

THE LI-NE DISTRICT NEWS



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De La Salle School - Freeport, New York

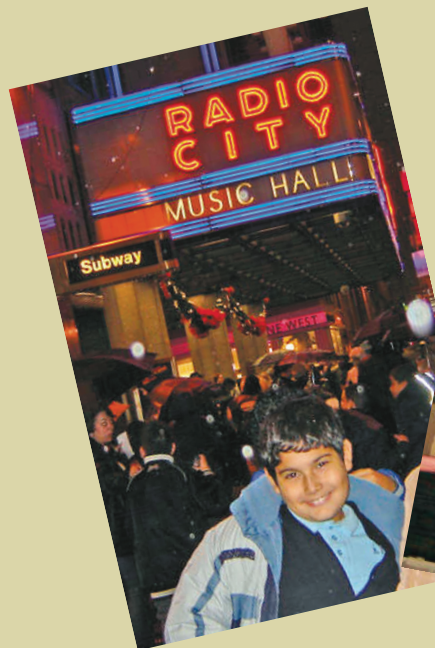
A holiday treat in Radio City

THE STUDENTS OF The De La Salle School in Freeport, New York recently had the opportunity to attend a performance of *The Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall. All but six members of the student body traveled to Manhattan to see the Art Deco design of the performance space, to witness the precision of the famous Rockettes, and to be awed by the reverence of the Living Nativity. Olivier said "I really liked all the dancing Santa Clauses." Joel was amazed when the Rockettes, dressed as wooden soldiers, "fell like dominoes." Even the drive into the City via the tunnel under the East River was a new adventure for some youngsters as they scanned the twilight skyline for the Empire State Building and other landmarks.

Teachers, staff members, and parent chaperones accompanied the young men. Thanks to the agency of Town Council member Angie Cullin and the generosity of Cablevision free tickets were provided. Pierce Coach Lines and Martin de Porres School donated the bus transportation. It was a unique and enjoyable trip.



STUDENTS BESIDE THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS TREE.



ALEJANDRO PREPARES TO ENTER RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL.



BRO. THOMAS AND SOME EIGHTH GRADERS IN FRONT OF THE BIG STAGE.

Tides Family Services

Lasallian volunteers commit to a year of service at Tides Family Services

By Sheila K. Lawrence



(L-R) LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS BETH FINERAN AND CASEY WILSON.

FAITH, SERVICE AND COMMUNITY – the De La Salle Christian Brothers’ mission – are the reasons Oregon natives Beth Fineran and Casey Wilson are spending a year volunteering in Tides Outreach Program.

The volunteers are graduates of Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, California – a De La Salle Christian Brothers’ school. Beth has a degree in psychology and the experience she will gain working with high-risk kids in Rhode Island will help her further her career in social work: “The Tides Program is exactly what I want to do. I like the intensity and the closeness of working with the client.”

Casey has a degree in kinesiology and plans to teach. She

was attracted to the program because “It was the only one that had faith, service and community” as its central components: “I have experience working with high-risk kids abroad, and I know that my career will involve working in the classroom with troubled children.”

The LaSallian Volunteer Program requires that its participants commit to at least one year of service to the poor. Both said they chose the program to give back to the community.

Beth, who comes from a two-parent household and lives in a suburban community in Salem, Oregon, said, “I have been blessed in my life and I felt I wanted to give back.”

Casey grew up in rural Welches, Oregon in a blended family with eight siblings: “We didn’t have a lot of material things, but we had each other.”

Each volunteer works in a three-member team and carries a caseload of 25. With only five weeks under their belts, they are already out in the neighborhoods visiting their clients’ three times a day, and getting familiar with the Pawtucket/Central Falls communities.

“The first time I went on night tracking by myself,” recalled Casey, “I visited all 25 houses. I took a client with me as a navigator and it al-

so gave me a huge chunk of time to spend with her.”

Beth said she is already recognized when she goes out on her rounds: “I was visiting a client the other day and a kid from across the street yelled, ‘Hey, you’re the new Tides worker.’”

Tides Outreach Program supervisor Matt Hughes said the volunteers renewed his commitment with their enthusiasm and dedication: “The work we do everyday becomes routine, but viewing our work through Beth and Casey’s eyes is inspirational.”

