

SCJ NEWS

a newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

April 2010

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Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ, delivers the homily at the Vietnamese Mass at St. Martin of Tours parish.

Milwaukee's immigrant tradition continues with Vietnamese community

The concept of ethnic Catholic communities is a familiar one in the United States. The early years of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee were guided primarily by people of German descent, including German-speaking bishops, and German religious orders who taught at parish schools.

As Milwaukee became a hub for industry at the end of the 1800s a large number of Italian and Polish immigrants settled in the area. Just as the Germans before

them, the new immigrants developed ethnic parishes where they could worship in their native tongue and follow the traditions of their homeland.

Through the years, immigrants from a variety of countries have continued to flow into the city.

When the Vietnam conflict ended in 1975, a small but quickly growing Vietnamese community took root in Milwaukee. Fr. John Thanh Hùng, a Vietnamese priest who had been studying in the area during the conflict, remained to minister to fellow exiles from his homeland. The group gathered for liturgies and for special celebrations, such as Lunar New Year.

Just as the Germans, Poles, Italians and other ethnic groups before them, the Vietnamese felt comfort in worshipping in the language of their homeland and gathering with others who shared similar struggles of starting over in a new country.

By the mid-1980s the Vietnamese Catholic community was well-established in Milwaukee and recognized by the archdiocese. It found worship space at St. Anthony's parish on Milwaukee's south side, a parish that already had two distinct communities in place: one English-speaking and the other Spanish.

Unlike those early German immigrants who had ready access to German-speaking clergy and religious, the Vietnamese have struggled to have a Vietnamese-speaking priest available to them. At one point the community went for four years without a Vietnamese-speaking priest.

During that four-year period Archbishop Timothy Dolan, now archbishop of New York, invited Fr. Peter Tân Đức Đỗ, a Norwegian priest of Vietnamese descent, to minister to the community. He agreed, but at the end of his three-year commitment it looked like the community would again be without a Vietnamese-speaking priest.

Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ, associate pastor of St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, Wis., and a Vietnamese immigrant himself, had been assisting the group, doing youth ministry and retreats with the Vietnamese. Before returning to Norway Fr. Peter asked Fr. Francis if he might be open to taking his place as pastor of the community.

The SCJ was named to the position, but province administration made it clear that Fr. Francis wasn't simply filling an empty slot. The Priests of the Sacred Heart, not just an individual, would be filling the position.

In 2007 the SCJs assumed ministry for the Vietnamese community. With that commitment came a move for the Vietnamese community from St. Anthony's to St. Martin of Tours.



Fr. Thi Pham and Fr. Francis Vu Tran at a youth gathering at St. Martin of Tours.

"It is a way for the Priests of the Sacred Heart, which is small in number, to have a significant impact, to really meet a need in the local Church," said Fr. Francis. "That is what Fr. Dehon called us to do, to go where there are needs that we are uniquely able to meet."

The U.S. Province is blessed with several priests and brothers of Vietnamese descent. Often, the only Catholic priests of Vietnamese descent in Wisconsin are members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

"This is a resource, a blessing that our community has," continued Fr. Francis, speaking of the Vietnamese SCJs. "Our Constitutions say that we are 'called to serve the Church.' Sharing this resource is a way for us to do that."

The community moves

After 30 years at St. Anthony's, the move to St. Martin of Tours was difficult for some in the Vietnamese community. "Many in the community had been married at St. Anthony's, their children had been baptized there," said Fr. Francis. "It is difficult to leave a place where there are so

many memories."

But in leaving the place of their memories, the Vietnamese community was being invited to become full members of a parish, not simply a sub-group that worshipped in the same building as others.

"When the community moved I encouraged them to think of St. Martin's as OUR parish," said Fr. Francis. "We might have different traditions and speak with an accent but we are still part of the one community of St. Martin of Tours."

Just as when any family moves to a new house, the first part is relatively easy. The truck is loaded and the family takes its possessions from one house to another.

The tough part is the unpacking and really making the new house a home.

The Vietnamese Catholics moved their Mass from 8 a.m. at St. Anthony's to 12:30 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours, but the unpacking continues.

The Vietnamese weren't the only ones changing their home. Members of the St. Martin of Tours family who already were a part of the parish also had to adapt. New people were joining the family. Even newlyweds go

through a few challenges as they learn to set up house. Any change in the household takes a bit of adjustment and the integration of the new parishioners was no different.

