

February 26, 2009

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- Lenten Blessings to all!
- Our second Vocation Summit in Hawai'i was a success. Special thanks to everyone who attended the event. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, facilitated our time together and Bishop Larry Silva celebrated our closing Eucharist. I am most grateful for the hospitality shared with our group by both the Center Marianist Community and the Marianist Hall Community. It was also great to have our brothers from Maui over to join us. Special thanks to Dennis Schmitz, Luis Gamboa and Bernie Ploeger. We are planning summits for other parts of the Province during the next academic year.
- A new section for our newsletter:

Did you know how our Sisters became members of the Daughters of Mary?

“My parish priest mentioned to Bro. Gerard Busch that I was talking to him. Then Bro. Busch brought up: ‘Why not visit the FMIs in San Antonio?’ The community of three brothers (Busch, Cletus Behlman and Charlie Schmidt) had just been established in El Paso, actually in our parish school. It was shortly after that that I met the brothers, as well as Father Paul Hoffer, Superior General, who was then visiting the community. But, I would say that it was Bro. Gerry Busch who was instrumental in getting me here.”

*Evangeline Escobar, FMI
Provincial*

If you know a young woman who may be discerning a call to religious life—maybe you can direct her to the Daughters of Mary like Bro. Busch did.

- Thank you to the pastors of our parishes who agreed to include our Marianist vocation advertisement in their parish bulletins.
- It was a good experience for me to see many members of the Province at the first Strategic Planning meeting in Dallas who are interested in the “Invitation and Formation” area of our strategic planning process.
- I am hosting the first Strategic Planning blog found on the portal. Check it out!
- Special thanks to my community, the Marybrook community, for once again extending very fine Marianist hospitality to the vocation contacts that visit me in St. Louis.
- Thanks to Sean Downing, the regional director of our Dayton office, for the publication of his new local vocation newsletter.
- I cannot share vocation news with the Province unless I receive it from you! If you or your community is doing something for vocations, please send the information to me. If you or your community isn't doing anything, maybe you need to ask why.
- Thanks to Tom Wendorf for his recent talk in Dayton, “Flannery O’Connor and Vocations.”
- Thanks to George Kemmett for assisting me with a vocation project.
- I had the opportunity to speak at St. Joseph Parish School in Josephville, Missouri earlier this month. Andrew Kosmowski teaches 7th & 8th grade there and extended the invitation to me. Although I had to leave early to reach the school and deal with the hazards of “black ice,” it was a very good visit. It was also good for me to see Andrew in action the classroom. Thanks, Andrew!
- Thanks to the Dayton office for sending Lenten readings to our Contacts.
- Who have you invited to join us?
- Thanks to Tom Pieper for information he gathered for me about the UD Student Communities.
- Thanks to our Province Vocation Team for all the work they do!
- **Contact Corner:** Please pray for several members of our Contact Program who are discerning the possibility of applying for our Aspirancy Program.

