

Our Lasallian

Family

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NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE AND MINISTRIES IN THE LASALLIAN FAMILY
OF THE DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO.

District Chapter Meets

Every four years the Brothers of the San Francisco District meet in Chapter. The meetings of the 11th Chapter took place in October 2002 and January 2003.

The Chapter approved unanimously and in their entirety the proceedings of the District Assembly on Mission held in July-August 2002 (see last issue of *Signs of Faith*). The propositions and reports generated by the Assembly will guide the district in its educational mission.

By vote, the Brothers of the District expressed their preference for Brother Stanislaus Campbell, FSC, to become the next Visitor, and Brother Stanislaus has been appointed by Superior General Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría to a four-year term as Visitor that begins on July 1, 2003. For the post of Auxiliary Visitor, Brother Stanislaus recommended Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, and Brother Álvaro has appointed Brother Thomas to that post effective July 1.

Brother Stanislaus, a native of Oakland, California, and a Christian Brother since 1954, is a graduate of Saint Mary's College in Moraga and holds advanced degrees in theology and liturgy, including a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. He has been a teacher in high school and college

and is a former director of both the scholasticate and the novitiate for the District. Since 1995, he has served the

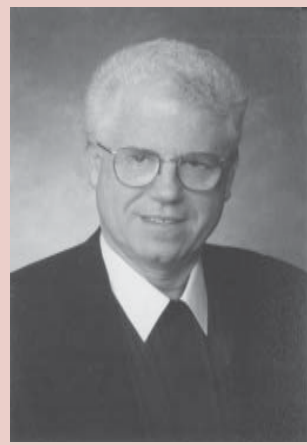
District as Auxiliary Visitor and Director of Formation.

Brother Thomas was born in Fresno, California, and joined the Christian Brothers in 1963. A holder of advanced degrees in psychology and a licensed psychologist, he has taught at Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley and De La Salle High School in Concord, and since 1995 has been District Coordinator of Continuing Formation.

Outgoing Brother Visitor David Brennan said in announcing the appointments to the District: "I know you will join me in assuring Brother Stanislaus of our prayers.... Together as a District we will have a renewed sense of being faithful to all the dimensions of our vocation and a determination to meet the challenges of our educational mission."

"Outstanding Community Organization"

The District of San Francisco was honored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco as "Outstanding Community Organization for 2003." The award was presented by Most Reverend William J. Levada, Archbishop of San Francisco, at the sixth annual Loaves and Fishes Dinner on March 8, 2003. The Loaves and



Brother Thomas Jones, FSC



Brother Stanislaus Campbell, FSC

Fishes Awards honor extraordinary charitable works and raise funds for the programs of Catholic Charities and Catholic Youth Organization.

As the program for the event put it, "By directly serving our youth, by partnering with Lasallian educators in underdeveloped areas, and by establishing the Lasallian Education Fund, the De La Salle Christian Brothers and their many partners in the District of San Francisco are helping to create new communities of educational endeavor, in which lives can be transformed and young people can reach their full potential intellectually, morally, and spiritually."

Brother David Brennan accepted the award and described to the audience the new Lasallian Education Fund's mission to raise a substantial endowment to provide scholarship funds so that more underserved youth can attend Lasallian schools and programs both in the District and throughout the world.

San Miguel Catholic High School, Tucson

Progress continues on the new school that will serve students on the south side of Tucson, Arizona. A press conference in Tucson on May 9 introduced the school's President and Principal and the facility's architectural design and master plan. Greg VanderZanden has been named President of San Miguel Catholic High School effective July 1, 2003. VanderZanden has been President of La Salle High School in Milwaukie, Oregon, since 1997, and was honored in 2001, along with Jerry Bitz, incoming Board Chair for De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, as a Lasallian Educator of the Year at the Huether Workshop in Chicago for his work in establishing De La Salle North Catholic.

Appointed by VanderZanden as Principal of San Miguel Catholic is Brother Nick Gonzalez,

FSC. Brother Nick is a member of the New Orleans-Santa Fe District. Brother Nick brings to San Miguel his dedication to students from working-class and poor families, a passion for quality

and excellence in education, and a deep appreciation of his vocation as a Brother and Lasallian educator. The appointment of Brother Nick reflects a collaboration taking place between the Districts of San Francisco and New Orleans-Santa Fe at San Miguel Catholic High. The school will be a member of the San Miguel Network of schools, as well as a member of the national Cristo Rey Network, making use of the

corporate internship model developed at Cristo Rey in Chicago and also in use at De La Salle North Catholic in Portland. San Miguel will open in the fall of 2004 with a freshman class of approximately 100 students.

The Web site of San Miguel Catholic High School is www.sanmiguelhigh.com.

Diamond and Golden Jubilees

In 2003 the District celebrates two jubilees: 75 years in religious life for Brother Timothy Diener, and 50 years for Brother Christian Conners.

