

Behold Your Mother

Newsletter of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, San Antonio, TX
Number 44: Fall 2009

Beginning the journey



Kirk Vandeventer makes his promises as an Aspirant to the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple.

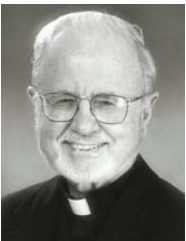
Getting a small taste of life in the BBDs

Men interested in the community attend night of discernment



On April 17 we had a “Come and See” program to give an introduction to our community. We showed a short film on the life of a priest and invited Marianist Brother Lester Kaehler (left) to speak on the life of a brother.

Fr. George Montague explains the unique calling of religious ‘brother’



Fr. George Montague
Moderator

I was only eight years old when I first met the Marianists. We called them “Brothers of Mary” in those days. They brought a bus load of teenage campers to the ranch for an outdoor overnight experience. These “big brothers” worked a kind of magic on those boys that I found fascinating.

At the age of eleven I entered the seventh grade at Central Catholic in San Antonio, the start of a five-year experience with “the brothers” as my teachers and mentors.

By the end of my junior year I had decided to join this community of “brothers.” Yes, there were priests

among them, but no one thought of a higher rank, for all were “brothers.”

My call was from the Lord, but it came to me clothed in the brotherhood I saw, a brotherhood with which I had fallen in love.

If you had asked me at the age of 16 if I wanted to be a priest, I would not have been able to answer. I just wanted to be one of “them.”

I begin by sharing my story because, although the Lord led me into the priesthood in the Marianists, I have never lost my sense of being a “brother.” Many Catholics think of the religious brotherhood as a lesser vocation, and sometimes they ask a brother, “Did you ever think of going all the way and becoming a priest?”

They don’t understand that the Brother has already gone all the way by dedicating himself to God by the vows of celibate chastity, poverty and obedience. It is a state of life. The priesthood is a ministry, a holy ministry to be sure. The Brothers also have their ministries—teaching, social

work, retreat work, counseling, to name a few, and these too are ministries, not jobs. Like religious sisters, brothers witness first of all to the value of giving oneself totally to God in a permanent state of life, regardless of ministry.

Living a common life they strive to capture the ideal set forth in the Acts of the Apostles, where the early Christians shared everything, a foretaste on earth of the kingdom that is to come. The beauty of the Marianist life is that brothers and priests live together and most often work together.

It was Blessed Chaminade’s design that priests and brothers would give a common witness of unity to the world.

Because the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple carry on the Marianist heritage, we are delighted that we have welcomed as an aspirant to the brotherhood Kirk Vandeventer (see photo elsewhere in this issue).

Dan Sealana, our other aspirant, is still in the discernment process.

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Moderator:

Fr. George T. Montague, S.M.,

Assistant Moderator:

Fr. Robert Hogan, B.B.D.

Rev. Joseph Mary Marshall, S.M.
(Pastor)

Rev Will Combs, BBD
Parochial Vicar

1701 Alametos
San Antonio, TX 78201
(210) 734-6727

www.BrothersOfTheBelovedDisciple.org
E-mail: gmontague@stmarytx.edu

Annual Retreat at 2-Hearts Ranch



Sean Stilson, third from left, a junior at St. Mary's University, joined with us for our annual retreat at 2-Hearts Ranch in May.

Visit our website!

www.BrothersOfTheBelovedDisciple.org

Creating an evangelizing DVD to promote parish



Ernesto Rivas and Alex Pacheco are preparing a DVD on the life of St. Mary Magdalen parish, to be distributed free to people in the confines of the parish as an invitation to find Christ by becoming a member of the parish family.

Aspirant Dan Sealana works two jobs



Dan Sealana spends his Aspirancy morning working at KJMA 89.7 FM, San Antonio's local affiliate with EWTN radio. You may hear him giving the news and weather periodically during the day. His other duties at the radio station include running the board and producing the local show "Rise And Walk, San Antonio."

Then he goes to work at the Pilgrim Center of Hope. He and Kirk Vandeventer hope to begin their novitiate in January.

Father Bob Hogan in demand as speaker at conferences around U.S.



Father Bob Hogan, associate director of the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal, has responded to numerous invitations to speak about the Holy Spirit. Besides offering a retreat in Victoria, TX and a Life in the Spirit Seminar in Austin, and numerous local workshops, he will speak at a Leaders' Conference in Lafayette, LA, in September and at the National Leaders' Conference in October.

Companions make Consecration



New Lay Associates made their consecration as Companions of the Beloved Disciple in June. Three cells (one Spanish, two English) meet monthly to share their efforts to grow in the System of Virtues proposed by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. They follow Fr. George's book, *The Woman and the Way* or the Spanish version, *La Mujer y el Camino*

René René in free concert



Renowned for his two Gold records (1 million sold each), René Ornelas (a.k.a. René René), a member of our prayer group, presented a free concert to honor St. Mary Magdalen on her feast day, June 22

Parish begins charismatic mass



With the permission of Archbishop Gomez, St. Mary Magdalen Parish began a monthly 12:30 Sunday charismatic Mass this summer, and response has been so positive, it will likely become the usual 12:30 Sunday Mass. A charismatic Mass is essentially no different than other Masses, except there is extended time for praise and for listening to the word of God, with options for healing prayer after the Mass.

From another charismatic community



Father Francis Donnelly of the Companions of the Cross, now stationed in Houston, visited us the weekend of August 7-9. The Companions of the Cross are a charismatic community of Priests, founded by Fr. Bob Bedard in Ottawa. Fr. Bob made the Bible Institute with Fr. George in the 70's, and Father Francis is a friend from Fr. George's Toronto days.

Father George continues speaking, writing

Besides his duties as director of the Community and teaching part-time at St. Mary's University, Fr. George recorded 12 talks on the Holy Spirit in Baltimore, MD, in June, presented a

study on John 19:25-27 at the Catholic Biblical Association Meeting in Omaha in August, and continues work on his next book, a commentary on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.



St. Mary Magdalen Parish performed our annual Passion Play on Good Friday in commemoration of the Passion of Jesus.

*St. Mary's University—Box 85
Rev. George T. Montague SM
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228-8585*

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