

"The Brother Today"

What is a De La Salle Christian Brother? What does it mean to live as a Brother? Young men from Lasallian schools explore this unique life on the Senior Vocations Retreat.

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(From left, front) Martin Garcia, Mark Wilker, Joseph Saranglao, Andy Lee, Mario Ortega; (middle) Joel Estrada, Brandon Birr; (back) Erik Barragan, Ryan Resurrecion, Brad Tucker, Lauro Mora

Young men whose hearts have been touched by the possibility of meeting God in a life of educational service shared through and supported by community living and prayer are invited by the District of San Francisco to explore the vocation of the De La Salle Christian Brother in many ways.

One such exploration takes place at the annual Lasallian Vocation Retreat for Seniors. Here young men from our schools gather to discuss and reflect on God's invitation to a meaningful life, the elements of faith, service, and community in the Lasallian call, and the process and challenges of deepening one's Lasallian vocation in college, especially in an openness to the exploration of a vocation as Brother.

This year's retreat at Mont La Salle (January 31-February 2) brought together 11 students drawn from Christian Brothers High in

Sacramento, Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep in San Francisco, Cathedral High in Los Angeles, Justin-Siena High in Napa, and La Salle High in Pasadena. Also taking part were four faculty and staff, one Postulant, one Contact, and several Brothers.



(from top left) Brother John Hoover, FSC, Erik Barragan, Ryan Resurrecion, Joel Estrada, Joseph Saranglao, Brandon Birr



(from left) Andy Lee, Mark Wilker, Brother Joseph Fabiano, FSC

Here are some statements from the students as they reflected on their three-day experience:

❖ “The Brothers’ dedication to their beliefs

and values inspires me. They set a wonderful example for all people who want to live a life of faith.”

❖ “I really like the diversity in character. Not all Brothers are the same. Their personalities and their interaction with Brothers, teachers and students really attract and inspire me.”

❖ “The thing that I find most inspiring is the desire to teach those who are less fortunate.”

❖ “The discussion with those people in the process of formation, such as the Contact, Postulant, and temporarily professed, helped me know the steps of being a Brother.”

❖ “The most helpful aspects of the retreat were those times of prayer and recreation. Prayer allowed us to focus on where our life was taking us.



(from left) Mario Ortega, Lauro Mora, Chris Berghout

❖ “The retreat was fun and meaningful to me and I made some new friends who are part of the Lasallian schools in other places.”

❖ “Thank you for a wonderfully fulfilling experience. Keep up the good work.”

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Recreation allowed us to get to know one another.”

❖ “The aspect of the retreat that was most helpful was the Q&A discussion of the attractions and challenges of the Christian Brothers lifestyle.”



Aspirant Anton Taruc, a Saint Mary’s College student, talks with Brother Charles Brett, FSC, at the February retreat. On April 22, Brother Charles died, at the age of 89, in his 71st year of religious life.

“THIS IS MY VISION OF THE BROTHER TODAY. HE IS:

A VISIBLE SACRAMENT OF GOD'S LOVE;

A BUILDER AND A WITNESS OF FRATERNITY IN A DIVIDED WORLD – AN EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY AS MISSION;

AVAILABLE AND MOBILE IN FUNCTION OF THE MISSION -- A "BROTHER WITHOUT BORDERS";

A SPIRITUAL COMPANION;

THE MEMORY OF THE CHARISM FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LASALLIAN FAMILY;

OPEN TO UNIVERSAL LOVE, WITH A FREE AND OPEN HEART;

COMMITTED, CREATIVE, AND CLOSE TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND AT-RISK;

A CATECHIST AND EVANGELIST BY VOCATION.”

*- Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, Superior General
From his letter on “The Brother’s Vocation Today”*