

News & Notes

January 2012

VISITOR

Bro. Timothy Coldwell, FSC

- 2-6 Sangre:
NO-SF & SF District
Leadership
- 9-17 New Orleans:
Joe Porter Community
- 18-23 Lafayette:
De La Salle Provincialate
- 24-26 El Paso:
Cathedral HS Community
Visit
- 27-31 Tucson:
CMSM Retreat

AUXILIARY VISITOR

Bro. David Sinitiere, FSC

- 2-6 Sangre:
NO-SF and SF District Leadership
- 11 Conference Call:
LEC meeting
- 13 Santa Fe:
SMHS Board of Trustees Meeting
- 29-31 California:
Discerning Leaders Meeting

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Bro. Peter Tripp, FSC

- 2-6 Sangre:
NO-SF and SF District Leadership
- 11 Conference Call:
LEC meeting
- 11 New Orleans:
District Team meeting at CBS

LASALLIAN MISSION

Mr. Charles Legendre, ASFC

- 3-4 New Iberia:
Catholic High Faculty Retreat
- 4-6 Woodworth, LA:
Wesley Center / St. Paul's Senior
Retreat
- 18-21 Metairie:
CLASP Visitation at Archbishop
Rummel High School
- 21-24 Denver:
J.K. Mullen HS Faculty Retreat
- 25 Covington:
St. Paul's - Five CORE Meal
- 26 Conference Call:
Mission and Ministry

Dear Brothers and Lasallians,

In this Christmas season we remind ourselves in song that Jesus was born in “mean estate.” We encounter Jesus’ vulnerability as a child. We encounter the political and social instability of his age and see his family dispossessed, relocated, reduced to the life of refugees. And we follow Jesus as he grows in wisdom and stature, in favor with God and humanity.

This stark encounter with his vulnerability invites us to reflect on our own mean human condition, as well as God’s grace. As educators we are drawn into the mystery of human growth and are re-issued the challenge of our vocation: to help raise kids and young adults into favor with God and humanity.

Perhaps the best launch pad for re-dedicating ourselves to this challenge is with our own history. How did we grow in wisdom and stature, how do we grow now? In the approach to the new year our culture encourages us to re-new ourselves, even to compose a list of resolutions. No doubt, our parents and teachers included us in their list. If we take “the list” approach to our ministry of evangelization and education, it might look something like Johnny Cash’s relationship with his daughter, Rosanne:

“When I was 18-years-old, I went on the road with my dad after I graduated from high school. And we were riding on the tour bus one day, kind of rolling through the South, and he mentioned a song. We started talking about songs, and he mentioned one, and I said I don't know that one. And he mentioned another. I said, 'I don't know that one either, Dad,' and he became very alarmed that I didn't know what he considered my own musical genealogy. So he spent the rest of the afternoon making a list for me, and at the end of the day, he said, 'This is your education.' And across the top of the page, he wrote '100 Essential Country Songs.'”

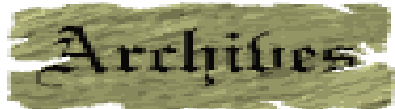
So what are the essentials needed by those entrusted to our care? What do they need, but don’t know they need? Like spiritual parents, we are given their hearts and souls, albeit for a brief time, so what part of their spiritual genealogy do we need to include in their formation? As co-ministers with God, how do we accompany them in their growth in wisdom and stature? What belongs on our list (for them) in 2012?

A similar approach is to ask what experiences have made a significant difference in my life already. To ask, Knowing what I know now, what would I do again, what would I do differently? We cannot rewind our lives like film . . . but we can build on the question, Knowing what I know now, what would I like younger others to know? There’s a fascinating book called *Dear Me: A Letter To My 16-Year-Old Self*. It offers a collection of letters by well-known adults to their teenage self. Besides being a fun read, I think this exercise offers us a way to reflect on what is important and essential in our educational and evangelizing work.

Lasallian educational ministry looks a lot like the principles employed in reverse engineering—we begin with the life and story of Jesus Christ and work backwards, examining how he grew in stature and maturity, and then co-labor with God in the accompanying young people forward. We respond to the mystery of our vocation, and we begin with the end in mind.

Whatever angle of approach we take, patience and persistence, virtues of a good teacher, are the order of the day. The kind of virtues that one of my all-time favorite writers, the late John Updike, included in one of his lists: "I will try not to panic, to keep my standard of living modest and to work steadily, even shyly, in the spirit of those medieval carvers who so fondly sculpted the undersides of choir seats."

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC
Visitor



A Lasallian Education – **Building the Church of God** –

The France of the “Splendid Century” in which St. John Baptist de La Salle lived was a time of religious turmoil. For their Jansenist and Gallican ideas led some people to deny certain Catholic teachings or to foster false ideas regarding authority in the Church. At the same time the lives of other Baptized people contradicted its moral teachings. Aware of this situation the Founder cautioned against these religious errors while calling on his religious sons to oppose them by working to build up the true Church of Jesus Christ (*Meditations [M]*: 5.1,2).

