



Lasallian Education
since 1680

LASALLIAN NOTES

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ★ DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

SUMMER 2024 • VOL. 24

UNIQUE TRADITIONS IN OUR LASALLIAN SCHOOLS

In considering the Lasallian tradition, one thinks about the long history of Lasallian education based on the vision of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. His innovative ideas transformed education by creating a community of educators to provide a Christian education to the young, and especially those in need and marginalized by society. The Christian Brothers and their Lasallian Partners in each of our schools practice educational and spiritual traditions passed down since the time of De La Salle. One can also consider unique traditions that have arisen in our Lasallian schools. Inspired by their faith, our Lasallian students carry the mission forward with their own traditions which have an enduring impact for years to come. Here are a few examples from across the District:

There is a long-standing tradition at La Salle Academy in Providence RI which started in 1941 after four Brothers and a stonemason completed the campus Grotto in honor of Mary “Our Lady of Grace.” Soon after, football teams began kneeling in prayer at the Grotto before both home and away games. Over the years, other athletic teams joined the tradition. Now, young men and women on teams from field hockey to lacrosse, cross country to tennis, go to the Grotto. The student-athletes kneel in silent prayer and then are led in vocal prayer by one of their team captains. It is remarkable to see young men and women offering their coming efforts to God, through the intercession of Mary. It has become an iconic tradition that takes place almost every afternoon during the fall and spring seasons.



Students at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh PA “Walk the Quad.”

At Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh PA students participate after lunch daily in “Walking the Quad.” It is a ten-minute counter-clockwise stroll around the Quad, which has a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the center. While the origin of this practice nearly one hundred years ago may be based in Saint La Salle’s encouragement of recreation—maintaining mind, soul, and body—it also had a much more practical side. The size of the student body had outgrown the cafeteria seating. The students that had finished eating were gathering in the Quadrangle. Rather than simply have them stand around and possibly get rowdy, a no-nonsense Disciplinarian told them to start walking. This tradition has continued, and the students have taken it to heart. In fact, the alumni magazine bears the name “The Quadrangle” in recognition of this tradition.

(continued on page 3)



La Salle Academy, Providence RI Lacrosse team prays at the Grotto before their game.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VISITOR



Dear Friends,
 “Traditions! Traditions!” observes Tevye, “Without traditions, our lives would be as shaky as ... as a fiddler on the roof!” The movie *Fiddler on the Roof* goes on to tell the story of the villagers of Anatevka and the precarious lives they live in early 20th century Russia. It is their traditions that help them keep their balance, given all the many challenges and dangers they face. But as the story unfolds, the traditions adapt and adjust to the signs of the times. Tradition provides a continuity to the past that keeps a community grounded and connected. But healthy traditions are able to adapt and not remain static or constraining.

The Christian Brothers and, especially, Lasallian schools, are filled with rich traditions that help give life and spirit to the school community. Beginning class with the familiar invocation of “Let us remember we are in the Holy Presence of God,” is a tradition that goes back to the first school St. John Baptist de La Salle helped to open and it continues to be a tradition in Lasallian schools around the globe. There are other traditions that are more light-hearted that help to

enliven school spirit and keep a connection with previous generations. You will read about some of those traditions in this month’s newsletter.

But the most important tradition of the Lasallian mission is providing a quality Catholic education that is student-centered and that prioritizes the salvation of the students entrusted to our care. In our tradition, salvation means educating young people to grow into the image and likeness of God so as to be of service in this life and to enjoy eternal happiness with Him in the life to come.

Young people today might seem like a fiddler on the roof struggling to keep balance, but with your support for our mission, we are forming them with the important skills and Gospel values to navigate today’s challenges with the confidence of our faith.

Live Jesus in our hearts,

Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC

Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC

Provincial/Visitor

rschaefer@fscdena.org

De La Salle ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND

THE SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND seeks to ensure that a Lasallian education is available and accessible to those students most in need. The Fund provides tuition assistance for students to attend one of our Lasallian schools. With your support, we are now providing more than \$1 million annually for our students in need. All are welcome to join the Brothers in this specially-dedicated scholarship fund which continues to grow each year.

FACE OF THE FUND

by Christopher Calle-Cardenas '25– Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, Brooklyn NY

The Saint John Baptist de La Salle scholarship has played a crucial role in allowing me to attend Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School (Loughlin), and has provided me with access to great academic and extracurricular opportunities.

At Loughlin, I have been involved in many different programs. I have learned many new skills and made new friends, and I am now a part of a great community. I am a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), where I participate in various service projects and leadership activities. I also play on the varsity soccer team and helped them win the championship last fall, which was an incredible experience that taught me the value of teamwork and perseverance.

