



LASALLIAN NOTES

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ★ DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

SPRING 2025 • VOL. 27

THE SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND

A Legacy to Ensure That Lasallian Education is Accessible to All

The Saint John Baptist de La Salle Fund (SJBDFS Fund) provides tuition support for students throughout our District who are experiencing the most dire need. This support is becoming an even more significant piece of our effort to ensure that a first-rate Lasallian education can be within the reach of those who desire it, regardless of their economic situation. Currently, the fund is providing just over \$1 million annually in tuition assistance to hundreds of students from the most economically disadvantaged areas and situations. Our District leadership would like to see that figure continue to increase.

Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC, Provincial/Visitor, stated “We Brothers realize that with fewer of us in the classroom today, we need to continue efforts to ensure the continuity of St. La Salle’s vision for the generations to come. Along with our Vocations efforts, and continuing to train our teachers and administrators in the ways of the Founder, The Saint John Baptist de La Salle Fund helps to solidify our mission of providing access to those most in need.”

In the days of our Founder, there was no classroom educational structure as we know today. Education was for the wealthy, and somewhat for the children of the merchant class. St. John Baptist de La Salle was a Catholic priest who had many other duties and responsibilities in the hierarchy of the Church. However, upon helping his friend, Adrien Nyel, start a school for poor children, he began to formulate his understanding of education. He prayerfully concluded that providing a human and Christian education

was the only way to truly raise these children out of poverty, and make a lasting, positive change in their lives.

Schools today are continually challenged to balance tuition costs, while staying true to the Lasallian charism. While our ministries do everything they can to keep a quality Lasallian Catholic education in reach for the families they serve, it has become increasingly necessary to provide additional funds for tuition assistance. This is especially important to those schools that serve urban areas and populations most in need of financial support, and could face difficulty meeting the economic burdens of ensuring that deserving students are able to receive a Lasallian education. This is when the St. John Baptist de La Salle Fund is most urgently necessary.

(continued on page 7)



Recipients of the SJBDFS Fund become part of our amazing Lasallian family.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VISITOR

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron of All Teachers



Dear Friends,

Before reading further, I ask you to pause for just a moment and recall your **favorite teacher**. Bring that person to your mind and recall what was it that made him or her so memorable and impactful?

+++

This year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary when on May 15, 1950 Pope Pius XII named *Saint John Baptist de La Salle* the **Patron Saint of All Teachers**. In doing so, the Church acknowledged not only a remarkable founder but also a timeless truth: **teachers change lives**.

De La Salle believed that education was more than instruction—it was a path to human dignity. He was one of the first to organize schools that were free, accessible to the poor, and centered on the belief that every child is capable of learning and growing. He trained a community of educators, established a network of diverse schools, and set in motion a mission that now spans the globe.

As we mark this anniversary, we honor not only Saint La Salle, but all the teachers who have followed in his footsteps.

- **Teachers of the past** who lit the spark in our own lives—those we still remember with gratitude and affection.

- **Teachers of the present** who walk alongside today's students, especially those facing the greatest challenges, and show them their potential.
- **Teachers of the future**, many of whom are sitting in our classrooms today, already inspired by the power of education to transform lives.

In our Lasallian schools, the mission is alive in every lesson taught, every student encouraged, and every dream made possible. But some students cannot access this gift without our help.

The **Saint John Baptist de La Salle Fund** provides scholarships to students from families with limited financial resources. Your past generosity has made a real difference—and today, as we celebrate this powerful Lasallian anniversary, we invite you to renew that commitment.

Let's keep the legacy of Saint La Salle alive—not just in history books or stained-glass windows, but in classrooms full of promise.

Because teachers shape the world. And with your help, they always will.

Live Jesus in our hearts – Forever!

Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC

Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC
Provincial/Visitor

De La Salle
ST. JOHN BAPTIST
DE LA SALLE
FUND

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

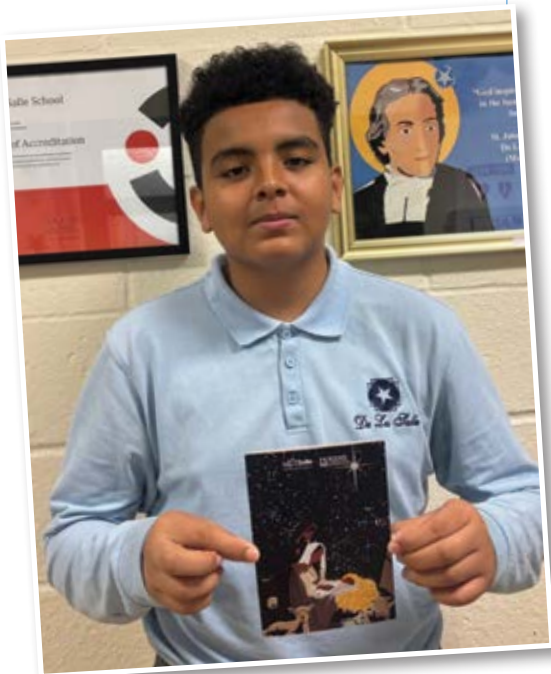
FACE OF THE FUND: MATTHEW MORA

by Mrs. Roxanna DePeña-Elder, Executive Director, The De La Salle School – Freeport NY

With graduation just a few months away, Matthew Mora, an 8th grader at The De La Salle School in Freeport NY (TDLSS), is one of the many students who have had incredible transformations during their time at the school. Matthew was born to immigrant parents who came to the United States with the dream of a better future for themselves and for their children. Since Matthew's father attended a Lasallian school in Ecuador, his parents knew what to expect from a Lasallian school—respect, responsibility, leadership, and service—and wanted that same kind of education for Matthew. When TDLSS was recommended to Matthew's mother she quickly enrolled him into 5th grade. Support from the Saint John Baptist de La Salle Fund helps to allow the school to maintain their non-tuition-driven approach for all of their students.

Describing his 5th grade self, Matthew admitted, "I was a lot to deal with." Having spent the previous year and a half taking his school classes online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the adjustment to in-person classes at this new, more disciplined school was challenging. However, Matthew soon realized that he needed to change. As he grew into the De La Salle School family, and with high school right around the corner, people were looking to him to be a role model.

Now, when asked to describe himself, Matthew replied, "I am calmer, smarter, and more respectful. And, my grades have improved, going from being a mid-80's student to now being a mid-90's student." Matthew's mother said that his transformation has been incredible and is evident in his overall maturity. His academic and behavioral improvements landed him a seat at his dream school next year—Chaminade High School, a prestigious, all-boys Catholic high school on Long Island. Matthew says that after high school, he dreams of having a good and successful life, where he can take care of himself and his family.



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

SAINT PETER'S BOYS HIGH SCHOOL – STATEN ISLAND NY

by Mr. Jack Muraca, Director of Alumni/Advancement

The official seal of the De La Salle Christian Brothers is more than three hundred years old. The motto on the crest, *Signum Fidei*, translated means “Sign of Faith,” and it has also been at the center of our school crest at Saint Peter’s Boys High School since our inception in 1917. During the recent years of pandemic, school closings, etc., we needed to lean on that motto more than usual. It seems that our dedication has now begun to shine through at our school in many ways.

This year, the alumni & school community had a sense of excitement as we were able to hold our second St. Peter’s Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The five alumni recipients have dedicated themselves to the betterment of our school in many ways. The prime example is the President of our school, John Fodera ’62, who is celebrating his fifty-fifth year of service at St. Peter’s. The other inductees were Dr. Harold Reilly ’50, lifelong Staten Island family practitioner, Mr. Harry Doherty ’59, former CEO of SI Bank & Trust (posthumously), Mr. Frank Siller ’71, Chairman/CEO of Tunnel to Towers Foundation, and John Astrab ’76, former President, CEO and founding member of Mission Search, a healthcare staffing company. We also inducted five “Honorary Alumni” for their lifelong commitment to the students of St. Peter’s Boys High School: Msgr. James Doherty, former pastor of St. Peter’s Church (posthumously), Brother Kevin McDonnell, long-time teacher and track coach (posthumously), basketball coach Charlie Driscoll, Eamon Shields of Daggart Construction, as well as the remaining fourteen Catholic grammar schools on Staten Island, for continuing to support Catholic education in our community.

