



LASALLIAN VISIONS

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ★ DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

FEBRUARY 2016 • NO. 14

LASALLIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAITI



Grade 2 friends catch up before the start of the school day.

Student leaders at the morning prayer assembly prepare to raise the flag and sing the Haitian national anthem.

Since the devastating 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck **Port-Au-Prince Haiti** in the afternoon of January 12, 2010, this island nation, which remains the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, has seen slow but steady reconstruction.

An interesting development has emerged over the years since the earthquake. Reconstruction in Haiti has served as a catalyst for change primarily in the areas of education and health care. A recent Catholic Relief Services report states, "Reconstruction has brought better schools and more prepared teachers, and has opened a window to address the shortage of qualified health care professionals."

The reconstruction of Haiti has been a global effort and one that the Brothers of the Christian Schools, with their long presence in the country, engaged in immediately after the earthquake.

RECONSTRUCTING HAITI: THREE TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

Partnerships: A partnership was formed between the **Brothers of the Christian Schools** and the **Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Castres**. **College Saint Jean Baptiste de La Salle** opened its doors in October 2012 to welcome 80 students. Today the number of students enrolled in pre-K through grade 7 has

grown to 521, a remarkable transformation in three years!

"The growth of the school has been impressive," said **Dr. Mary Wilby**, Assistant Professor and Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Track Coordinator for **La Salle University's School of Nursing & Health Sciences**. "There is now an English teacher educating the 7th graders, and the administration is considering hiring another because of the school's growth."

Adjacent to the school, **The Mother and Child Centre** was dedicated in June of 2014: its mission to give hope to the women of the locality by offering education in the areas of hygiene, nutrition, and pre-natal care. Additionally, craft and gardening activities now provide the women with much needed employment. "Everybody understands the function of schools, but they are less aware of the important role of women in the first stages of children's development," observed Brother Bernard Collignon.

La Salle University plans to offer a nursing practicum at the Center for its students beginning in the spring of 2017. Wilby, who has visited Haiti on three different occasions with **District of Eastern North America (DENA)** staff, along with colleague Frances Kinder plan to return to Haiti in March 2016 with a delegation of faculty and students to assess how La Salle University's School of Nursing & Health Sciences can be of service to the

continued on page 4

A MESSAGE FROM BROTHER DENNIS MALLOY, FSC

Remind me, Lord, that Lent is not about austerity and gloom but about becoming more effective instruments of Your love and mercy

Dear Friends,

Welcome to winter and the season of Lent! The Church invites us in this season to take stock of our relationship with God, with one another, and with the larger communities to which we belong. Maybe, being so close to Valentine's Day, we could think of this as an annual check-up on our love life; our capacity to give and to receive the gift of God's love generously.

We hear in the first reading for Ash Wednesday the Lord's words, "Return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12). Whatever the condition of our hearts—healthy, restless, broken, sinful—God calls us into relationship! Having experienced God's immeasurable love and mercy, we are called likewise to extend it outward to others with compassion, tenderness, and forgiveness, particularly to a brother or sister in need. In this winter edition of *Lasallian Visions*, we are happy to update you on our partnership with the **College of Saint Jean Baptiste de La Salle in Port-au-Prince Haiti**. In addition to the flourishing elementary school, there is now also the **Mother and Child Centre**. Your gift in support of this ministry makes a real difference in the lives of some of the poorest children in our hemisphere.

We feature three exemplary Lasallian educators who have distinguished themselves in service to the Lasallian mission of DENA: **Ms. Beth Lemme-Bixby, Br. Raymond Meagher, and Ms. Elissa Pensa-Cerros**. We note the passing of three Brothers whose lives were a witness and inspiration to generations of students

and colleagues: **Brothers William Marshall, Daniel Burke, and Philip Bergeron**. And, we are pleased to share with you the ongoing Good News of **The Luke Salm Religious Education Workshop** dedicated to sharpening our skills and our zeal for the evangelization and catechesis of our young people.

Finally, please take note of the **Face of the Fund** article below. This fund has been primarily funded by the Brothers. We invite you now to consider partnering with us in making a Lasallian education possible for a young person from challenged financial means. This is truly a transformative gift and one which yields rich dividends for years to come.

