As a frequent traveler, I spend a lot of time sitting in airports. My routine is to pay way too much for a cup of coffee, then pull out my laptop and knock a few tasks off of the daily checklist. But I also make sure to sit where I can take a break now and then and just people watch. The parade of assorted humanity always reminds and reassures me of God’s endlessly creative presence. Recently, I happened to look up from my work just in time to witness God as his playful best.

A young mother was pushing an empty stroller down the concourse. A few steps ahead toddled her little girl, who looked perhaps three years old. Next came twin boys, older and bigger than her, but not by much. As the girl began to be swallowed by a sea of legs and roller suitcases, the mother called to the boys, “Guys, don’t let her walk alone.” The pair scrambled to catch up and, one on each side, dutifully took their sister’s hands. Then, unexpectedly, the two boys each grabbed the hands of other people who just happened to be walking past them. The surprised strangers hesitated for a second, then fell in step with the children, enlisting other passengers as they went. By the time the family reached its gate, the chain of laughing hand-holders stretched from one side of the aisle to the other. It was a magical moment, and it seemed to cut a swath of innocence and warmth through a scene where one might not normally expect to encounter either.

As I think back on that sight, I realize that what I saw looks very much to me like the story of our Lasallian mission, where children and young people, wandering through strangeness and confusion, hold out their hands in need and invitation, gathering us to them so that we might walk with them in surprise, joy, and accompaniment. And, in a time when excluding others from the whole is seen less as a problem and more as a solution, our tradition of caring, vigilant, and inclusive community can call people to reconnect in their undeniable oneness in God. Consider the examples that you will find in the pages of this issue of Dateline District:

- A school in New Orleans welcomes into its Lasallian tradition new students, new families and, along with them, a new experience of itself.
- Persons from across the District give their thanks to a man whose skill at empowering and including others would create and influence a generation of Lasallian leaders.
- A Brother from Berkeley spends the summer achieving his goal of visiting every Lasallian school and Community in our District.
- A former Brother from California is remembered by many of the persons whom he accompanied on their Lasallian journeys.
- A school in Concord captures for its students the essence of human community and dignity in the simple act of learning how to put on a necktie.

Author Flannery O’Connor wrote, “In the long run, a people is known not by its statements and statistics, but by the stories it tells.” Data and analysis are important, but they will never capture the heart of what it means to be part of this District. For that, we need story tellers. Our story is a wonderful story, one that calls and gathers us together even as we each are making our way through our own personal journeys. As you will read in this newsletter, the story touches everyone and has room for everyone. Like the children and the strangers showed at the airport, no one has to walk alone.
From the Region

The autumn 2016 issue of *De La Salle Today*, “Lasallian Leadership”, is now available online from Christian Brothers Conference.


**Key Lasallian Themes**, a new DVD featuring Brother Gerard Rummery, FSC, is now available for purchase through Christian Brothers Conference.

Resources are available for the 2016 International Lasallians Days for Peace, which run through October 21.


The resource, "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church", is now available from lasalle.org.

Pepper Uppers

I’m in such bad shape that the only way I could touch my toes was if someone chopped them off and handed them to me.

My mom wasn’t a very good cook. In my house, we used to pray after meals.

I hired somebody to do some odd jobs for me. He only did every other one.

My dog used to chase people riding on a bike. I finally had to take his bike away.

I refused to believe that my kid was stealing from the highway department, but when I got home all of the signs were there.

To live to be 100, you have to give up the things that make you want to live to be 100.

Did you ever stop to think and forget to start again?

Today I made a huge to do list. I just can’t figure out who’s going to do it.

I went to a children’s art exhibit at the museum. All of the paintings were stuck with magnets to refrigerator doors.

My kid took his drivers test the other day and got 8 out of 10. The other two managed to get out of the way.

I bought a parrot today and taught him to say, “Help. I’ve been turned into a parrot.”

I read recipes the same way I read science fiction. I get to the end and I think, “Yeah, like that could really happen.”
Washington, DC, October 16, 2016 – The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers) is celebrating the canonization of Brother Solomon Le Clercq, FSC. Saint Solomon was canonized in a ceremony on October 16, 2016, in St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City. Brother Solomon, a martyr of the French Revolution, was the first Brother of the Christian Schools to be martyred, and the first to be beatified.

“Brother Solomon’s story invites us to reflect on what we hold dear in our faith and conviction about the dignity of the human person,” said Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, General Councilor, Lasallian Region of North America (U.S and Canada). “It motivates us to celebrate holy people who, even at the expense of losing their life, maintain their faith in God and in the goodness of all creation. It compels us to care enough to intercede for individuals and families who in our day and time suffer violence due to armed conflicts, riots, or lawlessness.”

Born Nicolas Le Clercq in Boulogne, France, in 1745 to a devout family, he attended the Brothers’ school there and entered the novitiate in Rouen at age 21. Before being named in 1782 as secretary to the Superior General, Brother Agathon, he had been a teacher, director, finance manager, and director of novices. He was a man of deep spirituality who was quiet, gentle, and somewhat shy, but also engaged and firm.

Brother Solomon lived during the tumultuous time of the French Revolution. When the Catholic Church became a target, all church belongings were confiscated. Clergy were required to swear the oath of “The Civil Constitution of the Clergy” denying their loyalty to the church. Brother Solomon refused to take the oath and lived in secrecy in Paris. Following his arrest on August 15, 1792, he was subject to a formal interrogation that ended with the question: “Have you taken the oath?” The answer was: “No.” He was then sent to the improvised prison of the Carmelite Convent with others. On September 2, 1792, each of the 166 prisoners was put to death by the sword. Brother Solomon and his companions were beatified on October 17, 1926.

On his path to sainthood, Brother Solomon is credited with a miracle that took place in 2007. A five-year-old Venezuelan girl was cured of complications from a venomous snakebite through the prayers offered by religious Sisters, children and parishioners before their church’s statue of Brother Solomon, who was venerated in the area. Against all odds, the girl survived for two days after the bite with no medical intervention. When she was taken to the hospital to have her leg amputated in order to save her life, she regained her health and the use of her leg suddenly and without explanation as if nothing had happened. The miracle was confirmed in 2016 by the diocese of Caracas at the end of a five-year process, and Pope Francis proclaimed the decree of canonization on May 10, 2016.

Saint Solomon was canonized with six others: José Luis Sánchez del Río, young martyr of the Mexican Cristeros War; Manuel González García, a Bishop of Palencia, Spain; Lodovico Pavoni, an Italian priest; Alfonso Maria Fusco, priest and founder of the Sisters of Saint John the Baptist; José Gabriel del Rosario Brochero, an Argentinian priest; and Elizabeth of the Trinity, a French Carmelite nun.

Read the canonization story from Vatican Radio.

See the Institute web site page on Saint Brother Solomon.

See the Institute’s video reflection on Saint Brother Solomon.
Orientation Welcomes New Raiders

All new eighth and ninth grade Raiders entered campus the Saturday before school began, nervously excited as they began their journey at Archbishop Rummel High School. The Student Council and student leaders made sure the new Raider nervousness dissipated as soon as they entered the gym. Ice breakers, games, fight song lessons, and friend-making filled the morning for the new Raiders as the Raider students, Raider cheerleaders, and Chapellettes ran the many sessions. After the student fun, the new parents and students gathered for an informational meeting before the start of school the next week.

First Day for All Students

On the very first day of school for the entire Archbishop Rummel High School community, school chaplain Fr. Kurt Young conducted an adoration service in the school gym prior to dismissal. The service concluded with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer service is a tradition at Archbishop Rummel and brings the entire Raider family together for the first time. Prior to the first day of school for all students, the eighth and ninth graders attended classes, participated in level meetings, and celebrated Mass in the gym.

Rummel Supports Runnels After Flood Waters

To assist the theater group at Runnels High School in Baton Rouge following the recent flooding, the Genesian Players theater students at Archbishop Rummel organized a fund raiser. Purpose of the fund raiser was to help restore the Runnels theater by producing a song and music program on the Archbishop Rummel campus. Attendees at the fund raiser current and former theater students and supportive family and friends from both Louisiana schools. Paintings, photographs, and raffles were all held in addition to the playing and singing occurring on stage. After ticket sales, donations, and sales, the Genesian Players were able to raise over $3,000 for the Runnels High School Theatre.

New Crucifixes for the Campus

To begin the new academic year, members of the Campus Ministry class at Archbishop Rummel High School put new crucifixes in all classrooms, offices, and meeting areas on campus. Each special crucifix has the Benedictine medal behind Jesus’ head. The medal of St. Benedict is one of the oldest and most honored medals used to ward off demonic activity. Campus Minister Matt Caire organized the class project.

Club Day Recruits New Members

Clubs and club sports gathered throughout the Raider Room on Wednesday at lunch for new student registration of the many clubs and teams offered at Archbishop Rummel. Club representatives described their clubs and activities to the prospective members while persuading the interested students to sign-up for their club. The afternoon allowed all new Raiders to see the many club offerings available to students.

Students Spell R-A-I-D-E-R-S with Massive Flags

Prior to the start of each football game at Archbishop Rummel, a group of students runs onto the field, accompanying the Raider football team, with massive flags that spell out R-A-I-D-E-R-S. The students take turns each
run and make all Raider home and away games. For the occasion, the students wear their special Raider Nation shorts and shirts.

**Senior Acquire Special Class Rings**
The class of 2017 converged on Divine Mercy Parish Church in Kenner for their Ring Mass in late August. The senior class heard words of wisdom from Mr. Marc Milano ‘90, president/principal. Fr. Kurt Young ‘05, chaplain, presided over the Mass and blessed the rings before the distribution. The ceremony ended with the final blessing and the traditional alma mater and fight song by the class of 2017.

*Mr. Joseph Serio, Correspondent*

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**Cathedral High School | El Paso, TX**

The 2016-2017 school year has kicked off. The Cathedral community started off the year with a successful fundraiser, the Irish Run. With the help of dedicated parent and student volunteers, we were able to gain twice as many runners as we did the previous year! A big shout out to Brother Nick Gonzalez and the running committee!

In community news, we completed our CAP in two parts. Brother Mariano Lopez, the community director, created a day for spiritual reflection and another day for business. It was a creative and relaxing time for the entire community even though there was a stick van stuck in the mud – literally.

Brother Mariano continues to take pride in his role as the director and is busy making sure all of our needs are met. Br. Nick can be seen running – yes, running around school either for meetings or checking in with faculty. He is active in the planning for the school’s 90th Gala in October. He is working diligently with the Alumni Association to make the event run as smoothly as possible.

Br. Al LeBlanc still makes the best gumbo in the state of Texas and has worked on translating the history of De La Salle from French to English. Whether he’s barbequing or translating, he always provides a comforting aura to our community.

Br. Javier Hansen, also dubbed the “Selfie King”, has brought a warm presence to our community. His freshman students adore him and also challenge him during jogs around El Paso. He is the biggest supporter of Cathedral sports next to Br. Mariano.

The second year LV, Becca Hulick, has transitioned from her role as Assistant Campus Minister to the Writing Resource Center Tutor. She loves what she does and loves working with the students one-on-one. When she’s not occupied with revising essays, you can find her and Br. Javier taking on the hills of El Paso during one of their jogs.

Please continue to pray for our community and for the success of Cathedral’s 90th Gala, as well as this year’s Homecoming, which is taking place as we go to press! Live Jesus in our hearts … Forever.

