The Mission and Ministry Center Celebrates Pope Francis and Bishop Barber

by Carrie Davis

The Mission and Ministry Center had a lot to celebrate these past few weeks, with Pope Francis’ first visit to the U.S. and Bishop Barber’s visit to Saint Mary’s College.

Brother Dominic Berardelli, FSC, led the campus in ringing the Saint Mary’s College bell upon Pope Francis’ arrival on U.S. soil on September 22. Dozens of onlookers - including students, staff, and faculty – enjoyed the special occasion, and many took Brother Dominic up on his invitation to take a turn ringing the bell.

September 24 was a festive day as well, with over one hundred members of our college community coming to one of two events to witness Pope Francis’ address to Congress. “PASTries, Pajamas, and the Pope” began in the MMC lounge around dawn and featured a live broadcast of his address. Later that day, an overflowing crowd enjoyed lunch and a rebroadcast of the address during “Pasta and the Pope.”

The lunchtime event also included a phone call from President Jim Donahue calling from Washington D.C. who shared with those gathered his impressions of the address.

Most recently, Most Reverend Michael J. Barber, Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, came to campus at the initiative of the Henning Institute to offer a lecture and celebrate mass. His lecture, “The Challenges to the Church Posed by ‘Laudato Si,’” was a reflection on Pope Francis’ latest encyclical. The event was held in the chapel and was followed by a Pontifical Mass, and dinner with Bishop Barber.
Lasallian Community
by Felicia Good & Mandy Johnson, Community Leaders

This month, the Lasallian Community members continue to strengthen their bonds through a variety of experiences. These young Lasallians have started service at Saint Martin De Porres school in Oakland and look forward to a semester of connecting with the students of the 4th-5th grade class. On September 21st, the community night included time to reflect or pray about peace while walking the labyrinth, which came to the heart of the SMC campus to kick off the International Lasallian Days for Peace. The Lasallian Community is excited for its upcoming weekend retreat in October!

Santiago Community
by Nick van Santen

Named after Br. James Miller, the Santiago community consists of 35+ students who are committed to exploring faith, service, and community while living in Ageno West. New for this year, the community carries a .25 credit that brings a social justice component complete with class time, shared meals, and service together. Some of the highlights of the last month include a weekend retreat at St. Joseph’s Camp at the Russian River, serving in the Legacy Garden, and the “Suite Olympics” between the seven competing student apartments. The Santiago Community is currently thinking of ways of being “blessed to be a blessing” for the entire SMC community. Please do not hesitate to share your suggestions with me at nv5@stmarys-ca.edu

International Lasallian Days for Peace
by J.T. Taylor, Lasallian Peer Minister

The International Lasallian Days for Peace is a month-long global reflection on peace that started on September 21st, the United Nation’s sanctioned International Day of Peace. Lasallians around the world plan events, community prayers, and reflections to observe this time. The theme for this year is “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God,” as Pope Francis has labeled the beatitudes as a blueprint of discipleship for young adults.

We have begun to celebrate these Days for Peace with the labyrinth that was set up in the Chapel Plaza on Monday, September 21st. The labyrinth will be showing up at different places on campus throughout this month, so be on the lookout for the opportunity to walk and reflect! Student Engagement and Academic Success. We also hope to have a display of creative and artistic peace symbols made by students set up on October 21st.

New Student Retreat 2015
by Maddi Larsen, Lasallian Peer Minister

The New Student Retreat took place on the last weekend of September at the Diocese of Oakland Youth Retreat Center. With 23 new students and 13 leaders, we created new bonds through activities, music and junk food. We learned about the life and lessons of De La Salle and what it really means to go to college at Saint Mary’s. We talked about our hopes and our fears for this upcoming year, and we have created lifelong friendships.

Through the New Student Retreat, we have built trust, and love and community not only between the first years but between the leaders as well! We come back from this weekend with new ideas of the Saint Mary’s community, a colorful bandana, and a knowledge of how to dance to 500 miles and the Cotton Eyed Joe.

Mission and Ministry Center in the News

Check out these links to articles and news broadcasts featuring MMC staff and students!

KTVU News asks MMC staff about the importance of the Pope’s visit:
https://youtu.be/JPUXTbT67Is

Students reflect on the Pope’s address for KTVU news:
https://youtu.be/GJ8dL_Jf9B8

Food for Thought, by Maddi Larsen, ’17, Lasallian Peer Minister:
http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/food-for-thought

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A Note from Fr. Hai and the Mission & Ministry Team to all Liturgical Ministers

Dear Liturgical Ministers,

Thank you for your time and effort in helping to make our liturgies a prayerful experience. Your presence is greatly appreciated. May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministries.

A special note of gratitude to our newly trained liturgical ministers. We are glad you took part in the training and reflection sessions, and are excited that you will be more actively involved.

- Father Hai Ho, OFMCap

Our Lady of Guadalupe Planning Committee invites you to join them to plan the Our Lady of Guadalupe Week celebrations!

Meetings are every Wednesday evening 5:00-6:00 pm in the Mission & Ministry Center Lounge

Contact Maria Torres-Hernandez at mh4@stmarys-ca.edu for more information

EXPLORE THE GOSPEL A.S.K.

*Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.* Matthew 7:7

Get equipped with living Word to help guide us as we journey along our spiritual path. Join us as we seek to explore more deeply the Gospel passage for each Sunday Mass and reflect questions about our faith.

MEDITATION & PASTORAL CARE with Br. Camillus

THURSDAYS 1:30 TO 4:30

Sign up in the Mission and Ministry Center for a 20 minute session
The Mission and Ministry Center Team

Staff
Karin McClelland x4013
Brother Camillus Chavez, FSC x4344
Carrie Davis x4982
Julie Ford x4801
Father Hai Ho, OFMCap x4672
Sister Dolores Montini, CSJ x4083
Colleen da Silva x4366
Pamela Thomas x8019
Nick van Santen x4075

Santiago Community
Leaders
Suzanne Denssen
Jordan Ramee

Lasallian Community
Leaders
Felicia Good
Mandy Johnson

Lasallian Scholar
Chay Tananchano

Lasallian Peer Ministers
Flora Cabello
Lisa Castro
Shelby Chakmakan
Madison Chastain
Frankie Fontanilla
Maddi Larsen
Alicia McCallister
Emily Redfern
Sarah Remov
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You may already know that the Saint Mary’s College Chapel is home to numerous weddings throughout the year, but did you know that it is possible to have your marriage vows renewed in this beautiful location as well? Weddings and vow renewals in the Chapel are limited to alumni of the College as well as currently employed full-time faculty and staff, which makes a ceremony in the Chapel even more special.

For more information, contact the Coordinator of Wedding Services, Colleen da Silva, at extension 4569.

October 2015

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Weddings at SMC

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