Vincentian Seminarians' Gathering

Twice each year, our men at all levels of formation spend a weekend together. This gathering provides an opportunity for seminarians to relax from their studies and formation responsibilities and to get to know each other better.

The first seminarian gathering of the year took place this past weekend, from Saturday, October 31, to Sunday, November 1, at MM House. During this two-day gathering, seminarians prayed together, shared meals, played soccer and volleyball, watched a movie, and even helped Luis Romero promote vocations, as we began National Vocational Awareness Week on Sunday, November 1 (which will conclude on Sunday, November 7).

One of the activities they seemed to enjoy the most was playing sports. On Saturday, seminarians played soccer at Cunningham Park (about 10 minutes away from MM House). Since we have 22 men in formation (not including those in Panama), we were able to organize a good soccer game. The result of the game was 4-2. We mixed the seminarians into two teams, as De Andreis' House has 12 men in formation and MM House has 10. When the men returned from the park, some of them played volleyball on the patio in front of MM House. It was truly an enjoyable activity.

On Sunday, Luis also had his discernment meeting. Since it fell on All Saints' Day, the men dressed as a chosen saint and asked the discerners to guess which saint they were representing. It was a learning and spiritual activity. That same day, seminarians and discerners participated in Mass at St. Thomas More Church. Pat Griffin was the main celebrant. We concluded the gathering by sharing dinner together.

These are some men's thoughts regarding the Vincentian Seminarians' Gathering.

Roberto Mazariegos (1st year of Philosophy):

"What I enjoyed the most from our Vincentian Seminarians' Gathering was being able to spend time with our brothers from De Andreis' House. When I shared with some of them, I asked them for advice regarding studies. They encouraged me to study and work hard to achieve my goals.

I also enjoyed playing soccer and watching a movie together, dressing as saints and giving short presentations on the saint. In short, the whole weekend was enjoyable. Being with all the men in formation made everyone happy, and it showed the Congregation taking concrete steps to improve community life. I am looking forward to our next Vincentian Seminarians' Gathering in the Spring next year."

Joseph Bui Cuc Nang, C.M., (4th year of Theology)

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Vincentian Formation Team for the many blessings I received during this Vincentian Seminarians' Gathering. I felt a strong sense of connection and unity among the seminarians, fostered by meaningful activities that strengthened our bonds of friendship. I also gained a great deal of positive energy to continue my vocational journey within the Vincentian charism."

Please keep praying for our men in formation, here in the US and in Panama!

Erik Sanchez, C.M.