

VISIONS

SIGNUM FIDEI



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De La Salle Vocational (DeVoc) Gives Training & Direction



The roots of De La Salle Vocational (Bensalem, PA) are thoroughly Lasallian: a spirited response to a specific need. Brother Richard Mynehan, administrator of the St. Gabriel's System, envisioned its creation, and Brother Gilbert Henderson became its first director (1974-1984). Both agreed that the at-risk youth of St.

Gabriel's should be afforded academic and vocational training in a community-based, day treatment center.

The five initial De La Salle Vocational students shared the facility in the mornings with students from the next-door St. Francis Vocational School ("Eddington") and a few Archbishop Ryan H.S. students. The first three trades were auto mechanics, carpentry, and graphic arts. In the afternoons during the opening year, these five boys commuted to De La Salle in Towne (Philadelphia) for their academic courses. DeVoc's first graduation was in 1976. Experiential education commenced a year later; on two occasions, several students rescued boaters during adventure outings.

The first Middle States evaluation of DeVoc (1979) examined the 38 staffers and 113 students. The DeVoc students (1981) were distributed among six trades: auto mechanics, auto body repair, carpentry, food preparation, graphic arts and welding. By the end of 1981, 79% of its previous 153 graduates were employed. Brother Hugh Maguire became the second director (1984-1989). He redesigned the carpentry curriculum, reinforced family counseling, and opened a six-month, full-day job-training program. His affable nature was supremely tested in the mid-1980s. Deep cutbacks at the federal, state, and local levels resulted in a severe deficit. Letter writing, lobbying, a Philadelphia *Inquirer* editorial, and Cardinal Krol's personal interest combined to solidify funding.

The third Director, Brother Dennis Malloy (1989-2000), enacted creative and flexible academic curricula and increased community outreach. The former swimming pool was transformed

into a cafeteria, and the "temporary" trailers were replaced by classrooms and offices. Approximately 60% of the 138 students were involved in the diploma program, while the rest were in job training. Brother Dennis later introduced an inter-departmental team-based model whereby students, teachers, counselors, social workers, and administrators were divided into teams, geared to specific trades, for individualized attention.

Jim Logan was named the fourth director in March 2000. Today, DeVoc continues to shift from a more formal education model toward a more treatment based model, exemplified by the building of campus community among staffers and students alike through a series of relational meetings.

DeVoc remains a safe haven for its 100 students as they cope with accelerating violence in their home surroundings. Additional planning lies ahead to keep apace with changing realities.

Since 1974, hundreds of young men have entered De La Salle Vocational to receive training, but have left with something greater: *direction*.

By Brother Joseph Grabenstein, FSC
Archivist, Baltimore Province



Brother James Butler

FSC Celebrates Twenty-Five Years as a Brother

Fellow Brothers, family and many friends gathered in La Salle University's De La Salle Chapel on Sunday, October 22, 2006 to celebrate with Brother James Butler his twenty-fifth Jubilee. Brother James received the habit of the Institute in 1981. He has served as a teacher, a professor, an overseas missionary, a school administrator and currently serves as the Auxiliary Provincial of the Province during his years in the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The day commemorating Brothers James' jubilee year brought those gathered in his honor together for the celebration of Mass and a breakfast reception afterward. Father

Robert George, AFSC served as the celebrant of the Liturgy. During the Mass, Brother Robert Schieler, Provincial, presented Brother James a Papal Blessing.

Brother Robert Schaefer provided a reflection that gave the gathering some of the highlights of his service and some insights into his life as Brother. "From his days as an English teacher at La Salle High, Archbishop Carroll or Seton-La Salle, Jim has been known as among the best. His classes have always been known for high energy, creativity and academic rigor. His time on the faculty at La Salle University allowed him the opportuni-

ty to help shape future teachers with the same kind of enthusiasm that he has for this ministry. The assignment as vice-principal at Hudson Catholic allowed us to see yet another skill set of Jim's. He not only mastered the schedule, supervised teachers, coordinated many of the day-to-day operations of the high school but according to most students he had their schedules memorized and knew where they were supposed to be at all times. I remember visiting Hudson and having the students swear to me that Jim was a former spy for the CIA. His time at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land enabled him



Brother Robert Schieler, Provincial, reads Pope Benedict XVI's blessing on the occasion of Brother James' twenty-five years as a Brother of the Christian Schools

to experience the worldwide perspective of our Institute.

