



BROTHERHOOD *of* HOPE

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

Faith Building

Nine men from three campuses built one family a home while building lasting bonds of brotherhood.

M BY BR. ADAM NERI, BH

My service trip to Mexico was unquestionably one of my best experiences in college and in my spiritual life thus far." So wrote John Gancarz, a junior from Boston University. "It struck me how building a small, brick house for a Mexican family, we could use our rudimentary construction skills at cement mixing and brick laying to bring such joy to a mother, father, and daughter. Equally touching was seeing the small children at the nearby orphanage standing impatiently by the window each time we arrived. These experiences, combined with the spiritual direction by the Brothers, produced a trip that brought Christ to

the center of all of our lives and reminded our hearts of the calling to assist our fellow man, as Jesus taught us, "...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).



BAND OF BROTHERS. "By the end of the week, we were pretty tight, dude."

John was one of eight college men who accompanied myself and Patrick Reilly on a service trip to the small border town of Agua Prieta, Mexico over the New Year holiday. The trip had its genesis in an inspiration to bring young men from the uni-

versities where we serve to a radical experience of the poverty of Christ as lived out through their fellow men. Along with the two brothers were eight men from Rutgers University, Florida State

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FAITH BUILDING

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University and Boston University outreaches. The theme of the trip was “With All Your Heart,” taken from the Gospel of Matthew 22:37.

Our daily schedule was modeled on the daily schedule of the Brothers’ common life. We arose early, prayed the liturgy of the hours, had talks on what it means to live a holy, manly, radical, Christian life, devoted time for personal prayer, and gave plenty of time for work and mission. As Josh Kline (BU) said, “Our time in Mexico had two components: service and retreat. While our days were spent building a house or visiting orphans, our mornings and nights were put to use in prayer: examining our own lives and striving to offer ourselves in greater service to God.”

We built a simple concrete block house for a family of three who never before had a place to call their own. Though none of us were skilled in carpentry or masonry, we raised the walls of the home swiftly and sturdily under the guidance and direction of our foreman, a young man known affectionately as “Gordo.” David Frketic (FSU) said, “The quality of our time and conversations was so much better than anything that I had ever experienced. It’s crazy to think about the fact that at the beginning of the trip I only knew one of the guys; throughout the trip, I just had such a great time with all of the guys. I just can’t stress enough what that kind of brotherhood did

for me.”

Close to the building site was an orphanage for young children named *Casa Hogar Pepito*. Each afternoon we spent time playing with the children and giving them the attention they so desperately crave. It was a



MOVING ON UP. *Kiara takes a final look at the shed her family once called home.*

very moving experience for many of the men to experience their first taste of spiritual fatherhood. Andrew Rodriguez (RU) wrote, “I remember the first moment we walked into the orphanage. Some of the kids threw their arms in the air for us to pick them up, and right away the guys did...If only we could more often respond with love like that for *all* of

God’s children. If only we could more often throw our arms up like that to our Heavenly Father and receive his love.”

All told, the spirit of camaraderie and

unity that bound us together opened up our eyes to the spiritual poverty that surrounds us in America. As Ricky LaBelle (FSU) wrote, “Spending every waking moment with the same ten men for eight days was an intense experience. Sharing in hard work, in prayer, in conversation, in meals, in waking up at early hours after working hard the day before with the same ten men was an even more intense experience. It was an amazing adventure into the desert to seek, find, and serve the Lord in some of the poorest of His people.” Andrew Rodriguez (RU) continued, “I realized again how the Brothers are able to do their work at their local universities: abundant energy and love come from God as a result of faithful prayer and community life.”

Back at our universities, we continue to ponder our mission in Mexico. There we built a simple house with hard bricks. On campus we pursue our mission of building with “living stones” (1 Pt 2:5) - building God’s kingdom in the hearts of the young. †



SPIRITUAL MENTORING

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

college guys and getting to know them personally. He helps us reflect on our prayer, joys, and challenges in life.