As St. Peter’s Boys H.S. continues to navigate the new landscape with fewer Catholic grammar schools to provide the foundation of our enrollment, in the last two years we have welcomed two of our largest incoming freshmen classes in the past decade. This is in great part due the extensive community outreach by the St.



Peter’s administration.

These new students will be able to benefit from the latest upgrades to our facilities. We have transformed our former library space into a dedicated Student Center for club meetings, tutoring, group and individual study, and guest speakers. This was made possible through many generous gifts from our alumni. The space is open for students to use before school, during their lunch period, and after school for tutoring programs. A separate portion of the room is set up like a classroom. It is equipped with a Smart Board that can be used for tutoring, small classes, and college visits. Students can also use the space for Educere, a program that offers more than five thousand virtual courses for college credit. As a result of this program, approximately half of the 2025 Senior class will graduate with college credits.

We foresee a bright future as St. Peter’s Boys High School continues with Faith and Zeal to follow St. John the Baptist De La Salle’s educational principles!



Mr. John Fodera, President of Saint Peter’s Boys High School (center), is presented his award by Mr. Michael Cosentino, Principal, and Mr. John Walsh, Assistant Principal.



Students involved with campus ministry pose around the chapel altar.

Lasallian Heritage Society

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

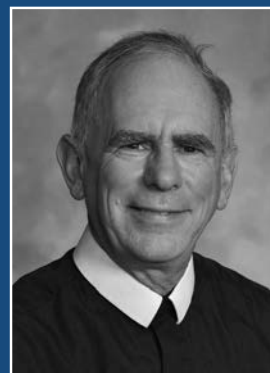
If you have remembered the Brothers, but do not see your name here, or if you have questions about enrolling in the Lasallian Heritage Society, please contact Patrick Donahue in our District office at (732) 380-7926, or at donahue@fscdena.org.

Mrs. Barbara A. Adamcik
Mr. John V. Albertella
Mr. William R. Baillie
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bergen
Mr. James A. Berkey
Ms. Marietta Bilardi
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Boyd, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Boyle
Mr. Paul T. Braceland
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Breijo
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Mr. Mark Zirnheld

BROTHER SPOTLIGHT

Joseph Wilkowski, FSC



As I celebrate my 50th anniversary of Investiture, I reflect on all the good things the Lord has done for me. Through my life, there have been gifts that have directed me to go down the paths I have taken.

God began guiding my journey with my adoption by my loving, religious family. Grammar school with the nuns and high school with the Brothers at De La Salle Collegiate in Warren MI (DLS), planted the seed of a vocation. Although I was in the fledgling College Contact Program, it was not until a chance encounter on the Notre Dame campus with two Brothers from DLS, Tony Flynn and Gabe Fagan, that God's call became clearer. I always wanted to teach, to give back what I had been given by God; the Brothers provided the fraternal setting—not that it was an easy path. My first years of teaching were highly unsuccessful. My career was rescued by Br. Brice Patrick, my principal, who said I just needed some confidence.

The years passed in a blur. I have enjoyed working with students on the college level at Manhattan College and Bethlehem University. I have relished working with high school students, notably at St. Joe's in Buffalo NY (SJCI), and DLS in Warren. I have had the opportunity to teach college level classes to high school students, and remedial classes to college students. God also led me into administration, and gave me the strength to lead La Salle Academy in downtown Manhattan during the 9/11 crisis. Of course, the road has had much fun in it: coaching baseball, basketball, lacrosse, golf, and fencing. Most notably, it gave me great joy to start the SJCI robotics team.

So here I am, "retired" in Homestead Florida, where I am Director of Administration, gardener, tutor, CFO, chief cook, and caretaker of a ten-acre avocado farm at our mission school, La Salle Educational Center.

Where will God lead me next?

Common Questions About Special Gifts

by Patrick J. Donahue – District Director of Advancement

I keep my stock for a rainy day. Why would I use it for a charitable gift?

