Dateline District

Our Auld Lang Syne

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot, and days of auld lang syne?

With the approach of Christmas and then New Year’s Day, it is a safe bet that neither will pass without one being able to hear two unmistakable sounds: joyfully performed catalogs of carols, and merrily offkey renditions of *Auld Lang Syne*. Both are dear traditions of the season, but it is Robert Burns’ 18th century poem-turned-tune that might be a good place for us Lasallians to pause as we reflect on both our road just-traveled and our road ahead.

Often referred to as the song that nobody knows but everybody sings, *Auld Lang Syne* — loosely translated as “times gone by” — is not merely a sentimental farewell to a finished trip around the sun. It is, in fact, an elegy to the gift of memory. As we ring in a new year, its words serve to bridge us to the old, asking us to consider what will become of us should we ever forget. It reminds us of all that we have been through together, and that, for its sake, together is how we must go forward.

An age-old practice connected to the song embodies its meaning. In Scotland, folks cross their arms and then join hands with the persons next to them, forming a large circle. Singing *Auld Lang Syne*, they tighten the circle by walking toward its center. Then, each person turns underneath their crossed arms so as to uncross them. The result is that, as the song ends, everyone in the circle is facing out, away from the center, but still holding each other’s hands.

The way to look toward and approach the future, the circle suggests, is to begin by first recalling and treasuring the past. Walk back together to remember old days, walk forward together to envision new days, all while celebrating and affirming the companionship in which lies both the stuff and the strength of the journey.

For our District, this past year was especially indicative of what can happen when we choose to look both behind us and ahead of us together and through shared eyes of faith. The pages of this newsletter present the surprising range of those experiences, from the Brothers and Partners of Napa who took on the ravages of an historic natural disaster armed with the power of their communities, to the student in Oregon who is taking on the ravages of homelessness in his state armed with a toothbrush.

The bond of our Lasallian family is that we carry within ourselves a common memory, one that contains both the lessons of our past and the pathways to our future. As we look around the circle that is our District, what becomes clear is that it is our unity in our story, our “auld lang syne”, that makes our good times good, our bad times bearable, and all of our times meaningful.

*And there’s a hand my trusty friend!*  
*And give me a hand o’ thine!*  
*And we’ll take a right good-will draught,*  
*for days of auld lang syne.*
From the Region & Institute

Read Lasallian Reflection 3, “Lasallians Without Limits.”

Read Institute Bulletin 256, “Creativity and Courage: Living the Promise of the 39th General Chapter.”

See the highlights from the 2017 Huether Lasallian Conference.

Read information on 2019: The Year of Lasallian Vocations.

Read Intercom 150, “A Church on the Move: A Work In Progress.”

Read the spring, 2017 issue of De La Salle Today.

Read Lasallian Vocations Bulletin 2.

Read the Lasallian Global Women’s Symposium 2017 final report.

Read the latest “General Council News.”

Read Number 14 of Digital Journal of Lasallian Research.

Pepper Uppers

The easiest way for a kid to get a puppy for Christmas is to beg for a baby brother.

I tried to explain to my 4-year-old son that it’s perfectly normal to accidentally poop your pants, but he’s still making fun of me.

They usually have five checkers in my supermarket, except when it’s very busy, then they have one.

Children cannot see dirt on themselves until there is enough of it to support agriculture.

I live in a dull neighborhood. I saw a dog chasing a cat and they were both walking.

Thanks to our interstate highway system, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything.

I stopped telling people that I didn’t do well in school when it suddenly dawned on me that no one was particularly surprised.

No one in my family was very good at driving. Our second car was a tow truck.

He drinks so much coffee that he can thread a sewing machine while it’s running.

Mom says if she had it to do over, she would still have children. Just not the same ones.

The one thing I hate about New Year’s Eve office parties is having to look for another job the next day.
Engineering I: Da Vinci Catapults
Students in Dr. Sarah Ross’s Engineering I class recently designed catapults based on the drawings of Leonard da Vinci’s model from the early 1500s. Students tested their models to see the distance they could launch an object. After testing their initial models, students adjusted and tested their catapults again. The catapults are one of many hands-on class projects for students in the engineering class.

Mother-Son Mass & Lunch
Students and their moms gathered at the Chateau Estates Country Club in November to celebrate the annual Mother/Son mass and lunch. The morning began with mass and included special reflections to highlight the occasion. After mass, mothers and sons enjoyed a special luncheon prepared by the country club. During the day, students were given a traveler rosary and moms were given a mini "R" canvas which were hand painted by the committee. The day ended with students signing the alma mater and fight song.

BioMed: Stop the Bleed Program
Created by the White House to teach life-saving skills to people outside the medical community, the Stop the Bleed program was introduced to students and faculty in the Bio-Med and biology classes. The training focuses on using tourniquets, gauze, and pressure to stop bleeding caused by trauma injuries. In one lesson, senior Shane Brotherton applied a tourniquet to school disciplinarian Mr. Richard Carpenter.

Law: Jefferson Parish Coroner Field Trip
The pre-professional law students visited the Jefferson Parish Coroner and heard presentations from Jefferson Parish attorneys, the coroner, a forensic pathologist, lab technicians, and crime scene investigators. Students learned about the hard work it takes to become an attorney, the importance of autopsies in death investigations, and the importance of attention to detail when conducting crime scene investigations.

Open House 2017
On November 2, Archbishop Rummel hosted its annual Open House for prospective students and families. The guests saw clubs and teams in the gym, heard from administrators in the Raider Room, and then began student-led tours of the campus. They visited new construction upgrades and learned about the school’s high standards in its college preparation courses. The guests also explored their individual interests through a variety of elective course options. The evening concluded in the cafeteria.

Grandparents Mass & Lunch
The school’s Parent-Booster clubs sponsors grandparents mass and lunch for each grade on campus. The first grandparent mass held was for eighth graders and they filled the Raider Room with almost 300 grandparents. Grandparents and their grandsons celebrated the day with mass followed by a luncheon and fellowship.

Campus Ministry Night
The school’s Campus Ministry Department hosted “Campus Ministry Night, Canes, and Consecration” in the Raider Room. Well over 100 students gathered for an evening of prayer, reflection, games, and a community
Brother Gabriel, Visitor of the North Mexican District, made his canonical visit during the month. Brother Donald was not able to participate this year for health reasons. He was missed by both Brother Gabriel and the Community.

Mexico celebrated Independence Day on the 16th. Fireworks, a civic-military parade and the Grito de la independencia were all part of the festivities. Did you know that México means the "navel of the moon" from the Náhuatl (metztli: luna; xictli: ombligo; co: lugar).

The zebra-burros in the center of town are at the center of controversy. Animal activists insist that they are mistreated, while the owners insist that they are well cared for. Many believe that they should be included on the National Treasure List.

On the 19th, a 7.1 earthquake centered in the states of Morelos and Puebla caused damage and death in Mexico City and surrounding states.

If you are going to read one spiritual book this year, I would like to recommend The Divine Dance by Richard Rohr. We are challenged to take seriously the Holy Trinity and what it means for our transformation and life as Christians.

Recently, new signs have been installed on both of our alley buildings to mark our presence, in addition to Lasallian identity banners placed around our campus.

Tijuana History: The Agua Caliente Racetrack

The Compañía Mexicana de Agua Caliente carried out the opening ceremony of the Agua Caliente Jockey Club Racetrack on December 28, 1929 in the presence of 50,000 attendees from both México and the United States, including movie stars, politicians, international tycoons, artists and prominent personalities of the time.

The one-mile oval racetrack with its grassy interior presented races from the most famous horses of that time, such as Exterminator, Phar Lap, Seabiscuit and Round Table, among many others. The racetrack was known for awarding high prizes. In 1931, $100,000 was awarded; that was the largest in the world.

The racetrack was closed in 1935 following the decree of President Lázaro Cárdenas forbidding gambling. It was reopened again in 1937, but shut down again in 1939 because of labor problems.

In 1943, races returned and the ownership of the property fell into legal trouble with the Argüello family heirs. (One of Tijuana’s founding families.) Juan S. Alessio arrived in 1947 as administraror and he revolutionized the racetrack. This is known as the time of the third racetrack. He led a remodeling project, established greyhound racing and introduced Pools, Daily Doubles and the 5 and 10. It was here that horseracing first implemented the helmet for jockeys (registered as Caliente Helmet), the photo finish camera, and race commentator by loudspeaker. Alessio also institutionalized the practice of an ambulance following the race closely on the track.

On August 5, 1971 the city of Tijuana saw a great fire consume the Agua Caliente racetrack. But, by September there was greyhound racing again. Greyhound racing is still a part of the Caliente Casino and Stadium Complex.

Mr. Joseph Serio
Correspondent

Centro de Formación Integral La Salle | Tijuana, Mexico

Students during of the sessions at Campus Ministry Night.

The grandstand of the original Agua Caliente Racetrack.
October 2017

In honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, our volunteer, Carlos, organized a Living Rosary on the 14th. He also participated in one of the pastry classes on the day that they learned to make Pan de muertos, a delicious bread common at this time of the year, which we have been happily eating in the community.

