



Vocation & Formation Newsletter Spring 2010

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Serving Youth in 35 Countries Around the World



Br. Kevin Receives Cassock at Novitiate Ceremony

Thanks to all who participated in the January 9, 2010 ceremony of Brother Kevin Piper's entrance into the novitiate. The ceremony and the supper that followed was a wonderful expression of community.

Br. Kevin and Br. Dan St. Jacques, novice director, completed a six day retreat on their return to Syracuse, NY. Please continue to keep Kevin in your prayers as he progresses through his formation. Kevin will travel to Davao City in the Philippines for the apostolic phase of his novitiate. He will be in the Philippines for three months, June-August, working with street children and in our school.



Br. Kevin Piper with his Family



Br. Kevin receives his cassock from Br. Ronald Talbot

Superior General Appeals for Generosity Towards Haiti

Brothers, I know your generosity. This is why I am convinced that all over the Institute will arise – it has already started – a great wave of solidarity towards the Haitian population. In this very moment, we hear, deep in each one of us, more clearly than ever the words of Jesus: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt.: 37-39). And John declares that the love of God is measured by the love of our brother: "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" (1 John 3: 17)

Excerpt of a letter from Brother José Ignacio Carmona, S.C., Superior General, to the Brothers in the Institute



[Click on Picture for latest information on Haiti](#)



Rebuilding begins in Haiti

Brothers in New York Celebrate 50 Years

On Saturday, March 20, 2010, the New York Province celebrated their 50th anniversary as a province. The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn. Representing the Institute were Brother Jose Ignacio Carmona, Superior General, and Brothers Gaston Lavoie, Paul Montero, and Charles Biagui, members of the General Council. Leaders of the provinces of New Orleans, Canada, and New England attended, as well as the delegation council from the Philippines. Following the liturgy about 250 guests gathered at **Msgr. McClancy High School** gymnasium in Queens, NY for a buffet meal and an opportunity to express to the New York brothers personal thanks for their years of service.



Five Brothers from Five Countries: L to R, Canada, Philippines, Togo, US, Senegal



Br. Robert Croteau, Provincial of New England



Brothers from the Philippines (white cassocks) joined the Brothers in NY for Mass.



Br. Brian DePorres with friends



Brothers Jose Ignacio Carmona (Superior General), Kevin Piper and Paul Montero (General Councilor)



Every summer, **Catholics On Call** hosts an annual week-long program at **Catholic Theological Union** (CTU) in Chicago. This experience is designed for women and men (ages 18 to 30) who may be thinking about a life of service in the Church as a lay minister, religious sister or brother, or priest, and those who are undecided and want guidance in determining how God is calling them.

- * Pray together, share your stories, dreams, and concerns, and enjoy the company of like-minded young adults.
- * Hear nationally-known speakers offer insights about how to listen to God's call in our lives.
- * Meet outstanding church ministers who share the stories of their service and how they came to hear God's call.
- * Learn discernment skills and different styles of prayer.

The summer program provides a relaxed, comfortable environment for your personal discernment. It won't be an experience of recruitment to any church group or community. Rather, it is a chance to listen to the voice of God, as God speaks within you and through others.

Discernment Opportunities

Volunteer Program

Discernment Retreats

International Mission Trips

Domestic Mission Trips

Live-in Discernment

Candidate

Come and See Days and Weekends



From Brother Patrick's Blog - Reflections on Palm Sunday



Because the readings are long, this reflection is brief. Plenty more I had in mind, but less, I hope, is more.

I know we had some long readings today, so I will make this quick, but first, an image to contemplate: we have all seen film or Power Point presentation projected onto a screen, right? Speaking of the suffering and death of Jesus, the theologian Mark McIntosh gives the odd image of projecting a film, not onto a screen, but onto a garbage heap; the film is completely distorted, barely possible to make out. He suggests that the suffering and death of Jesus, far from being the will of God, is the distorted outcome of the "film" of God's self-giving life appearing in the wreckage of human history. That's why we read the Passion on Palm Sunday, a week ahead of time: to remind ourselves that the roots of Jesus' suffering and death lie in his life and ministry, his confrontation with the distorted power structures of our world.