Br. Patrick is relatable, because his life was once no different than most students. While at Florida State and barely practicing his faith, he got quality time with his spiritual mentor, Br. Ken Apuzzo. Through these encounters, he came to see the changes he needed to make in order to find real joy and fulfillment in life. He sure found it. Now he’s fully devoted to his faith, and sharing that with others, often in one-on-one meetings.

Involved with all types of students, Br. Patrick is gifted especially with men. He’s a friend, an older brother, a mentor, and a source of support. Kevin Ouellette, a senior at BU, attests to this. Although he joined a weekly men’s group to form bonds of friendships in faith, Kevin clearly sees the one-on-one meetings as also important. “I have grown a lot spiritually since I first came to BU, which is due in large part to Brother Pat. He never forced theology down my throat or criticized me for not being a more active Catholic, but he helped me to grow in faith gradually and at my own pace.” Many other men can speak similarly.

As for me, today my one-on-one time with Br. Patrick is almost done. I know he’s meeting with another student shortly. But just like I had predicted, he had put the conversational focus on me. It seems he never misses an opportunity to do what he really loves: forming a true bond of brotherhood simply by being there for us students and helping us “where we’re at.” †

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US...

in our mission of hope - bringing Christ's transforming love to others, especially the young. Your ongoing prayers and gifts also support the brothers in formation and our service to the Church.

In gratitude we pray daily for you and your intentions. Please continue to remember us in your prayers and support.

BROTHERHOOD OF HOPE

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AROUND THE BROTHERHOOD



TENT VILLAGE

At each of the campuses where the Brothers serve, the undergraduate retreats continue to grow.

Sometimes space limitations are quite a challenge.

To solve this problem in the fall, inventive students at Florida State University volunteered to camp out using tents rather than miss the weekend. A nice problem to have!



BLESSED AMONGST WOMEN

Three Brothers gave most of the talks at the People of Hope retreat weekends this past fall. The theme was one close to our hearts: "Going Deeper in Prayer."

Brothers Ken Apuzzo and Jude Lasota spoke during the men's weekend, and Br. Rahl Bunsu was honored to give presentations at the



A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER. Br. Rahl, surrounded by family members, during his retreat talks on prayer to the People of Hope women.

women's retreat. Among the nearly 200 women present were some of his family and relatives: (from left to right) cousin Kathy, sisters Beth and Mary Jo, and sister-in-law Donna. Thankfully their prayer was stronger than their perfume!

KEEPING UP IN CANON LAW

In the midst of teaching a full load of seminary theology classes, Fr. Bob Oliver somehow finds time to keep up his work in his other field of expertise: Canon Law. Based on his experience in this area, he

recently gave a workshop entitled "Judges in Canonical Trials" at the Canon Law Society of America's National Conference. Also, our brother has written a chapter on Religious men and women for a compilation of essays on Canon Law soon to appear in *The Jurist*, a publication of

the Catholic University of America's Canon Law Department.

RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

Recently, our brothers gave retreats and days of recollection to other religious communities. In



BR. JUDE LASOTA with members of the Family Jesus Healer Community in Peru.

December, Br. Rahl Bunsu addressed the temporary professed members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the NY-NJ area on the topic of religious chastity and fraternal relationships. Further south, Br. Jude Lasota spent time with the community Family of Jesus Healer located in

Puerto Maldonado, Peru. At the invitation of Mother Agnes Maria Brevant, a founding member of the community and an alumna of Florida State University, Br. Jude

TIME TO MEET THE SHEPHERD. Cardinal Seán O'Malley greets a Northeastern student after Mass.

worked with, taught, and prayed with the community's members, as well as aided their mission to restore family life in the Amazon region's mission territory.

CARDINAL O'MALLEY VISITS NU

The students, administration and staff of Northeastern University hosted Cardinal Seán O'Malley for Mass at the Fenway Center. The Cardinal spent a generous time with the NU community at a reception following Mass and for the first time toured the Catholic Center.