Your prayers, friendship, and financial support ensure **our shared mission's** becoming a more effective instrument of God's love and mercy for the young folks entrusted to our care.



Live Jesus in Our Hearts!

Brother Dennis Malloy, FSC
Provincial/Visitor of DENA

De La Salle ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND

THE ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND seeks to ensure a Christian Brothers education is available and accessible to students most in need. Through an initial program of student sponsorship and a growing program of grants to identified schools, Brother Directors of the fund can provide financial support (tuition assistance) for students to attend a Lasallian school. With your support, we are now providing over \$450,000 annually for our students in need. Others are welcome to join the Brothers in this specially dedicated fund which continues to grow each year.

FACE OF THE FUND: MEET GREGORY CABRERA

"Greg is a wonderful young man, and we are glad to have him at **Saint Raphael Academy**. He has come a long way throughout his career here, and he has added so much more to the fabric of this school than we have given him," said Principal **Mr. Dan Richard**.

While at the school in Pawtucket RI, Greg has not only excelled in his studies (achieving Honor Roll and National Spanish Honor Society), but is also a valued team member in baseball and basketball, a volunteer at a daycare, and a part-time worker.

"Greg exhibits outstanding academic and leadership abilities. He is confident, respectful, kind, and has a terrific sense of humor. He understands the importance of service and shares his many gifts and talents with our school community daily," said Science Department Chair **Mr. Michael Santilli**.

However, misfortune struck, and Greg reluctantly left SRA in his sophomore year



for financial reasons. He described it as his "greatest disappointment," and felt strongly that he needed to return, so he contacted the administration. With help from the **St. John Baptist de La Salle Fund**, Greg was able to re-enroll at the Academy.

"Greg has been through some tough times, but he always has the ability to rise from the struggle," said **Ms. Donna Ferguson**, Guidance Director. "He is quite ambitious, with a great desire to succeed."

The faculty has been a strong influence in his life. "They are a support system for me, and have guided me on the right path," said Greg. "Any time I have needed something, I knew I could go to them."

As a result of his education and the encouragement he has received, Greg's aspirations for the future are high. He plans to study international business in college and eventually earn his MBA.



HEY VISIONS READERS!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We would like to know what you have been enjoying about your *Lasallian Visions* newsletter!

What articles are you reading?

What would you like to see more of?

How can we improve?

Be on the lookout for a brief survey in your mailbox or your email (from donahue@fscdena.org) during Lent.

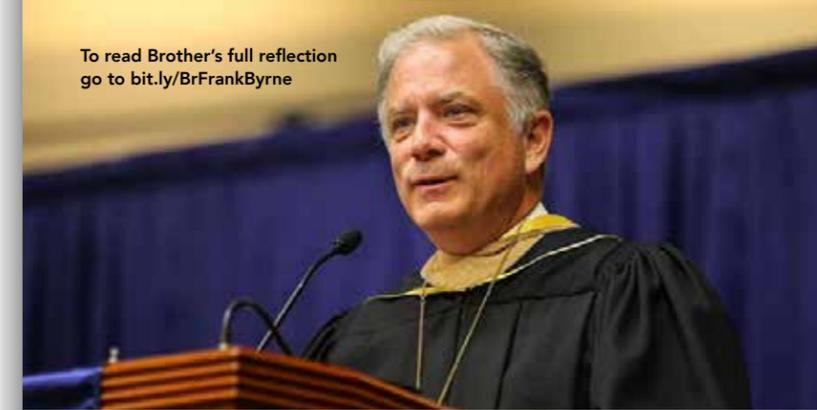
Just keep an eye out for St. La Salle!



Just Try It On

Know someone who may be interested in the Brothers of the Christian Schools?

www.fscDENA.org/vocation



To read Brother's full reflection go to bit.ly/BrFrankByrne

BROTHER SPOTLIGHT: FRANK BYRNE, FSC

I remember going through several job interviews with accounting firms during my senior year at the University of Notre Dame. Although I was focused on getting a job and beginning a career, I was also interested in doing some volunteer work for a year.

