Passages

These days in the District of San Francisco New Orleans are exciting and emotional ones for us. Graduations, retreats, welcomes, farewells — a linking together of endings and beginnings through which the lives of Brothers, Partners, students, and ministries move from chapter to chapter, from one version of self to the next. It is the part of the cycle of District life that is the reason — both as cause and as purpose — why our District lives. These are the days of passages.

This latest Dateline District will focus on providing glimpses of at least some of these passages. You will trace the footsteps of Lasallians in transit: where they started, where they are going, and, above all, how their individual journeys also can and do include us all. In this issue, you will discover:

- How a Pasadena senior’s commencement address seized on the simplest of Lasallian phrases to guide her audience into the very heart of the Lasallian mission.
- How a junior in Milwaukie, OR, took his film-making talents to the streets of Portland and used his eyes and conscience to turn others toward the lives of America’s urban homeless.
- How Brothers across the District honored and celebrated their own for lifetimes of service with out which our ministries and our world would not be the same.
- How two girls, one in San Francisco and one in Tucson, are laying claim to futures built on hope, opportunity, and the unlikeliest of beginnings.
- How the daughters of a beloved Lasallian partner remind us not only of what we lost in her passing, but also of what we were given in her living.

Søren Kierkegaard wrote, “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.” This latest collection of our District’s stories offers powerful evidence of the truth of this. Through many and varied experiences, members of our District family are gaining from their deep reverence for what has come before a growing realization of how and why it must continue. And so, as they make the passage to all that lies ahead, they are carrying Lasallian minds and hearts within them. Read all about it.
Upcoming Events

Lasallian Student Leaders
June 21-26 | UC San Diego

Secondary Schools Administrators Association
June 22-24 | Mont La Salle

Association of Board Chairs
June 24-26 | Mont La Salle

Lasallian Youth Assembly
July 19-24 | St. Mary’s College

Buttimer Institute for Lasallian Studies
June 28-July 11 | St. Mary’s College

Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice
July 12-17 | Lewis University

Quick Links

Lasallian Family Portal
Christian Brothers Conference
District of Eastern North America
Midwest District
Francophone Canada District
Brothers Vocation
Lasallian Volunteers
Young Lasallians Facebook

Bulletin Board

RELAN Notes and Announcements

Christian Brothers Conference has announced several new personnel appointments. Alisa Macksey will serve as interim Conference Executive Director effective June 2. She also will continue in her current role as the Region’s programs director. Anna Waddelove has joined Christian Brothers Conference as the communications specialist effective June 8. She most recently served as the marketing and communications specialist for Commonwealth Catholic Charities in Richmond, Virginia. The Conference also has moved to new offices at 415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20017.

Registration is now open for this year’s Lasallian Research Symposium, to be held September 27-29 at the Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus. Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, FSC will be the keynote speaker.

Join our Brothers and Partners online for Together as Brothers, their 10-day trek on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

The latest issues of Digital Journal of Lasallian Research; AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education; and the spring 2015 issue of De La Salle Today are available online.

Learn about the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle by exploring the online pilgrimage, In the Footsteps of De La Salle.

Pepper-Uppers

Shoes are required to eat here. Socks can eat wherever they want.

I haven’t slept for three days, because that just would be too long.

The trouble with eating Italian food is that 4 or 5 days later you’re hungry again.

Kids know that there is no such thing as fun for the whole family.

The worst part about New Year’s Eve parties at the boss’ house is looking for a job the next day.

I want to ask my friend to pay back the money that I lent him for plastic surgery, but now I don’t know what he looks like.

Too much beer can cause memory loss. Or even worse, memory loss.

Honk if you love Jesus. Text while you drive if you’d like to join him.

In ancient times, cats were worshiped as gods. They have not forgotten this.

Inside of me is a skinny guy crying to get out, but I can usually shut him up with hot dogs.

We’ve been through so much together, and most of it was your fault.
In a morning assembly, Brother Gale Condit, FSC, president, introduced Mr. Marc Milano as the new principal at Archbishop Rummel High School, beginning on July 1, 2015. He is a 1990 Raider alumnus and the father of student Joel Milano, ’15. Mr. Milano met with the faculty and staff after school in the Genesian Theater. The meeting was brief and concise, as Mr. Milano said he prefers. He spoke about his administrative methods and told the faculty he will be on campus to support them in the classroom.

The 2015 Celebrity Waiters Dinner is history, and it will go down as the biggest, most successful event in school history. A total of 38 tables of 10 persons filled the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel as guests walked into the hotel that housed numerous live and silent auction items plus many parade of prizes baskets. At the end of the celebration, the school’s advancement team had profited $180,000.

Four Archbishop Rummel alumni from the Class of 2008 graduated last month from the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Christopher Ulfers, summa cum laude and order of the coif graduate, served as the editor-in-chief of the Louisiana Law Review. Alexander Baynham, magna cum laude, served as a senior editor of the Louisiana Law Review. Michael Lambert served as the online editor of the Louisiana Law Review. Jerry Lassalle served as a member of the LSU Law Trial Advocacy Board.

The first day of exams was a busy one on campus, as the faculty and staff gathered in the Raider Room for a thank you and farewell to Mr. Michael Scalco, principal. With food supplied by parents and alumni parents of the school, the party included much food and desserts for the entire staff. Midway through the lunch, Brother Gale Condit, FSC, president, paid tribute to Mr. Scalco and then he presented him with a gift. Later in the morning, Mr. Scalco and his family cut the big cake and again he was thanked for his service.

The 50th Commencement Exercises for Archbishop Rummel took place Tuesday evening in the Pontchartrain Center. The baccalaureate Mass was celebrated by Fr. Kurt Young, chaplain, and was followed by graduation. Valedictorian Timothy Primes and salutatorian Keaton Ott gave opening and closing speeches. Primes will attend the University of Notre Dame, while Ott is headed to Tulane University. Following the commencement, the seniors walked to the Lake Pontchartrain levee for the now-famous hat toss before hundreds of family, friends, and cameras.

During the final mass of the school year, Mr. Michael Scalco, principal, called out the names of 12 faculty and staff members who were recognized for years of service at Archbishop Rummel. Each was given a memento by Brother Gale Condit, FSC. The highlight was the school’s first 50-year faculty member, Mr. Bill Arthurs. Afterwards, the honorees and their guests enjoyed a reception in the faculty dining room.
**Cathedral High School | El Paso, TX**

One of the remarkable things about our community is that three of us celebrated our birthdays within ten days. Another is that our house is empty and quiet with the departure of our two Lasallian Volunteers: Sheila Garcia to the de-briefing retreat and then to her home in California; and Catherine Buck two days earlier to her home in Trenton, NJ, for her grandmother’s funeral. Sheila has committed to a second year with us. Rebecca Hulick, a recent graduate of Penn State University, spent a couple of days visiting us and made a commitment to join us next year. She heard about Lasallian Volunteers from an aunt who is an affiliated member.

Three of us attended District Day in Santa Fe on April 25. Br. Nick Gonzalez went to Denver (by bus!) to attend a niece’s graduation from high school. Br. Mariano Lopez attended a niece’s graduation from college in Waco, TX, and spent several days with family in Santa Fe for the funeral of a 94-year old aunt. Br. James N. Grahmann’s only planned trip since his research in the archives in Napa last winter will be one to Hallettsville, TX, for a family reunion on Father’s Day. Br. Alphonse LeBlanc drove to Tucson for a Directors’ meeting. At a recent visit to his ophthalmologist, he learned that he had cataracts in both eyes. He had surgery on one and has surgery on the other scheduled for later in June.

We recently hosted an evening meal for the faculty in our patio. Br. Alphonse proudly showed off the new combination grill/steamer that he acquired. All of us plan to spend the summer in El Paso. Br. Nick is spending time with his mother while she recovers from a recent accident at home. He also continues to oversee a school construction project which includes the installation of HVAC units in each classroom and the reconfiguration of the school’s patio area. The administration offices and summer school classes have relocated to St. Patrick’s Elementary School for the summer months.

*Brother James N. Grahmann, FSC*  
Correspondent

---

**Cathedral High School | Los Angeles, CA**

In March, Brother Roch Dufresne attended the National Association of Broadcasters meeting in Las Vegas to learn the latest to use with his own broadcasting class. His students produce a program for the school every morning.

Brother John Montgomery attended the World Council for dinner and speeches given for Arabia's defense minister and the ambassador for France who spoke about the problems with Iran. He took four students also. Brother Roch has also attended these sessions.

On April 21, three Brothers attended the scholarship banquet given by Mr. Melvin Henderson, an alumnus, for incoming freshmen and for graduates going to Willamette University, Oregon.

La Salle High School in Pasadena honored Brother De Sales Benning for the 60th anniversary of his becoming a Christian Brother. This was held at the school’s celebration of the feast of St. La Salle. Four Brothers from Cathedral attended the Mass and presentation. Mr. Richard Grey gave
a talk about Brother’s years of service, especially those at La Salle, and presented him with a plaque in his honor. The Brothers attended a luncheon afterwards at the Arcadia Country Club. Brother De Sales was also honored at the district convocation in May.

Brother John took twelve students to the archdiocesan Catholic Education Foundation dinner at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in May. These “Service C” students in their purple service sweaters acted as greeters for the four-hundred guests. The school receives financial aid from the foundation each year, as do other schools in the Archdiocese.

The school’s Baccalaurete Mass was held at the Cathedral for 175 seniors on May 22. Graduation took place in Pasadena at the Church of the Nazarene on May 23. 99% of the class will attend college this coming fall.

The community held its end of the year dinner on June 6, and is now ready to move from its temporary housing at Our Lady Help of Christians parish to its remodeled house on Bishops Road. Before leaving the parish, the Brothers will hold a dinner to honor the Piarist Fathers for making the former convent facilities available. THANKS to Our Lady Help of Christians for letting the Brothers find a "home away from home" for the past year.

**Christian Brothers School | New Orleans, LA**

The school year at Christian Brothers School closed at the end of May after a flurry of activities, including, of course, 7th grade graduation.

116 seventh-graders received their graduation certificates in the traditional Graduations Mass and Awards held on May 22 in the school’s Cultural Center. Dominic Stoner received the Scholastic Award as the graduating seventh grader with the highest scholastic average for his three years at Christian Brothers School. Hayes Thomas Martin was recipient of the Provincial’s Lasallian Award as the seventh grader who, in the opinion of the faculty, has exhibited an outstanding balance of scholarship and sportsmanship in the person of a Christian gentleman. John Edward Morgan III was honored with the Brother Harold Turner Athletic Award for the seventh grader who has contributed most to CBS athletics by example of leadership, sportsmanship, participation, dedication, ability and as an ambassador of Christian Brothers School. William Calvin Wells II was the student speaker selected to address the graduates, families, and friends during the ceremonies.

