



BROTHERHOOD of HOPE™

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009

Lights, Camera, Evangelization!

BY BR. BRANDON FRANK, BH

LIGHTS UP – A high powered camera moves across the field. Mud-covered students clear land to rebuild for a hurricane victim.

CAMERA – Amid the barrage of Northeastern’s “Sex Week”, a popular Christian singer defends chastity before an ecumenical audience.

ACTION – A successful NCAA football team swarms down the sidelines, their Brother-chaplain is caught up in the sea of scarlet uniforms.

Sound compelling? Wishing to feature the Brotherhood of Hope, CatholicTV approached us in early 2008

to explore some ideas about a possible show. After much prayer and dialogue, we agreed to a 13-part series called Hope on Campus.

This project will bring our life and what we do into the living rooms of thousands of Catholics. The combination of student-crafted videos and high-powered television is a modern way to spread gospel hope. We are very grateful to CatholicTV for this opportunity.

CatholicTV is the second largest and the longest running Catholic televi-

sion station in the United States. Their professional studio in Watertown, MA hosts daily Masses and devotions, Catholic news, live interviews, and

popular programs that air on cable systems in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine,

A 13-Part TV Series Called ‘Hope on Campus’ Will Feature the Brotherhood’s Life and Mission.

Michigan, Ohio, Louisiana, California, and beyond. Their outstanding website receives hits from around the globe and gives access to all their programs.

Just as the Brotherhood’s mission of evangelization comes about through collaboration with other campus ministers –

lay people, religious, and priests – so also this show results from working closely with others. We’ve asked students to film-and-edit short videos with onsite scenes from their campus. A Boston University alumna named Sara Fernandes

will host the program, interspersing video clips with sit-down interviews.

Each video will feature an original music

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“This project will bring our life and what we do into the living rooms of thousands of Catholics”



EVANGELIZATION TV

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score, written by a graduate from Berklee College of Music. All this takes time, funds, and patience!

The full series will air in the spring of 2010, but here is a preview of some of our themes: student testimonials, leadership training, Spring Break service trips, and peer evangelization.

One video will detail the arduous training of men preparing to run a marathon with their Brother-minister.

Another brings the viewer into "Sex Week" at a secular campus, showing a Christian response to the University-sponsored events.

Each campus will get a special feature, including intramural evangelism at Rutgers and outdoor Stations of the Cross at Boston University's Marsh plaza.

Let me mention that my own college studies included film and film-making which is why I am particularly excited for this great opportunity. Our life and work will soon be made public and available to others in a new way. In these final months



LET THE SHOW BEGIN! Hostess Sara Fernandes interviews Br. Jason Zink about retreats on campus.

before airtime, please pray that God continues to bless our efforts. Also see if your cable network receives Catholic TV, or visit www.catholicstv.com for more information. Thanks! †



TEN BLESSINGS

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AND TWIGAS AND TEMBOS ... OH MY!

After a week of service we take a short safari break in the country's interior. After many hours of travel we spend a day at one of the National Parks where much native wildlife freely roam. With an experienced tour-guide we pack into vehicles that give us close proximity to all sorts of creatures: lions, cheetas, baboons, pythons, giraffes, zebras, elephants, hippos, crocodiles and more. You name it, we've seen it!



ACHIEVE IN AFRICA: Founder and BU alumnus Brendan Callahan.

Some of them return to Africa on their own for further service, or develop special outreaches to the poor in their own local communities. For example, Brendan Callaghan, while still a student at Boston University, founded *Achieve in Africa*, a non-profit organization which provides educational materials to African schools. Rutgers alumnus Chris Joseph recently left for a year of volunteer service in

Ethiopia. And many participants stay connected through regular contact with Tanzanians or with donations to this or

10 ALUM FOR AFRICA

The student missionaries experience numerous blessings from these trips.



COMRADES

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Unfortunately, I haven't the space to mention all the interns, volunteer priests, office workers and friends with whom we serve. Although they're not campus ministers per se, they've made tremendous contributions to these outreaches, including our newest place of service: the Catholic Center at Northeastern University.

So when praying for the Brotherhood this school year, kindly remember also to intercede for these pastoral co-workers, our marvelous comrades on campus. Thanks - the whole team is grateful! †

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

The Brotherhood of Hope gets its support through the monetary earnings of its members and from the donations of benefactors. Since most of us work for sacrificial wages or for no pay at all, please consider becoming a financial sponsor so that our fruitful missions can continue. Our website offers convenient electronic giving options. Your prayers and support are greatly needed in our evangelization.

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AFRICA PHOTO JOURNAL



Tanzania: Ten Years, Ten Blessings

You just never quite know what will become of college friendships! Not only did Br. Ken Apuzzo and Rupin Rajani stay in contact after their graduation from Rutgers University, together they have organized service trips to Rupin's home of Tanzania in East Africa. For the last ten years the Brotherhood of Hope has collaborated with Rupin in sending two brothers and about a dozen students and others to Tanzania for two weeks of service. Although they are numerous, here are just ten of the blessings we have seen over these last ten years.

