The jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote, “When I want to understand what is happening today, I try to decide what will happen tomorrow; I look back; a page of history is worth a volume of logic.”

One of the key qualities of the Lasallian mission is how it interacts with its social context. The mission is rooted in an understanding of ministry as reading and responding to signs of the times as part of God’s saving activity throughout history. Drawing from their collective memory and expertise, Lasallians move to meet the needs of the present by both remembering their tradition and then reimagining it into the current conditions and challenges that it must face.

The conditions and challenges faced by today’s Lasallian mission seem to echo those of its founding years. As in the Founders’ time, society is running in an economically stratified and predatory mode, while the young are commodified in order to exploit their immediately consumable worth. Adults are overwhelmed with the task of finding security in an increasingly insecure world, while the young are being left to their own devices to make their way through its minefields. And, as in the Founder’s time, schools predictably organize themselves around systems and replication instead of relationships and transformation.

The Lasallian movement now has reached a familiar crossroads. Once again, it finds itself part of a society that either accepts or ignores that to be young is to be perpetually at risk. The choice for educational institutions, including our own, is either to recognize and step into this reality or to distance themselves from it and remain in a secure but largely irrelevant place. As Brother Pedro Gil Larrañaga asks, “Is there some place from which to interpret everything that has come before and to flesh out better the future possibilities of our institution?” (“View from the Tower: Lasallian History and Future”, p. 3.)

The task, then, for 21st century Lasallian education is to bring its own history to bear on itself. By critically reflecting on our pedagogical and spiritual tradition, we can once again assert within the paradigm of formal education the insight and intentionality of teaching and learning as explicit acts of serving and participating in human salvation. In this issue of Dateline District, you will examples of what that looks like.

- In Concord, where students are learning that one’s own strength depends on empowering strength in others.
- In Berkeley, where an entire school is kicked out of class for a week to learn the lessons that only other cultures and other life paths can teach.
- In Called & Chosen retreats, where young women and men are challenged to experience their own sacredness as a gift to them that is meant to be a gift to others.
- In summer gatherings, where Young Lasallians will learn that their servant leadership is the key to healing a broken world.

It is our Lasallian charism to view the present through the eyes of faith, to recognize that the now holds not only what is lacking but also what is possible. In God’s work of salvation, our schools must be places where past, present, and future are reconciled in a way that heals wounds, awakens hope, and regains dignity. Lasallians are being called to take a page of their own history and create for our young the best possible tomorrow by being prophets for their best possible today.
Upcoming Events

Brothers in Initial Formation
April 5-8 | Memphis, TN

Discerning Leaders
April 10-12 | Mont La Salle

Directors Association
April 14 | Mont La Salle

LEC/LLEC/DLT
April 17 | Mont La Salle

District Day
April 21 | Covington, LA

RCCB/LEC
April 23-27 | Baltimore, MD

District Day
April 28 | Santa Fe, NM

District Council
May 7 | Mont La Salle

Board Governance Training
May 14-16 | Mont La Salle

LEC/LLEC/DLT
May 17 | Mont La Salle

REAC
May 21-23 | TBA

LEC/LLEC/DLT
June 5-6 | Mont La Salle

Brothers In Mission
June 9-10 | Mont La Salle

Lasallian Youth Assembly
June 17-22 | Portland, OR

Vandhu Paaru
June 17-July 13 | TBA

DCAA
June 18-21 | Mont La Salle

ABC
June 20-22 | Mont La Salle

Buttimer Institute
June 24-July 7 | Manhattan College

From the Region & Institute

Registrations are now open for the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies and the Lasallian Social Justice Institute.

Get information and resources for Young Lasallians’ “Spring into Action”.

2018 Twinning Resources are available from Christian Brothers Conference.

Lasallian Reflection 3 and resources are available from lasalle.org.

Read LASSCA’s statement in response to school violence.

RELAN 2017-2018 Statistical Report is available from Christian Brothers Conference.

Read AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education, Volume 8, Number 3.

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

Read the Superior General’s most recent pastoral letter.