*Ms. Rebecca Hulick, Correspondent*
Christian Brothers School served middle school boys since its founding in 1960. With the expansion of CBS to two campuses, it doubled the number of students. CBS now has a co-ed pre-K through fourth grade elementary school and a middle school for girls, grades five through seven, housed on the St. Anthony of Padua campus, in addition to the boys’ middle school, grades five through seven, on the City Park campus.

Since school’s opening in early August, it has been non-stop on both campuses. The 7th grade girls received their school pins from Saint Anthony of Padua campus principal Heath Barker at a school Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Aymond. Also in attendance were District of San Francisco New Orleans Visitor Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, vice-president Sr. Ruth Angelette, O.P., and Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jan Lancaster.

Both campuses hosted New Parents Nights for first through fourth grade parents at the Saint Anthony campus and fifth through seventh grade parents at the City Park campus.

On August 25, approximately 700 guests attended the CBS Afternoon at Drago’s. The fundraiser at one of New Orleans’ most popular restaurants netted $53,000 for the school.

CBS teacher Br. John Mai, FSC recently returned from his annual trip to his homeland of Viet Nam. Each year, he visits Lasallians schools and Brothers to deliver much-needed donations of food, clothing, and school supplies.

A popular family event at CBS are the Canoe/Kayak Club outings. Families from both campuses enjoyed the first trip of the year.

With the expansion of Christian Brothers School to include the Saint Anthony Campus, the Office of Catholic Schools’ food service division also began offering daily hot meals to CBS students at the City Park campus.

Finally, local sports hero and former New Orleans Saint Steve Gleason spoke to our CBS Falcon football players at their annual Jersey Night. Gleason, who retired from the NFL after being diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS), is the founder of Team Gleason, a non-profit corporation that assists persons with neuro-muscular diseases and helps to raise awareness about ALS.

Mr. Rick Reso, Correspondent

De La Salle Academy | Concord, CA

De La Salle Academy began its third academic year on August 15th welcoming sixteen 5th grade students into the community of Spartan brotherhood to bring our enrollment to sixty-six. With this new class, we are now functioning at full capacity with each classroom used every day. We began this new school year celebrating the Mass of the Holy Spirit with our older De La Salle High School Brothers. At a solemn moment, the DLS high school student leaders invited the 5th grade students to come forward while the entire school community extended hands in blessing upon these new Young Spartans. The Mass ended with the traditional conferring of the Spartan ties on the new students.

Not only is this a proud moment for our new students, but watching these young Spartans become an officially recognized part of the family resonates with the Academy 8th grade leaders as well. Jerod notes, “The tie itself represents the brotherhood connection and the conferring is a way we show our appreciation for their presence.” For
many of the 5th grade students, this was their first “real” tie that they had ever worn and they prepared for this day in earnestness, asking for lessons from Academy teachers, their families and even looking up YouTube tutorials! Two 5th graders, Jonathon and Michael, were not as worried about learning as some of their classmates since the both have real brothers from their family also attending the Academy. Michael said, “My brother told me it is not so hard to do once you get used to it. I will just practice,” while Jonathon noted, “I don’t really wear ties, so I have to learn. But, my brother will help me if I get stuck.”

DLS President Marc DeMarco, Academy teachers Mr. Jose Ricardo Rodriguez and Mr. Conan Graham, along with the high school leaders made sure all of the new students understood the art of tying a tie and sent them off looking like young men of faith, integrity and scholarship. We look forward to a great 3rd year filled with many more proud moments together!

Ms. Marie Lawler, Correspondent

De La Salle High School | New Orleans, LA

In the first full week of school, incoming De La Salle President Michael Giambelluca, introduced himself to the student body and shared his plans for the school’s growth in spirituality, enrollment, and activities.

Giambelluca told the students that his guiding belief is that “it’s not what you take when you leave this world, but it’s what you leave behind.” He challenged the students to make their own mark now through Servant Leadership.

Giambelluca noted that the Gospel calls people to love and honor God, and to use their talents in the service of others and he quoted former president the late Dr. Michael Guillot, telling students to “Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of this place.”

While most students relax during the summer, four De La Salle students spent a sleepless week on the Northwestern State University campus in Natchitoches learning first-hand how government works at the American Legion-sponsored Boys State Program. Participants included seniors Brandon Blackwell, Louis “Louie” Sivori, Zachary Steverson and Raymond Walker.

Walker said, “I think I will never forget my experiences at Boys State.” The program helped me continue to develop my leadership skills, and really showed me the basics of politics. I enjoyed meeting all the new people and making life-long friends.”

Members of the De La Salle student body and faculty responded to the “Great Flood of 2016” by collecting supplies for the relief of those affected. The response was overwhelming for the school. Over one ton of supplies were donated by the participants. Principal Paul Kelly said, “We believe this response by our students indicates their understanding of our Lasallian mission to help those in need.”

Working at improving their skills, eleven De La Salle wrestlers attended a week-long summer team training camp at Oklahoma State University this summer. The boys studied technique and wrestled matches with other participants. Overall, the Cavaliers placed 10th among 22 strong teams.

Ms. Jessica Meehan, Correspondent
El Centro La Salle | Tijuana, Mexico

July 2016

We began the month with our end-of-term Fiesta Day. Archbishop Rafael Romo celebrated our thanksgiving Eucharist which included Baptisms, Confirmations and First Communions of 12 of our students. The mass also marked good-bys and welcomes: we said good-bye to our Director Juan Ignacio, our two volunteers Susy and Aideé and Archbishop Romo (He recently turned 75.); and welcome to our new Director Brother Francisco Hermández, Archbishop Francisco Moreno Barrón from Tlaxcala and a welcome to the Christian journey for our 12 students celebrating Sacraments of Initiation. For the rest of the day there was nonstop food, students exhibitions, performances and music until 5:00 in the afternoon.

Shortly after Aideé left for Matamorros to resume teaching at Colegio La Salle and Susie spent two weeks enjoying life in Tijuana waiting for her family to arrive from Chihuhua for a trip to Disneyland.

In the middle of July Ernesto took off for the community in Guadalajara for a month of relaxation. Juan Ignacio visited Mont La Salle and the Archives doing research, then went to check out his new community in Lagos de Moreno and make plans to attend the Canonization of Brother Solomon.

Two of our staff members: Blanquita (Office Secretary) and Jorge (Parking Lot attendant) participated in a Lasallian formation program in San Juan de los Lagos for a week.

On July 15th the new PedWest opened up for crossing from Mexico into the United States. It is located next to El Chaparal vehicle entrance into Mexico.

Who was Tía Juana?

The legend of Tía Juana tells of a noble missionary by the name of Doña Juana de la Peña, Marquesa de Villapuente, Spain. She was Tijuana’s first European settler in the 18th century. Doña Juana was the niece and adopted daughter of Don José de la Peña y Puente, Marqués de Villapuente, a Spanish colonizer who supported and financed the Jesuit and Franciscan missions in Baja California.

Although educated in a Capuchin Poor Clare’s convent, Doña Juana never took religious vows and never married. She was a missionary in Loreto and San José del Cabo en la Baja Peninsula. Because she had no children, her nephews and nieces named her Tía (Aunt) Juana. In an expedition to the northern part of the peninsula, her brother Don Adolfoi de la Peña arrived in the Tijuana valley, naming it Ranchería Tía Juana and gave it to Doña Juana. She established herself and provided assistance to travelers, as well as educating the native peoples of the region.

In 1769, Tía Juana passes away at the same time the presidio of San Diego was established. Six years later, in reaction to the presence of foreigners, local natives burnt the presidio, its documents and registry of people which included the Death Certificate of Doña Juana.

The first historical reference of Ranchería Tía Juana is in 1809, when the San Diego Mission expedited Birth Certificates for the native populations to its south, including the Ranchería Tía Juana. There is a statue of Doña Juana in the Tijuana Wax Museum. University experts doubt that the city was named after this historical person. Just remember the name of city is T I J U A N A not Tiajuana!

Five Perfect Days in Cartagena de las Indias

Summer travel took me to the walled Colombian city of Catagena de las indias. It was the center of the slave trade during the Spanish Colonial Period. Many buildings are marked where slaves were held until auctioned in the main square.

I took a fascinating tour of the Inquisition Museum. The Holy Office functioned until 1821 and was based in three main Latin American cities: Mexico City, Cartagena, and Lima, Perú.

Cartagena is also home to Saint Peter Claver. I visited the Jesuit convent that functions as a museum in his honor, and attended Sunday Mass in the accompanying colonial church named after him. Saint Peter Claver is known as the Apostle of the Slaves and is a key inspiration in the fight for Human Rights in the region.

I especially enjoyed walking on top of the massive fortress walls with accompanying cannons. Colombian newspapers were daily filled with news and opinions of the Havana Peace Talks and agreements between the Colombian Government of Juan Manual Santos and the FARC, a guerrilla revolutionary group, in an attempt to end the 50-year civil war. There will be a plebiscite in which citizens can vote Yes or No on the Peace Accord.

By accident, I discovered the first Lasallian school in Cartagena. I noticed a cornerstone in honor of Santi J B de la Salle 1921. A security guard told me that the current school in a modern part of town and this original building functions as part of the national university system.

I had the good fortune to visit the tomb of the famed author Gabriel García Márquez (A Hundred Years of
Colombia is a coffee growing country (remember Juan Váldez?) with a flourishing coffee culture. Many of the coffee shops specialize in coffee (tinto) from different regions or fincas.

After five days I bid adios to this tropical paradise as the Jet Blue flight took off for Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

**August 2016**

A mid-morning Interjet flight took me to Mexico City for a week of biblical studies at the Pontifical University in the Delegation of Tlalpan. This year’s our focus was on the Book of the Apocalypse. We worked on acquiring interpretative tools.

I had a pleasant stay with the Postulants and Pre-novices from the two Mexican Districts. Brothers Gabriel (Visitor) and Gerardo (Finance) arrived on the 10th to officially transfer the directorship from Juan Ignacio to Francisco.

On August 11th the new Archbishop of Tijuana arrived mentioned in the July entry. He was met by the faithful in the Plaza Colón in front of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe located downtown. Brothers Francisco and Gabriel were in attendance while I was in Stockton visiting with family.

Traditional barber shops are making a big come back in Tijuana. These establishments specialize in fashionable haircuts and beard care.

Francisco, our new director, made a quick trip to Ciudad Obregón, Sonora to celebrate the 25th anniversary of La Salle University Northwest. He was instrumental in its founding.

Somehow during the transition of directors the electric bill didn’t get paid. The electric company cut our electricity without warning on a Friday morning. We spent a weekend without power until we could reconnect on Tuesday morning. Luckily, Oxxo, the Mexican version of 7-Eleven, brews coffee early in the morning.

**September 2016**

September is a very patriotic month in Mexico. Flags and banners adorn the city in anticipation of the 16th. This date marks the beginning of the independence movement of Mexico from Spain. The high point of the celebration takes place from the Palace of the Government in Mexico City when, with flag in hand, the President shouts three times: ¡Viva México! Then the fireworks display begins.

On September 4th, Brother Donald Johanson with Michael Ávila, his trusted companion and translator, and Brother Gabriel Alba (North-Mexico) arrived to begin their three-day joint visit. The highlight of the visit was a presentation in detail of a two-story construction we want to build on the vacant lot in front of the Ven a Ver residence. The new construction will relocate the dance studio, the dressmaking and tailor shop, a new music/choir studio and a multi-use classroom.

