New Orleans-Santa Fe District, 2011
Christian Brothers—Pioneer Educators in the South and Southwest since 1851 who died in September

1. 1898: Brother Edward (Narcisse D. Regaud) died in Curepipe, Mauritius, at age 62. He was born in the village of St. Thomas in the Canadian province of Quebec on February 18, 1836, and entered the novitiate in Montreal in 1850. He was the first visitor of the St. Louis District, 1870-1875. He made the agreement with Rev. Thomas Kenny, pastor of St. Theresa parish in New Orleans, Louisiana, to send two brothers to open a school in his parish, Sept. 5, 1870. He was later given an assignment in France.

2. 1963: Brother Adrien Irénée (Irénée Aristide Joseph Longin) died at the age of 77 at De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana, after a long illness. He was born in the village of Ouge in the French department of Haute-Saône, on May 13, 1886, and entered the junior novitiate in Buzenval, near Paris, on November 2, 1902, at the age of 16. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate in Paris on July 2, 1903, studied in a normal school in Buzenval, 1904-1905, and in the scholasticate at the brothers’ international motherhouse in Lembecq, Belgium, in 1905-1906. On account of the closure of religious schools in France as a result of anti-religious laws of 1904, Irénée joined the French brothers who had left Mexico in 1905 and opened their first two schools in Puebla in January, 1906—Colegio San Juan Bautista de la Salle for the poor and Colegio San Pedro y San Pablo for tuition-paying students. He taught in these schools until August 1914, when all foreign priests and religious were forced to leave Mexico by the anti-religious Carranza revolution. His community escaped by boat from Vera Cruz to Cuba, and he was among some 65 of the 175 French brothers then in Mexico who accepted the offer to go to the United States. He was assigned to the Baltimore District, where he spent one year in Ellicott City, Maryland, three in Baltimore, Maryland, one partly in Belmead, Virginia, and partly in Washington, D.C. In 1919 he was assigned to St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, New Mexico, where he successfully took the French government test for the license to teach elementary school. He was assigned to the community at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1920-1925. He spent most of the years 1925-1950 in the schools in Louisiana: St. Paul’s College (high school) in Covington, 1925-1927, Hanson Memorial High School in Franklin, 1927-1928, Landry Memorial High School in Lake Charles, 1930-1931, St. Peter’s College (high school) in New Iberia, 1934-1942, and in others: St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1933-1934, Mullen Home for Boys in Fort Logan Colorado, 1931-1933 and 1944-1946, and Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, 1946-1950. In 1950 he was assigned to De La Salle in Lafayette, where he stayed until his death except for a few months at the district’s ranch in Bernalillo, New Mexico, in 1952, two years in the junior novitiate in Lafayette, 1952-1954, and two at St. Paul’s in Covington, 1954-1956.

3. 1866: Brother Reynold (John Maher) died of tuberculosis at age 24 in Pass Christian, Mississippi. He was born in Carlow, Leinster, Ireland, on September 15, 1842. Inspired by two uncles who were Christian Brothers, he entered the novitiate in Montreal, Canada, on March 7, 1857, and received the brother’s garb there on May 20. He was sent to teach in Kingston, Ontario, on August 13 the same year. His next assignment was to Pass Christian College in Pass Christian Mississippi. He was struck down shortly after arriving there.

4. 2002: Gladys (Mrs. John) Rilko, AFSC, died in Denver, Colorado. She and her husband were affiliated in 1990 for their contributions to the Mullen High School capital campaign. One of the buildings is named after them.

5. 1931: Brother Noël Adrien (Jean-Pierre Régis Exbrayat) died in Le Puy, France, of liver cancer, at the age of 49. He was born on February 1, 1882, in the village of Chodeyrrolle in the French department of Haute-Loire. At age 23 he entered the brothers’ international novitiate in Bettange, Luxembourg, on November 22, 1905, and received the brother’s garb there on January 6, 1906. He did not plan to become a teacher, so after finishing the novitiate program, he was kept in the community there to use his skills in health services, tailoring, laundry equipment, and purchasing. By 1909 many brothers had left France because their schools were closed as a result of the anti-religious laws of 1901 and 1904. Brother Adrien decided to join a group in Caluire, near Lyon, taking an intensive course in Spanish and sailed for Mexico with them in 1910. He served in the brothers’ communities in the cities of Puebla and of San Borja near Mexico City until 1914. Then he was forced to leave the country in August 1914, due to the anti-religious Carranza revolution. He served communities in Cuba until 1916, when he was assigned for several months to one in Mexico City, and finally to St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the fall of 1916. He then served at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1919-1921, again at St. Michael’s, 1921-1927, De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana, 1927-1930, and briefly at Landry...
Memorial High School in 1930. During a visit to his family in France that fall he had to be hospitalized when his cancer flared up. He died in the brothers’ retirement community in Le Puy. He was a man of great faith, deeply pious, intelligent, devoted to his brothers, with lots of common sense. He had the reputation of being “the most efficient brother in the district.”

