

NEWSLETTER



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Miami SEPI</i>	2
<i>Vocation Stories</i>	2
<i>Welcome, Fr. Luis Padilla!</i>	2
<i>Devon</i>	3
<i>Kentucky</i>	3
<i>Fort Lauderdale</i>	3
<i>News from the Order</i>	4
<i>Washington</i>	4

WELCOME, FR. MARIO! THANKS, FR. DAVID!

Every Provincial Chapter is a *Kairos*, a time of Grace for a Province.

Our Provincial Chapter took place in Miami, on April 9 to 13 2007. Eleven Fathers from all our Communities and the Junior Igor Galindo participated in it. Msgr. Felipe Estevez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, directed our one day retreat.

The goals of a Chapter are to evaluate the present situation of the Province, to elect the new Congregation for a new term of 4 years and to plan for the future.

The Chapter elected Fr. Mario Vizcaino as the new Provincial Superior. His Assistants are FF. Andrew Buechele and David Powers.

The Chapter approved the Provincial Plan for 2007-2011, with different goals in the 4 areas: Community Life, Spirituality, Houses and Ministries, and Vocations and Formation. The Congregation must take care especially of the vocations and formation, the care of our Fathers in their golden years, and to attain a financial stability with the help of



The beginning of the Provincial Chapter, with Bishop Felipe Estevez of Miami

a Development Office. We want also to develop our sense of Province, our relationship with the other Demarcations of the North American Sector and with the whole Order.

The Province acknowledges the

many accomplishments of Fr. David during his 8 years as Provincial, and welcomes and encourages the new Provincial to continue on the steps of the Past, open to the new challenges of the Future. We all will be with you.

FR. PROVINCIAL'S CORNER

Dear Piarist Brothers,
This is my first Provincial Corner and I want to share with all of you a couple or three simple thoughts.

The first one is an almost private and personal feeling that I share with you: I am learning to be a Provincial. At times I find myself surprised that I am a Provincial and I have to remind myself: "Mario, you are the Provincial,

you have to act, it is your responsibility, please call, please get the information, please..." It is funny, but you have to get used to it.

My second thought is this: I am going to build upon the legacy of Fr. David. I admire his patience, his respect for each one of us and his search for the truth in every issue that we had to deal with in the past eight years. Vocations

were one of Fr. David's priorities; vocations were a priority of the two last Chapters, and vocations will be my priority.

My last thought at this moment is this: what was decided in the Chapter will be my program for the next four years. Look at the Provincial Plan approved by the Chapter and you will know where I stand.

May the Lord bless us all.

MIAMI SEPI

Five years ago, Fr. General J.M. Balcells, with Archbishop Favalora' permission, decreed the opening a *Statio* in Miami. Since then, this house has been an active formation house. This year, with the

arrival of FF. Jose P. Burgos and Luis Padilla, we are asking Fr. General J, Lecea for the up-grading of the *Statio* to the status of *Religious House*. We expect around 15 people to be living here this year.



Miami Community, and the Aspirants 2007

The House will be a Formation House, with Novitiate (only this year) and Pre-novitiate, and eventually it will be also the Provincial House, since Fr. Mario is living here.

We are trying to obtain the permission for the construction of a new building in our compound, so that we will

keep our distance with the activities of SEPI, a little burdensome especially during the weekends.

The place is ideal for the recruitment of Hispanic vocations. It offers also many possibilities for pastoral activities with children and youth. The presence of many volunteers at SEPI is very helpful for the formation of our candidates.

Although SEPI is a unique ministry among the Piarists, it may well open a new way for our Charism. It is a sign of this time of globalization. It is good for our candidates to be formed in a so special place.

“The greatest perfection, or the merit, is not in being a priest, confessor or preacher, but rather in loving God and doing with more fervor what the Obedience commands you, and only for the glory of God. This can be done by a rude person that does not know how to read, as well as by an important doctor.”

St. Joseph Calasanz

VOCATION STORIES

Hi, I'm Fidel. I am Mexican, my family is poor and large. We are five siblings, I am number 6. My parents are active Catholics and since our childhood they brought us in the teachings of the Catholic faith. When I was very young I felt already attracted to Priestly life. I remember that I used to sit with my mother in the first pews of the Church during mass. If there was no more place, I sat on the steps going to the altar, near the place

where the Priest preached. I looked into his eyes, and he looked into mine. I said to myself: One day, God willing, I will become a priest like him.

During my life I experienced some failures, and I was afraid to take such decision. But God never abandons us, He keeps always calling. At this moment I thank him because I am a member of the Pious Schools. I am coming to the end of my pre-novitiate year. I am very happy to be able to correspond a little to all the marvels that the Lord is offering me every



day and for allowing me to fulfill that dream of my childhood and also my dream of today as a youth: to become an instrument to serve the poorest.

WELCOME, FR LUIS PADILLA!

This year 2007-08 we will have 4 novices in the Province. One of them will go to Celaya, with our Sector brothers, but for the other 3 it will be better to have their Novitiate in Miami.

Fr. General has approved the idea for this year, and has appointed Fr. Luis Padilla, a Spanish religious from the Province of Colombia, as the Novice Master.

Fr. Padilla has a long experience as Novice Master in Colombia, and is well known for his insight in Calasanzian Spirituality. We are blessed! Welcome to the USA, and we hope you will enjoy your stay among us!

KENTUCKY

The Piarist School was recently reaccredited for five years by the Kentucky Non-Public Schools Commission. In his letter, the commission's executive director wrote: "It is apparent to our accreditation review committee that your school meets the highest standards in regard to providing a solid and full educational experience for your students."