As an ambassador, I have had the opportunity to represent our school at events, welcoming new students and their families and showcasing the vibrant spirit of our community. Additionally, I play trumpet in both the Junior and Advanced bands, where I have honed my musical skills and performed at various school functions and concerts.

I enjoy practicing computer coding, and challenge myself to learn new programming languages and develop small projects. My future plans are to get into a good college and major in computer science. I am particularly interested in fields like artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. I also plan to continue playing soccer and trumpet, as both have been significant parts of my life and contribute to my personal growth and happiness.



UNIQUE TRADITIONS

(continued from page 1)

One of the newer Lasallian school traditions is at Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft NJ. It began fifteen years ago, when one student asked for permission to play his bagpipe to “pipe out” his senior classmates on their last day. The pipe out was permitted because it sounded like an organized way to dismiss the senior class. Playing as he walked through the school halls, seniors left their classrooms to follow as he passed. This was continued the next year, and, shortly thereafter, ten students joined the new CBA Pipes & Drums Band. Today, this is a forty-member band, that still pipes out the senior class on their last day of school. This event has grown to become a cherished tradition for students, parents, and staff.

La Salle Institute in Troy NY, which includes grades six through twelve, also has a favorite tradition for the seniors’ last day. The sixth graders form rows on both sides of the walkway between the school doors and the parking lot. As the seniors leave the building, the sixth graders ‘cheer the seniors out’ and offer high-fives as they pass. Parents gather at the end of the lines of young students to celebrate their graduates. It is a joyful tradition that always brings a few tears to the eyes of participants.

At the San Miguel School of Providence RI there is a Lenten tradition that began shortly after their founding in 1993, and includes an ancient tool used by Native Americans. Students are encouraged to write down on a slip of paper any troubles they may have and place them in a large wicker basket with tribal feathers called the “Burden Basket.” On the last school day before Easter, the school community goes outside together for a



At LaSalle Institute in Troy NY, sixth grade students line the walkway to cheer the departing seniors on their last day.



The Pipe & Drum Band at Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft NJ leads seniors out of school year on their last day of classes.

ceremony in which they burn their burdens in an open fire. The rising smoke symbolizes releasing the burdens so they are “rising up to God”. The San Miguel middle school students take this beautiful tradition very seriously every Lenten season.

“Silent Night” at La Salle College High School in Wyndmoor PA began when the school’s basketball team defeated a rival in a home playoff game attended by nearly 300 students dressed in costumes. Students remained silent until their team scored its tenth point when they began to cheer loudly. As the game ended in victory the students stopped cheering to sing “Silent Night.” The student body becoming the sixth man on the team has become a highly anticipated tradition at the High School, and helps to keep the school’s mission of fraternity at the forefront of its athletics.

Some Lasallian school traditions are serious while others are light hearted, but they all have the deeper meaning of being inspired by the ideals of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Traditions help to connect students to their shared values and faith, and they foster harmony among the school community. This creates long lasting bonds of affection between students and their schools helping to ensure continuity for the Lasallian mission.



Students at La Salle College High School in Wyndmoor PA wear fun costumes and sing Silent Night after each win.

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DeSales
BROTHERS
 OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

“You, Brothers, are on the front line, so as to move from a closed world to an open world... Go forth with the joy of evangelizing by educating and of educating by evangelizing.”

- Pope Francis

Called as
Educator
Catechist
Mentor
Apostle
Brother



We invite you to learn more and consider discerning with us.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

WEST CATHOLIC PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL - PHILADELPHIA PA

by Theresa Malandra, West Catholic Director of Advancement

West Catholic Preparatory High School has seen a surge in school enrollment, and has received two large grants to enhance its Engineering Technology Academy and to launch the De La Salle Academic Support Program. This exciting time reflects not only the school's commitment to academic excellence but also the strong trust and confidence that the community places in its educational environment.

School Enrollment: In the 2023/2024 Academic Year, West Catholic Preparatory High School opened its doors to its largest incoming class and overall school enrollment since 2008. This remarkable class of incoming freshmen, totaling 154 students, not only signifies the appeal of the school's educational environment but also underscores the value West Catholic Prep brings to the local community.

"The unprecedented enrollment this year reflects the trust parents and students place in our commitment to fostering a dynamic learning atmosphere, coupled with our support of the socio-emotional needs of our students," says President Andrew Brady.

Engineering Technology Academy: At its core, the Engineering Technology Academy embodies a vision of interdisciplinary education, blending theoretical knowledge with practical application. Developed in tandem with Drexel University, this program equips students with the tools they need to navigate complex challenges and forge pathways to success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Through generous support from the Howley Foundation, the Engineering Technology Academy is realizing significant advancement in expanded partnerships, facility enhancements, curriculum assessment, and program growth.

