

NEWSLETTER



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USA PROVINCE AND NEW YORK-PUERTO RICO VICE-PROVINCE ASSEMBLY IN MIAMI



Father Fernando Hernandez, the Assistant General for the Americas, and Father Javier Negro, the Provincial of Aragon in Spain, were also present.

Six commissions met to prepare the goals of the new Province. The commissions are: Vision and Mission, Religious Life, Vocations and Formation, Ministry, Laity and Administration. In the last few sessions, all of the members met and almost unanimously approved all of the proposed goals.

Father Aguado expressed his satisfaction with the way in which both demarcations are working toward a common goal. He believes that a means toward the revitalization of our Order is restructuring. He felt that we are truly working with the right attitude to achieve it.

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Thirty-four members of the Province of the United States and the Vice-Province of New York-Puerto Rico gathered in Miami from the 25th until

the 28th of November.

The purpose of our meeting was to plan for the eventual merger of the two demarcations in 2011. Father Pedro Aguado, the Superior General,



“Fear of the Lord, which is the first step toward true wisdom, demands that one be always very cautious to not do anything contrary to the will of God. Since we are weak by nature, blessed is the one who always maintains that fear. We must all have it and teach it to our students. In addition, if we also live a life of holy poverty, which includes being happy with poor food and clothing, then we will gain great merit for the future life.”

**St. Joseph Calasanz,
1632**

Some dates to remember:

Birthdays:

December

- 6 Cl. N. Zunun (1978)
- 6 Nov. Norberto Me. (1975)
- 13 Cl. J. Vanegas (1971)

January

- 16 Cl. Isaac Almanza (1979)

February

- 20 Fr. Oscar Alonso (1940)
- 23 Cl. Martin Elpidio (1973)

MIAMI NEWS. VOCATIONAL RETREATS



Father Alberto Moreno and the pre-novices are working hard in promoting vocations. In October, they organized a

vocational retreat in Conway, SC. A dozen young men had the opportunity to think about their vocation.

In November, they organized another retreat at our house in Miami. Dr. Gloria Cajiao, a psychologist from Colombia, met each of the perspective candidates and discussed with them the possibility of a religious vocation. Twenty Hispanic youth came from different dioceses in the south eastern United States. They spent three intense days in prayer and discernment. Some of them expressed a desire to join us soon. Others said that they needed a little more time to make a decision. Still others felt that the Lord may be calling them elsewhere.

We are planning to have another vocational retreat in April. Hopefully some of the participants will decide to join us for the upcoming school year. Perhaps you know some young man, who is thinking about his own vocation? Feel free to tell him to contact Father Alberto Moreno. He will take it from there.

VOCATION STORIES. MANUEL

I had the opportunity to attend an “Easter for Youth” (Pascua Juvenil) assembly in the Aztec Stadium of Mexico, with almost one hundred thousand young men and women. I experienced God’s powerful presence, and I silently said to him: “Lord, your will be done, and not mine. If this poor serf can be of some use to you, then here I am. I do not know how, but I want to work for your kingdom.” From that moment on, I became more enthusiastic about serving my neighbor.

In the middle of 2001, thinking about the famous American dream, I immigrated to the United

States. Unfortunately, I also moved away from God for almost two years. Finally, a family invited me to their church. Without thinking twice about it, I accompanied them. I got to know the faith community of Our Lady of the Americas. After two months, I offered myself as a volunteer and worked with the youth group. Later, the parish priest asked me to help with the liturgies. I began feeling that something was lacking in my heart. I began to wonder what that might be. On one occasion, while kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament, I discovered it. I felt that God had finally answered a question, which I had frequently posed to him.



In June 2006, I met some Piarists at a meeting of “The Youth Network” (La Red Juvenil) in Indiana. By November, I began the formal process of discernment. Since August 2007, I have been living with the Piarists in the community of Miami, where I continue my formation process.

FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS

Father John Callan, who is a member of our Fort Lauderdale community, represented our United States Province at a meeting of the treasurers of the thirteen Piarist provinces and vice-provinces in the Americas.