Three seventh-graders received national honors and 22 others received state honors in the Duke University’s Talent Identification Program, in which they took the ACT college placement exam alongside high school juniors and seniors. Receiving national honors were James Henican, Dominic Stoner and William Wells. To qualify for national honors, a student must achieve.
one of the following on his ACT test: at least a 29 in English, a 28 in Math, a 30 in Reading, a 27 in Science or a composite score of 28.

Sixth-grader Dominic Senentz earned 4th place in the state at the recent Louisiana State Geography Bee, outlasting almost all of the top 100 students from across the state in the competition. He was the last remaining contestant from the New Orleans area.

Under the direction of Michael Orkus, the Falcon Band performed an evening of patriotic music, including “March On, America” and “God Bless America,” for fellow students and parents. It then presented an encore performance for the entire student body during Founder’s Day Activities on May 15. A highlight of the concert was a vocal performance by assistant principal Heath Barker, who sang “God Bless the U.S.A.”

Eleven seventh-graders, under the direction of teacher Whitney Brown, presented several one-act comedies, “Count Ferdinand von Finklestein’s Fabulous Freak Show and Circus,” during the annual Spring Concert. The performance was repeated on Founder’s Day for the entire student body.

In late spring, 26 students and their dads attended an overnight get-together and retreat in Bay St. Louis. It was directed by chaplain Fr. Stephen Dardis, LC, and a team of CBS dads. CBS moms participated this year in “Momnipotence”, an evening series with Fr. Stephen on Christian parenting and scripture study. CBS also hosted an Evening for Couples in early May, put on by CBS parents who led the evening under the direction of our Father Stephen. The couples concluded the evening by renewing their wedding vows in the upstairs Chapel.

Recently, our sixth-graders visited the World War II Museum in downtown New Orleans. The day’s highlight occurred when they met veteran Joseph Rockforte, Sr. Rockforte landed on Utah Beach at Normandy in a Higgins boat during the D-Day invasion, and was captured 12 days later. He remained a POW until the end of the war in Europe.

The CBS Tennis season ended with the Metro Middle School League tournament, and of four team from CBS entered, two reached the semi-finals and two reached the finals. Overall, however, the teams accumulated enough points to finish in second place in the tournament.

CBS entered two teams in the Metro Middle School League Volleyball Tournament, and both teams made it to the finals. The Seventh Grade Team defeated the Sixth Grade team for the championship.

De La Salle High School | New Orleans, LA

The 63rd De La Salle High School graduation was held on May 8 at Xavier University Convocation Center. Ninety-nine members of the Class of 2015 received their diplomas.

The class was led by Valedictorian Caroline Rose Robertson and Salutatorian Gabrielle Victoria Gonzalez. Caroline will attend Spring Hill in Mobile, Alabama, on a Presidential Scholarship and will major in premed. She was also selected as one of six students for early entry into St. Louis University Medical School. As a Cavalier, she received numerous academic achievement awards. Caroline served as President of the Key Club and held various leadership positions while at De La Salle.

Caroline Robertson
Gabrielle will attend Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge to major in veterinary medicine and minor in theater. She received the President's Outstanding Academic Excellence Award at graduation. She also received several academic scholarships. Gabrielle participated in numerous school organizations and activities over her four years here.

De La Salle recently was named one of New Orleans’ best workplaces by the *Times-Picayune* newspaper. De La Salle was ranked 13th in the Top Workplaces "Small Companies" division (35-149 employees). More than 60% of De La Salle's faculty and staff hold advanced degrees. We are proud of our highly qualified and experienced faculty and staff who continue to challenge our students to reach their full potential.

Mr. Dustin Farris
Correspondent

De La Salle North Catholic High School | Portland, OR

We held our 11th graduation on June 6. Approximately 1000 family and friends attended to watch 62 seniors walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. We had 5 salutatorians and 2 valedictorians. Approximately 94% of the seniors been accepted to college, with 2 going to a trade school and 2 currently undecided. As in previous years, our graduates are going to colleges and universities all over the country: Georgetown, Boston College, Lehigh, University of Portland, University of Oregon, Oregon State, St. Mary’s College of California, as well as many local colleges and community colleges. A very special thank you to the board members who took the time to come be an important part of our ceremony: Brian Maag, Cyndy Maletis, Bryan Redmond, and Patti O’Mara.

Our guest speaker was Rashida Saunders, a graduate of our first graduating class in 2005. She is a Portland Police Officer, mother of one beautiful daughter and a passionate proponent of De La Salle. She did such a great job.

Here is the link to a recent TV interview of one of this year’s valedictorians. It’s a great story!: [http://www.kgw.com/media/cinematic/video/28581165/valedictorians-come-from-same-family/](http://www.kgw.com/media/cinematic/video/28581165/valedictorians-come-from-same-family/)

All exams are done and the summer has officially started for our 300 young people. We will start up the Corporate Internship Program on June 22 for all the incoming freshmen to learn about what the world of work is all about. Then on June 27, summer school starts for incoming as well as returning students. Never a dull moment around here!

Mr. Tim Hennessy
Correspondent

Centro de Formación Integral La Salle | Tijuana, BC, México

*The Nation Begins Here*
*Tijuana, Baja California*

The city's official slogan, *The Nation Begins Here*, is the phrase with which Presidential candidate Adolfo López Mateos began his speech during his visit to Tijuana in 1958.

April, 2015

We begin by remembering two departed friends. Our longtime neighbor, Marcelino Caletti, died. He had been suffering from progressive blindness and other ailments. Also, one of our dance teachers,
Enrique Coronado, died the day after giving his last dance class of the semester.

The food truck gourmet craze has hit Tijuana. There is a great multi-truck location located a couple of blocks from our educational center. My favorite is the smoked pulled pork sandwich. Tijuana has also become a gourmet coffee town. A number of local establishments have on-site coffee roasters. The coffee is purchased directly from the producers in the south of the Mexican republic. The best Mexican coffee comes from the coffee growing regions of Veracruz, Oxaca, Guerrero, and Chiapas. My daily cup is always wonderful. The food craze has its own slogan: Keep Tijuana tasty.

Ironically, a food scandal has also hit, involving the Tijuana Chinese Restaurant community. Municipal authorities closed more than 10 establishments for unsanitary conditions. An anonymous tip led inspectors to one restaurant in which employees were in the act of cooking a dog. Surprise inspections found a number of establishments with dogs in cages and other irregularities.

The Brothers’ community took a few days during Easter week to travel to Ensenada. We spent a day visiting Valle de Guadalupe, the wine-growing region of Baja California. We visited the well-known La Cetto and boutique wineries like Sol y Barro, Tres Mujeres, and Doña Lupe. There are more than 400 labels produced there. A second day took us to La Bufadora and the wine-growing region of Santo Tomás, south of Ensenada. This is one of the oldest wineries in Mexico and Latin America. Ensenada seems to be a frequent port-of-call for cruise ships. While we were there, four Carnival ships came into port. Cruise ships not only frequent Ensenada, but also container vessels as well. Ensenada is the major west coast port of the Baja Peninsula.

On Monday the 13th, we began the Spring-Summer trimester. It takes us a week to enroll our students. Classes began on the 20th. The night before our last day of enrollment, fences were jumped, a metal door rammed off its hinges, windows broken, and computers stolen. Six computers were left in the alley when neighbors yelled at the thieves. A report was filed at the Public Ministry Office. We set up an alternative enrollment process quickly to attend the half day enrollment of new students. By the end of the week, we had enrolled more than 1800 returning and new students.

The Community would like to thank DLSI and Mayra Paniagua for purchasing for us a gently-used 2014 Dodge Caravan. Our 2004 Caravan was becoming very cranky and requiring a lot of maintenance. An easy exchange was made in San Ysidro on a Sunday morning.

Pita, our Lasallian Volunteer, traveled to Tecpán, near Acapulco to participate in the 10th anniversary of the primary and secondary school there. She was a volunteer there for a year.

Location, Location, Location

Tijuana is located on the northwest corner of Mexico. It boarders on the north with San Diego, California (actually San Ysidro), on the west with the Pacific Ocean, on the east with Tecate, on the southwest with the city of Playas de Rosarito, and the southeast with Ensenada.

It is located at an altitude of 20 metros (65 feet) above seal level. Tijuana is the farthest city from the nation’s capital—México City. When traveling by land on the main route via the Sonoran Desert, the distance to México City is 2, 784 km (1, 730 miles). An alternative scenic route would be down the Baja Peninsula to La Paz, crossing the Sea of Cortez to the mainland by ferry to Mazatlán. By plane, the trip is about 2 hours and 50 minutes long.

May, 2015

The first of May is Labor Day here in México. I took advantage of the holiday to visit my mom and celebrate her 92nd birthday, and to participate in the District Day at MLS. Cinco de Mayo followed. This day celebrates the defeat of French Troops by the Mexican Army in 1862. On Friday the 15th, we celebrated an evening Eucharist with our teachers, and a taco-cena to celebrate the Feast of John Baptist de La Salle and Teacher’s Day. Mass was celebrated by a former student who is the Rector of the Cathedral downtown.
Also, on May 15th, Brother Gabriel Alba Villalobos officially became Visitor of the North-Mexico District. A Mass and luncheon was held in Monterrey. Our Director, Juan Ignacio, went to Saltillo for a few days of district meetings for directors of schools and communities. Brother Carlos Castañeda, Director of Education, has been named Educational Secretary for the Lasallian Latin American Región (RELAL).

On Saturday, May 30th, we celebrated Founder's Day with a Mass, talent show, and pot luck with our students. On Sunday the 31st we Brothers renewed our vows, traveled to a rural area of Tecate for Sunday Mass at Mont Tabor, which is a monastery of the Trinitarians of Mary, and had a late lunch in Tecate. (Yes, Tecate is the town where Tecate Beer is produced.) The Trinitarians of Mary were founded in the Diocese of Tijuana in 1992 and have expanded to a monastery in Guadalajara and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

June, 2015

Juan Ignacio and Pita traveled to Saltillo for the annual Lasallian Volunteer retreat. The District of México-Norte has four volunteer sites: Centro de formación integral La Salle in Tijuana Baja California; Casa Hogar de los pequeños San José in Saltillo, Coahilla; Colegio José María Morelos y Pavón (Primary-Junior High) in Tecpan de Galeana, Guerrero; and Centro Cultural y Social "La Victoria" in El Salto, Durango. Tijuana and Tecpan require university education degrees for their volunteers, while El Salto and Saltillo accept volunteers directly from high school.

Our spring into summer semester ended on July 11. Enjoy your summer vacation and activities. If you find yourself in the San Diego area, you are most welcome to come and visit.

Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC
Correspondent

HILARY HOUSE COMMUNITY | SANTA FE, NM

In addition to teaching on Saturdays at Lewis University/Albuquerque, an important summer project for Br. Don Mouton will be the English translation of "Touchez les Coeurs". This is a 226-page document of material for programs for young people produced by the Centre Notre-Dame de la Rouge, an educational center sponsored by the District of Quebec. Br. Timothy Coldwell, Councilor, asked Br. Don to undertake this project. It was difficult to refuse, as Br. Don had asked Br. Tim to take over his Buttimer Institute responsibilities after 23 years of presentations at Buttimer III!

Br. Don recently hosted a lunch for Cheryl Sommer and Susan Weaver, who were trustees with him of the Greer Garson Endowment, and attorney Tim Vidal, whose son graduated some years ago from St. Michael's. All three were instrumental in transferring the Endowment to St. Michael's High School from the College of Santa Fe when the College closed. The endowment has grown since the time of the transfer in May 2013. Last year one student received a $2,500 scholarship from the endowment; this year three students received such scholarships. The endowment is much appreciated by the school.

Br. Don will be going periodically to Napa for meetings, as he was elected to a three-year term on the District Council.

Br. Ron Bartusiak will be attending the District Retreat in Napa in June while Br. Don and Br. Jim Brown attended the one held earlier in Santa Fe.

Brother Jim Brown, FSC
Correspondent
**Holy Family Community | Napa, CA**

Brother Ronald Roggenback and friend Bill Alston spent many hours over two days putting up the wonderful Easter decorations throughout the house and in our chapel.

Jasmine and Ralph Olivares, Brother Richard Orona’s cousins from Los Angeles, were our guests the first weekend in May.

Frances Perez, after some 14 years of exemplary, compassionate, and cheerful service on our nursing staff, has transferred to the Veterans Home in Yountville. Our loss, their gain! On April 30, her last day here, we hosted a Farewell Party for her.

Brother George Van Grieken is conditioning himself for the pilgrimage of *El Camino de Santiago de Compostela* in northwest Spain, July 13-23. He’s been taking long hikes around the Napa Valley, each time increasing his distance. He’s up to 14 miles at this writing. The journey, themed “Together as Brothers,” will provide Brothers and young men from RELAN & ARLEP (District of Spain) discerning their vocation the opportunity to journey together.

Another “athlete”: Brother Emmet Sinitiere (who works in the District Archives). Each Sunday afternoon he secures his bike to the back of his car, then heads to the starting point somewhere in the valley. Off he goes, cycling for miles. So while Brother George is our hiker, Brother Emmet is our biker.

Brother Dante Amisola from the Philippines, resident scholar at Sacred Heart Cathedral community, underwent emergency open-heart quintuple bypass surgery in April in San Francisco. Some two weeks later he came to our Holy Family community to recuperate. As soon as the Brother Visitor of the Philippines learned of Dante’s condition, he dispatched Brother Kenneth Martinez from Lipa to be Dante’s companion at the hospital, and for a few days with him in our community. Immediately, Kenneth rushed to Manila where he caught a 13-hour flight to San Francisco.

On May 13, Brothers Tom Westberg and Martin de Martini came up from Sacred Heart Cathedral community to visit Dante and have lunch with him here. Then on May 21, Dante returned to his community in San Francisco. “Home at last!”

Deacon Christoph Sandoval, from St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco, officiated at a wedding at Mont La Salle on Sunday, May 17. He came here the evening before, joined our Holy Family community for our Saturday afternoon Mass at 5:00, and our social and dinner.

On Saturday May 23, two Brothers from Kenya – Dennis Lee and Peter Kombe – gave an afternoon presentation to our community on the varied works of the Brothers in that country. The next day Peter received his MA in Lasallian Studies from Saint Mary’s College. Then a few days later both Brothers returned to Kenya.

Brother Paul Walsh observed his 90th birthday on May 30. Six of his relatives came to join him at our evening social and dinner.

*Brother Conrad Kearney, FSC
Correspondent*

**Justin Siena High School | Napa, CA**

**New Principal for the Braves**

Justin-Siena High School recently named as its new principal Mr. John Bordelon, a Lasallian educator who is eager in his commitment to serve and to lead the Justin-Siena community in a new chapter of delivering excellence in Catholic education.

No stranger to Catholic education in the Lasallian tradition, Mr. Bordelon most recently served as the Vice President of Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, TN. His wife, Lauren, is a primary
school teacher and a graduate of Dominican High School in New Orleans. They have two children: Vivian, who will be entering the first grade in the fall, and Benjamin, who will turn five this summer.

Mr. Bordelon, who considers leadership to be "about love and humility coupled with relentless pursuit of community potential," is excited to guide Justin-Siena to new heights. "Throughout the search process," he said, "I was inspired by the energy of this community. As I understood it, a glaring theme emerged: the passion to optimize the student experience and academic outcomes while strengthening our distinctively Lasallian ideals of humility, love, community, and particular concern for those in need. This alignment with my belief in the compatibility of lofty standards and humble mission made Justin-Siena a perfect fit."

Words with Character

When persons who studied traditional European languages like Spanish and French in school hear that students at Justin-Siena are learning Chinese, a common response is, “But it’s so hard, isn’t it?” Juliette Nast, ’18, counters, “It’s not that it’s harder, it’s just initially very different.”

Thirty brave Braves – 11 freshmen, 7 sophomores, 5 juniors, and 7 seniors – decided to tackle Mandarin I in its inaugural year, which is now drawing to what appears to be a very successful close. Both Mandarin I and II will be offered in the fall.

The students agree that the course’s success is due in large part to the positive nature and energy of the instructor, Ms. Xiaoazhen Li. “Her passion drives the whole class,” asserts Bianca Viallo, ’17. Ms. Li effuses. “I love the school and have a good team with good support. I want to establish the program on a strong foundation, striking just the right balance between too challenging and just challenging enough. I want the program to be student-centered and individualized. And I want to dispel the myth that Mandarin is too hard!”

For some time, the administration had been considering a move to Mandarin in the World Languages Department. Ms. Heidi Harrison, Vice Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, explained, “We need to prepare our students for success in our increasingly global economy, where Mandarin is a critical language. When one considers our mission ‘to prepare students to lead and serve in an ever-changing world,’ It is clear that Justin-Siena students should have the opportunity to take Mandarin.”

Learning to Really See

VENAVER (a Spanish phrase that means, “come and see”) is a faith-based, inter-cultural immersion experience which invites participants to affirm a common bond among all people as children of God and which challenges perceived boundaries between self and others. VENAVER began in 1988 as a program of the San Francisco District of Lasallian schools with immersions experiences at Centro La Salle, the Lasallian school in Tijuana, Mexico, but it has expanded into a rich network of encounters, all with the same objective of awakening students’ consciousness to a world they would otherwise not likely experience.

Since 1988, Justin-Siena has participated in VENAVER immersions in Tijuana, Montana, New Orleans, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Arizona, two local programs in the Napa Valley, and an adult-only immersion to Sri Lanka and southern India. In 2014-15, students and teachers journeyed to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Billings, Montana and to Tucson, as well as participated in two local immersions focused on Napa Valley Farm Workers and Napa Valley Environmental Stewardship.

Unique to Justin-Siena this year is what faculty team members Georgine Clarke, Simon Rebullida, and Robert Bailey called a “Virtual VENAVER”. It combined many of the same elements of a traditional VENAVER immersion with video-conferencing through Face to Faith, a program of the Tony Blair Foundation which promotes global understanding among students of different cultures. This blending of experiences provides accessibility to VENAVER for a greater number of students, as it eliminates the need for costly travel and time away from school. Though not a true “immersion,” many of the
desired outcomes are similar.

Training for this experience focused on the concept of compassion. The first global videoconference began on an evening in April with students at a school in Bali, Indonesia. The next morning, Justin-Siena students conversed with students in two schools in Ukraine and a Lasallian school in Missouri. “It was amazing to talk about compassion in the context of the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Ferguson with students who are experiencing these things first-hand,” said Marina Costa Vasconcelos, ’16. Djiego Cura-Igama ’17 commented on the commonalities of all the students: “They are just like us—we are more alike than we are different.”

It was a student in Ukraine who summed up what all were feeling: “It is in our hands through compassion to save the world.” This VENAVER may have been “virtual,” but the resulting understanding was no less real.

Ms. Eileen Mize
Correspondent

LA SALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY | MILWAUKIE, OR

Braving the snowy weather of New England in February, teachers Alex Lanaghan and Nancy Orr accompanied 23 juniors and seniors as they experienced first-hand the largest government simulation conference in the world.

During this four-day event, over 1500 high school delegates from all over the country tackled many of the most pressing and important issues facing our nation today. Students assumed roles in each of the three branches of government and engaged in open debates, caucuses, trials, press conferences, and testimonies.

Director of Service Felix Barba and English teacher Maggie Writt took a group of 12 students to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana, to work with children in grades 4-8 at the De La Salle Blackfeet School. Barba wrote, “We knew that we were going to immerse ourselves in an entirely different society. Drugs and alcohol are prevalent in the community and as a result many kids are being raised by their grandparents or other relatives.”

“La Salle students worked both in and out of the classroom and saw how the struggles of this at-risk population affect learning and hope for the future. Many kids at the De La Salle Blackfeet School are three grade levels behind and the La Salle seniors worked hard to help students grow to fulfill their highest potential. It was amazing to be able to see the progress and by the end of the week, we could see a deep desire to learn. There is so much hope that these kids may be able to break the cycles of alcoholism and poverty through their Lasallian education.”

This is an interview with La Salle student Christian Krantz about his recent documentary, Homefree: PDX. It was conducted by The La Salle Falconer student editor Clarice Beasley.

La Salle Junior Releases Feature Length Documentary on Homelessness in Portland

If you’ve heard of La Salle junior Christian Krantz, it’s likely you’ve also heard of his talent with filmmaking. His most recent project, Homefree: PDX, is a feature length documentary that aims to give the viewer a more in-depth perspective on the epidemic of homelessness in Portland. Since its release on May 1st, it has received significant attention in the La Salle community, amassing praise from current students, staff, and alumni.

To get a more comprehensive understanding of his documentary, projects, and interest in film, we asked Krantz several questions about his work.
Q: What inspired you to make such an in-depth documentary?

A: In September I was talking to Max Fajardo in the library and joked, “What if we went downtown and made a documentary where we interviewed homeless people about their life?” Then I watched a documentary on Vimeo called, “Lift the Blindfold” by Michael Wilkens, which inspired me to make my own.

Q: What was your experience interacting with all of the people you interviewed for your documentary?

A: I would be lying if I said I was not a little nervous approaching some of the people I did. I never wrote down any questions to ask people, so I improvised every interview I did… I soon found it was really easy to talk to homeless people.

