianist during our time together. Minutes taken during the weekend will be used by Gretchen as she organizes a “vocation plan” for the San Antonio area. A meeting like this does not just happen; there are many people to thank: Bill Chewning, Dennis Bautista, Roberto Rivera, Bill Meyer, Kip Stander, Richard Wosman, John Totten, Durie Kim, Stepanie Morales, Laola Hironaka, George Cerniglia, Joe Melendrez and Paul Bednarczyk. **A SPECIAL THANKS to Gretchen Trautman.** Gretchen made an idea a reality! She pulled everything together to make the weekend a success. Thanks to all who participated in this very important vocation activity!
- New vocation materials and display cases were sent to our schools, parishes and retreat houses. Many thanks to Joan Suda for all of her help and great efforts.
- Thanks to John Habjan for giving a brief vocation report to our principals and presidents at their meeting earlier in the month. Thanks, John!

- The new vocation/formation name booklet will be sent out this week. Thank you for your patience. The booklet contains two options on how to pray for our men in formation. Once again, thank you to Joan Suda and Donna Tucker for their help!
- A special thank you to Louie Pinckert for typing and editing the new vocation/formation name booklet.
- I am very happy to share with everyone that 10 members of the Contact Program will be attending the retreat at North Topsail in early December. John Thompson will be our presenter and talk on the topic of “discernment.” For the next two weeks, please keep the Contact Retreat in your prayers.
- Thanks to Ralph Newman for creating and financing the holy card, “Come Follow Me.” Samples of the card will soon be sent to our communities. Thanks, Ralph!
- Some Vocation dates:
 - October 26-27: Vocation Summit, San Antonio
 - October 28-November 3: Live-In experience, Dayton
 - November 8-10: Formation Weekend, Miami
 - November 7-10: National Youth Conference, Columbus
 - November 1-4: Contact Hugo Bastida visits St. Louis
 - November 12-19: Visit with Contacts, West Hills and Cupertino
 - December 7-10: Contact Retreat, North Topsail, NC
- P = Prayer
- T = Talk
- A = Act
- A special thanks to Kathy Murray (Cape May); Contacts Ben Pollicino and Joe Melendrez; and province members Brian Zampier, Sean Downing and Joe Tedesco for their efforts at the National Catholic Youth Conference. Over 20,000 young people and their moderators gathered together for a weekend of prayer, talks, fun and sharing. We had a booth at the conference and gave out over two thousand pieces of vocation literature. Thanks to all!
- I just returned from a very fine trip to California. Special thanks to the West Hills and Cupertino communities for their excellent hospitality! I am very grateful! Special thanks to Jim Wisecaver and John Haster.

- In California, I met with Contacts Norman Capinpin, Brandon Paluch and Michael Chiuri. Special thanks to Jim Wisecaver for driving me all through the Los Angeles traffic.
- While in California, I was invited to teach Brandon Paluch's 8th grade social studies class. I taught about the Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government. I did rather well, although I was somewhat embarrassed by the standing ovation I received at the end of the lesson.
- I traveled to Savannah, Georgia to meet with Scott Benningfield. Scott was recommended to us by the Region of Mexico. Scott volunteered in Mexico and met our Brothers during his time there. Scott will visit St. Joseph Catholic Community in Eldersburg, Maryland sometime during the second semester.
- What have you done for vocation ministry recently? If you cannot think of anything, maybe you need to do something!
- Contact Hugo Bastida visited St. Louis earlier this month and stayed with the Marybrook Community. We had a very fine visit and Hugo was able to celebrate with us the occasion of the beatification of the new Spanish Martyrs. A week later, Hugo gave a tour of the Miami area to some of our brothers and sisters who were there for the Formation weekend.
- Special thanks to the Marybrook Community for their support of me and my vocation efforts. The Community is welcoming and very open to the inquirers and contacts I invite for Mass, dinner or a longer visit. Thanks Brian, Ralph, Tony and Ed.
- Speaking of the Marybrook Community, Julius Miliante, a local Contact, had us over to his apartment for a traditional meal from the Philippines. A fine time was had by all. After dessert Ed Brink told stories about growing up in New York.
- Thanks to George Kemmett for recent assistance.
- Small pictures and frames of all of our men in formation were sent to our senior brothers in the health centers. I ask that our senior members continue to pray for vocations, but especially pray for the person whose picture they have.
- Special thanks to Paul Vieson and Earl Leistikow for their assistance in a recent project.

- Thanks to the Casa Maria Community for their recent hospitality during the Vocation Summit.
- Thanks to Sean Downing for visiting with Brian Meyers, a member of our Contact Program.
- Many thanks to the members of the Province who send me notes of support and suggestions.
- Are you doing your part for vocations?
- Special thanks to the community in Dublin for their vocation efforts. Thanks to Neville for working with James Bryne, one of our new Contacts.
- Congratulations to Nicole Trahan (FMI second year novice) for being highlighted in EXTENSION Magazine, a publication which supports mission activity around the country. The November issue deals with vocations to the sisterhood and they want to interview Nicole about her blog writings. The author of the article is hoping that Nicole's own words would encourage other young women to consider religious life. Way to go, Nicole!
- Thank you to the Alumni Hall Community for all of their efforts in working with the students at UD.
- Thanks again to David Murphy for creating and organizing a vocation display at VASJ in Cleveland. Thanks, David!
- Thanks to the Stonemill-Kiefhaber and Trinity communities for their work with "Live-In" experiences. I am very grateful. If your community is interested in learning more about this vocation activity, please contact Tom Pieper in Dayton.
- Gretchen Trautman and Dennis Bautista will be featured in the San Antonio Catholic newspaper in January 2008.
- The San Antonio Discernment Group is made up of 5 young men and 3 young women. The group meets to discuss discernment issues and deal with different questions. Gretchen is the moderator of the group.
- Dennis Schmitz reports that invitations to the February retreat were handed out last week. More details to follow.
- Gretchen reports: "I have concluded presentations to all 565 freshmen, showing the 18 minute CD of "Marianist Traditions," and telling about the Vocation

Office. Handouts were given to all, including “advertising” of the Discernment Group, Casa Maria prayer and dinner on Tuesdays and Sundays with the Sisters.” Good work, Gretchen!

- Thanks to all the Brothers who helped make Julius Miliante’s visit a good experience. Thanks to the Casa Maria Community for their hospitality! Special thanks to Bro. Charles Cumiskey and Bro. Bill Chewing for taking Julius around and showing him St. Mary’s.
- Thanks to Michael McAward (Secretary General) and Seminarian Patrick McDaid in their help in giving hospitality to Arthur Fitzmaurice, an inquirer from the LA area.

Advent Blessings!

Charlie