

# NEWSLETTER



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## TOWARDS A MERGER OF THE U.S.A. PROVINCE AND THE NEW YORK-PUERTO RICO VICE-PROVINCE



### FR. PROVINCIAL'S CORNER



#### PIARIST MINISTRY

Piarist Ministry refers to all the pastoral work which we perform in every one of our works throughout the world. The 46th General Chapter will provide the goals and objectives on this topic for the next six year period.

Seven topics involving education will make-up one part of the General Chapter: profile of the Piarist School; education of the poor child; schools in a pastoral setting; non-formal education; religious community and mission; pastoral ministry and expansion of the Order; instruments to improve and evaluate the Piarist quality of our Piarist institutions.

I believe that one of the most exciting topics of the Chapter will be *Schools in a Pastoral Setting*. In other words, how can we position the pastoral dimension as the fundamental value of the school, in such a way that all the school subjects, all the activities, all the processes will become directed towards it?.

May our Lord help us to implement this ideal of our Founder.

Fr. Mario, Provincial

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Following the recommendations from the last General Chapter (2003) and the General Congregation, the U.S.A. Province and the New York-Puerto Rico Vice-Province have begun the process of merging. They will become a single province by the year 2011.

In order to facilitate this process, six Commissions were created. They were

made up of all the members of the two demarcations. They are: Foundational, Religious Life, Ministry, Vocations and Formation, Laity, and Administrative, legal and Financial.

Several meetings had already taken place, and more will follow. In the picture: meeting with the co-chairs of the Commissions in Miami, April 13-15.



*"If you consider the foolish things that take place in your imagination from morning until evening, you ought to be always in the presence of God. You will see that you don't know how to walk two steps without falling, because you have stopped looking toward God, but instead you look with your thoughts or with imagination to man. The one who reaches this point should learn how to keep himself as a two year old child, who without help falls many times, loses confidence in himself and always invokes the help of God"*

**St. Joseph Calasanz, 1628**

**Some dates to remember:**

**Birthdays:**

**June**

- 7: Fr. D. Powers
- 17: Cl. F. Avila

**July**

- 10: Fr. C. Miscalczyk
- 10: Fr. T. Carroll
- 20> Fr. J. Burgues

**August**

- 9: Nov. R. Plata
- 20: Fr. M. Vizcaino
- 27: Fr. J. Callan
- 31: Fr. N. Henao

**MIAMI NEWS A PARTY FOR OUR TEACHERS**



Many friends of our Community in Miami have been helping us since the arrival of the first seminarians in 2002. They volunteer as teachers to help our postulants prepare their GED

exam. Without their help it would be very hard for our candidates to be ready for their priestly and religious studies.

At the end of the 2008-2009 school year and before our

postulants went away for vacation, we prepared a simple party to express our gratitude to our teachers. It was a rainy day, but the covered corridor in our new residence provided enough room to celebrate the party, as you can see in the picture.

**Four new Novices**

After completing their pre-novitiate formation, four of our seminarians have been accepted to the Novitiate: Norberto Melgarejo, Ruben Plata, Edgar Perez and Jose Mendez. They will go to Celaya in Mexico, where they will join other novices from our North-American Sector.

Our current novices Martin Elpidio and Isaac Almanza are close to the end of their formation in Celaya, and they will make their First Profession in July.

We congratulate all of them and pray for them as they continue their religious formation.

**VOCATION STORIES**

My name is Norberto, and I'm originally from the state of San Luis Potosi in Mexico. I arrived to the United States thirteen years ago. My thoughts at that time were just like the thoughts of many others those days: to work hard and to help my family.

It was difficult for me to adapt in the beginning. I started to stop taking care of many aspects of my life, and that led me to make many mistakes. My

family had to face many problems before I was able to realize how misled I was. Materialism, licentiousness and ignorance made me blind for a long period.

In 2003 a friend of mine invited me to have a retreat called "Experience with Christ". This event had a great impact in my life, for I found the love of God in that experience.

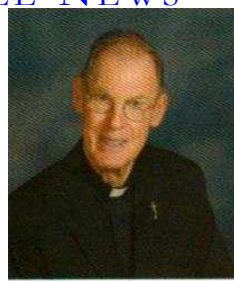
Now I am 32 years old, an adult with experiences from my past life in this country, and I am following



Jesus footsteps. After that, I made a vocation retreat in Miami, and it largely helped me to find the calling of God in my life. Analyzing my real situation and listening to a voice deep inside myself, I decided to say "yes" to God and to enter the seminary. Better late than never.

**FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS**

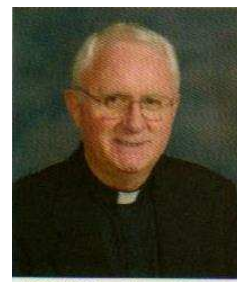
On November 25 our Provincial, Father Mario Vizcaino, visited our community of Fort Lauderdale to honor two long-time friends of the Piarist Fathers. He awarded Monsignor Frederick Brice and Monsignor Vincent Kelly with a Letter of Fraternity. This document, signed by our Superior General, recognizes those who demonstrate extraordinary kindness and generosity to the Piarist Fathers and our ministry. Monsignor Frederick Brice is the Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Lighthouse Point. He has been a very good friend and co-worker of Father Oscar Alonso since 1979. He holds fund raisers all year to



BRICE, Rev. Msgr. Frederick

support education. Proceeds are used to help pay the tuition of students to Cardinal Gibbons High School and other local area Catholic schools.

Monsignor Vincent Kelly is a



KELLY, Rev. Msgr. Vincent

former teacher at Cardinal Gibbons High School. He is the Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Vicar of Christian Formation for the Archdiocese of Miami and he is now Supervising Principal of Cardinal Gibbons High School and St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

## KENTUCKY NEWS

The Piarist School held its 16<sup>th</sup> commencement on May 30 at the Jenny Wiley Lodge. Area artist and art instructor Duna Combs was the graduation speaker. Seniors Taylor Moak and Elizabeth Davis were co-valedictorians. Seven students graduated, and all received significant scholarships, most of them full-tuition scholarships. Two seniors completed their senior year in Beijing, China.

The junior drama class presented *Mythical Mayhem* on May 18. Junior Amber Wireman wrote the original script. She described the plot as "Ima and lalby go on a search for the truth behind their favorite book."

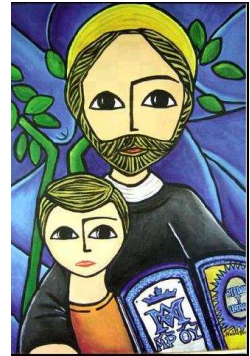
Juniors Emily Bryant and Amber Wireman were named 2009 Kentucky Governor's Scholars, which is a summer enrichment program for the best high school juniors in the Commonwealth. Sophomore Harmeet Bhgrath was named as the school's outstanding sophomore and a member of the "Class of Kentucky," which recognizes the best sophomores in the Commonwealth.

For the fifth consecutive year, the School's Academic team placed first in the 57<sup>th</sup> District as part of the Governor's Cup competition. Elizabeth Davis placed third in the State in Language Arts. The team



placed fourth in the State in the All A Academic Challenge, and the Science Olympiad Team won its third regional championship.

The Piarist School announced that it will open a new Middle School program consisting of a seventh and eighth grade beginning in the fall of 2009. Principal Rev. Thomas Carroll, Sch.P. said that the desire for a good middle school program in the area was so great the Piarist Fathers felt compelled to meet that urgent need.



*"To begin religious life in the proper way, everyone should compete to see who is the most humble person, since the trophy of the race will be given only to the humble on the occasion when they will be exalted for being humble in this life. This road is very much contrary to our senses, and it is said that it is a narrow road and that only a few find it. You should insist very much in this point, that will be very useful for the novices and therefore for the Order, since the rest of the religious life depends on the progress made in the novitiate, being certain that those who start, have already half of it".*

**St. Joseph Calasanz, 1630**

## PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENT



Fr. Provincial has appointed Humberto Prieto, a Piarist alumnus from Cuba and a resident in Miami, to represent the Laity in our Province. Thanks, Humberto, and good work.

## DEVON NEWS



May 30, 2009: Fr. Ferdinand Negrillos is about to enjoy his cake... Happy 92nd birthday, Fr. Negrillos!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Graduating Class

The Class of 2009 graduated from Devon Preparatory School with the honor of being, the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Graduating Class. Rev. David Powers, Sch. P. presided over the commencement ceremony which took place in the school's athletic facility.

This class of 56 seniors has proven to be an outstanding one with over \$7.1 million in college scholarships and more than 275 acceptances to nearly 100 schools, including 14 Ivy League acceptances from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, Columbia, Dartmouth and the University of Pennsylvania. They also received acceptances from MIT, Johns Hopkins, the U.S. Military Academy, NYU, Tufts and Georgetown among others.