For example, the first half hour of the first day, Jordan and I went out to scout downtown Portland, a homeless individual asked us for help before we went on to talk to him for 20 minutes about the documentary we were making for school and about his situation, which boosted my confidence for the rest of the interviews. Unfortunately, we never got to officially interview him for the documentary.

The most fun part of the documentary was going on Outreach with Lio Alaalatoa—he is the best person ever and I recommend everyone to go on Outreach with him—he will buy you coffee.

Q: What response have you received so far about the film?

A: The responses have been great. My favorite response is when people tweet at me saying “My mother and I watched this and we are in awe…” or “I showed this to my mom and she cried”, just as a former La Salle student Jordan Luyamba did. I think that is pretty cool.

Q: What effect has the making of this documentary had on you and your outlook on homelessness in Portland/in general?

A: Portland is really an amazing city. Most cities such as Washington DC, Honolulu, and most large cities in Texas physically pick up homeless people on the streets like lost dogs and remove them out of the city’s borders. The fact that Portland has embraced the homeless population the way it has is kind of cool, but also has and, as Sasquatch predicts, will create a ton of problems, especially this summer.

Q: What tips would you have for anyone who wanted to make something similar to your documentary?

A: Just do it. Homeless people are just regular people. Maybe watch a few YouTube tutorials of how to use a microphone and frame an interview. Talk to as many people as you have access to, which is a lot. I reached out to so many people to find connections. For example, I emailed Anna Griffin, the writer for the Oregonian, who referred me to Lio Alaalatoa and JOIN. I also called or emailed many different film academies around Portland asking advice for film festivals or if they had a drone (which they don’t).

Q: What kind of equipment and software did you use to make the documentary?

A: I have a Canon 70D with the kit lens and a 50mm f1.8 lens as well as a Rode Mic. Also I use Final Cut Pro X for editing.

Q: Is script-writing one of your hobbies? Have you always been interested in film?

A: Script-writing to me is just thinking of something that people would find interesting or entertaining to watch. I made a short film called, “A Night In” last October, and the response to that was really cool too. I started messing around with cameras and iMovie in 4th grade. I made a lot of dumb videos, then in middle school I made several just-ok short films with my cousins. I feel uncomfortable if I’m not
working on a script or editing, so… I guess you could say I’m addicted.

Q: Do you have any other films/documentaries in the works?

A: Yes, two. The first is a 2 minute short film that I plan to shoot at the end of summer or the end of this year if time allows. The second is a short add-on to Homefree: PDX where Max Fajardo and I plan to stay 48 hours living on the streets and among the poor people in downtown Portland while documenting it in “An Idiot Abroad” style.

Link here to Christian Krantz’s documentary, Homefree: PDX. Warning: This video contains language that some viewers may find offensive.

Mr. Kendall Martin
Correspondent

LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL | PASADENA, CA

On April 29, we honored Brother DeSales Benning, FSC for 60 years as a Christian Brother. During the last six decades, Brother has spent over a third of his time at La Salle.

His celebration coincided with our annual Founder’s Day that honors the birth of Saint La Salle. During the Founder's Day liturgy, Dr. Gray introduced Brother DeSales who received multiple ovations from the entire campus community. Numerous guests, including the chairs of the Board of Regents and Trustees, and several Christian Brothers attended the ceremony.

Following the liturgy, the Christian Brothers renewed their vows before the community. They then received a blessing from the student body.

The Lasallian Educator of the Year is given annually to a faculty member who exemplifies the qualities of St. La Salle. Without a doubt, our recipient this year exemplifies these criteria. This year's recipient is Kjersti Holyfield, a distinguished science teacher, coach and alumnae of the class of 2004.

Many of the teachers who nominated this year’s recipient described our honoree this way: This educator is humble, respectful, respected and participates in many activities. This teacher is a model educator who models true Lasallian values. She is an individual who clearly loves students and has earned their love and respect back. This educator is a shining star at La Salle in every way. St. La Salle himself would have been proud of this 21st century educator.

La Salle High School graduated 170 seniors at its 56th Commencement on Friday evening, May 22, 2015. Commencement Exercises took place at the Church of the Nazarene.

Alyssa Villavincencio, summa cum laude, gave the Welcome Address and Kimberly Mejia, summa cum laude, was chosen by the Faculty Commencement Committee for the honor of delivering the Commencement Address.

Nathaniel Chandler, summa cum laude received the La Salle High School General Excellence Award for the highest cumulative grade point average in the class. Nathaniel will attend the University of Chicago.

Karina Halebian, summa cum laude, received the La Salle Scholar Award for Math and Science
while Victor Saavedra, *summa cum laude*, received the La Salle Scholar Award for Liberal Arts. Colin Shumate, *summa cum laude* received the La Salle Scholar Award for Visual and Performing Arts.

Lea Bruder and David Magluyan received the John Stygles ’64 Excellence in Academics and Athletics Award. Riley Worley and Alexander Tuason received the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Christian Service Award. Haley DeSales and Justin Zumel received the Brother Celestine Excellence in Athletics and Sportsmanship Award. Tyler Artis received the De La Salle Award for academics, leadership and service.

99% of La Salle’s graduating class will attend colleges or universities or postgraduate academies next year and 92% of the class will matriculate to four-year institutions.

**Excerpt from Commencement Address Delivered by Kimberly Mejia**

...La Salle has a lot of traditions and customs, but one thing La Salle will never fail to instill within each and every one of its students is this idea of “Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve.”

No I’m serious, it’s literally plastered in every single classroom at least 27 times. We’ve heard it and thought about it every day for the past 4 years.

Former politician and motivational speaker, Les Brown, once said, “Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours.” Success has been morphed into this distorted idea of materialistic enhancement, but in actuality, success is defined by the legacy you leave behind through the people you have touched.

This graduation is both memorable and significant; however, not because you have completed another level in your educational career, but because you now have the opportunity to use your success in order to help others.

This year in the United States, 3.3 million seniors will be graduating from 37,000 high schools across the country. That’s 3.3 MILLION students receiving the same fancy piece of paper you will be receiving tonight.

Here are some more numbers for you: there are 7.25 billion people in the world. Of that 7.25 billion, nearly half or 3 billion people are living in poverty, 30,000 human diseases exist, of which only 1/3rd can be treated, 2.5 billion people live without access to basic and proper sanitation, and the list goes on.

“Enter to learn, Leave to Serve.”

Now this is a distinguished event and graduating high school is an enormous accomplishment that you should all be very proud of achieving. You’ll still get that big dinner with your family, where they will give you enough money in gifts to pay for maybe .001% of your college tuition. And I don’t want to take away from the significance of this moment, but graduating tonight doesn’t just mean you’re done with La Salle and moving on to another institution.

The significance of this moment is that through graduation, through the attainment of knowledge and education that our teacher’s have provided us with, we can take it and find success, but more importantly, help others.

What are you going to do for the other 7.25 billion people on this planet?

What is going to make you different from the other 3.3 million high school seniors graduating tonight? That pursuit starts now, at this very moment.

You don’t have to know what you want to do or how you want to do it. I certainly don’t, but it sure helps that our roles and responsibility to others has been habituated all of us.

Throughout the past 4 years, La Salle has put us in a position to serve, whether it be cutting paper for a kindergarten teacher who was behind in her work plan, working with lonely veterans in a retirement home, or helping individuals with special needs at a work sight for disabled adults. That was just high school. That was the beginning. Think of the opportunities to serve and to find success that you will encounter as you move on in this process of education.

Maybe it’s turning that ratio of treated diseases from 1/3rd to 2/3rds. Maybe it’s finding a way to
administer the proper sanitation to those countries and regions that need it most or maybe it’s just helping that person next to you.

You don’t always have to search to change the world. The opportunities are there; you just have to take them. Don’t leave behind what you’ve learned these past four years, take it, apply it, and you’ll find success.

We all have the ability to attack the enormous problems facing the world. Be ambitious, and relentless in the pursuit of your dreams, never miss an opportunity to help someone and above all, always be kind to others. Thank you.

Mr. John Blackstock
Correspondent

LA SALLE VIETNAM HOUSE | SAN JOSE, CA

For the last two months, the community has had the honor and joy of welcoming Brother Gregory Tan, former visitor of the District of Vietnam, to come and stay with us for a while after three years of missionary ministry in Togo, Africa.

On May 2, we attended the District Day at Mont La Salle, Napa, celebrating our Jubilarian Brothers, among them our beloved Brother Valery An. Here is the introduction to Brother Valery at the banquet:

“May I ask you to look at Valery’s “ever black” hair, and take it as a reflection of his ever young heart J. Like these camellia flowers, with their evergreen foliage, and blooming at a time of year when little else is in color here on Mont La Salle, Valery had radiated the beauty of our Lasallian vocation and even bloomed during his 8 harsh winters under the communist rule, including 3 years in communist jail, and 12 failed times trying to escape. He only made it on the lucky 13th J. These tough years have strengthened his zeal for the service of the poor and the oppressed, confirmed his heart in compassion for the failing and struggling youth.

Like the petals of these camellia flowers, which stick together until they all together fall to the ground, Valery’s heart remains “stuck” together and in association with the Brothers and Sisters in San Jose for the past 25 years, and most of all with the Brothers in Vietnam who have greatly benefitted from his untiring effort to raise fund for their educational projects.

May I invite you to look beyond these beautiful flowers with sophisticated names, such as camellia japonica, camellia sasanqua, and let your hearts be amazed by a living flower with the wonderful name - CAMELLIA LASALLIANA: our Brother VALERY!”

Brother Fortunat Phong, FSC
Correspondent

MULLEN HIGH SCHOOL | DENVER, CO

On May 23, the Mullen family celebrated our 159 graduates at Boettcher Concert Hall at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. It was a day filled with joy and some sadness as the graduates fondly bid farewell to the school they have called home for the last four years.

Concelebrants Father Richard Nakvasil and Father Don Dilg, CSC, presided over Mass alongside Rev. Javier Nieva, DCJM. Valedictorian Ingrid Cherry and Salutatorian Isabel Brown welcomed their peers and bestowed wise words and shared fond memories with their classmates. President Carl Unrein and Principal Janell Kloosterman distributed diplomas to our newly minted graduates. Emily Dryden and Ryan Manning were recipients of the Lasallian Provincial’s Award, and Frannie Krupp received the Esprit d’Corps Award.

While the morning was about new beginnings and moving on to new challenges, one of our graduates was overheard saying, “the last four years have been so special. How did four years go by so quickly?” She added, “I wish this could last a little longer.”
Mullen’s 80th graduating class has left an impressive legacy that is consistent with the tenets that are so much a part of the Lasallian charism. Our driven and accomplished Lasallian charges amassed 14,515 hours of community service over their four years together. One in four of our graduates will attend a Catholic college or university. Twenty-one of our graduates will test their mettle as NCAA athletes. As a class, our current crop of graduates has been offered 17 million dollars in merit awards.

