

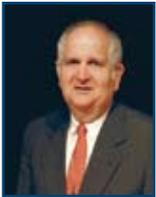
VISITORS



SUMMER 2009 Office of Development P.O. Box 1710 Beltsville, MD 20704-1710 (301) 210-7444 VOL. 20 No. 3

BROTHERS CELEBRATE AFFILIATIONS

LOUIS E. HEIDRICK



This year, when Calvert Hall celebrated the feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Brothers conferred their highest honor upon Mr. Louis E. Heidrick, Principal. In the name of Brother Alvaro Rodriguez, FSC, Superior General, the Provincial Superior, Brother Dennis Malloy, FSC, presented the Letter of Affiliation on May 14th at a Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Denis J. Madden, D.D.

The framed Letter of Affiliation, making Mr. Heidrick an honorary member of the Brothers' congregation, expresses their appreciation for Mr. Heidrick's commitment to Lasallian values. Brother Dennis also presented Mr. Heidrick with a copy of the New Testament, the Brothers' Rule, crucifix and six-decade rosary, the items presented to each Brother when he receives the Habit of the congregation.

Mr. Heidrick has been a member of Calvert Hall's faculty and administration for 44 years. In 1971, he was named Chairman of the Social Studies Department and later Chairman of the Business Department. In 1981 he was appointed Assistant Principal for Student Affairs. A few years later he was appointed Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, and in 2001 became the school's first Principal who was not a De La Salle Christian Brother. He has also been moderator of several extracurricular activities and coached football and basketball. In every capacity he has demonstrated the highest professionalism and commitment to Lasallian principles.

Mr. Heidrick has attended and made presentations at many meetings, workshops and other gatherings of Lasallian educators. He is a graduate of the Lasallian Leadership Institute and keeps abreast of information from the international, regional and district Lasallian offices. Because of his knowledge and experience, his advice is often sought by administrators of other Lasallian schools. His oral and written communications to students, faculty, coaches, and parents consistently reflect his commitment to Lasallian values.

By Brother Benedict Oliver, FSC, President of Calvert Hall College

FATHER PETER PILARSKI

On Saturday, May 16, 2009 Brother Dennis Malloy, Visitor, presented Pittsburgh Diocesan priest Reverend Peter Pilarski with the Letters of Affiliation and the symbols of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the De La Salle Chapel of Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School. The affiliation of Father Pilarski is the result of a relationship he began with the Brothers upon his entrance to Central Catholic as a freshman in September of 1946. Upon graduation from Central Catholic in 1950, Father Peter studied at St. Vincent and was ordained a priest in 1959. During his early years as a priest he was a chaplain to the school and community. In 1968, Father Pilarski entered chaplaincy service in the United States Navy. During the course of his long career as a navy chaplain, he continued his relationship with the Christian Brothers. While stationed in Vietnam during the war years, he lent his services to the Brothers' community at La Salle Taber, a large school in Saigon. In addition, during his service in Washington, DC he lived in the community at St. John's College. During his remarks at the liturgy for his affiliation, Father Pilarski thanked the Brothers for the honor and in particular praised the influence of his freshman homeroom teacher, Brother Gildas Edward Baldwin and the friendship of the late Brother J. Clement Smith. He felt both were pleased with this great recognition of his long standing commitment to the ministry and mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

*By Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC,
Principal of Central Catholic High School*



A Loving REMEMBRANCE



Brother Edward Cannon, F&C
Brother Edward died on March 2, 2009 at De La Salle Hall in Lincroft, New Jersey at 89 years of age and in his 70th year as a Christian Brother.

In a key article of The Rule which St. John Baptist de La Salle gave to his Brothers we read: *"The spirit of the Institute is a spirit of faith which leads the Brother to look upon everything with the eyes of faith.... It is by faith that the Brothers are aware of God's presence in their endeavors, their cares and their joys."* Brother Edward Cannon was a man who got the message and made his faith-filled life definitely worth celebrating. With a gentle smile and soft spoken humor he daily offered encouragement and good example to an extensive fan club, including the members of the La Salle High family, which he served with loyalty and distinction for decades. In recognition of that service, he was inducted into his beloved alma mater's Hall of Fame. Br. James Rieck, a former pupil of Brother Edward observed that *"La Salle was the place where Brother Ed spent much of his religious life, touching the hearts of thousands of young men and all those who had the good fortune of working with and knowing him. As a student and as a Christian Brother he was part of La Salle for almost 47 years."*