4. 1927: Brother Alfred of Mary (Leopold Schwab) died at age 77 in Glencoe, Missouri. He was born on November 8, 1849, in Steinbach, Germany, and migrated with his family to St. Louis, Missouri. He applied for admission to the brothers at age 18 and asked to enter a novitiate away from his home. He was sent to the one in Pass Christian, Mississippi, on December 12, 1867, received the brother’s garb there on April 11, 1868. He was assigned to the Community of New Orleans and taught at St. John the Baptist School. In 1871 he was sent to Christian Brothers College in St. Joseph, Missouri, and then to other schools in the upper Midwest. He was considered a master teacher of German and taught at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1899-1904, when he returned to St. Paul, Minnesota until 1906.

2008: Brother Anacletus Francis (Joseph George Dartez) died in Lafayette, Louisiana, at age 88 after a long illness. He was born in Maurice, Louisiana, on August 3, 2020, and entered the junior novitiate at De La Salle in Lafayette in 1933. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate there on August 14, 1937, and a year later was sent to study in the scholasticate at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1938-1942, including a year of student teaching at St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, New Mexico, 1940-1941. He then taught at Landry Memorial High in Lake Charles, Louisiana, 1942-1947 (except for one month at Kirwin High School in Galveston, Texas, in September 1944), and again 1957-1959. St. Peter’s College (high school) and Catholic High in New Iberia, 1951-1955 and 1964-1965, Hanson Memorial High in Franklin, 1955-1957, and De La Salle High in New Orleans, 1959-1963 and 1970-1971. He taught at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, 1947-1948, and at St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1948-1951. He served in the missions in Congo in 1963-1964 and taught at brothers’ schools in the District of the Philippines from 1965 to 1970 and 1971 to 1986. He retired from teaching and spent 1986-1989 in the community at Marian Christian High School in Houston, Texas, and 1989-1990 at St. Paul’s High School in Covington, Louisiana, before going to the retirement community at De La Salle in Lafayette.

1920: Brother Benedict of Mary (Philip McGuire) died just days short of age 75 in Pocantico Hills, New York. He was born on September 8, 1845, in Franklin, New York, and entered the novitiate in Montreal, Canada, at age 14. He received the brother’s robe there on December 25, 1859. He taught at Christian Brothers College in St. Louis, Missouri, until 1870, when he was sent to St. Joseph parochial school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1870-1871. He spent the rest of his active life in schools in the Midwest but retired to Pocantico Hills.

6-7. None

8. 1853: Brother Gélisaire (Jean-Baptiste Guyot) died of yellow fever in Montgomery, Alabama, at age 42. He was born in Paris, France, in 1811, and entered the novitiate there at age 17 in 1828. He taught in France 10 years and was sent to Canada in 1839. He was founding director of Our Lady of the Gulf School in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, in 1852. During the yellow fever epidemic of 1853 his confrères died and he was recalled to France. En route by train to New York, he was struck by yellow fever and was removed from the train in Montgomery. He died in a hotel there and was buried in the brothers’ cemetery in Glencoe, Missouri.

1992: Brother Amedy Joseph (Joseph Miller) died suddenly in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at age 76. He was born in Walsenburg, Colorado, on May 17, 1916, into a devout Catholic family, the second of seven children. His father’s job led him to move his family to Pueblo, Colorado, where Joseph attended St. Patrick parish high school. Already attracted to religious education when Brother Abadir Joseph, the district’s vocation director, visited his school, he entered the novitiate at De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana, and began the year-long program with the reception of the brother’s garb on December 24, 1933. He did his college studies in the scholasticate at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, from January 1935 to August 1937 and was assigned to teach at St. Paul’s College (high school) in Covington, Louisiana, 1937-1940, Hanson Memorial High School, Franklin, Louisiana, 1940-1948, Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, 1948-1949, and St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, New Mexico, 1949-1950. He was vocation director for the western part of the district, 1950-1953, and then had two more teaching assignments in Texas—Kirwin High School in Galveston, 1953-1956, and Cathedral in El Paso, 1956-59. He was registrar at St. Michael’s College (named College of Santa Fe in 1966) from 1959 to 1982. His great interest in helping students led him to become a de facto faculty advisor, tutor, and mentor. When he retired, he continued living on the college
1952: Brother Athanase Emile (Louis A. Ritimann), superior general, died in Rome, Italy, at the age of 72. He was born in 1880 in Bourdonnay in the French department of Lorraine. He entered the novitiate at Reims, France, in 1896 at age 16. He taught in schools in the District of Reims until 1928, when he was a delegate to the brothers’ international general chapter in Lembeq, Belgium. There, at age 48, he was elected assistant to the superior general for several French districts. At the general chapter in Rome in 1946 he was elected superior general. His project was to visit all the districts in the world. He made his visit to the United States in 1948 during the centennial celebrations of the brothers’ first permanent foundation in the United States, Calvert Hall in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended major receptions held for him in Lafayette, Louisiana, and in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

1954: Brother Gontran Francis (Daniel J. Russell) died in Amarillo, Texas, at age 61. He was born on June 3, 1893, in Bladberg, Tipperary, Ireland, and entered the novitiate in Castletown, Ireland, on February 12, 1909. He received the brother’s garb there on May 15. He volunteered to migrate to the United States and arrived in the novitiate in Glencoe, Missouri, in October that year. His first teaching assignments were in New Mexico, at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, 1911-1912, and St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, 1912-1916. He spent the rest of his life as a teacher and principal in the St. Louis District schools in the Midwest.

1995: Mr. Robert Greathouse, AFSC, died in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was a teacher at De La Salle High School in that city and was affiliated for his years of embodying the Lasallian charism in his life.