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

Order Going Going Gone! The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics.

Pepper Uppers

I run half-marathons. It sounds so much better than, “I start marathons and then collapse.”

When I was a boy, I had a disease that required me to eat dirt three times a day in order to survive. I’m so lucky my older brother told me about it.

I have enough money to last me the rest of my life... unless I buy something.

Our teacher told us, “Class, I want all of you to have a great day.” So we all got up and went home.

If I have to clean my house before you come over, we’re not real friends.

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

If God had really intended for us to fly, he’d make it easier to get to the airport.

I think it's wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly.

Don't talk to me about Valentine's Day. At my age, an affair of the heart is a by-pass.

I won’t be impressed with technology until I can download food.

When you are eight years old, nothing is any of your business.

I went to the doctor and he said, “You've got hypochondria.” I said, “Not that, too!”

A bed is a magical place where we suddenly remember everything that we were supposed to do today.
Grammar School Academic Rally

In early March, Archbishop Rummel hosted its first Academic Rally. Middle school students in the Greater New Orleans area were invited to compete in various subject areas. The event featured tests in English, mathematics, science, and social sciences. At the rally’s conclusion, Marc Milano, principal, awarded trophies to the top student scorers.

New Student Sign Deliveries

After delivery of the accept letters for the 2018-19 school year, Raider students, parents, alumni, and cheerleaders delivered yard signs to new incoming students. Future Raiders and their parents took photos of the sign delivery and the photos were uploaded to the school’s website.

Cheerleaders at Nationals

The Raider Cheerleaders traveled to Orlando, FL, and Walt Disney World's Wide World of Sports to compete in the UCA National Competition. The Raiders walked away second nationally in the Medium Co-Ed Division and first in the nation in the Gameday Division. Congratulations to the Raider Cheerleaders on their National Championship!

Fine Arts Showcase

The Fine Arts Department showcased their work across all mediums in art, music, and theatre. The student work was on display in the Raider Room for the evening, while the Jazz Band entertained the crowd. The Genesian Players also performed as the crowd enjoyed the student artwork.

Raiders Visit St. Michael's Special School

Following the city’s Mardi Gras celebration, a group of Raiders teamed up with St. Catherine of Siena Elementary to deliver Mardi Gras beads to St. Michael's Special School. Students loaded moving trucks at St. Catherine and then delivered the donated throws to St. Michael's where they toured the school and helped students begin sorting the beads for next year’s Mardi Gras.

Physical Science Lab

Ms. Charlene Wetzel's Physical Science classes recently conducted labs to analyze and interpret motion graphs. In these labs, students made use of our new wireless Vernier transmitters and Vernier Motion Detectors. Students used these mechanisms to measure position, velocity, and acceleration. Students used their iPads to produce graphs of their motion.

Eighth Grade Retreat

All eighth-grade Raiders had their retreat, beginning in the Raider Room with mass celebrated by Father Kurt Young '05. After mass, students went to The Transfiguration of The Lord Church where they had discussions about the Sacraments.

Career Day / Life Skills Day

Archbishop Rummel juniors and seniors met in the Raider Gym to begin the annual Career and Life Skills Day. Seniors then were treated to talks about important life skills of banking and credit card use, time management, and first impressions. Juniors had the opportunity to choose multiple career presentations to attend. Students spread throughout campus in small group sessions to hear the wide-range of experiences from the many Raider alumni.

Senior Retreat

The final Senior Retreat was held last month at Camp Abbey.

Guests enjoying the display at the Fine Arts Showcase.

Attentive eighth-graders at their retreat.
on the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain. The theme of the retreat was "What Kind of Man Do You Want to Be?" Seniors met in small groups to discuss presentations by special guests, former faculty members Mr. Sam Pitre and Mr. Brian Butler, and current faculty member Mr. Alex Lorio '07. Father Charles Dussouy '02 celebrated Mass and heard confessions.