Brother Edward earned respect from all he met along life's journey. History, Mathematics and Religion were three of the subjects effectively taught by Brother Edward during his years in the classroom, where he became famous for his well-prepared, clearly presented and no-nonsense lessons. Reflecting on those years, Brother James notes that *"the expression 'boys will be boys but La Salle boys will be gentlemen' must have inspired Brother Ed because one could not find a better exemplar of what it means to be a gentle-*

Grant them eternal rest, Lord.

man, as well as a loyal friend and confidant to so many." Modesty was one of Brother Edward's more obvious virtues. He was the first to give credit to others, preferring that his own successes go unnoticed. But to those who knew him, Brother's fidelity to commitments, appreciation for his vocation and enduring concern for others deserve admiration and were, they believe, primary reasons for the effectiveness of his witness to the faith. Brother James characterized him as *"a sincere, generous, thoughtful, kind and truly holy man. In his quiet way, he had a powerful impact."*

In all the circumstances of his life as a Brother, Ed worked tirelessly for the success of the mission. Whether as teacher, principal, tutor or religious superior he could be counted on to invest himself with a unique blend of diligence, calm and dependability, which merited for him the affectionate nickname of 'Steady Eddie.' As evidence of this, Brother James cites the fact that *"for many years Ed was responsible for checking in on our elderly Brothers who were confined to nursing homes in the Philadelphia area. His care for and presence to these men was truly inspiring. When his time came, it was difficult for him to leave La Salle, but with grace and deep faith in God he adapted to his new home at De La Salle."*

For former students and other friends, perhaps the most admirable of Brother Ed's gifts was his ability to form and maintain relationships; consequently hundreds of them kept in touch with him through phone calls, notes and visits. All of them, indeed all of us, gratefully celebrate the blessing that along life's journey we were fortunate enough to walk with a very special man of faith ~ Brother Edward Cannon. May he rest in peace.

Excerpts of reflections by Brother Andrew Bartley, FSC and Brother James Rieck, FSC of the La Salle High Community



Brother René Stemer, F&C
Brother Rene died on May 11, 2009 at the Vincentian Fathers' St. Catherine's Infirmary at 71 years of age and in his 54th year as a Christian Brother.

In the Meditation he wrote for the Feast of the Epiphany, St. John Baptist De La Salle recounts the famous story of the Magi, the faith-filled wise men from distant lands who beheld a mysterious star in the heavens and followed it to places they knew not where. In the course of their amazing journey, they find themselves in Jerusalem and in the palace of the terrible and tyrannical King Herod. There they ask, "Where can we find the newborn King of the Jews?" "What a question to ask in the palace of the prince!" De La Salle exclaims. After all, was not Herod himself the King of the Jews? What could possibly have inspired these wayfarers to ask such a bold and reckless question? It was, St. La Salle proclaims, a *"Holy Audacity"*. "They feared nothing because the faith that inspired them... caused them to forget, even to scorn, all human considerations."

A *Holy Audacity*. Is there a phrase that more aptly describes the life and ministry of Brother René Stemer? In pondering his educational vision and his pursuit of the Lasallian mission, it would be fair to conclude that Brother René was nothing, if not "audacious". His was a vision that was bold, to be sure, often to the point of "rattling cages" or of being unsettling to some. And as for the "Holy" aspect, while this is a quality most often appreciated in retrospect, those of us who knew René and who labored to help implement his vision, almost always knew, in our heart of hearts, that he was leading us, in his own way, to Christ. Those of us from Pittsburgh, or Philadelphia, or Baltimore, or from any other place where Brother René touched our lives, did we not come to appreciate this native son of Hanover as a wise man from some distant land who invited us on a journey we knew not where? A *Holy Audacity*, indeed.

There are many, many examples of Brother René's life of *Holy Audacity*, to be sure, beginning with his innovative approach to the excellent conduct of schools. His administrative résumé features years of service at Central Catholic in Pittsburgh, La Salle College High School in Philadelphia, Calvert Hall College in Baltimore, and, in the twilight of his career, at his beloved *alma mater*, Delone Catholic in McSherrystown, PA. In each place, he accomplished much good, including successful capital campaigns and building projects, and his students achieved greatly in all manner of academic, athletic, and extra-curricular activities. But chief among his priorities was the discovery of creative responses to the urgent educational needs of students with learning differences or of refugees from war-torn Bosnia and Sudan. The cause nearest to his heart, however, was La Salle Academy, the small school for poor children in north Philadelphia he co-founded eight years ago.