Our cafetería-snack bar has been a great success. It provides a space not only for food, but also for social interaction. We have increased our office personal by one to better serve the needs of our students. Office services are from 8 in the morning until 8 in the evening without a midday break.

Brother David García (Vocations and Volunteers) spent a couple of days with us visiting our two volunteers and making plans for a university boarder experience in December.

One of our objectives is to become more energy efficient. We are installing LED lighting in many of our classrooms and hallways. We have installed new exterior lighting to better illuminate our installations and alley. Since we have classes until 8 every evening, the new lighting increases visibility and security.

To raise funds for the construction of our new classroom complex, we invited well-known author-historian Armando Fuentes Aguirre, aka Catón, to give a public talk on the joys and responsibilities of parenthood. The Marist Brothers (Instituto México) lent us their auditorium for the event. More than 600 people attended on a warm Fall evening.

On the morning of the 27th, the Archbishop of Tijuana, Francisco Borrrón, celebrated Mass in our school chapel. We have received approval for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Our Pastoral Commission is organizing students and faculty for adoration. This was the new Archbishop’s first visit to our educational center. He was pleasantly surprised by our adult educational activities.

To end the month, Tijuana held its annual Zombie Walk. The walk benefited an adolescent rehabilitation center.

November 2017

November began with the Day of the Dead celebrations. We built an altar in our school courtyard. Many students contributed photos of deceased family members.

Later, Brother Francisco represented the community at the regional gathering in Ciudad Obregón. Also, we began our annual Solidarity Campaign. This year we are collecting medicines for the network of free clinics sponsored by religious and civil groups. We make weekly trips to the Casa de los pobres. The Missionary Franciscan Sisters of Peace gladly receive and organize the medicines for use in the free clinic and for distribution at other clinics.

Our Patronato organized the annual Noche bohemia. In the cool of the evening more than 100 students, teachers and guests enjoyed wine, dinner and music.

The flu vaccines arrived so I went to public health for my shot. In México, the public sector administers the free vaccinations. Brother James Joost made a quick trip to Tijuana to deliver some carpentry materials, wheel chairs and water coolers. We are always grateful for DLSI and the Brothers’ donations.

The weekend before Black Friday in Mexico is called El buen fin. Discounts are offered all over town from goods and services. On the 18th, our Patronato held its monthly dinner-meeting. I prepared a three-course Italian dinner in our school’s kitchen. Andrea, our Lasallian volunteer was my co-chef. The following Monday was a national holiday in honor of the Mexican Revolution, an armed struggle from 1910-1920 that radically changed Mexican culture and government. Also, Brother Ernesto celebrated his 86th birthday.

Gourmet donuts have become the new foodie rage in Tijuana. Glazed donuts with a bacon topping are very popular. A favorite hang-out close to our educational center is the Telefónica, a food truck garden.

December 2017

We ended our fall semester with our traditional Fiesta Day. Students began arriving early to display their various art and handicraft projects. A Mass of Thanksgiving began at 10 a.m. After that, it was food, music and student artistic presentations which included a yoga demonstration, Fight Do, Zumba, ballroom dancing and various guitar, violin and singing groups.

Brother David García (Vocations) brought a group of students to Tijuana for a “Here I Am Encounter”. The two-day experience included interaction with the immigrant community, service and prayer and discussion times. The experience was to aid in the discovery of one’s life project. The students were from Ciudad Victoria. I accompanied the group for the encounter with immigrants at the Casa del Inmigrante (men) and Madre Asunta (women and children). We helped serve lunch to the street people at the Madre Asunta.

We ended our first week of vacation with an evening dinner with our Patronato. As I send this newsletter the city of Tijuana is in celebration mode for the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe.

Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC
Correspondent
It's been a busy few months at Christian Brothers School as the calendar begins its final days to the end of 2017. The deadline for applications for the 2018-2019 school year was December 15 and the admissions test for grades three through seven will be on January 13 for both campuses.

With October 4 being the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, students at the Canal Street campus brought their pets -- dogs, cats, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs and more -- to receive a special blessing from Fr. Mariano Veliz, OP.

For Halloween, our kindergarten students decorated pumpkins. Then, students from both campuses visited St. Michael's Special School during the fall break to help students there celebrate Halloween with a special trick-or-treat activity.

For All Saints Day, third grade students on the Canal Street campus were each assigned a saint to research and to prepare a report for the class. Then each dressed up as their saint for the All Saints' Day Mass.

Our third graders are finding new ways to learn. Students created a board game to learn about the branches of government, and used Halloween candy to come up with multiplication and division problems.

Students in pre-Kindergarten enjoyed a special Donuts with Dad day. Later, middle school students enjoyed an evening dinner cruise on the Steamboat Natchez. A mother-son event in past years, it was expanded to include fathers and daughters with the school's expansion to the Canal Street campus.

In conjunction with the Missoula Children's Theatre, CBS students from kindergarten through seventh grades performed in "Gulliver's Travels" on the Canal Street campus at the end of October.

The Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation recently awarded a $1,746 grant to the Christian Brothers School second grade to support its service projects during the school year, especially its efforts with the Vista Shores Retirement community.

Our Falcon Drive program assisted Crescent House, Ozanam Inn, and St. Jude Shelter with donations and serving meals over Thanksgiving. Each month, fifth graders collect specific items as part of their service project during the school year.

Just before the Thanksgiving break, the Falcon Band plus many parents traveled to Branson, MO and performed at Dick Clark’s American Bandstand Theater. Band members also had the chance to visit Silver Dollar City Amusement Park.

Also just before Thanksgiving, the Falcon 5th, 6th and 7th grade football teams competed in the annual Battle at Rock Top football tournament in Knoxville, TN just before Thanksgiving. The teams each played two games, and the 7th grade team made it to the finals in the 12U Restricted National division before bowing to the N. Kentucky Hawkeyes. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the University of Alabama to meet with CBS grad Bryce Musso, a member of the Alabama Tide football team.

The Christian Brothers School swim team captured the New Orleans Metro Middle School Championship. The CBS lady Falcon 5th/6th grade team won the New Orleans Athletic League championship. The Falcon Cross Country team won the state middle school 5th/6th grade championship.
This year, ten De La Salle students – three girls and seven boys – experienced the American Legion-sponsored Boys and Girls State programs respectively. They all were sponsored by the Ed Brauner Post 307.

The students represented many facets of De La Salle student life, including Student Council, Band, String Orchestra, Soccer, and Football.

For Gustavo De Paiva, the “experience was life-changing.” Elected a Senator for his parish, Gustavo said “I learned the ins and outs of democracy and the importance of voting.” He added, “I would like to return as a counselor because I want to provide future leaders the opportunity to expand their potential.”

Hunter Wainwright was City Defense Attorney. “I was very nervous at first because it was something I’d never done before, but after, I felt very comfortable. I learned more about working with others and being open to different ideas.”

Jemiya Jacob, who followed in big brother Greg’s footsteps in attending State, said, “It was one of the best summer experiences I’ve had. I can take the knowledge I learned about government and use it. I learned that sisterhood can be found in as little as one week.”

Emily Wesley, who was a Defense Attorney and later Senator of her parish, said, “I learned more organizational skills and how to work with others who have very different experiences.” Emily was encouraged to go by her dad who had attended Mississippi Boys State as a teen, and who told her what a great experience it was.

All of the participants said they were grateful to the Post for sponsoring them and they would encourage the current juniors to participate in the future if given the opportunity. All agreed they met many new friends in the process.

Nine men were honored recently at the 19th annual De La Salle Sports Hall of Fame Banquet held in the Arsenius Center Dining Hall.

The evening began with a VIP Reception for honorees and their families as well as former inductees and their families. Following the social, De La Salle President Michael Giambelluca, J.D., offered a welcome and grace.

The induction ceremony began with the introduction of former athletes Danny Drumm (‘67), baseball and basketball; Bobby Drefahl (‘69), baseball; John Ronquillo (‘72), football, wrestling, track; André Touzet (‘77), soccer; and Graham Jarrott (‘98), football, wrestling, track. Kevin Jean-sonne (‘72), baseball, was inducted posthumously.

Other awards presented were the Servus Fidelis award, presented posthumously to Br. Brendan Martinez, FSC, for his years of support for all the teams; the Br. Ambrose LeBlanc Community Service to Sports award, to D. Scott Alexander (‘83) for his on-air sports coverage; and the Warren F. Caire, AFSC, Wrestling award, to Sal Perino (‘73).

Also, two teams were celebrating 40th anniversaries as State Champions: the Soccer team and the Baseball team. Coaches Gerry Mueller and Gerry Burrage and their team members who were in attendance were presented with anniversary certificates.

Hilary House | Santa Fe, NM

Brother Don Mouton has been teaching a class in religion this school year at St. Michael's High School. He also is acting as interim Director of the St. Michael's High School Brothers Community while Br. Brian Dybowski continues his hoped-for recovery from some serious ailments.