It is quite common for a donor, even a business-savvy one, to make a generous gift by writing a check, without considering whether a stock gift would be more beneficial for his or her tax purposes. If you have held stock for more than a year, and it has appreciated in value, it might be worth your while to ask your financial advisor if donating stock directly to charity rather than making a cash gift is right for you. He/she can also tell you which of your stocks would be the best to use for this purpose.

Your favorite charity (hopefully that is the Christian Brothers) will receive the full value of your stock gift, just as if you had donated cash. However, you will pay no tax on the capital gains, and if you itemize, you can take a write-off for the full current value of the gift. In fact, you could

increase your stock gift by about 20% and actually have about the same out-of-pocket cost to yourself because of these savings. That means you can be of even more help to your cause.

If you love this stock and think it will continue to grow, you can re-purchase enough of the same stock to equal the value of your gift. Now your cost-basis will be at today's value, and if you ever need to sell, you will pay less capital gains tax.



These articles are not meant to be legal advice, but strictly informational. Consult your own advisors about your personal circumstances. If you have questions or would like to discuss any of these ideas further, please feel free to contact me, Patrick Donahue, at (732) 380-7926, ext. 112, or at donahue@fscdena.org.



Clockwise from top left: De La Salle Hall residents show off their new aquarium. Brothers attend the launch of Br. Robert Schieler's new book, *Charism Ever New*. Brs. Robert Kinsler, Javier Castro, and Edward Hofmann enjoy the LSU Charter Dinner. Brs. Thomas Dunn and Timothy Froehlich take a moment from their conversation to smile for the camera.

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Ed.D., Launches New Book

In February, we celebrated the launch of the new book, *A Charism Ever New* by Br. Robert Schieler, FSC, Ed.D., former Superior General. The launch took place on the campus of La Salle University. This book offers valuable insights into the Institute's evolving mission of The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, reflecting on nearly thirty years of Lasallian history—through five General Chapters. The book can be purchased on Amazon.com.



Br. Robert Schieler, FSC, author, is interviewed by Ms. Alisa Macksey, La Salle University V.P. for Mission, Diversity and Inclusion.

EMBRACING THE VOCATION TO TEACH: Updates from The Adrien Nyel Project

This winter, Lasallian educators gathered at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville MD, for the Adrien Nyel Retreat. Designed for new teachers, the retreat provided an opportunity to reflect on their vocation, deepen their commitment to Lasallian education and evangelization, and foster a spirit of association.

In addition to connecting with teachers from our other Lasallian schools from across the District, participants learned from and spent personal time with the retreat team, which included Brothers, experienced Lasallian teachers, and District Administrators.

This retreat reaffirmed the shared Lasallian purpose: to not only educate minds but also touch hearts and transform lives, embodying the words of St. John Baptist de La Salle: “God has chosen you to do His work.”

The Adrien Nyel Project has also announced the Adrien Nyel Institute (ANI), a new initiative that seeks to inspire more secondary school students to take on the mantle of becoming teachers to future generations. The first ANI will take place in June, hosted at St. John's College High School in Washington DC. The institute welcomes students who will bring an earnest curiosity, and a fervent inquisitiveness about the vocation to teach.

If you know of a student who is interested in learning more, please contact Br. Ernest J. Miller, FSC, D. Min., at emiller@fscdena.org, or at (504) 655-2342.



Teachers and retreat team at the February 2025 Adrien Nyel retreat.

We Honor

our elder and infirm Christian Brothers in residence (as of 4/11/25) at:

Br. Peter Arpin (N)
Br. Thomas Barton (B)
Br. Dennis Berry (T)
Br. Malachy Broderick (B)
Br. Raymond Bronowicz (L)
Br. Raymund Buck (L)
Br. John Buckley (N)
Br. Colman Coogan (B)
Br. Peter Costello (L)
Br. Jerome Cox (N)

Br. Mark DePietro (B)
Br. Thomas Dunn (N)
Br. George Edwards (T)
Br. Jack Farrell (L)
Br. Walter Farrell (T)
Br. Gerard Frendreis (B)
Br. Charles Gresh (L)
Br. Robert Hebert (N)
Br. Allen Johnson (B)
Br. Joseph Jozwiak (L)

