



January 24, 2006

HAPPY CHAMINADE DAY!

VOCAATION NEWS

Did you know...

- Thank you to the five members of the vocation team who attended the Reflection Group last month in Phoenix. Thank you to Cris Janson, Mike Sullivan, Aaron Sonnenburg and Dennis Schmitz. The meeting was a good experience.
- Alan Smith, a member of our Contact Program from Dublin, is visiting the United States. He is presently teaching in the Sultanate of Oman and is discerning a possible vocation with us. Alan has visited St. Louis, San Antonio, Cleveland and Cincinnati. Special thanks to all of the communities that hosted Alan – Marybrook, Casa Maria, St. Al's and Montgomery Road.
- Ken Barrett, a senior from UD and a member of our Contact Program visited St. Louis this past weekend. Ken is presently student teaching in the Dayton area and is also discerning a possible vocation.
- Has your community talked about vocations recently?
- Special thanks to Tom Giardino for his help in acquiring funds for our website reconstruction. Thank you, Tom!
- Does your community need...vocation candles, vocation booklet of names, vocation calendars, Marianist crosses or lapel pins? I have some extra materials; please contact me. (The crosses and lapel pins are for members of the Province.)

- Congratulations to Ray Dominguez, a member of our Contact Program and the Religion Department Chairman at Chaminade College Prep in West Hills. Ray is now a member of the MSJC Steering Committee! Way to go Ray!
- Did you see the new vocation calendar with our Founders displayed for the month of January? January is over, but do not worry! I do not want to knock any other orders or Founders, but if you hang the calendar up on the wall and rip each month away, rather than just tacking it up, you can have Blessed Chaminade, Venerable Adele and Venerable Marie-Therese for 12 months. Thanks to John Habjan for making this suggestion.
- There will be a meeting of the Hispanic members of the Province in Puerto Rico in February. The areas of discussion include: vocations, formation and immigration. More details later! Thanks to Frankie Gonzalez, Don Wallace and Reinaldo Berrios!
- There will be a vocation meeting for our high school/middle school campus ministers in March! More details later!
- Have you seen the new Marianist banners at our schools and parishes?
- Please pray for Aaron Sonnenburg's parents. They were both recently diagnosed with cancer. Aaron is at CJ in Dayton and a member of the vocation team. You and your family are in our prayers, Aaron!
- How come some communities talk about vocations and some don't?
- Isak Keyman-Ige and Armando Aneses were recently featured in an article in San Antonio's *Today's Catholic* newspaper. The article dealt with multiculturalism. Way to go, Armando and Isak! Nice picture!
- Nicole Trahan, a pre-novice with the Marianist Sisters was also featured in *Today's Catholic*. Nicole is presently working at St. Mary's University and was with us at the vocation booth at the Youth Convention in Atlanta!
- Speaking of the Youth Convention – Special thanks to John Thompson, Dennis Bautista and Nicole Trahan who helped me man the vocation booth for three days! Thank you!
- Pictures of our men in formation have been sent to our senior members at our health centers. I am very grateful to our senior members for their prayers and support of our younger brothers.

- Many times when I am at a meeting or celebration, a member of the Province will come over to me, point to a young man in our formation program, and ask “Who is he?” Well, no more! So that we all will know who “he” is – a small booklet with pictures and a brief write-up of our men in formation will soon be sent to all of the communities. Please look it over and get to know our newest members.
- I had a very nice visit with aspirants, Tom Farnsworth and Luis Gamboa right before Christmas. We also had 8 inches of snow! I wanted to help clean off the snow, but I fell as a child and I am allergic to shovels!
- Discernment Retreats: Ewa Beach and Governor’s Island in January; San Antonio in February.
- Luis Guerra was omitted from the Vocation booklet. Luis is a contact, and a name sticker will be sent to each community to add to the booklet. Sorry Luis!
- I will be visiting St. Mary’s High School, Riordan High School, Central Catholic High School, and Colegio San Jose during the second semester.
- Dennis Bautista and I were given the opportunity to speak at the presidents and principals meeting in November. Thanks to Tim Kenney and John Habjan!
- Thanks to Ralph Neumann and Jim McCaffrey for their participation in the Mission Sunday activities at San Fernando Cathedral.
- Mike Reaume reports that he participated in a vocation panel at St. Mark’s Parish in Denton, Texas. He also gave a presentation on “Introduction to the Marianists” for twelve freshman retreats at Nolan Catholic! Thanks Mike!
- Dan Richter, our director of the Marianist Volunteer Program, writes: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your promotion of MVP. I am grateful for your assistance in informing others about our program. Special thanks to David Betz, Brian Halderman, Dennis Schmitz and Michael Sullivan. Thank you for offering the Marianist Volunteer Program as a way to live out one’s vocation.”
- Thank you to the Villa Angela/St. Joseph Vocation Planning Team for sharing their “vocation evenings” with me: Pizza-Vocation Discussion-Prayer-Game-Conclusion! Thank you guys! Aspirants Luis Gamboa and Tom Farnsworth will also help with the evening. Thanks to Dave Murphy, Jack Dempsey, Mike Lisbeth, Luis Gamboa, Tom Farnsworth and Paul Hoffman!

- Jacob Friesenhahn, Peter Sun and Fausto Sanchez have decided to leave the Contact Program. We wish them well and thank them for the many gifts they have shared with us over the years.
- Many thanks for all the feedback I received concerning my letter on “passion.” I received one response that can be addressed here in this newsletter. Father Robert Hertweck shared with me his passions about the Region areas and how we should know what’s going on there in terms of vocations. What an excellent idea! I thank Father Hertweck. Each Region will be profiled in the next issues of *Vocation News*. In this issue, a quick look at Mexico:

The following is a brief summary taken from information sent to me by Lorenzo McBride:

- People meet us by word of mouth and by our Marianist web site in Spanish.
- An information packet is sent via Mexpost.
- The inquirer is also asked to read some booklets on discernment written by Quentin Hakenewerth.
- Lorenzo then either visits the person or invites him to the community.
- Lorenzo relates that the atmosphere of the visit is usually very frank and personal. He explains that we, as Marianists, seek to continue Mary’s mission on earth.
- Lorenzo states that the conversation usually gets down to the “nitty-gritty” and the person usually feels comfortable to ask the questions that really matter to him.
- If the visit goes well, the inquirer is invited to the community (Queretaro) for a “ven y versa” – a “come and see.”
- Most people make the visit within two months of the initial visit.
- Most visits are successful and the young man leaves feeling that he experienced community life with a group of men who are serious about following Jesus and Mary in today’s world.
- The community makes the person feel very at home and welcomed.
- The person lives with the community and experiences the normal community schedule: prayer, visits to the poor, sports, meals, fraternal care and maybe a video.
- During the visit, the person talks with Lorenzo, Quentin and Regulo.
- If all three Marianists are comfortable with the inquirer, they offer him three possible choices: keep in contact with Lorenzo, visit some of our other communities and if the timing is right, enter into the prenovitiate program. There are two possible dates to join: January 15 and August 15.

- The person is invited to participate in some of the four vocation workshops offered during the year and Lorenzo keeps in contact with the young man via e-mails, phone calls and, if possible, another visit.
- Some of the younger brothers in the region have also offered to be pen-pals with some of these inquirers.

Lorenzo ends his note with the following: “Without a doubt, personal contact is the key in the process.”

- Thank you, Lorenzo! We will keep all of our brothers in Mexico in our prayers.
- Please send me any vocation information/activities you believe should be shared with the Province!

Peace!