2004: Brother Claudius Florus (Floyd Evans) died in New Orleans, Louisiana, at age 78 after suffering many years from diabetes. He was born in that city on July 9, 1926, and entered the junior novitiate at De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1940. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate there on August, 14, 1944, and studied in the scholasticate at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1945-1947. He did a year of student teaching at Landry Memorial High School in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and completed his degree in the scholasticate, which had been moved in 1947 to the newly-opened four-year program at St. Michael’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He had many teaching assignments: St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, New Mexico, 1949-1950, St. Peter’s College (high school) in New Iberia, Louisiana, 1950-1951, St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1951-1953, Kirwin High School in Galveston, Texas, 1953-1955, Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, 1955-1957, Mullen High School in Denver, Colorado, 1957-1958, and New Iberia again at Catholic High School (the successor of St. Peter’s College), 1958 until January, 1964. He had the semester off to participate in the spiritual renewal program at Sangre de Cristo Center at Chupadero, New Mexico. His next round of assignments took him back to Kirwin in Galveston, 1964-1966, back to Catholic High in New Iberia, 1966-1968, and back to his home town at De La Salle, 1968-1972, Christian Brothers School, 1972-1976, back to De La Salle, 1976-1979, and to Christian Brothers Academy, 1979-1986. His final assignment was at St. Michael’s in Santa Fe, 1989-1997. Failing health forced his retirement in 1997 to De La Salle in Lafayette and his transfer in 2000 to Our Lady of Wisdom Nursing Home in New Orleans, where he died. He was known for his unceasing energy, his involvement with students in many extra-class activities, his eagerness to try everything new, and his ease in making friends rapidly.

1867: Brother Alfred of Mary (James Tiernan) died in New Orleans, Louisiana, of yellow fever at the age of 32. He was born in Ireland on June 25, 1835, migrated to the United States, and entered the novitiate at St. Mary’s College in New Orleans in 1865 at the age of 30. He taught at St. Vincent’s Academy in nearby Jefferson City, 1866-1867, and then returned to St. Mary’s College, where he was struck down during the epidemic sweeping the city.

1882: Brother Gelasian John (Bernard L. Tuohy) died suddenly in Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, at the age of 18. He was born on August 8, 1864, in Galway, Connought, Ireland. He entered the junior novitiate in Montreal, Canada, on May 2, 1878, and the novitiate in Carondelet, Missouri, on September 16, 1879. Two of his brothers also became Christian Brothers. He was sent to teach at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, and arrived on December 24, 1881. He died peacefully nearly nine months later.

1866: Brother Eusebius Patrick (Thomas O’Keefe) died of consumption at age 24 in Pass Christian, Mississippi. He was born in Ireland in 1842 and entered the novitiate at St. Mary’s College in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 10, 1865, at age 23. He was sent to teach at St. Vincent’s Academy in nearby Jefferson City, but was so weakened by
consumption that in February 1866 he was sent to Pass Christian College to recover but died of it seven months later.

1915: Brother Gabriel of Mary (Francis A. Fogler) died of a stroke in Glencoe, Missouri, a few days short of age 67. He was born in New York City on September 17, 1848, and entered the novitiate on Second Street in that city on March 12, 1865, at age 17. He received the brother’s robe there on June 23, 1865. He taught in the Midwest until 1870, when concerns for his health led to his assignment to a more agreeable climate, at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His health improved, he started teaching again, and in 1877 he was appointed director of St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, a position he held 22 years. He was sent to Glencoe in 1899 for a rest but stayed there and taught in several schools in the area until 1913, when he suffered a stroke and returned to Glencoe.

1975: Brother Alfred Arthur (Philias Chiasson) died peacefully in Lafayette, Louisiana, at age 80. He was born in Cheticamp in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, on August 15, 1895, and entered the junior novitiate at age 16 in Pocantico Hills, New York, on October 11, 1911. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate there on January 21, 1912. He taught in several schools in the New York District until 1940, when he was sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Health problems led to an assignment to a different climate—St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1950-1959, and St. Paul’s High School in Covington, 1959-1975. He spent his last few months at De La Salle in Lafayette.

1853: Brother Baldredce (Joseph Petit) died of yellow fever in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, at age 24, during the summer vacation after his first year there. He was born in Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, Canada, on August 27, 1829, entered the novitiate at age 22 in Montreal on June 22, 1852, and received the brother’s garb there on August 8. Three months later he was assigned briefly to a community in Montreal and then to Bay St. Louis to join the founding faculty of Our Lady of the Gulf parochial school there. He was the second in the community of four to succumb to yellow fever.

1869: Brother Ambrose (James Rourke) died in St. Louis, Missouri, at age 52. He was born in Caulry, Westmeath, Ireland, on July 16, 1817. As a child he migrated to Canada with his family and on August 26, 1844, he entered the novitiate in Montreal at age 27. He received the brother’s robe there on October 10 the same year. He was assigned to the first community at Calvert Hall in Baltimore, Maryland, and arrived there in October 1845. At age 33 he was appointed director of a second community, Saint Vincent’s, opened in Baltimore in 1850. He was appointed director of the Community of New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1853. Its members then staffed St. Patrick’s parish free school for boys and from 1854 on, the newly-opened St. Mary’s Academy and later St. Mary’s College. He contracted yellow fever in 1853 but survived and was sent to New York in 1854. In 1861 he was appointed director of Christian Brothers College in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1864 first visitor of the District of the United States, with headquarters in New York City. That year the schools in the United States were separated from the District of North America to create the new District of the United States (later, of New York). He had a major problem immediately when the clergy in New York pressured him to break all ties with the Order in France. Fearing that he would yield, the French superiors removed him from office in 1866. He was sent back to the Community of New Orleans as director in 1867 but got sick in 1869 and was sent to St. Louis in June to recover. He died three months later.