Five students were inducted into the National Honor Society at The Piarist School during an induction ceremony held at the lodge at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Each student demonstrated outstanding qualities of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. The students were senior Christo-

pher Baker, juniors Leens Gundamalla and Caleb Hoskins, and sophomores Taylor Moak and Elizabeth Davis.

The Piarist School graduated its 13th class during ceremonies conducted at 7 pm at the Jenny Wiley Convention Center. Ten seniors received their diplomas from Piarist School principal Rev. Thomas Carroll, Sch.P. Sixty percent of the class were members of the National Honor Society, and almost every student received at least one college scholarship during the graduation ceremony. Four seniors received athletic scholarships and during earlier televised ceremonies were signed to play



NHS Seniors. Piarist School, 2007

for two area colleges. Three received soccer scholarships and one a basketball scholarship. The graduation commencement speaker was Mr. Fred Nelson, the Grand Noble of the Kentucky Oddfellows who encouraged the graduates to continue their volunteer activities and following their graduation to return back to eastern Kentucky.

DEVON

This year is the 50th Anniversary year of the foundation of Devon Preparatory School, owned and operated by the Piarists of the USA Province, with the cooperation of many faithful people, two of whom have taught at Devon for 40 years. His Eminence, Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, PA, offered an anniversary mass with the

school community on September 16, 2006. Dr. Valentin Radu led the Ama Deus Ensemble (orchestra, chorus and four vocal soloists) in Mozart Coronation Gala Concert at the Norbertine Abbey Church on Sunday, January 21, 2007; the concert honored our school and the Piarist Fathers.

This school year our students, who make up our Christian Program club, donated \$425 to the new Piarist School in San Vicente, Philippines, where Fr. Lily Lorona, Sch.P., who lived with us at Devon for two years and earned his Master Degree in Educational leadership at a nearby university, I the principal of the school.

FORT LAUDERDALE

May 19, 2007, was "Graduation Day" here at Cardinal Gibbons HS. 291 of our Seniors graduated. Fr. John presided the Graduation Mass of Thanksgiving concelebrated by the active Piarists at the school and two local pastors. Fr. Oscar was the homilist.

The *Fr. Benjamin Cobos Memorial Award* in Theology was given to Ronald Dozier who will be a Senior the next school

year. The *Fr. Francis Palá Memorial Award* in Art was given to Shawn Kalaher.

These awards were established to honor Fathers Cobos and Palá for their contributions to Cardinal Gibbons HS. Two Senior students of the upcoming school year, one in the field of Theology and one in the field of Art, are submitted by the teachers of the Theology and Art Departments for these awards. The Piarists of Cardi-

nal Gibbons HS make the final determination.

The last day of school will be May 30. And Fr. Charlie says that after working our tail off on weekdays as well as weekends for the whole school year, we deserve a good and long vacation. The motion is unanimously approved!!! Ha, ha, ha.

"I am happy that you are so strong and with such a good spirit in helping the Institute. When God gives that spirit and fervor, few persons can substitute many. However, when such a fervor does not exist, any work, even the small one, becomes fastidious."

St. Joseph Calasanz

NEWS FROM THE ORDER AROUND THE WORLD

USA NEWSLETTER

Is the official Bulletin of the USA Piarist Province. If you want to receive it , just let us know it.

We will have it in our web page soon.

Redactor: Fr. Jose P. Burgues

- After the celebration of the Demarcational Chapters, we have many new faces among the Major Superiors. We welcome especially FF. Fernando Torres and Miguel Mascorro, Vice-provincials respectively of New York—Puerto Rico and Californias. Fr. Fernando Hernandez, Provincial of Mexico, has been reelected for a third four-year term.
- Two new Provinces have been created: Enmaus Province, in Spain, from the union of Vasconia and Andalucia, and Italy Province, from the union of the 4 previous Italian Provinces.
- We are celebrating the 450th birthday of our Founder, St. Joseph Calasanz. Various activities are scheduled in the Order. The culminating celebration will take place in Peralta de la Sal, his hometown, during the Major Superiors Meeting in October. We are celebrating also the 150 years of the foundation of the Pious Schools in Cuba. The alumni of Cuba are preparing different activities. You will hear about them .
- We have received the Situation of the Order, dated December 2006. We are 1405 Piarists. After several years of declining, we have increased our number in 30 religious. It is the biggest increase in many years.

WASHINGTON IS FR. ANDY

“The Mission of the USA Province of the Pious Schools is to follow Christ and to serve the Church in the modern world by promoting our unique way of life and by ministering effectively to the educational needs of children and youth, especially the poor”

**Provincial Plan
2007-2011**

Since 1983 Fr. Andrew Buechele, Sch.P., recently elected Provincial Assistant of the USA Province, has taught and done research in glass science and planetary atmosphere studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He is currently the Director of the Microscopic and Material Characterization facility at the University's Vitreous State Laboratory (VSL) and is part of the team working at VSL on the problem of processing nuclear waste stored at the Hanford site in Richland, WA for safe long term disposal. He received his Ph.D. in Material Sci-



Fr. Andrew Buechele at work in one of his researches

ence and Engineer from Cornell University in 1982.

Fr. Buechele has worked as a formator in the House of Studies of the Piarist Order in Washington, DC; as child care worker at Covenant House in New York City, NY; and as a High School and Middle

School Science teacher at Calasancius Preparatory School (now closed) in Buffalo, NY. Pastoral service in residence at St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca, NY; and at St. Ambrose, Berkeley, CA has also been part of Fr. Buechele's ministry.

As a runner, Fr. Buechele is a veteran of over 50 marathons and still runs about 30 miles a week. His hobbies include origami and gardening. He is owned by two small parrots, Kateri and Cecilia who have him pretty well trained at this point, although they feel there is still room for improvement.