



THE WORD

January 2009

Vol . 2, Number 11

Special points of interest:

- Fr. Alidor arrives
- Associates very active
- SJHS receives funding for major improvements.
- Bishop Curry inspires us in our Regional Day of Reflection

Inside this issue:

CJ ASSOCIATES 2

We lose our first Associate—Virginia Egan 2

Fr. Alidor's initial reactions to CA 2

SJHS UPGRADES 3

BISHOP HIGH: "Leaders for Life" 3

CJ DAY OF REFLECTION WITH BISHOP CURRY 4

FR. ALIDOR ARRIVES

The California Region and the Josephite Fathers went to a new level of exchange between the African Region and California with the arrival of Fr. Alidor Mikobi, C.J.. During the July Enlarged Council meeting, that was to discuss the concept of bringing African Josephite priests to the other regions, we were offered the opportunity of bringing Fr. Alidor to California. It is the Region's hope to add other African Josephites to allow us to maintain our ministry in schools and parishes.

And so, it was with excitement that we welcomed him on Nov. 24, 2008 after 2 days of travel from Kinshasa-Addis Abbaba-Rome-Washington,DC and then to Los Angeles. He has served at St. Joseph's H.S. in Bulongo, then as Headmaster of our school in Domiongo, and most recently as the African Provincial Bursar. And the exciting thing about this whole exchange is that he is coming for possibly 4 1/2 years depending on US Immigration rules.

He will be undertaking studies in English at Han-

cock College, pastoral ministry helping at St. Louis, Marian Hospital, and will also assist in other parishes. In time we hope he will have the opportunity to be of service at St. Joseph H.S.

Fr. Alidor is from a large family with 2 brothers and 5 sisters and his mother, Marcelline, who all live in the Kasai (the Interior of the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

He is residing at St. Louis de Montfort Rectory with Frs. Champion and Charles.

REGION PREPARES FOR RENEWAL

It doesn't seem like 3 years ago we went through the process of Accreditation, and now we are in the midst of preparing for a renewal. Ever since the child abuse scandal, diocesan priests and religious

congregations, working with Praesidium, must continue their work at insuring our children are safe.

The Regional Council has prepared responses to 25 standards and the confreres will give their input.

Following that we are to submit our responses and a representative from Praesidium will visit the Region on May 19/20, interviewing a few confreres, going over the report, & reviewing files. The maximum term is 3 yrs.

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES



“We all look forward to an increased awareness of Christ in our lives...”

Josephite Associates are actively transforming and forming our Associate Community this year. Our desire for spiritual growth, member involvement and organization is reflected in our 2008 activities and achievements. Highlights include: the 1st Annual combined retreat for the DMJ Associates and CJ's held in Palos Verdes, CA; Fr. Robert's Day of Reflection, with the promise of a "Spiritual Guide;" the establishment of the Josephite Associate Constitutions; and the consequent election of a core group. The core group responsibilities include the facilitation of meetings, researching and implementing topics of spiritual interest for the meetings, hospitality, membership involvement, and

new membership. Currently we are working on a "Formation Handbook" using as a guide and inspiration the Associate Handbook developed and used for discerning aspirants to the DMJ Associates (written by Maureen Dolan, forward by Sr. Terese Clements DMJ).

Through a democratic process, the Associates have chosen to increase the number of yearly meetings, quarterly to bi-monthly, a "day of unity" to gather Associates and Josephite confreres for an annual social,

and a number of optional opportunities to pray for vocations/special intentions and for holy adoration. We are currently formulating a "Mission Statement" that reflects the spiritual directives given to the Josephites from many of the Founder's letters. We all look forward to an increased awareness of Christ in our lives as we seek to conform to Our Lord's will and implore the aid of His Holy Spirit to guide us and lift up His Church.

By, Chris & Anna Boerger

ASSOCIATES LOSE FOUNDING MEMBER

On January 9, 2009, the Associates lost **Virginia Egan** who passed away from health problems. At 83 years of age, Virginia had been a steady member of our group and with her husband Leo, they were the first couple to receive the new CJ Associate pen from Fr. Robert, on Sept.

9, 2007. Due to failing health she and Leo moved to Torrance over a year ago to be near their family.

They regularly attended our meetings; they also attended a variety of other groups in Santa Maria, including the 50+

club at St. Louis de Montfort parish, their parish since they moved to Santa Maria in 1972.

Virginia set up the display board for the CJ Mass cards used by parishioners for a variety of occasions.

Her funeral was held at SLDM on Jan. 13, 2009.

FR. ALIDOR'S FIRST IMPRESSIONS

When I was leaving Kinshasa, I said that I was going to an unknown world. But I knew three confreres in California: Fr. Charles because I met him twice in Kinshasa and Bulongo; Fr. Ludo who came to visit the Congo some days before my trip; and Fr. John who came to Bulongo as Superior General of the Josephites when I was a student at St. Joseph college in Bulongo.

