

March 20, 2008

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- Sean Downing will assume the duties as Regional Vocation Director at the Dayton Office beginning July 1, 2008. I am grateful to Sean for his willingness to serve the Province in this capacity. Tom Pieper, Charlie Wanda and Sister Patricia Knopp will continue to work in the office and help Sean as he begins this new ministry.
- A special thanks to Tom Pieper for his great involvement in vocation ministry. I am grateful for Tom's leadership in the Dayton office and his willingness to support Sean in this very important ministry. Thanks, Tom.
- Thanks to the Nolan/Fort Worth Community for their invitation to speak with them about vocations and mixed composition.
- Many thanks to Dennis Schmitz and the Brothers in Hawai'i for organizing the Discernment Retreat at Ewa Beach. There was a very fine spirit during the weekend. Thanks to Dennis, Jim Wisecaver, Gretchen Trautman, Luis Gamboa, Ken Templin and Tom Spring. Special thanks to the local Lay Marianist Community for providing several meals.
- A special thanks to Gerry Mc Auley and Luis Gamboa for helping me at St. Anthony's in Maui. We spoke with kindergarten students, grade school students and, finally, high school students. We also spoke with CCD classes on Sunday. We had a good time and answered many questions. The students especially liked Gerry's brogue and asked him about castles, kilts, the Loch Ness monster and Lucky Charms. Thank you, Gerry and Luis!
- Thanks to Jim Vorndran, Rollie Bunda and Jerry Pleva for hosting us at St. Anthony's. There is a very fine "Marianist" spirit and I am grateful for the work that is being done there.

- Please pray for our Contacts; especially the ones discerning the possibility of applying for our Aspirancy Program next year.
- Did you get the new poster? Is it hanging up? Is it still in the tube? If so, please take it out and share it with others.
- I am happy to announce that there will be another Vocation Summit next fall in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The Summit will begin on Friday, November 7 and will be held at the Center Marianist Community. Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, the Executive Director of the NRVC, will be our facilitator for weekend (Feb 7-8). I ask the Brothers in Hawai'i to please mark this important date in their calendar.
- Welcome to new members of our Contact Program – José Julián Matos, Joseph Janosik and Heribertus Denny.
- Thanks to all of the brothers who responded to the religious life and vocation questions sent out by Gross High School students. Thanks to Victor Forlani for sharing his responses with me.
- Thanks to Ralph Neumann for his different communications with me! Gracias!
- Thanks to Contact Julius Militante for leading Evening Prayer at the Chapter.
- Thanks to John Thompson for his communication about the Vision Magazine Vocation Survey. I will send the survey out to the communities and bring up some of John's suggestions with the FAC group. Thanks, John.
- Thanks to Fred Rech for his calendar suggestion. Fred creates a calendar and uses it as a vocation tool with his students at St. Laurence. Thanks, Fred; we are looking at your idea.
- What have you done for vocations this week? month? semester? What are you waiting for?
- Thanks to Bob Jones and the De Sales Crossing Community for hosting Contact Brian Myers at Purcell Marian High School.
- Many thanks to Gretchen Trautman and the communities in San Antonio for their help and support during the Discernment Retreat held in February. Thanks to Dennis Bautista, Bob Donovan, Jim Jaeckle, Roberto Rivera, Norb Brockman, Tim Dwyer, Evangeline Escobar, Grace Walle, Jim Wisecaver, Les Kaehler, Rich Wosman, Kip Stander, Tim Pieprzyca and Wayne Romeo. Thank you!