We began classes on Labor Day with an enrollment of about 1600 students. I am experimenting with two new classes this semester: Philosophy for Everyone and an Advanced English Reading.

We are preparing various activities to celebrate our 35th anniversary. The first will take place in October with the laying of the first stone of the new construction. We have initiated the new school year with a number of changes to increase awareness of our Lasallian identity.

*Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC  
Correspondent*

**Hilary House Community | Santa Fe, NM**

While Br. Don Mouton and Br. Ron Bartusiak continue to work at Santa Fe University of Art & Design, there will be some changes coming. Laureate Inc. which has owned the University since the closing of the College of Santa Fe, is selling the University to a group out of Singapore. What kind of changes this may bring in the future at the University is still uncertain.

Br. Jim Brown was able to take an updated course in CPR to learn the present techniques for this life saving procedure - and hopes he never has to use it. He continues his work at Santa Fe Community College.

The community will give some extra help to the St. Michael's community while their cook is out for a few weeks.

The community also joins the St. Michael's Brothers in mourning the passing of Br. Benildus Sulzer.

*Brother Jim Brown, FSC,  
Correspondent*
On Friday evening, June 17, the young Contacts, here on their Retreat, joined the Holy Family Community for a social. Brothers Michael Avila and Chris Patiño were with them. A highlight of their visit was the amazing display of card tricks by Amir Abi-Faraj. After the social, the visitors had a barbeque in the breezeway.

Thomas Güro, teacher at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento and friend of Brother George Van Grieken, spent several days with us in mid-June in order complete his essays for graduate Lasallian studies at Saint Mary’s University, Winona.

Robert “Bob” Rota, a graduate of the first class of Justin High School in 1970, and of Saint Mary’s College, Moraga, in 1974, died on June 18, 2016, from lung cancer. He was 64 years old. Bob was a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Men’s Club of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and the Italian Catholic Federation. Since 1977 Bob was a partner with his father Ernie in the Claffey and Rota Funeral Home in Napa. The Funeral Mass was offered at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Napa. After Communion a number of the Saint Mary’s College alumni started the singing of “The Bells of Saint Mary’s”…which became a crescendo as others added their voices. They sang it three times. The Knights of Columbus presented a chalice in Bob’s honor. Attending the Mass were Brothers Martin Ash, Dominic Berardelli, and V. Kenneth Curley – all from our Holy Family Community. Bob is survived by his parents, Ernie and Eloise Rota, his sister Leslie Rota, and several nieces, aunts and uncles.

Brother DeSales Benning died in our Community on June 25 at the age of 79. The Funeral Mass was offered on June 28 in the main chapel. Father Gerald Werner, OCD, Prior of the Carmelite Monastery in Oakville, was the principal celebrant. Gift bearers at the Mass were Patrick Bonacci, AFSC, and Dora Marcias, the Brothers’ cook at Cathedral High School, Los Angeles, for 18 years … and “holding”! In his eulogy, Brother Dominic Berardelli recalled the happy-go-lucky years of his friendship with DeSales as classmates at the Christian Brothers Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – and thereafter.

Chris Swain from the Christian Brothers Conference Center in Washington, DC, and his then fiancée (now wife) Kathleen Glakin spent the first weekend in July with us before going to the Buttimer Institute at Saint Mary’s College. Former Brother Robert Mizia spent a few days with us July 4-6.

The Novices made their 8-day Retreat at Mont La Salle in early July. Their first Friday here they attended Mass with the Holy Family Community, followed by breakfast. The next day, Saturday, they joined our Community at our social and dinner. And on Sunday evening they were with us and the Provincialate Brothers for a barbeque in the Novitiate garden.

Patricia May, RN, Health Services Coordinator for our San Francisco New Orleans District, died on June 30 in a car accident on Highway 12. A car in the opposite lane suddenly swerved into Patricia’s lane crashing headlong into her car. A nurse for over 40 years, Patricia had also been the Supervisor of our Holy Family Community facility here at Mont La Salle for some 18 years. Patricia was admired and respected – even by doctors – for her vast medical knowledge and for her compassionate and loving care of her patients. Patricia’s husband Arden May is also a longtime member of our Holy Family Community nursing staff. On July 10th the Funeral Mass was offered in our main chapel. Over 200 people filled the chapel to capacity. Burial was in our Brothers’ cemetery here – an unprecedented honor and tribute – where Patricia rests in peace among the Brothers she loved and served so well.

As of July, our new Nursing Supervisor is Alicia Kalua, RN. She is the daughter of Carol Haegley, CNA, long time member of our nursing staff.

After a lengthy illness, Brother Richard Orona’s mother, Josephine, died peacefully on July 10.

Brother Dominic Berardelli who came to the Holy Family Community | Napa, CA
Community on May 13, 2016, returned to Saint Mary’s College, Moraga, on July 13.

On July 14, feast day of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Brother Martin Fenerty conducted a voluntary Native American prayer service at in our Holy Family Community chapel. Martin led the chants – accompanied by a drum – with all present joining in the songs. Even all the nurses on duty were present, as was Brother George Van Grieken from the Provincialate.

Brother Peter de Groot from Ethiopia came to our Community on July 19 on his biennial vacation. He left us on September 1.

After his hip-replacement surgery at John Muir Hospital, Brother Martin Yribarren of Saint Mary’s College, Moraga, came to our Holy Family Community on August 2 to recuperate and rest.

Carol Haegley, longtime member of our Holy Family nursing staff, lost her home and all her belongings in the devastating wildfire in the Clear Lake area.

Brother Dominic Ruegg turned 98 on August 31. His invited guests at the social and dinner that evening were the Alemany Community from Saint Mary’s College and Brother Armando Garcia from the Provincialate Community.

Brother Conrad Kearney, FSC,
Correspondent

Joseph Alemany Community | Moraga, CA

While it is true that the Joseph Alemany Community of Saint Mary's College of CA has permanently gifted the Holy Family Community in Napa with our patriarch, Brother Dominic Ruegg, we could not resist joining him at Mont La Salle for his 98th birthday in August. May this become an annual affair.

We gained a new member, the Director of Vocation Ministry, Brother Chris Patiño. He joined us after having spent a typically busy summer accompanying vocational contacts/aspirants, attending Diocesan Discernment Retreats in Dallas and Houston, faculty/staff retreats in New Orleans (Rummel High School) and Denver (Mullen High School), and assemblies for Lasallian Youth and our District Mission. Though based at Saint Mary's College of CA (SMC) and working with Brother Camillus Chavez on a 17-part Community Vocation Plan, Chris will often be on-the-road visiting schools and communities, continuing to accompany contacts/aspirants, while also serving as a member of the District Council and as a member of the Board of Trustees at De La Salle North Catholic in Portland, OR.

Brother Camillus began his summer with a Zen meditation retreat called a "Sesshin", which includes eight hours of daily meditation for five days. (Yes, of course there were some breaks!) Returning to SMC, he then led four meditation sessions (of less than eight hours) for the Buttimer Institute. The Buttimer has generated a new three-day Mini-Buttimer Session at SMC for faculty and staff. Camillus led morning meditations on the Presence of God and a late-morning session reflecting the theme of the day: History of the Founder and the Institute, Lasallian Pedagogy, and Lasallian Spirituality. All meditations were well received. During the coming academic year, he will continue to each quarter-unit Department of Theology and Religious Studies courses: 1.5 hours per week on "Meditation for Beginners" and "Meditation and Prayer". During the January Term, there will be two similar courses taught and, in the Spring Term, a Department of Psychology course, "Jesus, the Archetype of the Savior." In the high schools, meditation workshops will be given in Tucson, Los Angeles, Tulsa, Chicago, and El Paso as well as at De La Salle Academy in Concord.

The Swiss Guard at the Vatican must know Brother Charles Hilken by sight as he continues his summer research and writing on medieval necrologies. On the brighter side, he visited the Lowlands with Brothers Patrick Moore and Thomas Westberg, stopping off at Strasbourg in the Alsace and Turin. Back home, as Curator for the Papal Exhibit at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in the Simi Valley, Charles was able to give four members of Alemany Community a special guided tour of the models of Saint Peter's Tomb and the stages of construction of Saint Peter's Basilica. During the academic year, he will be teaching courses on Western Civilization, Renaissance, and Medieval history while also co-teaching a Theology and Religious Studies course on the "History and Theology of the Benedictines." In between classes, Charles will continue as Director of the Bishop John Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Action and continue as a member of the SMC Board of Trustees.

Our community ambassador to South America, Brother Mark McVann, again summer lectured at the Jesuit University in Lima, Peru, on Genesis and Exodus and also at the Jesuit Loyola Center in Ayacucho, southern Peru, on the Book of Exodus. While returning to Moraga, he attended the Midwest District Day at Lewis University in July. Besides teaching Biblical studies Full time at SMC, Mark will reclaim his position as editor (and founder) of the Listening Journal on the topic: "Reading for Good: Literature and Ethics".

Chicago was also a summer destination for Brother Michael Avila as he worked for the Religious Formation
Conference for religious priests, Brothers, and Sisters appointed to positions of formation. It took place at the Chicago Theological Union. At home in Moraga, Michael will continue a course in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies entitled "Life Stories and Theology". With Brother Chris Patiño and Father Gentry-Akin, he is developing a quarter-unit course on "Discernment" for students interested in the priesthood and/or religious life for men and women. December will find Michael giving the North Mexico District retreat at the request of their Visitor, Brother Gabriel Alba. In between times, he will also continue to moderate the SMC Ballet Folklorico.

Ensoconced in the quiet of Ferndale in very Northern California, Brother Michael Meister, our fearless leader, spent most of the summer with family while completing a major project: reading all the works of Dante, several new commentaries, the history of Italy from the 12th to the 14th centuries, and several famous Italian novels. Therefore, he continues to teach in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies on Dante and on the Saints to full classes. Besides representing the Alemany Community to the innumerable offices, departments, faculty, staff, and other makers of mischief on the campus, Michael manages our finances, timely and accurately, to the last mill.

In retirement from teaching and career counseling, Brother Brendan Madden, carries on as Executive Director of Lifelong Education Opportunities (aka The LEO Center). Fund raising by its Board of Directors is critical in successfully continuing its traditional operations: teaching 20-30 adult immigrants (China, Iran, Ecuador, Mexico, etc.) English as a Second Language at Saint Columba Parish Church in Emeryville (-$22,000.00), donating funds to De La Salle Academy in Concord (-$10,000.00), and distributing food in Emeryville, SMC Moraga, and in Guerneville on the Russian River (-$5,000.00). The latter is a new project in conjunction with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Saint Columba Parish. Dated food is collected and distributed at Saint Columba twice a week. On average, 200-500 pounds of food each day is left over and that is taken to the workers and students at SMC on Tuesdays and to the homeless and poor in Guerneville on Thursdays. In the unending search for financial assistance, Brendan has become an honorary Italian by joining the Italian Catholic Federation at Saint Isador's Parish in Danville and sponsored an Italian dinner (+$6,000.00).

In October, the LEO Center will team-up with Speratus Wines to launch a new Cabernet Sauvignon and host a food paring at the Academy, soliciting funds for 1-3 new vans for DLSA (+$35,000.00 - $120,000.00). It's prayer-time for those Italian Catholics.