But when I arrived here, I found that Santa Maria is not an unknown world for me because I was surprised by the kind of welcome I received. The people are very friendly and brotherly. Then I have enjoyed being here because my first impressions are good. I am like in my own country, like in my family in spite of the climate there which is very disturbing to me. Another thing, I have been surprised by the large presence of people who come

to the different Masses during the week and on Sunday.



“The people are very friendly and brotherly.”

As for news from St. Joseph High School, I would like to share with you a summary of an article by our Director of Alumni. A summer of non-stop construction came to a conclusion with the dedication of a number of new athletic facilities. New field event facilities for long-jump, pole vault and shot put, a new state of the art all-weather track, a gorgeous artificial turf field for soccer and football and the addition of a weight training modular have transformed the appearance of the St. Joseph High School campus. Many, many alumni contributed donations and in-kind services valued at more than \$1,500,000 to bring these projects to completion. On the evening of September 19th the school community gathered for the dedication of the new field during the half-time of the football game against Paso Robles. The stadium was dedicated in honor of Jay Will, who has been a strong supporter and generous benefactor to St. Joseph High School over the past 30 years. Mr. Will and his family were present for the dedication of the field and the unveiling of a new sign, honoring him, which now hangs over the main entrance to the stadium. These new facilities are used by over a hundred students on a daily basis in their physical education classes and practices for athletic events.

LEADERS FOR LIFE AT BISHOP DIEGO— Fr. Tom

At Bishop Garcia Diego High School we confirm that parents are the primary and the first educators of their children. I often hear teachers and staff state what I also feel myself, that it is a joy to come to work, to come to school each day. One of our initiatives at Bishop High is the *Leaders For Life* program. One component of this program is to help freshman students recognize that they define who we are as a school community rather than the buildings that we occupy. Students implement this axiom by identifying a personal gift or strength and then they commit to share this gift for the good of the school community. While discussing their unique gifts, freshman students also identified unwritten school rules. This is what they observed in their first weeks of school:

don't leave anyone out, care for your friends, be welcoming, have integrity;
try your hardest in everything you do, reach your God-given potential;
school spirit is really big and really important, give back to your community;
there are upper class privileges but they can't be lorded over the freshmen;
to get respect you have to give respect, don't be disrespectful to teachers;
you can't ditch class, get into fights, or do drugs.

Perhaps our Founder, Constant van Crombrughe, would have stated it differently, but I believe these axioms from our students witness the values he wanted our Josephite Community to instill in our students.

Josephite Fathers in California

Phone: 805.937.4555

Fax: 805.934.2805

Email: frcharles@sldm.org

WWW.

JOSEPHITEWEB.ORG

Left to right:

Fr. Alidor, Ludo;

Bishop Curry,

Fr. Tom and,

Charles



BISHOP CURRY LEADS DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Fr. Ed, C.J.

The community met on Friday January 2nd for a day of recollection. Our presenter was Bishop Thomas Curry, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and Regional Bishop for the Santa Barbara Pastoral Region. (*Bishop Curry has known the CJ's since 1970 at Pius X High School.*)

After Morning Prayer, Bishop Curry gave two conferences. The first conference focused on the different perspectives of each of the gospels and how we can identify them in our lives, our preaching and in the lives of our people. He noted that although each of the gospels proclaims the Good News, that news is presented in different ways. Mark's gospel presents the Good News in the midst of the opposition and conflict surrounding the Lord's message and ministry. The Good News is not always the "happy news". Luke's gospel proclaims the Good News

through a ministry in which those receiving it are called to rejoice that the Lord is with us to bring us healing and consolation. In Luke, the Lord often avoids conflict and tries to open the hearts of those around him through his kindness and the offering of thought provoking parables. Bishop Curry also summarized the perspectives of Matthew and John and then asked each of the confreres to reflect on which of the gospels best parallels his life experience and which most shapes his preaching. He then asked us to recognize that our people have the same experience of bringing the gospel into dialogue with their lives and that each person will hear the Good News from his or her own experience. After the first conference the confreres took time for reflection and then came together to share some of their thoughts.

After lunch, Bishop Curry presented the second conference. He offered his assessment that the U.S. Church is experiencing something akin to the perspective offered in the gospel of Mark. The Church in the States is experiencing opposition and conflict from an increasingly assertive secularist culture. In this conflict many of the shapers of the cultural conversation are consciously seeking to isolate religion to a purely private realm and to exclude the presentation of religious perspectives from the cultural conversation. So pervasive is this secularist position in the culture that many Catholic scholars and theologians are following its direction. One of the effects of the recent scandal regarding clerical sex abuse has been to reinforce this movement to exclude religious perspectives and the Catholic Church's perspective in particular. Bishop Curry offered that the present secularist perspective is

rooted in a view of the human person as a fundamentally autonomous agent. He then reviewed the history of this concept and the alternative offered by Christianity, of the human person situated amid the connectedness of relationships. The cultural conflict arises out to the divergence of these perspectives and the lack of cultural commitment to the communal and familial dimensions of life. This divergence of perspectives creates tension and conflict on a host of issues including the legitimacy of the religious perspective, itself, in the cultural conversation. Bishop Curry concluded by asked the confreres to reflect on the gospel of Mark and their experience of these recent years.