He stressed that they could and should build up the Church by following and spreading the ideas and teachings of Jesus Christ (*M*: 161.3; 205.3). This they could do through the catechism lessons they gave their students (*M*: 200.1). Because of the need for this task and the results it can achieve, he considered this work one of the most important and necessary in the Church. And while carrying out this apostolate, they should see themselves as performing a task preferred by many early holy bishops as well as the Apostles and Jesus Christ himself. As such, he said, it is the foundation and support of all the good done by the Church (*M*: 155.1; 191.1, 2, 3).

At the same time he tried to develop among his disciples a frame of mind he saw as basic to their apostolate. He told them they should regard the Church as their mother with whom they should be united in every way and submissive to all its decisions regarding religion, accepting them without any question (*M*: 106.1). They were to see the Pope as the Vicar of Christ and be attentive to and respect all his decisions. Likewise they would obey and follow the lead of those bishops united with the Pope in whose dioceses they exercised their apostolate (*M*: 106.2, 3).

Then his religious sons could build up the Church by teaching their pupils the doctrine of Jesus Christ and leading them to live by its precepts (*M*: 120.1; 160.3). But to do this required that they know their religion well so as to be able to share its teachings with the young people confided to their care (*M*: 116.2; 166.2; 171.3)

Next they had to reject any false doctrines and worldly views so that these would not affect their conduct in any way. Guided by faith they will do their task with a great zeal that will lead them to do their work as well as possible. Also this will influence their total conduct so that they will be models of the Christian truths they share with their students, teaching them by example as much as by their words (*M* 60.1; 139.2; 79.3; 81.3).

Because of his important role in building the Church a Brother would have to render an account to God as to how well he has done this. It will cover many points, such as how well he has taught his students their faith and how much his efforts have influenced their lives (*M*: 61.2, 3). If he has done these things well, though, he will have a reward even in this life, the satisfaction of seeing the good and pious lives of his former students (*M*: 207.3).

Like everyone else La Salle did not escape being influenced by the time and the society in which he lived. So some of his teachings are an *ad hoc* response to an *ad hoc* situation that no longer exists and so seem irrelevant to us today. However the need to build the Church of Jesus Christ persists even in the face of new and different problems and difficulties. This being so, every Lasallian educator should be a faithful Christian who lives the faith and teaches it to his students by her or his life and his choices in all situations. Then she or he is a catechist in the fullest sense of this term and responding to this call of La Salle to build up the Church of God.

Brother Gregory Wright, FSC

St. Michael's High School Community Santa Fe, New Mexico

With the holiday season, December is always an eventful month. This year it was even more eventful as the Community hosted the Directors for their meeting on 9 December, then the District Council the next day. From **Bro. Director's** verbal report, the Directors' Meeting went very well, and comments from members of the District Council indicated that their meeting was a success also. Of course, those events did not overshadow the 87th birthday of **Bro. Titus** whose requested dinner menu was spaghetti, rye bread, and orange cake – there's no accounting for tastes! Fortunately, our cook was more than equal to the task of providing his request. **Bro. Paul**, his classmate, provided a sign for his place in the dining room indicating that he was "Aged to Perfection." **Brothers Martin, Joe, and Vincent**, who usually help him, seemed not so certain about that.

As they had done last year, **Marigene Ficke** and her group of Lasallian Youth had planned to bring *Las Posadas* to the Brothers along with Christmas carols by the choir directed by **Debbie Chavez**. However, a minor snow storm coupled with cold weather made roads dangerously icy, so school was cancelled as was the event. Fortunately, the weather cleared up in time for the group to hold its Christmas party for youngsters and their Big Brothers/Big Sisters the following Sunday. The choir also performed at the band concert which **Bro. George** attended, and **Bro. André** attended the annual Christmas party for young children at the Elk's.

As they did last year, the faculty and staff had their Christmas gathering with the Brothers. Some 70 to 80 were able to attend after classes ended on Friday, 16 December, and we were the beneficiaries of residual barbecue, squash casserole, cakes, and wine. So we were provisioned for some days during the holiday season. In addition, numerous friends have been generous with gifts to us. **Bro. Benedict** cared for the gift for the lawyer who has provided *pro bono* service for us, and **Bro. Director** is assuring all who sent us goodies are appropriately thanked.

Bro. Steve was away from 13-17 December because he had to travel to Denver to see the specialists about how he is handling the Lou Gehrig's disease they diagnosed some months ago. His brother, **Ray**, accompanied him on the trip. He returned encouraged by the kind of treatment he was given and now sports a striking walking stick to help him get around more easily.

December 18 was the Community's Advent recollection day which included the Brothers discussing the materials informally as well as praying together. The event served as a nice prelude to Christmas.

