



# BROTHERHOOD of HOPE

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007



## THE DOMINO EFFECT

When the Young People We Evangelize Go On To Evangelize Others

*“We are convinced that there are generations of yes’s that can be traced back to a Brother’s yes”*



**JUSTIN & ANGELA BIANCE,**

YOUTH MINISTERS,  
JACONSONVILLE, FL



**Matt and Erin Spence**

High School Youth Ministers  
by Matt Spence

I am the high school youth minister and director of the LifeTeen program at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Cary, NC. I am blessed to work with my wife Erin (we met at the Catholic Student Union at Florida State University). She volunteers with our ministry and sets a wonderful example for the young women of our parish. Our program holds four to five events weekly. Over 150 participants attend our LifeNights, which follow our Sunday 6 PM LifeTeen Mass.

The first and most important thing that I learned from the Brothers at FSU and have carried with me to North Carolina is that any good ministry must be anchored in a deep, passionate love of the Eucharist. Eucharistic adoration and

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**Fr. Joe Fowler**

Assistant Vocation Director for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

During college, the Brotherhood of Hope was a great help to me in discerning my vocation to the priesthood. The Brothers not only invested a great deal of time in meeting with me personally and talking about my discernment, but also offered me guidance about my life of faith and prayer, my life as a student, and my life at home. The Brothers have continued in so many ways to support my life as a priest. They have made me welcome in their homes and in their life, and they continue to be a life-giving part of my priestly vocation.

During the time that I spent with the Brotherhood, I was surrounded by men who were dedicated to bringing people to Christ. They would go out onto the campus

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**Sr. Thérèse Marie Iglesias**

Vocation Director for the Franciscan Sisters TOR.

It wasn't anything that the Brothers necessarily did or said that opened my heart to the possibility of a vocation but simply who they were. Recently I was meditating on this Scripture from Isaiah: "The Lord says, 'Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you, I give men in return for you and peoples in exchange for your life'" (Is. 43:4).

I realized that this is the way the Brothers ministered and reached out to us as college students and the way that I experienced doing ministry with them. Each young person that they encounter is worth their life. They *are given* in exchange for the lives of many, and, more than anything else, it is this "givenness" that spoke to me of the Lord's love.

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**DOMINO EFFECT**

**MATT & ERIN SPENCE**

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celebration of the Mass are two integral parts of our ministry and a jumping-off point for everything else we do. I learned from the Brothers that having the Eucharist as the soul of your program allows Jesus to do the heavy lifting.

Another aspect of campus ministry that I have brought to our program is offering ownership to the participants. The Brothers at FSU taught me that offering students the chance to

lead enables them to truly integrate the message of Christ into their lives. In less than two years, our Peer Ministry program has grown from just over twenty to more than fifty teens actively involved in sharing the Good News with their peers.

The value of relational ministry through sports, open hangout time and sharing meals is yet another lesson learned from the brothers. In short, there is no way to fully catalogue the influence that the outreach at FSU and the Brotherhood of Hope have had on our ministry. These men have given me many tools with which to bring Christ to young people through lay ministry. I owe them a huge debt of gratitude, and now a generation of teens in North Carolina will be able to say the same. †



**SERVING IN THE CITY.** Erin and Matt Spence (far right) take a break with their youth service team during inner city outreach in Boston last spring.



**DOMINO EFFECT**

**FR. JOE FOWLER**

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and connect with hundreds of students and young people who would otherwise have little or no contact with the Catholic Church. Their zeal was contagious. Now, in my priestly ministry, I find myself doing the same - looking for those who might not

ever come to see me on their own.

The Brothers taught me by their example, that at the heart of every conversion is a loving and dedicated relationship. I feel this is the most important

aspect of my ministry as a priest, not only to celebrate the Eucharist, but to bring people to it. †



**DOMINO EFFECT**

**SR. THÉRÈSE MARIE**

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me. I experienced that I was worth their life. These are the men the Lord has given in exchange for my life so that I may know that I am precious and loved by Jesus.

I learned from the Brothers that the first and most important thing to witness to or give to anyone is a personal encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ. Everything else follows. When I am asked to speak, no matter what the subject is, the basis is always a personal encounter with the infinite God who thirsts to be in relationship with us. That is the basis of every talk I write and of everything I share with young people no matter what the topic. The one-on-one contact that the Brothers emphasize in their ministry and which I try to adopt is a powerful means of communicating this. Every encounter I have is an opportunity to share with another the intimacy that the Lord is thirsting for with each person. †

**TRIALS, CONTINUED FROM INSIDE**

Obviously this short reflection can barely touch on the profound mystery of suffering. But I hope that it encourages you amid your own trials in life, knowing that “your brothers ... are undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Pet 5:9). These words from St. Peter conclude with this consolation and doxology (1 Pet 5:10, 11): “God, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen” †



**R.U. FOOTBALL CHAPLAIN**

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ship were dashed. The next day the local media ripped into one player who was in our bible study. When I later asked him how he was doing he said “fine - the team is fully behind me. I’ll use the loss to get better!” He was neither bitter nor crushed, and he was already focused on winning the next game - which they did!

