



BROTHERHOOD of HOPE™

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 2002 BUC 2012 Boston Urban Challenge

- 7 Laymen in FullTime Ministry
- 7 Currently in Seminary
- 3 Consecrated Brothers
- 5 Ordained Priests

A Legacy of Lives Transformed

WBY BR. PATRICK REILLY, BH
 Who in the world wants to travel to Boston during their college Spring Break, especially during the cold month of March? And if that's not enough, try speaking about Jesus to city school kids and whoever else we meet!? Ten years ago these were the questions we Brothers wondered while awaiting the arrival of the first group of brave collegians to pioneer this initiative in the streets and schools of Boston.

Beer, beaches, sex and parties are the standard pursuits for many college guys during Spring Break. We decided to offer this creative alternative: regular prayer, discipleship formation, solid brotherly bonding and a tough mission. Thus, ten years ago the Boston Urban Challenge (BUC) was born! Since then over 130 college guys have met the challenge.

The men stay at our Brotherhood house in Somerville and commute to the ministry locations. Usually the men are inexperienced in outreach to youth, however they grow more effective each day. Their energetic spirits, guitar play-

ing, skits, basketball/dodgeball skills, along with their compelling testimonies in classrooms, on retreats and on the streets make for an awesome evangelistic experience for all involved.

Not only are the school kids blessed but many of the college men are as well. Brother Parker Jordan who attended BUC as a student, but who has also led the trip commented that *"the real ministry isn't just with the kids of Southie, it's with the college guys putting on the retreats who are being transformed into solid, Catholic men."*

Each day begins with the challenge of observing the prayer schedule of a Brotherhood household. Each man also prays meditations based on the life of one of our patrons, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, which help him to consid-

er what will be asked of him that day in the mission field. After hard labor in the vineyard, the men return for prayer and fellowship concluding with a reflection on that day of mission. One man exclaimed "I've prayed more here in one day than I normally do in a month!"

"Never have I been so challenged in my life."

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AROUND THE BROTHERHOOD



SOUTH OF THE BORDER

At the turn of the year a few brothers headed to Central and South America, not to escape the winter, but to encourage radical discipleship and religious life. Here's what they did:

◆ **Community of Jesus Healer**

At the invitation of the Family of Jesus, an aspiring religious congregation of priests and sisters, Br. Jude Lasota returned to the Amazon region in Peru. There he provided further guidance for the community as they continue forming their religious life and their mission to renew family life in Peru.



◆ **Mexico Service Trip**

Brs. Patrick Reilly and Adam Neri brought six students to Agua Prieta, Mexico for a week of service and training in deeper discipleship. While building a home for a poor family, they used their physical construction as an analogy to the spiritual house that Christ expects all of his disciples to build.



COAST TO COAST TEACHER

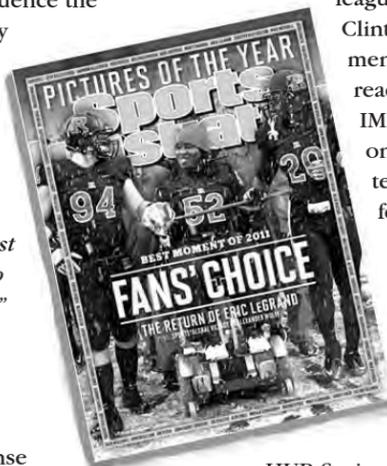
Fr. Bob Oliver continued his occasional teaching service for the Sword of the Spirit communities. In the fall he and Dave Touhill presented courses to the City on a

Hill Community in Los Angeles. One of their members commented: "Fr. Bob is able to explain complicated subjects in easy-to-understand layman's terms." We definitely concur.

Fr. Bob's skills as a professor are also being employed part-time at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He is teaching a new course in his area of expertise: Canon Law.

LAGRANDE STILL BELIEVING

Last spring we reported on the Rutgers football player Eric LaGrande: how his tragic injury left him paralyzed, and how the football chaplain (Br. Ken Apuzzo) witnessed his spirit of hope influence the campus. This year Eric's story landed him on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* for their year-end edition! At a recent event he stated: "You might think that when I got hurt was the worst day of my life. But I see it as the best day. I have been able to help so many people since then..." Amazing! Please keep Eric in your prayers.



