



*June 11, 2007*

## VOCATION NEWS

### *Did you know...*

- A special note of thanks to Joan Suda of the Province Communications Office. I work with Joan a great deal and she has been very supportive, professional and helpful in our vocation efforts. I am grateful to Joan, even though she did sell me stale diabetic Girl Scout cookies. Thanks, Joan!
- Thanks to Nicole Trahan, second year novice, for writing the text for the new FMI vocation brochure. Nicole worked with our Communications Office to come up with the new material. A copy will be sent to each community. Thanks, Nicole!
- I would like to thank Aaron Sonnenburg for the work and time he gave to our vocation efforts. I wish him well.
- Congratulations to John Thompson for being highlighted in a vocation article in the Florida Catholic Newspaper. John talks about his ministry at Chaminade-Madonna and his vocation call. A nice picture of John is also shown with the article. It is also very neat that the author of the article, Nick Bryant, is a student from Chaminade-Madonna. Nice article, John!
- **ALL POINTS BULLETIN: MISSING BANNER!** I believe that I loaned one of our vocation banners (pull-up banner with Brian Halderman, Rudy Vela and Tobias Ferrer featured) to someone or some place. If you happen to have a banner that was loaned to you for a specific event, please let me know.

*June 12, 2007*

- Jim Wisecaver will send out our vocation calendar for 2007-2008 in August. Thank you, Jim!
- Congratulations to Bob Jones and Roberto Rivera on the occasion of their First Vows. The entire weekend was an excellent experience. Five young men were invited to share the weekend with us and witness the vows. Contacts Kip Young, Michael Chiuri and Brandon Paluch, and Inquirers Hugo Badista and Andreas Ramirez celebrated with us! (I heard the MC at the reception was pretty good, although he was pressured to call certain tables first to the buffet tables.)
- Thanks to Ken Straubinger for his support and giving me different articles on vocations and vocation ministry. Thanks, Ken!
- Thanks to Gretchen Trautman, Mike Sullivan and Ralph Neumann for attending the Life Awareness Retreat hosted by the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Both Mike and Gretchen gave presentations to the group and Ralph participated in the Emmaus Walk that was offered to the participants. Our vocation material was also shared with others during the weekend. Thank you, Gretchen, Mike and Ralph!
- Congratulations to Brian Halderman for participating in graduation ceremonies at Washington University. Brian is preparing for a year in Peru, but has agreed to continue his work on the Vocation Team via the webpage and internet. Thank you, Brian, for all of your support and work!
- Thanks to Tom Farnsworth who has helped me with advice about some issues involving the testing of candidates. Thank you, Tom!
- What have you done for vocation ministry this week? What have done for vocation ministry this semester? If you answered “nothing” – don’t you think you need to pray about this issue?
- Thank you to the members of my community – Brian Zampier, Ralph Siefert, Brian Halderman and Oscar Vasquez for the hospitality that they always show when I have Inquirers and/or Contacts over either for the weekend or for Mass and dinner! Thank you, Brothers! Thank you also for the use of the phone!
- Thank you to the DeSales Crossing Community for hosting Contact Kip Young for a five day live-in experience! I understand that the visit went well. Thank you!

- Thank you to the West Hills Community for hosting Michael Chiuri for a week-long live-in experience. I heard that Michael also accompanied the community to the jubilee celebration at Cupertino.
- A small committee will be set up to study some issues concerning Hispanic vocations. Details in September!
- **Correction from our last newsletter:** I mentioned that a new vocation campaign is beginning featuring Bob Donovan and Reinaldo. I forgot to mention Reinaldo's last name – Berrios. I am sorry if this caused any confusion with the other Reinaldos of the Province.
- Sean Downing attended two NRVC workshops on Canon Law and Immigration Law. These legal topics were discussed in terms of vocation ministry. Thank you, Sean!
- Thanks to Jesse O'Neill who has agreed to conduct some Behavioral Assessment Interviews for me. Thanks, Jesse!
- Back to the First Vows: Thank you to the Stonemill-Kiefhaber Community for hosting six of us for the weekend. I am grateful for your hospitality!
- Thanks to Bob Politi and Bob Jones for requesting vocation display panels for next semester. They are ordered and will be at Purcell-Marian for the start of the school year! Thanks, Bob & Bob!
- Thank you to the St. Joseph Community in Eldersburg for working with Inquirer Niall Downing. Thanks to Terry Weik, John Klobuka, Paul Reich and Jesse O'Neill!
- Brian Myers from Cleveland has just become the newest member of our Contact Program. Brian just participated in our Discernment Retreat in Los Angeles. Special thanks to the St. Als and DeSales Crossing communities, who shared Mass and dinner with Brian this past semester.
- Thank you to members of the Province who make calls for us. I am grateful!
- Why are some members of the Province concerned about vocations and others are not?

- We have 10 or 11 people (maybe a few more) attending our Governor's Island vocation program in July. Thanks to George Kemmett, Brian Halderman and Paul Bredestege for their work. More details after the summer.
- Thanks to Oscar Vasquez who hosted Inquirer Joe Orso at the St. Louis gathering for Memorial Day.
- I was privileged to visit the new health center at Cupertino with several of our young brothers a few weeks ago. We traveled west to help some of our senior brothers with the move of the health center. It was a very fine experience. It was very good that we were there with our Brothers. We prayed, ate and worked together for the week. Ray Dominguez, Andrew Kosmowski, Tobias Ferrer, Tom Farnsworth, Luis Gamboa and Brian Halderman gave of their time and talents to help our senior Brothers! I was very proud of our young men in formation and I know that our Brothers in Cupertino really appreciated our time there! Thanks also to John Haster, Stanley Murakami and Grace Pancipanci for their help in organizing our stay there.
- While at Cupertino we made a visit to the cemetery to pay our respects to Jim Roberts and Edwin Johnson. Brian Halderman led us in prayer and John Samaha shared with us about many of the deceased Marianists from the former Pacific Province.
- From Cupertino I traveled to the LA area for our last discernment retreat of the semester. The retreat was organized by Dennis Schmitz and Jim Wisecaver. The team also included John McEnhill, Evangeline Escobar, Brian Halderman, Aspirant (soon to be Novice) Ray Dominguez, and Contacts Brandon Paluch and Michael Chiuri. It was very good to have some of our younger members participate in the giving of the retreat. We were blessed with six very fine young men who are discerning the possibility of a religious vocation. Two of these young men have already requested admission into our contact Program. Thanks to some members of the West Hills Community, who joined us for Mass and lunch – Tony Pistone, Skip Matthews, Urban Naal and Leroy Viera.
- Thanks to Don Neff for volunteering his time and services for vocation ministry. Don reports that he has spoken about the Society and the "Brother Vocation" at local schools in the Dayton area. Don also reports that he was asked to talk to seniors at Moeller about vocations by Bob Flaherty. Don also reports that he and David Paul will be giving Marianist Mission presentations during the next few months where he talks about vocations. Thanks to Bob, David and Don!

- Once again, I need to thank the staff here at West Pine for all of their help and support! I am very grateful for each person (even Bob Resing)!
- A special thanks to Donna Tucker for keeping me on task and for putting up with me!
- Finally, A very special note of thanks to Michael O'Grady! It has been a good experience for me working with Michael. He has taught me many things and I am grateful to him. I am a better person, Marianist and vocation director because of him. Thank you, Michael! Good luck at the novitiate!
- Think Vocations during the summer!
- See you at the Assembly!