

L A S A L L I A N

Brothers of the Christian Schools
District of Eastern North America

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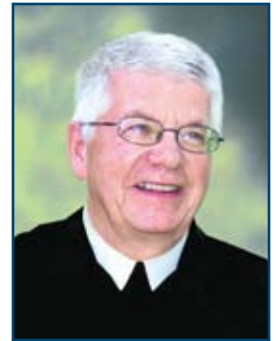
WINTER 2010 P.O. Box 1710 Beltsville, MD 20704-1710 (301) 210-7444 www.fscdena.org VOL. 21 No. 2

NEW DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA FORMED

On September 9th, Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, formally approved the formation of the District of Eastern North America. The announcement was the culmination of five years of study and planning among the former Districts of Baltimore, Long Island-New England, New York and Toronto as they laid the groundwork for a realignment involving their communities and educational ministries in the region of Eastern North America. Brother Alvaro appointed Brother Dennis Malloy the District's first Provincial leader. Listed below are the members of the leadership team serving with Brother Dennis.



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Br. Dennis Lee
Assistant Provincial



Br. Jerome Sullivan
Assistant Provincial



Br. Thomas Scanlan
Assistant Provincial



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Br. Gerard Conforti
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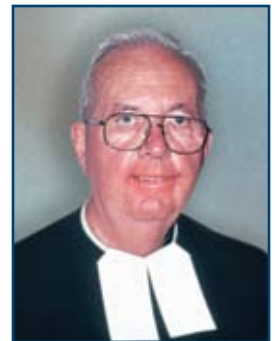
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Mr. Alan Weyland
Executive Director Mission & Ministry



Br. Ernest Miller
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Photos courtesy of: Mr. Philip DeRita, Br. Joseph Grabenstein, Herff-Jones Photographers, Br. William Martin, Mrs. Celine Quinio, Br. James Rieck.

The Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner



1. Bishop Joseph McFadden of Philadelphia presided over the annual blessing of the graves of the Brothers buried in Ammendale. The blessing was followed by a Mass remembering the Brothers and all those commended to the prayers of the Brothers in the November All Souls Remembrance.



2. During a visit to Philadelphia in November, Br. Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, Superior General (second from right), and Br. Jacques d'Huiteau, General Councilor (third from right), engaged in a dialogue with members of the La Salle University Board of Trustees. Br. Michael McGinniss, President, Ms. Megan Kane, Dr. John Daly and William Matthews, Esq. were among those present.

3. At a national conference in Cincinnati, Distinguished Lasallian Educator Awards were conferred upon Br. Philip Rofrano (Martin dePorres Schools), Ms. Irene Cronin (La Salle School) and Br. Colman Coogan (Central Catholic HS). With the recipients are Br. Dennis Malloy and Mr. Alan Weyland, Executive Director for Mission & Ministry.



4. Football moderator, Br. David Trichtinger, shares in the celebration of La Salle High's Pennsylvania State Championship. In just the second year of Philadelphia Catholic League participation in PIAA competition, La Salle became the first city team to win a football title.

5. In December, The Grace Notes singers from St. John's College, DC, brought an abundance of Christmas melodies and spirit to the retired Brothers' community in Ammendale. Afterward, the Brothers enjoyed hosting the talented students at lunch.

Students of the San Miguel School in Washington, DC welcomed guests to an Open House at their new location, a three story former office building, purchased and renovated with the help of St. John's College and generous benefactors.

Right: St. John's grad, William Nolte and his wife, Joan, hear about the Computer Lab.

Far Right: San Miguel students pose in the school lobby with Gail and Lawrence Callahan.



DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

SCHOOLS AND MINISTRIES CONDUCTED BY OR AFFILIATED WITH THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS



BROTHERS OF THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY SERVE IN THE FOLLOWING USA-FSC MINISTRIES.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE
Washington, DC

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY
Memphis, TN

LA SALLE-VIETNAM HOUSE
San Jose, CA

LEWIS UNIVERSITY
Romeoville, IL

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
Winona, MN

SANGRE DE CRISTO CENTER
Sante Fe, NM

BROTHERS OF THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY SERVE IN THE FOLLOWING REGIONS AND COUNTRIES.