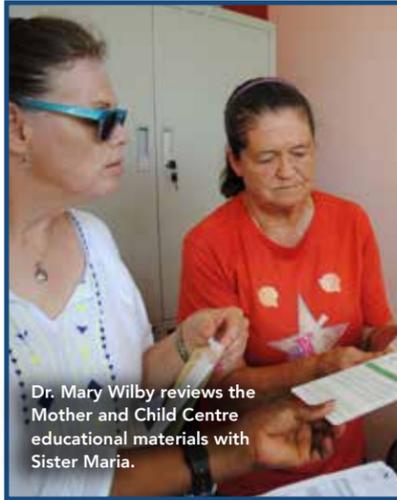
Before accepting a job offer, I contacted the Brothers at **Christian Brothers Academy** and asked if they knew of volunteer opportunities. The Brothers introduced me to **Br. Andrew O'Gara**, who was the Principal of **Saint Raymond High School** in the Bronx. Brother Andrew arranged for me to teach religion and math, coach the cross country and track teams, and live with the Brothers in their community. Being a rookie teacher in a Bronx high school was an experience in itself, but I soon realized that I enjoyed working with young people, and that the life of a Brother, rooted in prayer, service, and community, was very satisfying. At the end of that year, I made a formal application to enter the Brothers.

It's hard to believe that 35 years have passed, and that my first students are now in their fifties! After the Novitiate I spent seven years teaching and coaching at **La Salle Academy**, a school that has served an immigrant population in New York City since 1848. In 2002 I was asked to serve as the Provincial of the New York Province which allowed me to visit each of our schools in the Province as well as our Brothers on the missions in Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Africa, and Palestine. Since the De La Salle Brothers are present in eighty different countries, I also had the opportunity to attend international meetings in Rome and hear about the educational work with young people worldwide.

When my term as Provincial was over in 2009, I was asked to come to CBA and follow Br. Andrew O'Gara as President. For me, this was like coming full circle. I had the opportunity to return to my *alma mater* and succeed the man who gave me my first job with the Brothers. I am now in my sixth year at CBA, and I look forward to going to work each day, especially to teaching my freshmen religion class. After all, teaching first got me interested in religious life.

De La Salle told the early Brothers that, "To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle you can perform." As Brothers, we strive to carry this out today by providing young people with an education that is rooted in the Gospel. I thank God every day for my vocation, and I pray that young people today will take the time to stop and listen to the voice of God in their own lives. It is my hope that they just may hear God calling them to religious life.

Reconstructing Haiti (continued from page 1)



Dr. Mary Wilby reviews the Mother and Child Centre educational materials with Sister Maria.

growing Lasallian school, especially now that the Mother and Child Centre is fully operational. “The women’s health and nutrition center is very busy offering very well organized pre-natal care classes,” said Wilby. “The women are also learning to use the plants they grow in the center’s garden to make natural vitamin supplements, ointments for skin disorders and other natural medicines that are safe for their children. The Sisters are also ministering to Haitians living on the outskirts of Port-Au-Prince in an area known as Cannan, where many refugees from the earthquake still live because they have no permanent home.”

The Role of Lasallian Catholic Education: Catholic schools in Haiti account for 15% of the nation’s schools, making them the country’s largest educational provider and offering the unique opportunity for religious education to the students. “A Lasallian education with our pedagogical focus on educating the whole child,

while engaging the student’s family is an innovative and transformative concept in Haitian education,” said **Ms. Maryann Donohue-Lynch**, Associate Executive Director of Mission & Ministry for the District Office, while reflecting on her November visit to the school. “Furthermore, our Lasallian attentiveness to teacher formation is critical to ensuring educational excellence is provided to the students entrusted to our care.”

The Lasallian Family: During this time of reconstruction and growth, the District of Eastern North America has been actively engaged in supporting the work of these two ministries. Through our annual Advent Haiti Appeal, we have been able to respond to the emerging educational needs of the young people and their families. It is with great hope for the future that the work continues! Through these works we are reminded that the need for this Institute is as great as it was over 300 years ago when the Founder began in France.



Grade 4 students give a quick hello while enjoying recess.

BROTHER LUKE SALM WORKSHOP

The Radical Good News of the Gospel: Evangelizing Youth Today

All Lasallian educators are called to be involved in reaching out to the young men and women entrusted to us and joyfully invite them into a deeper understanding of their faith journey and a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.

