



October 4, 2007

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

We're back, beginning our 6th Year!

- Our Vocation Team for 2007-2008 includes: Sr. Patricia Knopp, SND, Sean Downing, Brian Halderman, George Kemmett, Jim Wisecaver, Gretchen Trautman, Dennis Schmitz, John McEnhill, Charlie Wanda, Ken Templin, Donna Tucker and you! Thanks to everyone!
- Thanks to Diane Guerra and Joan Suda for all of their help, support and advice concerning our vocation efforts.
- **SAN ANTONIO VOCATION SUMMIT: Please contact Gretchen Trautman and let her know that you will be able to join us for this very important meeting. We will begin our time together with dinner on Friday evening, October 26. This meeting is for members of the Society of Mary, Daughters of Mary and invited members of the lay branch living in the San Antonio area. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC , Executive Director of the NRVC will be our facilitator. I hope to see you all there!**
- There are no aspirants for this upcoming year. This is not an announcement that I am very happy to make; however it is our "reality" for this year. We will look at this year as a time of "rebuilding" and we will continue with our efforts to share the gift of our Marianist charism to men and women who are discerning a religious vocation.
- The following men are members of our Contact Program:
 - Hugo Bastida, Miami Beach
 - Michael Chiuri, Los Angeles
 - Norman Capinpin, Los Angeles
 - Niall Downing, Dublin, Ireland

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Aaron Filsinger, Donna, TX
Tom Fox, Houston
Brian Myers, Cincinnati
Joseph Melendrez, Dayton
Christopher Nieport, Dayton
Reynard Nivera, Honolulu
Brandon Paluch, Compton, CA
Benjamin Pollicino, Cape May Point
Kip Young, Chicago
(I am waiting for responses from a few more men)

We welcome these men to our Contact Program and we continue to pray for them!

- Vocation brochures and display cases will soon be sent to all of our schools, parishes and retreat houses.
- Thank you to Jesse O'Neill for conducting a Behavioral Assessment for one of our younger brothers.
- Gracias to Luis Gamboa for contacting several Spanish speaking inquirers!
- Did you enjoy the Assembly? Several members of the Province mentioned to me that they found the Vow Renewal Ceremony a moving event. It was a good experience to see five young men renew their vows in three different languages. Belated congratulations to Brian Halderman, Tobias Ferrer, Dennis Bautista, Andrew Kosmowski and Armando Añeses. Best wishes also to Bob Jones and Roberto Rivera, both professing first vows in May.
- Thank you to those who send me suggestions concerning the Vocation Name Booklet. This is the booklet that has all of the names of people in formation from India, Eastern Africa, Mexico and the United States. Some communities want a pamphlet with names, some communities want a pamphlet with just geographical places and levels of formation (ex: the novices in India) and some communities want a combination of both. A new booklet will be printed in October and sent out to the communities.
- I was driving to Cape May Point, N.J., this summer listening to the local Philadelphia sports radio station and one of the sports columnists for the Philadelphia Inquirer started talking about his science classes at St. James High School and how Bro. Lester Dwyer impacted his life many years before! Thank you, Lester! Your memory lives on in Philadelphia and Chester!

- What are you doing for vocations? Let me know so I can share it with the Province. If you are not doing anything, why?
- There will be a retreat for members of our Contact Program the weekend of December 7-9, 2007, at the CFL Family Retreat Center in N. Topsail, North Carolina. John Thompson will be the presenter and the theme will deal with discernment.
- We had an excellent vocation experience at our Look, Lounge and Listen Program at Governor's Island this past July. The program director was George Kemmett who was assisted by many different members of the Province and the Daughters of Mary. Twenty-five of us gathered for four days of prayer, quiet time, discussion and play time on the boats and swimming areas. I believe a good time was had by all. Thanks to George Kemmett, Dan Klco, David McGuigan, Audrey Buttner, Nicole Trahan, Charlie Wanda and Brian Halderman. Special thanks to the Governor's Island Community: Paul Bredestege, Bill Deanhofer and J.R. Russell.
- Thanks to Ralph Neumann for translating some materials for me into Spanish.
- Some Upcoming Events:
 - October 5-7: Director's Meeting (Dayton)
 - October 19-21: Formation Advisory Council (Dayton)
 - October 26-27: Vocation Summit (San Antonio)
 - November 9-11: Formation Meeting (Miami)
 - November 8-11: Youth Convention (Columbus)
 - December 7-9: Contact Retreat (N. Topsail)
- If you, your community or ministry is doing anything for vocations, please let me know so that I can share the news with the Province.
- Thanks to Brian Halderman who is still coordinating our vocation Web site efforts from Peru.
- Thanks to Bill McCarthy and Tim Dwyer for sharing their personal vocation stories during "Marianist Moments" with 63 St. Mary's University students on retreat in September.
- Thanks to Mike Sullivan for producing a DVD entitled "Marianist Traditions" portraying that the Marianist Charism is alive and well at St. Mary's University. Gretchen will be giving out copies of the DVD to students at the university.
- Many thanks to the directors and communities of: Marianist Residence, Holy Rosary Parish, Woodlawn Community, Casa Maria, Ligustrum and the Sisters

for their hospitality shown to the 565 freshmen of St. Mary's who recently visited our Marianist communities. The students enjoyed meeting and talking to our Marianist sisters and brothers.

- Many thanks to Oscar Vasquez who recently helped the vocation office solve some communications difficulty. Thank you, Oscar!
- Has your community planned to talk about vocations? If so, thank you. If not, why not?
- Thanks to Bob Jones and Bob Politi for their recent vocation efforts at Purcell Marian High School.
- Thanks to the West Hills Community for hosting their Discernment Sundays each month. Another note of thanks for hosting contacts Norman Capinpin and Michael Chiuri. Thank you!
- Thanks to the Vocation team for meeting with me in St. Louis. We had a good weekend where we reviewed, planned and discussed our Province vocation efforts. Thanks to Tom Pieper, Sr. Patricia Knopp, SND, Charlie Wanda, Gretchen Trautman, Dennis Schmitz, Jim Wisecaver and Joe Melendrez. Special thanks to George Cerniglia for joining us for the weekend meetings.
- Special thanks to the Maryland Ave. Community for the kindness and hospitality shown to the Vocation Team during our meeting time.
- A note of thanks to Donna Tucker and Kathy Cooper for their assistance in the planning and set up of the Vocation Team meeting.
- Thank to Bernie Ploeger for his support and promotion of vocation ministry as a province priority.
- A very fine Discernment Retreat was just held at Governor's Island this past weekend. Eight participants joined Maureen O'Rourke, Charlie Wanda, Nicole Trahan and Tom Pieper for a weekend of prayer, discussion and fellowship. (More details in the next edition.)
- I spoke at the Director's Meeting this weekend. I was good.
- Please send me any vocation news or activities so that I can share the information with the Province.

Peace!
Charlie

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