Several Brothers traveled for the holidays. **Bro. Joe** went to New Jersey to be with his parents and brother for his dad's 92nd birthday and the holidays. **Bro. Martin**, after some chagrin about the cost of air fare, went to visit his family in Texas, and thanks to the technological expertise of a niece, was able to find a ticket at a reasonable price. **Bro. Fred** traveled to Los Alamos for one granddaughter's basketball game then to Albuquerque for another's – on the same day! He also spent some time with both branches of the family over the holidays. **Bro. Steve** spent several days with his brother and family in Albuquerque. For the first time in 32 years, **Bro. Director** did not visit family in Alamogordo because they were in San Antonio visiting his niece and her family. Fortunately, he had been able to see them for Thanksgiving.

The windows along the corridor to the dining room and in the dining and living rooms are the winter home for a wealth of plants which **Bro. Benildus** brought in from the cold. Some which he had pruned back severely are evidently very happy as they have exploded into growth. The seed pods of one oleander have also exploded to show fuzzy brown seeds. Unfortunately, aphid and mealy bug populations have also exploded and are creating pest control problems.

The Monday before Christmas brought a "serious" snow for the first time in a long time, so we had a White Christmas and the temperatures moderated for the holiday which was peaceful and quiet as befits the feast. Now we anticipate the New Year. Our best wishes to all for 2012!

A Birthday Prayer



May God hold you in His arms and shelter you from harm.

May God grant you peace beyond human understanding.

May God give you love to warm your heart.

May God fill your life with joy.

Happy Birthday

Bro. Steve Armenta - 4

Bro. Gregory Wright - 5

Bro. William Hughes - 13

Bro. Bosco Truong - 31

The New Year

Dear Lord,

In the New Year, we pray that You will guide us each new day in paths that are pleasing to You. Lord, the New Year gives us another chance

to rededicate our lives to You, to study Your Word so that we know right from wrong and to act in accordance with Your commands.

Thank You for the sense of direction, purpose and peace we get from aligning our lives with Your Holy will.

We pray for the strength and the will to obey You each and every day of the New Year, and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy, Your compassion, Your grace and Your love.

Help us in the New Year to be Your faithful servants.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Prayer Requests

****For the repose of the soul of **Brother Edwin Grillet, FSC, 97**, who passed away December 29, 2011 at St. Tammany Hospital in Covington, Louisiana.

****For the repose of the soul of **Brother Leonardo Leduc, FSC, 83**, who passed away December 22, 2011 in Canada.

**** For health and wholeness for Brother Sam Martinez, who lives at Rosewood Retirement Community in Lafayette and is a member of the Holy Family Community.

**** For health and wholeness for Brother Del Harris, who lives at Maison de Lafayette and is a member of the Holy Family Community.

****For the safety and protection of our service men and women everywhere.

****For the elder Brothers of the District.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER INTENTIONS:

Victims of Natural Disasters: That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.

Dedication to Peace: That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.

Necrology:

- January 01, 2006 – Esperanza Acevedo, AFSC (Santa Fe, NM)
- January 01, 1882 – Miss Catherine Aitkens, AFSC (New Orleans, LA)
- January 01, 1933 – Brother Chrysologue Victor, FSC (France)
- January 02, 1999 – Brother Gabriel Daigle, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 03, 1999 – Brother John Young, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 03, 2006 – Brother Edward DeReyna, FSC (Santa Fe, NM)
- January 05, 1927 – Brother Diego Tomas Ortiz, FSC (Las Vegas, NM)
- January 05, 1997 – Brother Melville Bock, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 07, 2001 – Brother Joseph Walsh, FSC (El Paso, TX)
- January 07, 1970 – Brother Nanthier Prosper Alle, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 09, 1940 – Brother Barnabé de Jesus Noüet, FSC (Covington, LA)
- January 09, 1955 – Brother Celsien Abel Kerhoas, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 09, 1986 – Mr. Richard McCloskey, AFSC (Franklin, LA)
- January 10, 1984 – Brother N. John Meynadier, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 10, 2002 – Mr. Howard Jenkins, AFSC (New Orleans, LA)
- January 14, 2001 – Brother Abel Barba, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 15, 2009 – Brother Ernest LeBlanc, FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 19, 1979 – Brother Louis Beaud (Amable), FSC (Lafayette, LA)
- January 20, 1963 – Brother Bertaud Victor Boussuge, FSC (France)
- January 20, 1981 – Brother Adrian Pfarr, FSC (Denver, CO)
- January 22, 1969 – Brother Néon Trémoliere, FSC (France)
- January 23, 1984 – Brother Nicolaus-Marie Tuzet, FSC (France)
- January 24, 1981 – Mrs. Leo B. Baltz, AFSC (Albuquerque, NM)
- January 26, 1991 – Mr. Richard Krannawitter, Benefactor, AFSC (Albuquerque, NM)
- January 26, 2000 – Brother Daniel Ortiz, FSC (Santa Fe, NM)
- January 27, 1968 – Brother Ignacio Tapia, FSC (Mexico)
- January 27, 1983 – Brother Adolfo-Abel Péchaire, FSC (France)

Brothers' Birthdays:

- January 4, 1940 – Steve Armenta
- January 5, 1928 – Gregory Wright

- January 13, 1942 – William Hughes
- January 31, 1949 – Bosco Truong