



December 22, 2008

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- Thank you and Best Wishes once again to Sister Patricia Knopp, SND, who begins her retirement today!
- Welcome to David Weickert, from UD who will work in the regional vocation office!
- Thanks to Diane Guerra and Joan Suda for their assistance and support in our vocation activities. Special get-well wishes for Diane!
- Thanks to Tom French for his assistance in helping me find some vocation resources in the San Francisco area.
- Thank you to the brothers who sent me comments/suggestions about the initial formation documents I sent out a few weeks ago.
- What does your community do for vocations? What do you do?
- Thanks to the Stonemill-Kiefaber Community for providing hospitality for Julius Militante, one of our contacts. Julius drove across the country to begin work at Yeshiva University.
- A special thanks to the Alumni Hall Community for hosting me for several days in early November. Thanks to John Putka, Joe Tedesco and Tom Farnsworth. The community is very supportive of vocation ministry and I will share their activities in detail in the next issue. Thank you, Brothers!

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- Once again thank you to the Casa Maria Community for hosting me for a weekend visit. The Brothers are very gracious and I am grateful for their hospitality.
- Welcome to Kristofer Salinas, the newest member of our Contact Program! Kristofer is a graduate of Central Catholic in San Antonio. He presently works in retail and does substitute teaching at Central. Kristofer also helps with the retreat program at the school! Welcome Kristofer!!
- A special thanks to all of our Brothers who mentor members of our Contact Program. Thank you!
- A special thanks to John Thompson and the Riordan Community for requesting the names of members of our Contact/Formation Program so that they could pray and communicate sentiments of support to the individuals. I am grateful for the proactive idea from the community and I would like to take the idea and share it with the other members of the program. Thank you!
- In an earlier issue of this fine publication, I shared the Contact List with the Province. I noted where the Contacts are now living, but not what they are doing. So, here it is:
 - Hugo Bastida will soon be doing an extended live-in experience at Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio.
 - Norman Capinpin is teaching grade school in California. He is also working on a Masters Degree.
 - Andrew Caruso manages an employee cafeteria in a senior retirement center in the Cuyahoga Falls area.
 - Michael Chiuri is a supervisor at a screening/background investigation company in Los Angeles.
 - Rick Collins is a counselor at St. Louis School in Hawaii.
 - Heribertus Denny works as a drafter and graphic designer for an engineering firm in the Los Angeles area.
 - Aaron Filsinger works for the Veterans Administration as a case manager in Waco, Texas.
 - Jose Gonzalez is a teacher and campus minister at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio.
 - Louie Guerra is a teacher and coach at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio.
 - Joseph Melendrez is a teacher and campus minister at Chaminade West Hills.
 - Julius Militante is a research scientist at Yeshiva University in New York.

- Mark Motz is a Religious Studies student at the University of Dayton.
 - Nhan Nguyen is a teacher at Damian High School in Hawaii.
 - Reynard Nivera is working on a degree in nursing in Maui.
 - Brandon Paluch is teaching middle school in California. Brandon just completed a Masters Degree.
 - James Perry is an archivist in Monterey, California. James begins a new position as an archivist in Alaska in February.
 - Jonathan Pyles is a teacher and coach at Carroll High School in Dayton.
 - Michael Sievers is a Religious Studies student at the University of Dayton.
 - David Valpone is an assistant at a pre-school and part-time student in Omaha.
 - Kip Young is a full-time student at Loyola Chicago.
 - Kristofer Salinas works in retail in San Antonio. He also substitute teaches and helps on retreats at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio.
- We will need people to implement our Strategic Plans. Have you invited anyone to join us?
 - Please keep in your prayers Rev. Alvaro Bastida, the uncle of Contact Hugo Bastida and priest for the Archdiocese of Miami. Father Bastida just started a series of chemotherapy treatments.
 - Thank you to the St. Al's Community for inviting Contact Andrew Caruso over for Mass and dinner. Andrew has also helped with the food distribution program at the parish.
 - Thanks to John Haster and the Cupertino Community for inviting James Perry to visit.
 - Also, thanks to the West Hills Community for hosting their monthly Discernment Days.
 - Thanks to Paul Fitzpatrick for offering to speak to a student about vocations.
 - Thanks to Jesse O'Neil for signing copies of the recent ALIVE magazine. I will give them out as Christmas gifts.
 - David Betz participated in a vocation panel discussion at a recent Boy Scout Court of Honor. Thanks, David!
 - Thanks to Bob Donovan and Mike O'Grady for speaking with students at Purcell Marian High School in Cincinnati. Bob talked about healthcare issues with the homeless and Mike spoke about Marianist life and his vocation story. Mike also

spoke about sport championships from Cleveland – it was a very short talk!
Thank you, Brothers.

- Inquirer Patrick Hyde, a graduate from Chaminade College Prep in St. Louis, will visit the Marybrook Community for Mass and dinner today. Patrick presently teaches middle school on a Native American reservation in Arizona.
- Thanks to Al Kuntemeier for his patience with me and for dealing with a local inquirer from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Thanks, Al!
- Thank you to the Casa Maria Community for hosting a live-in experience for two of our Contacts, Jose Gonzales and Louie Guerra. I have heard that the experience went very well and that both young men learned a great deal about Marianist life. Thank you.
- I do not believe that vocation ministry is a numbers game, but think about what type of results we might have if just a few more of us invited young men to share our life. Think about it!
- Brandon Paluch, one of our Contacts, was highlighted with his class in the NCR. I observed Brandon teach last year and he is very good. I also taught his class for a part of a period. I taught about the legislative branch of the Federal Government. I was good and the class of 8th graders gave me a standing ovation.
- The Vocation Summit in Hawaii is scheduled for January 16 – 17, 2009. I ask that you keep our time in your prayers. Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, is our presenter and Bishop Larry Silva, the Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu, will join us for our some of our discussions and concluding Mass.
- I was honored to attend the First Profession of Brothers Rigoberto Martinez Hernandez and Mario Lenin Espinoza Sanchez held in Queretaro, Mexico. I had a very fine time in Mexico and was able to visit the new community at Puebla. Gracias, Hermanos. (That is Spanish.)
- A very special thank you to Steve O' Neil, Bob Donovan, Brian Halderman and Ray Dominguez for their work and preparation in organizing the Contact Retreat held last weekend at St. Johns Rockaway. Ten Contacts and Aspirant Joe Janosik joined the team for a retreat with a social justice theme, "Advancing Justice as Marianists: Globally and Locally." Steve gave a talk about his work as the Marianist Family's NGO and then led the group on a tour of the United Nations. Bob gave a presentation on his work with the homeless and their health care needs. Other speakers and a visit to a local soup kitchen helped to enhance the

weekend experience. I have had reports from the Contacts that the weekend was excellent! Thank you, Brian, Ray, Steve and Bob!

- Another extra special thanks to the Rockaway Community for hosting the Contact Retreat. Thank you to Steve O'Neil, John Collins, Paul Landolfi, Ray Miklich and Tom Trager. I am grateful for your support. You all helped to make the retreat success!
- Please pray for vocations. Please invite others to join us!

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Charlie