



September 28, 2009

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- We were mentioned in an NCR article by Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director for the National Religious Vocations Conference:

"In the CARA study, we looked at three men's orders that have had success with vocation ministry: The Divine Word Missionaries of the Chicago province, the Holy Cross Fathers of the Indiana province, and the Marianists."

- We need to continue to invite others to share our life. What is your community doing? What are you doing?
- The CARA report on vocations: "Recent Vocations to Religious Life: A Report for the NRVC" will be handed out at the director's meeting in October. This might be a good resource for a community meeting on vocations.
- Welcome to new contacts: Brian Baker, Matthew Yim and Joe Meyer.
- **Did you know how our Sisters became members of the Daughter of Mary?**

"My vocation was initiated by Fr. Stanley Kusman, S.M. who gave our high school retreat during my senior year in 1954. He challenged us to be open to God's call to enter religious life. He encouraged me to write my brother, Richard, who was already in the SM. Richard wrote the sisters in Somerset, Texas. I later found out that Richard had been praying for my vocation with the Marianist Sisters from the first time he met them in St. Louis in 1949."

Sr. Marcy Loehrlein, FMI

- Thanks to David Murphy for his suggestion about advertising possibilities. Thanks, David!
- Thanks to Joe Rasky for his suggestion that we might pass around a “symbol” for religious vocations and ask each community to pray especially for our vocation efforts while they possess the symbol. Thanks, Joe, this is an idea that we are looking into.
- Special thanks to Bob Backherms for hosting **“Everything you always wanted to know about The Marianists and don’t know whom to ask!”** at the Naas Wellness Center in Dayton. Bob gives a talk, takes questions, gives out a Chaminade holy card and asks for the group to pray for vocations. Thanks, Bob!
- **From Father Cortes:** *“The Province is blessed with vocations. Even so, it is evident that the effort at inviting men to consider and to join our community life and mission is a shared effort among all members of the Province that is unremitting. Sustaining this process of invitation and support is fundamental to the life and mission of the Province and will require considerable attention by the Province and the Provincial leadership.”* (18, July 2009)
- **Special thanks** once again to Diane Guerra and Joan Suda for their continued support and assistance in our vocation ministry efforts!
- Many thanks for the notes of support concerning the **“Vocation Notation”** newsletter.
- Thank you to Tim Kenney and the Cure of Ars Community from St. Louis for sharing their brainstorming session on a possible “vocation plan” for this community year. I am most grateful for your ideas and efforts. The plan is attached to this newsletter e-mail.
- **From Brother John Samaha at the Diocese of San Jose’s “Celebration of Religious Life” Day:**

“It is necessary to see the Brother’s vocation as a call to being totally Christ-centered in a particular way of life in the religious state...The essence of religious life is being someone consecrated to God, not doing a particular work. Being is more important than doing.”

Thank you, John!

- Thanks to Richard Olsen for his suggestion about sharing pictures and information about our men and women in formation.

- **Dates:**

October 2-4: Director's Meeting at Vallombrosa in Menlo Park, CA
October 22- 24: Formation Advisory Committee Meeting, San Antonio
October 23-25: Discernment Retreat, Governor's Island
October 24: Perpetual Vows for Dennis Bautista, San Antonio
October 26: Vocation Director's Meeting, San Antonio
November 5: Local Vocation Event at UD

- Thanks to the Marianist Family Retreat Center and the LIFE Programs for welcoming some members of our Contact Program in their summer work and activities.
- Thanks to the Casa Maria Community for the hospitality during my recent visit.
- Very special thanks to Michael Barber for remembering our men and women in formation in his prayers.
- Thanks to Jack Russi for speaking to the Serra Club of Los Altos in late August!
- A UD marketing class has agreed to assist the National Vocation Office deal with issues concerning technology and social networking. More details to follow.
- Special thanks to the brothers who helped to make the Look, Listen and Lounge Program at Governor's Island this past summer successful. Thanks to Sean Downing, Charlie Wanda, Chris Wittmann, George Kemmett and especially the event organizer, Andrew Kosmowski!
- Also many thanks to the Governor's Island Community for their great hospitality! Thanks to Paul, Jim and Bill.
- Thank you to everyone who helped to staff the Marianist Vocation Table at the InterFaith Fair at St. Mary's University last Friday. We have ten new names of students who are interested in vocation discernment!
- Thanks to Bill Chewning, Les Kaehler, Joe Barrett, Peter Pontolillo, Leo Willett, Richard Roesch, Durie Kim, LaVon Kampf and Gretchen Trautman!
- Special thanks to Andrew Caruso for the table layout featuring our Marianist Martyrs and vocation ministry efforts.

Please keep praying and inviting!

Peace!

Charlie