

NEWSLETTER



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provinceusa@yahoo.com T.305 279 2333

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OUR GENERAL CHAPTER ELECTS A NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL



Fr. Pedro Aguado, new Piarist Superior General, between Fr. Querol, General Secretary, and Fr. J. Lecea, former S. General

FR. PRO- VINCIAL'S CORNER



A chapter of Hope

The Chapter was very well organized. The agenda was clear, and it offered many opportunities for the participants to express their ideas.

The group of superiors and elected delegates from Central Europe was impressive. They were all below the age of 50 years. Although our ministry in Africa is rather recent, we were joined by a number of native African Piarists. They are all very well educated, and they already occupy positions of responsibility within their regions.

Six pastoral lines of action were approved: the restructuring of our Order, fraternal community life, the evangelizing dimension of our ministry, our vocations ministry, the initial formation of our candidates, and the participation of laity in our charism and mission. The topics were not new, but the way to study them is new.

There was a new spirit of solidarity that surfaced as we discussed the expansion of our Order in Asia. A very serious and responsible spirit developed as we reflected upon the issue of the renewal of our community life. There is hope in our Order, and the 46th General Chapter was an expression of it.

Fr. Mario, Provincial

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The Piarist Fathers held the 46th General Chapter of our religious order from July 1 until July 25 in Peralta de la Sal, Spain, the native town of our Founder, St. Joseph Calasanz.

The main topic of the meeting dealt with our ministry. How can we be faithful to the spirit of Calasanz in our times, when dramatic changes are reshaping the face of our Order in the world?

Seventy-four members of our Order attended. They included Father Mario and Father David, the repre-

sentatives of our United States Province.

Father Pedro Aguado, the superior of our Emaus Province in Spain, was elected the new Superior General for a six-year term. We are looking forward to welcoming him in Miami near the end of November. On that occasion, all of the members of our United States Province and of our New York - Puerto Rico Vice-Province will meet to discuss the eventual merger of the two regions.

We congratulate Father Pedro, and wish him a fruitful time of service.

MIAMI NEWS THE MISSION IN TABASCO



“The Lord ordinarily mortifies those whom he loves as His sons during their lives on Earth. He does this so that He would not have to mortify them in the after life. Since this is true, we must all accept everything that happens to us as coming from the hand of a Father, especially sickness. If we are able to accept it as coming from His hand not only with patience but also with happiness, then we will offer Him a very pleasing sacrifice.”

St. Joseph Calasanz,

**Some dates to remember:
Birthdays:**

September

- 5 Cl. Fidel Mondragon
- 10 Fr. J. Kershner
- 19 Fr. G. Pazmany
- 28 Fr. R. Wyzkiewicz

October

- 6 Nov. Edgar Perez
- 10 Fr. A. Buechele
- 15 Nov. Jose Mendez
- 23 Fr. Ch. Newburn
- 26 Cl. Francisco Lopez



Once again, two teams of missionaries, mostly from Miami and Spain, spent three weeks in Mexico performing missionary service in the Diocese of Tabasco. Father Mario, who was at

our General Chapter in Spain, was unable to make the trip. Father Arnulfo, the new parish priest in Buenavista, welcomed them and, after a Mass, he sent them to minister in four different sections of the parish.

Father Oscar and Father Jose, together with their respective teams, did their best to bring to the people the Word of God and the sacraments. For two weeks they visited around twenty different communities, sharing faith, life and teachings.

As usual, the mission began in the Federal District with a visit and a Mass at Tepeyac, near the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the end of the mission, some of the missionaries went for three days to Merida, Yucatan and visited some ancient Mayan cities, such as Chichen Itza, Uxmal and Kabah. That helped bring a nice conclusion to our mission, since it allowed us to become more acquainted with the Mexican culture.

As you can see in the picture, most of our missionaries are female. Men are also invited to join us for our next mission in July 2010. Think about it.

VOCATION STORIES

My name is José Méndez. I am 22 years old. I was born in Los Angeles, California but spent most of my childhood in Mexico. About 8 years ago, I returned to the United States, leaving behind my family.

Despite the fact that I am an American citizen, I experienced some difficulties with my classmates since I did not speak English. It was not easy for me to adapt to this new culture and way of life.

After a couple of years, I learned to speak English pretty well. My parents eventually immigrated to this country, and I was once again reunited with them. Their arrival

was a very joyful event for me. We started to go to Mass together. Although we attended Mass, we did not have any intentions of serving the church.