1885: Brother Joannis Michael (Michael O’Laughlin) died in Carondelet, Missouri, at age 25. He was born in Miltown, Malbay, Ireland, on December 15, 1859, and migrated to the United States with his family. He received the brother’s robe in the novitiate in Carondelet, Missouri, on December 15, 1880, at age 21. He served in three schools in the Midwest and was diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1883. He was sent to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in April 1885 for a cure. However, after three months he returned to Glencoe and died shortly afterwards.

1961: Brother Nazaire Samuel (Jean-Claude Débard) died in San Antonio, Texas, at age 66, of complications following emergency surgery. He was born in Araules in the French department of Haute-Loire on August 11, 1895, and entered the junior novitiate at Vals, France, on August 11, 1895, and entered the junior novitiate at Vals, France, on March 5, 1910. Three months later on August 9 he was sent to the missionary junior novitiate at Premia del Mar on the Spanish Mediterranean coast. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate there on June 11, 1911. A year later he was sent to a second foreign country, Belgium, for two years of study in the missionary scholasticate at the brothers’ international motherhouse in Lembecq. His first assignment was to the brothers’ school in Zacatecas, Mexico, in January 1914. Six months later the Carranza revolutionaries attacked the city and shot two of the brothers and their chaplain to death. The rest of the community escaped by railroad in a cattle car to El Paso, Texas, and were taken in by the brothers at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After a year of studying English there, Brother Nazaire was assigned to teach at La Salle Institute in Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1915-1921,
where most of the boys came from the poorest of families. In 1921 he was sent to Louisiana to teach at Cathedral High School in Lafayette, 1921-1925, and St. Paul’s College (high school) in Covington, 1925-1926. He was sent to St. Michael’s in Santa Fe in 1926 as a teacher and a dormitory supervisor for the younger boarding students. He played a critical role in avoiding a disaster when a fire broke out during the night in the dormitory building at the end of November. He was the first to discover it and got all the students evacuated safely. In 1928 he was sent back to Louisiana, where he taught at St. Paul’s one year and Cathedral in Lafayette until 1935. He taught again at St. Michael’s in Santa Fe, 1935-1940, and at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, 1940-1944. He managed the brothers’ ranch in Bernalillo, New Mexico, 1944-1953, and then received three more teaching assignments in Texas: Kirwin High School in Galveston, 1953-1956, Cathedral High School in El Paso, 1956-1960, and La Salle High School in San Antonio, 1960 until his death. A description written by one of his teachers in the junior novitiate was mirrored throughout his life: “... a good boy, not great at studies and a bit mischievous, full of pep at sports and always kind to his playmates.” In his personal notes he gives the real reason for his interest in coaching athletic teams: “... to do good to the young, to get them away from the corrupt environment of the streets and strengthen their minds as well as their bodies. ... In sports I can easily get to the hearts of my students. I have often been able to give them advice that I could not give in class.”

One of his former students wrote: “Brother Nazaire! God bless him. He’s the one who taught me the value of effort, not only to win football games but also the most important of games—the game of life. I owe him so much in this regard. I cried when I received the news of his death. God owes it to himself to reward him well, because he did us so much good.”

2005: Brother Emmanuel Timothy (Bernard Beleto) died in Lafayette, Louisiana, at age 66, after battling diabetes and heart problems. He was born on January 31, 1939, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He entered the novitiate at De La Salle in Lafayette and received the brother’s garb there on September 7, 1957. He studied in the scholasticate at St. Michael’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1958-1961, and was assigned to teach at Landry Memorial High School, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, 1961-1963, and St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, 1963-1964. He taught as a volunteer in the brothers’ schools in the District of the Philippines, 1964-1969. After the fall semester at Christian Brothers School in New Orleans he was sent to Manhattan College in New York City in January 1970 and appointed district vocation director later that year. He started the school year 1973-1974 teaching at Catholic High School in New Iberia, Louisiana, but in November was sent to St. Paul’s High School in Covington, Louisiana, where he taught until 1976 and served as assistant principal until 1978. He was sent back to New Iberia in 1978 as a teacher and community director. A year later he was appointed principal and served until 1984. He was sent back to Covington and taught there until 1991, except for a one-semester program in the brothers’ international motherhouse in Rome in the spring of 1985. He taught at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, Louisiana, 1991-1993, De La Salle High School in New Orleans, 1993-1995, Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, Tennessee, 1995-1998, and in Covington again, 1998-1999. After a summer at De La Salle in New Orleans he was unable to return to teaching and was sent to the retirement community at De La Salle in Lafayette.