For the fifth year, our **Brother Luke Salm Religious Educators’ Workshop** sought to support and enhance the ability of educators from our District’s secondary schools in fulfilling this call. This year’s theme drew its inspiration from the **District’s Mission Assembly Directional Statement on Evangelization and Catechesis:** “*There is an urgency today to ‘set on fire’ the Lasallian Catholic evangelical mission within each of our educational communities to do as Jesus did by joyfully announcing the radical Good News that God loves us all and calls us to cooperate in building God’s Kingdom.*”

Br. Dennis Malloy, FSC, Visitor, invited participants to reflect upon their unique call to bring the students into a closer and deeper relationship with Jesus. “This is what we are uniquely about: to let the young people know that we are always within reach of God’s mercy,” he said. He encouraged those gathered to continue to “bear witness,” offering this quote from our Founder, “*Earnestly ask Jesus Christ to make his spirit come alive in you since he has chosen you to do this work.*”

Another highlight for the workshop was the keynote speaker, **Mr. Frank Mercadante**, executive director of Cultivation Ministries and a leader in Catholic Youth Ministry for over 30 years, who

presented thought provoking sessions on the “Millennial,” “Cusper,” and “Homelander” generations, and their very unique approaches to faith and church.



Lasallians called to “Spread the Good News”

“My religion classroom has always been ‘mission territory,’” said **Deacon William Hynes**, of **Saint Joseph’s Collegiate Institute** in Buffalo NY. “The Founder reminds us of the place of the classroom in the act of ‘salvation,’ but today that ‘mission territory’ has significantly shifted and is offering challenges unlike those of the past. This is a tremendous help in our efforts to evangelize and catechize our youth! I feel renewed!”

San Miguel Success

MIGUEL PEREZ: SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL PROVIDENCE

THEN



Miguel Perez was born in New York, the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, and moved to Providence RI at a young age. His mother, a teacher, was adamant about receiving a good education and applied for him to attend the **San Miguel School**. Compared to public school, Perez said San Miguel’s focus on individual attention and catering to different learning styles set it apart. In addition, the school emphasizes social skills such as giving firm handshakes and maintaining eye contact, but most of all, developing self-confidence. “I think the school does a great job in allowing people to actualize their potential,” he said. “It allows people to really help themselves.”

He noted how special the school’s summer orientation was for him as a child from the inner-city as he entered the 5th grade. It was the first time he experienced camping and fishing. It broadened his horizon past his own environment and the

NOW



borders of the small state. “It set the tone for the next four years,” he said.

For his community service requirements at **Hendricken High School**, he chose to volunteer at San Miguel, including working at Camp Miguel one summer where he earned a Gold Star award for contributing more than 50 hours of service.

Perez majored in psychology at **St. John’s University in Queens**, has worked the past four years in the biotech industry, and will start earning his MBA in the fall at **Boston University**. He is particularly interested in creating a network for San Miguel alumni that could branch out to other schools nationwide. He stated “I would love to hear the San Miguel perspective from our different schools!”

You can help other San Miguel students like Miguel by checking the San Miguel Schools box on the return gift envelope or online at www.fscDENA.org/support.

DISTINGUISHED LASALLIAN EDUCATORS 2015

Each year, **The Brothers of the Christian Schools of the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN)** recognize Lasallian Educators for their outstanding work and dedication to the charism of Saint La Salle. Concluding the Huether Lasallian Conference on November 21, 2015 in Chicago, these three educators from the **District of Eastern North America** were presented the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award for best exemplifying the conference’s theme *Lasallian Educational Community: Hands and Hearts Associated for Mission*.

Ms. Beth A. Lemme-Bixby is now in her 15th year at **Tides Family Services** in Rhode Island. Beginning as a clinician, she has served in a number of positions, recently becoming the Chief Operating Officer for Tides. With a Bachelor’s degree in Human Development & Family Studies and a Master’s in Social Work, Beth has combined her studies, work experience, and Lasallian formation to ensure that this essential Lasallian agency continues to grow and fulfill its mission. Through her work, creativity, and advocacy, many young men and women are now living better lives. The entire community has benefited as a result.

Br. Raymond Meagher, FSC, is marking his 50th year as a Christian Brother. His ministry began in 1966 by serving in elementary and secondary schools, youth and family services, and now in higher education at **Manhattan College** since 2002.

