

# THE WORD

**Special points of interest:**

- Bros. Eric and Roger arrive in Santa Maria.
- Bishop High school receives major gift.
- Associates receive pin.

## WE WELCOME BROS. ERIC AND ROGER

On October 3rd after 22 hours of travel from Kinshasa-Addis Ababa-Rome-Washington, DC, then to Los Angeles, two tired but very alert young Josephite scholastics, Bro. Eric Nkoko and Bro. Roger Mingashanga made their voyage to our region. Then they had a 3 hour drive to Santa Maria, but on the way had their first taste of what they had been told by Felix, Willy, Franklin and Michel was a real treat—a hamburger at “In-n-Out.”

It did not take them long to get accustomed to life in the novitiate house with Frs. Ed, John, Mark, Tim and Jim (brother to the late



Fr. Anthony). It is here they will live until June, 2008 and from here attend Hancock College taking English classes; spending time at SJHS, St. Louis de Montfort parish (they participate with the choir at the 9:30 Sunday Mass.)

In January they will spend time in Santa Barbara at Bishop Diego H.S. and Holy

Cross parish. As they were able to come in the fall their experiences are new ones— watching high school football, the annual Jr. Class Ring Mass, where

the students in that class receive school rings, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In June they will join the community for their annual retreat at Serra Retreat House in Malibu, Ca— high atop a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

We will leave it to them to write of their experiences elsewhere in this newsletter.

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## FR. TOM TO RECEIVE AWARD

Fr. Tom has been notified by the National Catholic Education Association that he will be one of 7 principals in a 1200 system to be recognized at the annual NCEA conven-

tion in Indianapolis March 24-28, 2008.

The award is for leadership in assisting school change, privatization at BGDHS, Presi-

dent/Principal model at SJHS, SJHS’s National Blue Ribbon Award and the current success of BGDHS.

## BISHOP DIEGO MAKES HISTORY! - Fr. Tom

This year marks the seventy-sixth anniversary for the Cardinals of Santa Barbara Catholic High and Bishop Garcia Diego High School. Seventy-six years is indeed a time for reflection and expressing gratitude. Last year, Bishop High experienced a new record in philanthropic generosity: \$3.4 million! These donations represent a "year of giving" more significant than any other year in the school's history.

The new practice gym, courtyard landscape, main gymnasium renovation, completion of the softball field, computer upgrades, and art room improvements create an attractive and inviting

campus where we prepare students to be *ready for college and ready for life*.

This generous support allows our school to build facilities, attract teachers of excellence, purchase curriculum materials, and most significantly, attract a diverse student body where



every Bishop student is supported to *realize their God-given potential in a multicultural society*.

This year continues to set new records. Our enrollment increased by 12% to 306 students. One hundred percent of our graduates were admitted to college and university studies and merited more than \$4 million in scholarships. Seventy percent of our faculty possesses advanced degrees; five teachers hold doctorate degrees. Seven teachers and one staff member are alums of the school ensuring that our school traditions remain central to our school life now and in the future.

This is indeed a year of gratitude and reflection on God's abundant blessings. Fr. Alfred Verstreken and Fr. Tom Elewaut continue the Josephite ethos on campus while Fr. Ludo supports the school as pastor of Holy Cross Parish.



STUDENTS AT POTTERS WHEEL



## ST. JOSEPH HIGH—NEW ICON OF CHRIST THE TEACHER

At the very heart of the St. Joseph High School campus stands a newly painted, 3 meter high icon of Christ the Teacher. It serves as a powerful daily reminder of the Lord's presence. Nancy Jo Ward, a parent of one of the students, and an art instructor at Alan Hancock College painted the icon over a period of six months. Dedic-

ated to the faculty and staff of the school, the icon of Christ the Teacher, was chosen because it represents the mission of the school - to form young people in the image of Christ. The icon was blessed on September 13th just before the celebration of the opening Mass of the new school term and holy cards of the icon were

distributed to all the students and faculty. The reverse side of the card was imprinted with the great commission of the Lord, "Go, make disciples of all nations, ...teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Mt 28:19-20

