

SPRING 2001



Partners...in. Mission



Christian Brothers of the Midwest

Partners...in Mission

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Brother Francis Carr, FSC,
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Christian Brothers of the Midwest

Brother Francis Carr, FSC

Appointed Provincial of the Midwest Province

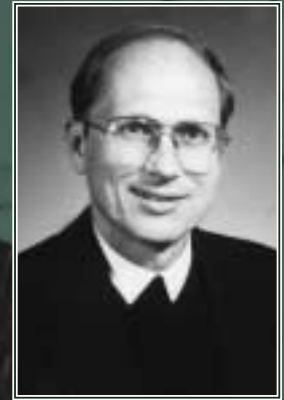
The Brothers of the Midwest Province have submitted the name of Brother Francis Carr, FSC, as their choice for Provincial. Brother Alvaro Rodríguez, FSC, Superior General, Rome, has confirmed and appointed Brother Francis. Brother Francis will assume office on July 1, 2001. He succeeds Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, who was the first provincial of the newly formed Midwest Province.

Brother Francis was born in Escanaba, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, to Louis and Orvilla Carr. The second of two sons, he and his brother, Louis, attended Holy Name High School, which at that time was administered by the Christian Brothers. Both of them also worked in their Father's bakery and wish now that they had paid more attention to how the doughnuts, bread, and other goodies were produced so they could be as good at baking as their father was. Brother's mother, who recently celebrated her 89th birthday, still lives in Escanaba. His brother, Louis, and his family reside in Marquette, Michigan.

Following high school in 1962, Brother Francis entered the formation program of the Christian Brothers in Winona, Minnesota, and graduated from Saint Mary's University there. He later earned his Master's degree at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. He pronounced perpetual vows in 1976.

With over 35 years of dedicated service, Brother Francis has served as both teacher and administrator. He agrees that these educational, community and ministry experiences, and leadership roles have instilled deeply in him the traditions and aspirations of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Christian Brothers. He looks forward to leading the province and to serving the Brothers, colleagues, students, alumni and friends.

Brother Francis' faith and trust in God, his spirit of compassion, his personality and sense of humor, his willingness to accept the challenges and make the sacrifices inherent in this role, will serve very well the Midwest Province, the Church and all of us committed to Lasallian values.



Dear Friends,

These past six years I have had the privilege of serving as the Provincial of our newly created Midwest Province. What an excellent adventure this has been! I was able to experience first-hand the wonderful works that our Brothers and other Lasallians are doing all over the Midwest and at the missions overseas. I have also been privileged to meet so many of you, our friends and benefactors, who play such an important role in continuing our mission.

As I move into other positions, I do so with a great sense of hope and confidence in what the Brothers have started and what so many of our colleagues and benefactors have continued. It is indeed God's work. We have been blessed these past years and I know that God will continue to bless us and our ministries with your help.

I am confident that you will welcome Brother Francis Carr, FSC, our new Provincial, as you have welcomed and supported me.

Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC
Provincial

Challenges & Opportunities

- Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC
Provincial

When I was young, I used to hear how tough it was for the older generation when they were young. This “Greatest Generation” did in fact live through the Depression and wars. However, I think that today’s generation of young people have a much harder time than I had when I was a teenager at St. Mel High School on the West Side of Chicago in the early 60’s. Yes, students today have more opportunities in some ways than I did or my parents did, but I believe they also have more challenges. We see this every day in the news with availability of illegal drugs, school violence, gangs and fragmentation of families and other social bonds. This makes it clear to me that Lasallian education is needed now as much as it was when John Baptist de La Salle was born on April 30, 350 years ago.

More than ever, Lasallian education that promotes a solid values-based education, respect for students, promotion of self-respect, values in one’s personal life and concern for the less fortunate, along with modern, practical and up-to-date education is needed today. These are the opportunities we Brothers and Lasallian partners have, and these are the challenges.



Montini Catholic H.S. students collected 75 pounds or 90,000 aluminum pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Chicago.

Our new middle schools in Minneapolis, Chicago and Memphis and our outreach programs in Chicago’s Tolton Center and Kansas City’s Lasallian Tutors are soon to be joined by schools in St. Louis and among the Blackfeet people in Montana, providing great opportunities for inner-city students to get a chance to escape the limitations of poverty. These schools and programs run by Brothers and volunteers operate in the heart of cities and are beacons of hope to a whole new group of people who never would have a chance at a Lasallian education. Providing anchors in neighborhoods, a family-based approach and a values-based program, these new endeavors are the kind of schools De La Salle began more than 300 years ago.

They are not without challenges. Students are not always disposed to learning and discipline; funds to run the schools must come from outside the neighborhoods that grapple with crime and gangs. These schools rely solely on the volunteers and Brothers as well as support from donors all over the country. These schools require as much dedication and creativity as do any of our other endeavors.

Some of the same societal problems face our high schools. Even those in middle-class areas have students who suffer from the fragmentation of families, teenage drug and alcohol abuse and the usual problems of growing up. The opportunities for us in these fine schools are boundless. Providing a good education which prepares young people for further education is only part of the high schools’ mission. Our high schools strive to create a faith community and to

instill religious values. One way we do this is by maintaining programs such as Lasallian Youth that give young people experience in faith, service and community (FSC), by volunteering to serve the unfortunate, to pray together and form healthy relationships with each other. This is one of the ways we face the challenges students encounter. Each of these high schools teaches religion as a core subject and stresses values throughout the curriculum. This can be seen in the tone of the schools, the school prayers and Masses, and teacher faith-based groups. Our challenge is to keep these high schools affordable as tuition continues to get higher. Our Presidents and Principals struggle to pay a just wage to the teachers and to keep the schools technologically up to date. Each of these schools provides financial aid to deserving students, continuing our long-standing Lasallian tradition. Literally millions of dollars in financial aid are given in these schools. Keeping each of these fine high schools affordable and excellent is a great challenge in this new century.