All of those experiences (teacher,

administrator, missionary) have coalesced perfectly for his current role

as Director of Education and Auxil-

iary Visitor. There is really no aspect of our life and ministry that he is not familiar with; there is no task too menial that he will not bring his "A" game to accomplish. He has been known to criss-cross the district to be of help or support to any school or individual in need. Some say he is a pro at accumulating the frequent flyer miles, but I would not know anything about that. There is no administrator too annoying that he will not offer suggestions and advice to. Jim is totally into our life and our educational service to kids. In Lasallian parlance we call that Faith and Zeal and Jim has an abundance of both."

Congratulations Brother James on your twenty-five years as a Brother! May God bless your continued journey in the footsteps of St. John Baptist De La Salle.

An Interview

BROTHER ANTHONY BAIRD (Frederick Anthony)



Visions: What is the origin of your vocation as a Christian Brother?

Brother Anthony: My German immigrant grandmother and the matriarch of our family would not give her blessing to my entering the De La Salle Brothers after my graduation from La Salle College High School. Therefore, when I turned twenty-one, I entered the Christian Brothers without her approval.

Whenever I was with her over the next thirty years, she told me I did not have to stay with the Order. I could always leave and get married. During my high school years, I had been impressed with the charisma of the Brothers and their ability to work and influence young men. Brothers Felix John, Dacian John, Gerald Berchman, Joseph Reagan and Godwin Patrick were definitely men who had a profound influence on my desire to join the Brothers. Brother William Quinn (Didymus. John) continued to mentor me and several other students at La Salle College over the next three years.

Visions: What is your educational background?

Brother Anthony: After the Novitiate, I moved to the Scholasticate in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania where I continued my B.A. at La Salle College and graduated in 1955. For the next three years, I pursued a degree in Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital which I completed in 1958.

As a professional educator, one is never finished learning. The Order expects you to continue studying for advanced degrees. For the first twenty-five years as a Brother, I attended classes at a local university in the area of my assignment. During the summer months, I earned a Masters' degree from Villanova University in Education and a degree from Lehigh University in Social Restoration. In 1978, I spent a sabbatical year at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of School of Social Work. I am at present ABD.

Visions: In what schools of the Province did you teach? And what subjects?

Brother Anthony: My educational degrees parallel my assignments. Over the course of fifty-four years, my professional life falls into three areas. One third of the years was spent at West Catholic High School in Philadelphia as Director of Guidance; a second third was spent in institutions rendering care to dependent or delinquent youth, and the final third in diocesan schools in Virginia, Mary-

land and Pennsylvania. Two thirds of my career consisted of assignments that were twelve-month commitments. Of the final third, I taught summer school at Ocean Rest Summer School in Ocean City, New Jersey. My personal opinion is that working with adolescents keeps a person youthful in mentality though the chronological years take a toll on a person's capacity to perform.

My first assignment was for four years at La Salle High School, Cumberland, Maryland. I taught religion, German, algebra, and biology. I moderated the football team, assisted in drama, ran the testing program and spent Saturdays in school maintenance. I had one student help me keep the school building clean. It was a full and busy life. Over holiday vacations the community was sent to the dependent care facilities to give the brothers assigned there for the year a much needed break. My next assignments spanned eighteen years alternating childcare and diocesan high school duties. Four years at Saint Gabriel's Hall as a childcare worker, six years at Dennis J. O'Connell HS, Arlington, Virginia as a science teacher and guidance counselor, seven years at St. Gabriel's Hall, a Sabbatical year at the University of Pennsylvania, and four years at De La Salle in Towne (daycare treatment center for juvenile delinquents), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My final assignment before retiring from the active apostolate was in Guidance at West Catholic High School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Visions: Did you have any administrative positions during your career?
Brother Anthony: After the third summer, I became principal at Saint Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, Pennsylvania, a secure juvenile institution where I served six years. Then, I made the second novitiate for 100 days at Sangre De Cristo Center in Santa Fe, NM, before returning to the Saint

Gabriel's System in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to be principal at De La Salle in Towne. Ultimately, I was appointed Director of that day care treatment facility until 1982 when I went to West Catholic High School in Philadelphia as Director of Guidance.