MIAMI MEN

Recently Brs. Stephen Quense and Parker Jordan teamed up with Brian Fisher from Saint Paul's Outreach to give a retreat to men from several Florida campuses. It was held near Miami and was entitled "Men Made for Greatness". Host Msgr. Michael Carruthers wrote, "The presence of the Brotherhood of Hope was a vehicle of grace for the weekend. For many years I've seen the fruits of their labors, but this was the first time I had the joy of working with them and seeing

them as they live their charism, which they do with radiant joy."

AROUND CAMPUS

College evangelization sure is a mixed bag. To give you some idea, here's one update from each location where the Brothers serve:

◆ **Rutgers Frat Outreach**

From one fraternity to another: this fall Br. Ken Apuzzo gave a series of talks to the Kappa Sigma fraternity, entitled "Authentic Brotherhood." Since it's rare for us to have such influence on Greek life, pray that they keep inviting him back.

◆ **IM Champs at FSU**

Intramural sports is a great way to reach out to unchurched students ... and it's even better when you dominate the league! This fall, Br. Clinton Reed joined other men from the FSU outreach to take home the IM football championship. Amid 60 other teams that's quite a feat.

◆ **NU/HUB Capacity Retreat**
Students from four Back Bay colleges filled to overflowing a local retreat center for the first

HUB Spring Retreat. The topic was on the call of Jesus to modern-day discipleship, dubbed "Newsworthy".

◆ **Suffolk & UMass Service**

At a place where there has not been a Catholic chaplain for seven years, Fr. Paul Helfrich has been providing regular sacramental services at Suffolk University, located right off the Boston Common. He also is beginning service as the interim chaplain at Univ. of Massachusetts - Boston.

SHARING OUR VISION



All in the Family

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA, BH

I was nearly 1000 miles away from my natural and fraternal families. Yet my Ohio visits sure felt like home, beginning with this neat story behind my mug shot.

Within 24 hours of dinner and prayer with our alum-friends, she delivered her firstborn son. Within 24 hours of that they invited me to the maternity ward to meet and hold baby-Sam (named after Brother Sam) in his new anchor-hope pajamas. Within 2 hours of the proud father snapping this picture, I suddenly knew the theme for my column you're now reading: our alumni married couples. So thanks, Anthony and Morgan, for giving me this memorable story, a clever picture, and the Brotherhood's youngest recruit!

My main purpose in Ohio was to visit and teach a branch of St. Paul's Outreach - the community we also consider family (and the group that baby-Sam's parents joined after their years with us at FSU). While there I also visited other alumni I hadn't seen in 20 years: the Szillat and Vietas families, with their 14 delightful children between them. These visits were full of

"The Brotherhood has seen many solid marriages spring from our outreaches."

joy, songs, laughter, prayer, and rich sharing. My smile continued for a long time on the highway driving back.

The Brotherhood has seen many solid marriages spring from our outreaches over the years. The common core: their lives were transformed by Christ in college, and they consciously pursued a godly courtship, marriage, and family life. They've responded admirably to their vocation, and now they bring refreshment to their children, their parishes, other couples, and the Brotherhood of Hope.

After returning to Boston I received this edifying email from Bill Vietas (Rutgers, 1993): "Great visit! ... Both Sharon and I are amazed at the gift we've been given in Jesus and His Church. My conversion is because of the Brotherhood. Our family has been richly blessed because of the foundation we were given in their Rutgers outreach, and words cannot express my thankfulness."

Believe me, Bill: the gratitude is mutual. †

Spiritual Grandchildren

When Michelle Ducker first met the Brothers she happily exclaimed, "Hi, I'm one of your spiritual grandchildren!"

Now she's a campus minister at U. of Miami. Here's what she meant by that quip, along with her story.

BH: Tell us a bit about your background?
MD: I grew up in South Florida. From an early age I was very involved in soccer and professional modeling. My life revolved around these two loves, and I dreamed of doing them when I was older. I did not have a friendship with God nor did I think there was anything to Catholicism other than the Sunday Mass obligation.

During high school I became very ill with an immune deficiency. No longer allowed to play sports and exercise, I became a fairly bitter and miserable person. I tried to fill the hole in my heart with anything to make me feel better or give me some purpose. Later I met one of my mom's friends who suffered from the same illness. Her witness of being a joyful Christian in the midst of suffering baffled me. How could she be happy, while I hated my life and was struggling with seeing purpose in it at all?