While graduation brought an end to a remarkable week, it was the senior induction Mass for the class of 2016 on May 15 that helped it to its start. Reverend Jim Fox concelebrated the Mass with Deacon Tim Kenny assisting. Mr. Unrein and Mrs. Kloosterman conducted the Rite of Installation. Mrs. Kloosterman asked the Class of 2016 if they were prepared to take on a collective leadership role as seniors and the class enthusiastically responded with a unanimous, “WE DO!” Before the young Mustangs were adjourned to enjoy a well-earned day off, all those gathered joined in singing “Gather us In” and shared in reciting the Mullen Solidarity Prayer.

On May 18, our seniors gathered in the Rilko Center for the annual tradition that is Senior Celebration. Senior awards were presented to our hard working Lasallians in a setting featuring family and prayer, and academic and character recognition. Deacon Chet Ubowski led the Mullen family in Vespers. Assistant Principal for Academics Joe Locascio invited students to receive subject and Torch awards as proud family members and equally proud Mullen staff looked on. In all, thirty-six seniors received the Torch award, with twenty-two of those thirty-six seniors having earned the award in each of the four years of their high school career. Ryan Clavelle set the tone with a thoughtful and heartfelt reflection emphasizing selflessness and work done on the behalf of others. A feeling of reverence was in the air as all in attendance contemplated and celebrated the truly special efforts and accomplishments of the class of 2015.

Graduation rehearsal brought our 2015 grads to the old gym on May 20 to fine tune and prepare for the big day. Several parents were present and provided lunch for our excited Mustangs, who could not be blamed for day dreaming about the future. Mrs. Niblack, Mr. Zickmund, and Mr. Massey coached the kids through dressing “dos and don’ts” as well as proper procession technique. Mullen’s Development and Alumni Relations Manager Sean Keefe shared the podium with Abigail Kloosterman, ’15, Bobby Stransky, ’83 and Craig Bowman, ’65. Abigail, Bobby and Craig shared with the soon-to-be alumni the storied legacy of Mullen High School and the myriad ways in which alumni can support their alma mater. Mr. Keefe then invited students to place items representing both the five core principles and examples from popular culture in a time capsule that will be opened in 2025. After announcing that Mullen will be the site for a newly established Christmas alumni get-together next December, Mr. Keefe, Mr. Bowman, and Mr. Stransky collected donations from the kids on behalf of the “A Good Reason” campaign. The “A Good Reason” drive yielded over thirty donations constituting 18% giving by the class of 2015. Following the lunch and rehearsal, the kids mingled with friends and teachers, exchanging hugs and laughter with the promise of seeing each other at graduation.

Later that evening, Mullen’s ninth, tenth and eleventh graders assembled in the Hutchison Field House along with their families and friends to celebrate their academic accomplishments. One hundred and fifty-nine Torch awards were earned across all three grade levels. Subject awards, the Rensselaer Medal, the Lasallian Educator Service Award, and the Meg Langfur Scholarship all were presented. Newly-elected student body president Cali Edgar addressed the audience with an inspired and upbeat message regarding the exciting agenda for the 2015-2016 school year.
The evening was also a celebration for Mullen’s teaching community. Brother Charles Miller was recognized for his thirty-eight years of service to Mullen High School and Liz Castellano received the Brother Charles Crouzet–Bill Simms Award as Distinguished Lasallian Educator. At the conclusion of the evening, Dorothy Harris received the President and Principal Award, which was instituted by Mr. Unrein and Mrs. Kloosterman in 2014 to recognize those who selflessly and humbly serve our students and families. Ms. Harris accepted the honor alongside her husband, Curtis, and her sons Ryan, ’03 and Curtis III, ’99. Curtis’ warm remarks on behalf of his mom made for more than a few tears among the members of the audience.

In addition, a number of Mullen staff members were recognized for their years of service to Mullen and its Lasallian mission. For five years of service: Elizabeth Castellano, Heidi Capek, Patricia Crnkovich, Sherilyn DeHaan, Brian Donelson, Charles Mitchell and Ami Zach. For 10 years of service: Peter Augros, Rita Niblack, Betsy Porter and Tom Thenell. For 15 years of service: Suzanne Beski, Sean Keefe, Oan Ky, Joseph Locascio, Tam Nhel and Timothy Ventura. For 20 years of service: Vann Bul, Vince Massey and Skip Zickmund. Finally, Huy Hay was recognized for 25 years of service.

As summer approaches, our Mullen family has many memories to look back upon as we also look forward to what will prove to be another dynamic school year. Congratulations and best wishes to all those associated with our Lasallian community! To our families, students, teachers, staff and administration, we say, “So let Esprit d’Corps be our motto and our guide!”

---

**Saint Nicholas’ Hospital | Salisbury, England**

This last term has been a time of anniversaries here in Salisbury. I gave an address for the 900th anniversary of a foundation here in the city, but the major celebrations centre around the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta by King John, the barons and the bishops in 1215. The four oldest copies of the document are here, Lincoln Cathedral, and two in the British Library in London. The local copy is only five minutes walk from my office. The Cathedral and the College have sponsored a number of lectures by scholars and Members of Parliament. My residence at Saint Nicholas is also celebrating its 800th anniversary this year. The Victorian novelist Anthony Trollope based his novel The Warden on events at Saint Nicholas. We had our first observance of the anniversary with the Bishop, Lord Mayor and our Member of Parliament as guests.

In April I spoke in the Cathedral and lead a Service of Prayer. The building — finished in 1258 —
is awe-inspiring and it is a privilege to conduct a service there. I am regularly at the community in Oxford when I go there for a theological committee meeting. In May I delivered a paper on the Renaissance to graduate students and faculties from three universities gathered together for a special seminar.

We held the last District Day at the Provincial a week ago because a new District will be formed in September composed of the countries of Britain, Ireland and Malta. Our Degree Day is in a week. It looks to be a most musical summer. This week there is a performance of my favourite Handel oratorio - "Israel in Egypt". The sound trucks are presently in front of the Cathedral as the performance is to be transmitted by the BBC. In several weeks the choirs of Winchester, Chichester and Salisbury will gather here for concerts, choral services and recitals. The BBC will also be broadcasting. This is a most inspiring celebration of almost 1,000 years of liturgical music continually sung at these three Cathedrals. It will be a fitting conclusion to an academic year of anniversary celebrations.

Brother Patrick Moore, FSC
Correspondent

SAN MIGUEL HIGH SCHOOL | TUCSON, AZ
The following article appeared June 8, 2015 in Tucson Medical Center's TMC News.

San Miguel High School Graduate Leaves an Impressive Mark at TMC

With high school behind her, 18-year-old Marissa De La Torre is packing up her car, waving goodbye to Tucson and heading to Phoenix to attend Grand Canyon University.

It’s certainly a milestone – but it’s just the beginning for this Tucson native.

When she graduates from GCU, she’ll certainly make lots of people proud. She’ll also make history in her family. “My dad completed high school, and that’s it. My mom attended the University of Arizona, but never finished. When I get my degree from GCU, I’ll be the first person in my family to have graduated from college. Hopefully I’m setting the bar high for my five younger siblings,” said De La Torre.

De La Torre recently graduated from San Miguel High School, which is in Tucson’s economically depressed south side. Half of adult residents do not have a high school education. Forty-two percent of San Miguel neighbors earn less than $25,000 a year. The high school serves families of limited financial means to give students a private Catholic and Lasallian college and career preparatory education. All students are required to participate in the school’s Corporate Internship Program, which helps them chip away at their $11,500 a year tuition. By working at a professional business in Tucson, students are able to earn almost 40 percent of their tuition. That’s were TMC comes in.

We checked in with De La Torre in 2012, when she and three other San Miguel students had started working at TMC as part of this program. At that time, she had tunnel vision about what she wanted to become: an anesthesiologist. Since then, she spent countless hours inside the hospital shadowing employees in food and nutrition services, the pharmacy, the finance department, hospice and most recently, imaging services. She especially loved shadowing X-ray technicians. “I’ve had the opportunity to gain so many experiences inside the hospital. Now that I have a better idea about all
the options that are out there I’m trying to figure out if a career in medicine is really what I want to chase. My time at TMC has been a real eye-opener about all the things I can do with my life,” she said.

De La Torre also spent a significant chunk of her TMC time as a student assistant in Human Resources where she even surprised herself with the amount of multi-tasking that was required while working at the front desk. “TMC staff treated me like an adult – an employee – and trusted me with so much responsibility. San Miguel helped prepare me. My work experience at TMC helped prepare me. But it’s the people I’ve met along the way who have had the most impact on me and really helped get me ready for whatever life throws my way,” De La Torre said.

“Marissa is the first San Miguel High School student we had working in HR, and our entire staff will miss her terribly,” said Pat Wise, executive assistant for TMC’s HR department. “Marissa has a great energy. Her smile is one of the first things everyone notices, and it’s how she greets everyone who comes into HR. She has an impressive work ethic and consistently went above and beyond what was expected of her. She was efficient, and when she’d finish her work, she’d reach out to others to see how she may help them. When we welcomed new students, Marissa would help with the onboarding process, stressing the importance of treating others with kindness and respect.”

It’s people like Wise who have made De La Torre’s time at TMC so treasured. “Going to college and entering the real world used to be a scary thought for me,” she said. “But it seems a lot less intimidating now that I have this TMC stint under my belt. Everyone I met or shadowed was so nice. I know they believe in me and they’ll support me in whatever I do.”

That may be something in medicine. It may be something in law, or law enforcement. De La Torre is at a crossroads, exploring all her options.

One thing’s for sure. She’s entering college with a lot more work experience than most students leave with.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory | San Francisco, CA

Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory is proud to announce the recent naming of Precious Listana, ‘15 as a Gates Millennium Scholar. The GMS Class of 2015 applicant pool consisted of 57,000 hopeful high school seniors from across the United States. Precious is one of only 1,000 scholars awarded the prestigious honor, which distinguishes her as a Leader for America’s Future™.

As the most competitive candidate groups in the program’s history, Precious’ acceptance is a tremendous accomplishment and historical moment for SHC and its Piro Scholar Program.

Principal Gary Cannon shares, “Precious has internalized and models SHC’s mission as a service-oriented leader with a commitment to living the Gospel. She is passionate about taking her gifts and using them for the good of others. Clearly, the Gates Millennium Foundation has recognized her accomplishments and is making a wise investment in Precious and her future.”

