



March 2018

Vatican to hear cause for beatification

The Vatican will formally hear the cause for the beatification of **Brother James (Santiago) Miller** on March 20, 2018. An American missionary, Brother James was killed in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, on February 13, 1982. The cause for beatification was undertaken by the Diocese of Huehuetenango in 2009 and received the Decree of Validity in Rome in July 2010, when he was designated a Servant of God and a martyr for the faith. Because Brother James is considered a martyr, a miracle is not necessary for his beatification, but will be necessary for canonization, or the full declaration of sainthood. The theological commission composed of nine theologians will meet to consider the case. Depending on the verdict, the case will then either be sent to the commission of cardinals for review or will be returned to **Brother Rodolfo Meoli**, Postulator General of the Institute, for clarification. Brother Rodolfo foresees no theological issues, but he cautions that one never knows.

Balloting for the next Visitor will start

In April the Midwest District will begin the process of nominating candidates for the next Visitor for a four year term. The obedience from the Superior General for **Brother Larry Schatz** ends on June 30, 2019. The District needs to complete the process of providing names to Brother Superior so he can make a timely appointment for the four-year term that begins on July 1, 2019 and ends on June 30, 2023. The procedures include community affirmation discussions, a nomination ballot, a discernment time, the meeting of the candidates with the District Council and the Lasallian Mission Council and the Brothers who attend District Day, and a final ballot. The final sealed ballots are due to be sent to Rome to **Brother Robert Schieler** in October this year.

Brother Bernard Rapp lecture series was announced



On January 30th at a retirement celebration for **Brother Bernard Rapp, Dr. Kurt Schackmuth**, Vice President for Mission and Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs at Lewis University, announced the establishment of the Brother Bernard Rapp, FSC, Lecture on Faith and Science. Brother Bernard retired after 45 years of service to the university – twenty-seven as a professor in the sciences and eighteen as University Archivist. The annual lecture will be coordinated by the Office of Mission and Identity in collaboration with faculty members from the sciences, theology and other departments and will be supported by the Cumbee Catholic Scholars Initiative. The lectures will bring to campus scholars who will explore the dynamic harmony and tensions of the Catholic faith and the scientific disciplines. Grounded in the university's mission values of knowledge, wisdom and fidelity, the new lecture series will promote dialogue, exploration and discovery while shedding light on the mysteries of the human spirit. The first lecture will occur in the fall 2018 semester.

Three Brothers leave for Rome in March

Brothers Larry Schatz, Michael Kadow and Bede Baldry will depart for Rome in early March and will return later in the month. They will be attending the Intercapitular Meeting from March 4th to March 18th in preparation for the General Chapter of 2021. In their absence, contact the appropriate office in Burr Ridge with any questions. **Brother Joseph Saurbier** will handle any significant matters in their absence.

Mission Congress will be this summer

This summer the Midwest District will host Mission Congress III from July 18-20 at Lewis University. At its meeting in early January, the Lasallian Mission Council (LMC) met for one day to develop the schedule and process. In the planning process the LMC is seeking to deliver three directional statements that will act as a framework for the next Visitor who begins his term in July 2019. **Scott Kier, Brother Chuck Gregor, Brother Chris Englert, Sue Skinner** (Benilde-St Margaret School), and **Ann Merchlewitz** (SMUMN) are members of the Committee responsible for planning the Mission Congress. Participants at the Congress will include the District Council, the Lasallian Mission Council, and one person from every ministry in the District. Invitations to the chief administrator at each ministry were sent in February. Additionally, the LMC has developed a survey for all members of the District that will help form the planning process.

Spring into Action begins in March



The 7th annual “Spring into Action” is March 15th to April 30th. Sponsored by the Regional Council of Young Lasallians (RCYL), “Spring into Action” is an initiative that highlights service that occurs within the Lasallian ministries. It also calls for Lasallians to join together by participating in a volunteer or service activity and sharing that experience with others through pictures and social media. “Spring into Action” was created in response to a call to action found in Circular 461: *Associated for the Lasallian Mission ... an act of HOPE.*

Brother died in Romania

Brother Marcelin (Victor Magui) died in Romania on January 22nd at the age of 95. With his Brothers and numerous other religious and priests, he spent years in the prison camps of his country doing forced labor, and when he died he was the last surviving Brother from that period. Under the communist regime, he was twice deprived of his liberty. The first occasion was from 1950 to 1952 in the prison of Bicaz, when he was obliged to do forced labor in the construction of the Danube-Black Sea canal. The second occasion was from 1959 to 1964, when he was deported to the inhospitable region of Baragan (southeast Romania) where he was confined to house arrest in the town of Viisoara (Ialomita). After the general amnesty for political prisoners in 1964 Brother Marcelin was able to return to Bucharest where he found work as an organist and did pastoral work as a catechist in the Romanian-Catholic parish of Popești-Leordeni up until 1983 when he asked to retire.

Happy Birthday Brother!