Our three institutions of higher learning, Saint Mary's University in Minnesota, Lewis University in Illinois and Christian Brothers University in Tennessee, are great opportunities for us to provide Lasallian education on the collegiate level. Students have the opportunity to live in a faith-based learning community where they personally have the freedom to be Catholic and Christian by taking advantage of campus ministry and other service programs. These are the young people who are given occasions to volunteer in our new ministries, in Habitat for Humanity, in inner-cities and in Appalachia, in addition to excellent classes leading to degrees. The opportunities to provide a Catholic and Lasallian education at this level are many.

However, these institutions face challenges as well. This year in the press there was much discussion on what makes Catholic universities Catholic. As these larger institutions reach out to all kinds of people in all walks of life, they are challenged to maintain a Catholic and Lasallian character. A university cannot be an island for young adults to take refuge from our complicated world. Rather, it must teach students to be able to enter into dialogue with the culture, having confidence in their faith values. Students must have the strength of faith to live in a pluralistic world. Our universities prepare all kinds of professionals, but we do it in a strong ethics-centered way. The aim of our Lasallian universities is to prepare intelligent, thinking believers who accept the responsibility

and embrace the obligation to create a better world through their involvement in the marketplace. Like the high schools and our new endeavors, the universities face financial challenges to keep tuition affordable while carrying out the Lasallian and Catholic tradition.

Our retreat ministries in the Midwest supplement the work of the universities, middle schools and high schools by providing youth-centered retreat programs for students from all these levels, allowing them to experience several days of reflection and prayer as part of their Lasallian school experience. These are great opportunities for our retreat staffs to work with young people at the level of their faith. Keeping these centers open and thriving financially are challenges for the Brothers and Partners who are responsible for them.

We have more students in our Lasallian schools than ever before. Including our universities' undergrad program, there are 18,327 students in our schools staffed by more than 1,200 teachers. The acceptance of the Lasallian spirituality by our lay partners has been an excellent opportunity for us. All over the Midwest, men and women are involved in Lasallian formation programs to prepare themselves to be leaders in our schools and to adopt the spirituality of John Baptist de La Salle in their lives. They have seen the opportunity and accepted the challenge.

While we are still challenged by fewer vocations to Brotherhood, we have invited many lay partners into this Mission. Of course, we continue to challenge young men to join the Brothers, but we also have taken the opportunity to expand our mission with new faces and to new people.

We are faced with new challenges today, but God continues to provide us with new opportunities to continue that work begun more than 300 years ago.

Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC
is Provincial of the
Christian Brothers of the
Midwest Province

Catholic Lasallian Heritage in **Action** at **Christian Brothers University**

- Lisa Bell

Christian Brothers University, located in Memphis, Tennessee, was established in 1871. CBU has 32 Christian Brothers, who together with 106 lay faculty members, teach, mentor, and befriend 2,100 students in day, evening, and graduate programs.

“Teaching is the
graced activity of

Christian Brothers

University.”

— Brother Stan Sobczyk

Campus interest in the Christian Brothers University’s Lasallian heritage was renewed in May, 1999, with the arrival of current president, Brother Stan Sobczyk. During his fall inaugural address and first year in Memphis, Brother Stan enthusiastically reminded faculty, staff, students, and the Memphis community of CBU’s passion for teaching and ethical values, following in the footsteps of St. John Baptist de La Salle. A favorite Sobczyk quote around CBU is, “Teaching is the graced activity of Christian Brothers University.”

Prior to Brother Stan’s arrival, faculty committees were evaluating current Lasallian activities on campus. Several independent efforts were already in place such as, community service through Lasallian Collegians, fraternities/sororities and student clubs; annual recognition of the Outstanding Lasallian Educator; a birthday celebration for St. La Salle; and the recent formation of the De La Salle Center for Teaching and Religion. Underlying these efforts were informal campus discussions about keeping our Lasallian tradition alive. Like most Christian Brothers’ campuses

across the country, the CBU campus realizes the importance of a “shared mission” of Brothers and laity working together to keep this heritage alive.

Brother Stan applauded these Lasallian efforts but knew that it was time to “turn it up a notch.” Sister Dolores Montini was named Director of Ministry and Mission to coordinate all Lasallian Programs. Sister Dolores sees her role as motivating students, faculty, and staff to utilize their full potential and employ their talents for God and for the community. She believes the University’s campus ministry program should extend beyond the 75 acres of the campus into the Greater Memphis community: “The Lasallian tradition is all about service, about ‘faith in action.’ Charity begins at home, but it must not stay at home. Our heritage invites us all to have God in our lives, regardless of denomination or background. We must reach out to each other. The Lasallian tradition invites us to grow spiritually as a Christian Brothers’ university community. To do this, we need to have more celebrations, more opportunities to come together as a Lasallian community.”

De La Salle Center for Teaching and Religion

Sister Dolores is already working closely with groups planning Lasallian activities. Dr. Pete Gathje is director of the De La Salle Center. He started with a \$5,000 grant from the Lilly Foundation. According to Gathje: "The purpose of the De La Salle Center is to 'further reflection on and formation in the purpose and practice of higher education in the Lasallian tradition.' The Center plans to offer programs and activities for the campus community so that faculty, staff, and students will naturally draw upon De La Salle's philosophy and teachings in their daily lives."

One of the Center's key activities is the Lasallian Film Festival, a series of videos about the life and philosophy of St. La Salle. The first film was shown in late February, during a brown-bag lunch to some faculty and staff. Offering a much-needed respite during the busy days preceding mid terms, the brown-bag lunch gave those in attendance an opportunity for fellowship and to learn more about De La Salle.

Gathje also plans to launch a monthly newsletter, tentatively named *The Lasallian Educator*, which will focus on the purpose and practice of education in the Lasallian tradition. Additional plans call for working with Sister Dolores on new faculty and staff orientations to St. La Salle and offering an annual symposium on Catholic and Lasallian traditions for Lasallian educators.

