

# MSA IN USA PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 28, 2009

## The Founder's Legacy

What happened after Fr Menard was first inspired to pursue vocational work? Before anything else, he had to consult his Franciscan superiors. The spirit of faith he showed in doing so was all important. And so he says: "The permission granted me ... by my Superiors was for me the evident sign that I was not laboring under the illusion of a dream, but was following God's will. In spite of few human guarantees, I had the conviction that this work would succeed, on condition that I should remain faithful to my priestly function (Acts 6, 4) while Mr. Durand and his associates were entirely responsible for the whole economic aspect of the project." So we see that Fr Menard bound himself to the best ecclesial guarantee of God's will. At the same time, he didn't delude himself that he should work alone. That's where Mr Durand enters the picture. He is not only the one we recognize as co-Founder, but he and his associates were the first to fulfill our Founder's desire to give lay people an honored place in all our work for the Church. In the way, our Founder forged a unique path in the Church for the adult vocation. "And the grain of mustard (Mt 13, 31-32) developed, thanks to the Word of God and to the Eucharist, around which revolved the entire life of the Seminarians. Difficulties of all imaginable kinds were not lacking, and often originated from persons from whom we expected more understanding and some help. (Mt 10, 36) But obstacles, far from disheartening us, served as a stimulant."

--"A brother helped by his brother is a stronghold and friends are like the bolts of the stronghold."

--"The bell that rings clear has passed through fire." (from The Charism of the MSA)

## A Few News Items

The ballot-letters for choosing delegates to the Assembly are already in process and hopefully will be sent within a few days. The process has been delayed for lack of the presence of my secretary Sylvia, who knows everything about everything,



and the need to consult Fr Luis Luna, who knows everything about everything else.

Fr George Jepsen (from the U.S.), a long-term MSA member, has been transferred to our Province but will remain in Brazil until further notice. Although the Society has two or three members still at work in Brazil, the MSA Society is no longer officially present there, until further notice.

Keep in mind, in case you have any extra funds, that the U.S. Province is the primary financial support of the MSA local community in Venezuela. This community has already yielded the Society more than one MSA candidate, and gives promise for the future.

Dennis Connell, our one U.S. member in Peru, has been doing very well in his studies for the priesthood, and has adapted admirably to our community and its work there. We are always looking for other members or candidates who might be apt and interested in working in our Southern Hemisphere missions. Fr Bill Broome is at home for the moment trying to get the better of the infirmities he sustained from two major falls while at pastoral work in South Dakota.

Fr David Zercie and Sr Teresa, who do retreat work on the contemplative life for lay people in the Oratory in New Britain, CT, feature special speakers such as Fr Douglas Mosey, CSB, Dr Donald De Marco, Fr. Tad, MSA., and others.

Fr Pat Taliercio and Fr Robert Sickler are busy together improving the quality of St. Mark's physical plant. This includes a nicer office for Provincial Secretary Silvia and her sister Lillja. Improvements have been made in the water closets as well.

Fr Jerry Petta has prepared insightful reflections for the formation team meeting (Fr Tad, Fr Tom Simon, Fr David Zercie, Fr Luis Luna) on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at St Mark's in Cromwell.

Fr James Downs has resigned from the Provincial Council due to family and schedule concerns.

We are in the process of giving the probationists their evaluations at this time. The next steps will be announced soon.

Fr Brad contrived to break his right shoulder for Lent. He offers this in intercession for whoever among us needs it! (Our prayers and sympathy, even so!)

Fr Tad is in direct video contact, computer to computer, with Fr Ed Reiter every 3-4 weeks from Cromwell to Florida by means of Skype.

The last Provincial Council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24. Please send any topics you wish to see on the agenda, if possible limiting them to one page or less per topic.

## *Congratulations to Our Confreres Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries*



Fr. Edward Doherty	March 1	40 <sup>th</sup>
Fr. Francis Fajella	March 13	27 <sup>th</sup>
Fr. Bob Anello	March 24	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Fr. Jim Anderson	March 27	32 <sup>nd</sup>
	Fr. Jose Salazar	March 27
	32 <sup>nd</sup>	

*Ps 139--May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Prayers and Blessings on your life and ministry!*

## **Happy Birthday**



Fr George Realmuto	March 4
Fr Tad Hallock	March 24

*Ps 139--O Lord--You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! God's Blessings on you all! Prayers for you.*