"Most parishioners at St. Martin's have been very welcoming and appreciate the cultural diversity that the Vietnamese bring," said Fr. Francis. "But still, it was a change. And it was a change for the Vietnamese as well who were being asked to be more a part of American cultural traditions."

"I try to be a bridge between the two cultures," he added. "I invite the Vietnamese to become a part of the larger community and I encourage other members of the parish to appreciate the Vietnamese culture and traditions."

Embracing a new home

If the hope is that the Vietnamese become full members of St. Martin of Tours, why have Vietnamese language liturgies? Why have a separate choir for the Vietnamese? Why have any activities that cater to a particular ethnic background within a parish?

"It is easier – more comfortable – to worship in a language you grew up with," said Fr. Thi Pham, SCJ. Fr. Thi has worked with the community while serving as province vocation director. In April, he takes over the role that Fr. Francis has held as pastor to the Vietnamese.

Fr. Francis is leaving for Rome, where he will study Biblical theology.

Both Fr. Thi and Fr. Francis noted that there are still many first-generation Vietnamese immigrants, such as themselves. "The Vietnamese have not been here for generations like the Germans, Poles and other groups," said Fr. Francis. "They are still making the transition, learning to live in their new home, their adopted country."

"I don't see having a Mass in Vietnamese as being something that is meant to be divisive," said Fr. Francis. "It is an option within the

parish of St. Martin of Tours. Each of the Masses has its own identity. The character of the 4 p.m. Mass is different than the character of the 10:30 a.m. Mass. We have special Masses for youth. This is just a different option and anyone is welcome to take part in it."

"Often they [non-Vietnamese who attend the Vietnamese Mass] tell me that they come because they love the music," said Fr. Thi. "It is a different expression of liturgy but still part of the same parish, the same Catholic church."

However, both SCJs agree that the parish as a whole benefits when there is an integration of the parish cultures.

"During Holy Week we will have bilingual Masses," said Fr. Thi in an interview before Easter. Readings will be done in both Vietnamese and English. The Vietnamese choir will join the larger parish choir. And for the first time, the Vietnamese youth choir, which Fr. Thi initiated two years, will sing during Holy Week liturgies.

Preserving traditions

As Frs. Francis and Thi both stated, many first-generation Vietnamese immigrants are still alive. These include elderly immigrants who often have the greatest struggles in adapting to a new language and culture, as well as young adults like Frs. Thi and Francis who were born in Vietnam but came of age in the United States. For them, the United States is now home, but they still feel a strong connection to their Vietnamese roots.

But then there are those of Vietnamese descent who were born in the United States. Many do not speak the language of their parents or grandparents.

"It's important to be American," said Fr. Thi, "but I tell the kids that it is also important to remember their roots."

Many first-generation Vietnamese immigrants took ESL (English as a Second Language). Now, their children and grandchildren take

Vietnamese courses offered at St. Martin of Tours.

Even Fr. Thi, whose accent easily gives away his Vietnamese roots, admits that he thinks in English now. "For the Vietnamese Mass I write my homilies in English and then translate them to Vietnamese," he said. He also takes a few minutes at the end of the Vietnamese homily to summarize his words in English for the younger people who are still struggling with the language of their parents.

The Vietnamese community works together to help immigrants feel at home in their adopted country. However, it now also helps its younger members learn and continue the languages and traditions of their families.

Looking toward the future

When the Vietnamese community first moved to St. Martin of Tours there were about 100 to 150 who regularly attended Mass. Since the move, the number has grown to 400, with up to 600 coming for special events.

The Vietnamese are registering with the parish and starting to serve on parish committees, as well as parish council. They are taking part in parish fund raising efforts.

And some will even remain with the parish eternally. Several have purchased plots in the parish cemetery "and one member of the community is already buried there," said Fr. Francis. "The community is putting down its roots – literally."

Both Frs. Francis and Thi credit parish leadership for helping to make the parish a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds.

"Fr. Yvon [Sheehy, SCJ], pastor of



Fr. Thi Pham, Fr. Yvon Sheehy and Fr. Francis Vu Tran. Frs. Francis and Thi credit Fr. Yvon, pastor of St. Martin of Tours, with doing much to help the Vietnamese community feel at home at the parish.