CENTRAL AMERICA
Managua, Nicaragua

EUROPE
Rome, Italy

MIDDLE EAST
Bethlehem, Palestine

SOUTHEAST ASIA
Manila, Philippines

EAST AFRICA
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Nairobi, Kenya

Nyeri, Kenya

Nakuru, Kenya

Marsabit, Kenya

Ondo, Nigeria

Makurdi, Nigeria



Brother Joseph Schmidt: From Santa Fe to Nairobi

There are many of us who know Brother Joseph Schmidt personally or who have benefited from participating in his programs over the years. A snippet from the title of his latest book – *All is Grace* – aptly describes a typical encounter with him. He takes a personal interest in those he meets. His acute listening skills, his thought provoking ques-

tions, his down to earth wisdom together with his disarming presence make him a much sought-after lecturer, spiritual guide, counselor, retreat director and confidant. His good sense of humor and light grasp on life are constant companions to his presence and work with others.

From his earliest years as Brother Fidelis of Mary to his silver years, Joe has been a Brother for others. His teaching career began in the mid-fifties in the first years of South Hills Catholic (Pittsburgh) followed by assignments at Calvert Hall (Baltimore) and West Catholic (Philadelphia), where he also served as Principal. The road diverged in the seventies when Brother Joe became involved in the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization in Philadelphia. No less a teacher, his work took him away from the classroom. He developed the art of enabling the ongoing human and spiritual development of youth and then later with adults at our Sangre de Cristo Center in New Mexico and the original Christian Brothers Spiritual Center in Maryland. For nearly a decade Brother Joe was also the Formation Director for the Brothers in the U.S. For the past twenty years he has served yet again at the international renewal center near Santa Fe. This sacred space in the mountains enabled him to touch the hearts of hundreds of priests

and religious. From this base he was also able to branch out, conducting retreats and workshops nationally and internationally.

Brother Joseph has also authored a number of publications. In his first book, *Praying Our Experiences*, he encourages us to honestly reflect on and journal about the ordinary experiences of our lives in the presence of our God. Why? In order to grow in the self-knowledge and freedom that enables us to appreciate ourselves as we are. Joe has published several articles and two books on the love of his life, Thérèse of Lisieux: *Praying with St. Thérèse* and *All Is Grace: A Reflection on the Life and Spirituality of Thérèse of Lisieux*. He believes that Thérèse is a “Word of God” for contemporary people and his writings about her spirituality are an invitation to open our lives to God’s pervasive love and mercy. In his outreach to others, Joe is truly motivated by his love, respect and devotion to Thérèse. He strives to keep alive a new image of holiness that she set in motion, a shift from an often self-seeking grasping for “perfection” to a Gospel-centered compassion for those we meet each day. He is a master guide in inviting us to rekindle our desire for holiness – for God – by deepening our self-understanding.

When others his age may be winding down, Joe, like the ever-ready battery, keeps on going and going... Now, he is exploring new ways of touching hearts in Nairobi, Kenya where he is living with our young African Brothers at De La Salle Scholasticate and serving as a resource for the Lwanga District in East Africa. What better gift can we give to the work of the Brothers in Africa than to share our own Brother Joseph Schmidt?! What better gift can we give him than our hearty God-speed and prayers during his transitioning?!

*By Br. Jules Knight, FSC,
Christian Brothers Spiritual Center, Philadelphia*

La Salle’s Raymond Ricci Affiliated With The Christian Brothers

Lasallians from the Philadelphia area, family, and friends gathered on the campus of La Salle University on November 23rd to celebrate the Presentation of Letters of Affiliation to Raymond Ricci, a devoted educator at La Salle for over four decades. Having stepped down as Vice President for Enrollment Services in 2008, he continues to contribute to the life of the University in his role as Assistant to the President for Lasallian Mission.