**Biomed: Ochsner Cancer Cell Lab**

Mr. Tony Taffaro’s BioMed III students recently visited Ochsner Hospital labs to determine the differences between normal and cancer cells. In the first unit students carried out a chromosomal analysis by preparing microscope slides with normal and HeLa cervical cancer cells stained to visualize the chromosomes. Students observed differences in chromosome number and structure between the two cell lines. In the second unit students carried cytological and DNA analyses, again in context of cervical cancer. Students interpreted test data to make a prediction about HPV DNA testing results.

**Biomed: Visual Perception Lab**

Biomed students recently completed labs on visual perception. Working at eleven different stations where they explored the physiology of human vision, students performed a series of tests to explore and assess many characteristics of human visual perception. These included visual acuity, depth perception, color vision, peripheral vision and illusions.

**March for Life 2018**

To support life and the repeal of Roe v Wade, students from Archbishop Rummel with Fr. Kurt Young ’05, chaplain, and Mr. Matthew Caire ’03, Campus Minister, joined hundreds of students from the Archdiocese of New Orleans in Washington DC for the 45th annual March for Life. Students attended rallies, adoration, Mass, marched to the Supreme Court, and spent a day visiting the Washington DC area.

**Pre-Law Field Trip**

The pre-law class took a field trip to Judge Franz Zibilich's court, New Orleans District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro's office, and New Orleans Sheriff Marlin Gusman's Criminal Justice Center. While in Judge Zibilich's court, the students met Nick Bergeron ’09, who was the prosecutor in that section of court.

**Father/Son Road Rally**

In mid-March, fathers and sons converged on the Raider campus for the annual Father/Son Road Rally. Consisting of a scavenger hunt, competitions, and a full spread of food, the father son teams began the afternoon with strategies and game play. The teams were given 2.5 hours and were sent across Jefferson Parish to complete over 50 tasks needing video and photo proof of their tasks. As the teams returned to campus, a full spread of food was there waiting for them. Top teams received cash prizes for their winning efforts.

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**Centro de Formación Integral La Salle | Tijuana, Mexico**

**December 2017**

The week after classes ended, our Lasallian volunteer, Carlos Huerta, received an unexpected call from the Visitor to exchange volunteer sites. He is heading to the secondary school in Tecpán, and the volunteer from there is coming to Tijuana.

Our city was abash with colors, music and fireworks for the December 12th celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe. I attended an inspirational celebration that included professional Aztec dancers after the Liturgy of the Word. Before the Final Blessing, flowers were distributed to everyone in attendance to offer to our Lady of Guadalupe at the end of the Mass.

We hosted Christmas posada/luncheon with our paid workers. The highlight of the afternoon was the breaking of
A large star-shaped piñata.

We took a community day-trip to the Valle de Guadalupe, the wine producing region south of Tijuana. We visited the Wine Museum and the vineyards of L. A. Cetto and Doña Lupe.

The Community participated in the Annual District Retreat at the Casa Juan Pablo II in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco. Brothers Francisco and Ernesto participated in the District Christmas Celebration and Assembly from the 24th until the 26th. I arrived on the 26th for the retreat activities until the 31th. The retreat was animated by three Spanish Priests: a Claritian, a Third Order Franciscan (TOR) and a Redemptorist. They presented on different aspects of the Consecrated Life.

January 2018

A number of years ago, Mexico began an energy reform. This ended the monopoly of PEMEX, the state owned and operated gasoline producer and distributor. Tijuana has begun to see foreign gas companies opening stations: ARCO, British Petroleum, Mobile and Chevron all have been spotted around town. It is interesting to note that PEMEX has had gas stations in Houston, Texas for a number of years.

On January 5th, I went to the Tijuana Cultural Center for the arrival of the 3 Kings and the cutting of the King’s Cake which circled the plaza area. The King’s cake was 280 meters long and weighed over a ton. For a second year in a row my piece contained the Christ Child, which I gladly gave to a family to receive a free child’s gift.

We held our registration organization meeting on January 6th. The meeting ended with the sharing of Rosca de Reyes (King’s Cake). If you encounter the Christ Child in your piece, you are responsible for providing tamales on the Feast of the Candelaria.

