

Clerics of St. Viator
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Newsletter – Winter 2008

Viator is published three times a year by the development office of the Clerics of St. Viator, Province of Chicago. Email: news@viatorians.com

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Our purpose is to present the mission, ministries, news and needs of our community to those who are interested in and supportive of our works.

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Torture Is a Moral Issue

Last year, the Viatorian provincial council endorsed the anti-torture statement sponsored by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. The statement, which can be read at www.nrcat.org, calls for an end to U.S.-sponsored torture, and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. Since then, members of the Community have actively participated in events that denounce all forms of torture. On December 10, 2007, Viatorians participated in Chicago's International Human Rights Day demonstration that focused on abolishing torture at home and abroad. Earlier in the week, the city of Chicago agreed to pay a \$19.8 million settlement to four alleged torture victims of former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge and his Area 2 accomplices. On January 11, 2008, Viatorians also participated in an early morning vigil (6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.) at the Arlington Heights train station calling for the closing of Guantánamo, the site of recent alleged acts of torture. Information on the military prison at Guantánamo was distributed to commuters on their way to work. For more information on the closing of Guantánamo, please visit www.tearitdown.org.





Viator

ADORETUR ET AMETUR JESUS

Viatorian Community

Winter 2008

Volume 13, No. 1

Provincial's Perspective



As this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, the celebration of Christmas and the annual welcoming of the New Year will be but a memory. However, due to the reality of publication deadlines, I write to you as Christmas

music is playing in our offices here at the Province Center, and the spirit of Christmas cheer is clearly in the air. What a wonderful time it is.

Yet, for so many in our world, Christmas Day is but another day to try to "get through." The New Year offers little hope for a better life. I speak to you in this letter on behalf of the Castillo family in Corozal Town, Belize and the Lopez family in the barrios of Colombia. They are true representatives of the thousands of families that Viatorians seek to help every year. It is with them in mind that I write to you through the Provincial's Perspective.

This past year, I had the privilege of spending time in all the foundations sponsored by the Province of Chicago, as well as visiting the Viatorian foundations in Chile and the Ivory Coast, Africa. During these visits, I was continually struck by the conditions of profound poverty that so many people must endure on a daily basis. Moreover, I am moved by the suffering that continues to exist in our world, a world that has such extremes of wealth and poverty, often times standing side by side within miles of each other.

So, as Christmas approaches, I am keenly aware of a tension that exists within me. On the one hand, this

time of the year reminds me of the abundant blessings that have been showered upon me. On the other hand, I am deeply aware that with these blessings comes a responsibility to reach out and raise awareness of the conditions of others who have much less. I feel called to be the voice of those who cannot speak and thus will not be heard by so many in our world. As I will surely gaze on the Infant Child in the manger on Christmas Eve, I pray that I do not fail to also gaze on those who are in the grip of poverty.

With faith and confidence in you who are our friends and supporters, I ask you to recommit yourself this New Year to join with the Viatorian Community in our mission and our desire to embrace those "who are accounted of little importance in our world" by sharing your gifts, resources, and prayers. I ask that you join with the Viatorian Community in our attempt to make a better life for those who have so little in life.

I want you to know that you were held in my heart and prayers as I approached the Christ Child this Christmas. I pray that one day we realize the prayer of Jesus that we may all be one, living in peace, brothers and sisters sharing fully and abundantly in the Kingdom of God.

In St. Viator and Fr. Querbes,

Rev. Thomas R. von Behren, C.S.V.

Reverend Thomas R. von Behren, CSV
Provincial



The Viatorians greatly appreciate your financial assistance, which helps to sustain our ministries in the United States and overseas. If you would like to assist us, please send your gifts to:

Viatorian Development Office

1212 East Euclid Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-637-2124

You can either designate where your gifts will be used or delegate us to distribute the funds where they are most needed.

As a non-profit and tax-exempt organization, the Viatorians are very grateful for your prayers and financial support in "educating for the future."

For wills and bequests:
Clerics of St. Viator
an Illinois Corporation



The Nazareth League of Prayers

provides an opportunity to share in the Viatorian prayer life. Prayer requests are inscribed in a special book and then placed in the chapel at the Province Center. When Viatorians gather daily in communal prayer, they specifically remember the intentions of their friends and gratefully thank everyone who has so generously supported the Viatorian ministries.