Lasallian Collegians and Volunteers

Simone Ludwig, CBU's part-time Lasallian volunteer program coordinator, has a Lasallian legacy. A 1998 CBU alum and senior class president, Simone organized the Lasallian



"Alternative" Fall Break in Holly Springs, MS

CBU students, faculty, and staff take a moment after working on houses.

Collegians chapter at CBU. Upon graduation, Simone spent one year as a Lasallian Volunteer raising funds and teaching fifth-graders at San Miguel School in Providence, RI. She came back to CBU to spearhead the Lasallian volunteer program.

Simone helps students develop community service projects and successfully organized the University's first alternative fall break. With more faith than funds, Ludwig secured donations of food and project supplies for Lasallian collegians, students, faculty and staff who spent a satisfying week repairing homes for indigent and disabled seniors living in Holly Springs, Mississippi. According to Ludwig, CBU's mission, which talks about preparing men and women for constructive community involvement, underscores St. La Salle's philosophy of serving the poor, and speaks to the need for Lasallian student volunteers: "If we encourage CBU students to help others in need, their CBU educational experi-

ence will be much broader. And while some may argue that there are plenty of volunteer opportunities at home in Memphis, an out-of-town experience gives students exposure to different people and cultures." Enthusiastic evaluations of the fall/spring break project led Simone to work with Pete Gathje to develop an alternative spring break. In early March, students traveled with Gathje to Atlanta, Georgia, to live and work in a Presbyterian/Catholic worker house, an ecumenical community. During the week, students worked with the homeless, manning the soup kitchen, dispensing clothes, and talking with the clients.

Locally, CBU students donate time and funds to a variety of local charities, including Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army Angel Tree, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and De La Salle School at Blessed Sacrament Parish, the newest Lasallian school offering kindergarten. Perhaps

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Heritage in Action at Christian Brothers University



“Alternative” Fall Break in Holly Springs, MS

CBU students painting house
of elderly woman.

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the most poignant community service project belongs to the SAE fraternity, whose members don their best suits and escort senior women to a monthly afternoon dance at the Southerland Retirement Home.

While car washes and doughnut sales are popular fundraisers, creative fundraising ideas include the annual Big Buc 5K, sponsored by engineering students. They raise funds for the Madonna Learning Center for mentally handicapped children. The high spirited (in lieu of talent) “Youth Vs Vitality” basketball game, pairing students against Science faculty, benefited St. Jude Hospital and De La Salle School. And remembering the motto, “charity begins at home”, CBU students and faculty are giving moral and monetary support to an education student, whose mother died last year, making him the sole guardian of six younger brothers and sisters. A campus-wide drive rounded up food, clothing and toys; the School of Arts faculty donated funds for textbooks; and the Brothers chipped in for his tuition.

Other Lasallian efforts are heightening the visual senses of the CBU community. Currently, framed icons of St. John Baptist de La Salle with the CBU mission statement are displayed in prominent locations in all campus buildings. A

graphics/logo committee unveiled Lasallian banners and a Lasallian logo at an April 30, campus-wide, 350th birthday celebration for St. La Salle. Banners will rotate around campus to commemorate special Lasallian events.

In addition, CBU faculty, staff, and Brothers are currently enrolled in the Buttimer and Lasallian Leadership Institutes and working independently and in teams on projects that will raise awareness of the University’s Lasallian heritage on the campus. Projects include revising orientations for faculty, staff, and students to include a more in-depth orientation to the life and philosophy of St. La Salle, compiling a daily remembrance book on the 900 deceased Christian Brothers, affiliates, and benefactors who have been part of the Midwest Province from 1850 to the present; and recording De La Salle’s “Meditations for the Time of Retreat” for WYPL, the local public radio station, for its reading program for the blind.

Brother Stan’s leadership in setting the Lasallian tone on the CBU campus has been contagious. The faculty, staff, and students are embracing their “shared mission” enthusiastically. Sister Dolores Montini believes that this momentum will continue as the CBU community comes together to celebrate the life and philosophy of De La Salle in annual campus events.

Lisa Bell is Director of Media Relations
at Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee

Catholic Lasallian Heritage in **Action** at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

- Michael G. Flanagan



Saint Mary's

Bishop Patrick R. Heffron, the second bishop of Winona, founded Saint Mary's as a college in 1912 to provide higher education for young men in southern Minnesota's Diocese of Winona and surrounding areas. The De La Salle Christian Brothers took over Saint Mary's College from the Diocese of Winona in 1933.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the college expanded its physical facilities significantly, to accommodate the needs of students on the highly residential campus. In 1969, the college became co-educational and quickly achieved a complete balance of genders in the student body.

In 1984, Saint Mary's established a Twin Cities Campus in Minneapolis, MN, to serve the needs of adult students, with most seeking graduate degrees. During the 1980s, the Winona campus underwent vigorous growth, increasing the quality and quantity of residence halls, recreational facilities, and technological hardware and software.

In 1995, reflecting the growth of programs and geographical locations, Saint Mary's College was renamed Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. In 2000, Saint Mary's awarded its first doctoral degree. Present undergraduate enrollment remains at the desired level of about 1,300 students, with about 100 faculty including 15 Christian Brothers on staff. The expanding graduate programs enroll nearly 6,000 students.

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Heritage in Action at Saint Mary's University

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Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

The Lasallian charism expresses itself on the Saint Mary's University campus, in the context of three variables unique to higher education: the growth in maturity of the students; the role of the students in the Lasallian pursuit; and the particular relationship between teacher and learner.

The journey into the fullness of maturity is a significant part of college education. Our students come from a variety of faith backgrounds to embark on a new adventure in personal independence in which familial and other personal values are examined and tested in the community life of the university, but within the omnipresent and varied values of American culture.