Visions: Do you have any hobbies?

Brother Anthony: While at West Catholic HS, I became interested in my family genealogy because most of the family history was centered in the Philadelphia area. I discovered that the Irish side of the family had resided in Philadelphia since 1845. The German side immigrated to Philadelphia in 1906 from Austria Hungary. I traced my German ancestors back to 1796 in Europe. I acquired records of ten generations on both sides of the family and realized our roots covered three centuries. This was a wonderful project and it stimulated studies by the in-laws of my family to research their family history and to publish them.

Visions: Do you any final thoughts to express to our readers?

Brother Anthony: Being a member of the De La Salle Christian Brothers incorporates a brother in the educational mission, which the Order has developed over three centuries in over eighty nations worldwide. The first priority is always the education of youth. The success of the educational accomplishments of the Christian Brothers certainly validates the Lord's promise of the hundredfold being more than fulfilled when following Him. As a member of the Christian Brothers' Community, an individual brother is part of the corporate success of the mission along with their associates and affiliates. What a team! What a vocation! What a wonderful legacy in the service of the Lord! Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!

The Christian Brothers Service Awards Dinner Honors Eighteen Jubilarians



In the midst of the art in the Annenberg Gallery of the Pennsylvania Academy Fine Arts, the of the eighteen Jubilarians pause for a photo. Brothers: Gregory Cavalier, Kevin Stanton, Benedict Oliver, Carl Clayton, James Butler, Andrew Bartley, David Rogers, Patrick Ellis, Patrick Power and John Owens.



Brother John Owens received the Christian Brothers Service Award for his dedication to Christian education for seventy years at West Catholic and La Salle University. He is pictured here flanked by his two sisters, Mrs. Patricia Rock and Mrs. Winifred Shimp, beside his nephew Dennis Owens, and niece Pat Larr.



Charles and Kathleen Reilly congratulate Brother John Owens, a graduate of Roman Catholic HS, for his many years of service to young people in Philadelphia. Brother John was Principal at West Catholic and Registrar at La Salle College when Charles was a student.



West Catholic graduates share a few memories with Brother John and his sister.



Mrs. Dianne Murray, Jim Murray, Founder, Ronald McDonald House and former General Manager of the Philadelphia Eagles, Brother Brian Henderson, Director, St. Gabriel's Hall, and Brother Michael McGinniss, President, La Salle University.



Mr. Brian Elderton, Vice President for Advancement at La Salle University, Mr. Raymond Ricci, Vice-President for Enrollment Services, Brother Timothy Froehlich, Director of Finance for the Baltimore Province and Mrs. Kathryn Ricci.

For 1,000 Years of Service and Brother John Owens, Award Recipient



Members of the La Salle College HS Class of 1965 celebrate the 50th Jubilee of Brother David Rogers. Sally and Jim Osborne, Christine and Rod Ryan, Brother David Rogers, Marita and Mike Osborne and Ann and John Osborne.



La Salle High School Class of 1967 celebrate the 50th Jubilee of Brother Carl Clayton: Jack Meehan, Joe Slabinski, Brother Carl, Frank McLaughlin, John Whalen and John Gorman



Members of the La Salle Academy Board of Trustees: Jim and Sarah Hasson, Mike and Elaine Whitaker, John and Maureen Fenningham, Ben and Susan Ventresca, Mr. Ed Solvibile, and Ms. Theresa Diamond, Principal.



Thirty-three members of the Owens Family celebrated this joyful occasion



Brother Robert Schieler, Provincial, presents a \$50,000 check to Brother William Johnson, President, The San Miguel School, Camden, NJ, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The total contribution to The San Miguel School was \$65,000.