To participate in the Nazareth League of Prayers, simply list your intentions in the envelope provided and mail them to us. You can also request specific cards by calling 847-637-2124 or online at viatorians.com/prayers.

Saint Viator High School

Although St. Viator High School is located in a quiet, residential neighborhood of Arlington Heights, IL, its outstanding reputation extends throughout the northwest Chicago suburbs. Founded in 1961 by the Viatorians, it has approximately 1,100 students with over 12,000 alumni.

The Viatorians follow the tradition of their founder, Fr. Louis Querbes, by providing quality academic education within a strong Faith environment. Academically, the record speaks for itself. Students consistently perform well on college entrance tests. Ninety-nine percent of the graduates enroll in a four-year college or university.

One division of St. Viator High School is the Scanlan Center for students who have learning disabilities and need individualized attention. They meet in small groups with their tutors where they learn the basic academic skills so that they can join their classmates as academic equals. Approximately eighty students utilize the center.

Concurrent with academic achievement is Faith formation. The Faith environment is very evident within the school with announcements about various outreach opportunities, displays of student projects, monthly liturgies, and the presence of the campus ministry staff. The administration considers the religion curriculum to be a top priority, which is continuously evaluated so as to provide a comprehensive vision of the Church.

Liturgy is central for the school prayer life. The school community gathers monthly for a liturgy that students and staff planned. The theme arises from the particular season of the Church calendar, and the entire community is actively involved. Weekly liturgy is also available on each Friday.

The campus ministry department develops numerous ways for students to put their Faith into practice. They offer student retreats, facilitate meetings at which students plan and participate in worship services, and arrange service trips. In recent years students visited



Fr. John Van Wiel, CSV



Class Reflection

Habitat for Humanity sites in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Last summer a group of students traveled to Eldridgeville, Belize to volunteer at a weeklong summer camp for children. Other projects include demonstrating to close the School of the



Br. John Eustice, CSV and students in the campus ministry office



Belize Service Trip

Americas and instituting a recycling program. All projects are geared toward helping the students think globally and to act locally in such relevant areas as the economy, society, and the Church.

All first year students are required to participate in a school sponsored retreat, which takes place at the SVHS campus. Additional retreats such as Bridges, Kairos, Quest, and a retreat for third year students are also offered. Approximately 400 students chose to participate in one of these retreats each year.

Each student is required to perform 100 hours of community service during his/her four years at SVHS. The students are represented in over 200 local service organizations that include the church community, civic activities and work with the underprivileged/need. When they have completed their requirements, the students will have had experience in all three areas. The program is structured so that the students have ample opportunities to process with the their peers and teachers how the experience impacted them and how their actions reflected Gospel values.

Providing a topnotch education is a costly venture, and the expenses continue to rise. Concurrent with the Viatorian mission of



SVHS student with young Belizeans

reaching out to all people, the school is working to build an endowment to provide tuition assistance to families with limited means. Because of the generosity of many people, the amount of assistance continues to rise. For the current academic year, twenty percent of the students received up to one half of their tuition costs. Tuition assistance for the 2007-2008 academic year totaled \$820,000. The goal is to be able to provide \$1,000,000 annually in tuition assistance by 2011.



Br. Rob Robertson, CSV with students in the counseling office

The Viatorian Community founded St. Viator High School with the hope of implementing the vision of Fr. Querbes. In its forty-six-year history, Viatorians and their lay collaborators have made that vision a reality. Together they look forward toward its continued implementation in the years to come.



Br. Dan Tripamer, CSV assisting a student with Algebra



Br. Robert Ruhl, CSV reviewing an English essay with a student



Students completing a class project

Saint Viator Parish

In 1888, Viatorians traveled from Bourbonnais, Illinois to the northwest side of Chicago to establish the first parish in that neighborhood, which they named St. Viator. Throughout its 120-year history, the parish has been an essential institution in a neighborhood that changed from farmland and prairie to a vibrant and constantly evolving urban environment.



Some families have been parish members for generations; others are recent arrivals. The majority were from European descent; today the parish census includes Latinos, Asians, Filipinos, and Asian/Indians. It is within this diverse environment that the Viatorians minister in collaboration with local lay leaders to build a Faith community where all are welcomed.