I could tell plenty of side-line stories (like the last minute win over Louisville, or the triple overtime loss to West Virginia). Yet having a chaplain’s heart, I think the most exciting outcome of the season lies elsewhere. It’s being associated with men like the Athletic Director, who prays the rosary while walking the sidelines, or the head coach who believes that spiritual development is a crucial dimension of his “game plan.” It’s with these fine men and the whole team that I’ve knelt to pray after every game - win or lose. †

**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. Your prayers and support are greatly needed in our evangelization.*

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**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**



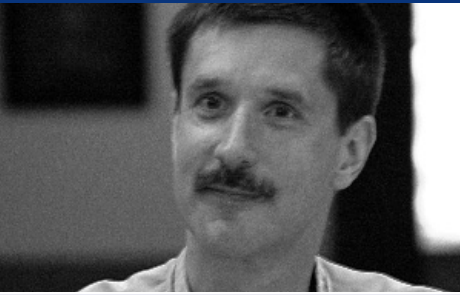


A R O U N D T H E B R O T H E R H O O D



W H A T ' S G O I N G O N I N O U R C O M M U N I T Y

S H A R I N G O U R V I S I O N



Trials Like Yours

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA

Whether you are a longstanding and thorough reader of the Brotherhood's newsletters, or whether you are a pictures-and-captions-only reader, you may have wondered over the years if there has been any suffering within the Brotherhood of Hope. In other words, with all of the inspiring info and upbeat updates found in our newsletters, do the Brothers ever experience hardships and trials?

Certainly we do! Like you and the other 6.5 billion people living under the ancient curse of Adam's Fall, we too have faced different forms of suffering over the years: physical, spiritual, emotional, financial, familial, relational, and circumstantial - along with plenty of ministerial and pastoral trials. Like many families, we too have supported Brothers who have faced serious sickness, emergency surgery, chronic pain, and "early" cancer, as well as grief, disappointment, fear, stress, and the sorrow of death. Our founding Brothers faced trials early on. For example, just one month after the joyful profession of the first vows in 1980, a serious car accident injured four of the original six members. This put two Brothers in hos-

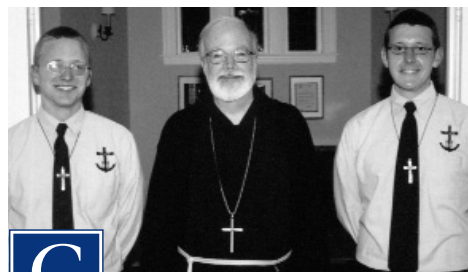
"Our founding brothers faced many trials early on. ...a serious car accident injured four of the original six members."

pital care and stressful uncertainty on the others.

The biblical view about suffering is clear: "Do not be surprised by the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you" (1 Pet 4:12). Yet remember that "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out [grace], so that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor 10:13). God's fatherly discipline "is painful at the time, but later on produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those trained by it" (Heb 12:11). It also produces other fruits, like perseverance, character, and hope (Rom 5:4).

The Brotherhood has devoted a couple community retreats to probing this all-important theme. We've seen that such trials are difficult yet graced opportunities for us to grow in purification, humility, trust, and total surrender to God - as prayed in the Our Father and modeled in Mary's fiat (Lk 1:38). Granted, trials do not automatically produce these fruits; in fact, they can cause distrust and anger towards God. Yet through trials we can receive special graces from Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, and grow in deeper configuration to Him. That's the goal of life, as modeled in the Saints.

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CARDINAL COMES TO CALL.

Among the many highlights of this past fall, the visit of Seán Cardinal O'Malley stands out. His Eminence joined the Brothers for evening prayer followed by a relaxed dinner at our headquarters in Somerville, MA. Over dinner the Cardinal listened with interest to the Brothers -- from the oldest to the youngest -- as we described our various fields of mission and activity. The evening concluded with the Brothers receiving the Cardinal's blessing, and a few moments of encouragement from His Eminence with our two novices, Brothers Brandon Frank and Clinton Reed (above).

