

May 30, 2008

# VOCA TION NEWS

*Did you know...*

**P = Prayer T = Talk A = Act**

## **DeSales Crossings, Cincinnati, Ohio**

- People are invited for prayer and mass to share in the life of the community.
- Host a Vocation Day for younger people in the Cincinnati area.
- Bob Jones gave a vocation presentation at St. Gertrude's parish.
- The community invited aspirant, Brian Myers, to join them for retreat.
- Brian also did a "live-in" with the community in April.
- Bob Wiethorn and Joe Kamis are "vocation callers" for the Province.
- Both Bob Jones and Bob Politi share vocation materials with the entire Purcell-Marian Community.
- Contacts, novices and temporary professed are prayed for each day during prayer or Mass.
- The community participates in "Meditation for Vocations" every Monday morning; they read the small biography about one of brothers in formation, recite the vocation prayer and share in a half-hour of meditation.
- The community attempts to live out their mission statement.
- "We give priority to the community formation process of Bob Jones and Tobias Ferrer by supportive mentoring by Bill Grundish and Ed Jach. All community members participate in the formation process as we attempt to live our Marianist life integrally together."

## **Lincoln Street, Hollywood, Florida**

- daily prayer for candidates in formation-highlighting one person each day
- display of our new icons
- sharing about our charism through CFCA mission preaching, RCIA and parish/school talks-Nativity parish
- highlighting our new beatified martyrs
- participating in community get together with Family of Mary, Chaminade Community
- sponsoring underprivileged children and seniors each month and holidays
- promoting devotion to Our Blessed Mother at Our Lady of the Smile Shrine

## **Casa Maria Community, San Antonio, Texas**

- Wednesday Morning Prayer is dedicated to praying for vocations.

- Vocation intention is announced at Eucharist or Morning Prayer.
- During the Vocation Summit, community members served as prayer leader and choir leader.
- Two community members represented the community at the Archdiocese's celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.
- Vocations was the topic of two community meetings
- A community member spoke at Central Catholic High School during Marianist Heritage Week.
- A community member was a guest speaker for the local discernment group on campus.
- A community member addressed this topic to a group of students in a campus residence hall.
- Presentation was given at the Marianist Leadership Program at St. Mary's University.
- Three community members gave presentations during the local discernment retreat.
- Every Tuesday, the community invites St. Mary's students/faculty/staff to join them for prayer, social time and dinner.
- During the fall semester, the community hosted several ND classes which have a vocation theme as they introduce incoming freshmen to the various Marianist communities connected to the university.
- Tim Pieprzyca is the vocation contact person at Central Catholic High School.
- Dennis Bautista serves as the contact program for the local Marianist Volunteers.
- Roberto Rivera meets regularly with the discernment group on campus.
- Two community members serve as "vocation callers."
- The community hosted two members of the Contact Program – Julius Militante and Heribertus Denny.
- The community hosted Eucharist and breakfast for participants in the Vocation Discernment Weekend.
- Casa Maria is a formation community with two aspirants and two temporary professed next year.

### **Sawmill Road Community, Dayton, Ohio**

- daily prayer for vocations
- praying for those in formation by name
- talk about vocations at table is often lined to actions
- Norb Burns maintains contact with a number of students at UD who are considering religious life.
- Norb also serves as a "spiritual mentor" to some UD grads who are looking at our aspirancy program.
- Community members support Norb and his work and make sure that he has a place where he can meet with people.
- Community members read over all materials sent out by the vocation office.

### **Montgomery Road Community, Cincinnati, Ohio**

- Pray for vocations daily at morning prayer or Eucharist.
- Pray for the geographical areas of the Province using the vocation booklet.
- The formation biography booklet is displayed in the community.
- Moeller students are invited for Eucharist, dinner and the sharing of vocation stories.
- Community member served on a vocation panel for CCD students at local parish.
- Hosted Brian Myers for a tour of Moeller High School and arranged for him to meet with math, science, religion teachers as well as pastoral ministers and Dean of Pastoral Care.
- Vocation posters are displayed in Guidance office.
- Bob Flaherty met with a senior and discussed Marianist Religious life and invited him to learn more through the Contact Program.
- Community members will meet with other interested students and grads.

### **Marybrook Community, St. Louis, Missouri**

- Vocation prayer and intentions mentioned each day.
- Constant support for the national vocation director (me).
- Willing to make trips to the airport anytime of the day.
- Shares Marianist hospitality when inquirers, contacts, aspirants or professed Marianist visit.
- Always willing to share opinions with me about visitors.
- Open to talk about vocations at our different ministries.

### **St. John's, Rockaway Beach, New York**

Some reflections from Paul Landolfi, S.M. about St. Johns:

- “We deliberately chose this date (Feb.2) to write our report because it is the day dedicated to Consecrated Life.”
- “We know vocations should be a top priority, but in the rush of daily activity we don’t often see that it is in that very activity that we can pray, talk and act for vocations. Yet we try.”
- “Our community is faithful to Wednesday vocation prayer.”
- “We keep the formation booklet in front of the altar so that one of the contacts, aspirants, novices or temporary professed is in our sight and mind during prayer.”
- “One of our biggest efforts at St. John’s is to give a sense of meaning and vocation to our boys. We point out to them the meaning of marriage, growing in respect for others, especially women, the necessity of a sense of responsibility.”
- “We offer our boys some basic thoughts about Chaminade and the Marianists each year as we celebrate Marianist feasts.”

- “What I am saying is that there are so many intangibles that it is hard to give you a mathematical answer. The best I can say is that we are very interested in vocations; we find it very difficult to do anything specific that will fit into our regular program demands; we keep hoping and searching. We want to cooperate in every way we can. For the rest we place our trust in Jesus and in Mary, in whose mission we are engaged.”

*Thank you, Paul!*

- The St. John’s facility is shared with other groups – allows Marianist hospitality and message to be shared.
- Steve O’Neil, S.M., in his work as the representative for the Marianists NGO, reaches out to other groups.
- The community, especially though the efforts of the late Walter Oberster, S.M. has worked very hard with local Marianist Lay communities.

Brothers,

Thank you for the **PTAs**. The communities listed above are the last ones I received. I will send out another newsletter next week with more vocation news.

*Peace!*

*Charlie*