Liturgy is the center and source of the parish life. The Sunday liturgies are held in English and Spanish and are planned to reflect the life of the community and challenge people to respond to the Gospel message. During the week, the school children participate with adult parishioners at the weekday liturgies, which provides an opportunity for the generations to mingle.



St. Viator Parish Choir



St. Viator parishioners at Sunday Liturgy

The parish annually celebrates its diverse identity through a special liturgy highlighting the various ethnic cultures within the parish. Following the liturgy, a dinner is held in the parish gym where parishioners share various ethnic foods.

December 12, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is of special importance to the Mexican-American community. The recent parish liturgy for that day included music by a Mariachi band and a reenactment of the appearance of Mary to Juan Diego at Tepeyac in 1531. Following the liturgy, people gathered in the gym for a fiesta that included hearty Mexican food and lively music.



Liturgy celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Social outreach has always been an integral part of the parish life. The St. Vincent de Paul group provides emergency assistance. For years a clothing store has been in operation for people in need. A group of parishioners prepare meals on a monthly basis for guests at REST, a homeless shelter located in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. Another group within the parish is advocating for a sane immigration policy.

Youth ministry is integral to the parish. The parish grade school has over a hundred-year history with thousands of alumni. It is vibrant today with active lay leaders who work closely with the Viatorians to enhance the Catholic atmosphere, strengthen the religion curriculum, and continue the academic excellence.

Studies have indicated that an artistic person often excels in the sciences. St. Viator School has an active arts program. The music program includes a children's choir that sings at special parish liturgies. Teachers guided a recent First Communion Class to sing several parts of their First Communion Mass.

For over ten years the school has implemented the Art Zone program. Each month, parent volunteers teach the culture, history, techniques and tools used by various artists. The students then complete a similar project, which they proudly display.



Students working on their Art Zone projects

Parish youth ministers direct youth groups in English and Spanish. The groups provide the opportunity for the youth to enjoy themselves, learn about the Faith, and to put it into action. They participate in Confirmation preparation classes, volunteer with Night Ministry, serve at soup kitchens, and collect coats for the homeless. Supervision of the gym by responsible adults ensures that the young people have a safe place to gather and enjoy themselves.



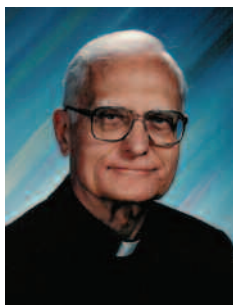
Students in front of the Art Zone mosaic

Viatorians see the diverse parish identity with its many different ministries as a reflection of the international Viatorian Community. It is within this complex environment that the Viatorians work to make the Church alive in the present-day context.

Celebrating Anniversaries as Vowed Religious in 2008

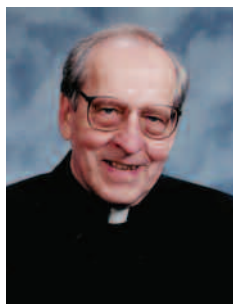
Fr. John Puisis, CSV

Fr. John Puisis, CSV holds the distinction of being the eldest member of the province, and recent years have been a time of special events for him. In 2006, he celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to priesthood. In 2007, his family celebrated his 90th birthday. 2008 marks his 70th year as a religious in the Viatorian Community. His parents, John and Mary Puisis, had six children; three married, two became priests, and one became a Sister of St. Casmir. Father Puisis has had a very full life devoted to the service of God's people. From Kyoto, Japan to Las Vegas, Nevada, he has worked as associate pastor in several parishes and as chaplain in several hospitals. He was a versatile teacher. Besides teaching English literature, which was his major field, he taught Latin, French, biology, religion and sociology. Throughout his religious life, he has been available to serve the sacramental needs of parishioners in Illinois, Nevada, and Florida.