1867: Brother Savinian (Alexander McGavock) died of yellow fever at age 41 in Pass Christian, Mississippi. He was born on January 12, 1826, in Cahir, Ireland, and migrated to the United States. At age 29 he entered the novitiate on Cerre Street in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1855. His first assignment was to the Community of New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1855, and he taught in St. Mary’s Academy. He was sent to New York in 1864 and then to Pass Christian College, where he died.

1867: Brother Urban (Michael Kelly) died of yellow fever in Pass Christian, Mississippi, at age 44. He was born in Bellinan, Meath, Ireland, on August 15, 1823, and migrated to the United States. In 1850 at age 27 he entered the novitiate in Montreal, Canada. He taught in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, was director of the community in Troy, and taught in Albany, New York, where he is credited with organizing the first Christian Brothers alumni association. In 1867 he was named director and president of St. Mary’s College in Galveston, Texas. He and his community were kept from entering the city in August by a quarantine imposed to control yellow fever. They were forced to return to New Orleans and received temporary assignments there and in Pass Christian. He succumbed to yellow fever, the second to die on the same day.

1913: Brother Ambrose Odorick (James Troy) died in Chicago, Illinois, a month short of age 55. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, on Oct. 15, 1845, and migrated to the United States with his family. At age 28 he entered the novitiate in Carondelet, Missouri, on October 18, 1873. His first assignments were brief and in the Deep South: in 1874, the Community of New Orleans, Louisiana, and in 1875 the cathedral school in Mobile, Alabama. Among his many assignments in the St. Louis District schools were two at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1897-1899 and 1902-1909.

1858: Brother Charles died of yellow fever in New Orleans, Louisiana. His name appears on the brothers’ monument in St. Patrick’s Cemetery no. 3 in New Orleans with his birth date and place as 1833 in Ireland. One could presume his entrance into the novitiate in Montreal. His name does not appear in the “Supplément historique” of the Community of New Orleans. His is the first death recorded after 1853; there
were two in 1859. One can presume that he died of yellow fever. No record of his family name has been found.

18. 1867: Brother Besas (Bernard Howe) died of yellow fever in New Orleans, Louisiana, at age 53. He was born in Mallow, Tipperary, Ireland, on June 2, 1814, and migrated to the United States. He entered the novitiate in Montreal on September 17, 1852, at age 38 and received the brother’s robe there on October 19. He was sent to teach in Troy, New York, the same month, then to Ellicott City and Baltimore, both in Maryland. In 1864 at age 50 was appointed subdirector of the Community of New Orleans and senior class teacher at St. Mary’s College. He was one of many victims of the yellow fever epidemic that year.

1943: Brother Agbert (Jean-Pierre Rettel) died of a heart attack in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at age 60. He was born on February 14, 1883, in Dalheim in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and entered the junior novitiate at Bzenval, near Paris, France, on August 1, 1898, where his first challenge was to master his second language, French. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate in Paris on October 22, 1899. He was given three instead of two years in the scholasticate and received his teaching license in 1903. The school to which he was assigned, St. Nicolas in Bzenval, was closed in 1904 as a result of the anti-religious laws of that year, and he was assigned to St. Nicolas in Vaugirard, where he taught until 1909, when that school was closed by the same law. That fall he joined many of his confrères in Caluire, near Lyon, for an intensive course in Spanish. He arrived in Zacatecas, Mexico, in August 1910 and taught there in 1911 and 1912. He was sent to the Colegio San Juan Bautista de la Salle in Mexico City for the school year 1913, and back to Zacatecas in 1914. At the end of June the Carranza revolutionaries captured the city, jailed the whole community, and shot two brothers and their chaplain to death. The rest escaped the country in July through El Paso, Texas, and were welcomed by the brothers at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After a few days of rest, he was in the group sent to the St. Louis District’s scholasticate in Glencoe, Missouri, to begin learning his fourth language, English, at age 31. Two months later he was teaching at Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1917 he was sent to teach at the brothers’ school in Kansas City, Missouri, and in 1918 he was assigned to the founding community that took over the operation St. Paul’s College (high school) in Covington, Louisiana. In 1926 he was sent to teach at St. Peter’s College (high school) in New Iberia, Louisiana, and in 1930 back to St. Paul’s, this time as subdirector. In 1931 he was sent back to New Iberia as director, 1931-1937, then in the same position to Saint Nicholas School in Bernalillo, New Mexico, 1937-1943, and finally to St. Michael’s in Santa Fe. He was known among the brothers for his constant efforts to master every new language, by the universality of his interests and by his constant efforts to learn new things. He was highly skilled in paying attention to other people and in dealing with them according to their needs—confrères, students, adults, all people he worked with—and in gaining their respect and cooperation. Brother Antel Arsène "Arsenius" (Aloys Josef Macher) states in his memoirs that "The young teachers were the object of his special care. He helped them prepare their lessons, visited their classes often, and in private conferences pointed out how they could have done better. All the brothers who were with him for some time became good teachers and are unanimous in attributing their success to him. Agbert was deeply religious, a man of faith who sought God’s glory first, his own salvation, and that of his pupils." He became sick during his last year in Bernalillo and was assigned to St. Michael’s in Santa Fe as subdirector in charge of supervising the teachers. His death was quite unexpected and was a shock to all who knew him.

