

# Vocation Think-Tank

**September 11, 2009**

Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB

Attending: Bros. Paul Chu, Sean Hogan, Sal Sammarco and Wilgintz Polynice; pre-novices Adam Dupré and Andrew Smolin; novices Juan Pablo Rubio and P.J. Ehling; candidate Kevin Corcoran; Frs. Mark Hyde, Steve Leake, Gerry Sesto, Pat Diver, Bill Keane, Steve Ryan, Franco Pinto, Dominic Tran and John Tuan (visiting missionary).

We began with a prayer service and a steak dinner. The task last Friday night at the Salesian House in South Orange was to continue to energize the province in our vocation animation. At the think-tank meeting the venue gave an opportunity for us to speak our minds and share opinions about things like:

- individual accompaniment,
- the formation of small faith groups,
- the digital world of potential candidates, -the need for regional coordinators,
- following up on local vocation plans,
- and the importance of keeping young guys in formation around the recruiting process.

*Resolutions from the meeting included:* 1. Hold local ministries accountable to their local vocation plans.

2. Move forward with regional and ethnic group coordinators.

3. Work hard to encourage each local community to have small groups where young leaders can share faith and grow as disciples (sodalities).

4. Begin the two-year process of implementing a vocation awareness week in our five schools.

Finally, the think-tank meeting last Friday night was an opportunity for Fr. Franco and me to remind the attendees that we are serious about five novices a year (minimum) starting next year and every year henceforth. We are going to grow as a province. Do you believe that? †