His roles have included teacher, administrator, counselor, social worker, child care worker, and assistant professor. He is an extraordinarily effective teacher, a beloved mentor, and a wonderful colleague. As a true role model of Lasallian values in action, he daily inspires a new generation of teachers in the ways of Lasallian pedagogy and community.

Ms. Elissa Pensa-Cerros is now in her 16th year at **La Salle Academy-Providence**. She serves her community as a theater, film, and production teacher; theater technical director; director of the outreach program *Arts Alive!*, and member of the school’s Lasallian Ministry Team. Additionally, Elissa has been active in the **Rhode Island Lasallian Associative Group (RILAG)**; a driving force in Young Lasallians/VEGA at all levels; a leader of service immersion trips; and a frequent Lasallian formation presenter. In the words of **Superior General Br. Robert Schieler**, “Elissa is one of those Lasallians who sees, understands, and lives the Lasallian mission beyond her local ministry.”



District leadership with DENA’s Distinguished Lasallian Educators (left to right) Mr. Alan Weyland, Br. Edward Phelan, FSC, Ms. Beth Lemme-Bixby, Ms. Elissa Pensa-Cerros, Br. Raymond Meagher, FSC, Ms. Maryann Donohue-Lynch, & Br. Charles Kitson, FSC



Pictured (Left to Right): Br. Edmond Precourt, Exec. Dir. of CBC; George Cappiello, Familiares Past Chair; Honorees James McAuliffe, Br. Kevin Junk and Kathleen Boniello; Br. Dennis Malloy, Visitor/Provincial; George Bruns, Familiares President

FAMILIARES GALA RAISES FUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CENTER

On Sunday, December 6th, an enthusiastic audience joined the **Familiares** for their 53rd Annual Christmas Gala. The day began with the celebration of Mass, followed by an Awards Luncheon at the beautiful **Crest Hollow Country Club** on Long Island NY. At the event, winners of the Familiares Raffle with a grand prize of \$10,000 were also drawn. Proceeds from the day will support the **Christian Brothers Center** in Narragansett RI. The center is home for retired Brothers, and is also a center for events and spiritual renewal.

The Familiares is an organization of lay persons who are intimate associates (“familiares”) of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Its members assist the Brothers in their apostolic labors for the education of youth by their encouraging counsel and generous financial assistance. The Familiares are interested in the Brothers and their educational mission as a whole rather than a particular project that may have appeal for them at the moment.

Three annual awards were presented to outstanding examples of the Christian Brothers apostolate in action.

The most longstanding of these awards has been given annually since 1965 to a gentleman who has displayed ongoing commitment and service to a ministry or ministries of the Christian Brothers and a commitment to those ideals we hold most dear. **The 2015 Familiares Award** was presented to **Mr. James E. McAuliffe**.

The next award is presented to someone (usually a Brother) whose life of dedication to education and development of the young is an example that enriches the lives of all by whom it is witnessed. **The 2015 George A. Centrella, AFSC Award** was presented to **Brother Kevin Junk, FSC**.

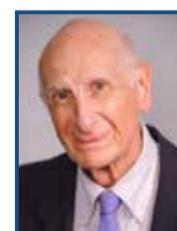
The third award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated enduring commitment to Lasallian education, either through employment, volunteerism, or philanthropy. **The 2015 Anne E. O'Donnell, AFSC Award** was presented to **Ms. Kathleen Boniello**.

Br. Dennis Malloy, FSC, Visitor/Provincial for the District of Eastern North America, was present to award the honors.

THE GIFT OF YEARS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Brain researchers recently claimed their data indicates two new factors that significantly delay aging—exercise and sociability. Nowhere is this more evident than among the elder Christian Brothers in our communities.

Three of the Brothers come to mind immediately as living proof of these new findings. All are above 85 years of age and are still very active and involved in the lives of students and coworkers. Body tone for each of these men is not the product of hours in a gym but rather of their healthy daily routine of walking to school and roaming the halls in search of young people in need of counsel, tutoring or just affirmation.



Br. Peter Bonventre serves at **Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School** in Brooklyn NY. **Ms. Cecilia Gottsegen**, Assistant Principal at Loughlin says: “Br. Peter still coordinates all college scholarship and college recruitment visits for our students. More importantly, no one is a more well informed and entertaining conversationalist than Br. Peter. He is the heart and soul of Loughlin. We love him.”