Our new Lasallian Volunteer, Ana Laura, arrived from Hermosillo, Sonora. She was in Tecpán for the first semester and changed places with our volunteer, Carlos.

The second week of January found us busy enrolling about 1500 students for the winter session. A university student from Saltillo volunteered a week with us. He assisted us during the busy registration week.

Upon returning from my monthly visit to Stockton, I met up with Joe Alexander Short in the San Diego Airport. He spent a week filming the educational work we do in Tijuana.

We celebrated our Director’s the 28th with a festive meal and on the actual day on the 29th with carrot cake at school with the staff.

Tijuana History

In Puerto Cuevo, which is located in the inlet of the South Island, the construction of the Coronado Islands Yacht Club Hotel and Casino began on wooded piles. The facility consisted of 60 rooms and bungalows, a restaurant, nightclub and casino. Visitors arrived in small boats from San Diego. The famous Al Capone was a frequent guest of the hotel and is said to have financed it. Following the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, and because of the lack of water, the hotel ceased operating in 1935. The ruins can still be seen today and are used by fishermen. The island is guarded by the Mexican navy. The island is clearly visible from the Tijuana coast.

February 2018

Our Director, Pancho, spent most of the first week of February attending meetings: Volunteers and the North Mexican District Educational Assembly. Brother Gabriel Alba was reappointed for a second three term as Visitor of North Mexico.

A group of Saint Mary’s College students arrived for a Ven a Ver Lasallians Without Boarders immigrant experience. This is the second group that has come to Tijuana in recent years. They are coordinated by Yolanda Franco (Lasallian Scholar and former Lasallian Volunteer), accompanied by Mirna Santiago (Professor) and T-J (new Ven a Ver coordinator).

Winter arrived with cold mornings and cool days. LED lighting has been installed in many of our classrooms and hallways. The added light is very welcome, especially during the night classes. Much needed rain finally arrived towards the end of the month.

March 2018

A recent study by Citizens for Public Safety and Penal Justice identified Tijuana as the 5th most violent city in...
the world based on population and homicides. Two other baja peninsula cities make the top ten list, with Los Cabos as number 1 and La Paz as number 6. There is mounting frustration across the nation with elected officials who have done little or nothing to address this urgent issue.

Our Patronato organized the annual Breakfast-Conference in the Hotel Palacio Azteca. More than 250 people attended. The presente was Father Pelpeka.

Our Winter Term was very short-only 10 weeks because of the early date of Holy Week. We ended the term with our usual Fiesta Day on Saturday, March 24th.

Brother Rafael Cuellar, Director of Scholastics joined the community to animate three days of retreat talks for our students during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. Duplicate morning and evening sessions were held to accommodate our students.

Brother Steven Vasoli, FSC
Correspondent

De La Salle High School | Concord, CA

Throughout this school year, De La Salle High School has focused on the theme “Respect for All Persons.” As a core Lasallian principle, this theme has centered many of the liturgies, prayer services, and assemblies at the school. Between February 12-16, 2018, De La Salle’s hosted its 2nd Annual Respect Week, a week characterized by reflection, motivation, insight, and action.

De La Salle welcomed two keynote speakers to campus: Mr. Ashanti Branch, who was here for the 2017 Respect Week, and Dr. Jackson Katz, who is a renowned national speaker on the topics of masculinity and bystander awareness.

Mr. Branch’s organization, Ever Forward Club (www.everforwardclub.org), delves into the masks that young men wear. He asked the Spartans to anonymously write down the characteristics that strengthen them, and then he asked them to write down the characteristics that challenge them from reaching their full potential.

The following day, Dr. Jackson Katz and his colleague La Shonda Coleman met with the entire De La Salle faculty and staff for a day-long workshop about bystander leadership training. With his organization M.V.P. Strategies (www.mvpstrat.com), Dr. Katz focuses on empowering young men and women to say something—to the person, or to a counselor, or to an administrator—when they see abuse, harassment, or assault.

Throughout 2018, De La Salle will expand its partnership with Dr. Katz and his organization with further hands-on training with students, faculty, staff, administrators, and coaches. This conversation is ongoing and evolving, and De La Salle will continue to share its work within our Lasallian community.

