

NEWSLETTER



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MAJOR SUPERIORS MEET IN CUBA

The Piarist Major Superiors of the American Demarcations have met with both Fr. General and Fr. General Assistant for the Americas from February 17-28 in Havana, Cuba

The meeting's special guest speaker was the Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Card. Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, who delivered three enlightening messages about spiritual life, ministry and pluralism in Aparecida. Fr. Rodolfo Robert, the Vice-Provincial of Central America, delivered an address on the Social Reality in America, and Fr. Pedro Lasheras, Provincial Vicar of Bolivia, presented his own perspective about Aparecida.

Cardenal Jaime Ortega of Havana paid a visit to the Fathers, sharing with them his experiences working with the Piarists, and Fr. Ramon Rivas S.J., offered a talk about the Cuban reality.

The meeting was enriching for all the participants. They had the opportunity to visit



The Piarist Major Superiors of America, with Card. O.R. Maradiaga

the Piarist ministries in the Island, and to learn a little about our history there.

The Superiors concentrated on three topics: The Needs of the American Reality Today, and our response to them; Religious and Laity; the need of an "Observatory" of our reality, that could be established in our University of Veracruz.

There is no doubt that the present reality of Cuba is a challenge to us, Piarists, who have been present in this country for 150 years, educating eight generations of Cubans. But the challenge is more than Cuban: the whole Continent is asking us for a creative presence in many fields, while always remaining faithful to the intuitions of our Founder, St. Joseph Calasanz.

FR. PROVINCIAL'S CORNER

Dear brethren,

We are busy trying to address three different dimensions in our Piarist ministry:

The Province. 6 priorities of our Provincial plan: First, community life. Second, seminarians. Third, to stabilize the financial situation of the Province. Fourth, care for the older members of our province. Fifth, the Laity. Six, to cooperate with the North American sector.

We are working on these 6 priorities and we expect further development in each of them.

The Nord American Sector: Mexico, Californias, Puerto Rico and the

USA.

We are cooperating with each other in the formation of our seminarians. Novitiate in Mexico, Philosophy in Puerto Rico and we are studying the possibility for an English theology in the USA. A further development towards a restructuration is also in process.

The Order. We participated in the Council of the Major Superiors and in the Meeting of the Major Superiors of America. These are the forums where the reality of our ministry is evaluated and decisions are taken to meet the different challenges of our present and future times.

We are preparing for our General Chapter in July 1-25, 2009. The main theme of the Chapter will be our ministry.

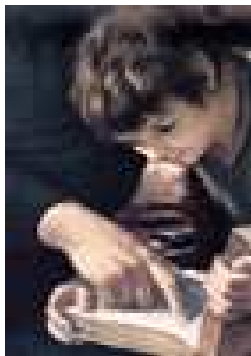
Please keep all three dimensions in mind and pray that we would be able to be efficient in the service of our children and youth as we try to maximize our strengths and talents in their service throughout the world.

Brotherly yours,

Mario Vizcaino, Provincial.



MIAMI NEWS



The construction of our formation house is progressing. During the month of February the concrete roof was laid. The foundations will allow to add a second floor when the need arises and the proper permission be granted.

Fr. Fernando Guillen visited us



Piarist Father Fernando Guillen, who teaches theology in Manila, has resided for one and a half months in Washington, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and New York. He was making some research for his theological courses, during his sabbatical.

He spoke to the Miami and Fort Lauderdale communities and shared some ideas about Hispanic Ministry in the USA: "We can

imagine that the intensive pastoral of preserving and fostering their Catholic faith, through a specific Hispanic style, can be seen as provisional. Like the other migrants in past centuries, the new Hispanic generations shall become more and more American, even if they keep the flavor of the ancient roots", he said.

"The voice of God is a voice of the spirit that goes and comes, touches the heart and goes away. One does not know where it comes from or when it blows; the very important thing is to be always vigilant so that it would not come unexpectedly and might pass without fruit!"

St. Joseph Calasanz, 1622

VOCATION STORIES

I am Jesus Garcia, from Totonicapan, Guatemala. I would like to share the story of my vocation. When I was six years old, I liked to imagine that I would become a priest. When I said to my parents: "One day I will become a Father", they answered me: "Yes, the father of your children".

Now I can see that my dream is becoming a reality, and I can see God's plan for me. After I arrived in this country, in 1999, I frequented a parish, and immediately I felt the need to serve people. I became an active member of the community, as a youth leader and a catechist, as well as serving in other ministries.

