



February 2, 2008

Happy Foundation Day!

VOCATION NEWS

Did you know...

- Special thanks to Donna Tucker, Diane Guerra and Joan Suda for working with me. These three very talented women are essential to our vocation efforts. Thank You!

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Talk – What is your community doing? Send me the PTA sheets and I will share it with the Province.
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- Jim Eppy was interviewed for the vocation issue of the St. Louis Review. Thanks, Jim!

- We had a very fine Contact Retreat in December at the CFL Retreat Center in North Topsail, North Carolina. John Thompson gave an excellent retreat on “discernment and the next steps.” Ten members of the Contact Program participated in the weekend. John and I were assisted by Jessica Sherwen (from the Marianist Family Retreat Center) and Ray McCracken (NACMS) in giving the retreat. Thanks to John, Jessica and Ray! A special thanks to Marilyn Shackelford, director of the retreat house for her assistance and support.

- Thanks to Michael Sullivan for meeting with one of our inquirers in the Boston area!

- Thanks to Joe Kamis for conducting an introduction interview with one of our inquirers!

- Thanks to the De Sales Crossing for inviting Contact Brian Myers for Chaminade Day activities!
- Brian Myers will be visiting me in St. Louis this weekend. Brian will also participate in local Foundation Day activities here. Welcome Brian!
- Does your community need any more vocation materials? Let me know.
- Thank you to the parish community at Eldersburg for hosting inquirer Scott Benningfield for a weekend visit!
- Thanks to the Hollywood Community for hosting Contact Hugo Batisda for Chaminade Day activities!
- Did you see the articles about Gretchen Trautman and Dennis Bautista in the San Antonio catholic paper?
- Thanks to the community at Governor's Island for hosting our Dayton area discernment weekends.
- Thanks to Joe Kozar for meeting with a student from his class about Marianist religious life.
- Thanks to Bob Flaherty and Bob Jones for speaking at a vocation program at St. Gertrude's Parish in Madeira, Ohio. Both Bobs report that they spoke to about 200 students in grades 5 to 8 in the parish religious education program. Thank you, Bob & Bob!
- I gave the College Aged Retreat to 31 younger people at the retreat house at Cape May Point on the topic of "life decisions." Mike O'Grady is giving the Young Adult retreat this weekend. I helped Mike with some of his talks, so he should be okay.
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- Jesse O'Neill gave out over 70 Chaminade coloring books at the Chaminade Day activities at Mother Seton Academy. Thanks, Jesse!

- I am grateful to Jack Sommerville for the work he is doing concerning “vocations and working brothers.” Jack is working on a project on how we can share our “charism” with those in the trades. More news to come later! Thanks, Jack!
- Contact Julius Miliante will be the cantor at the St. Louis Foundation Day celebration.
- Thanks to Ed Brink for visiting with students at Chaminade College Prep this past week.
- Thanks to Kip Stander for conducting an inquirer interview for us!
- I have visited a few parish schools in the St. Louis area recently and have observed through my experience that many students have no idea what or who a religious is. Because there are fewer sisters, brothers and priests the young people of today need to be taught about religious. So, I have asked George Kemmett (grade school), Jesse O’Neill (middle school) and Nicole Trahan, FMI (high school) to come up with some lesson plans that we might be able to share with teachers and religious education instructors about religious life. We hope to distribute these lesson plans during the NCEA Convention. John Habjan from the Office of Education is also involved in this project and hopes that these lesson plans would be sent to our schools. Thanks to George, Jesse, Nicole and John!
- Thanks to Tom Payne for sharing with me some advertising information that might be helpful in our vocation efforts.
- Who invited you to become a Marianist? Who have you invited?
- Thanks to Ralph Neumann for advertising the San Antonio Discernment Retreat in the Holy Rosary parish bulletin.
- Thanks to Dennis Schmitz and Jim Wisecaver as they prepare for the LA Congress coming up at the end of the month.
- Please pray for our upcoming Discernment Retreats in Dayton, San Antonio and Honolulu! More details later!
- Thanks again to Michael McAward for his assistance.
- Did your community receive the prints of the icons of our four beatified Spanish brothers? A special thanks to Sr. Durie Kim, FMI for sharing her artistic gifts with us. Thank you, Sister Durie. Prints have been sent to all of our communities, schools, parishes and retreat houses. I have a few more copies; if

you would like more, please contact me. **Also, prints of the original three Spanish Martyrs and Jacob Gapp will be available next month. The new pictures are also from Sr. Durie and in the same icon style.**

- Thanks to Bob Resing for helping me with the icons and prints.
- Early thanks to the community on Maui for their invitation to meet school and parish groups. I am grateful to Rollie Bunda, Jim Vorndran and Jerry Pleva for their energy around vocation ministry!
- Another early thanks to the Nolan Community for inviting me to attend a community meeting in February.
- Our new vocation posters have arrived and will be sent out next week. Again, thanks to Joan Suda for helping me with this project. Posters will be sent to all of our works and communities. We also sent out posters and letters of introduction to over 250 university campus ministry offices around the country. A special thanks to Mel Meyer and Brian Zampier for framing one of the posters for the Provincial office. An offer for their services concerning the poster and framing will come later in Family Online.
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Peace!
Charlie