The Santa Fe University of Art and Design will officially close at the end of the spring semester. While Brother
Retired Archbishop Vlazny of Portland, Oregon, with former Brother Robert Mizia, who is now Superintendent of Schools there, were with us the 4th of July weekend. The Archbishop celebrated Mass each morning in our chapel. He and Bob also joined us at our barbeque on the 4th with the Provincialate Brothers. The Archbishop is a jolly soul with an infectious laugh. Great company!

Michael Tseekcher was our guest the weekend of August 19th. He was here for the annual reunion picnic of Les Amis des Freres at the grove on Sunday.

Brother Dominic Ruegg observed his 99th birthday on August 27th. He was honored at a luncheon held in the Conference Center Banquet Room and attended by his relatives and friends, many Brothers, and our nursing staff. The principal speaker was Brother Mel Anderson, who gave his customary thorough address, sprinkled with wit and humor. Brother Dominic responded … more briefly and more seriously. Brother Donald Johanson, Visitor, offered the toast.

After lengthy hospitalizations, Brother Dominic Berardelli came “home” to our Holy Family Community on October 6th. He arrived at noon just in time for lunch. As he entered the dining room, he was greeted by a host of people who gave him a “hero’s welcome” – the Brothers of our community and the Provincialate, a number of persons from the De La Salle Institute staff, our nursing staff, our maintenance staff, and the entire kitchen staff. Brother Dominic looked very well and was his usual cheery self. So good to have him back!

October, 2017 will be remembered for the Northern California wildfires that devastated parts of the Napa Valley. On October 8th, when the wildfires approached and threatened us here at Mont La Salle, we were ordered to evacuate … given 30 minutes for each of us to pack what we needed in one small box or carry-on. Then we were driven to Christian Brothers’ houses in various cities, where we were most graciously welcomed. The greater number of us were taken to Saint Mary’s College, Moraga. There also were several of our nursing staff who settled in to continue their care of us.

 Providentially, the fires never attacked our house here, although the smoke penetrated it. Eventually, after one day short of a month, we were allowed to return to our house … which had been so thoroughly cleaned and ventilated that it seemed almost like new! We arrived about noon, just in time for lunch; so we went directly to the dining room. There, to our surprise, a host of persons awaited us: Brothers from the Provincialate, members of the De La Salle Institute staff, the kitchen staff – just about everyone already here was on hand to welcome us back – plus “Welcome Back” signs around the walls. The greeting was like that of a hero’s welcome.

Thank God for the firefighters who protected Mont La Salle!

Holy Family Community | Napa, CA

Ron Bartusiak was originally told that his contract would only last until the end of December, he has now been informed that his work will continue through the spring semester. There is still a lot of speculation in town and in the local news about what will happen to the campus after the closing. The city is working to come up with plans.

Brother Jim Brown continues his volunteer work at Santa Fe Community College, as well as his bookkeeping for the Hilary House Community and the St. Michael’s High School Brothers Community. With a fair amount of repair and renovation work being done on the St. Michael’s Brothers’ house, that part of the bookkeeping work for Brother Jim has increased.

Brother Jim Brown, FSC
Correspondent

Holy Family Community Brothers and two of their host communities during the fire evacuation: De La Salle High School (L) and Saint Mary’s College.
Braves Spirit - A Beacon for a Community in Need

As an unprecedented wildfire ravaged our beloved wine country dramatically affecting the three counties we serve - Napa, Sonoma, and Solano - we witnessed the true power of community. While we had many members of our Justin-Siena family who were in need of assistance and faced (and continue to face) immense uncertainties, we had many more willing and able to serve.

As a school who felt the pain of the fires in personal ways in the form of students and staff losing homes to the two-week closure of campus due to power outages, poor air quality, and families experiencing prolonged evacuations, we found strength in community. We were humbled by the outpouring of prayers and well-wishes, and for the offers of assistance from the Justin-Siena communities near and far as well as our broader Lasallian network. To help our affected students and teachers get back to class and a feeling of normalcy as quickly as possible we created a fire relief fund, and sincerely thank our many generous donors.

A commitment to service is a Lasallian tenet we hold dear at Justin-Siena, and it was heartening in trying times such as the Wine Country wildfires, to see our students jump into action to help their community. From serving at evacuation centers and collecting supplies and donations to helping rescued animals and providing much-needed translator services, our Braves community was making an impact. Here is just a small sampling of the ways our students pitched in.

Jose Chopitea '19 shared how he found a unique way to assist the community. “After volunteering at the Solano and Napa evacuation centers organizing clothes and supplies, I discovered something that could help the community in a different way. I served as a translator for the Red Cross for the people who spoke mostly, if not only, Spanish. Since they only spoke Spanish, they had difficulty communicating the things they needed such as different blankets, an ice chest, extra pillowcases, help walking - they would not have felt comfortable trying to ask on their own. As time went on, I knew almost everybody at the shelter on a first name basis, and it almost felt like family. We were talking about sports and had a lot of laughs, which were so needed at the time. At the end, some of the nicest people you will ever meet gave me their phone number, and whenever I would go to Calistoga they would invite my family for tacos or for the weekend. Something I learned is that when you are at an evacuation center, it may seem like there is not much to do as we have been blessed with a myriad of resources. However, I would encourage you to take another step forward on a more personal level, and you will then find out another great way to help.”

Sophia Danzeisen ‘19 shared, “for a couple of days my parents and I volunteered with Kaiser Permanente at the Solano College Evacuation Center providing basic medical care to evacuees. We had the opportunity to speak with Justin-Siena alum, Senator Bill Dodd ’74, as he visited the evacuation center. Helping out was so gratifying and Senator Dodd’s presence was a reminder that the Braves spirit is strong and making an impact.”

Realizing a need, Ryan Mulcahy '18 and Juan Carlos Mora '19 quickly launched efforts at a Justin-Siena staffed donation center in Vacaville receiving and sorting donations and organizing supply runs to evacuation centers most in need. When Liz Brazil ’18 wasn’t shuttling supplies, she was lending a hand at St. John the Baptist with their school relief efforts. For Liz, being productive was simply her natural instinct. “There were so many people who needed help - I was just happy that I was able to assist.” Vianca Dagnino ’18 spent time volunteering at the ACHS shelter caring for babies and helping to organize the delivery of beds with the Red Cross. She sat and talked with evacuees as they shared their heartbreaking stories. “Listening to their stories - that definitely was the highlight my late nights at the shelter. I was extremely tired, but it was definitely worth it.”

Mary Cate Hyde ’19 and Regan Butler ’19 who are co-presidents of the campus PAWS club, volunteered at the Napa Animal Shelter caring for pets of families who had been evacuated. They were really taken by the amount of volunteers and donations that kept streaming into the shelter. “It was overwhelming - but in a good way! So many students and their families helped provide food and meals, care for animals and collect supplies.”

These and others were the stories that lifted our spirits in the days

Justin-Siena High School | Napa, CA

Listening to their stories - that definitely was the highlight my late nights at the shelter. I was extremely tired, but it was definitely worth it.”
and weeks that campus was closed. While geographically disconnected and suffering from spotty Wi-Fi and power outages, people found solace in occasions to connect—serving a meal, offering a room, or bringing toys to displaced children. Social media played a great role in connecting the community as well letting others know whether they were safe or not, seeking assistance, offering assistance, and simply the sharing of these uplifting stories.

In those two weeks we anxiously watched and waited as to the fate of our beloved Mont La Salle on Mt. Veeder. While the Brothers were all safely evacuated in plenty of time, the historic and sacred ground was in great danger. We all took a collective breath when a fire crew took over the grounds at the Mont as a base camp to fight the merging Patrick and Nunns fires - feeling some sense of hope that their presence would save Mont La Salle. The fire came quite close, but due to the heroic efforts of fire fighters and volunteers, the facility was spared. The Brothers and staff are home resuming life and work at the Mont while cleanup and repairs continues.

As faculty and staff gathered to plan for the reopening of school, the campus and air vents were cleaned, and the counseling team offered their expertise and guidance to better assist our students. There were delays in opening due to air quality concerns with the safety and well-being of our students and staff being at the forefront of each decision. While there was nothing normal about the time away from school, it was through acts of service - including Feed the Firsts (below) hosted on our own campus - that community members could be together and serve together; and for many, that felt normal. It is what we are called to do as Lasallians.

The strength of our community is a blessing always and felt especially during recent challenging times. October 2017 will not soon be forgotten. For many, the loss is overwhelming, but rebuilding begins. We continue to count our blessings and assist those in need within both our immediate and broader communities, and reflect often on all that for which we are grateful.

Feed the Firsts: Nourishment for the Community

On Sunday, October 15, 2017, Justin-Siena hosted Feed the Firsts, a collaborative community event organized by local chefs of the Napa Valley who teamed up to feed our first responders. In just about 48 hours this event went from concept to execution and more than 300 volunteers descended upon the Justin-Siena campus. Prominent and local chefs took command of our kitchen and made quick work of the many different food deliveries that streamed in virtually overnight.