The role of the student in the Lasallian pursuit is different in the culture of the Catholic university than at other educational levels. The Lasallian university focuses on education as an interdependent relationship between teacher and learner. In the ideal world of the small university that is Saint Mary's, Lasallian education is characterized by a profound sense of caring between teacher and learner, in which the learner is not only the recipient of caring, but learns to share the Lasallian charisma with peer communities.

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota — recognizing the important relationship between teacher and learner — understands that the shared mission of Lasallian education demands a mutual appreciation of excellences among Christian Brothers and the lay staff. The Lasallian teacher, in all disciplines, understands and models the Lasallian spirit of caring, in which faith and zeal are inspirations, regardless of the religious background of the teacher or student. Saint Mary's University of Minnesota recognizes that all members of the university community — including faculty, administration, professional, and all other employees — are contributors to a university experience from which must arise new Lasallian leaders.

*As a Lasallian community,
Saint Mary's University of
Minnesota:*

- Supports and nurtures the growth in faith among all members of the community.
- Seeks to instill the Lasallian charism in all of its students and constituencies, recognizing that students are not simply the recipients of Lasallian spirit, but co-creators of it.
- Understands the vital responsibility of fostering the understanding that we are always in the holy presence of God.

Michael G. Flanagan is the Director of Faculty Development and Mission Enhancement at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Catholic Lasallian

Heritage in Action

at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois

- Carol Wassberg

“What does the word ‘Lasallian’ mean to you and how does it relate to your experiences of mission here at Lewis?” was the question that Brother James Gaffney, FSC, asked the Lewis University community after he was appointed president in 1988. As the faculty, staff and students shared their insights and questions, his administration explored ways to integrate Lasallian values more deeply into the Lewis experience. Work on a new Mission Statement began as early as 1990 with a process that was inclusive of all parts of the university community.

In 1994, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Mission Statement which incorporates the Signum Fidei (Sign of Faith) with the following preamble:

“Lewis University, guided by its Catholic and Lasallian heritage, provides programs for a liberal and professional education grounded in the interaction of knowledge and fidelity in the search for truth. Lewis promotes the development of the complete person through the pursuit of wisdom and justice. Fundamental to its Mission is a spirit of association which develops community in all teaching, learning and service.” With the Mission Statement in place, the University immediately took steps to promote integration of the Mission values into the university culture.

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New Entrance at Lewis University

Heritage in Action at Lewis University

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Lewis University
Volunteers for Meals on Wheels

Among these steps:

- A Mission and Heritage Council was appointed by the President to bring together faculty, staff and students to address the Mission as a vital part of the university planning efforts. Among the activities of this Council have been implementation of Mission themes at semi-annual Convocations; establishment of awards honoring faculty, staff and students for exhibiting Lasallian spirit; placement of religious art on campus; spearheading of efforts to infuse Mission into curriculum; and the organization of numerous conferences and events. The Mission and Heritage Council has greatly enhanced Founders Week, a Lewis tradition, to emphasize Lasallian and Catholic values through its many activities, which include events such as the annual academic Listening Lecture on a topic that relates to religion and culture; ceremonies honoring student, faculty and staff volunteers for community and university service; a power point quiz program on Lewis and Lasallian heritage; and a Celebration of Service, honoring Lewis personnel for their service to the University. Council members have been a driving force behind many other initiatives, such as the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, held in January, 2001, which honored the vision and legacy of the late Dr. King.



Lewis University
Big Brothers/
Big Sisters
Program

- A Hiring for Mission Task Force prepared new guidelines for hiring, embracing diversity and informing all applicants of the Lewis community's commitment to the Mission.
- Mission Orientation was established for every new employee from administrator to faculty to part-time coaches. This program is presented first as a very personal visit with a De La Salle Christian Brother to discuss one-on-one what the Mission means, followed by a personal meeting with Brother James, and then a group orientation with other new employees, held each semester and including a history of the University, extensive information on St. La Salle, dialogue about the Mission, and a Commissioning Ceremony.
- Students receive Mission orientation when they come to campus for registration. The Mission message also is emphasized during Welcome Days at the opening of each academic year. Student leaders and members of the Student Governing Board participate in programs that focus on Mission and what it means to attend a Catholic, Lasallian university.

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Heritage in Action at Lewis University

(continued from page 10)

- Events have been planned to promulgate the Mission from lectures in the Arts & Ideas Series (which is open to the public) to seminars and discussion groups for faculty/staff throughout the academic year. The Signum Fidei Celebration was established in 1999 as a scholarship benefit to focus on the Mission of the University. The Signum Fidei Lecture, established in 2000, brings prominent speakers to campus who demonstrate Lasallian values. The Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, Bishop of Joliet, was the inaugural speaker in 2000. Brother Michael French, FSC, will be this year's speaker.
- Numerous faculty and staff have participated in Lasallian activities, such as the Buttimer Institute, Lasallian Leadership Institute and the Heuther Workshops. Those who have attended have been so inspired by the experience that they have organized Lasallian activities and dialogue on campus, including the Lasallian Lunchtime Discussions.
- Lasallian speakers, both faculty and student, are now selected as the speakers for Lewis Commencements rather than community figures or honorary doctorate recipients. The faculty speakers are nominated by their colleagues, while the student speakers are selected through a nomination and interview process that examines their beliefs as well as their academic performance and volunteer activities.



Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University, is shown with **William D. Pederson**, the Student Lasallian Speaker at January, 2001, Commencement ceremonies.

Mr. Pederson attended Lewis for seven years as a part-time student, while working and supporting his family. In pursuit of his degree, he demonstrated his dedication to the Lasallian values of knowledge and wisdom while also forming bonds of association with students, often as a mentor, as well as with faculty and staff.