Seeking another chance to cut in on Waltzing Matilda, Brother Bernard Lococo returned to Australia this summer to offer to a group of lay people a workshop on one of his favorite topics: "The Spirituality of Dreams". He returned to Moraga to participate in the new mini-Buttimer sessions at SMC and then found himself to be called to the Midwest District's gathering and jubilee celebrations at Lewis University near Chicago. When necessary, he also spent time in the Midwest with his 93-year old widowed brother. This coming year, Bernie again will be giving spiritual direction at SMC and to other clients in and outside the USA via Skype. Workshops in spirituality are scheduled for Berkeley and San Antonio. Otherwise, he can be found trying to improve his golf game.

And so it goes......

Brother Brendan Madden, FSC, Correspondent

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La Salle High School of Yakima | Union Gap, WA

On Thursday, September 8th, the La Salle Board of Trustees officially dedicated and named the sports court in the Cardinal George Gymnasium the “Chelsea Heffner Court”. Hundreds of students, faculty, alumni, parents and supporters packed the gym to honor and pay tribute to one of La Salle’s brightest student stars, who left us too soon.

A three-sport varsity player, academic stand-out, student leader, and class valedictorian, Chelsea was remembered as a kind and caring scholar, who valued service to others and lived her faith every day. Her name is permanently inscribed on the court; a con-stant reminder of the positive impact one young student had on the lives of many.

September 26 began Homecoming week and, to amp up school spirit, Spirit Coordinators Bella James and Henry Martin, along with Ms. Emily Stillwagon, got the whole campus involved in this year’s Homecoming festivities! Each day of the week had a different theme beginning with America Monday, followed by Decade Day, Disney Day, Super Hero Day, and finishing strong with Friday’s Lightning Spirit Day. The week ended with a pep rally.
On September 14, all students participated in an annual tradition to help those in need. Wednesday morning, La Salle’s entire school community picked apples at two orchards for their “Pick-a-thon.” The students harvested apples that will be sent to emergency food banks and soup kitchens around the state. “One of our big things is concern for the poor and social justice...we picked close to 10,000 pounds of fruit just at this location and it's all going back to Northwest Harvest where they give it to people who need it,” said Senior Nick Perry. The Pick-a-Thon also helped raise funds for La Salle’s twin school in Kenya.

Ms. Debbie Moorer, Correspondent

La Salle Vietnam House | San Jose, CA

June, 2016

Bro. Fortunat Phong accompanied 125 students to Europe and World Youth Day in Poland. After returning from Poland, Bro. Phong went to Vietnam to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the District of Vietnam. Present was our Brother Superior General, Robert Schieler.

After Bro. Phong left the U.S. for Europe a couple of days, Bro. Bosco Truong joined our Community of San Jose. Bro. Bosco comes to us from Lafayette, Louisiana.

Around a week later, Bro. Joseph Phuong from Cathedral School in Los Angeles and his blood brother, Quang, our former Junior of Mossard Thu Duc, came to visit us. Bro. Phuong just moved back from Togo, Africa, after three years in this country of Mission. They came for the funeral of one of their relatives in San Jose.

A couple of days later, two former Juniors of Bro. Valery An Nguyen, Ke and Loc of the same Junior class as Quang, came with their wives and some Vietnamese food for a weekend dinner in our house. We enjoyed their company and food for sure. They recalled a lot of dear memories of that old time in Vietnam, where our life was just a blank page and a lot of projects and plans, full of colorful butterflies, flowers and singing birds, ready to be filled up with immense horizons and high targets to reach. They brought us a lot of souvenirs of our time in our Juniorate in Vietnam.

July, 2016

Our Community sent Bros. Joseph Phuc and Bosco to attend the first vow ceremony in Napa. We came there pretty early so that we could visit around the Holy Family and see and talk with many retired Brothers, and also make a round of the property and the cemetery.

Bros. Tuan and An left for Vietnam to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the French Brothers in Vietnam, and to visit their own families in Hanoi and Hue respectively. Bro. Tuan took this occasion to visit his former school and Community in Bangkok, Thailand. He speaks perfect Thai without any Vietnamese accent. Bro. Valery visited his family and folks in a village outside of Hue City, the former capital of Vietnam. Then both of them flew to Dalat in the highland to attend the 75th anniversary of our Lasalle Adran School, where we saw the greenhouse and many millions of chrysanthemums, not in form of plants, but of tissues of chrysanthemum that will grow up into chrysanthemum. Dalat’s cool weather is ideal for this kind of plant because it is situated higher than 1000m above sea level.

August, 2016

In this month, as scheduled, Bros. Phong, An and Tuan came home. That’s why, Bro. Thanh Anthony also visited us during his Summer Holidays from Jamaica. He worked there as a missionary. I told him, “When you go to the mission country, you will receive a lot of graces because God will give the missionaries many special merits”. That’s why he brought us some Vietnamese delicacy food and a bottle of Vodka in order to imitate the hot
atmosphere like that of Jamaica.

On August 28, our Community had a CAP and finished it on time so that we can present it to our District. After 5 hours of discussion, we updated the old CAP with some planning, cutting, adding, and retouching, weighing the pros and cons in any section, even the way to express all these details in a clear English. Finally, our new CAP was born. After viewing and reviewing our draft, we got the final draft to submit to our Visitor for approval. We have tried our best to make our dream come true by collaborating with all our individual efforts to put in some concrete form. For us, it is an important masterpiece because, by following this CAP, we will live our Community’s daily life according to the Rule of our Lasallian Institute.

At dinner, in order to reward our togetherness after finishing this new CAP, we went to a buffet restaurant to enjoy the “Hot Pot” dish, a special Vietnamese specialty: in an electric pot of boiling water in the middle of the table, we can dip a slice of seafood or meat that we like. After these cook in the boiling pot, we take them out and roll them in a kind of rice paper to make it like a spring roll, and we eat them with sweet fish sauce, together with salad of parsley, cucumber, and hot pepper. Then, yummy, yummy … that makes our mouths water! We all enjoyed it!

September, 2016

On September 1, Br. Phong went to Oklahoma to attend a Catechist Training Conference for 3 days. Since September 6, Bros. Valery, Phuc and Bosco have been teaching in the afterschool program at the La Salle Community Center of the Lasallian Sisters in San Jose, around two miles away from our house. Bye bye the sweet days of summer 2016. We help the students to do their homework from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. After that, students who like to learn the piano or accordion lesson stay with us around one hour more. Good luck and success, dear children!

Brother Bosco Truong, FSC
Correspondent

Les Amis des Frères | Napa, CA

Chuck Meuel was one of the four co-founders of Les Amis des Frères (with Pat O’Brien, Gerry Forrest, and John Savage), our group of former Brothers, their families, and friends.

He taught many of us in the juniorate at Mont La Salle and faithfully attended our annual retreats at St. Joseph’s Camp on the Russian River.

He was instrumental in shaping the group into the organization it has become today, and he gave the group its French name, meaning “the friends of the brothers,” which is exactly who we are.

His funeral Mass was held at the St. Mary’s College chapel in Moraga on August 29, 2016. It was attended by hundreds of friends, family, colleagues, members of Les Amis, and Brothers.

Here is Chuck’s obituary from the East Bay Times:

Charles Henry Meuel passed away peacefully at his home on August 18th. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nina Meuel and five children. Bradley Gibbs (Kim), Whitney Quin (Mike), Tori Sawyer (Randy), Sean Oill (David), Therese Meuel, fifteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Charles (Chuck) was born in Clovis to Herman and Elise. He graduated from Mont La Salle in Napa in 1951 and then graduated from St. Mary's College in 1956. He received his vows and the habit of the Christian Brothers in 1952 as Brother Norbert. He taught at Sacred Heart High school and then Mont La Salle in Napa, where he coached basketball as well.

He went on to become Vice President of Christian Brothers Winery. He left the order in 1967 and married Nina Gibbs (Alawine). Chuck was a loving, generous, happy man who loved life.

Here are a few testimonials from Chuck’s friends and confreres:

Chuck Meuel, former Brother Norbert, passed away this morning August 18, 2016.
Chuck has been under hospice care for over a month with his loving family taking care of him. Our prayers and thoughts are with our dear brother. – Pat O’Brien

Chuck was a longtime family friend, like an uncle to Colleen & me. A wonderful guy to all -- friendly, happy, & fun-loving -- which was reflected through his beautiful service & family's reflections. He will be missed. – Brigit O’Brien Shotts, St Helena, CA

Christian brother, friend, and soldier of Christ. I will miss you Chuck and I know you will pray for us in a better place. My deepest thoughts and Prayers for Chuck, Nina, and the family. I had the privilege of knowing Chuck (Brother Norbert) during our Russian River outings. His graciousness and laughter were a blessing on us all and I will miss him dearly.

Chuck was one of the great ones. A true friend and great example to all of us. He completely embodied the Lasallian spirit. Live Jesus in our hearts...Forever! – Deacon Charlie Stanton (concelebrant with Father La Salle Hallisy at Chuck's funeral Mass)

I was saddened by this news. In the 55 years since I last saw him I have never forgotten him as a teacher and model of what a real man is. Rest in peace good and faithful servant. – Vincent DeVargas

Chuck (Brother Norbert) was a very positive influence in my life. My three years at The Mont were made wonderful by him. I had decided to take the name Brother Norbert Anthony at robing but I left a few weeks before that event. – Joe Sperske

A wonderful man, a dear friend, and one of my students. God bless him and his family. May he rest with the Lord. – Jim Robillard

Our prayers will be offered at Bahay Pag-as-a. Chuck was a great friend of the LEO Center during my years there (and, I imagine, continued to be long after). May all his family be at peace knowing that Chuck is in God's good care. – Brother Daniel Fenton, FSC

Chuck Meuel and I go back almost 70 years! And I know I am a much better person for having him part of my life! Angie and I will continue to pray for him and his family. RIP! – Daniel Biner

Chuck was a wonderful man. Live Jesus in our hearts. – Robert Leppert

Chuck taught me algebra, geometry, trigonometry, precalculus, chemistry, physics, and how to make beds. He made an iconostasis and sang the Divine Liturgy. He was a basketball coach and showed us how to refinish furniture. He illuminated our Russian River retreats with his laughter and joy. – Mike Tscheekar

He was my biggest cheerleader, made me his business partner, Loved me unconditionally, taught me love of sports (go Giants!) and gave me the travel bug. Most importantly he supported me in the biggest decision of my life and taught my daughter what a dad is supposed to be. I feel blessed that I entered the world with you in the room and I was lucky enough to be there when you left. I love you dad and I'll miss you. – Therese Meuel

Requiem aeternam! – Father La Salle Hallisy, OP (concelebrant at Chuck's funeral Mass)

Mr. Mike Tscheekar,
Correspondent

Mullen High School | Denver, CO

The Mullen community was very fortunate to have Brother Gale Condit, FSC as a guest on our campus. The reason for his visit was twofold: engage our school’s leadership in regard to the Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation (LCBF), and help to inform our young charges on the history of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. In both respects Brother Gale represented in terrific fashion.

In an afternoon, Brother Gale and Mullen President Carl Unrein, ’72, were able to visit multiple classes and expound on the pedagogy and spirituality of Saint La Salle. The timing of the classroom visits could not have been better. This is Mullen’s eighty-fifth year, and Brother Gale’s visit also coincided with the school’s homecoming week.
As Mr. Unrein and Brother Gale roamed the campus they were surrounded by beanie-wearing ninth graders eager to learn of the mission of the Founder and the Lasallian Institute as a whole. “It is important for these young people to have a grasp for who Saint La Salle was and also what he represents in regard to our mission now,” Brother Gale said as donned the familiar blue and gold headwear of the freshman as he walked the campus. “I think when they see me in the beanie it makes me more approachable,” he shared with a warm smile.