Br. John Karl (L)
Br. Leslie Luker (L)
Br. Francisco Martin (L)
Br. John McAndrews (L)
Br. Francis McCrea (T)
Br. John McErlean (L)
Br. John McGann (N)
Br. Frederick Mueller (N)
Br. Gregory Myles (L)
Br. Francis Tri Van Nguyen (B)

Br. Charles O'Connell (L)
Br. Mel O'Neill (T)
Br. John Patzwall (B)
Br. David Rogers (L)
Br. Joseph Schafer (L)
Br. John Vella (T)
Br. Philip Whitman (L)
Br. Robert Wilsbach (B)

La Salle Hall - Beltsville MD (B)
De La Salle Hall - Lincroft NJ (L)
Christian Brothers Center - Narragansett RI (N)
Presentation Manor - Toronto ON (T)

THE SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND

(continued from page 1)

In an audience with the Brothers in 2019, Pope Francis encouraged them to continue to do everything possible for those most in need, *“Dear spiritual children of John Baptist de La Salle, I exhort you to study and imitate his passion for the least and discarded. In the furrow of his apostolic testimony, may you be protagonists of a ‘culture of resurrection,’ especially in those existential contexts where the culture of death is prevalent. Never tire of going in search of those who find themselves in modern day ‘sepulchers’ of dismay, degradation, distress and poverty, in order to offer hope and new life.”*

This financial assistance for those most in need can truly be a life changing experience. Many of the students who are able to attend one of our Lasallian schools with the help of the Saint John Baptist de La Salle Fund come from extremely economically challenged areas, where the graduation rates can be as low as 50 to 70 percent. Compare that to 98 to 100 percent graduation rates for these same students who attend our schools.

“More members of our Lasallian family are beginning to realize the huge importance of this life-saving fund,” said Patrick Donahue, Director of Advancement for the District. “When speaking to donors who wish to remember the Christian Brothers in their wills, I have started to hear some say that they want to know that their lasting legacy will help these disadvantaged students for generations to come.”

In each issue of *Lasallian Notes*, our feature “Face of the Fund” presents one of the inspirational stories of a student whose life has been changed by the Saint John Baptist de La Salle Fund. In this issue, you can read about Matthew, and how he has matured and grown in his educational commitment during his middle school years at The De La Salle School.

You can help make a Lasallian education even more accessible to hundreds of students each year just like Matthew. To join

the Brothers in this life-changing mission, just mark the “De La Salle Scholarship Fund” box when you return the gift envelope in this newsletter. To include The Fund in your will or estate plans, or set up a recurring gift, please contact Patrick Donahue in our Development Office at (732) 380-7926 or at donahue@fscdena.org.

Please know that your gift can change our students’ lives and help them to achieve a lifetime of returns on your investment!



A graduate at La Salle School in Albany NY receives a congratulatory hug.



Students from La Salle Academy in Manhattan NY take part in a service project, bringing food to neighborhood families in need.



Ms. Brenda Blanton, teacher at La Salle Educational Center in Homestead FL, welcomes a new member of the Readers Club.

HISTORIC FIRST: LASALLIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

It was a historic moment for Lasallian higher education in The District of Eastern North America! Leadership teams from La Salle University and Manhattan University came together for their first-ever joint meeting to foster collaboration and networking. From insightful presentations to meaningful discussions, the day was dedicated to exploring new possibilities for working together to shape the future of Lasallian higher education.



Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC Reappointed as Visitor of DENA

We are pleased to announce that Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC, has been reappointed for a second four-year term as Visitor/Provincial of the District of Eastern North America (DENA).

In a letter from the Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Br. Armin Luistro, FSC, Br. Robert's leadership and dedication were highly praised. Br. Armin noted, "It is clear that in DENA there is great commitment to fostering the associative dimension of our mission and vocation." He also expressed immense confidence in Br. Robert's servant leadership and the trust he has fostered through his presence and availability.

Thank you for accepting this responsibility, Br. Robert!



Br. Robert is greeted by Pope Francis.

DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG MAN WHO MIGHT BE READY FOR

BOLD BROTHERHOOD

The **Bold** Brotherhood is a group of male, Catholic, college students open to experiences of faith, service, and community. Led by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, members support one another in their quest to grow their relationship with God while responding to the challenges of college life.