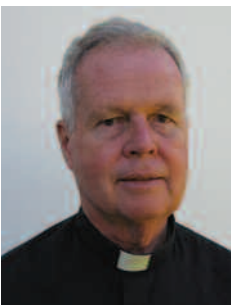
Fr. Arnold Perham, CSV

Most of Fr. Arnold Perham's years as priest and teacher have been spent in Arlington Heights as a mathematics teacher at St. Viator High School and as a priest in many parishes in the northwest suburbs. Viatorians have been part of his entire life. After having grown up in St. Viator Parish in Chicago and attending St. Viator Elementary School, he was not among strangers when he pronounced his first vows in 1948. Sixty years later, faculty and students at St. Viator High School continue to recognize Fr. Perham's accomplishments. He has been Teacher of the Year, and he has published materials to enhance student understanding of mathematics. He has been an active and contributing member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. He was an early user of computer technology to enhance students' understanding. The Viatorian Community has for many years elected him to their governing board. More recently, he has given his time and efforts to support the spiritual development of the Viatorian Associates.



Fr. John Pisors, CSV

Almost all of Fr. John Pisors' pre-school and elementary school years were spent at St. Viator Parish in Chicago, which allowed him to be well-grounded in the Viatorian Community. He entered the Viatorian Community and pronounced his first vows as a Cleric of St. Viator in 1958 and was ordained a priest in 1966. While he was a



university student, his focus was science and mathematics. Fr. Pisors has spent more than forty years serving the people of Colombia in South America. In the year after his ordination, he was assigned to Colegio San Viator in Bogotá, where he served as teacher and administrator. In later years he worked in various parishes in Colombia before returning once again to the colegio. He has also published books directed to developing the spirituality of young people.

Fr. Alan Syslo, CSV

Fr. Alan Syslo is also celebrating fifty years as a member of the Viatorian Community. As a high school student at St. Philip High School in Chicago, he came into contact with Viatorians that fostered his desire to become a religious. He attended Loyola University, George Washington University, and Illinois State University and earned degrees in accounting and management, which complemented his ministry as teacher and in pastoral work. He taught at St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights and Spalding Institute in Peoria, Illinois. At Spalding, he was director of the youth center, dean of men, and teacher. His pastoral ministry skills were further developed in Morgan City, Louisiana, where he served Holy Cross Parish as a member of the parish council, coordinator of education, liturgy and finances. He would say that his last twenty-five years have been the hardest, most fulfilling, and most fruitful. Since the early 1980s, Fr. Syslo has cared for and been an advocate for people living with AIDS. He also earned a master of social work degree and counseled veterans suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome. Today, he continues his outreach ministry to the marginalized.



Fr. Christopher Glancy, CSV

It is the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fr. Christopher Glancy's first profession as a member of the Viatorian Community. The three main eras of his ministry have been marked as a teacher in Bogotá, coordinator of vocation ministry for the province, and director of the Viatorian foundation in Corozal, Belize. From 1985 to 1989, Fr. Glancy taught at Colegio San Viator in Bogotá, Colombia. From 1994 to 1998 his work focused on vocation work. For the last ten years he has served the people of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Corozal District in Belize. The parish includes twenty-three small Faith communities with nineteen schools. Approximately 5,000 children are enrolled in these schools. During the time of his leadership, Chunox St. Viator Vocational High School was established, and several parishioners have become Viatorian Associates. In May 2007, Fr. Glancy was elected president of the Caribbean and Latin American Council.



Vocation Ministry

Several people who came by Associate Daniel Lydon's office during his first month on the job asked, "Will you have enough to do?" Well, five months into the job, he has found that there is plenty to do! Vocation ministry involves getting the word out about the Viatorian Community. It is about networking with vocation coordinators from other religious communities of men and women. He has also responded to initial inquiries about the community. But, Dan's principal work these past five months has been forming a vocation ministry team of Viatorian religious and associates who will work together to promote vocations to the Viatorian Community.

The Viatorian Vocation Team is comprised of nineteen Viatorians from areas where Viatorians serve in the United States and Belize. The team met for the first time on Saturday, September 15, 2007. The purpose of the first meeting was to develop a pastoral plan for the year. The plan includes the updating of the vocation page of the province website, hosting a vocation retreat, hosting several "Come and See" evenings for young men from Saint Viator High School, and providing opportunities for young men to participate in service programs.

The first phase of updating the webpage has been completed. Soon a more interactive dimension to the page will be added. There are also plans to include recorded testimonies of how people's lives have been touched by the Viatorian charism.