Brother Timothy Diener was born Anthony George Diener in 1910 in New Jersey. In 1918 his family moved to Los Angeles, where he graduated from Cathedral High School. He joined the Christian Brothers in 1928, attended Saint Mary's College, and then taught chemistry and other subjects at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento and Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley. In 1935 he was assigned to work at the new winery at Mont La Salle. Brother John Hoffman at age 23 was in charge of the winery, and Brother Timothy at age 25 was his assistant. Officially the "wine chemist," he was also ditch digger, hose dragger, tank scrubber, truck driver, and cement mixer as he began what would become half



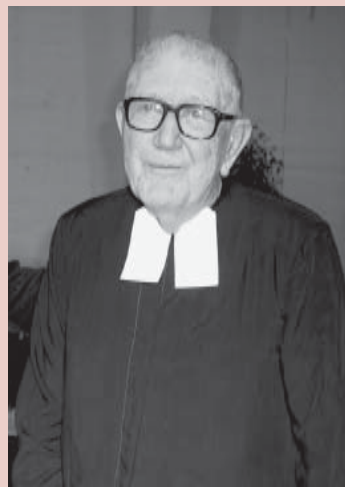
Brother David Brennan, FSC accepts the Loaves and Fishes Award from Archbishop Levada (left) and Brian Cabill, director of Catholic Charities (right).



Brother Timothy Diener, FSC

a century of devotion to winemaking as a source of funding for education. An honored pioneer in the Napa Valley wine industry, Brother Timothy has long been fond of quoting Ben Franklin's observation that wine is "a constant proof that God loves us and loves to see us happy." Brother Timothy was cellar master of Mont La Salle Vineyards until 1987. The winery business was sold in 1989, and in that same year Brother Timothy retired to the Provincialate Community at Mont La Salle in Napa, where he is an active gardener.

Brother Christian Conners, born Victor Harold Conners, is of Chilean and Scots descent. Born in 1912, he is a native Californian and a lifelong Catholic. As a young man during the Great Depression he worked many jobs: He was an elevator operator and a railroad worker; he poured



Brother Christian Conners, FSC

cement for the piers of the Golden Gate Bridge; and he finally became a mapmaker in a county assessor's office. In World War II he joined the Navy as a "Seabee" (Construction Battalion member) and served two years in the Pacific, building airstrips and experiencing bombing and combat. Getting to know a native family in Polynesia, he later reflected that he "was seeing Christ in them," but not until 1950, while on a retreat in California with the Knights of Columbus, did he sense the possibility of

a vocation to religious life. He joined the Christian Brothers in 1953, earned a degree in philosophy at Saint Mary's College, and was assigned to the new La Salle High School in Pasadena for ten years, where he was supervisor of maintenance. His longest service was 23 years at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, working as director of the library's media center and also as volunteer infirmarian for several older Brothers. Brother Christian retired in 1983, and in 1992 he joined the Holy Family Community at Mont La Salle in Napa.

In Memoriam

In recent months our Lasallian family has bid a final farewell to six Brothers, men of varied talents and dispositions, men from different backgrounds and of diverse interests, who gave a cumulative 270 years of dedication to religious life and to Lasallian education. These departed Brothers are buried in the Brothers' cemetery at Mont La Salle in Napa. "Eternal rest grant unto them, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

Brother Bertram Coleman, died October 9, 2002, aged 88, in his 71st year as a Christian Brother.

Brother Andrew Steele, died October 16, 2002, aged 66, in his 49th year as a Christian Brother.

Brother Jerome West, died December 1, 2002, aged 84, in his 67th year as a Christian Brother.

Brother Ignatius Kenny, died April 9, 2003, aged 93, in his 78th year as a Christian Brother.

Brother Charles Brett, died April 22, 2003, aged 89, in his 70th year as a Christian Brother.

Brother Norman Cook, died May 4, 2003, aged 74, in his 56th year as a Christian Brother.

Brothers of the District of San Francisco
at their annual Convocation at Mont La Salle,
February 2005. Photo by Brother James Joost, FSC



*"We come together to celebrate our Brotherhood and to recognize the power
of our association to animate our lives, our communities, and the mission of our District....
Make us ever more alive, and faithful and responsive to each other for the
sake of that mission and the life you so generously share with us. We make this prayer as Brothers
to each other and as sons of John Baptist de La Salle, through Christ our Lord."
- from the Convocation opening prayer*

The Faces of Lasallian Education

This issue of *Signs of Faith* is filled with the faces of Lasallian education. From the schools of today there are the smiling faces of seniors headed toward graduation, the intent faces of trustees in their meetings, the thoughtful faces of male students exploring on retreat what it means to be a Christian Brother. And from the schools of yesteryear, there are faces of some who helped to build this District and have passed it on to us, the faces of students and teachers who are part of our history. Meet them all inside.

The photo at left shows Saint John Baptist de La Salle and students in a traditional pose. These antique "faces of Lasallian education" stand near the door of the chapel at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento. (Photo by J. A. Gray.)



*Brothers of the Christian Schools
District of San Francisco*

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