



May 10, 2007

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know

- I am happy to announce that our National Vocation Office will sponsor a **Vocation Summit** in San Antonio next semester during the weekend of October 26-27, 2007. The event will be held at St. Mary's University. All members of the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary living in the San Antonio area will be invited. The theme for the weekend will deal with our vocation efforts in San Antonio and the future. Our guest facilitator will be Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, the executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). I am requesting that our Brothers in the San Antonio area please put these dates on your calendar. More details will come in the future!
- Welcome back, Roberto Rivera!
- Thanks to John Habjan for his help with organizing the vocation plans for our schools.
- The Vocation team sends our condolences to the West Hills Community concerning the death of Edwin Johnson. Edwin played an important part in the vocation efforts and hospitality shown to young men in the LA area. May he rest in peace!
- Thanks to Tom Schroer for all of his help in testing some of our candidates. Tom is very generous with his time and talents. Thanks, Tom!
- Thanks to Luis Gamboa for his translating several vocation documents and advertisements. Thanks, Luis!
- Thanks to Ralph Neumann for his vocation efforts in San Antonio and for the vocation materials/ideas he sends me!

- I mentioned the NCEA convention in my Vocation Sunday letter, but I need to thank my booth workers once again – Nicole Trahan, Oscar Vasquez and George Kemmett. Thank you for your help!
- Who have you asked about joining our order recently?
- Jim Wisecaver met with me last week here in St. Louis. Jim will be more involved in direct vocation ministry. Thank you, Jim!
- Congratulations to Brian Halderman for the publication of his article “Reach young adults where they are: online video and social networking” in **Horizon** magazine. This publication is the journal for the National Religious Vocation Conference. Good work, Brian!
- The LA Discernment Retreat will be held during the Memorial Day weekend. Please keep this activity in your prayers.
- Congratulations to Bob Jones and Roberto Rivera on their upcoming First Profession. Several young men will be joining us for the weekend: inquirers: Andres Ramirez, Hugo Bastida and contacts: Brandon Paluch, Kip Young and Michael Chiruri .
- I just returned from a visit to Chicago where I met with the editors of **Oye** magazine, the vocation publication for Hispanic vocations. We had very good meetings, and I learned a great deal about this important aspect of vocation ministry.
- Thanks to Tom Wendorf who gave a talk about vocations. Tom’s talk was entitled “Vocations begin with a “V”. Thanks Tom!
- Gerry McAuley reports that he attended a Vocation Ireland Discernment Program at St. Alphonus Monastery in Dublin last month. Gerry gave a presentation on Marianist religious life. Thanks, Gerry!
- We are beginning a new ad campaign featuring some of our brothers. The first editions will be seen in the Guide to Religious Life, Vision magazine and Oye magazine. Bob Donovan and Reinaldo will be the featured in these first ads. (We attempted to feature Mike O’Grady in an ad, but his picture scared small children).
- Thanks to Larry Doersching and the Nolan High School Community for my recent visit. I really enjoyed visiting the school, and I had an excellent

conversation with a fine young man who may soon become a member of our Contact Program.

- I will visit our contact, Tom Fox in Houston in early June.
- Thank you to the Stonemill/Kiefhaber and Trinity communities for hosting live-in experiences.
- Mike Sullivan reports that he traveled to Pittsburgh to help with a retreat at North Catholic High School. The retreat was organized by Greg Evans, a religion teacher at North. The retreat was somewhat based on the high school seminars that were conducted this past semester in San Antonio. Mike also spoke with a young man who is exploring the possibility of religious life. Thanks, Mike!
- Bob Politi and Bob Jones set up a Marianist Table with various types of information about us for the 6th and 7th grade “open house” on April 22 at Purcell Marian High School. Thanks Bob and Bob!
- I am the vocation director, but vocation ministry is a job for all of us!
- Many thanks to the many members of the Province who do the “little” important things that make up our vocation ministry efforts.
- Keep an eye out for some new vocation material on our brothers who work in the trades –“Working Brothers!” Thanks to Tom Payne and Tom Redmond!
- Thanks to Gretchen for some of the vocation work she has already done! (She still doesn’t get paid until July)
- After the vows, I am traveling to Cupertino with several of our men in formation to help our senior brothers move into the new health center. Everyone is excited about this great activity –more details in our next edition! Thanks to John Haster for organizing our visit!
- Thanks to some of our Spanish-speaking Brothers who have volunteered to help with vocation ministry.
- Bob Wiethorn reports that Ed Jach gave a very fine homily on vocations on Vocation Prayer Sunday, April 29. Ed pointed out that the Church has a great need for priests and religious. Peter Wilke, the 2-year-old son of Chris and Elizabeth Wilke, a Lay Marianist couple, came running up the church aisle during the homily. Ed took the opportunity to say that perhaps Chris and his sister Olivia were both answering God’s call. We will need to check back in about 20 years! Thanks, Ed!

- Brian Zampier reports the following about his trip to Gross High School with Don Smith: “We visited with the art students on Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20. We spoke to six art classes and shared our work and told our stories about being a Marianist brother and artist. Don did a series of raku firings of the student’s pottery pieces after they added the glaze. I led four Intro Art classes and a Mark Making 101 presentation for sketchbook journaling. The students then went outside and sketched in the school garden. On Thursday night we shared a pizza dinner with the LIFE group, which is moderated by Mikaela Van Moorlehem. Once again we told our vocation stories. The entire event was an enjoyable time. CaSandra Johnson, the school art teacher, participated in the Marianist Artist vocation retreat in February and invited us to Gross. Hopefully, we might visit some other schools next year!” Thank you Brian and Don!

That’s all for now- Talk to you later! Please pray, invite and act for vocations!

Charlie