

## Hugo Bastida

*Aspirant, Age 37*



Born in Havana, Cuba, Hugo grew up in Trinidad, a small city on Cuba's south shore. He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the Seminario San Carlos y San Ambrosio in Havana, the only Roman Catholic seminary allowed to function in Cuba under the communist regime. In 1993 Hugo came to the United States and completed a master's degree in theology from the University of San Francisco in California. He lives with the Stonemill-Kiefaber community for his aspirancy and is involved in Latino/Hispanic ministry at the University of Dayton Office of Multicultural Affairs.

## Norman Capinpin

*Aspirant, Age 27*



"I want to live a life of prayer and service," says Norman, when asked about his reasons for joining the Society of Mary. A graduate of Damien Memorial School and Chaminade University of Honolulu, he owes his faith and commitment to service to his Catholic school education. Upon graduating with a business degree in 2004, he worked for some of Hawaii's largest companies and his own insurance and investment company. Norman's passion for social justice and solidarity with the poor convinced him to leave the business world and Honolulu to dedicate himself to a life of service as a member of the Marianist Volunteer Program in San Antonio. Norman pursued a master's degree in education through the PLACE Corps teaching program at Loyola Marymount University. He is excited to be back in San Antonio living in community at Casa Maria and ministering at Central Catholic High School.

## Andrew Caruso

*Aspirant, Age 27*



A native of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Andrew has a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from Kent State University. He was an active member of the University Parish Newman Center during and after college. For the

past seven years, Andrew put his degree to work in dining services at the Laurel Lake Retirement Community, where he enjoyed interacting with the elderly residents. He is a member of the Casa Maria community in San Antonio and works with the Marianist Leadership Program and the regional vocation office at St. Mary's University

## Nhan Nguyen

*Aspirant, Age 43*



Born in South Vietnam, Nhan's family escaped as "boat people" after the fall of Saigon and came to the United States as political refugees in the late 1970s. He finished high school in New Orleans and moved to Boston, where he lived for many years. Nhan studied biochemistry/molecular biology and molecular physiology at Boston University and Tufts University, respectively.

After five years in research labs, both pharmaceutical and academic, Nhan taught high school biology for eight years and a year of science at a middle school in Honolulu. He lives with the Stonemill-Kiefaber community for his aspirancy and is involved with the "Science After School" program and Neighborhood Organizing Project at the Dakota Center, a facility associated with the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at the University of Dayton. A lifetime volunteer, Nhan continues to serve homeless families and children on weekends at the Saint Vincent de Paul Center in Dayton.

## Brandon Paluch

*Aspirant, Age 26*



Brandon grew up in suburban Chicago and has been in a Catholic school, without interruption, since kindergarten. He graduated from St. Francis De Sales and Carmel Catholic High School in Illinois before studying history and religious studies at the University of Dayton. He served for three years as a seventh grade teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Downey, Calif., as part of the PLACE Corps through Loyola Marymount University. Brandon lives at St. Francis De Sales in Cincinnati with the brothers of DeSales Crossings. He ministers at Purcell Marian High School and Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