Esteemed chefs included Greg Cole (formerly of Coles / Celedon), Tom Sixsmith (Cakebread), Kelly Macdonald (Wine Train), Eric Magnani (Private Chef), Stephen Durfee (CIA), Susie Heller (Private Chef), and Gary Jenanyan (Culinary Instructor/Consultant/JS Alumni Parent). More than 300 meals were served to our first responders and another 300 were packaged and delivered by volunteer drivers to various command centers stationed around the Valley. Handmade thank you notes made by Justin-Siena students accompanied every meal – on and off campus! Students also decorated the Dining Hall and campus with posters of gratitude and bravery.

As students and parents streamed onto campus under much welcomed blue skies that Sunday morning to check in at the volunteer table, there was a palpable sense of camaraderie and reunion. People were anxious to reconnect, share stories, and hug each other. Our Braves community is certainly one of action, and early on in the unfolding story of the wine country firestorm people were looking for ways to help. When the school received a phone call from one of the organizers, Gabe Meyers, looking for a venue to host this event, we didn’t hesitate.

With campus still closed members of the Administration coordinated with Feed the Firsts organizers and Tom and Ann Bassett of Campus Kitchens to host and feed first responders in the area. The call went out to Braves looking for volunteers and the response was fast and heartwarmingly large. Students, parents, alums from every decade, faculty and staff—it was a great display of Braves spirit. Donning uniforms and badges from far and wide from up and down the western United States, our guests were greeted with high fives, smiles, and cheers as they entered Beckstoffer Plaza for a respite and a meal.

Gratitude is healing, and our community was gifted with this special and unique opportunity to show just that. Our students and families were ALL HEART in their love for one another and in their service to others. Thank you to all who rose to the occasion to make October 15 a day of hope and gratitude to be remembered.

Ms. Eileen Mize
Correspondent
Las Posadas at La Salle Prep

More than 60 Lasallians re-enacted Joseph and Mary’s journey to Bethlehem during a Christmas Posada at La Salle Prep on December 7.

During the Posada, several La Salle students, parents, staff, and community members walked the halls of the school as if they were Joseph and Mary seeking shelter for their baby to be born. After they were finally welcomed in by those playing the part of the innkeeper, everyone feasted at a potluck, and broke open a piñata.

Counselor Maritza Mendez said she and registrar Liz Staggs coordinated the event to share the Advent tradition – popular in Mexico – with the school community.

"For students and families who grew up with Posadas, bringing traditions like these into La Salle allows us to build community as we celebrate them together," she said. "For students and families new to Posadas, this is a wonderful way to participate in a tradition many of their classmates celebrate."

Giving Kits of Hope

The lottery was a low-key affair – just a man standing at the front of a church dining room, choosing winners out of a hat.

Still, the men and women who came for a free breakfast leaned in, hoping for a little luck. The prize? A kit of hygiene supplies, including toothpaste and a toothbrush.

La Salle Prep’s Luke George ’18 was serving food at the Portland, Oregon church that day as part of a school immersion trip on homelessness, and was struck by how much everyone wanted to win. Then it hit him: Little things – like a toothbrush – can help you reclaim your dignity.

The epiphany in the church dining hall last spring inspired Luke to take action. After brainstorming with his dentist father, Scott George (who graduated from La Salle in 1989), Luke came up with an idea: Buy dental supplies in bulk to give to those who need them. He formed a nonprofit called the NW Dental Project (nwidentalproject.org), then started raising money to create kits that each include a toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste, and a spool of floss.

So far NW Dental Project has raised more than $3,000 – enough to build 3,000-plus kits to give to ministries and agencies in the Portland and Vancouver, Washington area, that serve those in need.

Luke said he’s just trying to help. “Everyone deserves the dignity of being a human being,” he said. “Having a toothbrush gives them hope.”

Ms. Lisa Daniels
Correspondent

La Salle Vietnam House | San Jose, CA

We started our Community CAP meetings with a trip to visit Niagara Falls, both the U.S. and Canadian sides. We flew from San Jose to Buffalo, then we rented a small car and drove to Niagara Falls. We stayed in a small hotel at the border, modest but comfortable. The following day, we finished up our CAP for the next year. After that, we drove to visit Toronto with its famous TV tower, China Town, and other sights. Before leaving Toronto, we visited a convent of Dominican monks, joining them for their prayer time and Gregorian litanies in their simple but very beautiful chapel. They seemed to enjoy hearing us talking in both French and English with a little bit of our songbird Vietnamese accent. These monks could support themselves just by making their special bread that no one else can imitate. They keep the recipe secret.

Father Tao, an old friend of Brother Cosma Truan, visited us recently from Hanoi. He told us about life there these days. That made us glad, because for the first time we were hearing about these things first-hand.

After that, Brother Valery An welcomed for a visit four former Christian Brothers from his novitiate group: Mien Montfort, Roland Anh, Michel Quan, and Patrick Hung. We talked about the past, and some of the dummy things we did as young novices.

In November, Father Hien, a Vietnamese priest and relative of our assassinated president Ngo Dinh Diem, came and said a memorial Mass for Brother Bonaventura Nghia, who died recently. He told a lot of stories concerning his family in Hue. At the end, he invited all of us for a traditional Vietnamese pho meal at a nearby restaurant.

Meanwhile, Brother Fortunat Phong went to different Vietnamese parishes in Colorado, Oklahoma, and California as Anaheim to present to Vietnamese youth a historical music show about the Ly Tran dynasties of Vietnam. He was accompanied by his group of 40 young drum players.
This school year, Brother Valery taught after-school classes and Brother Bosco Truong helped young Vietnamese learn how to read and write Vietnamese correctly so that they can communicate with their grandparents, as their grandparents do not speak English.

This year, thanks to the abundant rain in California, Brother Cosma’s garden produced a lot of fruit: lemons, pears, and oranges, and also many kinds of flowers: marguerites (daisies), roses… We had a lot fruit for our deserts and flowers to decorate our altar.

When hurricane Harvey came to Texas, the La Salle Sisters’ school near Houston was flooded and 90% destroyed. We sent them some financial aid so that they can rebuild. Brother Phong also organized a fund-raising dinner, and all of the collected money was sent to the Sisters.

Although Christmas has not yet come, St. Nicolaus already gave us a present so that we can buy some warm clothing before the prices skyrocket this shopping season.

So, to all of you and your families, we wish:

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Brother Bosco Truong, FSC
Correspondent

Les Amis des Frères | Napa, CA

We are taking this opportunity to thank Brother Donald Johanson, Brother James Joost, Brother George Van Grieken, Brother Arnold Stewart, Father La Salle Hallissey, and Mr. Bob Carrejo for your excellent reporting on the fires that threatened Mont La Salle in October.

For all of the 155 members of Les Amis des Frères, Mont La Salle holds a special place in our memories and our hearts. Your frequent updates enabled us to follow developments as they happened, from the first fire alerts, through the closing of the offices, the evacuations, the resettlements of the Brothers, the reopening of the road, the cleanup, all the way to the safe return of the Brothers.

Former Brothers, their families, and friends of the Brothers followed the updates and responded by posting their best wishes and promises of prayers, in an ongoing conversation on our Facebook page.

With all of the updates reposted in this one place, our Facebook page (Les Amis des Frères) became a go-to source for all the latest information.

Mr. Michael Tscheekar
Correspondent

Mullen High School | Denver, CO

Christmas Season, Same Reasons

The season of Advent is always one of celebration at Mullen High School. As Lasallians, our mission to serve others before self is prominently on display at this time of year. The faith and zeal so central to the global Lasallian community are lived by our students and staff as we embrace the Christmas season.

November saw the Huether Lasallian Conference take place in Denver for the first time in the conference's forty-four year history. At the Conference, Mullen was proud as one of our own, faculty member Tim DeNezza, was recognized as a Distinguished Lasallian Educator from the Lasallian Region of North America.

Once again, Mullen's Thanksgiving basket distribution was a major success in helping neighborhood families with a hand up at a time when the need for community and fellowship is paramount. Over seventy families from the adjacent Sheridan neighborhood were assisted by an enthusiastic Mullen community in an effort that led by our school's Lasallian Youth.

In concert with this sense of spirit, and as in years past, Mullen staff members wrote personal notes of gratitude and greeting to our most recent graduates. This annual tradition is spearheaded by our Office of Philanthropy and Engagement team. The autumn greeting card is valuable correspondence
that serves to remind our most recent graduates that they are very much alive in the collective memory of their alma mater as they take on the new challenges they face in their lives beyond high school.

A customary hallmark of the fall season on campus is the high number of alumni who return to visit former teachers and staff members. This year, a regular guest has been Madie Merelli from the Class of 2010. Madie has been invaluable as a substitute teacher. Her infectious smile and positive attitude have fit in well this year as she lends her talents in support of multiple academic disciplines. Welcome home, Madie!

Thanksgiving eve saw our annual alumni Thanksgiving alumni get-together which was co-sponsored by our Office of Philanthropy and Engagement with the Mullen Alumni Council. A great time was had by all, with alumni from multiple eras and generations trading favorite stories about the school that they love. The event is both an excellent social opportunity as well as a vehicle for professional networking. Charlie Mullins, from the Class of ’07, remarked, "I love engaging with alumni from other classes. I see a lot of value in our shared experiences as well as the unique perspectives we can all share with one another when we gather like this. Plus, it's a lot of fun."