The eighth grade students from The San Miguel Miguel School served as ushers for the evening. Front row: Jackson Nguyen, Elliot Coloc, Kelvin Gonzalez. Back row: Ben Wastler (Jesuit Volunteer) Anthony Pabon, Oscar Rubi, Jahmese Myres (Lasallian Volunteer), Erasmo Rivera, Alvin Parache, Kevin Cooper

Marion Forrest and Ralph Stinson

BECOME MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Brother Robert Schieler, Provincial, presents Letters of Affiliation to Marion Forrest.



Brother Robert Schieler, Provincial present Letters of Affiliation to Ralph Stinson.

"Today, we gather to pray, and to thank the Lord in a very special way for Ralph Stinson and Marion Forrest, both of whom many years ago answered the call to look upon themselves as God's ministers, ambassadors, co-workers in the tradition of John Baptist de La Salle and the Brothers of the Institute of the Christian Schools. They have touched the hearts of thousands of young men and brought them closer to salvation both in this world and the next."

This quotation from the Call to Worship delivered by Charles "Skip" Gaus, AFSC to begin the Liturgy captured the spirit of the ceremony for the Presentation of Letters of Affiliation to Mr. Marion Forrest and Mr. Ralph Stinson, staff members of Saint Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, PA. Brothers, colleagues, family and friends gathered at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Valley Forge, PA on Saturday, September 30, 2006 to witness and express gratitude for the recognition bestowed on these two gentlemen.

In welcoming those gathered, Brother Robert Schieler, Visitor of the Baltimore District, pointed out how, over three hundred years, *"...the Brothers have been conscious of their dependence on the generosity of colleagues - clerical, religious and lay, male and female - in achieving the apostolic purpose for which the Institute exists."*

He continued *"By these letters the Brothers wish to thank and acknowledge a colleague who is living his or her own vocation and faith with a love for young people and enthusiasm for their total education, with a sensitivity to the needs of the poor, a Christian attitude with re-*

gard to racial and social justice, and a close and familial relationship with the Brothers."

Affiliation with our Institute is the highest honor that the Superior General of the Brothers is empowered to confer upon such dedicated men and women. The request for Affiliation of Marion Forrest and Ralph Stinson was presented to the Council of the Baltimore District by Brothers of the Saint Gabriel's System – past and present – as well as colleagues of both men from Saint Gabriel's Hall. Approved by the Council, the request was then presented to Brother Alvaro Rodriguez, FSC, Superior General, who approved the request.

Passages from the Fourth Meditation for the Time of Retreat, the Rule of the Brothers, and a Reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew (25:31-40) were followed by a reflective response on the Corporal Works of Mercy which continued to highlight those qualities that characterize the men who were being recognized.

In presenting Marion Forrest for Affiliation, Brother Dennis Malloy, FSC, Executive Director, Saint Gabriel's System, referred to the characteristics of the Good Shepherd which Marion manifests and how he models the virtues of gentleness and patience and reserve for both the children and the staff at Saint Gabriel's Hall. Marion brilliantly lives and exudes the character of St La Salle's vision of dedicated teachers creating an orderly place character-

ized by affable affection.

Brother Brian Henderson, Director of Saint Gabriel's Hall, introduced Ralph Stinson as the type of person who mirrors what St. John Baptist de La Salle wrote about the type of person needed to work with such vulnerable and difficult young people as those at Saint Gabriel's Hall: a watchful guide, a beacon, a model, a Good Shepherd, and a father. For thirty five years Ralph has persistently, tirelessly, and with compassion cared for, challenged and guided the lives and treatment planning of these young men.

Marion's association with Saint Gabriel's Hall began as a youth care worker and continued as a Prefect, Supervisor, Assistant Director of Residential Treatment Services, a Unit Manager and continues in his present position, the Director of Youth Care Worker Formation.

Ralph began as a caseworker and advanced to the position of Social Work Supervisor. He has served as the Director of Social Services, Director of Treatment, and a Unit Manager. He presently serves as the Director of Residential Services.

Both of these men are examples of - what is stated in the Letter of Affiliation –

"...outstanding collaboration with our Institute, the quality of your personal life inspired by Lasallian spirituality, and your active and long lasting participation in our work of Education."