In his discussions with the kids, Brother Gale served as a living encyclopedia of Lasallian knowledge. One ninth grader observed, “He’s a nice man and it helps us to understand the history of Mullen and all the other schools like us.” Indeed. Not only is Brother Gale’s Institutional knowledge strong, but his connection to Mullen’s lineage is also impressive. He spoke of his friendship with our own beloved Brother Bernard Kinneavy, recalling treasured stories and fond memories of “Mr. Mullen.”

Brother Gale brainstormed with Mr. Unrein and Mullen’s new Development Director, Mark Pino. The three discussed fund raising methods and best practices while also sharing in Lasallian comradesy. In Brother Gale’s role as Development Director for the LCBF, one of his foci is to help raise funds to support elderly Brothers who are in retirement. He pointed out that the average age of the Brothers in the San Francisco New Orleans District is seventy-seven years. Further, both the number of retired Brothers and the costs of living and health care continue to rise. Happily, the Brothers have multiple champions as they enter their golden years, and Brother Gale and the Foundation are leading the way with undaunted resolve.

When asked for his observations about Colorado’s one Lasallian school, Brother Gale remarked, “This is a wonderful school with great spirit. The campus is beautiful and features a nice learning environment…you are doing great work here.”

Thank you for sharing your knowledge, passion and zeal with us, Brother Gale! We look forward to when our paths cross again!

Mr. Sean Keefe,
Correspondent

Provinciate Community | Napa, CA

July to September were filled with lots of transitions and new beginnings! Working in reverse chronology, we celebrated Gery Short’s transition from being the Director of Education to Mike Daniels assuming that role. The community had its own private celebration by way of a prayer service and dinner in our community dining room with Gery and his family - Rosanne, his wife, and adult children: Nora, Megan and Joseph. The “children” began our social with remarks on how their father’s dedication to the Lasallian Mission for 38 years (before they were born!) has had an impact on their growing up. It was a wonderful set of reflections – not without a few tears and lots of humor during their recounting. The meal included reflections from Rosanne and from Gery himself. It was a special moment of celebrating his experience as a “Lasallian Partner” which has impacted his family and “our family” in very powerful ways.

Then, on September 3, there was a more “public” celebration here at Mont La Salle’s novitiate garden for a large number of individuals who have been working with Gery since his days at St. Mary’s College High School – Berkeley. beginning in 1978 to his time with De La Salle Institute from 1984 to the present. A wonderful gathering to celebrate his “transition” to whatever comes next (quote from Gery: “Don’t contact me till April!”) after a period of relaxation and discernment. And a final celebration was held in late September at the District Chief Administrators Association meeting in Denver with the Presidents and Principals of the District. There was a well-deserved tribute to his impact on the Lasallian Mission, by way of District, Region and International involvements! It culminated with the presentation of the Gery Short Scholarship Fund for students who qualify through the District’s Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation. A fitting way to mark the effect of Gery’s incredible impact on so many lives and his public role as a Lasallian Partner!
The community had its CAP (Community Annual Program) meetings at St. Joseph’s Camp – Russian River for 2 ½ days in early August. We went from the very personal, sharing the State of the Person (how we see ourselves as individuals on our faith journey now and for the coming year), to a lively discussion of the US Bishops Conference statement on the Formation of Conscience for Political Participation, as well as reviews of what the 45th General Chapter asked communities to consider for the CAP and of District Priorities, including most importantly: the promotion of vocations. The specific outcomes and the budget were then determined in our CAP document for 2016-17 and concluded with a great dinner out!

As a community, we take much delight in making a special contribution to the District’s mission by hosting any number of the various groups who come to use the Mont La Salle Conference Center. Such people include new school Board members coming for their three (3) days of orientation, communities who come to use the Mont for their CAP process, as well the District Leadership Team and school groups who come for days of recollection or leadership training. We also have had wonderful conversations and visits with individuals who come for personal or business related matters and have meals and/or stays in our community guest rooms. While hospitality is our gift offered to them, our community greatly appreciates the ways in which such experiences keep us in touch with the pulse of the District or with persons experiencing the Lasallian perspective, often for the first time. Our own celebrations of our birthdays and ordinary table conversations are a significant way we keep up with the variety of ministries our community composition represents.

Prayers for all the schools that are now well into the school year of 2016-17 and for the efforts being made to foster vocations for all the forms of Church ministry.

Brother Mark Murphy, FSC,
Correspondent

Sacred Heart Cathedral Community | San Francisco, CA

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Community is very excited for the year ahead in the city by the Bay! After many summer travels, the community is happy to be reunited with both new and returning members. The community is looking forward to various trips together to explore California. They are also and preparing to host the Lasallian Volunteers during the 11th Annual LVs Run fundraiser, which will take place on Sunday, November 13th in San Francisco. For more information or to donate to the run, visit the LV website.

Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D. is the Resident chaplain of the community. This summer, he oversaw the transfer of the Passionist China Collection from the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Culture at USF to the Special Collections Library at the University of Scranton. This completes a three year project which brought Fr. Rob to San Francisco in 2012. He now serves as Executive Director of the U.S. Catholic Bureau in Berkeley, which educates the public on the Catholic Church in China. At a November 3, 2016 banquet open to the public the China Bureau will honor Emeritus Bishop John S. Cummins of the Diocese of Oakland, CA and Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Wang of the Archdiocese of San Francisco with the Matteo Ricci Award for service to the Chinese Catholic communities in the U.S. and San Francisco Bay area. For more info contact: director@uscatholicchina.org. For the past four years he has enjoyed working with the Sacred Heart Cathedral Kairos Retreat Program and looks forward to assisting more with public liturgies throughout year.

Brother Joseph Fabiano was spiritually fortified by means of making a pilgrimage to the canonization of Saint Mother Teresa in September. He was inspired by the faith of so many young people in attendance at the Vatican prayer. During the prayer, Pope Francis encouraged all to smile and go beyond the borders of their comfort zones, as did Mother Teresa in following Jesus. Brother Joseph is currently working in the library at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory (SHCP).
Brother Ron Gallagher took several weeks to visit various national parks in Nevada and Utah. He is entering his third year as President of SHCP; the school has a full enrollment of happy students aided by a committed faculty and staff.

Brother John Hoover had lunch in 20 different restaurants this summer, finally getting a chance to try several of the restaurants which had been on his "to do" list for some time. This is the second year that he will be a full time counselor, doing school and personal counseling with 240 students at SHCP.

Brother Joe Kirk traveled to Santa Fe, NM with Br. George Van Grieken and participated in the district retreat with the St Michael's Community. He enjoyed praying with them and listening to presentations. This year Br. Joe is student support for the 6th grade class at De Marillac Academy.

Second year Lasallian Volunteer Kacie Kusinski spent her summer at home in Chicago teaching Vacation Bible School. This year she serving at De Marillac Academy as a 4th and 5th grade teacher.

Brother Martin DeMartini spent the summer in San Francisco, and hosted brother David Galinski from Chicago. This year he is spending his school days perfecting in the plaza and around school at SHCP, getting to know the students and engaging them in conversation. He is official scorekeeper for the daily games of Frisbee that occur in the plaza.

Abbey Sorensen, a first year Lasallian Volunteer, venturing from coast to coast from her hometown of Cranston, Rhode Island. She spent her summer enjoying the beautiful beaches of Rhode Island and spending time with family and friends. She is serving as a 5th grade teacher at De Marillac Academy.

Brother Tom Westberg returned from his responsibilities on the staff at the Regional Novitiate in Chicago and is back in the saddle as the director of the SHC Community. Tom will spend most of his time this year working as Director of the community, but will also do volunteer work with faculty formation and student immersions at SHCP.

Ms. Abbey Sorensen,
Correspondent

Saint Mary’s College Community | Moraga, CA

During the summer months the old steam plant, vintage 1928, that was designed as central heating for the whole institution and since replaced with modern, natural gas decentralized heating units located in various buildings and locations, was emptied and renovated for various functions. The faculty of the School of Economics and Business Administration (SEBA) has been provided offices on the street floor with easy access for students. The active College print shop and receiving facilities have both been accorded larger space on a lower floor that heretofore did not exist.

Seven-hundred and thirty new students arrived on August 27-28 for the Fall Semester, a frosh number that was smaller than expected. One factor that affected frosh enrollment was that the University of California (11 campuses statewide) enrolled more students from California this Fall in light of criticism that UC was admitting too many out-of-state students (who were required to pay full tuition) rather than qualified in-state students. SMC freshmen numbered 575 and transfers, 155.

Plans for enlarging the McKeon Pavilion (the spectator gymnasium) have been completed and approved, but must await the gathering of full funding before the project may begin.

The former swimming pool has been filled in and serves as a weight-lifting and physical fitness center for athletes. The new Joseph L. Alioto Fitness Center (including a handsome outdoor pool) is reserved for students at large, not athletic teams.

Intense effort is being exercised to achieve funding for a new library facility, a costly endeavor, given code requirements for California, considered “earthquake territory.” The existing library was constructed in 1966-'67 for approximately 1,000 students. The College now accommodates a little over 4,000 graduate and undergraduate students. The need for a new library is thus self-evident.

Brother Martin Yribarren, took time off during the summer months to secure a new hip. A former basketball participant, hiker and nature-lover along with regular physical workouts, music and organ activities, pain in his left hip began giving him pause for orthopedic examination resulting in recommendation for replacement. With recuperation lasting several weeks of careful maneuvering summer activities were reduced to precious little. He’s back teaching classes in the Collegiate Seminar and the College Great Books program as well as retraining his leg to play the organ. However, he’s thinking positively, like celebrating his Jubilee with a pre-Christmas Basque Bash sometime in December that would coincide with his birthday on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12.)

With the successful tumor removal from his lumbar region, Brother Christopher Brady moved from Monrovia (he was principal at La Salle High, Pasadena) to Saint Mary’s College during the summer. A cheerful addition to
the community, he first spent some time vacationing in Southern California and Las Vegas with his sister and brother-in-law and with the Brothers at the camp at Huntington Lake in the High Sierras. He’s been reading and relaxing at Saint Mary and plans to visit his sister in Maine, with some educational travel to New York and Washington, D.C. Plans include visits to the Supreme Court while in session, the 9/11 Memorial in New York, the Smithsonian Museum’s African American exhibit, and Hyde Park to visit the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. He hopes to return to full-time action in January, possibly at Saint Mary’s College.

Brother Raphael Patton, completed his work on the history of the Brothers who served the College since 1868 and one of the great benefactors of the College in its early years under the Brothers, namely, Mr. Bartley P. Oliver (after whom the College student dining room was is named in 1928.) He is now engaged in working on his devotion to his academic career by wrestling with mathematical problems in “number theory” in addition to some investigations in astronomy by engaging in “promoting the sun.” (Check with your favorite astronomer/mathematician for an explanation!)