The Mullen Christmas outreach, held this year on December 16th, is an event that our entire community can point to with pride. It serves over sixty neighborhood families and embodies the service so important to our Lasallian community. Judy McCarty, Director of Service Learning, says of the event, "It's simply the right thing to do...

The annual Christmas celebration invites families to campus, where toys, necessities, and sundries are distributed. Mullen students engage with children, working together on crafts and enjoying holiday music. Santa Claus is always in attendance! The day, along with our Halloween "Booville" party and Thanksgiving gift basket distribution, forms our holiday trio of events where grateful families gather with equally grateful members of the Mullen family to help foster neighborhood good will and bonds of joy, love, and fellowship.

To all Lasallian friends and cohorts, we wish you all the blessings of the season. In gratitude, we give tremendous thanks to the Christian Brothers and Lasallian Partners whose shared mission serve the global Lasallian family. As always, may the spirit of this Advent season be realized authentically throughout 2018 and beyond.

Mr. Sean Keefe
Correspondent

Provincialate Community | Napa, CA

A number of events and excitement kept us “moving” from October till December!

Fires – Evacuation – Hospitality: The early October fires in Sonoma, Napa and Santa Rosa had tragic impact on many with the loss of loved ones and homes with possessions, but we at Mont La Salle were spared any serious damage. While the fire did come as close as the cemetery, no buildings were damaged and only the heavy smoke may have caused some losses in the vineyards. However, we and all our neighbors up and down Redwood Road had to be evacuated and only returned 3 ½ weeks later. Once all the cleaning caused by the smoke was taken care of, we were back to normal routines.

Not to minimize those who did suffer greatly and are still recovering, the 27 Brothers from Mont La Salle had a most interesting stay with the communities in the Bay Area: San Francisco, Berkeley, Concord and Moraga! The hospitality and adjustment of the communities to having us with them was most encouraging. The conversations, the exposure to how the schools operate these days, the chance for visits to the local areas – all were most enriching. The generosity and professional care of the medical personnel needed by many of the Brothers was greatly appreciated. Both the Holy Family community and the Provincialate community are very grateful to the spirit of “together and by association”, which prevailed beyond the disruptions and changes that this evacuation involved. A whole new meaning to “going beyond borders” was experienced!
New Community Member: Brother Christopher Brady has joined our community as he takes on duties at Justin-Siena High School in Napa. He was the Acting President-Principal of the school and now continues just in the role of Principal as a new president has been named. It was a most generous response on his part and we are happy to have Brother Chris with us, providing all the forms of support that we can.

Reflection Session with Visitor Candidates: The Provincialate community was happy to join with others for the session with Brothers Donald Johanson, James Joost and Nicholas Gonzalez as they presented statements as to their perspective on being the Visitor and responded to questions/comments from the Brothers. The general tone of the time together was reflected in the comments during and after the session. There was appreciation of all three Brothers for their thoughts and their willingness to be candidates. The expression of perspectives and questions as to challenges/opportunities facing the District, which were in the questions asked and the comments by both the candidates and individual Brothers, made for an excellent exchange. It was characterized by one of the Brothers as a “genuine experience of communal discernment” and seem to fulfill the purpose of having such a gathering. (Since then, it has been announced that Brother Donald has been appointed to a second term as our Visitor. Congratulations, Brother Donald!)

Advent – Christmas: Preparations for the celebration of the Incarnation begin in earnest with the start of Advent. Our community will have a morning of reflection on December 3rd based on reading and discussing the General Council’s third publication: “Lasallians Without Limits – Creation of Sustainable Communities.” There will be an evening reception sponsored by De La Salle Institute for all those connected with Mont La Salle and, closer to Dec 25th, our community will sponsor an evening for all the staff of DLSI. December 24th will most likely bring the usual crowd of 150 or so to attend Vigil Mass and a small reception afterwards.

Finally, if you hear reports of strange happenings in the area of Orlando, Florida, beginning December 28th, ignore them! It will simply involve Brothers James Joost, Mark Murphy, Jack Henderson and Thomas Westberg swimming with the manatees in the area of Crystal River Ventures! Reports and commentary to follow in the Spring issue of this newsletter!

Blessings of Incarnation to all!

Brother Mark Murphy, FSC
Correspondent
The excitement of the year was provided by Rev. Thomas McElligott, Ph.D. of the Religious Studies-Theology Department: Father Tom was sitting alone in a classroom working on his computer when two young men entered the room. One asked Father Tom where he could find a certain room on campus. When Father Tom turned to give directions the young man grabbed Father Tom’s computer and ran from the room. Father Tom pursued him while yelling he was being robbed. One student who heard Father Tom yelling noted the license number of the waiting car the two robbers entered, while another student punched 911 on his computer. The message went out to the Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette Police. A Moraga policeman who was monitoring traffic in his car on Moraga Way saw the “black SUV” that was described in the police call. He quickly reacted, turned on his lights and pulled the SUV over. He was quickly joined by Orinda Police. The driver of the SUV ran off and the other two men were apprehended. The SUV contained numerous computers. Police responders could not locate the fleeing driver, who seemed to be headed creek-wise.

Father Tom will travel to Ireland and England this January to enjoy a series of Shakespeare’s plays, three of which will be performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company: Julius Caesar, Anthony and Cleopatra and Titus Andronicus. In November Father Tom attended a conference sponsored by the Academy of Religion in Boston, as a member of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality.

Brother Raphael Patton extolled his Thanksgiving celebration in Danville with family, a relaxing diversion from his work of developing a number theory in mathematics. He and several members of the Community are heading to Reno, Nevada, for what has become a winter sojourn for a few days after turning in final grades. Though Brother Raphael claims he lives the “quiet life” he attended for the first time in his life a baby shower sponsored by one of the faculty. Amazingly, it left him speechless.

Brother Christopher Donnelly, the Fire Chief of the Huntington Lake Fire Department in the high Sierras and who oversees major renewal projects on campus, installed heat for the first time in 30 years in the aging (built in 1929) Madigan Gymnasium (used primarily for practice.) Brother Chris has been involved interviewing Real Estate agents and prospective buyers for possible sale of the District Camp La Salle at Huntington Lake in the Sierras. As Fire Chief, he noted his gratification for a grant to the Huntington Lake Fire District of $200,000.00 for winter patrol and needed apparatus. The Donnelly Clan will celebrate the Christmas Season in the family compound in Dunsmuir in Northern California. In his spare time Brother Chris renewed his Pilots’ License, and to keep in shape he split a cord of wood for the Community fireplace. The tree from which the wood was derived came from the Brothers’ yard. Dead from old age.

The new Lasallian Mass is ready for devotees of quality religious music to hear and be gratified. The debut of the inspiring creation by Brother Martin Yribarren, Ph.D., will be heard in June and July on celebration days for the Brothers. Brother Martin is also a strong advocate for fundraising for recruitment of students for the Integral Liberal Arts Program, a Great Books educational experience. Given the increased interest in the program this semester, the faculty conducting the program are enthusiastic for fostering a larger endowment for Integral Scholarships.

Articulating his view as an “outsider” Brother Mark McVann felt that he had completed the semester in high style. He visited Alumni in both Washington, D.C. and Orlando Florida in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Collegiate Seminar—World Classics Program, and is scheduled to be lecturing to the Novices in early January on the Psalms. He teaches Scripture in the Religious Studies/Theology Dept.

Brother Kenneth Cardwell celebrated his 70th modestly. Brother Martin Yribarren and Father Tom McElligott created a well appreciated repast for the milestone event. A former student from Washington, D.C. Ms. Chanel Farago came to present Brother Kenneth with lovely framed photos of herself, family and Brother Kenneth. Brother Kenneth had guided Chanel when she was a student through the studies and protocols of becoming a Catholic. Brother Kenneth is also her Godfather.

The Director, Brother Thomas Jones, will be travelling to Wala Wala, WA. to attend the wedding of a future niece-in-law, who is marrying Brother Thomas’ nephew. Brother Thomas has also been named to an Executive Committee that will engage in the public effort of a capital campaign soon to be announced. The College is in dire need of a library and study center that will accommodate the larger enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate students. He also looks forward to the Christmas Mass on December 24th at which the Brothers welcome family and donors to a reception following the Mass.

Brother Mel Anderson celebrated his 89th Birthday in September, the same month the College opened her doors in Moraga in 1928. Though Brother Mel still lives in a residence hall and conducts a Collegiate Seminar, he finds stenosis is slowing him down.

The 50th Year Reunion of Alumni from Xavier High School, Appleton, Wisconsin was an absolutely wonderful event according to attendee Brother Richard Lemberg. The Christian Brothers withdrew from Xavier High in 1982,
so when Brother Richard attended in his Brothers’ robe, the alumni were both astonished and delighted. “Haven’t seen one of those in a long time!,” alumni remarked!

Brother Richard is going to open the Russian River Camp on December 20th and has plans for a grand New Year Dinner! In the meantime he and Brothers Raphael, Martin Y. and perhaps Chris Donnelly will be taking a short, leisurely trip to Reno.