The meeting was held at Christopher Columbus University (Universidad Cristobal Colon) in Veracruz, Mexico from the 9th until the 13th of November. The Piarists opened a community there in 1962 and founded the school, which they own, in 1969. There are four campuses, with about seven thousand students, in grades ranging from pre-kindergarten through the college level. The university recently opened a medical school on its newest campus.

The meeting dealt with two significant issues. First, our General Chapter in July made some changes in our Rules with regard to the administration of finances in our Order. Father Vicente Climent, the Treasurer General, explained the changes to the treasurers.



Second, the major superiors of the hemisphere are in the process of establishing the Calasanz Youth Foundation under the leadership of Miss Martha Elisa Espinosa-Martinez. She explained to the participants that the primary pur-

pose of the foundation is to assist the development office in each region of the hemisphere. Initially, the foundation staff will try to provide training and research in fund-raising for the members of each development team.

KENTUCKY NEWS

The Piarist School has two new faces this year. Stacy Pratt is substituting for Ranetta Howard, who recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Natasha Collins is the first Alumni Director and will assist in the Outreach Ministry.

Collins attended The Piarist School. She holds a BA in Psychology from Pikeville College and will finish her MA from Goddard College in May. She worked for two years as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and assault, and she plans to establish an advocacy resource line as part of the School's Outreach Ministry.

Pratt taught math and science at The Piarist School from 2002-2005 before leaving to deliver her first child. She is now expecting her second child in mid-January. She holds a BA degree in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics from Alice Lloyd College.

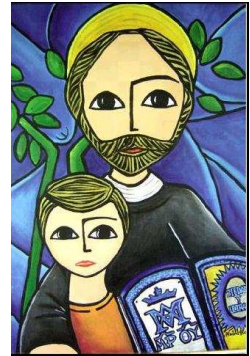
The girl's volleyball team won nine games this season and defeated a public high school



for the first time in district tournament play. They won the Three Rivers Conference and were runner up in the Food City Classic Volleyball Tournament.

The student Y-Club distributed candy to area children at a Safe-Trick-Or-Treat, held at the Prestonsburg Inn.

The Outreach Ministry is now conducting a Coat Drive to distribute warm winter clothing to the poor in Magoffin County.



"With regarding to temptation, you should not be discouraged due to your feeling of being helpless, since that is the way in which God works. In times of weakness, God pulls down the barriers. Do not be proud about the fact that you have been selected for such an important role. On the other hand, you may feel unable to do so. The selection comes from God and, therefore, depends upon Him to reach a good end. Therefore, you should go to Him and ask for the light, which you will need to know the road you should follow and, perhaps, to reach the perfect end. You should remain indifferent about yourself, for you are simply an instrument."

**St. Joseph Calasanz,
1633**

Our upcoming feasts:

February
26: St. Paula Montal

March
8: Blessed Faustino Miguez

MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICA SECTOR



The annual meeting of the North American Sector was held at a lovely retreat house in the south western corner of the island of Puerto Rico. There were seven-

teen people at the meeting, including the Provincial Congregations of the United States and Mexico and the Vice-Provincial Congregations of

New York - Puerto Rico and the Californias. The Superior General, the Assistant General for the Americas and the Provincial of Aragon were also there.

Father Aguado, the Superior General, said he had three primary goals for his term: to bring about new life in the Order, to renew a passion for our mission, and to strengthen our communities and religious members.

.During the next few sessions, each of the provincial congregations gave reports on specific topics concerning their demarcations. Afterwards, Father Aguado made some brief comments. One major topic was the restructuring process, in which the demarcations of the United States and New York - Puerto Rico are already pretty well advanced.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The members of the Piarist Fathers' Development Team would like to take this time to thank all of our generous benefactors. In these trying economic times, the Piarists are very grateful for your financial sacrifice. Please remember that your

financial gift to the Piarist Fathers supports the formation of our seminarians and the care of our elderly fathers. By making a contribution, you can touch the lives of those who will serve in the United States Province and, therefore, those students who will benefit from

our ministry for many years to come.

Be assured that you and your loved ones will be remembered during this joyous holiday season, particularly in the Masses celebrated by our priests on Christmas Day.

