

NAVIGARE

VOLUME 1.8

Fun Facts...

1. Spanish is the only country in Europe with cities outside of Europe
2. The mop was invented in Spain
3. Madrid means “place of abundant water” in Arabic records

Did you know?

There were 7 birthdays in the community celebrated in March including Stephen's.

How many nephews and nieces does Robert have?

- a) 7
- b) 8
- c) 9
- d) 10



This is a sneak peak from the Javierada 2022

Marching On...

March has been such an amazing month. I can't believe this month has gone by so fast but I wouldn't change a thing. This month has been full of growth, community, and clarity for everyone but especially us Navigare. We are finally finding the direction that God wants us to go in and we are finding our purposes in this world. In March, we've had many events where we could take a step back and just enjoy the present moment and I think these are crucial parts of our life because if we don't have these moments, then we are sprinting without a finish line. And this has become quite clear this month. So with this in mind, I'll be discussing the *Javierada*, commitments within the community, half-marathon running, spiritual exercises, and so much more! I present to you... *Navigare Newsletter: March Edition.*



Javierada 2022

For those who don't know what the *Javierada* is, it is a pilgrimage to the castle of Javier in honor of St. Francis Xavier. St. Xavier was appointed apostolic nuncio by the Pope and he was in charge of spreading and maintaining the faith in all the countries of the East (along a few other priests).

On the weekend of March 5-6th, I went on this pilgrimage with Frassatti (from Stella Maris Collegio and College), Emáus (La gavia, Familias de Betania, and Barcelona), and some other people from our communities. We were around 150+ people and it was so much fun. We spent two days walking, talking, sharing stories, praying, and suffering together. It was one of the best experiences that I've had in my life. This is one of the events this month that made me appreciate the present moment even more. Stephen and Dominik weren't at the Javierada because on the same weekend, they had a convivencia for Montañeros.



Montañeros!

Once a month, Dominik and I spend one Friday evening doing different, small activities and one Saturday each month hiking with the Montaneros from Stella Maris College. However, March was a little different because we had “convivencias!” It honestly felt a little chaotic, but it turned out to be an amazing time. Most of the kids I asked agreed that Saturday's night-game, CLUE, was the best part. All of us “mandos” all dressed up as different characters and acted out our scripts around the campground while the kids had to deduce who committed the crime! Dominik and I were some cranky old cleaning ladies with Brother Riley. It was great to see all the work the mandos put into the weekend pay off with all the smiling faces!

—This piece was written by Stephen Danos—

Taking Steps

On the 17th of March, Br. Tomás Basallo and Br. Ignacio Golmayo had taken the next step towards priesthood! The bishop of Madrid came to La Gavia to bless the brothers with the duty of an “acolitado”; or in english: an “acolyte”. Essentially, Br. Tomás and Br. Ignacio are now able to distribute the eucharist and expose the eucharist for adoration. This is the last step before perpetual vows and it shows how far they have truly come. After the special mass, we had a gathering with their families and we had lots of food, wine, and talks with each other. I'm very proud of both of them and by the looks of their faces, you can tell that they are very happy with where they are in their lives.

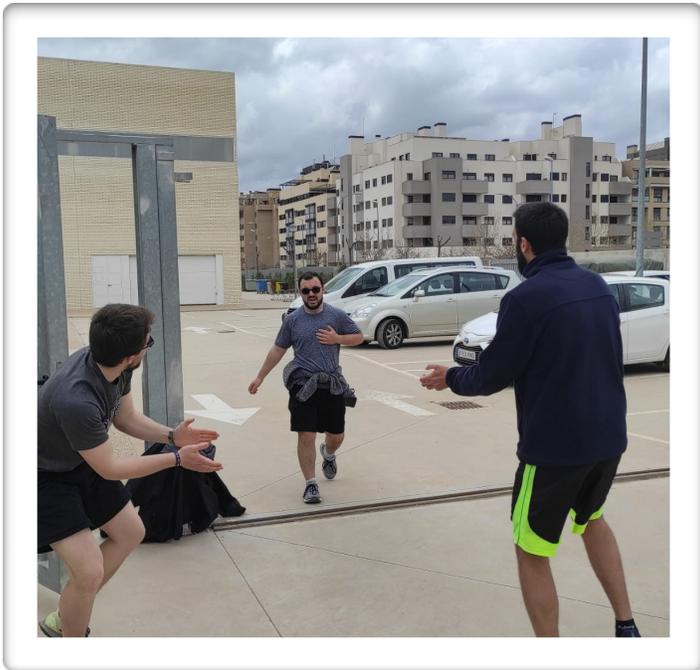


25!