① TONS OF GOODS

During the year of preparation before each trip, those going will solicit donated goods such as computers, toys, books, furniture, soccer balls, tools, baby formula, clothes and much more. About a month before the trip, tons of items are loaded into a cargo container to be shipped to Tanzania.



② HOME BASE: ST. GASPAR

All of our trips have used St. Gaspar's Parish and Technical School in Dar Es Salaam as the main base of operation. Here we experience the gracious hospitality of many Tanzanians and have made many lasting friendships there. We are blessed to get valuable practice in basic Swahili and lessons in Tanzanian culture from the priests and staff of the parish.

③ TEACHING AND BEING TAUGHT

For many Tanzanians education is a key way to escape deep poverty. During our stay we normally travel to several schools in order to give informal English lessons and other classroom instruction often through interactive games or songs. As you might imagine, we receive so much in the process. It is especially wonderful to learn more language skills often through little children who are delighted to help teach us.



④ CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Amid all the poverty, Tanzanian cultural life is rich. Through song, dance, dress, food, stories and extended family bonds, the people radiate the richness of their heritage. Combined with vibrant Catholicism, these cultural expressions take on

a deeper level in religious ceremonies and liturgy. A normal Sunday Mass, filled with dance, music and generous preaching, lasts about two hours. This richness leaves a lasting impression and causes us to reflect on our own culture: what comprises American culture? How can I grasp it better? What cultural gems could we show to Tanzanians visiting the United States?

⑤ BUILDING PROJECTS

With funds provided by various American benefactors, each trip undertakes three or four significant service projects. While working along side of the local people (which often lends itself to some



funny interactions and conversations) we have completed such projects as building

homes, repainting classrooms, planting gardens, constructing school buildings and making a basketball court. The needs are incredible, but the people are eager to help each other build a better life and invest in their own country. In the midst of so many needs, we and the students often are overjoyed to see tangible expressions of our two week trip.

⑥ HELPING AIDS ORPHANS

One sobering element of the trip is to witness personally the great toll AIDS has had on the African population, especially children. During our stay we are blessed to visit orphanages that care for chil-

dren born with this disease. While feeding them and playing with the kids we're often aware how we've been blessed during these short times of interaction, seeing Christ in these "poorest of the poor."

⑦ VILLAGE VISITS

From the relationships made through the parish or the schools, we're blessed to



accompany some of the people back to their homes in the villages to experience the incredible warmth and hospitality of the people. Though living in dire poverty, many are very happy to open up a costly bottle of Coca-Cola to honor their guests (especially if this guest has a camera!).

⑧ IT'S NOT MCDONALD'S

A yearly blessing is our interaction and ongoing friendship with the two cooks at St. Gaspar's: Agnes and Didas.



Through our various contacts and donations of kitchen equipment, these two enterprising women opened up their own small business, nicely named 'Hope Restaurant.'

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SHARING OUR VISION



Marvelous Comrades

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA, BH

A nun from Iraq, a sister of hope, and a Jewish mother of many.

A seasoned priest, a musical priest, and a young priest into sports.

The Brotherhood considers these diversely gifted friends to be our "marvelous comrades" (Psalm 16:3) at the diocesan Catholic Centers where we serve on campus. While many other people also give assistance, these particular friends are the main pastoral workers on site. It is with joy and gratitude that I boast about them to you.

It is somewhat uncommon when consecrated communities work so closely and so harmoniously together. Yet such is the case in New Brunswick, NJ, where since 2005 we've served with the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. In addition to their fine priestly ministry, these men went above and beyond the call of duty by generously inviting the brothers to live with them during our housing transition. Director Fr. Peter Cebulka (one gifted in singing and music) particularly has been helpful with our collaboration on campus. Also at Rutgers is Sr. Ellen Kraft from the Sisters of Jesus Our Hope - a dear community that has two members who are blood-sisters to two of our brothers! Now in her second year at RU, Sister Ellen is a joyful witness of consecrated life.

"The Brotherhood considers these diversely gifted friends to be our 'marvelous comrades.' ... It is with joy and gratitude that I boast about them to you."

The longest running teamwork we've experienced is at Florida State. In fact, it was Monsignor Michael Tugwell (the Rector of the co-cathedral parish at the university) who invited the Brotherhood there 15 years ago. The students also appreciate Fr. Eddie Jones, the campus chaplain who is ever-present to them - even on the sports field! Ellen Murphy, likewise, is on the ministry team. Her rich Jewish heritage, thick "Nujoisey" accent, and warm motherly heart all combine to provide refreshment to many at the Catholic Student Union.

We are blessed to have a special situation at the Catholic Center at Boston University, where for nearly a decade we've served side-by-side with Sr. Olga of the Eucharist. She is an Archdiocesan hermit whose beloved homeland is Iraq. She came to B.U. having had many impressive ministry experiences in Iraq, including that of campus chaplain. Clearly, Sr. Olga is a very dedicated evangelist and a devout woman of God who has touched the hearts of countless students.

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