As Brother Director of the Brothers summer camp on the Russian River, Moscow, CA, Brother Richard Lemberg, enjoyed a several-week respite along with nine campers. He said the experience was a “jolly time.” Having completed his Directorship in style, he flew to Kentucky to visit his brother and family for some R. and R. He returned to California by train, labeling it as both a wonderful train trip and family time. Now he is back at work in a library project of completing the project of transferring LP’s to MP3. He eagerly awaits the representatives of the Phi Cappa Phi Honor Society who will be evaluating the College for establishing a Phi Cappa Phi Honor Society chapter. Representatives are from Louisiana State University and the University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA.

The honorable Brother Thomas Jones, Director, returned to the College after a five-day retreat in what he calls “the wilderness,” otherwise known as the “Gold Country” of California. He felt fully rejuvenated. Unfortunately, his mother acquired a few physical difficulties shortly after celebrating her 93rd birthday at Mont La Salle, Napa, CA. This difficulty has occupied Tom’s attention to some degree. However, she seems to be recovering. This coming semester he will be serving two full days at the College counseling center. He will continue his appointment on the Board of Trustees at Our Lady Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa until December, 30, 2016. He will continue his generous service on the District Council and the Board of Trustees of Saint Mary’s College.

An avid thinker, Brother Kenneth Cardwell, spent the summer months engaged in an exegetical analysis of the Gospel of St. Mark. St. Mark has included numerous significant numerical elements in his Gospel which has encouraged Brother Kenneth to pursue the meaning of what seems to be an imbedded number Gospel mystery. When not attending to exegetical pursuits he has been spending time with his 93-year old mother, who is still active and alert. A desire for some change-of-pace found him in the High Sierra’s at the Brothers’ camp at Huntington Lake. He was one of two attending the camp, giving him a chance to reflect and relax. During the forthcoming semester he is teaching half time and the other half of his time is engaged in significant committee work, such as, membership on the active Integral Program Alumni group, membership in the Collegiate Seminar Governing Board, a participant on the Search Committee for a Director for the Collegiate Seminar Program, and as a member of the Senate Diversity Task Force. He will continue his research and writing for his book on St. Mark’s Gospel and is looking forward to planning for his Sabbatical for the forthcoming year.

A man who is well versed in the history, charm and graciousness of the people of the Emerald Isle, Rev. Thomas McElligott is preparing for a ten-day tour of Ireland for College alumni from October 10th through the 20th. Father McElligott has led or co-led eleven January Term classes on the history of Ireland in the country itself. In the meantime, he has been assiduously studying Shakespeare, his Sonnets, the “king” plays, as well as Joyce’s Ulysses and devotes himself to attendance at numerous live performances of plays (and there are many) in the Bay Area, modern, traditional and classical. He also in immersed in a critical study of quality telecast plays from London.

Summer time for Brother Christopher Donnelly has been full-time engaged. He is Assistant Director of the Brothers’ camp in the High Sierras (Huntington Lake) where he also continues as full-time Fire Chief of the Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department. His gracious and charming father of 95 was finally called to his eternal reward. Chris, along with his various siblings arranged for an honorable and well-attended funeral at St. Theresa’s Parish. His mother, of the same age, has been relocated in the Piedmont Gardens Assisted Living Center. She seems to be adjusting well. Chris has also been intimately involved in the renovation of the former central heating facility, a project which seems to be delightfully welcomed by those who will occupy it. He also continues to make progress on renovation of the former College warehouse for use by the College Project Manager’s offices. Next project is the replacement of the transformer for the old Madigan Gymnasium. The “Donnelly Boys” rented a houseboat for a trip on Shasta Lake (Northern California). The report: “It was great fun!”

The President of PCAPLA (Pacific Coast Association of Pre-Law Advisors), Brother Glenn Bolton, enjoyed the
last summer months of his sabbatical in the travel and greeting mode of alumni in various locations.

In Europe and the United States. From June 5th – 11th he was in Chicago as a Planning Committee member for the National PLANC (Pre-law Advisors National Council) conference scheduled for 2020. It was then off to Washington, D.C., visiting graduate programs and alumni working at the National Institute of Health and teaching at George Mason University, as well as alumni at Georgetown Medical and Army Medical Schools. The next destination on the summer activities list was the Motherhouse in the Eternal City, with side ventures to Venice and Florence. Though peaceful and restful, the idyllic vacation was cut short with visits to graduate schools in Berlin and London and listening to feedback from alumni attending institutions in both cities. September 16th to the 19th, the Pre-Law Advisors National Council called Glenn to Denver to begin planning for the National Conference in 2020. With the summer drawing to a close, the College welcomed Glenn to full-time activities in the College Career and Professional Development Services Department. To assure himself that he will use his spare time fruitfully, he will occupy his free-time as the President of PCAPLA planning the 2017 conference to be held in Irvine, CA, consisting of sessions at the 7 Irvine and San Diego law schools.

Brother Mel Anderson, spent a few days in Ashland, Oregon attending the annual Shakespeare Festival. In addition to the large semi-outdoor stage the Festival has added several indoor theaters so that several Shakespeare plays can be performed at the same time. Though he enjoyed Hamlet and Richard II (especially), he also was gratified to discover that Ashland has accommodated itself by maturing to the professionalism of the Festival by offering many shops with avant-garde gifts, trinkets, clothing and volumes of rare and modern Shakespeare tomes. The eating establishment has also diversified with several delightful haute cuisine dining experiences by attempting to match the quality of the performances in full costume, special effects and well-tempered, articulate, and meaningful Shakespearean fare. Otherwise, the summer was one of reading for class in September as well as writing/editing documents on Liberal education and the future of the College.

Hope we have great results in funding and designing for the Newsletter in December.

Brother Mel Anderson, FSC,
Correspondent

Saint Mary’s College High School | Berkeley, CA

Saint Mary’s high opened its 154th school year in mid-August with student orientations on campus and a faculty retreat at the Brothers’ Mont La Salle in Napa, California. The Class of 2020 enjoyed four days to themselves on the campus, getting acquainted with teachers, classrooms, the lunch line, the bell schedule, and especially with one another. The Class of 2016 is now dispersed to colleges and universities near and far, and many members returned to campus for one last visit before heading off to school. They’ll be back at Peralta Park just before Christmas, when Saint Mary’s will host several of the most recent classes of graduates at the annual Young Alumni Reunion.

Alumni gathered on September 17 for a pre-game barbecue, Panther football against longtime rival Bishop O’Dowd High School of Oakland, and a post-game reception. Many were also on hand along with parents, friends, and members of the school’s golf teams for the 32nd Golf Tournament at a nearby hilltop golf and country club famous for its spectacular views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate. (Saint Mary’s itself has equally remarkable views from the field bleachers.) The annual golf event raises tens of thousands of dollars for tuition assistance.

The new Parent Volunteer “app” on the school website has brought even more wonderful Saint Mary’s Moms and Dads to campus to help with school events, donate cookies and sweets, welcome visitors to campus, and more. The Parent Association sponsors several events during the school year, including the very
popular Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Dinner-Dances in the fall, luncheons for the faculty and staff, and the largest community event of the year, the annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction in February. Parents will also be helping out at the annual Open House for prospective students and their families in November. The parent group originated with the Saint Mary’s Mothers’ Club in 1930, just three years after the high school relocated to Berkeley. The Dads’ Club would follow in 1949, after the Great Depression and the War Years. Many descendants of these two groups are Saint Mary’s students today.

Parents were on campus for Back to School Night on September 2 and later in the month for a viewing of the film Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age. The ongoing “Classroom Matters” series sponsored by Saint Mary’s Counseling Office got underway, as well, with freshmen, sophomores, and parents engaging in the important topic of student time management. College Rep visits have begun and events for parents include “Coffee with the College Counselor” for Junior parents and college information nights for Seniors and their parents on a variety of topics affecting the college application process.

Saint Mary’s students were among dozens from around the Lasallian Region of North America who gathered this past summer for the annual Lasallian Youth Assembly (LYA) and Lasallian Student Leaders (LSL) conference in El Paso, Texas and Moraga, California, respectively. Students were busy signing up for campus clubs this month following the great interactive displays presented at the annual Club Fair on September 9, which included a vintage 1965 Mustang Fastback at the Auto Shop Club table. The Outdoor Club began the school year with a popular hike at spectacular Point Reyes National Seashore on the Pacific Coast, about fifty miles from Saint Mary’s.

Brother Dan Morgan’s Summer 2016 Road Trip completed his tour of every Lasallian school and Brothers’ community in the District of San Francisco New Orleans! This most recent leg covered 7,000 miles and 18 states in 19 days, and included two First Vows ceremonies, a retreat, visits to 14 Lasallian schools, and visits to Brothers communities in Saint Paul’s, Covington, Louisiana, Christian Brothers School in New Orleans, Saint Michael’s in Santa Fe, Cathedral El Paso, and San Miguel in Tucson. A number of Midwest District schools were on the tour, as well, including in Memphis, Tennessee. A visit to a former student at the Air Force Academy in Colorado rounded out the trip.

The most visible and impactful activity on the Saint Mary’s campus this school year is the construction of the new Student Chapel just inside the entrance to campus. The Chapel will sit across from historic Codornices Creek, which runs for two miles through the City of Berkeley, from the hills north of the University of California to San Francisco Bay. The creek bank near Saint Mary’s was once home to early Ohlone Indians, and in the 19th Century was the site of an adobe dwelling belonging to the Peralta family after whom the Peralta Park campus is named. The school yearbook is aptly named The Peraltan.

On August 16, about 150 members of the school community, donors, and friends gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony at the Chapel site. Bishop of Oakland, Michael Barber SJ, Bishop Emeritus John Cummins AFSC, and Father Robert Carleton MM, Saint Mary’s Class of 1954, presided over the prayer service and site blessing created by Brother David
Caretti and the Saint Mary’s Campus Ministry Team. Luncheon followed in the campus student center. Chapel construction got underway that same week, and is expected to be completed in Summer 2017. The Chapel will be dedicated to Mary, School Patroness. Click here to visit our website’s Chapel project page.

Best wishes from Saint Mary’s Berkeley to our fellow Lasallian communities in the District for a happy and successful 2016-2017 school year.

Ms. Jeanne Gray Loughman,
Correspondent

St. Michael’s High School | Santa Fe, NM

June brought the Spirituality Institute to us. Leading off the presentations 10-11 June was Bro. Joe Schmidt who spoke on St. Thérèse and Pope Francis: Apostles of Mercy. We were also able to celebrate Brother’s birthday before he had to depart for his next engagement. Bro. Brian provided the first full week of presentations on St. Francis de Sales: The Most Merciful Man of his Time. Between the 2 full weeks, Rev. Bob Patterson provided a full day of presentations on The Church, Science, the Bible, and Fr. Teilhard de Chardin. The second full week was Bro. Mouton’s presentations answering the question: What on Earth is the Book of Revelation All About? This year’s presentations, and many of the past ones, were videotaped and edited. Earlier ones are already available on the website, www.sfi.org, and those of this year will be available when editing is completed.

Concurrently with the Spirituality Institute we had our first electronic retreat. Though there were a few technological glitches, the overall experience was excellent! Our special thanks to Bro. Michael French and Bro. George Van Grieken, our local coordinator. Having the same speaker for the whole District seems a good way of continuing to build unity, and it is a real boon for those of us who are unable to travel any more.

On July 6, Bro. Charles had surgery to replace the hip he had damaged in a fall some weeks before. He spent several weeks recovering at Santa Fe Care and receiving therapy, then he returned home in early August. Though he uses a walker much of the time, he can walk well without assistance. Please continue prayers for him. Just before Labor Day, he had a visit from his sister and niece. Their sightseeing was the occasion for him to practice walking even more than his usual amount.