St. Martin of Tours] talks about OUR parish, not the Vietnamese parishioners or the Anglo parishioners," said Fr. Thi. "People notice this."

"Fr. Francis planted the seeds of the Vietnamese community here at St. Martin of Tours," continued Fr. Thi. "He helped the community take root in the parish. Now, I look forward to helping the community grow. I look forward to bridging the different cultures of the parish."

Fr. Thi will initially wear two hats (or two collars) while serving the Vietnamese community. Until July 1 he will continue to serve as vocation director before moving full-time into his role as associate pastor at St. Martin of Tours.

The SCJ NEWS is published by the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs). Articles, photos and suggestions are always welcome. Editorial offices are located at P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289 (414) 427-4266. Email: marygorski@sbcglobal.net Mary Gorski, editor. Postage prepaid.



Back to the books!

As noted in the previous article, Fr. Francis Vu Tran, SCJ, leaves St. Martin of Tours parish to continue language studies in preparation for graduate work in Biblical Theology in Rome.

For the past six years he has been associate pastor at St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, Wis. Since 2007, he has also served as pastor to the Vietnamese community in Milwaukee.

"Leaving the people at the parish is the hardest part of the move," said Fr. Francis. "I love working in a parish and being a part of people's lives, not just the lives of the Vietnamese, but the wider St. Martin of Tours community."

He continued, noting that in becoming a full-time student "a large part of who I am will be gone. Pastoral ministry is so much a part of my vocation; it is who I am and what I do. In a parish people come to me and include me in some of the most difficult — and special — moments of their lives. I have spent hours with people at the end of their lives, waiting with them at their death beds. I have married couples and been there for the baptism of their children. It is hard to think that this won't be a part of my life for awhile."

But Fr. Francis also said that after six years at St. Martin of Tours it is time to open up a new chapter in his life.

He began his studies last summer. Fr. Francis joined Br. Frank Presto, SCJ, in Perugia, Italy, for two months of intensive Italian study. Since returning to St. Martin's, Fr. Francis continued with the studies, working with a language tutor.

"But I still feel like I have a long way to go," he said. "And besides the Italian, I will also need to learn Hebrew and Greek."

Fr. Francis is already multilingual. When he immigrated to the United States from Vietnam he learned English. "Some things are easier, some things are harder with the Italian," he said. "It will be the same with Hebrew

and Greek. The important thing in learning a language is to have the courage to be wrong, to just try to use the new language and not be afraid to make a fool of yourself once in awhile."

If all goes as planned he will begin his studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in October.

Why go to Rome to study?

"It's more than the academic work," said Fr. Francis. "It's the opportunity to be a part of an international community." During his time in Rome Fr. Francis will be a member of the international SCJ college community based at the Generalate. "In Rome I will not only learn about Italian culture, but about the many cultures that make up the student community and the wider Generalate community. It's an opportunity to get a better sense of what it means to belong to an international congregation, to see the big picture of who the Priests of the Sacred Heart are and who I am as a member of this interna-



Fr. Francis Vu Tran leaves St. Martin of Tours to begin studies in Rome.

tional congregation."

However, while he is excited to live with and learn about the wider congregation, he says that he will miss being with the members of the U.S. Province, his "immediate" SCJ family. "I'll be coming back for province activities, such as the election assembly," he said.

As he tells members of the Vietnamese community at St. Martin of Tours, "no matter where you go, it is always important to remember your roots."

ESL alumnus named bishop

On March 19 Pope Benedict XVI announced the appointment of Fr. Vilsom Basso, SCJ, as bishop of the Diocese of Caxias, Maranhao (Brazil). He will succeed Bishop Luis D'Andrea, OFM Conv, who is 76.

Fr. Vilsom was born in Tuparendi, in the diocese of San Angelo, Brazil; he grew up in an SCJ parish. After studying philosophy, he earned a licentiate in social sciences at

Fundação Educacional in Brusque, Brazil, and a bachelor's degree in theology from the PUC of Rio de Janeiro. He also did theological studies at the Instituto Teologico of Taubaté. In 1991 he studied pastoral programming at the Javeriana University of Bogota, Colombia

The bishop-elect is also an alumnus of Sacred Heart School of

Theology's ESL program (Hales Corners, Wis.). He was a student in the program in 2006 as preparation

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Fr. Vilsom Basso

for his current work in the Philippines.