I realized that by serving in the church I could feel the presence of God more

deeply. It was by sharing the problems and the sorrows of people that I first noticed inside me the call to become a priest. One day I shared these feeling with one of the priests, and he encouraged me to follow my call. I spoke with a friend who was a seminarian in a religious congregation, and he explained the charism of his community to me and invited me to a vocational retreat. I accepted the invitation, and I identified myself with the charism of the congregation. I appreciated the idea of living a religious life and of working in the ministry of education.

After the retreat I prayed and tried to discern what was the will of God for me. And I understood that it was to join that religious order, and so I made the decision to dedicate my life to God and to enter a



process of formation that has already lasted for almost two years, in order to become a priest. I don't know if I will reach my goal, but I hope and pray that God will help me. So far He never has abandoned me, and I don't regret leaving everything to follow Him. I now feel so close to Him and can feel Him walking with me every day. I feel so very happy. My pastoral ministry on Saturday gives me joy and hope that maybe one day may dream of becoming a priest will come true.

DEVON NEWS

Devon Prep sent 189 students as well as faculty and staff to the annual January Right To Life March in Washington, DC. This number tied the record for the most number of students from Devon Prep to attend the annual rally.

The annual Spring Tide fundraiser was held in the old mansion building, called Calasanctius Hall. Over 300 people attended the annual event, which was held on Saturday, March 15. The theme of this year's event was Devon Prep: The

Eighth Wonder of the World. Spring Tide is the principle fundraiser of the year.

The Devon Prep Mock Trial Team is this year's Southeast Pennsylvania Champions. The team will compete in the state finals at the end of March. It is the second time the School has won the regional championship. The last time was seven years ago. Br. Javier Vanegas, Sch.P. will receive the Ministry of Lector at 10 am on Saturday, April 26 at St. Charles Seminary in Over-



brook. Rev. Louis Mesko, Sch.P. will celebrate his 97th birthday on April 23rd. Father Mesko is the last surviving founder of Devon Prep, and he is one of the original Piarists who came to the United States to establish the Piarist Fathers.

KENTUCKY NEWS

Senior Caleb Hoskins is the 2008 Kentucky High School Basketball Leading Scorer as well as the state's number six rebounder. The six-foot, four-inch player has many different floor shots and can play any position. Hoskins averages 27.4 points and 10 rebounds per game. He is The Piarist School's all-time leading scorer and the third Knight to score over 1,000 points in his high school career. Hoskins scored 35 points in his final game.

The Science Olympiad team continued its ten-year streak of placing among the top three teams in the region.

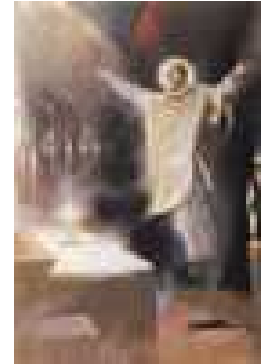
Senior Caleb Hoskins and junior Taylor Moak led the team to a second place finish.

The Piarist School aired a sixty-second television commercial which featured several students on the local CBS affiliate to advertise for its March entrance examination. It was the first time the school as tried television advertising.

The Academic Team won its fourth straight district championship. Junior Elizabeth Davis placed first in Arts and Humanities and fourth in Language Arts.



Prof. Basil Clark, the drama teacher at Pikeville College, performed three dramatic monologues for the Piarist School students and faculty on Friday, March 8 in the School library. He performed costumed monologues in the characters of Dr. Thomas Walker, the founder of coal in eastern Kentucky, president Ulysses S Grant, and Barabbas (*in the picture*).



FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS

When Cardinal Gibbons High School opened in 1961, there were two classroom buildings. There are now seven classroom buildings, a chapel, a gymnasium and a cafeteria. With parking areas, tennis courts and athletics fields, there is simply no more room to build. As a result, when the demand for additional classroom space arose, there was one solution - build upward. In the first phase of the project, the science and library building, which was the only one story building on campus, was renovated. During the past year, a second story has been added, complete with eight additional classrooms. The teachers and students look forward to using the new facility soon.

In March, Brother Gilberto and Brother Igor visited our Fort Lauderdale community from our formation house in Miami. They spent the day visiting the theol-



ogy classes of Father Oscar Alonso. They spoke to our students about their vocation as a Piarist. We hope that such vocation talks will become a regular event for our seminarians and our students.