Finally, no account of Brother René's inspirational ministry would be complete without mention of that from which he both drew and imparted the greatest meaning: coaching high school forensics. For nearly fifty years, he transformed the lives of hundreds of young people through the activity of speech and debate. Brother René organized and led programs in each of the four school communities he served, nearly all of which attained excellence and national prominence. In addition, his sterling reputation for integrity and common sense led to his frequent election to leadership positions among his peers and to membership in several halls of fame.

Brother René's life of *Holy Audacity* came to an end on the morning of May 11 after a brief but valiant battle with cancer. How fitting it was that the funeral Mass of this ardent son of Saint La Salle be celebrated on May 15, the Holy Founder's Feast Day.

By Brother Kevin Dalmasse, FSC, Director of Education, Christian Brothers Conference

Brother Timothy Dean Sharing the Lasallian Charism



When grads around the Baltimore District gather for class reunions or other alumni events, they usually recall stories about their favorite teachers. However, with the passage of time, many former students have lost track of men like Brother Timothy Dean, who was known to many as Brother Daniel Timothy.

From the 50s through the 90s, Brother Timothy served in a variety of our educational apostolates as a teacher and administrator in Philadelphia (West Catholic Boys, Archbishop Carroll), Washington (St. John's), Jersey City (Hudson Catholic), Baltimore (Calvert Hall) and Cumberland (Bishop Walsh). During those five decades, he was also elected Director by the Brothers in several communities.

Today, as a Senior Brother, he resides at Saint Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, PA, where he serves as the Lasallian Mission Animator for the several hundred staff members of the St. Gabriel's System. As such he works as a resource person with staff from the various components of the System to enable all employees to become more familiar with the Lasallian Heritage and the legacy of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Each month Brother introduces the Founder and the Lasallian world in a presentation that is part of the orientation for all newly-hired staff. Six months later, a more extensive and detailed program centers around the Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher.

The introduction does not end with the orientation. *Lasallian*

Notes, a monthly newsletter, is prepared for all staff in the System and includes information about the Founder, his writings and the history of the Institute. Additionally, during Advent and Lent, Brother prepares a reflection for each Sunday based on the Scripture and some references to the Founder's writings. These reflections and prayers have also been distributed to several schools and individuals who have requested them.

As animator, Brother Timothy has helped plan and execute several other spiritual formation activities. Each November a Communion Breakfast is celebrated at La Salle University for all those associated with the St. Gabriel's System and their families. Once referred to as the "best kept secret in the System," participation in this event increases each year. More recently, Brother Timothy inspired the creation of a new continuing formation opportunity for all staff ~ an afternoon of reflection, entitled "A Busy Person's Retreat."

When he is not involved in helping others understand the wonderful heritage which we share as members of the Lasallian Family, Brother Timothy occupies himself doing needlepoint and counted cross stitchery, a hobby learned more than twenty years ago at a renewal program at our Sangre de Cristo Center in New Mexico. These pieces of artwork are given as personal gifts or donated to various auctions as contributions to enhance the success of the events. Brother is grateful for the slightly slower pace of life these days, which allows him to stay in touch with former students and colleagues from earlier years.

By: Brother Charles A. Lacks, FSC, St. Gabriel's Hall

San Miguel School: Investing in Education Pays Future Dividends

"The value of a school is directly proportional to the school's values."

Saint La Salle knew implicitly that in order to change the existing socioeconomic structures of his time, educating the children of the working class and the poor was a way to break the cycle of poverty and violence that plagued his beloved city of Reims. He realized that French society could no longer afford the indifference to the suffering of this growing class of underserved people. He did not rely on government to make the change, but rallied concerned and influential citizens

around his fledgling enterprise. As a result, these Christian schools began opening up throughout France offering a core curriculum of math, reading, writing, religion, and trades that were all taught in the student's native tongue with little or no cost to the families.

La Salle understood that an educated citizen would be a productive citizen who would contribute immeasurably to the financial, social, religious, and cultural advancement of France. His innovative educational methodologies would be the seeds for the modern Catholic education system that would spread to the four corners of the earth and benefit millions in the future.

The challenge to provide an effective and efficacious education is as old as humanity itself, and we must continually seek new instruments to meet this challenge. The San Miguel School of Camden is one of 65 schools in the Nativity-Miguel Network of Schools, a collaborative and collegial network of the 24 Lasallian Association of Miguel Schools and the 41 Nativity schools serving more than 4,500 students in 27 states across the USA. Together these schools provide families struggling in impoverished neighborhoods with a high-



San Miguel School Student Council

quality school choice for their children.