Viatorians Fr. Corey Brost, Fr. Mick Egan, Br. John Eustice, and Br. Rob Robertson from Saint Viator High School hosted their first "Come and See" evening on Monday, December 10, 2007. They, along with invited students, gathered for dinner and afterwards prayed the Liturgy of the Hours. A discussion on the topic of prayer fol-

lowed, during which time each Viatorian described the significance of communal prayer in his life.

A discernment retreat is planned for the weekend of February 15-17, 2008. The theme for this year's retreat is the vow of celibacy. A group of six to ten young men are expected to attend. Several Viatorian brothers and priests will play an integral role in helping them on their discernment journey.

This summer, Br. Eustice and Dan will host a **Viatorian Plunge**. They hope to provide young men and women an opportunity to work alongside Viatorian religious and associates as they serve those in need in Chicago. Details of the **Viatorian Plunge** will be available in early 2008.

These are exciting days in vocation ministry. There is great interest in the Viatorian Community and their work of "announcing Jesus Christ and raising up communities where Faith is lived, deepened and celebrated."



Viatorian Vocation Team, Province of Chicago

Kankakee/Bourbonnais: Associate Ken Barrie, Associate Mike Bourgeois, Br. Jason Nesbit, Fr. Richard Pighini, and Associate Dave Surprenant

Arlington Heights/Chicago: Associate Dan Lydon, Chair, Fr. Corey Brost, Fr. Bill Carpenter, Associate Karen Cutler, Br. John Eustice, Fr. Daniel Hall, Br. Moises Mesh, Br. Rob Robertson, and Fr. Tom von Behren

Henderson/Las Vegas: Fr. Bob Bolser, Br. Michael Rice, and Associate Ken Rosania

Belize: Fr. Dan Belanger and Fr. Chris Glancy

Fr. Daniel Belanger, CSV



The Viatorian Community rejoiced last May when Bishop Joseph Pepe of the Diocese of Las Vegas ordained Fr. Daniel Belanger, CSV to the priesthood.

As reported in the Fall 2007 **Viator**, soon after ordination Fr. Dan began his priestly ministry as associate pastor at Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Corozal Town, Belize.

As Director of the Liturgy Committee and Youth Ministry, Fr. Dan draws

on his extensive experience as teacher and youth minister. Before ordination he taught at Saint Viator School, Chicago for four years and served for three years as Director of Youth Ministry at Maternity, BVM Parish in Bourbonnais, Illinois. He served as deacon at Saint Thomas More Parish in Henderson, Nevada in 2006-2007.

During a recent visit to the Viatorian foundation in Belize, Associate Dan Lydon had the opportunity to travel with Fr. Dan to the village of

Sarteneja for Eucharist with the school children. He experienced first-hand Fr. Dan's creativity as a preacher and his enthusiasm and commitment to the work of the Viatorians in Belize.

Dan credits the Viatorians and the people he has served for much of his learning. "I have received wonderful insights about life and Jesus Christ through special Viatorian mentors and parishioners. These individuals saw my potential and nurtured my gifts. They taught me the meaning of working for the good of the community, instead of just for myself." As a priest, Fr. Dan hopes that by his "presence and personality" he might "announce Jesus Christ" and "build up communities where Faith is lived, deepened and celebrated."

Dan adds, "This is why I am in Belize – because being a Viatorian is about going where we are needed and trying to use our gifts in whatever capacity Christ needs them."



Fr. Belanger talking with Ms. Patrociana Sho, principal of Chunox St. Viator Vocational High School

Fr. Daniel Belanger, CSV greeting parishioners after Mass.

In the Footsteps of Our Founder

First Steps Toward Papal Awareness

The Royal Charter, which authorized the Society of St. Viator Schools, issued on January 10, 1830, specified that the headquarters would be at Vourles (Rhône) under Fr. Louis Querbes, Pastor.

As a diocesan priest, by ordination, he pledged his obedience to the Archbishop of Lyons. In 1831, the Archbishop nominated Fr. Querbes as pastor at Bourg-Argental. The government delayed the nomination. The Archbishop then proposed him as pastor at Tarare. Either appointment would have compromised plans for the development of his Society.

Eventually the government refused both nominations. Fr. Querbes received the decision on the feast day of St. Viator (October 21, 1831). He saw the decision as providential. Fr. Querbes would remain in Vourles the next thirty-eight years as pastor and founder of the Viatorians.