Also in March, Father Fernando Guillen visited our Fort Lauderdale community from our Philippines Vice-Province. He has been on a sabbatical for the past few

months. During his recent visit, he met with the community and gave us some thoughts for the season of Lent. He also described his recent experiences in both Philippines and Cameroon. On the following day, he met the theology students of Father Oscar Alonso and spoke to them regarding his past work. It was really a pleasure for us and our students to meet with Father Guillen.

COLLABORATION SEPI- UCC VERACRUZ



The Southeast pastoral Institute (SEPI) and the Universidad Cristobal Colon (UCC) of Veracruz, Mexico, have begun a project of academic collaboration, as a way to foster a deeper sense of Sector among the Piarist institutions in North America. With the help of the UCC server and technology, SEPI is offering some on-line courses (see SEPI web

page), and both institutions will collaborate in preparing a Calasanzian Formation program on line.

UCC will also host the missionaries of SEPI-Piarist Latin Mission for two days, in July.

We wish them a fruitful work together.

"I would like you to become a perfect religious, but to reach it is necessary to get a holy simplicity and detachment from all things, even from oneself, and very few know how to do that and I would like you would know to do it. Pray to the Lord for me and may He bless you always"

St. Joseph Calasanz

1627

The
PIARIST FATHERS USA
PROVINCE

NEWSLETTER

Is the official Bulletin of the Piarist USA Province. If you or anyone else wishes to receive it , let us know by sending an e-mail.

You can also view it on the

web at

[http://www.piaristusa.org/
newsletter](http://www.piaristusa.org/newsletter)

Editor: Fr. Jose P. Burgues

Currently the Development Team is working on the **Adopt A Seminarian** project. The idea is to help defray the considerable costs for our current 18 seminarians. Through the financial generosity of our relatives, friends, co-workers and alumni, we hope to be successful. For more information on our current seminarians visit the Piarist web page.

The next project on the horizon for the Development Team will involve the 50th anniversary of the Calasanctius school. Stay tuned for details!

(Note from the USA Province Development Office)

50 YEAR AGO... (WE WERE YOUNGER!)

Start with this issue, we will present a series that will remember our past. We hope t it will honor those who participated in it and to inform those who were not yet a part of it.

In 1958 there were 3 communities in the General Delegation of Buffalo:

Derby: Frs. Batori, Gerencser, Mirowski, Naumowicz, Sharvary, Aleksa, Palotai, Kovari, as well as 5 novices (one of them being Geza Pazmany)

Devon: Frs. Senye, Soczowka, Floryan, Magyar, Mesko, Vercek and Divald.

Washington: Frs. Iranyi and Krigler, and Cleric Russo.

Fr. Gerencser paid \$35,700 for a property for Calasanctius School in Buffalo. The school had begun in a provisional building in 1957. At the end of August, they moved in.

In June, the Devon House voted to remodel the former carriage house into a chemistry and biology lab



Cl. R. Russo makes his solemn profession in our Chapel, Derby

and lecture room, at a cost of \$4,000.

On August 25, Cleric Robert Russo made his solemn profession at Derby. He was the first American Piarist to profess solemn vows.

Fr. Palotai organized the annual Summer Camp at Derby. Only 110 places, from 200 available, were filled . That year he introduced sailing as a new activity. The moral success of the camp was affirmed .

FATHER JOSEPH J. KERSHNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Last year was the 450th anniversary of the birth of Saint Joseph Calasanz, the founder of the Piarist Fathers. In celebration of this momentous occasion, the Piarist Fathers in the USA Province are establishing several scholarships honoring the work of retired or deceased fathers who touched the lives of so many individuals in the United States.

The most recently established scholarship is the Reverend Joseph J. Kershner Scholarship Fund. Father Kershner was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1927. He entered the Piarist Fathers' novitiate in Derby, NY in 1959 and was ordained a priest in Rome in 1964. After teaching for one year at Devon Preparatory School, which is owned and operated by the

Piarist Fathers in Pennsylvania, he was transferred to Fort Lauderdale, FL for what was supposed to be one year. Instead, Father Joe served as an administrator and teacher at Cardinal Gibbons High School from 1965 until his retirement in 2002. Father Joe is currently enjoying his free time in the Piarists' community of Fort Lauderdale.

By supporting the Reverend Joseph J. Kershner Scholarship Fund, you will help to ensure that the work of Father Kershner and the Piarist Fathers in the United States Province will continue for many years to come. To find out more information, visit the Development Office link on our web page. <http://www.piaristusa.org/>



Fr. Joseph Kershner, in two different moments of his life