Gathered for Evening Vespers in the University’s De La Salle Chapel in the presence of Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, Superior General, and Brother Dennis Malloy, Provincial, the ceremony reflected Ray’s life: his extensive involvement in Christian education and his long relationship with the University, going back to his days as a student in the 1960s to his more recent role as the father and husband of other Explorers. A passage from Matthew’s Gospel, read by his wife, Kathy, set the theme for the day’s gathering: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Complementing Matthew’s vision in his presentation of Mr. Ricci, Brother Dennis described Ray’s 42 year career at La

Salle University as teacher, Assistant Dean of the Evening Division, Registrar, Director of Planning, and Vice President for Enrollment Services. Brother then went on to speak of Ray’s service on behalf of the Baltimore District, especially through his membership on the District Mission Council and its Mission & Ministry Committee.

In his own remarks Ray reminded the assembly that Matthew calls us to serve others and to be responsible for each other. Such works, he asserted, are best performed within a community. For him there is no better example of such a communal effort than that of the Christian Brothers and their Lasallian partners.

A member of the University’s first cohort to participate in the Lasallian Leadership Institute, Ray has brought a special zeal to Lasallian endeavors on and off campus, as a Trustee of La Salle Academy in North Philadelphia, as one of the organizers of the Philadelphia Area Lasallian Ministries (PALM), and, most recently, as a convener of the Lasallian Symposia, which provides university faculty and staff an opportunity to read, reflect on, and discuss the life and writings of John Baptist de La Salle.

As Brother Thomas McPhillips, Profes-



Br. Robert Schieler, Ray and Kathleen Ricci, Br. Alvaro, and Br. Michael McGinniss

sor of Biology and Director of the Roncalli community, so aptly observed: “In the difficult years, Ray attended to the needs of the University while sustaining the mission of serving the economically disadvantaged. While pro-active, Ray is never shrill; rather he persuades by his professional competence and leadership, his kindness, and his respect for his peers and, even more fittingly for the nominee, for those in need. The university’s selection of Ray for the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award in 2005 now seems like a fitting prelude to his being made an affiliated brother.”

*By Br. John J. McGoldrick, FSC, PhD,
Assistant Provost, La Salle University*

The Christian Brothers' Service Awards Dinner

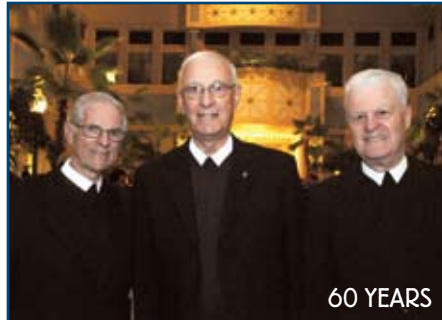
JUBILARIANS HONORED

Eleven Christian Brothers were honored for their years of service to Catholic education at a dinner held on October 17th at Philadelphia's Crystal Tea Room in center city Philadelphia. In addition to recognizing our Jubilarians, including a posthumous remembrance of Br. Edward Cannon, a special presentation was also made to Mary Anne Freitag, honoring her late husband, Bernie, who was instrumental in establishing and organizing this annual affair in recent years. Proceeds from the dinner contributed \$81,500 toward the expansion of La Salle Hall, the Brothers retirement home in Ammdendale, Maryland. In a video viewed by the dinner audience, Br. Patrick Power, 97, and Br. Patrick Phillips, 92, thanked donors for their generous support.



65 YEARS

Br. Daniel Burke, Br. Emery Mollenhauer



60 YEARS

Br. Colman Coogan, Br. Kevin Strong,
Br. Arthur Bangs



50 YEARS

Br. Joseph Willard, Br. Miguel Campos,
Br. Joseph Myers, Br. Dominic Smith

We are extremely grateful to all those who supported us by their attendance at our 4th Annual Service Awards Dinner.

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