As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Precious will receive a grant to fund her college education at any accredited college or university in the United States. At the conclusion of her undergraduate studies, she will be eligible to continue to receive scholarship funds based on her chosen area of study. Perhaps just as important as the financial support is the network of fellow Gates Scholars that Precious will join, connecting her to other exceptional students. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students to reach their highest potential by reducing financial barriers for minorities, increasing representation of minority groups in certain academic disciplines and developing a diverse community of future leaders.
SHC Director of Student Support Angel-Max Guererro shares, “Precious’s accomplishment brings her family one step closer to fulfilling the ‘American Dream.”

Precious entered the SHC community as a graduate of De Marillac Academy and member of the Piro Scholar Program. SHC’s Piro Program provides a Lasallian and Vincentian education to students in need and aims to end the cycle of poverty through significant tuition assistance and tremendous academic and personal support. SHC’s Piro Scholars often hail from some of the most marginalized communities in San Francisco, and the Listana family is no different. The Listana family immigrated from the Philippines in the mid-1980s fleeing Marcos-era martial law and settled in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. Precious, along with her parents, two older brothers, and younger sister have all grown up in this high-crime neighborhood known for its abundance of single-room occupancy hotels, transitional housing and homeless population. “Growing up in the Tenderloin, you see the drugs, the prostitution, all of those vices every day. Life isn’t fair, but you have to choose to take advantage of the opportunities in front of you. This is the one message I want to share with other underprivileged youth: there are people out there who believe in you … you just have to believe in yourself.”

Guererro sees Precious’ accomplishments as a reflection of an SHC education. “Her incredible success is a testament to the quality of her Lasallian Vincentian education and the efficacy of the Piro Program—the program works. We can’t wait to continue to celebrate her accomplishments as she goes on to Cal in the fall.”

Throughout her four years at SHC, Precious has inspired the school community through her academic, co-curricular and personal achievements. Precious was named the SHC Class of 2015 Valedictorian, the very first Piro Scholar to achieve the honor. She is an active member of student council, the Speech & Debate Team, Block Club, the California Scholarship Federation and Cross Country Team. She served as a student-leader for the senior-level Kiva Service-Learning Project, which ultimately led to her participation in the Global Youth Institute conference hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation. She was awarded a Borlaug-Ruan International Internship which will send her to India for eight weeks this summer to research agriculture and food security. In addition to her accomplishments at SHC, she serves as the San Francisco District 6 Youth Commissioner.

Precious’ long list of achievements has not affected her sense of gratitude, humility or obligation to her family and supporters. “I told my mom that it was my goal to make sure our family would not be hit by the financial burden of sending me to college. They have worked hard their entire lives for me and my siblings, it just always felt right to follow their example and work hard too.”

“I would not have been able to complete the Gates Millenium Scholarship process without such a loving, supportive community from SHC. All of my classes have prepared me to write application essays. All of my teachers were open to review my application. Most importantly, I received such warm support from the Piro team that ultimately drove me toward this accomplishment.”

Watch Precious Listana’s Commencement Address.

Ms. Michelle Forshner
Correspondent

SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE BROTHERS’ COMMUNITY | MORAGA, CA

Saint Mary’s College commencements were held on May 23 for 719 undergraduates and on May 24th for 599 graduate and professional studies students. Television News personality Chris Matthews (alumnus of La Salle H.S., Philadelphia) was commencement speaker for the undergraduates and Alumna Monika Fahlbusch, Senior V.P. for BMC Software, for the graduate students. Matthews stressed the need for hard work and self-confidence. “Never be afraid of reaching for what you really want to do and don’t say ‘no’ to yourself, let someone else say that. “ Over 7000 guests attended the May 23rd event and approximately 2000 were guests for the graduate and professional students. Andrew Nyguen, the son of Vietnamese immigrants, delivered a perceptive, congenial and well-articulated undergraduate Valedictory message which received positive acclaim in the local press.
Brother Martin Ash will be both maitre d’camp and chef for three weeks at the Brothers’ summer camp on the Russian River. He is also planning another alumni excursion, perhaps to the Emerald Isle with Rev. Thomas McElligott (Brothers’ Chaplain and member of the Community) between May and September 2016.

Family visits to Minnesota and Virginia will occupy Brother Martin Yribarren for a few summer weeks. After fulfilling family reunions, he has plans for investigating the life and accomplishments of California missionary Franciscan Father Junipero Serra, whose forthcoming beatification has evoked considerable controversy in the local press. He also hopes to engage in some intellectual wrestling with the writings on art of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel.

Former president Brother Mel Anderson will spend a week with alumnus Martin D. Nielsen and his family, who will be vacationing at their summer home in Southern France. He will spend most of the summer working on a new Collegiate Seminar course for the fall semester, and preparing a paper with members of the faculty on developing Critical Thinking and Shared Inquiry through the chronological reading and discussion of Great Books in the Collegiate Seminar Program.

Brother Raphael Patton will continue with his writing project on the Brothers who contributed to the development of Saint Mary’s College since 1868, when the Brothers, acting on the invitation of the Archbishop of San Francisco Joseph S. Alemany, assumed direction of the College. He is also continuing with his annual work of publishing the District Ordo as he prepares to develop articles on the Greek Gods, Corruption, and The Small College. Should be fascinating reading.

Rev. Thomas McElligott will enhance his theological breadth and insight by attending the College Theological Society May 28-30 in Oregon. Father McElligott is a member of the committee that selects the outstanding theological work of the year. He will attend the Catholic Theological Society of America in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 10-14, at which he will deliver a paper on the Interface Between Spirituality and Film. He then will be in Ireland June 17-20 to preside at the wedding of a cousin. Both Brothers and students accuse Father Tom of “having more cousins in Ireland than there are fleas on a dog.” The prolific McElligott clan dots the Emerald Isle with its charm.

On June 28, Brother Kenneth Cardwell attend commencement ceremonies at Deep Springs College, an unusual educational institution that is financially endowed to accommodate a selected number of students, and where he served as instructor-dean for several years. Inspired by the spirit of Henry David Thoreau, Brother Kenneth will relate to nature by hiking in the Sierras for a week or so. He will also spend time at widow Cardwell’s cottage (she is over 90) attending to weeding and other necessary chores. He will also spend time attending the Massa Institute (named after a benefactor of the College) at the Brothers’ camp at Huntington Lake in the high Sierras, and preparing class for the innovative fourth Collegiate Seminar. He will also participate in Summer Seminars for students entering the Integral (Great Books) curriculum in the fall. The hope is that a joyously jocose time will be had by all one summer week as he deftly arranges time to host a family from Deep Springs College at the Cardwell family cottage in Inverness, CA.

Brother Richard Lemberg will also spend time in June at the Huntington Lake campsite rearranging the extensive paperback library. Following this exercise of his expertise as a well informed and meticulous librarian in mid-June, he will visit his brother and spouse in early July in Kentucky. By the third week of July he will finally relax by engaging in moments of contentment in the upper Sacramento River, CA, enticing cagy salmon to bite.
The Brother Director, Thomas Jones, attended his regular Board meeting at the Queen of the Valley Hospital, Napa, in the last days of May. He began moving in earnest by travelling to Memphis for the first part of the June 1-7 meeting for the Lasallian Formation for Students, followed by his appearance at De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, OR on June 6 to deliver the invocation for the Commencement. At the end of June, a family wedding will require his presence in Chicago, and in early July he will attend a family gathering in Dallas, TX. (the Jones’ family is prolific.) He hopes to return to SMC by July 4, since the fireworks in the Moraga Common(s) are loud, exciting, and colorful.

As expected, Brother Glenn Bolton, who is current president of the Pacific Coast Association of Pre-Law advisors and chair of the 2015 conference, will lead the advisors from Stanford, U.S.F., Hastings, Golden Gate U., U.C., Davis, George (UOP) and U.C. Berkeley June 9-12 on an in-person visit to each law school in the S.F. Bay Area. He is one of six Pre-Law advisors invited to attend the open house for potential law students at Baylor University in Texas. He hopes the poor weather in the state will change course by the time of the open house. He will also take advantage of the excursion to visit his older brothers who reside there. June 14-20, he will be in attendance at the National Law Fair at Fordham University, New York. Since he has a sabbatical for the fall semester, he will visit universities in Salamanca, Barcelona, and Madrid, and take notes on studies in philosophy, language, and business administration. (The College enrolled 4 freshmen from Barcelona during the past academic year.) SMC Master of Business Administration students will be studying in Barcelona during Glenn’s visit at that institution, and MBA students from Barcelona will be studying at Saint Mary’s College during the summer months.

Brother Michael Murphy has relinquished his several year duties as Director of Campus Mission and Ministry and returned with professional pleasure to the world of collegiate linguistics. In order to remain abreast of the academic field, he will be engaged in considerable research over a six-week stint in Tunisia in North Africa with several seasoned experts in language. He will return to the world of inspiring students of the College in several languages as well as in other aspects of collegiate life, including that of a Resident Director, sharpened and relaxed as classes begin in September.

A very busily-involved Brother Christopher Donnelly completed planning for the conversion of the 1928 SMC Power Plant into a faculty office building for 24 faculty offices. The former central heating building had been used as a modest athletic training center, but which has since been replaced with a 60,000 square foot recreation center named after alumnus and former mayor of San Francisco Joseph L. Alioto. Brother Christopher was also involved in establishing a major parts department below the 1929 gymnasium and is pleased to announce that a complete remodeling of the main maintenance facility has been accomplished. In his spare time, he corrected a water problem that had invaded the elevator shaft in the Brothers’ residence. He also participated in a week-long repair and furniture moving project in anticipation of the sale of the former Brothers residence in Yakima, WA. During Memorial Day weekend, he replaced an old (1957) picket fence that surrounded the home of his 95-year old parents, who still drive around their neighborhood in Dunsmuir, CA. He will soon leave for Huntington Lake to finish repairs on the lodge: a new wooden coffered ceiling (destroyed by a falling tree) and a hardwood floor. New furnishings will be cast in mission-style design.

Saint Mary’s College High School | Berkeley, CA

Saint Mary’s College High School in Berkeley concluded its 152nd school year on June 11. The 140 members of the Class of 2015 graduated from Zellerbach Auditorium on the UC Berkeley campus on June 7. Members of the Class of 1965 celebrating their fifty-year reunion joined the graduates for commencement and for the Baccalaureate Mass on the Saint Mary’s campus the previous evening. One hundred percent of the class was accepted to a college or university of their choice, and to date have received an aggregate total of over $7.1 million in scholarships (academic, athletic, and private) in addition to significant amounts of need-based financial aid.
Class of 2019 families were welcomed to campus at the annual Freshman Orientation on May 2. The class will return in mid-August for three days of activities and a class retreat before their new schoolmates arrive for the opening of the 2015-2016 school year.