Members participate in prayer time together, retreats, and summer ministry internships while residing in a Brothers' community.

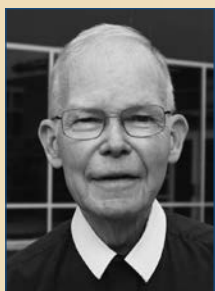
The Gospel call is to witness boldly and in association with others – belong to our **Bold** Brotherhood!

CONTACT Brother Paul for more information and to apply!
BrotherPaul@FSCDENA.org 516.567.8440
fscdena.org/discern

TRANSITIONS

REMEMBERING THE BROTHERS WE HAVE LOST

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



BROTHER ERIC J HENDERSON, FSC 1939 - 2025

Br. Eric J. Henderson, FSC, was born Charles Joseph Henderson in Pittsburgh PA on May 26, 1942. He entered the Ammendale MD Novitiate on June 15, 1960, receiving the Habit and Religious name Eric Borromeo on September 7, 1960. Br. Eric pronounced Perpetual Vows in Adamstown MD in 1967.

Br. Eric served for almost sixty-five years as a teacher, sharing his love for science and the charisma of the Brothers of the Christian Schools with the young. His unwavering dedication to the students entrusted to his care, whom he loved deeply, helped them to grow in wisdom and to live a life of integrity.

According to Matthew J. Stossel, President of Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh PA, "Br. Eric was a kind, humble, and gentle man. He was a gift to his students in both Pennsylvania and Maryland, and especially to the Central Catholic community for the past fourteen years."



BROTHER KEVIN STANTON, FSC 1938 - 2025

Br. Kevin Stanton, FSC, was born Martin John Stanton in Philadelphia PA on April 15, 1938. He entered the Ammendale MD Novitiate on June 15, 1956, receiving the Habit and Religious name Gerald Kevin on September 7, 1956. Br. Kevin pronounced Perpetual Vows in Baltimore MD in 1963.

Br. Kevin was a dedicated and student-focused educator and administrator. He served in many teaching and leadership capacities in both urban and "prep" high schools, higher education, alternative education, District leadership, and overseas ministries. A visionary leader, Br. Kevin helped to build a foundation for Lasallian education across the District.

Calvert Hall President Brother John Kane, FSC, said, "Br. Kevin was a wonderful Brother who served in so many roles over his lifetime. He has had a profound impact on so many lives, including a great number in our own community. He will be missed deeply."

A Special Thank You to our Monthly Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph N. Abbondanza
Mr. Wally C. Adam
Mr. John V. Albertella
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Altrogge
Ms. Maria Amodio
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Br. Charles Gresh greets CBA Lincroft NJ students who volunteered to do gardening at De La Salle Hall.

1, 2025 to March 31, 2025

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Brs. Joseph Willard, Richard Kestler, Robert Schaefer, and Joseph Dougherty at the LSU Charter Dinner in March 2025.

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Dear friends,

In this newsletter, you will see a brief announcement that we are all very excited about. Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC, has been reappointed to a second four-year term as Visitor/Provincial of our District. (Two terms is the limit.) This is a lengthy process, which begins with the Brother being nominated, and accepting the nomination. There are a series of votes among the Brothers, then their choice is presented to the Superior General in Rome. He then makes the decision for this appointment.

As I see it, a very important point in this process is that the nominee has ACCEPTED the nomination. There is a big difference between this and most nominations we are familiar with. As you know, these men have chosen this life of educational vocation—providing a human and Christian education to youth, in a classroom or school leadership. For these Brothers, accepting the role of Visitor, or any other role in District leadership, usually means putting aside their own desire to directly serve our students. It means allowing themselves to be servant-leaders, caring for the spiritual and functional well-being of their fellow Brothers, the Brothers' Communities, and our Lasallian ministries.

I see many people who hear the news saying, "Congratulations." However, I would like to take this opportunity instead to say, "Thank you, Brother, for your selflessness in accepting this role."

Once again, I am always in awe of the dedication of these wonderful men. Please continue to pray with me for their well-being, and for the continued success and growth of their mission.

Live Jesus in our hearts!

Patrick J. Donahue
Director of Advancement



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