When The San Miguel School of Camden opened in 1997, it was the third San Miguel school in the country to offer a gratuitous middle school education for 6th to 8th grade boys. San Miguel prides itself on having a small student-to-teacher ratio given the students' diverse academic needs. The boys are in our care for 44 hours a week for 10½ months; the extended days allow for longer instruction in Math, Science, and Language Arts. Three days a week, one and a half hours are allotted for students to complete their homework and long-term assignments, to receive

LA SALLE HALL CELEBRATING A HOMECOMING

Under the supervision of its present Director, Brother John McErlean, FSC, La Salle Hall continues to be a wholesome living atmosphere for retired Brothers of the Baltimore District who require an assisted living environment and occasional hospice care. We are located on a site long known to the Brothers as "Ammdendale" in the city of Beltsville, Maryland. Although situated on the newly widened Ammdendale Road, our privacy is maintained by tree lines separating us from business campuses that have been developed on parts of our former property.

For most of the Brothers in residence at La Salle Hall, coming to Ammdendale is a kind of "returning home" for those who lived in the former Juniorate and Novitiate buildings during their formation years. Although individual Brothers may not have the stamina they once had, every effort is made to maintain a normal community life, with special emphasis being placed on our spiritual life. Several times a day the Brothers gather in the chapel for community prayer and/or Holy Mass. We are very grateful for the generous service of priests who volunteer as chaplains and for the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel. In our daily private and community prayers we remember in a special way the intentions of our benefactors.

In-house medical services, as well as doctor visits, are coordinated by a registered nurse who is assisted by staff members, Brothers Joseph Woods and Barry Bartkowiak. They, along with Brothers Martin Fahey, Edward McGuire and Philip Whitman provide valuable services in chauffeuring Brothers to their appointments. Balanced nutrition is also a priority and we are fortunate to have the talented and dedicated services of several cooks who have served the Brothers for many years.

The two-story east wing of La Salle Hall consists of twenty-two bedrooms with private baths and individually regulated climate controls. The "west wing" houses the operations of the St. La Salle Auxiliary and the Baltimore District Development Office through which generous donors continue to support the needs of our aging Brothers as well as our educational ministries. Brother Barry along with Brothers Robert Eckenrode, Kevin Erb, Martin Fahey and Patrick Power regularly volunteer their services in the Auxiliary office.

Brothers Joseph Lapp and Philip Whitman are testimony to the fact that retirement doesn't have to mean inactivity. We are fortunate that Brother Joe, a biologist by training, is able to use his greening talents to insure that flowers are blooming inside and out all year around. Brother Phil keeps active in the local community by serving as Managing Editor of the monthly Beltsville News and taking art classes at the local community college. When our cooks need a well-deserved break, Brother William Winter fills in ably as chef for the day.

The La Salle Hall community enjoys hosting local Brothers' communities for evening Mass and dinner on Saturdays as well as on special feast days and holidays. We also enjoy occasional visits to our Baltimore and DC communities and taking trips to Ocean Rest, the Brothers' summer home in Ocean City, NJ. In all of these ways a vibrant retirement community cherishes its past, celebrates the present and looks forward to the future.

By Brother Philip Whitman, FSC, La Salle Hall



Br. Anthony Baird



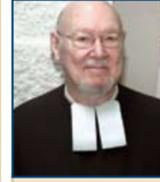
Br. Gregorian



Br. Robert Eckenrode



Br. Eugene Morgan



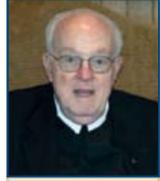
Br. Kevin Erb



Br. Patrick Phillips



Br. Joseph Lapp



Br. Patrick Power



Br. Leo Leary



Br. Philip Whitman



Br. Edward McGuire



Br. William Winter



Br. Thomas Bondra



Br. Martin Fahey



Conor Senecal, a Jesuit Volunteer at San Miguel, coaches runners.

A DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

A HOUSE BECOMES A COMMUNITY

When the Delegates to the Baltimore District Chapter gathered in August, 1988, they had no idea that they were about to be double-teamed by the late Brother Gabriel Cannon, iconic past Principal at Calvert Hall and incumbent Director of La Salle Hall at Ammendale, and yours truly, Director of Finance at the time. We were convinced of the immediate need for a new retirement facility, and were determined to secure their approval.



In retrospect winning approval of the idea of constructing a new facility wasn't that great a challenge. Any Delegate with open eyes and an open mind could see clearly that La Salle Hall was inadequate. It was constructed in the 1920's and served at various times as an entirely appropriate school building and residence for younger people in training to be Brothers. Limited resources limited renovation possibilities so it never was an adequate facility for older men, and became increasingly less so as the years passed. It was definitely not "senior friendly", and presented a considerable hindrance to the provision of adequate care to our independent Senior Brothers.

