



Thanksgiving 2006

How many times do you sit in chapel during prayer or mass and smile to yourself when certain names are read from necrology? Then you look around the room and see others smiling and remembering that same person. It happens to me a lot. I grew up in the order living at the Provincial House at Roland Avenue in Baltimore. I lived with many fine men, some saints and some quite unique. One of these men was Francis Tribull, whose anniversary of death was celebrated last week. Bro. Francis spent many years in Japan and was expatriated at the start of World War II. When I lived with Bro. Francis, he was retired, but worked at the reception desk of the Provincial offices. It was from his small desk that he knew everything that was going on in the province and was willing to share that information with you. Bro. Francis was gentleman and a real charmer. My mother still recalls that when she met Bro. Francis he would always kiss her hand in greeting! I was privileged to live with Francis Tribull and to be there at his death. I learned many things about being a Marianist from him and other men like him. I am thankful for my Marianist Brothers, both living and deceased.

At this Thanksgiving time, I am also thankful for the men that we have in our formation and contact programs. It has been an honor for me to journey with these men as they discern God's calling in their lives. We should all be thankful to God for the gift of these men. Our province has been blessed!

So, the next time you hear a name from the necrology that makes you smile, give thanks to God for that person. Then look around the room and thank God for the men we call "Brother."

Happy Thanksgiving!

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know ...

- Thanks to the St. Al's and the Marcella Road Communities in Cleveland for their creating and purchasing an ad for the VASJ musical presentation – “West Side Story”. Also congratulations to George Kemmett who had a starring role in the production.
- Our national vocation office hosted a workshop on “The Screening of Candidates”. The presentation was given by Dr. Richard Furey, a native of Philadelphia. Several members of our vocation team- Tom Pieper, Sr. Patricia Knopp, Mike Sullivan, Jim Wisecaver, Sr. Evangeline Escobar and Brian Halderman attended the workshop. Members of several other religious orders also joined us for the day. Michael O’Grady, our Assistant for Religious Life also attended the workshop. The workshop was both interesting and informative.
- Please pray for the upcoming Contact Retreat being held at Tecaboca on the weekend of December 8-10. The retreat topic is on “ministry” and Ed Brink will be the main presenter. Sean Downing is organizing the retreat. Thanks Sean and Ed!
- Are you praying for vocations?
- Are you thinking about vocations?
- Are you doing anything about vocations?
- Thank you to the Casa Maria community for their hospitality during my recent stay in San Antonio.
- Every few weeks the vocation office receives a request from our website about the whereabouts of a member of the province. We do not give out address or phone numbers, but Brian Halderman usually contacts the Marianist and tells him who is looking to locate him. The member of the province then decides if he would like to communicate with this inquiring person. Just recently, a 1964 graduate of Hamilton Catholic was looking for Don Neff. We put Don in touch with this graduate and Don reported the following: “Gus just wanted to thank the Marianists for the great education he received and wanted to send a contribution to support our retired Brothers. One never knows the impact one has on another person. This is one of the blessings of our vocation as Marianist educators.” Thanks, Don!

- The Stonemill-Kiefaber Community hosts a Live-In experience this week. More details in the next newsletter. Thank you, Brothers!
- Did you see our vocation ad in the NCR? We are hosting a vocation retreat for artists in February. Thanks to Brian Zampier and other artists in the province for their efforts with this activity. More details will come later.
- Speaking of artists, did you see the story on Mel Meyer in the September issue of "Vocations and Prayer?" Mel is highlighted in a four page article. Way to go, Mel! I will send copies of the article out in my next mailing!
- Thanks to the St. Al's Community for their hospitality to me during my last visit.
- Congratulations to our Contact, Joe Melendrez. Joe is a Central Catholic graduate and now a junior at the University of Dayton. Joe recently won a contest at a Chipotle restaurant and receives a large burrito lunch for the next year. Joe invites different people to lunch and discusses what it means to be a Marianist. Joe is very passionate and full of energy when it comes to things Marianist. Thanks to Joe and the Central Catholic Marianist community who Joe credits with introducing and witnessing our charism to him.
- Thanks to the West Hills Community for hosting a monthly Discernment Sunday. So what makes up this activity:
 - Morning Prayer and Eucharist
 - brunch
 - meeting about our way of life

Jim Wisecaver writes "We meet once a month to keep the religious life possibility before the discerner. The exchange between the community members and the discerners and the discerners themselves has been invaluable for some who have been considering religious life. We have had several who have joined our order and we have others who have decided not to join, but want to be associated with us lay Marianists." Thanks to the brothers from West Hills.

- Mike Sullivan reports the following vocation activities in San Antonio:
 - The Casa Maria hosts Evening Prayer and dinner to St. Mary students each Tuesday. When I was there during my visit there were about thirty students sharing the evening with the community. (I was told that there were usually more who attended, but I scared them off. This was ok with me because I had more food).

- The San Antonio vocation team organized and facilitated the annual “Find a Spot at the Marianist Table Week.” Go to www.stmarytx.edu/findaspot and see some of the events listed. Some of the vocation activities included:
 - Each of the six communities in the St. Mary’s neighborhood welcomed students for dinner. Thank you, Brothers!
 - There was a coffee night at Java City on campus where students could come and meet the Marianist volunteers and talk about the program. This event was organized by Ken Barrett. Thanks, Ken!
 - Marian Hall hosted a pizza party and showed the Chaminade beatification video. Thirty students showed up!
 - A luncheon was held each day during the week with a different theme. George Montague gave a talk about his vocation story during one of the meals and Harold Lootens performed on the keyboard while students and faculty enjoyed their meal! Thank you, Brothers!
- The Vocation Office in San Antonio also organized and facilitated the ND (non-departmental) class visits to the local communities. These classes are for freshmen and each section is invited to visit a Marianist community. The five communities who welcome the students include: Holy Rosary, the Sisters, Woodlawn, Marianist Residence and Casa Maria. Students are shown a video made especially for the class, given a presentation by a Marianist from that specific community, given a tour of the house and served a small snack. There are 22 sections of the course, which means 22 community visits. Mike Sullivan reports that Brandon Alana-Maugaotega and Ray Dominguez have been very helpful with these community visits.
- The San Antonio office has just sent out birthday calendars to all of those who attended the Marianist Life at Tecaboca this past summer.
- Special thanks to Mike Sullivan and Sr. Evangeline Escobar for their work in the San Antonio vocation office.
- Thanks to Dave Murphy for taking vocation information and posters around to different Cleveland area colleges.

Please send me any vocation information or vocation ministry activity so I can share it with the Province.