Br. Malcolm O'Sullivan is a stalwart at **Calvert Hall College High School** in Towson MD. **Mr. Zac Ufnar** in Campus Ministry at Calvert Hall calls Br. Malcolm “one of the most energetic and youthful faculty members. Whatever you do, don't assume Br. Malcolm is slowing down—physically or mentally! Whether assisting a student with a written assignment or engaging him in Bible study, Br. Malcolm brings forth an inviting presence that challenges you to think deeper!”



Br. James Kelly, after his recent retirement as President of **St. Peters Boys High School** in Staten Island, now serves at **Christian Brothers Academy** in Lincroft NJ. “Br. James is present at all events,” says **Br. Frank Byrne**, President at CBA, “snapping pictures and passing them out to students, parents, and faculty. He helps out each day in the library making sure the noise level is kept to a minimum. Even when he has to ask a student to leave, he does it with a smile.”

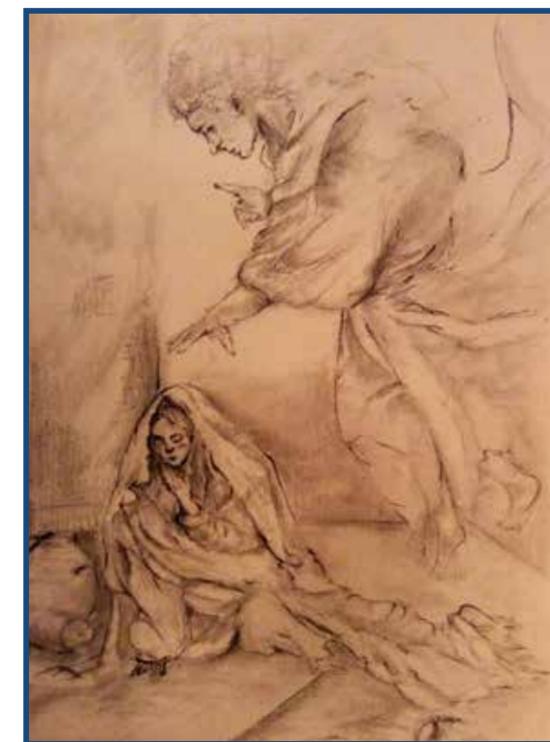
The gift of years is what these icons offer us each day. In their presence we feel God is not far away. Their contribution is beyond the tutoring or counseling; they give themselves. However, if asked, Brothers Mal, Peter, and James will tell you that whatever they have to offer is due to all the thousands of people that have supported them in the religious life and in their mission for years.

WINNER OF THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST



Zola Bzdek is a sophomore at **Saint John's College High School** in Washington DC, and is currently taking Drawing Portfolio Preparation. She is a lifelong resident of the District of Columbia. Her drawing of the Angel Gabriel coming to Mary was inspired by many different sources that she used to influence her own artwork. In addition to her love of art, Zola has been playing piano for seven years; she plays on the volleyball team and runs outdoor track. She volunteers at the National Museum of Natural History. She also enjoys skiing during the winter and especially loves the snow. **Zola's artwork was deemed the top pick from over 65 entries, best depicting the scene from the Gospel of Luke 1:26-31, 38:**

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.



TRANSITIONS REMEMBERING THE BROTHERS WE HAVE LOST

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

Br. William Marshall, FSC 1925–2015



Born William Charles Marshall on August 16, 1925 in Clairton PA, “Bill” entered the **Barrytown NY Novitiate**. He received the religious habit and name of Brother Augustine Jerome in 1953. He pronounced his perpetual vows six years later. Beginning his ministry as a teacher at New York City's **Saint Augustine School** in 1957, William would go on to an impressive career spanning nearly 50 years, the latter half of which was spent as a prefect at the **La Salle School** in Albany and supervisor at **Coup Camp** outside of town until his retirement at the age of 81.

Br. Edward Phelan, FSC, said that Br. William was an excellent storyteller and easily able to capture the attention of others, even lifting their spirits with his eyes. “Bill had a gaze or a look that connected with people,” said Br. Edward. “I believe it was his way of blessing us and making us feel worthwhile, valued, and noticed.” Br. Edward noted Br. William's humility, reflected in his note to his family and friends. Quoting from *The Book of Wisdom*, he wrote, “Like everyone else, I too am mortal.”