Brother Glenn Bolton attended the Heuther Conference held prior to Thanksgiving. Topic was social justice and student engagement. The National Law School Admissions Council invited Brother Glenn to provide his expertise at its meeting in Orlando, Florida on December 7 and 8. Dinner at Disney World on Thursday was followed by the four-hour meeting on Friday. Brother Glenn graciously provided students in his residence hall with “past late night” snacks from 11:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. at the commencement of finals week, December 4th and 5th. The College dining service provides late night finals snacks from 9:00 P.M. to 11:00.

Brother Mel Anderson, FSC
Correspondent

Saint Mary’s College High School | Berkeley, CA

Signs of the Season are popping up around the Saint Mary’s campus in Berkeley as Christmas gets closer, and with it, a two-week break to enjoy family and friends. The 15-foot Advent Wreath with real pine boughs created by Campus Ministry once again surrounded the Cross at the center of campus. Student aides decorated Christmas stockings to display in the Main Office, and the Lasallian World bulletin board is filled with Christmas cards and wishes sent from schools around the District of San Francisco New Orleans and the Diocese of Oakland. Cookie decorating was on the “holiday fun agenda,” and the Student Center is all aglow with Christmas lights. Even the school food service festooned the cafeteria windows and service counters with holiday decor. The Saint Mary’s community says ”Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" to all our Lasallian brothers and sisters in the SFNO District! The Winter Term will resume on January 8.

Young alumni, home from college, will be welcomed back to campus just before Christmas, to share stories of college life and see old friends and school faculty. Across campus in the Brothers’ Residence, men from the Class of 1953 will gather for their annual Christmastime lunch reunion on campus, as they get closer to their 65th year since graduation. The night before Thanksgiving, Panther alumni were on hand to play the current varsity in their annual basketball match-up in the school gym. The game went into overtime with the alumni winning by ONE point, 68 – 69.

Though every senior’s required Senior Project is unique as it is developed during the school year, one early project that was focused on the Christmas season caught the attention of the student community. Maria Figueroa's Senior Project in support of the local Catholic Charities “Project Joybells” program saw dozens of donated children’s toys and games filling the many red donation bins around campus. Student volunteers enjoyed a gift-wrapping party with holiday treats, and sent the donations off to Joybells in time for Christmas gifting.

Speaking of toys and games, in early December, the Saint Mary’s First Tech Challenge (FTC) team, Robust Robots, competed with fifteen other high schools in its first tournament of the season, hosted by Google. They came in first place in the robot game and received first place for the Think Award, for documenting their design process in the engineering notebook. They also now hold the California record for the highest score in a match.

After Halloween, students donated a whopping 55 pounds of leftover candy to Operation Gratitude, to be shipped to deployed troops and first responders. In 2016, the Southern California-based group distributed more than a half-million pounds of sweets!

On December 16, Lasallians from Saint Mary’s High were among the many helpers at the District’s newest school, Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School in Oakland. Volunteers at the CRDLS Day of Service
moved furniture and other items as the building was emptied in preparation for renovations scheduled to begin after Christmas. The new high school will open in the summer of 2018.

Saint Mary’s student musicians and vocalists performed their **Fall Music Concert** on November 9, under the direction of Mr. Elliott Nguyen, Class of 2008, recorded on video. [Click to view](#).

As the fall sports season wrapped up, the **Panthers** had much to be proud about – a few highlights: Varsity Football made the NCS Division IV playoffs, finishing in a tie for second place in the league. Girls’ Tennis brought home the league championship, while Girls’ Cross Country finished their season with yet ANOTHER league title!

The school’s **parent community** has been front and center with helping hands this school year, providing invaluable support, presence, collaboration with school programs and projects, and not least, generous financial support. Planning for their biggest annual event is underway, as the February Crab Feed and its popular Silent Auction with dozens of amazing items is just around the corner. San Francisco Bay Area residents could easily spend every winter weekend feasting on the delectable Dungeness crustacean at dozens of local feeds.

Great progress on the new **Saint Mary’s Student Chapel** at the entrance to campus continued through the fall, and the white concrete shell of the building is expected to be closed by month’s end, when the focus will turn to the interior, furnishings, artwork, altar, and installation of the large tower window. Brother Dan Morgan has kept the construction well-documented with weekly photos and short videos.

Saint Mary’s **President Search** process, begun last summer, is expected to wrap up in February. The school’s Board of Trustees has conducted the search, consisting of “listening sessions” with the extended school community, receipt and screening of applications, and interviews with prospects before the Christmas holidays. The search got underway last July, following the announcement by Brother Edmond Larouche (Class of 1966) of his impending retirement next June after twenty years as the school’s president.

A December 6 feature article in the San Francisco Chronicle announced the retirement next June of **Bob Calonico, Saint Mary's High Class of 1972**, after 28 years as Cal Band Leader at U.C. Berkeley. Calonico's final marching band performance was at November's Big Game at Stanford. He joined the Cal Band as a freshman clarinet player in 1972 and became student director in 1975, taking the reins as leader in 1995. The Cal Band was founded in 1891. [Click to read Bob’s story on the Cal web site](#). Stage and screen actor **Russell Hornsby, Saint Mary's Class of 1992**, has a new Netflix series debuting in 2018. Hornsby has co-starred in NBC's *Grimm*, which is concluding production on its sixth and final season. Hornsby will have a regular role in the new, ten-episode Netflix crime drama, *Seven Seconds*, based on the Russian film “The Major.”

Several months of **eighth grade campus visits** to Saint Mary's concluded in mid-December, during which hundreds of students and their parents toured the campus and classrooms during the school day. The admissions application deadline for 2018 is January 10, and the High School Placement Test (HSPT) will be given on January 20. Two HSPT-prep basic Math review workshops were held on December 2 and December 9. Saint Mary’s will welcome the Class of 2022 next August, as the school marks the 155th year since its founding and the 150th year being conducted by the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

**Lasallians with a View:** During the fall term, Saint Mary’s freshmen spent a day on retreat at the Brothers’ Mont La Salle in Napa, making the journey to the Brothers’ cemetery, while senior retreats were held at the Brothers’ Saint Joseph’s Camp on the Russia River. Biology classes participated in beach clean-up on the shores of San Francisco Bay just a mile from campus, with the spectacular City skyline in the background.

*Ms. Jeanne Gray Loughman*
*Correspondent*
In September, we celebrated birthdays of two Brothers, and each had an added attraction this year. On the 20th, Bro. Brian Dybowski celebrated his 79th birthday. Unfortunately, he was called to a special meeting of the Board of the St. Michael’s High School Foundation. However, that was more than balanced by a visit to the community of District CFO Pamela Gleeson, who joined us for dinner and birthday cake while in Santa Fe for her job. Two days later, Bro. Martin Swonke celebrated his 91st birthday, and that coincided with the social of the faculty and staff of the school. So, there were a number of additional people to wish him the best for the occasion.

Bro. Fred Van Haaften took some time off from his tutoring to visit his son in Michigan. He returned and expressed much appreciation to his daughter, Terry, who made all the arrangements and accompanies him on the vacation. He returned home to resume his multiple services to the community, as well as his tutoring.

On September 24, Bro. Mel Pelton had a visit from his niece, Lanette, and her husband. Because he was also the cook for the day, they were able to enjoy his gumbo for the noon meal as well as his company. The same evening, Bro. Ricardo Palacio returned from California, bringing Fr. Andrew with him. They made the trip in a single day! That, plus the change in time zone in which they lost an hour, left them understandably tired, but Brother still prepared breakfast the next morning, as well as taking his turn leading morning prayers. Ah, youth! They seem to have enjoyed the visit, Father’s first to Santa Fe.

Another visitor was Bro. Joe Schmidt who was here for a few days. In addition, Bro. James Grahmann had a visit from 2 of his brothers just in time for the feast of St. Michael, and Bro. Tom Daigle had a visit from his nephew.

September also brought a problem to Bro. Brian. He injured his back in high school and had exercised faithfully about 3 times a week to avoid hurting it again. Unfortunately, while doing those very exercises, it was hurt again and then he had an X-ray. Further diagnosis indicated he has multiple myeloma and received radiation treatments for the pain and chemotherapy to combat the cancer. All were gratified when he came home from Santa Fe Care having accomplished all his physical and occupational therapy goals. He is now readjusting to community life and receiving visits from a number of friends and former students. He still must complete his course of chemotherapy. Depending on the outcome of that, he may be able to remain here or might move to Napa if special care is needed. Prayers are much appreciated!

Bro. Fred celebrated his 76th birthday on November 8, and that happened to coincide with the first lunch with a group of seniors who came to the Brothers’ residence to meet us. When they sang the birthday song for him, he responded by several kinds of calisthenics to illustrate that he is still young at heart! The Brothers celebrated more quietly at dinner, which featured his favorite meat and potatoes meal with chocolate cake. Five days later, Bro. George Hetzel celebrated his 80th birthday with no calisthenics, but a great meal of fried shrimp, French fries, onion rings, and German chocolate cake. Our cook makes birthday dinners according to the choices of the celebrants. Perhaps something about November leads to a liking for chocolate.