- Visually, the words “Catholic and Lasallian” have been emblazoned on banners and now appear at the new front entrance to Lewis University. The seal with the “Signum Fidei” appears as a backdrop for Commencement and many other events. The Mission statement itself is published in most programs and University publications as well as on the website.
- Mission-centered goals have been at the core of preparing the University’s first Strategic Plan five years ago and the current plan, Vision 2006, which will be adopted this semester. Budget decisions are based on whether allocations are Mission indicated, and program development must demonstrate Mission themes.
- Each year, the University has chosen a Mission value as its theme, examining Knowledge, Wisdom, Justice, Fidelity and Association. This year, the theme of “Valuing Diversity, Fostering Unity” has also been drawn from the Mission Statement.

Lewis believes in its Mission as a Catholic and Lasallian university. The university community has embraced the values so completely that the North Central Association issued a commendation in its recent re-accreditation report, stating: “The Mission Statement is never far from reach, providing a constant reminder of what it is that Lewis University is all about.”

Carol Wassberg is Special Assistant to the President,
Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois

St. John Baptist de La Salle

Principal Patron before God
of All Teachers of Youth

- Robert J. Keeley, Ed.D.

Who was this man we know as John Baptist de La Salle?

Why is he the patron of teachers?

John Baptist de La Salle is credited as one of the founders of modern classroom-style education. As a priest living in 17th century France, La Salle was led by the spirit of God to become involved in the education of youth. Education became his vocation.

During his lifetime he founded a religious order of men, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who devoted themselves to teaching boys and young men. To assist the Brothers in this ministry, he developed the first real strategy for teaching, created a teacher's manual, wrote student textbooks, and opened a school to train teachers. He challenged the Brothers of his community to look upon everything with the eyes of faith, to see the person of Christ in their students, and to approach this ministry with great zeal for the evangelization of youth. By the time of his death in 1719, he had established numerous schools throughout France that followed his ideals. This success was later copied in Europe and in America.

But why does La Salle remain a model for Catholic education today?

Let me suggest three reasons.

An Innovative Educator

John Baptist de La Salle was an educational innovator. He looked at the world and saw a need to educate all children, and responded to that calling. In De La Salle's day, education was reserved for the privileged; generally only those boys and young men whose families could afford private tutors studied at all. Relatively few of these men went on to university. All subjects were taught in Latin, greatly limiting the spread of education and texts. There were no programs to train teachers. The tutors of the day were well-educated men who performed this gentleman's occupation to earn a living.

De La Salle realized that this approach closed education to all but the very wealthy, perpetuating an entrenched upper class while cutting off opportunities for bright, but poor children. He believed that the working class and poor had a right to quality education, so he directed his efforts to these youth. What was truly revolutionary was De La Salle's understanding that a tutorial approach to instruction would never be able to reach the masses. A new technique for instruction was needed. Thus he developed the simultaneous approach to instruction, using monitors to educate small groups within a larger group. These groups were the first "classrooms," and this form of instruction remains the principal form of instruction worldwide some 300 years later.

Saint John also understood the critical need for teacher training to ensure success in the classroom, as well as the benefit of teachers continuing their training throughout their careers. Before placing teachers in the classroom, De La Salle trained them and called the teachers aside periodically to renew their instruction. He wrote a training manual for his teachers, The Conduct of Christian Schools, that included extraordinary insight to the task of the classroom instructor. The book outlined rules and techniques for class teaching, including regulations for maintaining discipline, steps for teaching reading, and even for student assessment and discipline.

Like John Baptist de La Salle, we Catholic educators of the 21st century must be innovators. Educational research tells us more each day about the learning process. New theories of instruction appear regularly. As professional Catholic educators we must learn about these theories, evaluate them, and make adaptation for our students. We schoolteachers model De La Salle when we act as true professional educators with a lively zeal to innovate when we do what is best for our students.

Ministry—Spirituality

John Baptist de La Salle recognized the totality of the human person. A teacher would not be good at his task if his spirit was not nurtured as well as his mind. De La Salle did not separate the ministry of teaching from the teacher's spiritual development.

His Christian Brothers were required to read the New Testament each day. Through this requirement it is as if De La Salle were telling his teachers to teach as Jesus did, a theme we echo often today. Saint John wrote 16 meditations to be used during the Brothers' yearly retreat. This personal examination focused on how well the Brothers were conducting their ministry and how it was leading to their personal holiness. Titles of the meditations reflect the seriousness of Saint John's effort to join teaching and personal spiritual development.

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He developed the simultaneous approach to instruction, using monitors to educate small groups within a larger group. These groups were the first "classrooms," and this form of instruction remains the principal form of instruction worldwide some 300 years later.

innovator

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Among them:

- What Teachers Must Do to Procure the Sanctification of Their Students;
- The Task of Teaching Youth Is One of the Most Necessary in the Church;
- The Proper Manner for Reproving and Correcting the Faults of Those for Whom We Are Responsible;
- Teachers Must Give an Account to God on the Way They Have Fulfilled Their Ministry.

In one of his writings De La Salle told his Brothers that they were to bring to prayer the needs of their students and in prayer they should seek guidance on how to help those students they were having difficulty reaching.

Our personal sanctification as Catholic educators comes from how faithful we are as religious, priest, spouse, parent, or single person. Intimately connected to that vocation is how faithful we are in our ministry. We find Christ in the person of those we teach. We seek Christ's counsel on how to touch the hearts of all we teach. The mansions we are building for ourselves in heaven are constructed with the love and concern we show to our students. We share our personal experiences of Christ with our students when the teachable moment arises.

Concern for the Poor and Vulnerable

John Baptist de La Salle had great love for the poor. He demonstrated this devotion by taking the poor teachers into his home to feed them, by giving away his patrimony, and by requiring the Brothers to teach the poor and working class. He held school on Sundays for those working-class youth who had to labor during the week. De La Salle even opened a school for "incorrigible delinquents." Probably, at least some of these youths, we today would classify as special-needs students.