Fr. Vilsom was ordained in 1985. As a priest in the missionary Diocese of Viana, Maranhao, he was associate pastor at St. Agnes and Alto Alegre, and parish priest of Santa Luzia Tide. He also served as pastor of the Shrine of Our Lady of Conception, and in Sao Paulo, was parochial vicar of St. Jude Thaddeus Shrine.

Fr. Vilsom also directed the youth ministry program of the Brazilian Bishops Conference from 1994 to 1997.

After ESL studies at Sacred Heart, he went to the Philippines, where he has been involved with formation (the education of candidates and new members of the community) and weekend pastoral work. In 2008 he coordinated the international SCJ gathering in Manila titled, "Pastors With a Compassionate Heart."

"I am Dehonian and I am happy because God has given me a missionary heart," said Fr Vilsom in an interview on an SCJ website in Brazil. Of his work on in Maranhão he said that it was an "opportunity to experience a deeper experience of the love of God in my life."

"The congregation congratulates Fr. Vilsom and wishes him serenity and peace in the new mission which the Church has entrusted to him," wrote the general council in its release about the bishop-elect. "We look forward to him being a pastor with a merciful heart according to the model of the heart of Christ."

The Diocese of Caxias, Maranhão, Brazil, was created on July 22, 1939, and has a population of 640,000.



Bishop-elect Vilsom Basso is a former ESL student

Vietnamese roots blended with a bit of Cajun spice

As noted in the opening article, the U.S. Province is blessed with several Vietnamese members. Br. Long, as well as Frater Duy Nguyen before him, are among the first American-born SCJs of Vietnamese descent to join the community.

His name is Vietnamese but Br. Long Nguyen, SCJ, is definitely a man of Louisiana's bayou country. He appreciates a good gumbo as much as the Vietnamese dishes from his family's homeland. And while he speaks fluent Vietnamese, his English is definitely tinted with a bit of a southern drawl.

Br. Long's parents immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 1975. Four years later, Br. Long was born in Texas. But soon after, the family moved to Louisiana. Br. Long was raised on Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux, La. His childhood was a mix of Cajun crawfish and Vietnamese spring rolls.

As a child he never gave much thought to religious life. His mother was very involved in the family parish but the idea of pursuing a vocation in the Church wasn't even a distant blip on Br. Long's radar until he was doing undergraduate studies at Nicholls State University.

"I was studying sociology and mass communications," said Br. Long. One of the requirements for students in mass communications was to write for the campus newspaper and shoot videos of life on campus. Often, his subjects were either the Catholic campus ministry program or the Baptist collegiate program.

"I got to know people who hoped to be a part of ministry with the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux as well as others who were applying to the New Orleans Baptist Seminary," he said. "Getting to know them, I started to think that perhaps giving part of my life to God wouldn't be a bad idea."

How did Br. Long come to know about the SCJs?

"I sent requests for information to two religious communities and the SCJs got back to me first," he said. Fr. Yvon Sheehy, SCJ, was his vocation director. In 2003, Br. Long took part in a Come and See weekend and then the Christian Summer Experience in South Dakota.

When asked about his first impressions of the community Br. Long said that he doesn't remember the specifics of his first visit to the formation house, but he does remember the "smiling faces and welcoming spirit of those who greeted me," he said. "When I first visited I didn't know anything about the SCJs beyond their smiles but I decided to find out more. These years with the SCJs have given me not only a



Br. Long Nguyen does a reading at the January province assembly at Our Lady of the Snows.

better sense of the Priests of the Sacred Heart but also a fuller sense of what a religious community is."

Br. Long came to religious life with only a vague idea of what it meant to be a religious. "But I have come to learn that it is more than eating, working and praying together; it is more than 'being holy,'" he laughed. "Sometimes 'holiness' even takes a vacation now and then..."

"What has captured me about religious life, and in particular, the Priests of the Sacred Heart, is the humanness each person carries while striving to live in harmony with others. I think of religious as saints in process; trying to grow their lower case "s" to upper case. My own "S" can shrink to a weak hiss on certain days. But that's our humanness. That is what attracts me to religious life, the journey to live in God's image while still experiencing that which makes us human."

Br. Long's vocation was strongly influenced by several religious brothers whom he knew in high school and then in college. "Br. Tim [Br. Tim Lafleur, a campus minister at Nicholls State University] encouraged me in my vocation, but never encouraged me to specifically look at being either a brother or a priest. He simply asked that I carefully consider the paths available to me."