Following the presentation of Letters of Affiliation by Brother Robert Schieler to each of the men, and symbols representative of the spirituality of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – the rosary, the New Testament and a copy of the Brothers' Rule, the Brothers expressed their congratulations and then joined in singing the hymn in honor of Saint La Salle.

Msgr. Joseph Tracy, Secretary for Catholic Human Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, extended the congratulations of Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, and his own gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of our newly Affiliated Brothers and all who, in any way, are involved in the many programs of the Saint Gabriel's System and in its Mission: to provide a human and Christian education to young people, especially the poor. The entire program served as an example Saint La Salle's challenge *"To touch the hearts of your pupils and inspire them with the Christian Spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform."*



Member of the Forrest family gather at the Church of St. Teresa of Avila, Valley Forge, site of the Affiliation Ceremony.



Members of the Stinson family gather during the reception held at St. Gabriel's Hall.



Marion Forest and Ralph Stinson with four Directors of St. Gabriel's Hall: Brothers Richard Kestler, James Kirkpatrick, Joseph Mahon and Brian Henderson, current Director.

YOUNG BROTHERS IN TEMPORARY VOWS AND PROMISES MEET AT JEREMY HOUSE



A workshop for the Brothers in temporary vows/promises was held at Jeremy House of Studies, Philadelphia, on Saturday, September 30, 2006. The topic of the workshop was Healthy Celibate Sexuality conducted by Dr. Patricia Kelly, Ph.D. Seated: Brothers Joseph Juliano and Richard Buccina, Director, Jeremy House. Standing: Peter Nguyen, Rob Peach, Joseph Mahon, Formation Counselor, Dr. Pat Kelly, Anwar Martinez and John Luczkowski. Ernest Miller also participated in the workshop.

Front row: Brother Joseph Juliano and Brother Richard Buccina, Director of Jeremy House. Back row: Brothers Peter Nguyen; Rob Peach; Joseph Mahon, Formation Counselor; Anwar Martinez; and John Luczkowski.

SIX LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS COMMIT TO SERVICE IN THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE

La Salle University hosted this year's Lasallian Volunteer Orientation from July 23 – July 30, 2006. The gathering brought the group of almost fifty volunteers from all over the nation to Philadelphia. The group listened to guest speakers, shared prayer together, worked together to overcome the St. Gabriel's Hall Ropes Course and shared some time to grow as a community. The event culminated in a Commissioning Ceremony where the volunteers pledged their commitment to Lasallian values of Faith, Service and Community and to the apostolates where they will serve.

The Baltimore Province welcomed six volunteers for the 2006-2007 academic year to live in Province communities and share in the work of three of our apostolates. Three volunteers, Tim Ferhringer, who lives in Baltimore's Brentwood Community and serves at St. Frances Academy, Janitzia Rodriguez, who lives in Camden's San Miguel Community and serves at the San Miguel School and Paul Sevcik, in Philadelphia's Manayunk Community and serves at La Salle Academy, return for a second year in service. Three new faces, Jahmese Myers joins the San Miguel community and school, Erin Stannard joins the Brentwood community and the St. Frances Academy staff, and Sara Vogelpohl joins the Manayunk community and the La Salle Academy staff begin their first year of service in the District. Welcome back and welcome to the Baltimore Province!



Paul Sevcik and Sara Vogelpohl receive their commissioning blessing at the end of the Commissioning Ceremony.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES AND ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE MASS AT AMMENDALE



On Saturday, October 28, at the De La Salle Cemetery, Ammendale, Bishop Joseph Mc Fadden, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, along with the Brothers from the communities in Maryland and DC, family of the recently deceased Brothers and friends, blessed the graves of the recently deceased - Brother Robert Wise and William Garvey. Following the graveside ceremony, Bishop Mc Fadden celebrated the Eucharist with the Brothers in the De la Salle Chapel, La Salle Hall, Ammendale.

Brothers Kevin Erb, Robert Schieler, Provincial, and James Muffley and Bishop Mc Fadden.