De La Salle Academic Support Program: West Catholic Prep has received a grant from the Connelly Foundation to launch the De La Salle Academic Support Program. The launch will include comprehensive renovations of a dedicated academic and support facility space, the hiring of a Program Director, and integration of cutting-edge individualized technology components that

complement an innovative curriculum. The school will also rename its Learning Commons to the Connelly Center for Academic Excellence.

Tom Riley, President of the Connelly Foundation, said of the award, "The Connelly Foundation is pleased to partner with West Catholic Preparatory High School in the important work of the De La Salle Academic Support Program. It is difficult to overstate the importance of West Catholic's presence in its community, and the profound positive impact it has on the students and families of West Philadelphia. We look forward to the way this program will further West Catholic's support of student academic achievement."

Most importantly, students at West Catholic Prep continue to excel academically, socially, and personally. Their achievements serve as a testament to the transformative power of a Lasallian education. The energy in the school community is palpable, serving as a reminder that dedication, innovation, and commitment can lead to remarkable accomplishments, shaping not only the trajectory of their institution but also the futures of their students.



Students work in the Engineering Lab.



Students make use of the Learning Commons, soon to be renamed The Connelly Center for Academic Excellence.



Faculty members applaud new graduates.

LASALLIAN SPIRIT IN ACTION

(below) Lasallian Youth members from La Salle Academy, New York NY, and Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, Brooklyn NY, teamed up for a Lasallian Acts of Kindness event. This “One La Salle” experience allowed for conversation, sandwich making (seen here), and outreach to those who are food insecure.



(above) National Honors Society students from Saint John Paul II Academy in Boca Raton FL spearheaded a service project among the students of their school. They raised \$10,000 to provide food baskets to one hundred and fifty families living inside the Homestead FL camp served by our La Salle Educational Center. The students then worked alongside some of the families inside the camp to deliver the food to their neighbors. The families still echo their appreciation for this generosity.

(right) La Salle Military Academy (LSMA) Alumni Association members present a gift to The De La Salle School, Freeport NY (DLS Freeport). They are seen here with Executive Director, Ms. Roxana DePeña-Elder. Since the closing of LSMA in 2001, their alumni association has remained strong, and raises funds for philanthropy. They were instrumental in helping found DLS Freeport in 2002, and have been a major supporter ever since.



La Salle Hall - Beltsville MD (B)
De La Salle Hall - Lincroft NJ (L)

Christian Brothers Center - Narragansett RI (N)
Presentation Manor - Toronto ON (T)

We Honor

our elder and infirm Christian Brothers in residence (as of 6/12/24) at:

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BROTHER SPOTLIGHT

Richard Kestler, FSC



Born in 1942 in Philadelphia within the shadows of St. Martin of Tours Church, the parish was central to my family's community activities and my early academic life. The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary taught some 3,300 students there. I transitioned to La Salle College High School (at the time, on the campus of La Salle College-now-University). It was here that a freshman counselor piqued my youthful interest in possibly becoming a Brother, something to which I must have given a knee-jerk affirmative response that I would soon forget. In my senior year, that invitation was repeated but this time prompting more thoughtful response to the call.

Thus, was launched my sixty-four-year journey highlighted by increasing confidence as a religious educator and administrator. My first assignment was to Hudson Catholic, something I looked forward to, as both the school and I were starting that same year. I first taught typing even though the classroom typewriters had yet to arrive. Many of the boys knew me as the Brother who ordered that their digits remain properly curved on the imaginary keyboards. While my background is in mathematics and science, administration became a significant portion of my life's work—spanning many educational settings including private schools and youth-care institutions, as well as diocesan & District administration.

The foresight of that freshman counselor to ask me about becoming a Brother must have resonated quite deeply. Along the way I encountered inspirational Brothers who furthered my deep respect for their ministry and for them as persons. I hope that the vision of John Baptist de La Salle will still draw young men to embrace the noble ministry of teaching and pursue the vocation as a Brother, finding therein a lifelong calling worthy of their life's work and vocation.

Common Questions About Special Gifts

by Patrick J. Donahue – District Director of Advancement

What is a CHARITABLE TRUST, and how does it differ from a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)?

A CGA is a simple, one-page contract between you (as the donor) and a charity, in which a percentage of the gift is returned to you every year of your life. Alternatively, a Charitable Trust is a much more complex and flexible legal arrangement in which assets are placed under the control of a trustee for charitable purposes. There are two main types: Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Lead Trusts.