Merry Christmas and an outstanding 2018 to all! We will celebrate quietly as befits elders.

Brother George Hetzel, FSC
Correspondent

School News

“Tis the season to be jolly...”

With Thanksgiving ending and Christmas just around the corner, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the many blessings St. Michael’s has received since the start of school. We are especially grateful to the Lasallian Catholic Assessment Process team and all who came to help us become a stronger Lasallian school. Thank you in particular to Charlie Legendre, John Roberto, Gery Short, and Cathy Molinelli! With their feedback, we continue to strive to live out the Lasallian mission and principles with great care.

Faith in the Presence of God

As the LCAP team was visiting us, it was heartbreaking to see the devastation that was taking place with the fires in California. Lately, every week there is some kind of violence or devastation in the news and it seems to be getting a little closer to home. We pause to offer our prayers, especially for those affected by the fires in California, the
hurricanes and tornadoes that ripped through the Midwest and South, and more recently for our fellow New Mexicans in Aztec as they are healing from a recent school shooting.

During the troubled times and the joyful times, we are thankful that we are a Lasallian Catholic school and we have the opportunity to join in prayer be it in the classroom, over the intercom, or as a full community in the gym. We give thanks for the many times this year we have been blessed with prayer opportunities. In addition to our regular Masses and retreats, our school community has gathered as one in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and joined our voices saying the Holy Rosary in honor and remembrance of Our Lady of Fatima. Later in October, we gathered our prayers to remember those who have gone before us at our first Dia de Los Muertos prayer service, organized by Br. Ricardo Palacio and the Campus Ministry class, and then continued the memorial celebrations with All Saints and All Souls. We give thanks as God keeps blessing us over and over again.

Quality Education
All our students are working hard in and out of the classroom and our seniors are setting a great example for the younger students to follow as they begin to declare their college acceptance choices. Special honor and recognition goes to Lauren Naranjo who is on course to follow her sister, Taliah (class of 2016), to West Point as she recently received her nomination.

In addition, a BIG congratulations goes to senior Sierra Moya, who was presented with an Award of Excellence for outstanding academic performance from the Medical Advisory Board of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Keep up the great work, Sierra and all of our seniors!

Respect for All Persons
The thanks and gratitude continue as we highlight some of the moments where our students recognize and respect the dignity of others. The gesture might come in the form of holding a door open or helping someone struggling in the classroom with our newly established Signum Fidei tutoring program or a senior helping a 7th grader with his tie for Mass.

The gratitude grows as the respect reaches outside of the school walls as we thank our Cheer and Dance teams, SWAT members, and other students for raising our awareness through their participation in the Breast Cancer Walk, as well as our sport teams who participated in the various “Pink” games.

As we reflect on what our students do, we are even more grateful to have one of our volunteer coaches, Jose “JoJo” Padilla, who demonstrates this deep respect in his every day actions. JoJo was given the highest honor to lay ministers in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe as he received the St. Francis Award. We congratulate JoJo for his discipleship and we thank everyone for the little and the big things that help promote the dignity of all.

Concern for the Poor and Social Justice
You did it again St. Mike’s! Students, faculty, staff, coaches and parents stepped up to help those in need and we are grateful. Thanks to the National Honor Society and Mr. Brandt for organizing the Blood Drive. This year we were able to donate THE MOST blood ever at a St. Mike’s blood drive. We had to turn people away as they ran out of donation bags! Thank you to Janis Chitwood for organizing the Knitting Club. The scarves will be a blessing of warmth and comfort to the homeless or those fighting cancer. Thank you to Mr. Enloe and Ms. Garcia and the SWAT members for cleaning the Santa Fe River and helping the homeless with coat drives and “Socktoberfest”. Thank you to Campus Ministers and Sophomores for making a difference with your service at the Community Farm and local shelters while on retreat. Thank you to the entire school community for bringing more Christmas joy to those in need by taking part in the giving tree. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Inclusive Community

Reflecting on all that has taken place since the start of school, we end with sharing thanks for one another. We are thankful for the times when we come together in fun with Homecoming activities. We give thanks for music in the lobby from Marimba classes or from our guitar, choir, orchestra and band members gracing us at a concert. We say thank you to all those who came out to support the Horsemens Roundup, our annual fundraiser. We thank Br. Ricardo and all the Christian Brothers for inviting small groups of seniors over to join them for lunch. We thank Br. Mel for praying the rosary with Ms. Garcia’s classes every week and for guiding the school in morning prayer. We are humbled and grateful that Choral Arts was invited to sing at the Naturalization Swearing-In Ceremony welcoming our newest American citizens. We give thanks for the prospective students who come for Shadow Days. We give thanks to and for all the students, families, faculty, staff and the legacy of Christian Brothers who make St. Michael’s such a wonderful place. Most importantly, we give thanks to God, for coming into this world and sharing His glorious love. Blessings to all this joyous season.

Ms. Diahann Larson, AFSC
Correspondent

Community News

Ho! Ho! Ho! We had our Christmas party which was hosted by the Mother’s Club on December 9th. It was a little bit early, but with the end of the semester coming up, the good ladies were pressed for time. They presented each Brother with a gift card. We are grateful for their kindness to us.

Also, on December 8th, Brother Louis Welker and Brother Peter Dudenheffer brought four bicycles to the Covington Toys for Tots.

Let it snow! Let it snow! On December 7th, we had a good snow fall here on the Northshore of Louisiana. Snow in Louisiana is a rare sight. Our campus turned into a winter wonderland. School was called off, but many young people made it to our campus to build snowmen and throw snow balls. The next morning by noon it was all gone.

On December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the school celebrated the annual lighting of the luminaries. There was caroling, a prayer service and a social in the cafeteria. Many people drove through our campus to see this beautiful festival of lights. Our thanks to the Liturgical Band, Mothers’ Club, Student Council, the Marching Wolves, Jazz Band and Physical Plant for making this celebration a big success. The De La Salle Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this observance to Covington.

Our community was saddened by the death of our chaplain and friend Father Joseph Cazenavette on December 2nd. Father celebrated Mass for us on Mondays and whenever he was needed. He was scheduled to celebrate Mass for us Christmas Eve. Father Joseph courageously battled cancer for the past year and a half. He was 50 years of age.

As we move forward to the Christmas holidays, there is a great deal of busyness in both the community and the school. The remodeling of Benilde Hall has begun, and is scheduled to be completed in August of 2018. In the meantime, there will be a good deal of classroom shifting for students and teachers. The plans for the building’s renovations, complete with an elevator, look very attractive.

Exams for the first semester were held December 14th to December 19th. Brother Ray Bulliard, our President, held an Advent prayer service with the students prior to the Christmas vacation. School will resume on January 3rd.

Meanwhile, back in the Brothers’ Retirement Home, life moves at its regular pace. Our Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 4:00 p.m. and will be celebrated by Father Killian Togh, OSB. Brothers Ralph, Louis and Duane are seeing to the decorating of the chapel, community room and entrance to the house.

At this point, all of the Brothers are in good health. Brother Jerry Vincent, our Director, along with our nurses and CNAs, take good care of us. Our cooks, Barbara and Carmen, see to it that we have good wholesome meals.
Jose, our housekeeper, sees to it that the residence is always spic and span. Brothers Peter, Bill Ray and Robert O’Kane help with getting community members to and from their doctor appointments.

We have so much to be thankful for from the past year. God has been good to us! We pray that 2018 will be a blessing for you.

**Brother Louis Welker, FSC
Correspondent**

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**School News**

Saint Paul’s is on the verge of completing the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year with lots of activity. With the fall sports seasons ending, new teams began competition with strong showings. The Wrestling Wolves began their season by defeating local rivals Mandeville and Pearl River. Soccer also defeated Mandeville and traveled to San Clemente, California for the 4th annual Lotto Sport Western Showcase. The basketball team won the regional CYO tournament with the defeat of several area teams, including fellow Lasallian school De La Salle.

Of course, prayer and service have played a major role on campus this semester. The sophomores had their annual service day, visiting and serving with people from New Orleans East to here in Covington. The pre-freshmen divided their class for their annual retreat, alternating visits to the state capital in Baton Rouge and Camp Abbey.

At the end of October, our administration, faculty, and staff welcomed visitors to campus for Open House. The sunny afternoon provided the perfect backdrop for the student-led tours and activities offered to prospective Wolves.

Held the week prior to Thanksgiving, our annual Food Drive collected over 13,500 pounds of food (that’s almost 15 pounds per student). Northshore Food Bank’s Yvette Roussel said, “This donation will help keep our shelves stocked through the rest of the year as we serve approximately 325 families per week. We cannot express our appreciation for Saint Paul’s commitment to helping us to serve those who are in need.”

At the start of December, we welcomed the Southeastern Louisiana Blood Center on campus for their annual blood drive. A number of students, faculty, and staff generously donated. Also, the school “adopted” 35 children and filled their Christmas lists, purchasing everything from blocks to bikes to baby dolls. The “Adopt-a-Family” activity is a long-standing Saint Paul’s tradition.

