



“Our challenge is to make sure we become more diverse, to make sure we do not fail to serve the students from the oldest, poorest, and most troubled neighborhoods. That’s where we do our best work.”

Martin: I was on the Educational Mission Committee. I was surprised that what I said carried as much weight as a Brother. The same thing could be said when it came down to the floor of the General Assembly. Partners may not have had a vote, but through their committees, they felt like they did. It seemed to me that the Acts were calling us to take action. They were a challenge, saying in effect, this is where the need is, and it’s currently not being met at the desired level; particularly the need for service of the poor. And it’s not so much serving the poor as partnering with them. It wasn’t until I was part of this process, that I felt a part of the whole community. Before, I had felt something was missing.

Cathy: *Would you address the impact this Chapter meeting will have over the next four years?*

John: It has had a profound effect on how we look at things at Sacred Heart Cathedral. For example, we could not decide exactly what criteria we should use when we went to accept students off of our waiting lists for the freshman class. It was very hard because so many were qualified. What we

decided to do was to give preference to those students who demonstrated the greatest financial need. Also, the simple idea in the Action Plan about each institution taking on two new works in service of the poor. That generated a number of very creative projects like our relationship with Saint Paul of the Shipwreck in Bayview/Hunter’s Point; it generated discussion about a proposed tuition-free middle school in San Francisco. It gets people thinking. If we begin to build endowments that allow kids to come to our schools who otherwise could not, we’re in a better place.

Brother George: *A movement like this, does it come just from the Chapter?*

Brother James: There are several examples which helped us move in our current direction. With LEO (Lasallian Educational Opportunities), there was resistance to establishing something other than the traditional high school and college models; resistance to taking some very important high school people and putting them into a

different set of circumstances. The District’s experience with LEO has certainly been a foundation. Also, the commitment to assume the operation of Cathedral High School occurred within the four years preceding the Chapter and Convocation. I also think the District Leadership has taken a real innovative step with Yakima, responding to the needs there and taking over the school in Sunnyside within a month after its closing. It took us 30 years to determine that we were finally going to commit to Cathedral; it took the Leadership less than 30 days to make the decision about Saint Joseph School. It’s taken us years to get to this point. There seems to be a real energy, enthusiasm, on the part of Brothers and the Partners to go beyond.