In our last article, we discussed the proposal of the Archbishop for a merger with the Brothers of Mary (Marists). Three times the Archbishop had attempted civil recognition of the Marists. Three times he was refused. Since both Fr. Marcellin Champagnat and Fr. Querbes were priests subject to the Archbishop, he proposed a merger to solve the civil recognition problem. The two founders esteemed each other but did not recommend a merger. Each society had distinctly different educational and spiritual goals.

Fr. Querbes needed assistance to meet the increased parish demands and the growing requests of the Institute. In 1832, he petitioned the Archbishop for an assistant. Fr. Pierre Robert writes that his request was “sometimes promised, often announced, (but) did not come until October 1833” and then “only to help the pastor ...” Fr. Querbes really wanted a co-worker to assist with the catechists. However, he accepted Fr. Vallet and “gave him the warmest welcome.” (Robert, *Life of Louis Querbes*, p. 114)

Fr. Querbes considered the Archbishop’s response for assistance as “an unmistakable proof of devotion and of ... lively interest ... in his Society.” (Ibid.)

However, Fr. Querbes had concerns about eventual Episcopal control over his Society. On June 13, 1833, Fr. Querbes decided to petition Rome for two favors. He utilized his petition to



explain to Pope Gregory XVI the “raison d’être and the principal lines of the Society.” (Ibid.) Ending the petition, Fr. Querbes added that he “ventures to hope, the approbation of Your Holiness” (Ibid.) for his Society.

On July 10, 1883, Rome granted the two favors. The first was to affiliate the Society of St. Viator with the Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine and to share in confraternity indulgences. The second privilege pertains to the ring – rosary. Fr. Querbes adopted the ring-rosary from the Sisters of St. Charles. He asked, as Superior, for the faculty to attach rosary indulgences to the ring. Each vowed Viatorian wears the ring-rosary as a distinctive sign of our vows.

Fr. Robert wrote that “with its usual prudence, Rome kept silence on the project which has been presented to it, but recognized and blessed it.” (Ibid. p. 116) Fr. Querbes had taken the first step in his ultimate goal to gain Papal approval for his young Society.

- Br. Leo V. Ryan, CSV



Around The Province



United States

Congratulations to Fr. Daniel Mirabelli, CSV who has served Alleman High School in Rock Island, Illinois for forty-two years. He was designated Rock Island's "Citizen of the Year" last year by the city of Rock Island.

Fr. John Peeters, CSV was installed on October 20, 2007 as the seventeenth Viatorian pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Kankakee, Illinois. Fr. Peeters, who served his diaconate year at St. Patrick twenty-five years ago, expressed gratitude to the parishioners for welcoming him back.



Fr. John Peeters, CSV

Viatorians throughout the province celebrated St. Viator Day on October 21, 2007. During this time, associate and professed members celebrated not only their patron but also remembered their commitment to continue the mission that Fr. Querbes started in Lyons, France in 1831.



St. Viator Day in Belize

In November 2007, students at St. Viator High School (Arlington Heights, Illinois) took a stand to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. After viewing a presentation to a

student justice group on the issue by senior Derek Kiebal, Fr. Corey Brost, CSV challenged his ninth grade religion classes to study and respond to the tragedy. The classes sponsored a sale to raise funds and awareness of the genocide. Working with the **Coalition to Save Darfur**, a national non-profit committed to ending the genocide, the students sold 320 "Save Darfur" tee-shirts to fellow students, staff and faculty, who then wore the tee shirts on a "Save Darfur Dress Down Day," which was also the day of the school's Advent Mass. The students also raised an additional \$200 by selling baked goods along with the tee shirts.

Senior Derek Kiebal has worked with Fr. Brost since then to start a local chapter of **STAND** – an international student organization committed to ending the genocide in Darfur. In addition, Derek coordinated a presentation during an evening in December by a local filmmaker, who recently completed a documentary on the tragedy in Darfur entitled **Facing Sudan**. About fifty students and parents attended the presentation. For more information, please visit the student anti-genocide group at www.standnow.org and the **Coalition to Save Darfur** at www.savedarfur.org. You can find more information about the documentary at www.facingsudan.com



Save Darfur Dress Down Day at SVHS

At its December 13, 2007 meeting, the Viatorian Provincial Council voted to divest itself of stock in corporations that do business with the government of Sudan in

order to help bring pressure on the government to end the genocide that is taking place.