Men from classes that graduated fifty years ago or more will return to Saint Mary’s on June 13 for the annual Gold Club Luncheon and Mass, celebrated by priests who are alumni. The men will enjoy seeing the latest improvements to the historic campus, once part of a 48,000-acre, 1820-era Spanish land grant that belonged to the Peralta family and encompassed much of several present-day cities. The school’s Berkeley campus is known as Peralta Park, and neighborhood homes just outside the school include several beautiful Victorian-era homes. An 1841 Peralta family adobe was located on the creek bank just outside the school entrance, and an 1888 six-story hotel on the property became a grammar school when the Christian Brothers purchased the site in 1903.

Saint Mary’s High relocated to its third site at Peralta Park in 1927, joining the grammar school Brothers and students on the 12-acre campus. Founded together with Saint Mary’s College in San Francisco in 1863, the two schools moved to Oakland in 1889, and to larger, separate campuses in 1927 and 1928. The next addition being planned at the high school is a Student Chapel. The campus has been without a dedicated chapel since the 1927 high school building was razed as an earthquake hazard in 1973.

The Spring Trimester was a full one, with academics, college applications, AP tests, a successful sports season, music and theater, retreats, service projects, and great community spirit. The musical “Pippin” ran for two weekends in April, and the Spring Dance and Music concerts drew appreciative audiences to campus in May and wowed the crowd at a great Jazz performance at a nearby city festival. Senior stage artists took their final bows, and senior AP Art students showed off their creativity at the annual AP Art Show in late April. Performing Arts students also took their “Traveling Service-Learning Teen Scene” shows on the road, treating area feeder school students to live, interactive performances on pre-teen themes such as “Making Better Choices” and “Internet Rumors and Personal Pictures.” For the twenty-eighth year in a row, Saint Mary’s Track & Field team won the league title. The team then made headlines 200 miles from home at the State Track & Field Meet in Clovis, California on June 5 and 6 with seniors Ron Smith, Chloe Jenkins, and Zoie Campbell taking top spots in their events.

Saint Mary’s annual Founder’s Day celebration on May 15 was preceded by a week-long review of the Lasallian Core Principles and the life and work of De La Salle. Founder’s Day Mass was celebrated by 1979 alumnus Father Jayson Landeza, who serves as Chaplain to a number of area fire and police departments. Thirteen faculty and staff members received annual “Years of Service” plaques, ranging from five to twenty years. Eleven students were the peer-nominated finalists from more than 200 named for consideration as the “Lasallian Student of the Year.” Ultimately, the honor went with rousing cheers to senior Peter Sekona, whose tribute to his parents in attendance moved the community deeply. Mrs. Janelle Shum, wife of beloved Saint Mary’s Vice-Principal Herman Shum who died in a cycling accident last December, accepted the “Lasallian Educator of the Year” medal in his memory, to a standing ovation of love and support and gratitude from the school community. Founder’s Day afternoon included a taco buffet lunch, games, and the distribution of the 2015 Peraltan yearbook.
Parents, alumni, and friends went online to the Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation in May and purchased some $5,000 of renowned Brother Timothy Cabernet in support of Saint Mary’s tuition assistance program.

The Good News is online! Saint Mary’s periodical, with much good news about the school community, is now available online on the school web site at www.saintmaryschs.org. Click on the “Support Saint Mary’s” tab and find the “Good News Publication” link in the left-side menu.

The Bells of Saint Mary’s – the school’s alma mater – was the inspiration for the founding in 1987 of the ladies’ group, “The Belles of Saint Mary’s.” The women meet on campus each spring for brunch or lunch; annual membership dues support tuition assistance. Junior Christy Kim, a member of Saint Mary’s Speech and Debate Team, presented an award-winning dramatic interpretation at the recent social.

In late April, Saint Mary’s again hosted the annual Case Studies Workshop, attended by more than 450 junior students and their parents from five area high schools, including Saint Mary’s. Participants studied mock college applications with nearly 100 Admissions Representatives from colleges and universities around the country.

Saint Mary’s annual Diversity Fair on May 14 was a big hit, with students and faculty representing nearly three dozen countries and cultures with ethnic dress, foods, displays, music, and dances, this year from Ireland, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Tahiti, and Tonga. The Irish table offered potatoes, kale, soda bread, and green Kool-Aid to passersby.

“Team Panthers” represented Saint Mary’s in the annual 24-Hour Relay for Life for Cancer research funding held in nearby Albany, California in mid-May. Along with the relay walkers, the school’s Cheer Team helped kick off the event, while two faculty members taught Zumba and entertained with vocals. A number of juniors and seniors walked the Relay in formal gowns and tuxes after their Prom in San Francisco, then changed into jeans to help out at the event through the night. The county food bank announced that Saint Mary’s collected a terrific 1,620 pounds of food during Lent to help those struggling with the burden of hunger. Art students crafted beautiful ceramic bowls to donate to families supported by the Food Bank.

Summer school programs will keep the campus humming until the start of the new school year on August 31, preceded by two weeks of faculty and student retreat and orientation programs.

Ms. Jeanne Loughman
Correspondent

SAINT MICHAEL’S HIGH SCHOOL | SANTA FE. NM

A highlight of the time since the last installment was the District Day on 25 April. Some 20 Brothers attended, including the nine from Santa Fe; Bro. Tim Coldwell from Washington / Rome; Brothers Donald Johanson, James Joost, John O’Neill, and Stan Campbell from Napa; Charles Miller and Melvin Pelton from Denver; Alphonse LeBlanc, James Grahmann, and Mariano Lopez from El Paso; Michael Livaudais from New Orleans; and Peter Tripp from Romeoville. Bob Carrejo from Denver attended and assisted with recording and collating information. Having the visitors was a special treat to the local Brothers, especially those who can no longer travel. Brothers Brian Dybowski and Bill Hughes provided breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and our cook, Patsy Martinez, AFSC, and her daughter Erika provided lunches and dinners, which included shrimp gumbo on Friday and an extensive Mexican meal on Saturday, in a nod to our Southern and Southwestern roots. Even the
weather cooperated, though it was somewhat cloudy rather than the typical azure skies of Santa Fe. Jubilarians who were present were Brothers Alphonse, Bill, and Charles celebrating 55 years of religious life, and Bro. George Hetzel celebrating 60. A special treat for him was the fact that 6 of his former students were in attendance! From all the comments, the day was a grand success! Special thanks to all who made the occasion memorable!

After tripping and falling while putting trash in the dumpster, Bro. Fred Van Haaften arranged to visit his daughter and family in White Rock, where he could take advantage of their hot tub to help his muscles recover. Fortunately, there was only minor damage both to body and dignity.

A highlight, especially for Brothers Brian and George, was a visit from former students Anne and Harry Field. Because they were married in the chapel at the College of Santa Fe, they returned to Santa Fe to celebrate wedding anniversary 34 on May 30. They joined us at Saturday Mass in our community chapel, and we were privileged to be with them to celebrate the renewal of their vows.

The community hosted a District Brothers’ Retreat in mid-June. Bro. George Van Grieken was the speaker, and a number of Brothers from other communities joined us as well. Bro. Tom Ward from New Orleans arrived early to spend a few days with us and also to get acclimated to the altitude before the retreat.

After removing some no-longer-operative TV and radio antennas from the roof, Bro. Bill left for a break and visited with his family for about 10 days. He returned for the retreat and has resumed “organizing” the various loose ends in the community – not including the Brothers, of course.

We have been blessed with more rain than usual during the past month, and that kept temperatures somewhat lower than average. Nonetheless, Bro. Benildus Sulzer has gotten the plants in the patio burgeoning. This year, there was no hailstorm to damage the new growth, so things are luxuriant. Bro. Martin Swonke has also been busy planting and caring for his garden, which is already providing green onions. We are fortunate that the Brothers are still able to provide both the beauty and the food!

Brother George Hetzel, FSC
Correspondent

SAINT PAUL’S SCHOOL | COVINGTON, LA

All of the end-of-the-school-year activities have been completed! On May 16, 179 walked across the stage in the Briggs Center to receive their diplomas. On May 18, the pre-Freshman had their promotion ceremony in the Briggs Center. That week, the 9th, 10th and 11th graders took their exams and on May 22, all departed for summer vacation.

We honored the Class of 2015, Saint Paul’s 104th graduating class, with the traditional commencement ceremony in the Briggs Assembly Center on Saint Paul’s Campus. The graduation Mass was celebrated by Reverend Matthew Clark, OSB; Reverend Joseph Cazenavette; and Reverend Gary Copping. Brother Raymond Bulliard, FSC, President, presented the diplomas; Mr. Trevor Watkins, Principal, served as Master of Ceremonies; and Dean of Students Mr. Ken Sears, and Senior Counselor Mrs. Renee Miller assisted with awards and diploma presentations. Brother Ken Boesch, FSC served as the organist for the ceremony. The Mothers’ Club sponsored an outdoor reception on campus following the ceremony for the graduates and their guests.

Five students earned the title of Valedictorian for the Class of 2015: Matthew David Baldone; George James Cazenavette, V; Maxwell Jefferson Gold; Ryan Joshua Keller; and Connor Young Lu. Kyle Cleveland; John Dubreuil, Jr.; and Burke Irwin are the Class Salutatorians.

At Graduation, the Signum Fidei Award was given to two very worthy young men, Ross Albritton and Max Gold. Brother John Fairfax presented the award to them. Brother Jerry Vincent presented the Provincial’s Award to Bill Saucier. St Paul’s was pleased to have six seniors to were recognized as National Merit finalists. In addition, two of our seniors, Ryan Keller and George Cazenavette, were
recognized as U.S. Presidential Scholars Program semi-finalists. At the end of the process, Ryan was selected as a finalist. Only eight students in the state of Louisiana were chosen for this honor.

The Class of 2015 boasts a number of major academic and athletic accomplishments. They have been accepted to seventy-nine colleges and universities and have earned over thirteen million dollars in scholarships.

After a week of quiet, summer camps began. St Paul's offers camps in a variety of areas, e.g., baseball, soccer, creative writing, film making, drama, robotics, and more. So the campus will be filled with the sounds of young people having fun and learning new and creative things.

Progress continues on the addition to the Gene Bennett Sports Complex, with completion scheduled for this fall. The construction will cost 4.5 million dollars.

Back at the Brothers residence, work has begun on installing the generator which will keep the power going should we get hit by a hurricane. Hopefully, the generator will not have to be used!

Brother Bill Ray made his annual retreat at St. Joseph's Abbey in late May. Other members of the community are planning retreats for later in the summer. Brother Duane Gregory journeyed to various parts of Texas to visit with family members. Our Director, Brother Jerry Vincent, will take time off later this month to visit with his sister in Metairie, LA. Brother Jeffery Calligan will travel to California to continue his teaching at the Buttimer Program.