All of these activities, however, did not interfere with academics! The Briggs Assembly Center held large crowds of parents and students as they gathered to celebrate being named to first quarter honor roll. The Math Wolves continue their Saturday morning quest for mathematical perfection; the Vex Robotics Team has already brought home its first trophy of the season, and the Quiz Bowl Team has begun its competitions. Finally, 56 students were treated to a special lunch for being members of the Over 30 Club, referring to their composite ACT scores.

Saint Paul’s participated in the "iGiveCatholic" Campaign, a 24-hour period of donation to Catholic charities and schools. 170 donors graciously gave money to Saint Paul’s during this period, earning the school second place for donations in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Joel Frenandez and Brandon Gallego, two members of the media production class, produced a two-minute video for the campaign that was awarded $750.00 as prize money. The students and the Development Department were recognized for their efforts at the final President's Assembly of 2017.

**Ms. Karen Hebert
Correspondent**
Yet another year has just about completed its course, and we have given thanks for the blessings it brought on Thanksgiving Day. So it’s time to think of Christmas. A gift from a friend many years ago was a set of pithy sayings for every day of the year. The one for 27 November seemed especially apt this year given all the things which have happened globally, nationally, in the Brothers community, and personally. It points out:

**Answers to prayer often come in unexpected ways.**

The Jews prayed for the coming of the Messiah, and He came on Christmas. Unexpectedly, He was born in a manger. He had an uneventful childhood apart from remaining in the Temple when He was 12. As an itinerant preacher, His message was rejected by most of those who were supposed to be experts in religion, but was accepted by fishermen, tax collectors, and other “unimportant” people. When He was deemed a threat to those in power, He was tried, found guilty, and executed as a criminal. Evidently, then as now,

**Answers to prayer often come in unexpected ways.**

So as we hear of the horrors which we humans are inflicting on one another, to say nothing of the natural disasters of the past year, it might seem that all we have prayed for has been for naught. But,

**Answers to prayer often come in unexpected ways.**

St. La Salle told the Brothers that the spirit of our Institute is a spirit of faith, which should lead us “not to see anything but with the eyes of faith, not to do anything but in view of God, and to attribute all to God.” May the best gift we all receive this Christmas be an increase of such a spirit of faith so we can recognize that He is in charge and does always, only what is best – our perceptions to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Answers to prayer often come in unexpected ways.**

May a greater spirit of faith be God’s gift to us all at Christmas and always! God bless!
Huether 2017 Brings Together Many Voices

The District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) played host to the 44th annual Huether Lasallian Conference November 16-18, 2017, in Denver, Colorado. This was the first time that the Conference had ever been held in the Mile High City.

Sixty-two Lasallians from SFNO were among the more than 200 attendees who gathered at the Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel to explore this year’s theme: “One Call, Many Voices: Dialogue, Inspire, Transform.” The theme, which was drawn from the Lasallian Reflection for the 2016-2017 liturgical year, “One Call, Many Voices,” challenged participants to consider both how we lend our voices to the world of education and how we give voice to those who are entrusted to our care, especially the poor and marginalized.

Prior to the Conference’s official start, several other Lasallian meetings and gatherings took place, including the Lasallian Education Council (LEC), and the Regional Communications Team (RCT). In addition, Lasallian school development professionals took part in a pre-conference advancement track. Offered for the second consecutive year, the track featured a networking reception, a keynote address by Colleen O’Grady, philanthropic strategist at Lipman Hearne, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois, and four sets of breakout sessions.

Also, 75 Lasallians who were first-time Huether Conference attendees gathered for a pre-event social. Director of Lasallian Services Sarah Laitinen welcomed the group to their first Conference, and Huether Conference planning committee members helped to introduce the “first-timers” to the Conference experience.

The Conference then opened on the evening of the 16th with an opening prayer service and welcomes from Office for Lasallian Education at Christian Brothers Conference director Mark Freund and SFNO Visitor Brother Donald Johanson, FSC. These were followed by a presentation by Brother Ernest Miller, FSC, D.Min., vice president for mission at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a panel discussion facilitated by Mike Daniels, Ed.D., director of the Office for Education in the District of San Francisco New Orleans.

Day two of the Conference began with a prayer service that included students from Denver’s Mullen High School. The day’s keynote presentation, which was sponsored by Christian Brothers Services, was made by Ann Garrido, D.Min., associate professor of homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. A popular author and public speaker who has been featured at other Lasallian gatherings, Garrido invited participants into a discussion around difficult conversations that can impact educators’ ability to collaborate in mission.

The remainder of the day’s schedule included participants attending breakout sessions and also their pre-assigned “casa” conversation groups. That evening, Districts gathered their members at local restaurants for dinner, after which was held a social hosted by Young Lasallians.

Day three’s morning prayer service was followed by keynote presenter Elizabeth Huntley, J.D., litigation attorney and child advocate, author and lecturer from Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC in Birmingham, Alabama. Huntley delivered a deeply personal and powerful address on her troubled upbringing and the life-changing impact educators had on her.

The Conference came to a close that evening with the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Awards Banquet which annually celebrates outstanding educators in each of the Districts of the Lasallian Region of North America. This year’s District of San Francisco New Orleans honoree is Timothy DeNezza, social studies teacher at Mullen High School in Denver.
Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, has informed Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, that he will be appointed to a second four-year term as Visitor of the District of San Francisco New Orleans.

Brother Donald’s reappointment follows the completed nomination process held by the District and the review of results and recommendation by the Institute’s General Council.

Mont La Salle Escapes NorCal Fires

Mont La Salle, District of San Francisco New Orleans Province, and home to two Brothers’ communities, narrowly escaped being destroyed by fires which burned through much of the area this past autumn.

The group of wildfires, known collectively as the NorCal Fires, swept both to the east and west of Mont La Salle, coming close enough to destroy residences just to the north and leave burn scars that remain visible from the property.

The earliest reports of the fire came on October 8. On October 10, Brother Donald Johanson, Visitor, made the decision to voluntarily evacuate the Brothers of the Provincialate and Holy Family Communities, as well as close the De La Salle Institute offices and the Retreat & Conference center. The Brothers relocated to communities at Saint Mary’s College High School Community in Berkeley; De La Salle High School Community in Concord; Saint Mary’s College Communities in Moraga; and Sacred Heart Cathedral Community in San Francisco.

The outlook for Mont La Salle during the early stages of the fire was not encouraging. The weekend of October 13-15 was especially ominous as predicted weather conditions threatened to push the fires directly onto Mont La Salle. Those conditions, however, did not materialize, allowing fire crews time to establish a protective perimeter that held the fires at bay.

Mont La Salle remained closed for almost one month as firefighters continued to battle to save the facilities, neighboring Hess Winery, and the numerous homes along Redwood Road. Crews were able to use the property to stage their crews and draw water to help fight the flames. De La Salle Institute staff conducted District business via remote operations, while Auxiliary Visitor Brother James Joost and facilities director Al Sanchez monitored conditions at Mont La Salle as best as circumstances allowed and relayed valuable information and updates that were then shared with the District and the Region.

As the fires were gradually brought under control, work began to restore public utility services and assess damages. While untouched by the fire itself, Mont La Salle sustained significant smoke saturation, which required extensive professional cleaning and restoration, as well as general property cleanup.

On October 30, De La Salle Institute offices reopened. Around that time, the Brothers of the Provincialate Community began making their way back to their residence. Various repairs and preparations continued and, on November 8, one month to the day after the NorCal fires had begun, the Brothers of the Holy Family Community returned. As Brother James remarked, “The sound of life had returned to Mont La Salle.”
Requiescat in Pace

Father Patrick LaBelle, O.P., AFSC, who died on December 11 in Fairfax, CA.
Peggy Short, mother of Gery Short, AFSC, who died on December 1 in Clinton Township, MI.
Anne Marie Neri, RN, sister of Brother Timothy Rapa, FSC, who died on November 12 in San Jose, CA.
Donald Stabiler, AFSC, who died on November 11, in Baton Rouge, LA.
Wilhelmina deGroot Vandenburg, sister of Brother Peter deGroot, FSC, who died on October 23 in Stockton, CA.
Pete Torres, math teacher at Cathedral High School El Paso, who died on October 14 in El Paso, TX.
Esperanza Lara, sister of Brother Jesus Lara, FSC, who died on October 10 in Los Angeles, CA.

Papal Intentions

DECEMBER

The Elderly
That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

JANUARY

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia
That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.

FEBRUARY

Universal: Say “No” to Corruption
That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

MARCH

Evangelization: Formation in Spiritual Discernment
That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

APRIL

Universal: For Those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters
That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

MAY

Evangelization: The Mission of the Laity
That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.
The contingent from De Marillac Academy poses at the Distinguished Lasallian Educator banquet.

CB Conference Director of Lasallian Programs Sarah Laitinen and SFNO Office of Education Director Mike Daniels.

Students from Denver’s Mullen High School helping to lead Conference participants in morning prayer.

Huether Conference first-time attendees gathered for meet-and-greet on the Conference’s opening day.

One of the Conference’s “casa” community groups processes one of the keynote presentations.

The 2017 Huether Conference planning committee.

Photos by Christian Brothers Conference and SFNO Communications.