CHAMPIONSHIP CATHOLICS

It's one thing to win trophies. It's another to win them as a witness to Godly sportsmanship on a secular campus. That's the vision for our intramural sports teams. This year the Catholic Student Union at FSU was blessed with remarkable success. Our men's IM flag football team beat out a field of 206 other teams to claim the 06-07 championship ring. Likewise our

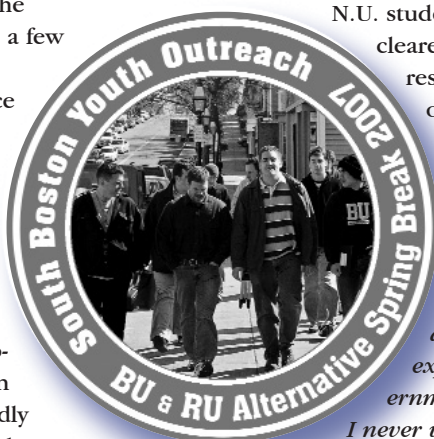


FIRST WE PRAY, THEN WE PLAY. Br. Jason Zink leads the men's flag football team in prayer to kick off every game as the championship season unfolds.

co-ed basketball team claimed the same honors. We are very grateful for our faithful - and faith-filled - student athletes.

SPRING BREAK FOR SERVICE: NORTH AND SOUTH.

While many collegians were lounging on beaches or taking a week off at home, the Brothers were organizing student volunteers for service and spiritual growth. Brothers Joe Donovan and John McCabe brought 24 students from Northeastern University down to the Mississippi delta to assist with the on-going clean-up and rebuilding of the Gulf coast in the wake of hurricane Katrina.



N.U. students cleared debris, restored homes, and offered hope and encouragement to grateful citizens. One resident expressed a unique perspective when he stated, "You know, I'm glad that I didn't get all that I expected from the government, because if I had, I never would have received so much from the generosity of good people like you. Meeting all the people who have come to help us out has been for me the biggest blessing of all."

...UP NORTH

Brothers Patrick Reilly and Sam Gunn organized a joint mission team of men from Rutgers University and Boston University to spend their spring breaks doing youth ministry in South Boston. The Boston Urban Challenge team of ten led confirmation

retreats, visited the elderly and did street outreach throughout the neighborhoods of 'Southie.'

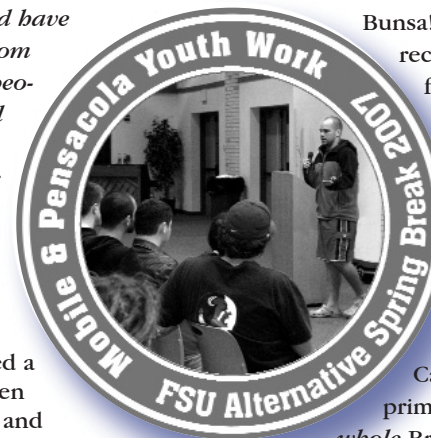
...DOWN SOUTH

Catholic students from FSU launched their own youth ministry initiative by running retreats in Mobile, AL and Pensacola, FL. Brs. Ted Psemeneke, Allen Marquez, and Jason Zink organized the events with help from Brotherhood associate Karl Hendrickson in Mobile and our friend Fr. Joe Fowler (see article, front cover) in Pensacola. Hundreds of teenagers heard the gospel creatively proclaimed through these college evangelists.



RELIGIOUS MAN OF THE YEAR

At its March 17th gathering, the Boston Catholic Men's Conference gave out a new award entitled "Religious Man of the Year." And the winner is ... Br. Rahl Bunsal! Our General Superior received this honor in front of four thousand enthusiastic men (attendees participated in the nomination process). Minutes later he expressed his sentiments during an on-site interview with Catholic TV: "This award primarily reflects on the whole Brotherhood of Hope.



Through our life and missions we're grateful to participate in the work of renewal in the Archdiocese of Boston."

Team Spirit, Heart and Soul

A Winning Season for Rutgers Football Team - Any Way You Look At It.

BY BR. KEN APUZZO

Over the years of serving at various universities, I've had the privilege of helping some athletes to develop their relationship with Christ and His Church. I've also had the desire to serve as a team chaplain. But I never imagined that this desire would be fulfilled at my alma mater, Rutgers University.

This year it happened: I was one of the chaplains for the Rutgers Football team. Such a statement normally would elicit laughs from sports fans because of RU's poor seasons over recent decades. (In fact, when I did outreach at the football powerhouse of Florida State, I had to endure perennial persecution over having graduated from Rutgers!). But as any RU

alum will tell you, this year was quite a different story.

The team finished with an 11-2 record and was ranked 12th in the nation. It was exciting to see up-close how these athletes exceeded all expectations. But the real privilege for me was to get to know the men behind the face masks. They exceeded my expectations in what they did "off the field."

For example, many of these players and some coaches attended a weekly prayer service that I led before the games. The Athletic Director himself had a perfect attendance record! I also ran a weekly bible

study for some players. It was striking how these men dealt with increasing media and fan pressure while continuing to win. But what stands out to me most was how the players dealt with defeat. After losing a key game to Cincinnati, our perfect record and any hopes for a national cham-

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