Br. Daniel Burke, FSC 1926–2015



Daniel William Burke was born in Pittsburgh PA on October 25, 1926. He entered the Juniorate in 1941, and Novitiate in 1944 where he received the religious habit and name of Brother Fidelian of Mary. He later pronounced his Perpetual Vows in 1951. He began his teaching career at **De La Salle College** in Washington DC, Philadelphia's **West Catholic Boys High School**, and the **Ammendale Juniorate** before settling into a 53 year stay at **La Salle College** (now University) in Philadelphia, serving as instructor, professor, academic vice-president, and eventually president. Under his leadership, La Salle College developed an Honors Program and created a museum for which he later acted as gallery director until his retirement in 2010.

Both a scholar of literary criticism and an avid poet, Br. Daniel's gentle demeanor complemented his artistic soul, but belied an inner strength. “Perhaps better than anyone, Dan Burke understood how entering into story—in poetry, fiction, art, and Gospel—can transform a person,” recalled **Br. Michael McGinniss, FSC**, during Dan's eulogy. “Through things of beauty and through the beauty of his own example, Dan opened for us new perspectives on life that would lead into new and transformed life.”

Br. Philip Bergeron, FSC 1928–2015



Philip John Bergeron was born on March 22, 1928 and knew early on he wanted to be a Christian Brother. He entered the **Barrytown NY Novitiate** in June of 1945 after his graduation from **La Salle Academy-Providence** in Rhode Island, and received the religious habit and name of Brother Bertin Philip. He pronounced his Perpetual Vows in Troy NY in 1953. With a Masters in English, he taught in schools throughout New York City including: **Incarnation School, Holy Name School, La Salle Academy NY**, and **Bishop Loughlin Memorial HS** before coming full circle back to his alma mater in Providence.

Br. Michael McKenry, FSC, who lived with him in community for 14 years, described Phil, as an educator dedicated to implementing new and improved approaches, whether it was his teaching, videography, or coaching of the **La Salle Military Academy's** award-winning Speech & Debate team. “He lived his commitment to the Brothers of the Christian schools with dedication and creativity,” said Br. Michael, “always exploring ways of being of service to other quietly and without fanfare.”

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the winter edition of *Lasallian Visions*. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas. For those of you who have given us your e-mail addresses, I hope that you enjoyed the weekly Advent prayer reflections from the Christian Brothers, and maybe had the chance to click the link to the full personal Advent retreat on our website.

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of meeting some of you for various reasons, either individually or in groups. Two of these amazing groups that have existed for years are the **Familiars** and **Signum Fidei**.

Familiars are a group of alumni and friends who formed more than 50 years ago to give professional counsel and financial support to the Brothers. I met them in December at their 53rd Annual Christmas Gala fundraiser. Signum Fidei are friends who support the Brothers in many ways, including their prayers for our sick and elderly. They were also the impetus behind saving our historic **Barrytown stained glass windows** depicting the life of St. John Baptist de La Salle that will now have a new home in the **Chapel of De La Salle and His Brothers** at **Manhattan College**.

I personally thank each and every one of you reading this newsletter for your support of the Brothers—be it spiritual, emotional or financial.

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick J. Donahue

Director of Development



Window from former Brothers' novitiate, Barrytown, NY

**HONORING OUR PAST. SERVING TODAY.
BUILDING TOMORROW**

Establish your enduring legacy in support of our Lasallian mission. We invite you to join us as we continue to serve children, families, and our Brothers here in the United States and around the world.

**LASALLIAN LEGACY
SOCIETY**

For more information or membership please contact:
Patrick Donahue, *Director of Development, DENA*
(732) 380-7926 x121 • donahue@fscdena.org

**Please remember the Brothers in
your will or other estate plans.**

**DEVELOPMENT
TEAM**

THE DISTRICT OF
EASTERN NORTH AMERICA



**MR. PATRICK
DONAHUE**

District Director



**BR. EDMOND
PRECOURT, FSC**

Narragansett RI



**BR. WILLIAM
MARTIN, FSC**

Lincroft NJ



**BR. MARTIN
FAHEY, FSC**

Ammendale MD