As a candidate, Br. Long took courses in philosophy and religious studies at St. Xavier University in

Chicago before entering Catholic Theological Union (also in Chicago) where he graduated with a master's degree in pastoral studies in 2006. A year later, he professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. His novitiate class included two other SCJs preparing for religious life as a brother: Br. Clay Diaz, SCJ and Br. Brian Tompkins, SCJ (Br. Brian is a member of the Canadian Region).

While in school, Br. Long was active with a variety of youth, young adult and outreach ministries. Following his first profession he moved to Raymondville, Texas, to minister with the SCJ pastoral team in the Rio Grande Valley. Now, he is a member of the community at Sacred Heart Monastery and splits his time between St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin, Wis. and Sacred Heart School of Theology.

At St. Martin of Tours (where his former vocation director is now the parish pastor) much of his time is

filled with teaching. He teaches the Sunday component in the RCIA program, teaches in the LifeTeen program, gives presentations to CCD students, and prepares altar servers.

His primary ministry at SHST is with the ESL (English as a Second Language) program. In fall he is scheduled to return to school to earn an ESL teaching certificate.

"I come to know people through

"What has captured me about religious life, and in particular, the Priests of the Sacred Heart, is the humanness each person carries while striving to live in harmony with others... That is what attracts me to religious life, the journey to live in God's image while still experiencing that which makes us human."

Br. Long Nguyen, SCJ



Br. Long Nguyen

teaching," he said. He especially likes working with people in the RCIA program "because it allows me to be creative in sharing my faith."

Br. Long also visits the homebound. He said that he enjoys the visits because it is a way "for me to be a brother to them; I feel like I am bringing a piece of the outside world to them; I share a bit of myself and the parish with them and they share themselves with me."

"Being a brother to others" is what Br. Long says is most fulfilling to him about his vocation. However, it also is one of his greatest challenges in ministry. "It can be difficult to 'be a brother' to others sometimes when they do not have a concept of what a religious brother is," he said. "But it is also another teaching moment for me, another way to share my faith with others."

In between his ministries with the ESL program and at St. Martin of Tours, Br. Long is now preparing for final vows. He hopes to make his final profession later this year.

"I've come to know a lot about the community beyond those smiling faces that I first met seven years ago," said Br. Long. "In particular, I've come to know that this is where my vocation belongs."

Catholic-Jewish study center honors retiring SHST professor

Dr. Richard Lux, professor of scripture studies at Sacred Heart School of Theology, is retiring after 37 years with the seminary. To honor him, and to continue the work that he began while at SHST to promote Catholic-Jewish dialogue, the seminary is establishing the Lux Center for Catholic Jewish Studies.

Bishop Richard Sklba of Milwaukee and Rabbi Ronald Shapiro of the Congregation Shalom (also in Milwaukee) have teamed up as advisory board co-chairs during the development of the center.

"Since Vatican II we've taken huge strides to heal the chasm between Catholics and Jews," wrote the co-chairs in a letter to SHST supporters inviting them to a kick-off fundraising dinner on May 11. "Dialogue has replaced hurtful prejudice, and scholarship has replaced presupposition. Today we face a rare opportunity to build on that momentum, and in so doing, pass along our faith traditions to future generations in a way that honors our differences, celebrates our commonalities and encourages us to walk together as a people of faith."

The primary activities of the center will include 1) an on-going accredited study program in Israel for SHST seminarians, 2) the endowment of an adjunct SHST faculty position for a Jewish scholar to teach Judaism, 3) major lectures on Catholic-Jewish relations, and 4) an expansion of the Judaica collection at SHST's Dehon Library which will be open to the public, including visiting scholars.

Located in a seminary, one of the primary tasks of the center will be to "equip students to engage in interfaith dialogue and pursue common Catholic-Jewish interests as they go on



Dr. Richard Lux during a presentation at last year's Mission Education Conference.

to serve as priests," wrote Bishop Sklba and Rabbi Shapiro in their letter.

Who is Dr. Lux?

An appreciation of cultural diversity is familiar territory for Dr. Lux. In the April, 2009 *SCJ News* Dr. Lux and his wife Mary were featured in a story about their semester with the SCJ formation community in South Africa (the newsletter is available as a PDF download at www.sacredheartusa.org). Dr. Lux taught at St. Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara while Mary tutored and did library work at both St. Joseph's and in the formation house.