Br. Patrick (L) with Br. Paul Montero, General Councilor from Rome at the 50th Anniversary Celebration in NY

There were two processions going into Jerusalem that day: on one hand, Roman forces were massing in Jerusalem, fortifying their troop strength in town in preparation for the Passover, because there was typically trouble as people remembered and demonstrated for a freedom they did not enjoy. On the other hand, Jesus and his little group enter from the other direction, not with an opposing army, but lampooning this show of overwhelming force, playing on the words of the prophet Zechariah: "See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, Meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; The warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations." (Zech 9:9-10) A very different kind of king from Caesar, but a king nonetheless.

This year Palm Sunday falls between two infamous days from our own time: this past Wednesday, March 24, marked the 30th anniversary of the anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran **Archbishop Oscar Romero**, who was killed for his outspoken commitment to economic and social justice for the poor of El Salvador. Easter Sunday, is April 4th, which of course is the anniversary of the assassination of Rev. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, the radicality of whose message we as a nation and as Christians have not yet begun to take seriously. Shortly before his death, Romero said, "If they kill me, I will be resurrected in the Salvadoran people." If you've been to El Salvador, you know that is exactly what has happened, and that's what we are here today to do: to remember, to strengthen one another for our common task. True discipleship, following Jesus, means following him to the place of confrontation with every system of domination, even to death, believing that resurrection, new and transformed life, awaits.



The Open Heart

Our Rule #114

The Gospel reveals the pierced side of the Savior as the source of the life-giving Spirit, the channel and symbol of divine love.

From his open side out of which blood and water flow, Jesus gives birth to the Church and the sacraments.

He invites all to his heart "to draw water with joy from the springs of salvation."

(Is 12:3)

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 47th WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

25 APRIL 2010 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"The very life of men and women religious proclaims the love of Christ whenever they follow him in complete fidelity to the Gospel and joyfully make their own its criteria for judgement and conduct. They become "signs of contradiction" for the world, whose thinking is often inspired by materialism, self-centredness and individualism. By letting themselves be won over by God through self-renunciation, their fidelity and the power of their witness constantly awaken in the hearts of many young people the desire to follow Christ in their turn, in a way that is generous and complete. To imitate Christ, chaste, poor and obedient, and to identify with him: this is the ideal of the consecrated life, a witness to the absolute primacy of God in human life and history." [Click to read full message](#)



Discernment Retreats Held in LA and NY

Fifteen young men joined Brothers in the U.S. for two Discernment Retreats held in Louisiana and New York in the last few months. Those making the retreat experienced the prayer life of the brothers, joined in community activities and participated in discussions on the brotherhood. Presentations were given on Discernment, Prayer, and Spirituality of the Sacred Heart.

Each of the participants had a brother mentor for the retreat in order to ask questions and process their personal experiences of the retreat.

Discernment retreats are held at least twice a year and are open to men between the ages of 17 and 40 who are discerning God's call in their lives. The next Discernment retreat will be held December 18-20 in Bay St. Louis, MS at St. Stanislaus College and April 8-10, 2011 in Maspeth, NY.

Please contact a vocation director near you for more information or to sign up.



Religious Brothers Offer Service, Holiness to Church

Cardinal Rode, prefect for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, recently announced that the Congregation will publish a document of the uniqueness of the vocation of the religious brother. The following link will lead you to an article in the paper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis which speaks about the vocation of a brother.

http://thecatholicspirit.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3348&Itemid=136

Mission Trip to Philippines planned for June 2010

A mission trip to work with homeless street children in Davao City, Philippines is scheduled for the first three weeks in June. Interested young men should contact us by [clicking here](#).



Contact A Vocation Director

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Postulants from the Province of Eastern and Southern Africa



Br. Richard, in white cassock, with postulants in Lusaka, Zambia

Novices from the Delegation of the Philippines

Br. Mervyn Rosales

Br. Dennis Quilala



Br. Frankie Clerigio

Br. Jerry Peladra

Map of our Institute



Street Children in Davao City, Philippines

Click here to fill out our contact form for more information about our community