1952: Brother Justin Declan (Thomas Egan) died of a stroke at age 63 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was born in Cooloney, Ireland, on May 27, 1889, and entered the novitiate in Castletown on October 18, 1906, at age 17. He received the brother’s garb there on December 24 that year. Convinced he was called to missionary work in the United States, he was sent to the scholasticate in Glencoe, Missouri, in 1910. Among his many assignments in the St. Louis District schools was one at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1915-1916.

19. 1912: Brother Cerinus David (Edward McDonnell) died at age 69 in Glencoe, Missouri. He was born in Catelbar, Mayo, Ireland, on June 1, 1843, and migrated with his family to the United States. He entered the novitiate in Carondelet, Missouri, in 1868 at age 25. He was sent to Louisiana in 1870 to serve as cook for the community at St. Vincent’s Academy in Jefferson City, then the Community of New Orleans, and finally the community at St. Joseph’s Academy in New Orleans. He taught at St. Vincent’s in 1873 and then at the cathedral school in Mobile, Alabama, 1875-1877.

20. None

21. 1918: Brother Nicéas-Bertin (Jean-Pierre Bonnet) died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at age 58, after a year-long battle with cancer of the tongue. He was born in the village of Monet in the French department of Haute-Loire on March 6, 1860, the first of 11 children. He spent four winters with an aunt in Le Puy, and the devout layman she hired to tutor him encouraged him to enter the religious life. He entered the
novitiate in Le Puy as a postulant on January 13, 1875, but his short height and his timidity made the novice master hesitate. Jean-Pierre's diminutive size and noticeable enlargement of one eye gave him an unprepossessing appearance. Finally, his persistence paid off, and after 13 long months of repeated requests he was given the brother's garb on March 19, 1876. After finishing the 12-month program, he was kept in the novitiate another year as a teacher. In 1878 he was sent to the school in La Canourgue and stayed 14 years, the last as director. Br. Nicéas-Bertin was a community superior and school administrator the rest of his life. He was director of the school in Yssingeaux, 1892-1903, and of St. Michel in Le Puy, 1903-1904. When it was closed in 1910 on account of the anti-religious laws of 1901 and 1904 he had the courage at age 50 to enroll that fall in an intensive course in Spanish at Caluire, near Lyon. He arrived in Puebla, Mexico, in March 1911, was assigned to teach briefly in the tuition-based San Pedro y San Pablo Colegio, appointed director, and then moved to head Colegio San Juan Bautista de la Salle, a school for the poor. Two years later was appointed visitor of the District of Mexico. When the Carranza revolution in 1914 forced the expulsion of all foreign priests and religious, he successfully got all 175 brothers out of the country on short notice and found places for them to go. The visitor of the District of Cuba found teaching jobs for 52, the visitors of the four districts in the United States took 65, and the remainder returned to France, where some lived incognito while teaching in private schools, and the rest joined the army to fight in the World War of 1914-1918. For two years Brother Nicéas-Bertin was a chief without Indians, because his brothers received their assignments from the American visitors. However, by March 1916 the superiors in Lembecq had decided to have his brothers take over the three St. Louis District schools in New Mexico as a first step to get back to their schools in Mexico. Brother Nicéas Bertin made St. Michael's College (high school) in Santa Fe his headquarters and took on the presidency of the school when the American brothers left at the end of the school year. He called his brothers from all over the United States to staff St. Michael's, La Salle Institute in Las Vegas, and St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo. Not all of them were needed in these schools, but they all wanted to be together. So he chose Br. Alton to scout for locations for new schools. Br. Alton found none in the Southwest, so he tried Louisiana, where French was still commonly spoken. In the summer of 1918 he completed negotiations to staff St. Paul’s College (high school) in Covington and to open St. Peter’s College (high school) in New Iberia. Brother Nicéas resigned the visitorship in April because he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and his successor signed the contracts. But he lived long enough to see the two schools opened.

22-23. None

24. 1974: Brother Geoffroy Alexis (Jean Baptiste André Hostalier) died peacefully in his sleep in Lafayette, Louisiana, at age 86. He was born on December 7, 1887, in Prinséjols in the French department of La Lozère and entered the junior novitiate in Clermont-Ferrand on September 27, 1900. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate there on September 27, 1903, but it was closed less than four months later by the antireligious laws of 1904. The novices were sent home. However, in June 1904 Jean-Baptiste and his fellow novices were able to resume the novitiate program in Bettange, Luxemburg. After that, Br. Alexis studied in the scholasticate in the brothers’ international motherhouse in Lembecq, Belgium. His first assignment in the fall of 1906 was to the community in Puebla, Mexico, where he taught at San Juan Bautista de la Salle, the school for the poor, until the Carranza revolution forced all foreign priests and religious out of the country in 1914. He was among some 65 of the 175 French brothers then in Mexico who chose the opportunity to go to the United States. He was sent to the Baltimore District, where he learned English and taught at Rock Hill College in Baltimore and then at the Protecratory in Philadelphia. In 1918 he was called to be on the founding faculty that took over the operation of St. Paul’s College (high school) in Covington, Louisiana, from the Benedictine monks. However, the hot, humid climate exacerbated his asthma, and in 1919 he was sent to the mountainous, dry climate of New Mexico, where he spent the rest of his life. He taught at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, 1919-1923, the scholasticate at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, 1923-1926, and St. Michael’s again, 1926-1929. He was then appointed director of the scholasticate and stayed 22 years, the first 18 at Sacred Heart in Las Vegas, 1929-1947, and the last four at the newly-opened four-year program at St. Michael’s College in Santa Fe, 19471951. At age 64 he retired from school work and served as custodian of the San Miguel Church in downtown Santa Fe the next 20 years. Failing health forced him to retire again in 1971, and the care he needed forced his transfer to the retirement home at De La Salle in Lafayette two months before his death. Among many testimonials and notes written, two from different points of view highlight his character. Brother Richard Armandez, his student in the scholasticate and his superior as visitor of the district wrote: “Personally I found him very understanding and helpful in reddition (personal counseling sessions) ... and he made a deep
impression on my own spiritual life, more perhaps by his example than by his teaching or advice. You could wonder at times about some of the things he said and seemed to take for granted, but you could not doubt his own sincerity and willingness to live by what he preached.” Brother Nicolas-Marie (Pierre A. Tuzet), his student in the scholasticate in Las Vegas in 1924 and a teacher under him there, 1933-1935, wrote: “Brother Alexis lived high ideals in his way of thinking; he loved teaching—one could sense that. His whole life, full of experience, unfolded itself right before us as he related incidents after incidents, facts upon facts. He loved to pray; he loved to work, but all seemed motivated by a limitless enthusiasm for expressing himself and joyfully sharing his life with others.”