Beth and Casey live in the Christian Brothers community and are under the guidance and supervision of Brother Michael Reis, Tides’ CEO.

“We are privileged to have these two fine young women volunteering in our Tides Outreach Program,” Bro. Michael said. “And we are pleased to be part of the Lasallian Volunteer Program. It is the first time in our nearly 25-year history that we have taken part in the program.”

At the time of the interview, the two volunteers were still getting used to their surroundings and the Rhode Island culture. “It’s a different world,” Beth said with a chuckle. “The language is different. For instance, Rhode Islanders say

Lasallian volunteers

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bubbler instead of drinking fountain and grocery cart for grocery cart."

Their most immediate concern was finding the nearest Starbucks — Starbucks is to the West Coast what Dunkin' Donuts is to the East Coast.

In their free time they have visited South County and Newport and over the Labor Day weekend, spent time with other Lasallian volunteers in New York State's Adirondack Mountains. Before their year is up, they hope to explore more of New England.

Despite understandable trepidation about moving across country to unfamiliar surroundings, both young women have acclimated themselves amazingly well.

"I am surprised by how quickly I got over my fears and worries," Casey said. "Night tracking no longer scares me. It may be because I go to the same areas three times a day and now, I am known."

Both have already gained from the experience. "A lot of people have committed to us as well as our commitment to them," Beth said. "I look at it as joining into a wider community, and that together we can accomplish something good."

Tides volunteer is recipient of New England Patriots' Community MVP Award

By Sheila K. Lawrence



SIMON MARTINEZ HAS BEEN A VOLUNTEER AT TIDES FAMILY SERVICES SINCE 1994.

Recently Simon Martinez was awarded the New England Patriot's Community MVP Award for his volunteer work. His commitment and dedication has had a profound effect upon many young men and makes him a true hero. Here is his story.

AS A YOUTH growing up in the South Bronx, Simon Martinez's options were limited and his future was dim. He was a gang member from his early teens well into his 20s. But his criminal activities came to a screeching halt when he was sentenced to the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institution.

After his release from prison, his life might have continued along the same path if he had not met up with Brother Michael Reis, Tides' CEO. As part of his probation, and through Tides' community outreach services, Bro. Michael counseled Simon. Thus began the transformation of Simon Martinez from gang member to volunteer extraordinaire.

Simon has been a volunteer since 1994, working for Tides Family Services and the Pawtucket Police Athletic League/Barton Street Community Center. He has dedicated his life to working for and with youngsters much like he was. He has been a full time volunteer, working five days a week, six hours a day as a basketball and boxing coach, event coordinator, tutor, mentor and chauffeur.

"I have witnessed how Simon has used his personal story and similar experiences to help young men look at options other than a life of crime," Bro. Michael said. "Whenever I call on Simon, without hesitation he responds, 'When do we start?' Simon has logged literally thousands of volunteer hours at a huge sacrifice to himself and his family. He constantly seeks out groups of young people who are very special to him, but considered dangerous by others."

Today, Simon is married with three children. He is still regularly exposed to the world he came from—a world of poverty, violence and drugs—as a security guard for several Providence housing complexes.

The relationships he has formed over the past 12 years are still intact and strong. He continues to volunteer his time with both the Community Police and Tides Family Services.

Ocean Tides School

Giving young men a second chance



(L-R) MORT AND MARY NEWTON, CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS OF THE GIVING YOUNG MEN A SECOND CHANCE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WITH DAN BARRY.

THE OCEAN TIDES SCHOOL and the De la Salle Christian Brothers are pleased to announce the beginning of the Giving Young Men a Second Chance Capital Campaign. Strong campaign leadership has been recruited and the campaign is in the early "Quiet Phase" approaching major gift and pacesetting prospects for financial support.

Mary and Mort Newton have agreed to serve as the campaign co-chairs. Their support of the Brothers over many, many years, and their commitment to the Lasallian mission made them the ideal spokespersons for this very important project. "The Brothers have been very successful turning the lives of poor and troubled young men around through the Ocean Tides program and we want to help them," they said.