This feature supports a Brother in Skilled Care. Send a card or letter; make a visit or a phone call.

- **Brother Finbar McMullen** will celebrate his 94th birthday on March 4. Catholic Eldercare River Village East, 2919 Randolph St. NE, #323, Minneapolis, MN 55418 – cell (507) 313-4223.

Directory Changes

- **Brother Charles Burke** – Lake Winona Manor, 865 Mankato Ave., Room 111, Winona, MN 55987. Phone: (507) 474-5611.

New CIL program was completed

A new session of CIL was held in Rome with the title of “Leadership and fraternal accompaniment for a renewed and revitalized community life.” A group of forty-one Brothers and five Sisters met to discuss the type of leadership needed in religious communities today and in the future. Three weeks of the program were in Rome, and then there were ten days of pilgrimage in France to reflect and pray at Lasallian places of interest. The participants are in positions of leadership in their Districts/Sectors and communities or are preparing to become so. Half the group spoke English, 30% Spanish and 20% French. The participants came from various countries in the five Regions of the Institute. The youngest participant was 31; the oldest was 82.

Praesidium team will visit the District



Praesidium, an independent organization, is the national leader in abuse risk management. Its mission is to create safe environments that protect the children, the elderly or vulnerable adults from abuse and also environments that protect employees, volunteers, religious and clergy from false allegations of abuse. In 2015 the Brothers of the Midwest District were found to be in compliance with the highest standards for protecting children, and the District was approved for its second three year accreditation. During the week of May 21, 2018 an independent team of specialists from Praesidium

will audit the Midwest District to ensure that it remains in compliance with the highest national standards. The team members will thoroughly review the files and records of the Midwest District, interview administrators and formation personnel, and visit several communities to meet the Brothers. The Brothers have already completed three online required courses and signed an acknowledgement form that they have read and understood the revised 2018 policy booklet for the Midwest District. Once the audit and visits are completed, the Midwest District anticipates accreditation for five years.

Saint Mary's Press released a study on disaffiliation

Saint Mary's Press in Winona, MN, has released *Going, Going, Gone! The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics*. The two-year national study, done in collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, examines why young people are leaving the Catholic Church and shares their reasons in their own voices. The report revealed that disaffiliation is a process that happens over time, typically prompted by a series of events or unresolved questions. Of those surveyed, 35 percent identified as having no religious affiliation, nine percent said they are some other non-Protestant Christian affiliation, 14 percent identified as an atheist or agnostic, nine percent identified as Protestant, and fewer than one in ten of the remaining responded with some other religious affiliation. When asked at what age they no longer identified themselves as Catholic, 74 percent of the sample said between the ages of 10 and 20, with the median age being 13 years old. To release the study and start a discussion, Saint Mary's Press hosted a symposium January 16-18 at the Maritime Conference Center near Baltimore, MD. It started with a discussion about the findings that included more than two hundred participants. Two days of discussion with nearly 65 national leaders in the Catholic Church followed the symposium. **Brother Timothy Coldwell**, General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America, gave the closing address, in which he reflected on the days of discussion through the lens of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. He spoke about darkness and how students need educators to walk with them in their darkness.

LVs midyear retreat was in New York



The 2017-2018 Lasallian Volunteers (LVs) gathered for the annual Midyear Retreat from January 12-15 in Brant Lake, NY. The weekend was facilitated by **Maryann Donohue-Lynch**, associate executive director for Mission and Ministry for DENA and **Chris Trinidad**, campus minister at De La Salle High School in Concord, CA. Lasallians from across the Lasallian Region of North America joined the volunteers and staff for the weekend, including **Karin McClelland**, LV 90-92, **Brother Tom Sullivan**, **Brother Ed Phelan**, **Brother Ralph Bucci**, and **Chris Swain**, LV 04-06. The theme for the weekend, “In Winter Silence: We Listen,” contrasted nicely with the snow and chilly weather that greeted the LVs Saturday morning. Donohue-Lynch and Trinidad weaved into their time with the LVs opportunities for written reflection, creativity, dreaming of the future, sharing their vulnerability, and reflections on ways they can grow in the second half of their service year. This year’s cohort of thirty-four Lasallian Volunteers will gather one more time as a group for the LV Debriefing Retreat at the end of May.

Rest in Peace

- **Brother Thomas Scanlan**, 72, of DENA died February 4th at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, New Jersey. Brother Thomas served as president of Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY, from 1987 to 2009. He also served as the second vice chancellor of Bethlehem University in Palestine from 1982 to 1986 and was on the founding board of the Bethlehem University Foundation. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 10th at the chapel of the Brothers at Manhattan College. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, NY.
- **Harold Heppe**, 86, brother of **Brother Ralph**, died on February 17th in Jackson, WI. He was unmarried. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on April 20th at St. Peter Catholic Church in Slinger, WI. Interment will follow at the New St. Peter Cemetery in Slinger.