25. 1867: Brother Silverian (Patrick Kane) died of yellow fever in New Orleans, Louisiana, at age 31. He was born in Moneygale, Ireland, on March 17, 1836, and entered the novitiate in Montreal in 1855. He was first assigned to Christian Brothers College in St. Louis, Missouri, and then to the Community of New Orleans, Louisiana, where he arrived in November 1855 to teach at St. Mary’s Academy until 1862. He was assigned to St. Vincent’s Academy in nearby Jefferson City one year and then back to St. Mary’s in 1863, where he stayed until his death. He was assigned to St. Mary’s College in Galveston, Texas, in September, 1867. He and the community were turned away from that city on account of a quarantine imposed to control a yellow fever epidemic there. They returned to New Orleans, where, ironically, a yellow fever epidemic had broken out too and took the lives of Brother Silverian and another brother shortly after they got back.

1867: Brother Eliseus died of yellow fever in New Orleans, Louisiana. This is the only recorded information about him, found in the St. Louis District archives.

1999: Brother Nicet Joseph (Pierre Loubet) superior general, died in Athis-Mons, France, at age 101. He was born on February 12, 1898, in Champclause in the French department of Haute Loire and entered the junior novitiate in Vals in 1910. He received the brother’s robe in the novitiate in Lembecq, Belgium, on May 14, 1914. A year later he studied in the scholasticate at Hal, Belgium, and remained there until 1925 as a professor except for two years of military service in 1919-1920. In 1925 he was sent to the University of Lille in France for two years of advanced studies and then taught in the brothers’ boarding school in Passy-Froyennes, Belgium, until 1930. He spent the years 1930-1933 in North America, where he learned two new languages and taught. His first stay was in Mexico. In the United States he spent a short time in the St. Louis District and more in the New Orleans–Santa Fe District, where he taught in the scholasticate at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and in the junior novitiate at De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana. He spent 1933 in a special program at the motherhouse in Lembecq and then went back to Passy-Froyennes as a teacher. He was appointed director of the scholasticate in Hal, Belgium, in 1936 and of the one in Lille in 1937. He was called up for military duty again in 1937 and was discharged in 1940. He spent the next six years as a professor at Notre Dame de France in Puy-en-Velay and the years 1946 to 1956 as director of the year-long special programs for brothers from all over the world at their international motherhouse in Rome. In 1956 he was elected to a 10-year term as superior general and in that capacity traveled widely. He attended the Second Vatican Council as an official observer. He launched the Lasallian studies program of research into the Founder’s life and works, and established Jesus Magister Institute for the theological studies of the brothers. Perhaps his greatest challenge was the revision of the brothers’ rule, which he launched as a mandate to all religious orders by Vatican Council II. He had to wait until 1987 to see the Vatican’s final approval. When his term ended, he served in the third world African country of Burkina Faso for two years. He was then called back to France to be director of the retirement community of Notre Dame de La Blanche in Pont-Saint-Esprit. In 1974, at age 76, he retired at Athis-Mons, where he spent his last years in prayer, reading, correspondence with friends, and lending a hand in community as long as he was able.

26. 1873: Brother Adalard (Charles Mathieu) died of yellow fever in New Orleans, Louisiana, at age 34. He was born in St. Claire, Canada, on March 20, 1839, and entered the novitiate in Montreal on July 31, 1857, at age 18. He taught in New York and in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1868 was sent to the Community of New Orleans, Louisiana. There he taught at St. Mary’s College and was named subdirector in 1871. He was sent back to St. Louis in 1872 and back to his position in New Orleans in 1873. He contracted yellow fever while caring for sick brothers in the community; they recovered, but he died of it.