Mary and Mort recruited LI-NE District Brother Visitor, Brother Edmond Precourt and Jeff Reid to serve as the Honorary Campaign Co-chairs. Committee members are: Governor and Mrs.

Donald Carcieri, Senator and Mrs. Lincoln Chafee, Mark Gallogly, Governor and Mrs. J. Joseph Garrahy, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, John Lynch, Attorney General Patrick Lynch, Joseph MacAurele, Senator Jack Reed and V. Paul Winter.

The leadership committee members, who will work closely with Mort and Mary to conduct a successful capital campaign include: Terry Alan, Gregory Carrara, Murph and Tom Carmody, Joe Cavanagh, Armand Cortelleso, David Dugan and Barbara Grady, Bill and Rosemary Gallogly, Jane Genereux, Bro. Brendan Gerrity, Brian and Grace Handrigan, Bro. Dennis Lee, Erin Lynch, Steve Lynch, Jean McCaffery, Lynne McShane, Armando Monaco, Ernie Pullano, Patricia Murray-Rapoza, and Mark Weiner.

The Ocean Tides School's renovated or new facilities will cost \$2 million and will include science and computer laboratories to encourage the study of science and technology; an arts and ceramics room with classroom space; a new library-media center; counseling rooms and office space for the principal, special-education and social services.

Rhode Island Family Court Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah calls Ocean Tides "The best program in the State for helping young men get their lives straightened out."

Bro. Richard Lalime celebrates 40 years of consecrated life



BRO. RICHARD LALIME WITH JILLIAN SZCZEPANIAK-GILLECE WHO SERVED AS A LASALLIAN VOLUNTEER A FEW YEARS AGO.

On November 12, 2008, the Freeport Community celebrated Brother Richard Lalime's 40th anniversary as a Lasalle Brother with a Mass at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Springfield Gardens, New York. Following are excerpts from Brother Thomas Casey's commentary about Brother Richard at the Jubilee mass.

...By our Christian baptism each of us is marked as one who serves, following Jesus's example. By our baptism each of us is called to be religious in our stance vis-à-vis the world...Indeed, Bro. Richard is one such person.

...I invite you today to focus your attention on Bro. Richard's decision in 1966 to live a consecrated life as a member of a unique family in the Catholic Church and to note the witness he has given us by his faithfulness and steadfastness to that choice.

- Bro. Richard, neither hierarchical nor paternalistic.
- Bro. Richard, committed to being both a caring educator and an involved community member.
- Bro. Richard, sincere in nurturing his spiritual life in prayer and song.
- Bro. Richard, whether in Rhode Island, Washington, Ethiopia, or New York, a loyal follower of John Baptist De La Salle.

Love and hard work makes miracles happen

EVERY DAY AT The San Miguel School of Providence one can witness first-hand the miracles that occur because caring adults believe in the saving and transforming the power of love. School patron, San Miguel Febres Cordero wrote, "I must enter into all that I do with a spirit of love." Love and hard work are what makes the school work for dozens of urban youth.

Much has been accomplished over the years. Recently the school received full accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

- Without a gymnasium, the students continue to experience a physical education and sports program despite the small enrollment;
- The arts program has grown to include chorus, dance, keyboarding, and fine arts;
- The extended-day program includes homework help and tutoring, chess, art experiences, law club and sports programs;
- Summertime continues



to be a time of constructive activity with Camp Miguel, Summer School and Camp Readiness;

- The admissions procedure continues to be fine-tuned to ensure a wide cross-section of youth from challenging situations;
- Progress has been made on a literacy-based curriculum with the professional development resources to make it happen well;
- The development of a school culture that is welcoming and inclusive is one of the school's foremost characteristics;
- Because of the presence of a guidance counselor and a social worker, students are offered more support when they are in need of it;
- The school's graduates have gotten into top-notch secondary schools and are graduating from high school and going onto college or trade schools.

In a school that is mission-driven, like San Miguel, where everybody knows each others' names, where accountability is expected, urban boys can become productive members of society and true gentlemen. There are many challenges that lie ahead in a future yet to be. But with hope, determination and hard work, miracles will continue to happen for many years.