On March 22nd, 2022, Fr. Juan de Dios had his 25th year anniversary of ordination!! This is such a blessing and it's a huge reminder that God's plan always brings the greatness out. Fr. Juan de Dios chose the path that God has given him and he's impacted so many lives, families, relationships, etc. There were so many people to celebrate his ordination that day and you can just tell how much he helps his communities. The stories that people shared, the memories that they reminisced on, the smiles that were exchanged, that's the beauty of life. The simple joys in life are what should be remembered constantly and never forgotten. Congratulations Fr. Juan de Dios!

Happy Birthday Stephen!

Happy birthday Stephen Danos On March 27th, our Navigare member, Stephen, turned 23 years old! It was a whole day of celebration and Dominik and I decided to take Stephen out for dinner. We took Stephen to the center of Madrid, Sol, to this bar called Vacaciones. And then we ended up eating at this noodle place called Wok to Walk, which was absolutely delicious. Not only that, but the community gifted Stephen his very own harmonica! Now Stephen can take his musical talent to the next level. I just want to take a moment to thank Stephen for being the glue in our Navigare trio and for always making us laugh. Congrats Stephen!



Here's Stephen right before the finish line

Cine Fórum: Interstellar

As for the movie of the month, we decided to watch *Interstellar!* This sci-fi/ mystery movie is about a group of individuals who try to find another planet for humans to survive on. I don't want to spoil anything but there are so many complicated situations that happen in this movie and there are many topics to touch on. So, after the movie ended, as usual we sat in a circle and discussed the significance of the movie. I think this is such a great way to dive into a movie and to dissect the meaning. There's usually something you can always learn. I highly recommend this movie for those who haven't watched it yet!

Marathon?!

Well, that came out of nowhere. In the midst of the Navigare's busy second March, unexpected news came in the form of a half-marathon across central Madrid. Everyone in the La Gavia and Valdemarin communities ran the half-marathon. Each person could decide whether to run the entire distance or start running a little more than halfway. Robert and Stephen decided to start further into the path, while I decided to go all-out and run the entire 13 miles. We all were crossing our fingers we would make it out alive. It was a day of endurance and also of celebration with Mass and a great lunch afterwards. If there's one thing we all learned that day, make sure to start train WAY before hand; but most importantly, anything is possible with the Lord, even running a half-marathon. Now, if you're wondering about the possibility of an entire marathon, hold your horses, let's survive this year first.

—This piece was written by Dominik Scelza—



Ejercicios Espirituales

From March 11-13th, Kairos had their yearly Spiritual Exercises. For those who aren't familiar with this, it is a time for an individual to step away from life and to focus on prayer and meditation away from the distractions of the world. This means that there is no technology, no talking, and just pure silence. They're called exercises because we use St. Ignatius of Loyola's book of spiritual exercises to guide our meditations.

During this weekend, we had Br. Tomás and Fr. Carlos to help us with these meditations and they guided us through our spiritual journey. As a testimony, I would like to say that this experience has changed my life. I've gotten so much clarity on my life's purpose and now I have a sense of direction. My relationship with God has become better as well. I recommend for everyone to do something similar. Go on the next available silent retreat and take a moment to make sure you're going in the right direction. We could all use some guidance in our lives.



Vow Renewals!

This month is just full of blessings because Br. Riley had renewed his vows for another 3 years! I'm very proud of Riley because you can tell the amount of passion that he has in this community. He cares a lot and I know that he will go very far in this vocation. To celebrate this great day, we had a special mass and a huge dinner (which of course included burgers). Congratulations Riley!

Klara and the Sun

To finish the month, we had a libroforum on the book *Klara and the Sun*. We have been preparing for this libroforum for around a month or two and it was great to finally discuss questions and details. I really recommend this book and if you do end up reading it, please let me know what you think! Anyways, that is a wrap for this newsletter. So much to go over but it was worth it. Thank you for your time and I hope everyone enjoyed it!

Answer =D) Technically it is 10 total because my sister is just about to have another one in July :)