Health wise, Brother John Kelly is recovering nicely after suffering a mild stroke. He is now able to join the community for Mass and meals. Brother Louis Welker had a bad case of bronchitis, but seems to be on the mend. The rest of the community seems well at this time. Brothers Ralph and Alfred Baltz continue to work repairing things around the community and keeping up the flower beds. Recently, they went on a Blueberry picking excursion and returned home with several containers of the delicious fruit. Brother Duane Gregory, as always, continues to run errands for the community and keeping up our courtyard. Brother Peter Dudenheffer, Sub-Director, takes care of the finances of the house and sees to it that our food pantry is well stocked.

On Trinity Sunday, the Brothers renewed their Vows at morning Mass in our Lady of Peace Chapel. At lunch, Brother Peter's aunt Jackie and her friend Pat treated us to a delicious meal. We are most grateful for their kindness to us.

Until next time, have a good and safe summer. Don't forget the sunscreen! Before we blink an eye school will be up and running again! Tempus Fugit!
District Vistas

On June 20, Postulants Javier Hansen and Joseph Wright received the Habit of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in a ceremony at the end of the District retreat at Mont La Salle. Brother James Joost shared these photos of the occasion.

(L-R) Brother James Joost, Auxiliary Visitor; Javier Hansen; Joseph Wright, and Donald Johanson, Visitor.
Office of Education Update

Ms. Alma Mejia-Garcia of Tucson, AZ will serve as Project Manager for the District’s “Lasallians Without Borders” initiative. As Project Manager, Ms. Mejia-Garcia will be responsible for a number of specific and immediate initiatives, including moving forward the recommendations of the Think Tank. Among these are supporting the El Otro Lado program as it expands to include El Paso, TX; developing curriculum resources on migrant issues for use by District ministries; and conducting a needs assessment of the border’s most vulnerable migrant populations for possible response by the District.

Thirty-three English teachers from District secondary school gathered for the District’s annual English Teachers Workshop, held April 16-18 at Saint Joseph’s Camp. Event participants were able to share best practices with one another, troubleshoot common challenges, and offer their insights with regard to the most effective approaches to the English education of those entrusted to our care as Lasallian educators.

On April 19, 2015, the third cohort of the District’s Discerning Leaders program – 17 educators from across the District and beyond – gathered for their capstone session at Mont La Salle. The three day session blended presentations, discussion, prayer and reflection, all leading to a moment where participants had the opportunity to express a sense of where God is guiding them.

Summer events include the Secondary School Administrators Association meeting June 21-24 at Mont La Salle, and the Association of Board Chairs meeting June 24-26, also at Mont La Salle. In 2015-2016, the Office will offer workshops for Academic Assistant Principals (October 26-27, 2015, at Mont La Salle) and for Mathematics Teachers (March 17-19, 2016, at Saint Joseph’s Camp).

Young Lasallians Update

March 20-22, a group of college-aged Young Lasallians gathered at St. Joseph’s Camp to take time to consider their vocation at a retreat called “Your One Wild and Precious Life: A Vocation Discernment Retreat for Lasallian Collegians.” Participants included students from Saint Mary’s College of California and graduates of Lasallian high schools in the District who are now attending both public and private colleges and universities.

An orientation for this year’s Vandhu Paaru was held on April 18 at Mont La Salle. During the day-long session, participants learned about the program, heard from past participants, and reflected on their hopes and what gifts they will bring to the experience. For this year’s experience, eight educators will travel to India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The group will be divided into pairs who spend close to a month working and living with Brothers serving in ministries in Genguvarpatti and Tuticorin in India, Colombo in Sri Lanka, and Yangon in Myanmar.

Summer events include the Young Lasallians Assembly, July 21 – 26 at U.C. San Diego, and the Lasallian Student Leaders gathering, July 19-21 at Saint Mary’s College of California.

District Days

The District held a series of Brothers’ District Days in which the Brothers shared their thoughts on the needs, challenges, and opportunities for the new District.

“Looking Toward Chapter I” sessions took place in Covington, Santa Fe, and Napa. Sessions were facilitated by Brothers Donald Johanson and James Joost.

Each Day began with prayer and a presentation by Brother Donald on the current context for the District. He then led the Brothers in a feedback discussion of the “Context for Action” document intended to serve as an “anchor document” to assist with both the District’s first Chapter and first Mission Assembly.

Brothers reflected on what they think are the priority concerns and opportunities for the District. Brother James facilitated the discussion, and also presented a Power Point tour of the District’s schools and vocation ministries.

Brothers formed discussion groups around the major priority areas identified earlier and presented reports on their ideas, concerns, and observations. They also heard the results of the same discussion held by the District’s Brother John Johnston Institute cohort in early March.

Each Day concluded with Mass and a celebration of the District’s Jubilarian Brothers.

Commenting on the Days, Brother Donald said, “I am very happy with the results of the discussions and the feedback we received. We will continue to develop our “Context for Action” document and look forward to discussing it in various other listening sessions in the next six months.”
Prayers & Remembrances

**JULIE JONES YIP | 1957 - 2015**

*Julie Jones Yip, beloved Executive Administrative Assistant for our DLSI Finance Department, has passed away. In her memory, Julie’s daughters composed this loving and moving tribute to their mother.*

Julie Jones Yip passed away at 5:20 am on June 13, just a month shy of her 28th wedding anniversary. The love of her life, Chino Yip, and two daughters, Emma and Anna Yip, were by her side every step of the way.

Our mother was born and raised in Prairie Village, Kansas on November 24, 1957 to Ellis and Nannette Jones. We’ve been told she grew up a bit of tomboy, perhaps because of the influences of her two older brothers, or the reputation she gained after beating a little boy up in the sandbox, or else simply because she enjoyed being outside so much. Her story begins in earnest when she met Fay Sady, Betsy Dwyer, and Jane Kaufman—marking the start of a lifelong sisterhood. They called themselves the Jaspers.

One could print a novel dedicated to documenting the misadventures, troubles, and crazy quests of these four girls. Indeed, much of our upbringings have been shaped by Jasper travels, parties, and of course the epic stories of unrequited love, poolside pranks, and worldly treks. Moreover, the Jaspers are responsible for instilling in their children belief, wonder, and the magic of forming a deep bond of friendship. There was never any witchcraft, but mom and her three friends are the wisest women we’ve ever known—and their shared reverence for strength in femininity is one of the greatest gifts our mother could have ever given us.

Mom graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School, and later from University of Kansas (go Jayhawks!). She was a proud graduate from their Department of Economics, but soon left Kansas for the far reaches of Alaska. In this wild and dramatically different world she’d plunged into, she couldn’t have paused long to fear the dauntingly long days or nights nor the prospect of vampires. Instead she skied backcountry telemark, summited glaciered peaks, and cycled unforgiving terrain.

While living in Anchorage, Julie worked for the Aleut Corporation, formed other lifelong friendships, and most importantly, met the man she would later marry. Incomprehensible to most of our generation, they did not meet online. Their story revolves around a dog bite (on our mother’s leg, by our uncle’s dog), which varies greatly depending on who’s telling it. Legend has it that they fell in love quick, hard, and passionately. Surely one could also write a novel on their romance, but we’ve been spared the brunt of those stories.

Our parents got to know each other under the light of the Aurora Borealis. They tested each other’s audacity on the Galapagos Islands and in Peru. By 1988 mom was knee deep in oil, volunteering to clean up the Valdez oil spill off the shore of Anchorage. By the end of it, mom had sworn to dad that she would not get into a car for an entire year. For many, this would mean taking the bus to work, but for our mother it meant booking a one-way ticket to Europe and biking around the middle east and North Africa for 11 months. They were married shortly after their return stateside.

As a newlywed, our mom learned to pretend to love eating Chinese food three times a week and bravely face other challenges brought about by an interracial marriage. Soon our parents made the journey back to the lower 48. Our parents re-settled in the bustling Cow Hollow district of San Francisco,
operating a small grocery store and deli by the name of Hollow Cow. As our mother’s perm finally grew out, she welcomed the 90’s by starting a family and learning to love California as her own. In 1992, Emma was born at their Lombard Street home in SF. Eventually Julie and Chino settled in the heart of Napa, where they welcomed their second daughter, Anna (also home birthed at their H Street house), and opened up the long-loved First Squeeze Café, Deli and Juice Bar. They spent many years in that café, and never would have stayed at it so long had the community not been so welcoming and generous to them.

Eventually they won their weekends back, and Julie gained employment at the De La Salle Institute in North Napa. The institute provides care for Christian Brothers and acts as the headquarters for many of their privately run schools, including Justin-Siena, where Julie also worked for some time.

It was during this time when she was diagnosed with ocular melanoma. The loss of vision in her right eye never stopped her from biking or driving over the course of the next five years. In 2013, it became apparent that we had not caught the tumor before it metastasized, leading her to a serious surgery that removed half of her liver. Only those that she boastingly showed her scar to can understand what that much liver means to a 100 pound woman. Mom recovered quickly from her surgery, and snuck back to work while our backs were turned one day. She had a deep love and commitment to the Christian Brothers, and they showed theirs to her when she asked to take a two-month vacation.

She rallied our family into shape, made sure our passports were up to date, and herded us to the south of France where we would begin our 500 mile walk to the western coast of Spain. This pilgrimage is called El Camino de Santiago. While we are a well-traveled family, we had never trekked like this before. Mom as our guide, us girls as the translators, and our father busy bandaging his feet, we summited the Pyrenees, trudged through rain and snow, drank wine from a fountain, conquered the Meseta desert, and arrived in Santiago after 35 days. While we all moaned and groaned our fair share, unbeknownst to us our leader was matching every step we took, but with cancer hiding in many parts of her. Julie Yip was a warrior.

This trip was a blessing and provided us with the fondest of memories our family will ever have. Not three months passed before we learned the liver had just been the beginning. We wish we could say that the end of her life was painless, but that would be an injustice to her fight and a dismissal to the seriousness of this disease. We can, however, say that she passed surrounded by love—her family, the Jaspers, and an unbelievable number of truly loyal and compassionate friends. To name a few, we never would have survived this ordeal without Lori and Duncan and the Lasallian family who kept us fed and loved, Bob and Judy who kept our garden full of magic, Betsy who kept us laughing, and Fay and Gene who moved their entire lives to be with us.

It is no forgivable notion that our mother will not grow old with our father, nor see us start families. Until her final moments this was her only regret. However, she has prepared us well for life without her. She has instilled herself in our hearts, raised us to cope, and taught us the importance of using knowledge to fight ignorance, however difficult the fight may be at times. Like mother like daughters, we will fight, and we will always fight with love.

At Julie’s request, there will be no funeral service. In lieu of flowers, she asked that you take a moment and plant a tree. Preferably a Valley Oak.