1949: Brother Amarin-Joseph (Marcellin Camille Mercier) died at age 64 of a heart attack in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was born in Saint-Jean Chazorne in the French department of La Lozère on September 26, 1885. Mindful of his oldest brother, who became a Christian Brother, and an older sister who joined an order of nursing sisters, Camille entered the junior novitiate in Paris on February 2, 1900. He received the brother’s garb in the novitiate at the same location on October 27, 1901. He received his teaching certificate in 1905 and was assigned to teach in the brothers’ school, St.-Nicolas in Vaugirard, and in 1907 was drafted for two years of service in the French army. After an honorable discharge in 1909, he went to Caluire and joined many of his confrères whose schools had been closed on
account of the anti-religious laws of 1901 and 1904 and were taking an intensive course in Spanish. In June 1910 he arrived in Mexico City, where he taught in a newly-opened school. In January 1911 he was assigned to teach in Torreón and three years later to Zacatecas. Five months later, near the end of June 1914, the Carranza revolutionaries attacked the city and shot two of the brothers and their chaplain to death. The rest escaped the country in July through El Paso, Texas, and were welcomed by the brothers at St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The atrocities he had witnessed and suffered in Zacatecas afflicted him the rest of his life and he was unable to resume teaching. He alternated between St. Michael’s in Santa Fe and St. Nicholas School in Bernalillo, New Mexico, 1914-1921, in offering various support services. In 1921 he was appointed director of food services at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and during the next 17 years of dire poverty he showed considerable skill and ingenuity in stretching his small budget to provide healthy meals for successive groups of junior novices, novices, and scholastics. In addition to the physically demanding work he also suffered attacks of depression and moral scrupulosity. In late 1938 he was relieved of his burden and assigned to the Holy Family Community at De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana. He fulfilled his desire to serve by supervising the on-site laundry operations for the entire personnel of the provincialate, novitiate, and junior novitiate. He survived a heart attack in May 1949 and was released from the hospital. However, he became mentally unstable and was sent to a clinic in New Orleans, where he gradually recovered and was about to be discharged after three months, when a second heart attack was fatal.

27. 1891: Brother Gratian of Jesus (Stephen Abts) died suddenly in Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, a few weeks short of age 54. He was born on October 13, 1837, in Rommerskirchen, Düsseldorf, Germany, and migrated to the United States with his family. Two of his older brothers entered religious life, one a Jesuit and one a Franciscan. Stephen entered the novitiate in Ammandale, Maryland, in January 1881 at age 44. After teaching in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his health failed and he was sent to St. Nicholas school in Bernalillo, New Mexico, in hopes of a cure in the better climate. He was moved to St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe in 1886. There he supervised resident students and cared for the San Miguel Mission church until his death.

28. 1853: Brother Daniel (Marcel LeBlanc) died of yellow fever in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. He was born in Canada in 1827 and entered the novitiate in Montreal in 1851 at age 24. In 1852 he was sent to be a founder of Our Lady of the Gulf School in Bay St. Louis. He was the third member of the community of four to die of yellow fever in 1853.

1910: Brother Osmund Joseph (Daniel O’Meara) died in Glencoe, Missouri, at age 71. He was born in Tipperary, Ireland, on April 2, 1839, and migrated with his family to the United States. At age 14 he entered the novitiate in St. Louis on Cerre Street on April 15, 1853. After teaching in New York and in Canada, he was sent from Montreal to St. Michael’s College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1862, and taught there until 1865. He was director of Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Taos, New Mexico, 1865-1867, and refused to go back for a third year because he found the conditions there intolerable. He taught in Santa Fe one more year and then in New York one year. In 1867 he was sent with Brother Noah, director, to teach at the Oblate Fathers’ St. Joseph’s College in Brownsville, Texas, beginning in January, 1868. Both refused to go back after making their annual retreat in New York in the summer of 1869 because they found the conditions unbearable. He then served at Pass Christian College in Mississippi one year and at St. Mary’s College in New Orleans a few months before going to St. Louis, Missouri. Among his many assignments after that was one in New Orleans, 1878-1879, and one in Santa Fe in 1879. He retired to Glencoe in 1909 as one of the most noted linguists of the St. Louis District.

29. 1877: Brother Leo of Jesus (James C. Hoey), died in Manhattanville, New York, at age 49. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, on September 4, 1828, and entered the novitiate at age 30 in Montreal, Canada, in 1858. He taught in Albany, New York, and St. Louis, Missouri. He was sent to the Community of New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1874 to be subdirector and teacher at St. Mary’s College. When the college went bankrupt and closed in 1875, he was sent to Manhattanville.

30. 1954: Brother Arèse-Casimir (Louis Valentin Noël Bression) died in Rome at age 91. When the brothers’ superior general, Brother Junien Victor, died in 1940 during World War II, Pope Pius XII appointed Brother Arèse-Casimir, an assistant to the superior, their vicar general to govern them. The war made it impossible to assemble a special general chapter to elect a superior. The Italian government had confiscated the brothers’ motherhouse in Rome for use as a hospital, and Br. Junien Victor, had managed to relocate all the Institute’s records and seven of his assistants to Mauléon in France before he died. Br. Arèse-Casimir governed the world-wide Institute from there until the end of the war, when he transferred the motherhouse back to Rome and convened an international general chapter in 1946. Already 84 years old, he did not stand for reelection. Louis Valentin Noël Bression was born in Courteau, France, on December 13, 1862, and entered the novitiate in Thillois-les-Reims in 1878. He had been visitor of the District of Reims only one year when he was elected to his first term as assistant to the superior general in 1920 and re-elected in 1930. He lived in retirement in the motherhouse until his death.