My mother became dangerously ill, but she eventually recovered. She was so thankful to the Lord that she started to serve the church. Her example influenced me to join youth groups. From that time on, I started to experiment with God's love in my life in a more authentic form than in the past.

The experience of Christ in my life gave me the strength to serve the church of my parents, and the strength to search deeply into the



truth of our faith. Since then I have felt a deep calling to live the consecrated life. I got into contact with a few religious orders and started to discern my vocation. I joined the Piarists, and after a year in their formation house in Miami, I am now a novice in Celaya, Mexico.

FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS. A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, FL opened its doors for the 49th year on August 17. There are approximately 1,100 boys and girls this year.

There are three Piarists who serve on the faculty. Father Oscar Alonso teaches in the Theology department, and Fathers Charles Newburn and John Callan teach in the Mathematics department.

In addition to their work in the school, the Piarists also assist local parishes on weekends. Father Oscar at St. Paul the Apostle

Church in Lighthouse Point, Father Charles at St. Gabriel Church in Pompano Beach and Father John at St. John the Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale.

Father Joseph Kershner, a long time member of the Fort Lauderdale community, now resides at a Catholic nursing center in North Miami, FL.

For the past few years, the three teaching members of the Fort Lauderdale community celebrated Mass for

the students, teachers and staff at the beginning of each of the three lunch hours. For the most part, attendance at these Masses was low. This year, they will instead celebrate one Mass each morning at 7:15 A.M. They have already noticed a significant increase in the number of daily participants. They soon plan to invite the students, teachers and staff to also join them in the morning prayer of the community before the beginning of the daily Mass.

KENTUCKY NEWS

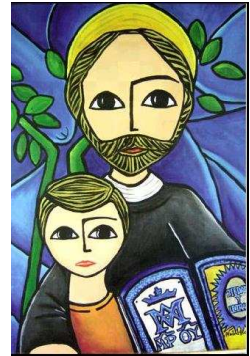
The Piarist School opened its academic year on August 14 with a record number of 72 students, due, in part, to the addition of a middle school program. Principal Rev. Thomas Carroll said that there has long been a need in the area for a college preparatory middle school program, and the Piarist School decided to address that need this year. Three new faculty members were hired for the program: M.J. Meade, Willis Thomas, and Sandra Griffith.

Several parish youth and young adult groups assisted the Outreach Program this summer. A group of 16 young adults from three parishes in Columbus City, Indiana repaired a handicapped ramp, renovated a bathroom, and built a deck on the back of a trailer home. Also, 26 members of the youth program at St. Mary's Big River Parish in River Falls, Wisconsin brought and installed brand new windows and frames in mobile homes in Magoffin County, Ky. The volunteer groups stayed at the Odd Fellows Youth Camp in Pres-



tonsburg, which is managed by Piarist School Outreach director Audrey Collins.

The Piarist School also supplied school supplies this year to over 600 students through public school family resource centers. Fr. Carroll commented, "What fascinates me is the number of requests we get for school supplies from public schools."



"The ways which the Lord uses to guide souls to paradise are both holy and mysterious. They are full of His paternal providence. He never leaves anybody without a cross. In some, however, the senses make cross seem very heavy. With patience, on the other hand, the Spirit makes the cross seem quite smooth. If He gives you health, then He will also give you patience. With these, the Lord will give you not only great merit but also extraordinary consolation."

St. Joseph Calasanz,

Our coming feasts:

September

12: Holy Name of Mary

22: Blessed Dionisio Pamplona and Companions, martyrs

October 16:

Blessed Meter Casani

November 27:

Patronage of Our Holy Founder

DEVON NEWS: ORDINATION OF BR. NELSON



Brother Nelson Henao, Sch.P., was ordained a Deacon on June 12, 2009. The ordaining bishop was Bishop Daniel Thomas, an auxiliary bishop of

the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and the church where Nelson was ordained was Saint Norbert's Parish Church, where Nelson has

been involved and where he continues to be involved in Spanish ministry. Fr. Mario Vizcaino, the Provincial of the USA Province of the Piarist Fathers, concelebrated the Mass of Ordination, as did seven or eight fellow Piarist Fathers. Students from Devon Preparatory School were acolytes/servers at the Mass and some of the Piarist seminarians from New York City and Miami, Florida, were servers. We Piarist Fathers are blessed to have Deacon Nelson ministering this year as a deacon at Devon Preparatory School and at two Parishes, Saint Norbert's and Saint Patrick's Parishes.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

It is no secret that the ministry of the Piarist Fathers greatly depends upon the generosity of our benefactors.