▪ **Contact News:**

- ◆ **Hugo Bastida** has begun an extended live-in experience at Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio.
- ◆ I am visiting **Andrew Caruso** and his family this weekend in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. I will try not to spill diet coke on their antique table.
- ◆ I had a very fine conversation with **Norman Capinpin** last week at West Hills. Norman is going to help at our booth at the LA Congress.
- ◆ **Michael Chiuri** and I have had some very good conversations these past few days both on the phone and in person at the West Hills Community. Michael is also helping at the LA Congress.
- ◆ **Rick Collins** and I spoke two weeks ago. Rick is a counselor at St. Louis School and is a good place with his discernment.
- ◆ **Heribertus Denny** gave me his permission to inform the Province membership that he will be leaving the United States and returning to his homeland of Indonesia. Heribertus was asked by his family to come home and help with the care of his mother. Heribertus is the youngest child and the only single member of his family. Heribertus is very comfortable and at peace with his decision and expects to leave some time in May. Heribertus hopes to return to the U.S. some day and we have agreed he will become a “long-distance Contact.” I will share Heribertus’s contact information after he moves. I promise to keep in touch with and he will be remembered in our prayers.
- ◆ **Aaron Filsinger** had a very fine visit with me here in St. Louis. He was very helpful during our Super Bowl Party!
- ◆ I had very fine conversations with **José González, Luís Guerra and Kristofer Salinas** during my recent visit to San Antonio.
- ◆ **Patrick Hyde** is teaching at St. Michael’s Indian School in Arizona. Patrick is discerning whether he would like to spend another year at the school.
- ◆ I had several conversations with **Joe Melendrez** during my trip to West Hills. He is teaching at Chaminade and working in campus ministry.
- ◆ **Julius Militante** has moved from St. Louis to New York. He is doing well with his new job and hopes to begin a relationship with the Rockaway Community.
- ◆ **Mark Motz** is continuing his studies at UD.
- ◆ **Nhan Nguyen** has left Honolulu and is beginning an extended live-in experience at the Rockaway Community. Nhan will be working in different things at the community including an internship with Steve O’Neil and his work at the United Nations. Nhan stopped in St.Louis on his way to New York.
- ◆ **Reynard Nivera** continues his studies on Maui for a nursing degree.

- ◆ I had a very fine conversation with **Brandon Paluch** during my stay at West Hills. Brandon was kind enough to take me to the airport, which was a little distance from the community.
 - ◆ **James Perry** has left Monterey and is now living in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. James accepted a position as an archivist at a museum there. James is very happy with his new job and wishes to remain a Contact. He is another “long distance” contact.
 - ◆ **Michael Sievers** is at UD and has decided to spend his spring break and part of Holy Week at the retreat center at Cape May Point, New Jersey.
 - ◆ I have invited **David Valpone** to do a live-in experience sometime after Easter.
 - ◆ **Kip Young** continues his studies at Loyola University (Chicago) in Immigration Issues.
 - ◆ **Austin Yee** has decided to join another order. We wish him well.
- Thanks to David Betz, who gave Aaron Filsinger and me a tour of the St. Patrick Center here in St. Louis. David works with homeless veterans and Aaron works for the Veteran’s Administration in Waco.
 - Thanks to Francis Nakagawa for referring Nhan Nguyen to us.
 - I recently visited Chaminade College Prep, St. Mary’s High School and Central Catholic High School and spoke to religion classes. I was, as you can well imagine, very good. I enjoyed my time at the schools, although after a while I can bore myself.
 - I am most grateful for all the support and assistance I receive across the Province. Thank you.
 - Thank you to Paco Gomes for his communications with me.
 - Thanks to the members of the Dayton vocation office for their efforts with the Discernment Group Retreat at St.Meinrad’s and Governor’s Island.
 - I will be speaking with the 6th graders next Monday at Chaminade College Prep.
 - Special thanks to the Central Catholic Community and the West Hills Community for the very fine hospitality shown to me during my recent visits. I am very grateful for all you do for our vocation efforts.
 - A special thank you to the West Hills Community for volunteering their living room furniture for the LA Congress. Thanks to Jim Wisecaver and the LA

Contacts for loading the furniture and displaying it at our booth. I will have more details about the LA Congress in our next issue.

- Thanks to Joan Suda and Diane Guerra for their assistance in our advertising efforts.
- I was able to attend the local vocation team meeting in San Antonio during my recent visit. Many thanks to Gretchen Trautman and the representatives from each community for taking the time to work at this very important ministry.
- There will be a Discernment Gathering at St. Mary's in mid-March and a Discernment Retreat at the end of the month.
- *Finally...*

In conjunction with the Office of Communications I will soon begin a weekly e-mail message called "Vocation Notation" that will be sent electronically to every member of the Province. The purpose of this e-mail will be to keep vocation ministry at the forefront of our thoughts as we continue to create a vocation culture within the Province.

Peace!

Charlie