For the eighteenth consecutive year, the campus ministry department of St. Viator High School organized an annual Christmas Season of Sharing program. According to Viatorian Br. John Eustice, students, families, staff, and faculty provided gifts for seventy-eight families referred by Howard Area Community Center, a nonprofit social service agency in Chicago, IL. An additional \$2,000 was collected to provide gift cards to HACC clients to be used throughout the year.



St. Viator High School students in front of truck loaded with Christmas gifts



St. Viator High School students preparing gifts for HACC families

The faculty and staff of St. Martin de Porres High School (Waukegan, Illinois) recently established the Rev. Charles G. Bolser, CSV Scholarship in appreciation of Fr. Bolser's dedication and commitment to the students of SMdP. Fr. Bolser has served as president of the four-year old school for the past two

and half years SMdP, a member of the Cristo Rey Network, provides a Catholic college prep education to students from low-income families.



SMdP students with teacher, Ms. Joan Paprigian

retreat center. From all observances, the mission of Fr. Querbes in Chile is alive and well as it celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.



2007 International Novitiate Class

poverty, chastity, and obedience on January 19, 2008 at Colegio San Viator in Bogotá during the community's annual assembly. Fr. Thomas von Behren, CSV, who received their vows, thanked their family, friends, and the local Viatorian Community for their support of these young men during the early years of formation. He asked the Viatorians present to continue mentoring them as they continue their journey in the community.



Fr. Fredy Contreras, Fr. Thomas von Behren, Br. Juan Fernando Londoño



SVHS alums who work at SMdP with Fr. Charles Bolser, CSV



Students at Colegio San Viator in Macul, Chile

Br. Fabio Prieto, Br. Edwin Ruiz and Br. Daniel Villalobos entered the international novitiate on Chile in January 9, 2008. They will spend the year studying Viatorian history, spirituality, and mission. They will also have the opportunity for various ministerial experiences.



Brs. Daniel Villalobos, Fabio Prieto and Edwin Ruiz



Chile

From November 1-November 6, 2007, Fr. Thomas von Behren, CSV and Br. Michael Gosch, CSV visited the international novitiate community for Latin America and the Caribbean. Formed in 2005, the novitiate is located in Santiago, Chile. The 2007 novitiate class was comprised of seven young novices from the foundations of Colombia, Haiti, and Peru. Novices Fredy Contreras and Juan Fernando Londoño from Colombia are members of the Province of Chicago. The visit allowed Fr. von Behren and Br. Gosch the opportunity to meet with Brs. Contreras and Londoño as they prepared to request permission to profess their first vows as Viatorians. It also allowed them the opportunity to visit the Viatorian Community and ministries of the Province of Chile. Members of the province administer and staff six schools, one parish, and one



Colombia

Due to increased responsibility as superior of the Foundation of Colombia, Fr. Pedro Herrera, CSV bid a fond farewell to Colegio San Antonio Maria Claret in Libano on November 30, 2007. During Fr. Herrera's ten year tenure as rector, the school has grown numbers and stature. It was evident from the compliments that he received that Fr. Herrera will be missed by the school community. Fr. Herrera has returned to Bogotá to work with Viatorians in formation.

Viatorians have expanded their ministry in Colombia by accepting the administration of Parroquia San Juan Maria Vianey in Bogotá. Fr. Rafael Sanabria began serving as the first Viatorian pastor of the parish late last month. Br. Fredy Contreras and Br. Juan Fernando Londoño professed their first vows of

Carlos Eduardo Diaz, Carlos Arturo Romero, and Jorge Vargas entered the pre-novitiate program on January 20, 2008. As candidates for religious life, they will be introduced to religious life while living in community as they continue their university studies.

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On January 31, 2008, Fr. Brian Cooper, CSV ended his term as pastor of Parroquia San Vicente and director of Centro Viatoriano in Libano. Fr. Cooper's efforts on behalf of the poor and marginalized have assisted people with food, housing, and employment. After a brief rest, Fr. Cooper will assume pastoral duties at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Corozal Town, Belize.