A greater challenge at that Chapter was the debate about where this facility would be constructed. The area around Ammendale was still somewhat rural at that time. There were those who thought such a facility should be located in a more urban area, possibly near one of our schools. However, after considerable debate, the final resolution of the Chapter approved the construction "on a site at Ammendale." The debate didn't finally conclude until the District Council



and connects to the Metro Station at Greenbelt. The construction of the nearby Inter-County Connector road, and the expansion of the nearby Konterra Town Center will eventually accelerate that urbanization.

Ammendale always was a favored location. The Brothers had over 100 years of association there dating back to the era when Admiral Ammen made his first property donation to us. The Admiral was a great friend of Ulysees S. Grant dating from the time as a boy in Ohio when he saved Grant from drowning. Grant in turn boarded his famous horse, Cincinnati, at Ammendale and often visited while he lived in the White House which was less than twenty miles away. Ammen played a significant role as a member of the Canal Commission in the US approval and construction of the Panama Canal. He donated and sold additional parcels to the Brothers over time. In addition to the historical link, over 300 of our confreres are buried at Ammendale's *De La Salle Cemetery* and adequate medical facilities, including the Greater Laurel Regional Hospital are close by.



Little did we know back in 1988 that the biggest challenges still lay ahead. The unanticipated events which unfolded between 1988 and the groundbreaking might be detailed in one or more chapters of the book I could or might write about my fifteen years as Treasurer.

Finally, we had our groundbreaking on July 18, 1993. The plans which had taken shape in the interim produced a

reaffirmed the Ammendale location in 1991.

Two decades removed from that District Chapter of Prince Georges County is considerably less rural and there are plenty of amenities nearby including a MARC Rail train station in Muirkirk and a DC Metrobus which stops right in front of the house

community residence which has served our Senior Brothers extremely well. The 26,570 square foot facility which opened in October, 1994 contained twenty-two bedrooms with facilities *en suite*. Six of these are totally handicapped equipped with the balance having some aids for the independent elderly Brothers and which are handicapped adaptable. In addition, the facility includes a chapel, community commons, parlors, recreation areas, computer room, library, television room, several offices, elevator, hydrotherapy room and its own kitchen and dining facilities.

The nursing station has expanded in the intervening years to include a nurse's office and brought us the very capable and experienced Robin Shrader, RN who serves as the community's nurse. This great improvement was necessitated as the Brothers aged and La Salle Hall transitioned from serving exclusively Brothers in independent living to accommodating those who needed more of an assisted living environment.



The La Salle Hall facility also includes an additional 5,000 sq. ft. of space for the operations of the District Development Office and the St. La Salle Auxiliary.

As mentioned in the last edition of *Visions*, there is no more room in the facility to meet our expanding needs. Fortunately, we had the foresight to have a thirty bedroom facility approved in the original planning and zoning. Construction on the addition is ready to commence as this issue goes to press. We will have more to say about the expansion in the next installment. One final note. Brother Gabriel Cannon, who was a member of the first "Old La Salle Hall" community in 1925, was among the first to move into the "New La Salle Hall" in 1994. God be praised!

*By Brother John T. Patzwall, FSC,
Assistant Project Director,
District of Eastern North America*

The Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner

Saturday, October 17, 2009
THE CRYSTAL TEA ROOM - WANAMAKER BUILDING
Penn Square, Philadelphia

Honoring our 2009 Brother Jubilarians



Br. Edward Cannon, FSC
70 Years
(Posthumously)



Brother Daniel
Burke, FSC
65 Years



Brother Emery
Mollenhauer, FSC
65 Years



Brother Arthur
Bangs, FSC
60 Years



Brother Colman
Coogan, FSC
60 Years



Brother Kevin
Strong, FSC
60 Years



Brother Miguel
Campos, FSC
50 Years



Brother Joseph
Myers, FSC
50 Years



Brother Talbot
Ramsbottom, FSC
50 Years



Brother Dominic
Smith, FSC
50 Years



Brother Joseph
Willard, FSC
50 Years



La Salle Hall-Ammdale
Beltsville, Maryland

Benefiting the expansion of La Salle Hall, the Brothers' retirement home in Ammendale, Maryland.
Please visit our website at www.cbserviceawards.org

A PARTING THOUGHT:

"After serving for almost half a century as teacher and Board member at La Salle, let me end with gratitude, admiration and affection for the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Those guys know what life is all about."

G. Dennis O'Brien, PhD, on receiving an honorary doctorate at La Salle University's 2009 commencement ceremonies.