- Brian Zampier tells me that you can check out Mel Meyer on You Tube at: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=3edkjhukosc>
- Thanks to Tom Farnsworth for visiting with Contact Kip Young in Chicago.
- Special thanks to the Trinity and Stonemill Communities for hosting young men for a “live-in” experience. I am very grateful for your efforts!
- I asked a Brother about his community’s **P**=prayer, **T**=talk, **A**-act, and he did not know what I was talking about! Shame on him! Shame on his community! It is up to everybody to work together for vocations. What is your community doing? I will share a few **PTAs** at the end of this newsletter. Please send me your community plan.
- Thanks to Bob Flaherty and the Moeller community for organizing a visit for Contact Brian Myers.
- Thanks to Gene Contadino for his vocation article idea for a future edition of *ALIVE* magazine. Thanks, Gene – your idea has been shared with the Communications Office.
- Thank you to Bill Meyer, Jesse O’Neill and Mike Sullivan who have agreed to help with Behavioral Assessments. Thank you!
- There are many vocation activities going on throughout the Province. What are you doing? The future depends on us!
- Thank you to Paul Jablinski for his e-mail and interest in vocation ministry.
- Thanks to Sean Downing and George Kemmett for agreeing to attend the Behavioral Assessment Workshop!
- Thanks to Brian Halderman for his continued work on the website (even from Peru).
- Thanks to Jack Somerville for his efforts with our “working brother” plans. I am also grateful to Jack for his willingness to conduct interviews.
- I spent a part of Palm Sunday with Brian Myers and his family in Mentor, Ohio. We met for Mass at St. Noel’s Parish and then traveled to the Myers home for dinner and conversation. It was a very fine afternoon, even though I did spill my Diet Coke on an antique coffee table. (Do not worry! No stains!)

- Thanks to Brian Zampier for his idea about “vocation genealogy” for *ALIVE* magazine. Your idea has been shared with the Communications Office.
- Thank you to Dennis Schmitz and Jim Wisecaver for organizing our vocation booths efforts at the recent LA Religious Education Congress. We gave out hundreds of vocation pamphlets and had several men and women sign up to find out more information about us and the Daughters of Mary. A thank you is also in order for the following people who helped staff our booth: Ken Templin, John McEnhill, Gerry Mc Auley, Luis Gamboa, David Betz; Contacts Chris Nieport, Norman Capinpin, Michael Chiuri, and Brandon Paluch; and Soane and Margaret Uiagelelei from the Marianist Lay Community in Hawai’i.
- Very special thanks to Jim Wisecaver and the West Hills Community for their help with the LA Congress. This community really sacrifices for the cause of vocation ministry. Each year Jim Wisecaver (this year with the help of Gerry Mc Auley) takes the living room furniture from the community, loads it on a truck and transports the pieces to the convention center. Our ordinary vocation booth is transformed into a “living room” where our Marianist Family Spirit is shared with everyone. The booth looks great and attracts many people to come over and just talk. I am grateful to the West Hills Community for their help and for sitting on orange crates for a few days! Thank you!
- Thank you to the folks in Dayton who helped with the Discernment Retreat held at Governor’s Island. Thanks to Tom Pieper, Laura Leming, Tom Farnsworth, Sean Downing and Jim Russell! Thanks also to the Governor’s Island Community for hosting us again!
- Thanks to Bob Johns for his suggestions given at the pre-chapter meeting in St. Louis.
- Thanks to Paul Vieson for sending me some vocation stats. Thank you, Paul!
- The vocation office will have a booth at the NCEA Convention again this year. Thanks to Nicole Trahan, Sean Downing, George Kemmett and Contact Joe Melendrez.
- A special thanks to our Provincial. We have banners that we use for our vocation booth during different conventions. Over the months these banners need to be cleaned and pressed for the next display. Steve Glodek volunteered to undertake this task. I know that Steve will do a great job because he worked in a laundromat in Chester while he was a student at St. James Catholic High School for Boys! Thanks, Stephen! Go Bulldogs!

- A big thanks to Nicole Trahan, George Kemmett and Jesse O'Neill for their efforts in creating lesson plans on religious life and vocations. Their work is very fine and a copy of these plans will eventually be sent to our schools and communities. We are planning to give out copies of the lesson plans during the NCEA Convention. I am very grateful to Nicole, George and Jesse for their fine work! Thank you!
- Thank you also to John Habjan who has been very instrumental in the production of the lesson plans.
- Thanks to Donna Tucker, Diane Guerra, Joan Suda and Ann Mueller for their recent assistance.
- Brothers, this Vocation News is already several pages long. I will share some of the PTAs I have received in a week or two. Once again, thank you for all of your support!

Easter Peace!

Charlie