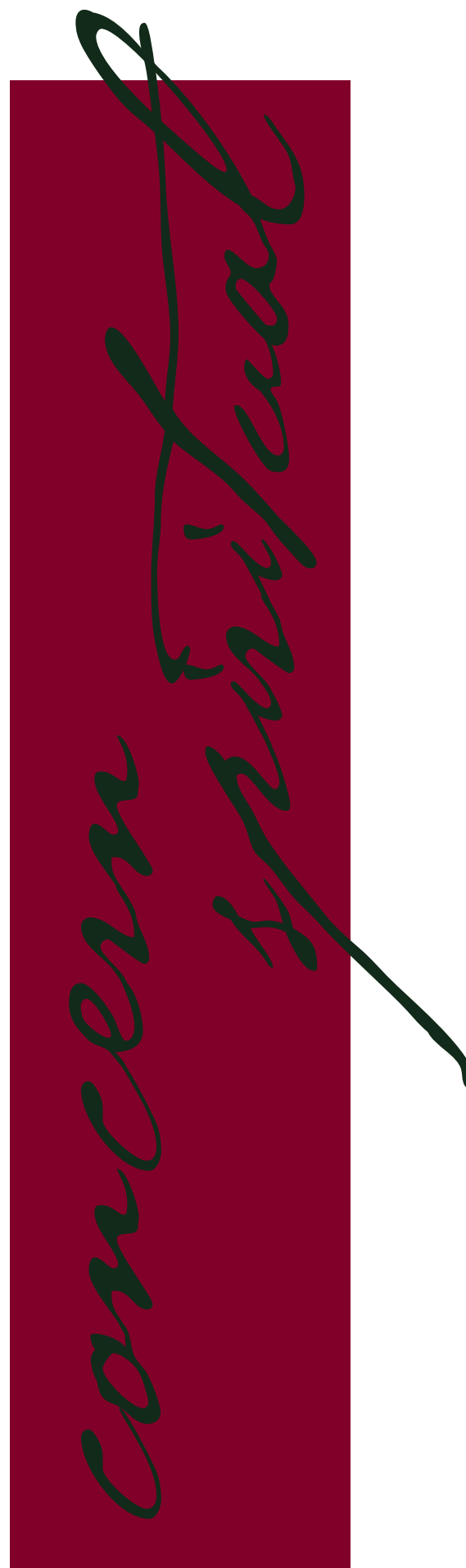
One of the hidden treasures of American Catholic schools is the millions of dollars each year devoted to tuition assistance. While tuition and fees must increase in order to provide a just wage to educators and staff, school boards, administrators, pastors, and teachers seek ways to keep the schools affordable to all who wish to attend them. De La Salle must be pleased to see the initiatives the Church and individual archdioceses, dioceses, and even parishes have developed to assist poor students. Our Catholic schools are continually developing and implementing programs to help the most vulnerable children in today's society. As individual Catholic educators, no matter where we teach, each of us must show a genuine concern for the poor and vulnerable and communicate this attitude to our students.

As we look at the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, a man who lived hundreds of years ago and in a very different world, we see that the principles that guided his life are still those that guide us today. These same principles can be the driving force for all of us involved in the glorious ministry of Catholic education. De La Salle must be in awe when he sees the work that he began continuing today all over the globe by faithful Catholic educators.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron of Teachers, pray for us.

Robert J. Kealey, Ed.D. is the Executive Director
for Elementary Education at NCEA.

This article was first published in *Momentum*,
the official journal of the National Catholic Educational Association.



THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD

- Leo F. Hirsch

Students of the Christian Brothers schools remember well that each school day began with the reminder that “we are in the holy presence of God.” When Lou Little was coaching football at Georgetown University, he had a player that could not make the first or even second string, but he did have tremendous spirit. He was an inspiration to his teammates. He rarely saw action on the field, except for a few minutes on those occasions when the game was already decided.

One day news came that the football player’s father had died. The young man came to Little and said, “Coach, I want to ask a favor of you that really means an awful lot to me. I want to start the game against Fordham. I think that’s what my father would have liked most.”

Little hesitated for a moment and then said, “Okay, son, you’ll start but you’ll only be in there for a play or two. You aren’t really good enough and you know it.”

The young man started the game and played so well that Coach Little never took him out. His play inspired the team to victory!

Back in the locker room, Coach Little embraced the young man and said, “Son, you were terrific! You never played that way before. What got into you?”

The young man answered, “Remember how my father and I used to walk around the campus arm-in-arm? Very few people knew it, but he was totally blind. This afternoon my father saw me play for the first time.”

Like the blind father, we do not always see the good that we do. Our example has a tremendous impact on our family, our community and our world. People we do not know or see, can and do benefit from our prayers, generosity and our example.



(continued on page 16)

Our lives are filled with a richness and value that flow from our willingness to help others as Christ has asked us to do. “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Heritage Society members are truly “Partners” in the De La Salle Christian Brothers’ Mission and Ministries. Your will bequest, annuity, trust or other planned gift bestows automatic membership. Like the blind father of the Georgetown University football player, you may not see all the lives you touch through your generous sharing of God’s gifts. But in Heaven, you will see clearly what a tremendous impact you have made in the lives of poor and needy students who were able to attend Christian Brothers’ schools because of your Will Bequest or other Planned Gift.

Shortly before Christmas we received a very touching letter from Theda Rice, a highly valued and respected Heritage Society Member. She wrote, “How I wish I could help in person, but at 83 years of age, it is physically impossible. The gift annuity and scholarship donations must do it for me. The Christian Brothers are remembered in my trust, so that even when I am gone, the good work can go on.”

We encourage you to consider joining with Theda Rice in remembering the Brothers and their educational ministries in your will or other planned gifts, so that as Theda said, “even when you’re gone, the good work can go on.”

We believe that those who do this will almost certainly experience “the Holy Presence of God”... for all eternity.