Commendations from the NEASC Report

1. The Visiting Committee commends the School for effectively living its exemplary mission.
2. The Visiting Committee commends the School for its proactive use of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' Self-Study process for school improvement.
3. The Visiting Committee commends the School for its creative use of limited facilities and resources in delivering the program.
4. The Visiting Committee commends the administration, faculty, and staff for their devotion to the mission of the School and their energy in carrying it out.
5. The Visiting Committee commends the School for its innovative use of programs such as the Morning Meetings, Scholars Club, Mentoring Programs, Camp Miguel and Readiness Camp that recognize and encourage student development.

Declining vocations—does advertising work?

By Edward J. Walsh, Director of Special Projects

IN THE WINTER OF 2005, Brother Edmond Precourt hired Sandra DelSesto from The Institute for Human Development to study and explore with me the reasons behind the current lack of vocations to the De La Salle Christian Brothers ministry. This study evolved from a series of focus group meetings with Catholic professionals in the spring of 2004. Everyone knew the obvious reasons—a lifetime commitment to God and dealing with recreating the Catholic church's poor image after several years of scandal.

The three-month study consisted of arranged focus groups at La Salle Academy, St. Raphael's Academy, Providence College, Salve Regina and a group of working men in their 20's and 30's. We wanted to know from everyone what they felt the problem was and any ideas on how it could be remedied. Their answers were candid and forthright. None of the Christian Brothers' high schools to the colleges to the working men could grasp the enormity of a lifetime commitment to Jesus. Secondly, outside of the Christian Brothers' high schools most did not even know who the De LaSalle Christian Brothers were or what their mission was. We suspected that this was not common only to Rhode Island but throughout the Christian Brothers communities nationwide. Suggestions

such as temporary/trial vocations for four years, the ability to stay on as a Christian Brother or walk away, and high school and college scholarships were discussed as incentives to attract young men. Women could/would become an integral part of the lay community. Lastly, a national symposium to study and make final recommendations for action by the De La Salle Brothers, with approval from Rome, would be suggested.

...unless action was taken soon because of the aging population of the order, it would, in the not too distant future, become extinct.

However, it was clear that unless action was taken soon because of the aging population of the order, it would, in the not too distant future, become extinct. A plan of action was needed to inform the public who the De La Salle Christian Brothers are, and to implement well thought out change. Some of this may appear drastic to the routine lifestyle of many wonderful Brothers.

Within our proposal was a pilot advertising campaign to at least attempt to raise the public's image of the Christians Brothers in Rhode Island. This by no means was a cure all, but it was

a first step. Beginning in the fall of 2005 we began, through various media outlets, an advertising pilot program. First and foremost, a comprehensive video of the LI-NE District was developed. This was followed by a radio Christmas campaign on Rhode Island's most popular radio stations bringing Christmas and New Year greetings. At the beginning of the new year the first stage of a new image campaign was then started. The campaign lasted almost two months on cable TV and radio and was a solid hit especially with alumni from Christian Brothers' schools within our state. The image of the Brothers was dramatically increased. This was all done with by advertising standards, small change. Brothers were being stopped and asked constantly about the ads.

After our initial success and after consulting with Brother Edmond and Brother Dennis Lee, it was decided that a recruitment advertising campaign would be kicked off at the beginning of the summer in order to attract the demographic of a young male between the ages of 18-35. Research showed that the summer months had the highest ratings both on radio and cable television. A nine-week campaign was produced by Ocean State Video. The ad campaign including radio and cable T.V. aired all summer long and

Bro. William Kemmerer returns to the love of his life



BROTHER WILLIAM J. KEMMERER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT ST. GABRIEL'S SCHOOL, NEW YORK.

BROTHER WILLIAM J. KEMMERER, who has been a teacher and an administrator for 43 years, has returned to the love of his life. After teaching at La Salle Academy and after serving in different administrative capacities there, he moved on

Declining vocations

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phone calls were received at the Christian Brothers Narragansett campus. The image of the De La Salle Christian Brothers was again greatly increased and, in time, we expect all of this will result in huge dividends.