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Our Development Office is just about to complete its second year of operation. Although the economy has had some difficulties this past year, the efforts of our Development Team have done well. Thanks to your generosity, the financial campaign for the formation of our seminarians and for the

care of our retired fathers has already surpassed the campaign from last year. Indeed, many will benefit because of your kindness.

During the upcoming year, our Development Team would like to form a Development Advisory Board, composed of men and women who have

varied life experiences. It is our hope that the members of this board will help us through their special talents to further improve our development efforts. If you are willing to recommend someone, please contact our Development Office for more information.

## Our coming feasts:

**July 15:**

St. Pompilio M. Pirrotti

**August 25:**

St. Joseph Calasanz

## 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>

Editor: Fr. Jose P. Burgues

*"One hundred years from now... it will not matter what your bank account was, the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove... but the world may be different because you were important in the life of a child."*

(Note from the USA Province Development Office)

### Vocational Retreat

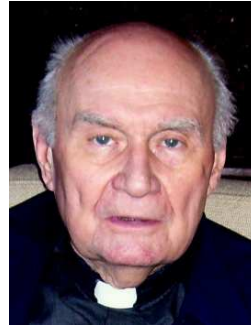
For the Piarist, Youth Is Our Concern. If you think the Lord may be calling you, come to the next vocational retreat November 27-30 at the Southeast Pastoral Institute in Miami, Florida.

## FR. NICHOLAS FODOR, WITH A BIG SMILE, TOLD US GOODBAY

Father Nicholas Fodor was born in Devecser, Veszprem County, Hungary, on September 23, 1925. He had one sister. He studied with the Piarists in Veszprem and in Budapest. Attracted by the example of his Piarist teachers, he decided to become a religious. After finishing his bachelor's degree, he entered the novitiate on August 27, 1943. He made his first profession on August 28, 1944. He did not suffer from the immediate consequences of the war and, therefore, was able to continue studying in Budapest. On June 29, 1948 he professed his solemn vows, and on March 27, 1949 he was ordained a priest.

After the Communist party gained power in Hungary, many religious houses were seized. He had to leave community life, and he had to survive in any way he could. He was a salesman in Budapest from 1950 to 1951, a teacher in a technical school in Hatvan from 1951 to 1956, and a radio and television technician in Budapest from 1956 to 1959. He was allowed to return to religious life in 1959. He initially lived in the seminary of Szeged. He later served the diocese as a priest in several parishes: Kaszaper (1960-61), Csanadapaca (1961-66), Mako (1966-67) and Szeged-Rokus (1967-71).

He became one of the many Hungarian Piarists forced to live outside of a community, the "Diaspora". The Piarists of the United States Vice-



Province invited him to join them in 1971, and he accepted their invitation. He moved to the United States on December 11, 1971 and became an American citizen in 1977.

He studied English for one year in Devon, Pennsylvania from 1971 until 1972. He was then transferred to Buffalo, New York in 1972. He served as a teacher at Calasancius School. He liked to share an anecdote. His English was not very good then and, in addition, he spoke with a strong accent. *"During the first month the pupils complained at home because they did not understand me. But they were clever boys. By the second month not only did they understand me, but the mother of a pupil told me: Father Fodor, you are terrible. My children imitate you when they speak at home, and I cannot understand a word!"*

He had a special desire to learn Japanese. In 1983 he went to Japan and learned enough Japanese so as to return and give

Japanese's lessons at Calasancius School. Richard Hull, who was the Headmaster of the school from 1983 until 1986, wrote of him: *"His linguistic capacity is surprising. I have seen it always as an example for his pupils. He used to teach small groups of pupils, but he was capable of infecting his enthusiasm and passion for the languages even to the youngest classes"*.

Bishop Edward Head of the Diocese of Buffalo appointed him Administrator of Assumption Parish in Lackawanna, New York in 1979. The Piarists closed their community in Buffalo in 1991. He then moved to Derby, while continuing his pastoral service at Assumption. The Piarists closed their community in Derby in 1999. He then moved with Father Kalman Miskolczy to Lackawanna, where they together worked in Assumption Parish. Father Fodor served as the president of their small community. The Piarists closed their community in Lackawanna in 2006. Both Piarists were transferred to Devon. Father Fodor continued offering his pastoral services until he died on February 3, 2009. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. May the Lord give him eternal rest!