Leo F. Hirsch is the Director of Development,
Provincial Office, Burr Ridge, Illinois

Lasallian AWARDS

On Sunday, March 4, 2001, the Sancta Alberta Chapel at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, was the site for the 29th annual Lasallian Awards. Father Francis S. Tebbe, OFM, Vice-President for Enrollment Management at Lewis celebrated the Mass. Music was provided by Tapestry and the Lewis Campus Ministry. Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, Provincial, delivered the homily and presented each honoree with a plaque commemorating the solemnity of the occasion. A brunch and reception followed in the dining room.

Each Lasallian Award recipient exemplifies the values of St. John Baptist de La Salle, "Patron Saint of Teachers," whose 350th birthday we celebrated April 30, 2001. A few of the presenters' remarks are highlighted here.

Stephen Marth, Principal and President of Driscoll Catholic High School, Addison, Illinois, recognized the many accomplishments of Thomas McCabe who has been associated with the school for 22 years, initially as a teacher, presently as a member of the Board of Directors. Tom continues to spearhead tuition assistance saying: "No deserving student should be denied a Lasallian education."

Brother Michael Kadow of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, offered the following commendation of Roncalli High School honorees, Joann and Bob Stelzer: "Like our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle, the Stelzers have used their financial resources to endow a mission. They have given in a spirit of faith for a lifetime. They sent their son, John, to Roncalli in the fall of 1977. After graduation from St. Norbert College, John returned to Roncalli where he has served as teacher, coach, admissions director and currently Director of Development."

Chicagoan Rosemary Sullivan, teacher, board member and friend to the Christian Brothers was De La Salle Institute's Lasallian Award recipient. Brother Michael Quirk, FSC, President, said of her: "She is a person who embodies the ideals of Christian education and supports our Lasallian mission. For 25 years Rosemary has been associated with the Christian Brothers as a valued partner in our Lasallian mission. She is sensitive to the needs of others and has devoted her life in service to others."



Front row—left to right:
**Betty Byrd (Lewis),
Tom McCabe (Driscoll),
Kathy and Ed Schaeffer
(CBC St. Louis), and
Brother Thomas Johnson,
FSC, Provincial of the
Midwest Province**

Back row—left to right:
**Tom McMahan (St. Joseph),
Bill Engels (San Miguel),
Rosemary Sullivan
(DeLaSalle), John Stelzer
accepting on behalf of his
parents Bob and JoAnn
Stelzer (Roncalli)**

Each award recipient has demonstrated a persevering commitment to Lasallian ministry. They have inspired hope and enthusiasm in the hearts of everyone, especially the Christian Brothers.

Wappingers Falls Regional
Vocation Retreat



In January, a group of 70 young men and Brothers from across the United States gathered at Mount Alvernia Retreat House in Wappingers Fall, New York, for the annual Regional Vocation Retreat to pray, discuss and discern their vocation. Contacts, aspirants, and Brother candidates met with postulants, novices, temporary and perpetually professed Brothers to discern God's call in their lives.

This year's theme was **Making Real the Reign of God** and featured reflection on four scenarios from the events in the life of St. John Baptist de La Salle and their mirror image in the Gospels: *Responsibility to Integrity, Responsibility to Fulfillment, Responsibility to Service, and Responsibility to Community*. Retreatants reflected on their own lives in light of De La Salle's and the Gospel message of Jesus.

Vocation

Reflections

- Brother Thomas Sullivan, FSC

Each scenario included Scripture passages and discussion questions with time for a prayerful reading of the scenario, personal reflection, and journal writing. Each contact and aspirant paired up with a Brother for one-on-one mentoring conversations, which occurred throughout the retreat.

Among the outcomes of the time together, the contacts/aspirants offered the Brothers the following comments and advice about encouraging and nurturing vocations:

- You come across as very genuine, peaceful people who have achieved fulfillment through your vocation. This is very inspiring and I only hope that I can achieve this fulfillment wherever I end up in life.
- One-on-one care is what all contacts need to help them discern where they are going.
- Let the students get to know you as down-to-earth human beings who as Brothers still have to deal with the struggles and pressures of daily life.
- Be strong and follow your heart.
- If at times you feel that you're not inspiring vocations and that you are not fulfilling this part of your mission as Brother, don't worry too much, and believe and trust that you are because, most of the time, it is the smallest expressions of love that make a great difference.
- Continue to invite people the way you are doing, that is, not to pressure a person to become a Brother, but to encourage one to search for where God is calling.
- Continue with your educating young people for it truly impacts people's lives.
- The work you do is God's work, which leads to serving the poor.
- Keep up the hard work and don't be worried. Vocations will come out of experiences like these.
- Keep encouraging and praying for us. The Brothers do a spectacular job teaching about St. John Baptist de La Salle.
- I realize that Brothers are human beings just like anyone else and it is a tough job to do what they do. You have to be very dedicated.
- Remain true to what they are doing; do not lose hope.
- Stay persistent in helping others, especially those in need.
- Just continue to positively affect the lives of so many people and young guys will ultimately and inevitably want to join the order.
- It's not a sinking ship; we are boarding a great new ship!!!



The Contacts and Brothers from the Midwest District pose for a final picture before departing Wappingers Falls.

Pictured from left, back row: Jon Helwig, Ryan Lebre, Andy Blake, Mike Audette, Neil Dahlheimer, and Doug Werner.

Middle row: Tom Cook, John Estrada, Ben Smith, Tim Gossen, and Phil Schumaker.

Front row: Bro. Pat Conway, Bro. Rob Veselsky, Bob McCauley, Bro. Tom Sullivan, and Bro. Aidan Kilty (Secretary of Formation, Rome).

Brother Thomas Sullivan, FSC, is the Director of Vocations for the Christian Brothers of the Midwest Province

Brother Ed Phelan, FSC (second from left), executive director of the Highbridge Community Life Center, is one of the organizers for the Spoke-N-Word Campaign



Bikeathon—Spoke-N-Word Campaign

Lasallian Partners for the Economically Poor will sponsor a 60-day, 4,000-mile bike ride from Portland, Oregon, to Providence, Rhode Island, beginning this June 12, and ending August 10. Funds raised will support family literacy programs in the Christian Brothers San Miguel Network of Schools and in Lasallian Urban Learning Centers.