What is the difference between a Remainder Trust and a Lead Trust?

A Remainder Trust provides income to the donor (or a designated recipient), with the remainder becoming the charitable gift. A Lead Trust provides income to the charity for a designated number of years, with the remainder being returned (often to an heir of the donor).

What are some advantages of a charitable trust?

A trust allows flexibility in the size and duration of payments, and other details of the contract. When you create a charitable trust, you can control your charitable contributions while potentially significantly reducing your income tax and estate tax liability, and avoiding capital gains taxes on certain assets.

Moreover, when you create a well-drafted charitable trust, you will have a sense of certainty that the charities of your choice will receive your assets, often while you retain some benefits from the trust assets, such as income.



What are some disadvantages of a charitable trust?

Setting up and administering a Charitable Trust requires legal and financial knowledge to ensure compliance with all relevant laws and regulations. It can be complex and costly. Also, most Charitable Trusts are irrevocable, meaning once they are set up, the decision cannot be easily reversed, and assets cannot be returned to the donor. Because of their complexity and irrevocable nature, **they are not suitable for everyone.** If you are considering a Charitable Trust, you should consult with a professional experienced in estate planning and charitable trusts to explore your options.

These articles are not meant to be legal advice, but strictly informational. Consult your own advisors about your personal circumstances. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Patrick Donahue at (732) 380-7926, or at donahue@fscdena.org.

FOUNDER'S DAY COMMEMORATION

Throughout the District of Eastern North America, as well as the worldwide Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Lasallians commemorate Founder's Day in various ways on May 15th, the Feast Day of our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

This year, one of our ministries, La Salle Institute in Troy NY, decided to reinstitute a ceremony from the past. They announced a wreath laying ceremony to honor the Brothers who have served the New York Capital Region since 1850, establishing and serving our three Lasallian ministries in the area. The ceremony took place at the plot of the early Christian Brothers, at St. Mary's cemetery in Troy, in front of the monument erected by the LSI alumni in 1912. When they arrived for the ceremony, school leadership, faculty, and students, were excited to find that the old monument had been completely refurbished by alumni who heard about the ceremony.

"We gather as a grateful community to honor these courageous men who built these wonderful institutions and so freely gave of their time and talent to the youth of this region." said Joseph B. Raczkowski '72, President of La Salle Institute, as he and Board Chair David Brennan laid a wreath.



Members of the La Salle Institute, Troy NY, Color Guard and Honor Guard take part in the memorial ceremony on Founder's Day.

Lasallian Heritage Society

We would like to recognize and thank the following individuals who have informed the Brothers that we are being remembered in their wills or other estate plans.

If you have remembered the Brothers, but do not see your name here, or if you have questions about enrolling in the Lasallian Heritage Society, please contact Patrick Donahue in our District office at (732) 380-7926, or at donahue@fscdena.org.

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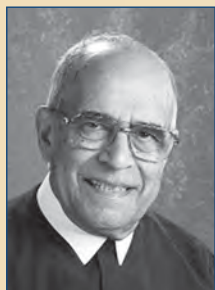
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TRANSITIONS

REMEMBERING THE BROTHERS WE HAVE LOST

Full obituaries and eulogies available online at www.fscdena.org



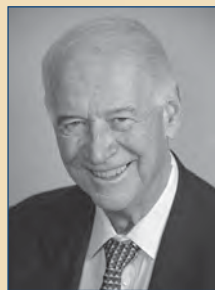
BROTHER GABRIEL FIUMANO, FSC **1929 - 2024**

Carmen Joseph Fiumano was born in Syracuse NY on July 18, 1929. Entering the Barrytown NY Novitiate in September 1948, he received the Religious Habit & name, Alphonsus Gabriel, later that year. He pronounced

Perpetual Vows in Troy NY in 1955.

For the first half of his vocation as a Brother, Br. Gabe put his heart into serving urban students in New York City, and helping troubled youths at La Salle School in Albany NY. Then, He was blessed to spend nearly forty years serving youths in his hometown of Syracuse NY at Christian Brothers Academy. They were equally blessed by his presence, and loved him immensely.

Br. Jerome Sullivan tells us, “To identify the qualities of Br. Gabe, one must only look to the Beatitudes: Blessed are the poor in spirit, Blessed are the meek, Blessed are the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers—all reminders of the goodness of Br. Gabe.”



BROTHER LUKE MAHER, FSC **1937 - 2024**

Born David Maher in Arlington NJ on November 2, 1937, Br. Luke Maher entered the Ammendale MD Novitiate in October 1956. He received the Religious Habit and name, Denis Luke, on February 1, 1957. Br. Luke pronounced

Perpetual Vows in Towson MD on August 17, 1963.