Both fell in love with the many African cultures present at St. Joseph's.

"Students came from small, third-world villages and also large African cities," said Dr. Lux about his students. "Their religious background varied from tribal faiths to a Catholic heritage that may have gone back generations in a family... It was a challenge to learn about South African history, as well as the history of Africa in general, in order to relate biblical material and applications to their situations. I worked very hard at this and considering that it was my first time teaching in Africa, I think that I was reasonably successful."

The teaching stint in Africa came near the end of a lengthy career in academics. As noted earlier, Dr. Lux has taught for 37 years at SHST. His master's and doctorate are from the University of Notre Dame. A prolific author, his most recent work is *The Jewish People, the Holy Land and the State of Israel — A Catholic Perspective* (Paulist Press). The book discusses new models for understanding Catholics' bond with the Jewish people, the religious significance of the Holy Land, and a theological understanding of the state of Israel.

Dr. Lux has also served on a variety of boards including the Advisory Committee for the Holocaust Education Center of Milwaukee, the Association for Jewish Education, the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel (vice president), the Milwaukee Association for Interfaith Relations (founding member), the Catholic Biblical Association, the Advisory Committee for the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Catholic Jewish Conference, Milwaukee.

Want to learn more?

For more information about the Lux Center, visit its website at: <http://luxcenter.shst.edu>.

We have a new home on the web!

The U.S. Province and Province Vocation Office merged their old websites (www.scjusa.net and www.scjvocation.org) into a NEW site at:

www.sacredheartusa.org

Go to it for frequent news updates, features, vocational materials, photos, calendar items and other information

SCJ NEWS

New appointment for former SCJ superior general

Bishop Virginio Bressanelli, SCJ, former superior general of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, has been named coadjutor of Neuquén, Argentina. Since 2005 he has served as bishop of Comodoro-Rivadavia, Argentina.

Neuquén is in central Argentina and covers an area of 36,337 square miles. It was erected as a diocese in 1961 and has a population of 538,852 with 458,024 identified as Catholics. There are 56 priests, 12 permanent deacons and 130 religious.

Bishop Bressanelli, 67, was professed in 1964 and ordained in 1966. He was superior general from 1991 to 2003. Before being named bishop in 2005 he was superior of the "Theologian Dehoniano" in San Miguel, Argentina.

Thank you

"Thank you for your prayers and generous donation for the needs of Madeira Island," wrote Fr. Zeferino Policarpo, provincial superior of Portugal. The U.S. Province donated \$10,000 to the province to assist with relief efforts following massive mudslides and flooding on the island of Madeira. Over 40 people died during the natural disasters, which took place in areas where the SCJs have ministry. No member of the community was hurt; however, several SCJ structures were damaged and many of the people to whom the community ministers were affected.

"In our parishes of Ribeira Brava and Serra de Agua many people lost their houses and possessions," wrote Fr. Zeferino. "Our SCJs are working to help the people and to give them hope. The donation from U.S. Province is a good expression of fraternity. Thank you so much."

Successful fund raiser

Fr. Ed Kilianski, SCJ, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, raised \$820 through his participation in "Steps for Students," a five-kilometer run-walk for Houston schools. "I want to thank everyone who helped support me in my effort to help the students of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School who are in need of financial aid in these difficult economic times," said Fr. Ed. "I was

able to raise, to date, \$820, which exceeded my goal of \$500. Maybe next year I'll run the race [he walked this year] and shoot for \$1,000!"

St. Joseph's alumnus receives national award

John Beheler is a 1979 graduate of St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, S.D. After college he returned to serve as assistant principal and cultural advisor. He also assisted with staff development and alumni relations. During the past year he has served as principal of the Lower Brule Elementary School on the Lower Brule Reservation but continues to provide staff development sessions at St. Joe's on various aspects of Lakota culture.

For his work, John has been named "Alumnus of the Year" by the Coalition for Residential Education (CORE) in its Catherine Hershey Awards. Established in 2005, the awards honor outstanding staff, students, alumni, and supporters of residential education.

Mike Tyrell, executive director of St. Joseph's Indian School, submitted John's nomination. "John provided a lot of 'hands-on' cultural experiences and staff development sessions on culture... Even though he left employment here, he still provides staff development sessions on various aspects of the culture."

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