



“...Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.” (John 15:5)

## December 2016

### Vocation Ministry Highlights

**Regional Contact/Aspirant Retreat in Chicago:** Six young men considering religious life as a De La Salle Christian Brother gathered in Chicago from November 11 – 13, 2016. The time together allowed them to reflect on their faith journey, discernment, and life experiences. These young men spoke about the call to teach, live in community, and their experience of God. They reflected on the experiences of service that revealed God’s call through the young people they encountered along the way, the example of current Christian Brothers, and the desire to offer their gifts and talents to the Lasallian mission. You can watch a brief video about the weekend by clicking on the image above or [HERE](#).



Brothers in Discernment,  
November 2016  
Brothers Vocation

**Huether Conference and Vocation Presentation:** Kenenna Amuzie along with Brothers Chris Patiño, James Joost and Michael Livaudais participated in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Huether Conference in Chicago. Of special note, Mr. Chris Swain, Regional Coordinator for Lasallian Vocation Ministry and Brother Chris Patiño, FSC presented at the conference. Given the theme of the conference focused on confronting new poverties, Chris Swain and Brother Chris presented on the call to foster missionary discipleship among young people in Lasallian ministries. By taking on this task of evangelization, Lasallians are able to invite young people to a life of faith and religious practice through experiences of faith, service, and community.



**School Visits and Presentations:** Br. Michael Livaudais, FSC visited high school and middle school classes at *St. Michael's* in early November to discuss vocations as Lasallian educators, and the call to personal holiness, no matter the age. Brother also visited high school classes at *De La Salle* in New Orleans, chapel classes at *Christian Brothers School* at City Park, and the fourth grade class on the Canal Street Campus. Additionally, Brother was invited to speak on Lasallian Spirituality at the *Lasallian Commitment Retreat* in early November. Br. Chris Patiño, FSC participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade retreat at *Archbishop Rummel High School*. Organized by Mr. Matt Caire, Campus Minister, the retreat focused on vocation and specifically emphasized the call to married life, religious life, and the priesthood. Br. David Caretti, FSC visited *Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory* in mid-November and then joined other religious and the Diocesan vocation director at *Christian Brothers High School* for a Vocation Day in late November.





**National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry:** Kenenna Amuzie and Br. Chris Patiño, FSC represented the Office of Vocation Ministry during the NCCYM conference in San Jose November 30 – December 3. The conference brought together over 5,000 parish leaders and volunteer catechists working in youth ministry, campus and young adult ministry, faith formation, RCIA, liturgy, catholic schools and other areas of parish leadership. They attended sessions around faith formation for Young Adults, Latino Catholics, and faithfully ministering to LGBTQ Youth and Young Adults.

**Upcoming**

**Contact/Aspirant Advent Retreat:** This annual retreat will take place December 17-19 at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, California. The retreat theme is “Called to Live as a Missionary Disciple.” Fourteen Aspirants and Contacts are scheduled to participate.

**2017 SEEK Conference:** The Region is coordinating FSC representation at the *2017 SEEK Conference*. This week-long conference sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) brings together 11,000-13,000 college students. Brothers Chris Patiño, David Caretti, and Michael Livaudais will represent the District of San Francisco New Orleans.

The “**Called and Chosen**” Retreats are scheduled on the following weekends:

January 14 – 16, 2017 Young Men St. Joseph’s Camp, Russian River

February 18 – 20, 2017 Young Women St. Joseph’s Camp, Russian River

February 18 – 20, 2017 Young Men Solomon Center, Loranger, LA

**\*\*\*Registration Deadline for the Young Men’s Retreat January 14 – 16, 2017 is Friday, December 9\*\*\***

**Worth Noting:**

*Although it sounds obvious, spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God, in whom we attain true freedom.... One who accompanies others has to realize that each person’s situation before God and their life in grace are mysteries which no one can fully know from without. The Gospel tells us to correct others and to help them to grow on the basis of a recognition of the objective evil of their actions (cf. Mt 18:15), but without making judgments about their responsibility and culpability (cf. Mt 7:1; Lk 6:37). Someone good at such accompaniment does not give in to frustrations or fears. He or she invites others to let themselves be healed, to take up their mat, embrace the cross, leave all behind and go forth ever anew to proclaim the Gospel. Our personal experience of being accompanied and assisted, and of openness to those who accompany us, will teach us to be patient and compassionate with others, and to find the right way to gain their trust, their openness and their readiness to grow. –Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium*

**Snapshots from around the District and Region...**



**#YoungLasallians:** The Regional Council of Young Lasallians met in mid-November. District of SFNO representative, Kenenna Amuzie, serves as chair of the group.

**#YoungBrothers:** Contacts and Aspirants from the Region had an opportunity to gather with Brothers in initial formation (current Postulants and Brothers in Temporary Vows) during their bi-annual gathering. The group spent time together sharing in mass, social, dinner, and discussion.

**#UCLA:** Br. Chris represented the De La Salle Christian Brothers at the UCLA Vocation Fair in early November.