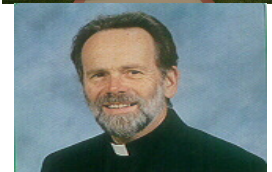
## HOLY CROSS PARISH RECEIVES RECOGNITION

**Holy Cross Parish** received a recognition for their commitment to the mission and the growth of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The local **Daily Sound** newspaper printed a photo of Santa Barbara CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) showing Fr. Ludo, as a CLUE member, handing a check to Jeanette Duncan, the chair of the

Santa Barbara County 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness." This check puts us over the top!" said Roger Heroux, Executive Director of the S.B. Homeless Shelter.

Now we can hire an Executive director for this plan." Similar 10-Year plans have proven their effectiveness in other U.S.A. cities.



## HALLOWEEN— Bro. Roger

I had never heard this word before. But, last October, 31st, I celebrated my first Halloween in the US.

Fr. Ed took Eric and I, around our neighborhood and to SLDM to see what was happening.

Along the way, we could see some scary masks, the fire and pumpkins in front of the doors. Some kids were led by their parents in front of those doors asking for candies. And they say, "Trick or treat", to receive can-

dies. Along the streets, most of people were wearing scary masks and other masks representing some birds or some animals.

This is how Halloween is celebrated in US according to what I have seen.

So, how was it

Nov. 1. So, the night before the New Year, it was believed that this was the night the dead came back to visit the living. That is why people dressed like spirits and ghosts, so that they could not be harmed by witches and ghosts.

But, this celebration became Christians' All Hallows Day, a time to honor saints of the Church.

However, the focus seems lost as there

## BRO. ERIC'S FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The first thing I admired about the parish was the pretty architecture of the Church. We had only been here four days and were unsure what to expect when we were invited to participate in the Parish Festival. I was impressed with how Christians and their pastors working! Then, that event, the parish festival which is in

my thoughts very purposeful, can help also different families in the parish to be get to know each other and strengthen their unity around their priests.

It was a good occasion for us to discover the diversities of food, tasting BBQ, Mexican, Soul food, Philipino, etc.), some competitions, people

selling things, games, beer, music and so on in Santa Maria are among those we haven't tasted, seen, drunk and eaten before. No wonder we were both, Roger and me, satisfied !!!

Finally, two more things have caught my attention: Josephite's works in California and Catholics who are believers.



## JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

The Josephite Associates in California held their annual day of recollection on Saturday, September 8 at the Josephite Novitiate in Santa Maria with Fr. Robert giving one talk on how we can be united in our faith and how our unity extends from the Creator to the Church, to the local Church, to Religious congregations, and to Associates. He also presided at the Mass and at the end of the day **blessed and distrib-**

**uted the newly made pins (at right)** He encouraged all of the Associates to continue to study the Founder's documents, and with the recent publication of Maureen Dolan's Book on Lay Associates as a catalyst for further discussion to consider developing Constitutions. It was also discussed that since we are now in our 7th year the time has come to select a lay person to serve as the Coordinator or Chairperson.

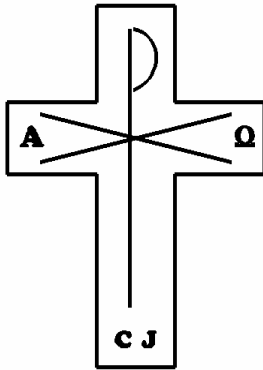


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## St. Louis de Montfort has plans for future.

According to Fr. Charles a plan is underway to raise a little over \$2 million to replace a small single story modular building with a 2-story 6000 sq ft. structure which will allow for one large meeting room upstairs, and 3 smaller rooms downstairs. Pledges are being sought from the parishioners. The Archdiocese has given the permission to raise the funds and build the building; the Country of Santa Barbara will meet in February to review the revised Master Plan. So far the different agencies involved have given the ok to proceed and have a few "conditions." It will take 2 years to raise the funds, and the parish is using \$700,000 of their savings towards the cost. It is hoped that the cost will be less once it goes out to bid. At this writing \$281,000 has been pledged.

## ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT—2007