Brother Luke’s gift for academic leadership was recognized early in his career. Most of his service was performed in various levels of administration: in schools, District leadership, and even an Archdiocesan appointment. In addition, his leadership was regularly called upon through various District committees.

While Br. Luke had a reserved and professional persona, he was always open and responsive to those he worked with and served, a quality which drew people to him. Even students from one of his early assignments, Hudson Catholic in Jersey City NJ (a school for which he always held a special love), remained close to Br. Luke through his final years.



BROTHER JOHN MCMANUS, FSC **1945 - 2024**

Born in Manhattan NY on May 14, 1945, John Richard McManus entered the Barrytown NY Novitiate on June 24, 1963. He received the Religious Habit & name Thomas John in September that same year. Br. John pronounced Perpetual

Vows in 1973.

Br. John’s years as a Brother were spent serving urban students at our schools throughout New York City and Albany NY metro areas, as well as the troubled youths at La Salle School in Albany. He even brought his passion for chess to several of these schools, teaching students the intricacies of the game.

“Br. John was a simple man of likes and dislikes.” According to Br. Dennis Cronin. “He liked a good meal, and being active. He liked driving, but also public transit when in Brooklyn (because that was how those he served traveled). He disliked haughtiness, contention, and argument. He also disliked excess and accumulation of things.”

Remembering Souheil Kandalaft, MD, AFSC

Our District office has recently learned of the death last year of Dr. Souheil Kandalaft, AFSC, at the age of ninety. When Dr. Kandalaft immigrated to the USA from Syria in 1960, he continued his medical training, met his wife, and began his family. He became friends with the Brothers of Manhattan College Community, and as an internist and surgical specialist, acted as their Community physician for many years. He also provided medical support to the student body at Manhattan College. Souheil was a kind, generous and caring man, filled with good humor, who loved sharing stories of his life and family.

His service and friendship were so valued by the Brothers that they petitioned Rome, and he was pronounced an Affiliated Member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the highest honor bestowed by the worldwide Institute. Dr. Kandalaft will be remembered perpetually in the prayers of the Christian Brothers.



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At the De La Salle Hall memorial service for Br. Luke Maher, FSC, Brs. Kevin Stanton, FSC, and Richard Kestler, FSC, are joined by Sr. Marcia Lammerding, OSB, and some of Br. Luke's students from Hudson Catholic High School class of 1969.

2024 to June 18, 2024

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ERROR OR OMISSION?

The recognition lists in this issue represent gifts received from April 1 to June 18, 2024. We make every effort to be as accurate as possible. If you feel, however, that there is an error or omission, we apologize and ask that you call our Advancement Office at (732) 380-7926, to advise us of the problem.

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On Founder's Day (May 15), the "Parents of Prayer" group provided a delicious lunch as Saint John Paul II Academy, Boca Raton FL not only celebrated the Solemnity of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, but they also celebrated Br. Dan Aubin, FSC, President of the school, for 50 years as a Christian Brother. Watch for our fall issue of Lasallian Notes containing much more on this year's Brother Jubilarians.

THANK YOU

We are sincerely grateful to our friends and their families who have thoughtfully remembered the Brothers with requests for gifts in lieu of flowers.

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Vol. 24



Dear friends,

There has been a lot of talk the past couple years about AI (artificial intelligence). We are told that it will make our work faster and more accurate. It may even do the work for us.

Charities are not exempt from this conversation, especially in the development/donor relations department. Every day I turn on my computer to find another offer to sign up for a webinar or attend a meeting to learn more about all of the great ways that AI can increase our donations. Wow, that sounds great! After all, that is what I am here for, to increase donations for the Brothers and the kids we serve, RIGHT?

I must pause here to tell you that for the past forty years, my least favorite words to hear in the office have been, "Why do we need to change? This is the way we have always done it." On the other hand, I am somewhat deliberate in my approach to each new, trending item or procedure.

We are a small, and very relationship driven shop. I like the fact that you, our donors, know us and feel that you can trust us—whether talking about your Mass card order with Br. William or Marie (who just celebrated thirty-five years of service), getting a thank you note from Br. Peter, chatting with Br. Kevin or Cheryl in New England, or visiting with me through e-mail, on the phone, or in person.

I am sure that there are aspects of AI that, sometime soon, we will feel are right to incorporate into our efforts. Please know, however, that we will continue to physically be here for you—to answer your questions, get to know your interests and concerns, and share with you how much you mean to us.

Thank you for making the Brothers and those we serve a part of your life.

Live Jesus in our hearts!

Patrick J. Donahue
Director of Advancement

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