Fr. Brian Cooper, CSV with young parishioners



Belize

Fr. Daniel Belanger, CSV organized the first Quest retreat held in Corozal District on November 16-17, 2007. The retreat calls young people to reflect on the importance of love of self, love of others, and love of God. Thirty-three members of the district youth group participated in the retreat.



Belize Quest Retreat



Young Belizean at the Quest Retreat

On December 8, 2007, Associate Daniel Lydon, Director of Association, conducted a retreat in Chetumal, Mexico for ten Belizean associates who are preparing for their recommitment as associates next month. During the retreat, the associates reflected on the ways they live the charism of Fr. Querbes. All are actively involved in serving the St. Francis Xavier Parish community.



Associate Dan Lydon and Belizean associates

Fr. Thomas von Behren, CSV facilitated a regional meeting with the Viatorians of Belize on December 10, 2007. The community, comprised of two professed and ten associates, shared their hopes for the future and spoke about the importance of inviting new members to join this rather young community. Fr. Christopher Glancy, CSV, superior of the foundation, stressed the importance of the associates in continuing the mission of Fr. Querbes.

Br. Michael Gosch, CSV accompanied Associate Rafael Cob and Mr. Gregorio Itzab on December 7 and 10, 2007 to various villages to observe Hurricane Dean

relief efforts. Rafael and Gregorio have worked tirelessly to assist individuals and families both within and outside of St. Francis Xavier Parish who have been adversely affected by the hurricane. The nineteen parish schools have received financial assistance to replace roofs and/or damaged school equipment. Donations have been used to meet the increased demand for emergency food and medical help provided by the parish. Over sixty homes have either been repaired or rebuilt thanks to donations received from Catholic Relief Services, Viatorian parishes and schools in the United States, and readers of this newsletter.



Rebuilding in Belize after Hurricane Dean

In Memoriam - Fr. Thomas McCarthy, CSV

Father Thomas P. McCarthy, CSV died and was born to new life on Christmas Day at the age of 87. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts on May 12, 1920, the son of Thomas and Rose (McKernan) McCarthy. He was one of nine children and is survived by six brothers and one sister: James, Francis, Charles, Paul, Richard, Vincent, and Mrs. Theresa Baufford.

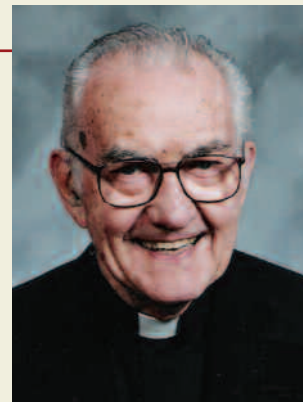
Fr. McCarthy professed his first vows as a Viatorian on August 19, 1947 in Bourbonnais, Illinois. He earned a bachelor of philosophy degree from Loyola University, Chicago, in 1949. After completion of his undergraduate studies, he attended Catholic University of America for seminary education. Bishop John McNamara ordained him to the priesthood on October 1, 1952 in Washington, D.C.

Fr. McCarthy taught at Alleman High School in Rock Island, Illinois; Spalding Institute in Peoria, Illinois and at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. After twenty years in high school ministry, he entered into parish ministry. He was pastor of Our Lady of Wisdom Church in Reno, Nevada and associate pastor at Holy Cross Church in Morgan

City, Louisiana and St. Viator Church in Chicago, Illinois.

He then studied clinical pastoral education for a year to prepare himself for hospital chaplaincy work, which he exercised at Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas. After completion of his work there, he returned to parish work as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church in Marlborough, Massachusetts and at Saints Peter and Paul Church in South Boston. In 1992 he moved to the Province Center in Arlington Heights where he assisted at neighborhood parishes, played his violin at area nursing homes and senior centers, served as chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, assisted with the Marriage Encounter and New Beginnings retreats, and wrote his book entitled *Forever A Priest*.

He will be missed.



Belize Bolivia Burkina Faso Canada Chile Colombia France Haiti Honduras Italy Ivory Coast Japan Peru Spain Taiwan United States

Clerics of St. Viator

Viatorians Around The World



Our priests and brothers ministering in parishes and schools give witness to Jesus Christ in our modern world.



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