CONTINUED ON BACK

THREE GENERATIONS. Br. Stephen with one of our "spiritual granddaughters": University of Miami campus minister Michelle Ducker, along with "spiritual son" Tony Marco, campus minister at the University of Central Florida.





GRANDCHILDREN

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

BH: *How did you get involved in the campus ministry at the University of Central Florida?*

MD: When I went off to college I was like so many other students: unsure where I fit in, unsure of the Christian faith, and with lots of internal struggles. During Christmas break that year a friend asked me about Catholicism because he knew my background. Annoyed that I didn't know the answers, I read some books and went online. I was shocked to discover things speaking to me so deeply. Christ, the sacraments, the early Church Fathers, the wisdom of the Saints, the Mass,... they all started to make sense to me. I rediscovered the beauty and depth of the Catholic faith, and decided to go to church again.

Back at college that spring, I got involved with the campus ministry at UCF, which then was run by an FSU alum Josh Swallows (now by Tony Marco, another FSU alum). Both men took what they learned from the Brothers at FSU and implemented it successfully at UCF.

BH: *Share some ways your life has been changed by Christ?*

MD: The next three years of my life were transformational. Through the growing community that Josh had formed, I continued to learn more about the faith, dive into the sacraments and establish a prayer life. I shared Christ with others



and helped them embrace the Church. The Lord did a mighty work in me, transforming my mind, heart and desires.

BH: *Why did you become a campus minister at UCF after graduation?*

MD: I had a great passion for the faith, and I wanted to share it with everybody! Eventually I interned for three years, and it was an incredible, life-changing experience.

BH: *Describe your work at U. of Miami.*

MD: Josh gave me vision for campus ministry and the great potential it has to transform students. But all that Josh received ultimately came from the Brothers at FSU. So I am a fruit of the Brothers' 'yes' to serve there! It's a great honor to be considered their spiritual granddaughter. They truly have encouraged, assisted, and shaped the way I now evangelize students in Miami. †



URBAN CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The challenge continues in the actual mission. Giving a public witness to their faith in Christ is often a powerful, but nerve racking moment for the men. For many it is their first time to tell the story of how the Lord has acted in their lives. One participant stated: *"Never had I been so challenged in my life but never had I experienced such an ability to let go of my pride and 'regard others as more important than myself'"* (Phil. 2:3).

A key aspect of the week is that it is a mission together, similar to how the Brothers work on college campuses. The men pray, eat and minister together, but also suffer for the Gospel when it is not welcomed. Thus, in sharing both the joys of a great conversation with a kid or in the joint suffering of enduring a heckler at a Confirmation retreat, the impact of these

experiences of brotherhood are long lasting. Br. Jared Cowell, currently a Franciscan novice, said, *"BUC helped me to see what fraternity is all about. It gave me a taste of what it's like to live with brothers: to pray, to work, to laugh, and to spread the love of Jesus Christ."*

Is it worth giving up Spring Break to serve in this way? In reflecting on the lasting fruit of his experience years ago, Brendan Cassidy stated: *"BUC was in many ways the 'point of no return' in my adult life as a Catholic. It was my first time being challenged in faith for any significant period of time and it caused me to grow more certain and think less of aspects of life that have no place in a man of faith."* Indeed, many of the men have seen this week as a turning point in their faith lives.

A number of BUC alumni eventually become youth or campus ministers, and several are pursuing a vocation to Religious life or diocesan priesthood. Mike Zimmermann, now a Boston seminarian, reflected that, *"BUC revealed the deepest desires of my heart; for a life devoted to God, Christian fellowship, and service. It was the real beginning of my vocational discernment by showing me the beauty of what life given to Jesus is all about..."*

With deep gratitude to the Lord and to the many we had the pleasure of working with in Charlestown and South Boston, we pray that we can have another decade to bring the love of Christ and the Church to the youth of Boston. †

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US...

in our mission to bring the transforming love of Jesus to others, especially the young. We pray for you and your intentions at our daily community prayer.

Please remember us in your prayers and support. For information about helping us by Stock Gifts, Matching Funds, or including us in your Estate Planning, please call Br. Stephen Quense at 850-580-3553.

BROTHERHOOD OF HOPE

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