Impressed by the visit, he later stated: "They have a very vibrant student ministry there." Truly a testament to the many students, interns and the brothers who have labored so hard at NU over the past five years.



Spiritual Mentoring As Brothers

BY TONY DIMANNO

An important part of our campus work is one-on-one meetings. There we help students, especially leaders, grow in their conversion and discipleship in Christ. Although this article highlights Br. Patrick doing this work, all the campus brothers do such mentoring. The text was adapted from a paper written by a student at BU. Go ahead and grade it!

Boston University's Catholic Center has become somewhat of a hang-out spot for an



increasing number of students on campus. Usually, there is a flurry of activity: students are continually dropping in to study, meet, or just chat between classes. Often, as is the case with me today, they are waiting to talk to one of the campus ministers. They are the ones most responsible for fostering the

sense of community here. Whether organizing events or talking with us students, the campus ministers reach out

"LET'S GRAB SOME TIME..." Br. Patrick in action.

to students every day. One chaplain in particular, Brother Patrick Reilly, has become an important source of support and guidance for me. He's done this by devoting his life to helping college guys live out their faith and discover who they are meant to be.

Brother Patrick meets me in the lobby and, as he always does, greets me with a hearty handshake. But this is not just any handshake, though. It's a 'Brother Pat handshake' - a firm grasp along with a big grin, the kind of grin you make when you gladly see a dear old friend again.

Sometimes we meet on campus over coffee, but today we sit down in a room upstairs to talk in private. After some initial small talk, I know he'll eventually steer the conversation towards me. He likes to ask questions about how I am and "where I'm at." After all, he once admitted that the favorite part of his job is connecting with

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SHARING OUR VISION



Mutual Prayers

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA, BH

Thank you for the prayer intentions many of you sent us in recent months. We brothers are honored to receive your concerns and glad to intercede for you.

Conscious of the power of prayer, I'd like to share with you two things: how the Brotherhood incorporates your intentions into our daily life, and how our spiritual solidarity with you can be deepened in a new way.

For many years the Brotherhood has offered intercession for our benefactors/friends during Vespers each evening. That's praying for you 365 days a year! We also add any special needs as they arise. Moreover, in January we bring to God each person (by name) and specific intention entrusted to us through our fall appeal. This practice is done in all four of our households.

It's also heartening to hear that many of you pray for us regularly. There's no doubt that our life and missions benefit tremendously from your intercession. Therefore, I am taking the liberty of listing our own intentions for 2010. Thank you for blessing us in many ways, especially your prayers, as we seek to advance the kingdom of God.

FEB. - for our household and individual decisions for Lent: that they honor God, and help us become more purified and "Christified."

MAR. - for lasting fruit from our spring retreats and mission trips - especially deeper conversion to Christ who came to serve.

APR. - that our formation, fundraising, and vocation efforts experience deeper guidance from the Holy Spirit.

MAY - that by imitating Mary's love for the Lord, we would 'do whatever He tells us' and follow His will generously.

JUNE - for blessings on our relationship with the Servants of the Word, the People of Hope, and the Sword of the Spirit.

JULY - for joy and anointing upon Brother Adam and his radical consecration to Christ in perpetual vows.

AUG. - that our Hope on Campus TV series will inspire thousands of viewers with encouragement and evangelistic solidarity.

SEPT. - that our 30th anniversary year is full of "rejoicing, ... and recalling among one another what the Lord has done for us." *

OCT. - for deeper passion in "Proclaiming Christ our Hope" as brothers "summoned to spread this hope through the word of truth." *

NOV. - in this 5th year anniversary of his death, we ask the intercession of Br. Ken Sr. that we "not fear death but ...look forward to it as a step towards our resurrection." *

DEC. - that this Advent we would live for Christ "in every way, eagerly awaiting and desiring the coming of his Kingdom." *

* Quotations from our founding document, *The Ideal*.