If you wish to ride in or to be a sponsor of this event, please call San Miguel School of Chicago at 773-890-0233.

Martyrs

On March 11, 2001, five De La Salle Christian Brothers, martyred in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War, were beatified by Pope John Paul II.

Alumni Director Appointed

Brother Thomas Hetland, FSC, has been appointed Director of the St. George and St. Mel Alumni Associations. He succeeds Brother Martin Michuda, FSC, whom we thank for his many years of committed service to the alumni.

Christian Brothers Golf Outing... Save this date!

Monday, August 13, 2001 – Oak Meadows Golf Club, Wood Dale, IL – 1PM Shotgun Start! A donation of \$225 per person includes greens fee, golf cart, lunch, dinner and much more! For more information, call Brother Thomas Hetland at 630-323-3725.

Alumni Banquets

- St. George, Evanston, IL – Monday, May 7 - Dinner, White Eagle, Niles, IL
- St. Mel, Chicago, IL – Friday, May 18 – Luncheon, Giorgio's, Wood Dale, IL
- De La Salle, Kansas City, MO – Friday, April 20 – Dinner, Finnegan's, North Kansas City, MO
- Christian Brothers High School, St. Joseph, MO - Sunday, May 27, Dinner, Hyatt Hotel. For more information on banquets, call Brother Thomas Hetland at 630-323-3725.

BENEFEST

In a spirit of accountability to our alumni and donors, we completed a thorough financial analysis of BENEFEST 2000. Following much discussion and prayerful reflection, it was concluded that after a truly spectacular 13-year run, with the fondest of memories, BENEFEST has earned a well-deserved rest. Therefore, BENEFEST will not be scheduled this year.

At the same time, we cannot emphasize enough that the need to provide scholarship dollars for deserving students, to fund urban ministries for the poor, and to care for our Senior Brothers continues to expand and make demands on our resources.

We invite our generous sponsors, alumni and friends of the Christian Brothers, to lend their enthusiastic support to the Christian Brothers Retirement Building Fund and the Golf Tournament scheduled for August, 2001. As in past years, raffle tickets from the respective ministries will be mailed in late summer for a province-wide raffle that will take place here at the Provincial Office in October, 2001.

We thank you for the past support all of you gave to BENEFEST and eagerly look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationship as "Partners" in the Lasallian Mission. The Development Office is always available to answer your questions and discuss your concerns at 630-323-3725.

noteworthy

Jubilarians 2001

*“They who
instruct
many unto
justice shall
shine as stars
for all
eternity.”
—Daniel 12:3*

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Saturday, August 4, 2001, at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, to honor the 13 De La Salle Christian Brothers who are celebrating Jubilees this year.

Platinum (70 Years)

Brother Richard Gerlach, FSC
Brother Mark LaMont, FSC
Brother Urban Lucken, FSC

Diamond (60 Years)

Brother Peter Dannecker, FSC
Brother Regis Morgan, FSC
Brother Anthony Sullivan, FSC
Brother Francis Walsh, FSC

Golden (50 Years)

Brother Felix Bland, FSC
Brother Paul French, FSC
Brother John Johnston, FSC
Brother Bernard Rapp, FSC
Brother Nicholas Schumer, FSC

Silver (25 Years)

Brother Patrick Conway, FSC

Congratulations and may God bless and reward each of you with many more years in His service.



Brother Alfred Shields, FSC



Brother John Michael, FSC



Brother Paul Ostendorf, FSC

WE REMEMBER - WE CELEBRATE - WE BELIEVE

Brother Alfred Shields, FSC was born into life on June 14, 1913. He served as a Christian Brother for 69 years. He was born into eternal life on November 1, 2000.

Brother John Michael Vukits, FSC was born into life on May 25, 1908. He served as a Christian Brother for 69 years. He was born into eternal life on December 2, 2000.

Brother Paul Ostendorf, FSC was born into life on February 21, 1931. He served as a Christian Brother for 53 years. He was born into eternal life on February 26, 2001.

Eternal rest grant unto Them, O Lord



Christian Brothers of the Midwest Province

Provincial
Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC

Assistant Provincials
Brother Francis Carr, FSC
Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC

Lasallian Ministries

CALIFORNIA

Stockton
Fe y Vida

ILLINOIS

Addison
Driscoll Catholic
High School

Burr Ridge
Provincial Office
Christian Brothers
Development Office

Chicago
De La Salle Institute
San Miguel Middle School
St. Patrick High School
Tolton Adult
Education Center

Lombard
Montini Catholic
High School

Plano
La Salle Manor
Retreat Center

Romeoville
Lewis University

Westchester
St. Joseph High School

MINNESOTA

Fridley
Totino-Grace High School

Marine-on-St. Croix
Christian Brothers
Retreat Center

St. Paul
Christian Brothers
Development Office
Christian Brothers
Medical Office
Christian Brothers
Youth Home
Cretin-Derham Hall
(High School)

Minneapolis
De La Salle High School
Saint Mary's
University of MN
Minneapolis Center
San Miguel
Middle School

Winona
Saint Mary's University
of MN
Saint Mary's Press

MISSOURI
Jefferson City
Helias High School

Kansas City
Archbishop O'Hara
High School
Lasallian Tutors Programs

St. Louis
Christian Brothers
College High School
De La Salle at
St. Matthew (Fall 2001)

Wildwood (Glencoe)
La Salle Institute
La Salle Retreat Center

MONTANA
Browning
San Miguel Blackfeet
Middle School (Fall 2001)

OKLAHOMA
Tulsa
Bishop Kelley High School

TENNESSEE
Memphis
Christian Brothers
High School
Christian Brothers
University
De La Salle/
Blessed Sacrament

WISCONSIN
Manitowoc
Roncalli High School



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Christian Brothers of the Midwest

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