According to the Letter to the Romans, "The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs

with Christ."

If we are heirs to the kingdom of God, should we not work to build up that kingdom? Should we not be good stewards of our inheritance, using our time, talent and treasure to care for the children who God has placed in our care? Our children are a treasured gift from God.

Stewardship is our acknowledgment of God's gifts to us. Please remember the Piarist Fathers in your annual donations, will, trust or insurance plan.

Your generosity allows us to continue our ministry among the youth of the United States.

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/
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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 October 15-18 at SEPI in Miami, Florida.

CALASANCTIUS PREP SCHOOL FIELD TRIP, 1968 – A TENSE ENCOUNTER

The following is an excerpt from an article by Bruce Fisher, Professor at Buffalo State College, and Class of 1971 graduate of Calasancius Preparatory School. The entire article appears on Bruce Fisher's blog: http://fishervariations.blogspot.com/2009_01_11_archive.html

“We were on the ninth-grade field trip. Thirty or so 13- and 14-year-olds, a taciturn Hungarian priest, and a married pair of teachers had ridden a yellow bus down to the Everglades in the spring of 1968. On the day in April 1968 after Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed, we were driving toward a Catholic school in Atlanta on whose gymnasium floor we were planning to sleep, white girls and black girls and Jewish girls on the Mrs. Teacher side of the gym, us heathen savage boys watched over by Father Kovari and Mr. Teacher on our side.

There was trouble in America as we drove north. The city of Atlanta was burning that night, as in a war, but I hadn't ever seen a war, so it was like a movie to me. I thought at first that it was a bunch of slag-pours at a long line of steel plants, because back home in Buffalo, nighttime was when they poured slag onto the ground, right at the shore of the lake, and when we drove home at night to our Yankee clapboard village, we would watch the slag-pours. It was like a lava flow, and there was fire. But it wasn't steel mills in Atlanta. I remember wondering why Father Kovari, who had spent the trip in a t-shirt, was opening up his suitcase and putting his priest collar on as we sat in traffic. There was a line of cars ahead of us, but it wasn't just traffic. We looked out the windows and saw a lot of fire, and it wasn't far away. We were



Fr. Louis Kovari in 1963

being stopped at a made-up roadblock, a couple of cars narrowing the road, by some white men with clubs, men who wanted to come onto the bus to see if we had any Negroes with us. We did.

I didn't really understand what was going on when our chaperone, the Hungarian-born math teacher, bounded out of the bus, speaking sharply in Hungarian to Father Kovari, who shut the door tight behind him. The teacher went outside alone. It didn't go well. He took abuse from the men outside for refusing to let the thugs come up the steps and into the bus itself. It was unpleasant to look out the window and see a man pushing him while other men with clubs or ax-handles stood by. Then the teacher's wife was yelling, too, and kids were moving around in the bus.

Somehow, my pack-rat mother kept my notes about all this. I did not know then all that was going on, but I know now that April 1968 was only a dozen years after the math teacher had done some

street-fighting, in faraway Budapest, when he'd been a schoolboy of 14 or 15, just like me. I know now that our math teacher hadn't battled freckled bullies, but that he had hurled cobblestones at Soviet tanks, and had been shot at by uniformed soldiers who shot other civilians dead, and I know that he'd escaped the police dogs chasing him when he barely outran them at the Austrian border, back in November 1956, after the tanks had crushed the Hungarian Revolution. In Atlanta that night, I knew that he was in a confrontation, and made notes on it. I sensed that he was being brave. Now, in retrospect, I am awed that his bravery was so instantaneous, and so effective: The Negro-hunters didn't get on the bus, because he wouldn't let them. Meanwhile, we kids had followed Father Kovari's instructions, and had hidden Karen, Beverly, Michelle and John under our duffel bags in the center aisle. (The priests of our school were allies of two Righteous Gentiles who made Buffalo their home, Dr. Clara Ambrus, who lived two doors from school, and Tibor Baransky, whose sons went to our school. Those folks got Yad Veshem recognition for hiding Jews from the Nazis.) Luckily, it was dark, late, and hard to see, but we pressed ourselves up against the windows, everybody whispering, wanting to keep those guys from seeing in. Luckily, there were cars behind us. They waved us through. My notes don't record whether we slept on the gym floor that night, or kept driving.”