Toward the end of July, Brothers Brian and George had the pleasure of visits from two of their former students, one local and the other all the way from Michigan. Bro. Martin also had a visit from 2 of his sisters, Mary and Suzanne, and his nephew, Mark. Their visit began inauspiciously with their having car trouble, but a local shop corrected the problem expeditiously, and the pleasure of the visit was undamaged.

With other commitments, our priests were away for a couple of weeks during the summer. Fortunately, there is daily Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, and because their chaplain, Fr. Bill Sanchez, is a former student of Bro. Brian, he agreed to substitute in interim when no priest was available. Pray for vocations!

We received another addition to the community in the person of Bro. Arthur Carroll on July 16. He was preceded by a brief visit from Bro. James Joost who brought a number of items from Lafayette to the community. Most were chapel furnishings but there were a couple of TV sets as well. By this writing, Bro. Art has settled into life in the Land of Enchantment and is leading prayers and driving for Brothers who are not able to do so.

Bro. Joe Haras took the opportunity to vacation with his dad and brother toward the end of July, and Bro. Melvin betook himself to Denver to spend awhile with his family in that area. Reversing the process, Bro. Michael Livaudais vacationed with us for about a week and a half. Unfortunately, Santa Fe had been quite a bit hotter than usual, but Brother noted it is still much more pleasant than the heat and humidity of New Orleans at that time of year.

The Brothers were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Patricia May. The news was especially poignant
because she and husband, Arden, had just completed a visit scarcely a week before. The whole family is in our prayers and those of the Carmelite Sisters!

The third week of August saw two trips to the emergency room. Bro. Benildus was hospitalized when his visit showed he was suffering from dehydration and an infection. Then, Bro. Bill had to make a midnight visit to stop his arm from bleeding. Fortunately, he was able to be released immediately and was even able to prepare breakfast the next morning.

Also toward the end of August, Bro. Brian left for a meeting in Covington and returned two days later with updated information about care of elderly Brothers.

Late one afternoon, Martin Hoehne-Sanchez arrived looking for Bro. Paul Walsh who had been his spiritual director when the former was a seminarian. When told that Brother is now in California, he said he may try to visit the next time his duties as a teacher in an Albuquerque charter school allow him time to make the trip. Because he was a former student of both Brothers Brian and George, they were able to visit awhile with him.

Bro. Benildus had required the use of a walker and had been having increasing difficulty breathing for some time before going to the hospital. After about 3 weeks in the hospital and worsening condition, he died on September 6. Fr. Earl had given him the last rites the previous evening with several Brothers present and our visiting nurse, Monika, had stayed overnight with him. On her way to work, Patsy, our cook, stopped to visit him and found Fr. Donatus with him. They both remained until he died, so he had the consolation of their presence. He wanted no special announcements in the newspaper and only a private Mass which is scheduled for 15 September. Burial is to be at Rosario Cemetery in the Brothers’ plot where his mother is also buried. Prayers for the repose of his soul are appreciated.

For his vacation, Bro. Bill went on a cruise with family members. The fact that his sister works in the travel industry facilitated the arrangements.

Our cook, Patricia Martinez, AFSC, will undergo surgery during September to prevent cancer development. Her family has a history of cancer, so her doctor has recommended the procedure. Please keep her and her family in your prayers! She will be away from work for about 3 weeks, so keep us in your prayers as we will try to prepare evening meals for ourselves during her absence.

Brother George Hetzel, FSC,
Correspondent

The song, "School's Out for Summer", doesn't seem to hold true anymore, at least not for St. Michael's and I'm sure many other schools as well. Our gyms and classrooms were packed with students attending one or more of the many Horsemen Camps offered. Whether a child between the ages of 6 and 13 was interested in science or drama or sports, there was something for them to get involved with this summer at St. Michael's. Our own students remained active as well with off-season sports camps and attending programs like LSL. What a blessing it is for our school to have students wanting to make a difference and take ownership in promoting the Lasallian mission so our school can continue to grow in that spirit!

As school came back into session the energy and excitement was felt in the hallways, especially from our new students. Once again we enjoyed a meal together with our new parents and students as we introduced them to St. Michael's with the 5 Core Meal orientations. The spirit from day one continued to grow as many cheered on our Fall sports teams to victories. The energy has been so positive that St. Michael's won the Spirit Stick challenge sponsored by one of the NM TV news stations!

There really is a lot to be excited about. Every year opening of school is made to feel fresh and new with the hard work from the custodial staff in painting walls and waxing the floors to make everything look and feel fresh and new. Thank you and kudos to them. Hats off to the faculty and staff as well. They have brought with them an energy and excitement that matches the students. And this year seems just a bit more exciting especially since St. Michael's was built in the late 1960's it is sometimes difficult for it to feel new. But this year, we are super excited because we have our
first all-weather track! A project that was jump started last year with winning an Eastbay competition that awarded $25,000 and with the help of many donors along the way, it was possible for us to break ground this summer. With a new gift of a patio area from the Class of 2016 and the new track and other upgrades around the field, we have a lot to be grateful for and excited about and we are looking forward to it being a great year!

As we celebrate the joys we also remember those who have helped keep this spirit alive throughout the years. We give thanks for the lives of many who have gone before us, especially the recent losses within the past month of Br. Ben Sulzer and Guy Fernandez, the brother and assistant coach to our Head Football Coach, Joey Fernandez. At the opening home game, the St. Michael's football team honored the families of 6 other alumni who have recently passed away and dedicated their season in memoriam. We keep all these families in our hearts as we pray for the souls of all the faithfully departed...may they rest in peace. Their spirits will remain alive in the hearts of all Horsemen as our current St. Michael’s family of students, parents, faculty and staff continue to keep the Lasallian spirit alive today.

Ms. Diahann Larson, AFSC, Correspondent

The football team honors deceased alumni at a recent home game.

Saint Nicholas Hospital | Salisbury, England

Our first and second year graduate students continue their research during the summer months and so I was available for tutorials. During July, I travelled with Brothers Charles Hilken and Thomas Westberg on the continent. The highlight, for me, was the opportunity to be in Florence, because I am doing some research on the fifteenth century Council of Florence which preceded the Fall of Constantinople. I am presently working on two historic ecumenical projects and this Council is most apt because of Pope Francis' conversations with the Orthodox and the Archbishop of Constantinople's gathering of the Orthodox bishops in Crete this summer. For a very brief time in the fifteenth century, Rome and Constantinople came together in unity as a result of this Council.

We spent time at the great Dominican church and cloister — Santa Maria Novella — where the Council took place. There is extensive conservation work going on there at present. It is filled with Renaissance art by such notables as Giotto, Masaccio, Filippino Lippi and Uccello. The church itself was designed by Dominican architects and made a fitting setting for the Council of churchmen and theologians from both East and West. Joseph, the Archbishop of Constantinople, died during the Council and is buried in a tomb with a lifesized portrait of him above. The Council of Florence is significant not only for the ecumenical dialogue but also for the fact that the Eastern theologians brought Plato back to the consciousness of the West, and this in turn had great

An all-weather track is one of several campus upgrades.

Santa Maria Novella
influence on artists such as Michelangelo, Raphael and Botticelli. We also had an opportunity to see the frescoes of Fra Angelico in the Convento San Marco along with the important Library created there by Cosimo de Medici containing one of the greatest collections of books and manuscripts of theology, spirituality and humanistic thought. Cosimo also financed the illumination of texts; and example is the multi coloured Gradual with the depiction of the Annunciation by an artist who was taught by Fra Angelico. The Library was the first to be opened to the public at the time, and its librarian was Tommaso da Sarzana who later became the great Renaissance Pope Nicholas V.

After Florence we were hosted by Brother Flavio Pajer in Turin. He is a national authority on the teaching of religion in schools, and is the author of texts used in the state schools throughout Italy. In addition to his warm hospitality he was most interesting when informing us of his work. Brother Aiden Kilty had recommended we stay with the Carmelites in Ghent in Belgium where the Brothers often have their meetings. This gave us the opportunity to spend time with Brother Herman Lomberts, who has been a professor at Leuven University. He is one of the foremost educators in the area and helped us to understand the culture and traditions of the Flemish world. We spent time at the unique chapel he has created in the centre from which the La Sallian schools are administered. We had a stimulating conversation on the future of religious secondary education in Belgium. He gave each of us the provocative book La Sallian Schools for Tomorrow to act as a memory of a most thought-provoking visit.

Fortunately, British universities do not return to session until mid-October and so I am now translating ideas from the Council of Florence to lectures for the coming academic year. In addition to the usual graduate lectures and tutorials, I will be doing some undergraduate teaching. I will be in the Provincialate in Oxford and it will be interesting to compare ideas concerning contemporary education in Britain and Ireland with what we heard and saw in continental Europe — both South and North.

Brother Patrick Moore, FSC, Correspondent
had to be cancelled on August 12 which left many people in the area suffering a great deal of damage to their homes due to heavy flooding. When school resumed on August 15, the students of St. Paul's began the process of gathering clothes and food for the victims of the flooding. In fact, many people came from near and far to assist people in the area with getting their lives back together.

The following week all the usual beginning of the year activities resumed. The Seniors marched through the Arch during a morning ceremony and that evening received their class rings. The eighth graders had their orientation program and we celebrated the first school Mass in honor of St. Louis IX.

Brother Jeffrey Calligan back from Australia and also the Buttimer Institute, and continues his work in the Guidance Department, in addition to teaching one section of Sophomore Religion.

Brother Jerry Vincent, our Director, was able to take a few days off for a much needed rest. Brother Robert O’Kane has traveled to the East Coast to spend some time with his family and attend a couple of weddings of family and friends.

On August 2, Brother Louis assisted with the Orientation of new teachers of De La Salle, Archbishop Rummel and St. Paul's High Schools. He presented the life of the Founder and the characteristics of the Lasallian teacher to them. On August 9, he again assisted with the Orientation of the new faculty members of Christian Brother School in City Park and the entire faculty of Christian Brothers School at St. Anthony's on Canal Street. Mr. Charles Legendre, AFSC was the main presenter, giving the new faculty members the facts, statistics and practices in a Lasallian School. Brother Louis Welker will return to CBS to give talks to the students about St. John Baptist De La Salle.

Brother Ralph Baltz had to have surgery on his back after having a fall. He is back in the community and seems to be getting stronger. Brother Thomas Canty recently had hip replacement. He should be returning to the community in about a week. The remainder of the community seem to be doing well at this time.

Brother Visitor, Donald Johanson visited with the community for a few days along with Brother James Joost, Auxiliary Visitor. Brothers Jerry Vincent and Peter Dudenheffer attended meetings with them concerning the health care of the Brothers. Brother Brian Dybowski also attended the meeting and the Brothers were happy that he could spend a couple of days with us. Also, Brothers Peter Dudenheffer, Brother David Sinitiere, Brother Gale Condit and Brother Louis Welker joined Brother Visitor and Auxiliary Visitor at the dedication of Christian Brothers School’s St. Anthony of Padua campus. Archbishop Gregory Aymond of the Archdiocese of New Orleans was the celebrant of the Mass. He engaged the young children in the homily by asking questions and getting responses from them. He impressed on them the words; "God is good all the time. All the time God is good."

