

Our Lasallian

Family

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PAST ISSUES OF SIGNS OF FAITH HAVE FEATURED STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE AND MINISTRIES IN THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN THE DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO AND AROUND THE WORLD. THEIR STORIES CONTINUE....

Centro La Salle

The work of the Brothers among the poor of Tijuana, Mexico, continues to thrive. A new chapel (pictured) was dedicated to Saint John Baptist de La Salle on the centennial of his canonization on May 24, 2001, and two new classrooms were completed in January

2002. In the new chapel, a set of windows was donated by Les Amis des Frères (Friends of the Brothers), an organization of former Christian

pate in classes that include general education and job skills training. Classes in religious education train catechists and lay ministers for the local Church. Instruction is provided tuition-free by the Brothers and more than 100 Partners from the Tijuana community. Centro La Salle was founded in 1978 and is jointly administered by the Districts of San Francisco and North Mexico. Centro celebrates its 25th year in 2003. *(Photo by Robert Jordan, De La Salle Institute)*

Lasallian Youth and Lasallian Collegians

Saint Mary's College in Moraga was host to a number of District and Regional gatherings in summer 2002, including the District Assembly on Mission, the second annual Religious Studies Institute, the Lasallian Leadership Institute, and Buttimer



Brothers in the San Francisco District, in memory of Brother Bede Van Duren, FSC. Annually, more than 1,500 students from the neighborhoods of Tijuana ranging in age from children to senior citizens, partici-



Institute. July also marked the fourth annual Lasallian Youth Assembly, which brought together 130 students representing every District high school, as well as students from the Brothers' school in Obregon, Mexico. District faculty members served as moderators, along with a number of students in the new Lasallian Collegians Network (LCN). LCN was established to provide opportunities for graduates of District secondary schools to stay in contact and engaged in the Lasallian educational mission as they continue their collegiate studies. LCN information, member registry, a calendar of events, and an online discussion forum are all available on the District of San Francisco Web site. On page 18: Brother Columban Derby, FSC, former Principal of Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco (1944-1953), with students from Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep at the 2002 Lasallian Youth Assembly. *(Photo by Brother James Joost, FSC)*

Christian Brothers Ranch — A Successful Showing

Now in its third year of operation, Christian Brothers Ranch at Mont La Salle in Napa continues to



impact the lives of the young people it serves. Established in fall 2000 to provide opportunities for youngsters in need to participate in ranching programs similar to 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the ranch is a unique outdoor Lasallian classroom. Twenty-one students from area grammar and high schools are in the program this year, and money earned from the sale of their animals at the annual Napa Fair will assist them in achieving their future

educational goals. In August 2002, the youngsters garnered a dozen awards at the fair. Rain or shine, the students come to Mont La Salle to care for their animals, and the teamwork and commitment they learn at the ranch are exceeded only by the personal growth and community spirit that continue to be a blessing to them and to their families. *(Photo by Mark Headley, De La Salle Institute)*

Lasallian Educational Opportunities: The LEO Center

LEO Center teachers and tutors are always happy to see their graduates who are now in college. In the first few days of this new school year, Edward Coleman and Vonneta Madison, both juniors at Alameda College dropped by, as did Ben Mayr, sophomore at UC Santa Cruz. Vonneta and Edward were with us from 7th grade to 12th, and Ben from 6th to 12th. Lu Shaw Oliver, one of our first students, came by to say he had returned from Fresno where he went after graduating from Oakland Tech. He is enrolled at Alameda College this year. Even as I am writing this note, one of our 9th graders came in and I asked her about her older brother, Jeffrey Corbin. She said he's doing great at Cal State Hayward. Jeffrey was with us from 6th grade to 12th. We got to know these young people very well, and we are very proud of what they are doing now. You can imagine the happiness we feel having helped these students, some of whom struggle for success in very difficult situations. —*Brother Christopher Bassen, FSC, Director, LEO Center, Oakland*

Bahay Pag-asa — House of Hope

In the Fall 2001 issue of *Signs of Faith*, we told the story of a new ministry in the Philippine District. Brother Gus Boquer, FSC, President of the University

*Bahay
Pag-asa
students
enjoy
baking in
a culinary
class.*





The new residence school for boys, Bacolod City

of St. La Salle, Bacolod City, shares the latest news: “Through the generous support of the Christian Brothers District of San Francisco, Bahay Pag-asa (House of Hope) Center for the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law was formally opened last June 24, 2002, in the City of Bacolod, Philippines. The Center, under the supervision of the Christian Brothers of the University of St. La Salle, is responsible for the wholistic formation of boys from ages 9 to 17 committed by the Philippine Family Courts. The Center has been constructed to accommodate a total of 60 residents plus a long-term expansion plan for an additional 60. Bahay Pag-asa is staffed by a team set up and supported by the University of St. La Salle. The Center also has daily volunteer parents, teachers, and counselors who have varied responsibilities in ministering to these youth at risk. The Brothers have a Cloister-Residence inside the Center where students from the University can join the Brothers for a live-in program.

The ministry in Bahay Pag-asa is emotionally and physically draining – but God’s graces are sufficient. Each resident has a story to tell – and each story is heartbreaking. Generally, they come from poverty-stricken families with very little education, if any at all. Their shattered crystal lives have to be put together. While they cannot change their past, they can change their future. With God’s guiding hands, and the support of many kind benefactors, this ministry will succeed.” (Photos by Brother Gus Boquer, FSC)



Anniversaries in 2003

Along with the 135th anniversary of the founding of the San Francisco District, a number of District schools and ministries will be celebrating significant anniversaries in 2003. Saint Mary’s College and Saint Mary’s College High School, the first District schools, founded in San Francisco by the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1863, both mark 140 years of Catholic education in 2003. The two schools also celebrated 75th anniversaries at their current locations in Moraga and Berkeley this past fall.

One hundred years ago, in 1903, the Brothers moved Saint Joseph’s Academy for boys from its Oakland location to Peralta Park in Berkeley, current site of Saint Mary’s High. Pictured is the historic Peralta Park Hotel (1888-1959), the Berkeley home of Saint Joseph’s Academy. In 2002, Sacramento’s Christian Brothers High marked its 125th anniversary, and at San Francisco’s Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, the Brothers and the Daughters of Charity together celebrated 150 years of education at their high school that merged in 1987—Sacred Heart (1874) and Cathedral (1852). La Salle High School in Washington will celebrate five years of

Lasallian education in the northernmost part of the San Francisco District. The school continues construction on a master plan for its Union Gap campus. The school now serves 160 students in all four grade levels, having begun with a single freshman class of 50 in fall 1998.

Also marking five years in 2003 is Napa’s Latino Adult Institute (LAI), which serves Latino youth and adults in the Napa area through education and skills training programs. LAI is currently serving over 450 students. ■

Feature stories about these and other Lasallian ministries can be found in previous issues of Signs of Faith online on the District of San Francisco Web site at www.delasalle.org.