Finally, advertising is not a one shot deal. It must be consistent. Therefore, both in Rhode Island, regionally or nationwide, if started, it must be continued. Considering the amount of money spent and the end product, it was a bargain. If you have questions, e-mail Ed Walsh at ewalsh@cbc.necoxmail.com.

to the principal of St. Raphael Academy (Pawtucket, Rhode Island), St. Martin de Porres Regional School (Uniondale, New York) and St. Michael's School (Brooklyn, New York) for the next 25 years. Now, he has moved on and back to his first love – teaching. In September of 2006 he accepted Brother Edward Shield's invitation to join the faculty and staff at St. Gabriel's School (East Elmhurst, New York) where he will assist the principal in providing a truly Christian education to the young people from the Queens county area.

As an assistant to the principal, he will work primarily with seventh and eighth graders in developing their mathematical skills, in providing guidance to the students and their parents, and in modeling a caring attitude to all the students, faculty and staff in this outstanding Lasallian school. Traveling each day from the newly formed De La Salle community in Brooklyn, he arrives early to tutor students in math, to meet w parents and families in determining mutually agreed upon behavior modifications to the lives of some "needy" students and in working with his colleagues in this longstanding Lasallian ministry of the LI-NE District. During the course of the day he coordinates the diocesan testing programs, the school lunch program and he also cre-

ates a bevy of new activities for students in these two classes.

In addition to preparing math lessons once again, he has created assembly programs which include the use of homophones and a curriculum appropriate Jeopardy contest. Such activities were devised and used successfully in his previous elementary school experiences. He is looking forward to instituting a "step dance" program for girls as well as a gospel choir for all seventh and eighth graders. Recently, he applied for a field trip grant sponsored by Target. Students who maintain good grades and who demonstrate Christian behavior may be selected for a one day trip to Philadelphia. The goal for this trip will be for students to experience a trip from New York City to Philadelphia and to compare and contrast the historic aspects of these two geographical sites.

Bro. William is very grateful to Bro. Edward for hiring a veteran teacher and administrator. He expects to complement the principal's work at St. Gabriel's for the past years by being present to the students and their families and by providing high standards to students both academically and behaviorally. Bro. William is a good example of "what goes around comes around.. and back again, only this time a little bit better."

Saint Raphael Academy

Improving communications through modern technology

SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY has made great strides in the past year in the area of modern technology. Last fall it introduced Edline, an internet module that allows the Academy to communicate better with parents. Edline is an online tool that enables parents to log on, with a password, and view their child's grades, including homework, quizzes, tests, as well as short and long term assignments.

While Edline will not replace report cards, it will supplement parents' involvement in their children's education and will allow parents and teachers to work more effectively as a team to ensure the success of each student at the Academy.

The Academy has added five Smartboards in the classrooms. A Smartboard is an electronic white board connected to a computer allowing teachers and students to utilize interactive multimedia technology as well as the internet in the classroom. The Smartboards are strategically installed in each of the four classroom buildings, to make them available to all teachers. One or two more will be added in the next academic year.

Martin de Porres High School - Brooklyn, New York

J.O.Y. prepares students for success

J.O.Y. is an acronym for Jumpstart Our Youth. Students of Martin De Porres High School qualify for J.O.Y. when they exhibit at least average academic standing, appropriate behavior, motivation to excel, and the desire to attend college.

Academics: Students of the Martin De Porres High School are required to maintain a C+ average or higher to be considered for the Higher Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP) or Student Services Scholarship (SSS).

Behavior: Students are placed at Martin De Porres High School to be given the opportunity to change their lives for the better. Students enter Martin De Porres High School with personal and academic difficulties that have caused them to respond in ways other than the "norm." When students learn to see their differences and difficulties as challenges and take full advantage of supports at Martin de Porres High School, they become better prepared for the college experience.

Motivation: Students do not always give serious thought to their lives and their futures. Some think they will do just enough to get by in life and will not consider more for themselves. Since life has no meaning without purpose, they just manage to survive. J.O.Y. encourages students to set goals for the future and to become motivated to achieve those goals.

Change: Many of the students of Martin De Porres High School have difficulties adjusting to new experiences. Students are often unwilling to accept change in their lives when the challenges are too unfamiliar. Martin de Porres Staff supports students before, during and after their transitions from high school. Students in the J.O.Y. program are given the opportunity to face change with the support of staff who can direct them toward becoming a mature and well-balanced young adult.