The Labor Day weekend was a rainy one, but it did not dampen the spirits of the community who enjoyed socials and wonderful meals prepared by Brothers Peter Dudenheffer and Jeffrey Calligan.

On August 8, we celebrated the 89th birthday of Brother John Fairfax. Another birthday celebration took place on August 24 for Brother Ralph Baltz in honor of his 96th birthday. In September, the community will celebrate the 94th birthday of Brother Alfred Baltz on the 24th and the 73rd birthday of Brother Louis Welker on the 14th.

In September, the community was hard at work on our CAP for 2016-17 and reading the new Rule.

We are very grateful to our nurses, nurse assistants, cooks and our housekeeper for the wonderful care they give to us. As one of our nurse assistants put it: "When I am here with the Brothers, I feel like I am with family." What a wonderful testimony to the family spirit we work to create in our community.

Brother Ray Bulliard continues his wonderful leadership of the school. Brother Bill Ray to assist with getting Brothers to their medical appointments. Brother John Fairfax is preparing a presentation that will be given at a student assembly on how to overcome the obstacles of life.

Until next time lets us remember one another in our prayers as well as all who will experience loss during this hurricane season.

Brother Louis Welker, FSC, Correspondent

As Saint Paul’s students crowded anxiously into the school Gene Bennett Sports Complex they expected the usual assembly filled with accolades, recognition, and reverence. What met them was a stark contrast. The students were shown a co-produced Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) film entitled “Chasing the Dragon.” To complement and reinforce the film, a panel of distinguished guests ranging from FBI Special Agents to the Parish Coroner, Dr. Charles Preston, and St. Tammany Parish Sheriff, Randy Smith, led a discussion following the film. The entire effort was led Kenneth Polite, a De Lasalle New Orleans graduate, who now serves as the US District Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana.
The film introduced the students to a host of characters ranging from mothers, high achieving career personnel, daughters, and sons. All these varied characters were united in one of two things: addiction or loss of someone to its grasp. The interviews presented in the video provided a raw and gritty insight into the real cost of Schedule II prescription drugs and the slippery slope they present. Consequences of prescription drug abuse were punctuated by tearful confessions and gruesome memories. The video presented the cost of drugs on the body, mind, and the people around them. Real voices that had experienced the hardships of abuse and addiction were able to find a more than attentive audience in the form of the Saint Paul’s student body.

At the conclusion of the video, the panel of distinguished guests spoke up about their experience dealing with such issues in communities across the country and the state. The Saint Tammany Parish Coroner, Dr. Preston, spoke about what his office sees every single day. Dr. Michael Sprague, a panel volunteer, provided a moving personal anecdote about his beloved niece who passed away due to an overdose. Special Agents from both the FBI and DEA explained the legal implications of drug use while also providing disturbing and pertinent information about the prevalence of prescription drug abuse across the country. The Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff, Randy Smith, and Mr. Harold Bartholomew, a representative from District Attorney’s office spoke about the actual legal complications that can come from drug use and penalties for distribution and other drug related charges.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, students were dismissed to their specific “Pack” times where they then had the opportunity to speak with some of the panel members in a more private setting. For the pack times that did not receive a panel member, issues such as prevalence and personal experiences were discussed among the students and faculty moderator. Students began speaking about family members and friends to further punctuate the message of the assembly for their fellow brothers in pack time.

Student response has been incredible with students beginning to absorb the message due to the gravity and real element of the presentation. Rather than lengthy presentations about the legality of drug use, “Chasing the Dragon” proved a cutting, poignant, and incredibly effective alternative.

Anthony Lacroix,
Class of 2017
DCAA Meets in Denver

The San Francisco New Orleans District Chief Administrators Association (DCAA) held its fall meeting September 26-27 in Denver, CO. Presidents and principals from the District’s middle schools and high schools gathered at the Courtyard Denver Cherry Creek and also at Mullen High School for presentations and discussions on a variety of school administration and governance topics.

The gathering also welcomed several new members, who arrived a day early for a pre-meeting orientation. The new members are Heather Alumbaugh, Vice President for Academic Life of De La Salle High School Concord; Theressa Flynn Houghton, president of De Marillac Academy; Courtney Kassakhian, principal of La Salle High School Pasadena; John O’Connor, principal of Christian Brothers High School; Michael Giambelluca, president of De La Salle High School New Orleans; David Mason, president of San Miguel High School; and Armando Valenzuela III, principal of San Miguel High School.

The meeting opened on September 26 with prayer and school presentations from Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento and Christian Brothers School in New Orleans. The following day featured a presentation by Hossman Ospino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies and Religious Education, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Dr. Ospino’s topic was, “Lasallian Spirituality and The Context for Modern Catechesis: Opportunities for Today’s Catholic School Leaders.” In the afternoon, the presidents and principals met separately in sharing groups, addressing a variety of agenda items.

That evening, DCAA was the guest of Mullen High School in southwest Denver. Their visit included student-led tours of the campus, dinner, and a talk by Mullen alumnus Ryan Ross, Ph.D., President and CEO of Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado. The evening ended with DCAA offering its tribute and thanks to outgoing Office of Education Director Gery Short.

The meeting concluded the following morning with a District information presentation and conversation with Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, Visitor.

Office Holds Formation Think Tank

The San Francisco New Orleans District Office of Education held its inaugural Lasallian Formation Think Tank meeting September 20-22 at Mont La Salle.

Participants in the gathering included organizer Greg Kopra, Director, Formation for Mission; Kenenna Amuzie, Director, Young Lasallians; Bob Carrejo, Director, Office of Communications; Mike Daniels, Director, Office of Education – Napa; Brother James Joost, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor; Charlie Legendre, Director, Office of Education – Covington; and Brother George Van Grieken, FSC, Coordinator, Lasallian Resource Center.

The goals of the gathering included reviewing recent Institute, Regional, and District documents that pertain to formation for mission; assessing the District’s current formation for mission efforts; and drafting a basic plan for a future initiative related to enhanced Lasallian mission formation in the District.

A synthesis statement was drafted to reflect the substance of the group’s discussions and serve as a first step in crafting a plan for enhanced Lasallian Mission formation in the District in the near future.
Challenged by the call to foster a culture of vocation and accompaniment, San Francisco New Orleans District community and school vocation coordinators had the opportunity to meet and discuss vocation ministry efforts at one of two gatherings held this fall at St. Joseph’s Camp and at Mont La Salle.

The St. Joseph’s Camp gathering on September 14 welcomed fourteen coordinators, with another seventeen attending on October 7 at Mont La Salle. The District Vocation Team facilitated the meetings, where vocation coordinators had the opportunity to better understand their role, review the 2016 – 2020 District Vocation Ministry Plan, and begin to plan local efforts. Participants discussed the role of the vocation coordinator as outlined in the District Vocation Guidebook. First, they reflected on their current efforts and identified where there is a need for support. Then, Br. Chris Patiño, FSC, shared with them the final draft of the 2016 – 2020 District Vocation Ministry Action Plan (VMAP) that was put together over a period of 6 months and based on feedback from the coordinators and District Leadership Groups. An overview of the VMAP can be found [here](#). Finally, the vocation coordinators were given the opportunity to begin discussing with one another best practices and areas for growth.

Both gatherings allowed coordinators to consider vocation ministry as a work of the Spirit, foster community, and network with one another. Moving forward, members of the District Vocation Ministry Team will do their part to accompany Vocation Coordinators in their efforts at the local level. One of the VMAP goals is to “strengthen relationships between Brothers and Partners, especially between the Community and School Vocation Coordinators.” The Fall 2016 Vocation Coordinator Gatherings proved to be a first step in addressing this need.
2016 Lasallian Volunteer FSC Awards

SFNO Lasallians Honored by Lasallian Volunteers

In a celebration that acknowledged the accomplishments of the honorees but also gave life to the history and significance of the program, Lasallian Volunteers (LV) honored three supporters with the 2016 FSC Awards in a ceremony held on October 1 at Saint Mary’s College of California, which sponsored the event.

The recipients were Brother Jonathan Cord, FSC, the Farrell Community Award; Marilyn Paquette, the Bassen Service Award; and Dr. Carole Swain, the Johnston Faith Award.

The FSC Awards honor Lasallians who have made notable contributions to the program, and are named in the spirit of three Brothers who embodied the LV values of faith, service and community during their lifetimes.

Brother Jonathan was honored with this award to celebrate the strong and positive impact he has had on LVs he has lived with in the San Miguel Community in Tucson, Arizona, and the De La Salle Christian Brothers Community in Portland, Oregon.

Paquette received this award to highlight her continued service to the mission and LV program as board member, site director and mentor. She is principal of De La Salle Academy in Concord, California, a San Miguel model school she helped start in 2014.

Swain received this award because of the support she has given to every facet of the LV program, from recruitment to LV Scholars. Swain is vice president for mission at Saint Mary’s College of California and directs the Masters of Arts in Education with an emphasis on Lasallian Students and the Lasallian Educator Fellowship programs.

Brother Victor-Kenneth Curley, Director of the Holy Family Community, Mont La Salle, has aided in establishing a library that documents the history of the Italian-American community in Pittsburg, PA.

Brother Victor-Kenneth, who grew up in the Penn Hills neighborhood of Pittsburgh, donated a sum of inherited money to fund the library in conjunction with the Italian Sons and Daughters of America national organization. The library is located in the organization’s local headquarters in west-central Pittsburgh.

Brother Victor-Kenneth’s involvement in establishing the library began with an essay that he wrote that recounted memories of his late grandmother. His desire to pay greater tribute to her life led eventually to his meeting with ISDA leadership and his role as the new library’s benefactor.
Big Ben Remembered

St. Michael's High School was my first community after college and I was understandably nervous. Ben was a veteran teacher but always took the time to check in with me regarding how I was doing. He was very kind and solicitous.

Since Ben did not drive, he'd regularly ask me to take his mother (who also did not drive) and him shopping every few weeks. It did not take long to see the special bond between them or to notice the deep affection and concern Ben had for his mom. It made a deep impression on me and he always served as a role model of a Brother who cared for his mother to the end. In the community, He never complained about that tremendous responsibility.

Ben's comments could sometimes seem negative but his actions were louder than his words. He always found time to make the chapel beautiful and full of wonderful plants. He was a graceful man who loved beauty and shared that with his Brothers.

Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC

Papal Intentions

October

Universal: Journalists
That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.

Evangelization: World Mission Day
That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

November

Universal: Countries Receiving Refugees
That the countries which take in a great number of displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.

Evangelization: Collaboration of Priests and Laity
That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

December

Universal: End to Child-Soldiers
That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization: Europe
That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.
PARTING SHOTS

Office of Ed managers Brigid Crotty (left) and Jeanne Miller keep the DCAA gathering in Denver organized.

Br. Javier Hansen (front) takes a selfie with his Brothers at a recent Vocation Coordinators gathering: (from left) Br. Jack Henderson, Hanson, Br. Michael Livaudais, and Br. Chris Patiño.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory recently welcomed guests Br. Don Mouton from Santa Fe (left), Office of Ed-Mont La Salle Director Mike Daniels (second from right) and Br. Brian Dybowski from Santa Fe (right).

Gery Short cuts the cake at a thank you reception for him at Mont La Salle. Brothers James Joost (left) and Conrad Kearney await the results.

A new recreational trail marker designed and sponsored by Justin-Siena High School highlights the legacy of the Christian Brothers and of Lasallian education in the Napa Valley.