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 to josepburgues@yahoo.com

You can also view it on the web at

<http://www.piaristusa.org/newsletter>

Editor: Fr. Jose P. Burgues

"It is no secret that the ministry of the Piarist Fathers greatly depends upon the generosity of our benefactors. Please consider us in your annual donations, will, trust or insurance plan."

(Note from the USA Province Development Office)

Note from the Editor:

In our previous issue we published an excerpt from an article of Mr. Bruce Fisher, "A Tense Encounter".

We have received a note from Mr. Eugene Hegedus, the "Mr. Teacher" of the story. According to him, the Piarist in the bus was Fr. Stephen Mustos, not Fr. Louis Kovari.

DERBY' CALASANCTIUS MURAL (1)

The following is an excerpt from an article by Bruce Fisher, Professor at Buffalo State College, and Class of 1971 graduate of Calasanctius Preparatory School. The entire article can be found at: http://artvoice.com/issues/v6n27/choosing_icons. Used with permission.

This is a Frank Lloyd Wright story of Buffalo. The great architect came back to visit one of his early works and was enraged that it hadn't been kept precisely as he'd designed it. Seeing the Graycliff estate near Buffalo as an old man of 91, a few months before his death, Wright was annoyed. It was more than 20 years after Wright completed the Martin home in Buffalo that he designed Graycliff for Martin's wife, Isabel. She needed light in this, her summer retreat, so Wright built her a place into which all the sky and sun of the great expanse of the lake shore could enter. So when Wright visited Buffalo in 1958, over 30 years after he'd designed the place, and saw that a religious order had altered one of the triumphs of his early days, he lost his temper.

The priests of the Piarist order had built their chapel into the house at Graycliff such that the roof-line, the famous cantilevered line, was, the preservationists now say, "mutilated." Wright calmed when told that what those priests had done was for a spiritual purpose, and indeed that their tenancy at Graycliff had prevented the place from falling entirely to ruin or even to demolition. Altered, yes. Turned from a summer retreat to a year-round residence, yes. Preserved, imperfectly, yes, but preserved nonetheless. When, in 1999, 40 years after Wright's death, a group of architectural preservationists bought Graycliff from the Piarists, the preservationists, being preservationists, decided early on to remove the Piarists' chapel, and to demolish the Piarists' dormitory. The Graycliff Conservancy's goal, naturally, was to return the estate to Wright's original design.

But Wright's was not the only art on the site.

The Piarist priests had acquired



The Calasanctius Mural when it was in our Derby House

Graycliff in 1951. By that time, the estate had already passed from the Martin family. The Piarists knew what they were getting: a summer home designed by a famous architect, a structure lacking a ready purchaser other than themselves, a structure in need of some change in order to make it winter-habitable. They also knew their own mission.

The Piarists are a teaching order whose founder was a 17th-century Spaniard named Josef Calasanz. In Latin, Calasanz is Calasanctius. Calasanctius is the name the order has given to many of the schools it has founded, including their school, now closed, in Buffalo.

The bare fact of this story is that in 1967, the Piarists commissioned a work of art to commemorate their order's 350th anniversary. The art was a mural, a sgraffito, depicting St. Joseph Calasanctius and the abandoned children whom he saved from the streets of Rome, where Calasanctius and his fellow priests had gathered them up, housed them and educated them. Calasanz the Spanish nobleman had created a free school for the poor, and founded an order, the Scholae Piaae, to carry on

that mission.

In 1967, these émigrés commissioned a Polish-born muralist named Jozef Slawinski to put his sgraffito technique to commemorating Calasanctius. Slawinski created a 12-by-18-foot mural a foot thick consisting of layers of black, white, yellow and red concrete. The sgraffito technique, like fresco, requires quick work by the artist to reveal the image before the material sets.

For the ensuing 30 years, the Calasanctius mural hung on the east face of the dormitory even as the Piarist presence there dwindled. By 1999, all but two of the Piarists had died or had left for the Piarist's other American school, in Devon, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia.

When the Graycliff Conservancy took possession of the estate in 1999, the preservationists wanted the dormitory demolished and the mural removed. There was, in the minds of the preservationists, no competition between the master architect Wright's design and the new structures built by an obscure group of central Europeans whose brief presence had recently ended.

(To be continued)