
Brothers Eric and Roger

In October, 2007 our two African Scholastics, Bros. Roger (left) and Eric (right) arrived in Santa Maria on a Wednesday. On the Sunday the parish held its annual festival and Roger and Eric were introduced to Santa Maria Style Tri-tip BBQ sandwiches, and many welcoming faces. Now, on June 22, the Hispanic Community held their fundraiser for the SLDM Parish building campaign, and here we see Fr. Charles (at far left) with Bros. Roger and Eric enjoying a plate of Mexican food. This included Chili Relleno, Enchilada, and Rice. Over the 8 months of their "stage" they learned and developed their English skills which everyone has commented on. They were involved in the 9:30 choir each Sunday, with Eric on the drums, and Roger on a guitar playing and on occasion (like their last Mass on June 22) singing solo,



They spent their time, in addition to attending Hancock College from Oct-Dec. taking English, and in the afternoons visiting the two schools in Santa Maria - St. Joseph H.S., and St. Louis de Montfort elementary school. From Jan-June they spent considerably more time at both schools working with the students, even taking an American History Class, taking part in a Vocation talk; and at the Elementary school playing soccer with the students, working in their classrooms actually helping students at the lower grades with their reading.

They also spent two weeks at Bishop Diego H.S. where they had the opportunity to speak on Vocations and tell the students about their life in Africa.

They took classes on the Founder given by Fr. Campion, and at one Regional Community meeting they spoke on "Community Life" as defined in our Constitutions, making comparison to life in Africa. They reported strong similarities.

No matter where they spoke, they did so with a strong accent, but very understandable English which impressed the people.

In May they assisted Fr. Charles in the annual appeal for the African Endowment Fund speaking at all the Masses...and even Roger wrote and spoke his remarks at the Spanish Mass! Their assistance helped to raise in excess of \$20,000 for the fund.

And finally from June 15-20th they joined in the annual Community Retreat at Serra Retreat House, high atop a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Malibu.

They take home with them many experiences, and many photos which they hope to share with their community in Kimwenza.

They leave Santa Maria on June 23rd and Fr. Tom will take them to the Our Lady Queen of Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles, and then a day at Disneyland on Tuesday, with their departure on Wednesday morning from Los Angeles. They are due to arrive in Kinshasa on Friday the 27th.

The American Region has been enriched by their presence and we look forward to this type of program.

Fr Charles