Ms. Shannon Danser
Correspondent

De La Salle North Catholic High School | Portland, OR

Boys Basketball Team Wins State

In a rematch of last year's 3A boys state title game, De La Salle North Catholic beat the Dayton Pirates 68-55 in the championship game at the Pirate Palace in Coos Bay on March 3. Senior Kadren Addy and Junior Kadeem Nelson scored 19 points apiece for the top-seeded Knights. De La Salle North Catholic (28-1) took the lead for good on a three-pointer by Addy with 4:39 left in the first half and built the lead to eight points by halftime, before building the lead to as much as 17 points in the fourth quarter. Senior Emmanuel Reiley won 3A State Player of the Year and Coach James Broadous II won 3A State Coach of the Year. The boys finished the complete season with a record of 27-1. Their only loss came on Dec 8, after which they won 24 straight games, another school record. Congratulations, Knights!

11 Courageous Students Take on Mt. Hood

Ms. Argento, Mr. Frank, and Ms. Peacock-Broyles took 11 students (including six who had never snowboarded before) on an 11-hour trip up to Mt. Hood Meadows to partner with volunteers/instructors from SOS Outreach
Everyone made it despite daylight savings taking an hour of sleep from us. The mountain rewarded us with an amazing bluebird, injury-free day! Our core value for the first ride day is always "courage." Throughout the day, we discussed and pointed out examples we saw as we rode and learned together.

Senior Receives RACC Juice Award

Senior Tyler White received the RACC Juice Award, presented by the Regional Arts & Culture Council. The award honors the most innovative, creative and productive people in the Portland Metro region. Tyler is described as an "ambitious, enthusiastic and passionate leader of the future," and praised for using his platform to "tell stories of race and racism, amplifying other voices and perspectives along the way." Congrats, Tyler!

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Ms. Trinity Peacock-Broyles Correspondent

Hilary House Community | Santa Fe, NM

Brother Don Mouton is in the arduous process of getting certification to teach online courses via Blackboard online learning platform for Lewis University’s Albuquerque branch. This is the result of increasing student demand for online courses and increasingly shortened life-expectancy for traditional classroom teaching. Brother Don will be attending a "boot camp" at Lewis University in Romeoville in early June.

On the old College of Santa Fe campus’ barracks area, the city has completed a new 10” water main for the back side of the campus. The buildings that are in use have been hooked up to the new main. The old army water main was cut and capped, ending a lot of old water main leaks that were there. The asbestos shingles siding on the barracks that are slated to be torn down has been removed. In the near future, the barracks themselves will be removed.

In the former Administration Building, the city plans to open a police station for that part of town. The former St. Michael’s Hall A wing is going to be used for about three months to house the city’s Rehab Program while the downtown Rehab building is being remodeled.

Santa Fe University had its spring break March 10 - 19. Brother Ron Bartusiak is still living on campus with the rabbits, prairie dogs, and one skunk. Once in a while, a coyote will pass through.

Besides his usual volunteer Campus Ministry work at Santa Fe Community College and bookkeeping for the two Santa Fe Brothers communities, Brother Jim Brown has been making brief presentations to a class at St. Michael’s High School. These are about social justice type organizations in which students may be interested.

Brother James Brown, FSC
Correspondent

Joseph Aleman Community | Moraga, CA

It took 60 years as a Brother, but CAMILLUS "Fist Bump" CHAVEZ finally made it to the cover of both the Saint Mary's College alumni magazine and a front-page feature article in The Collegian student newspaper. Cam still teaches meditation classes and has given a series of meditation workshops on Saturdays about different archetypes for psychological and spiritual development in September, January, and March. In December, he gave a workshop on Mary, the Annunciation, and on Jesus. Over two years, he has given workshops on a series of 21 archetypes for spiritual development based on the work of the Christian Hermeticist, Valentiln Stromberg, as well as on the scholarship of Sallie Nichols in "An Archetypal Journey" based on Jungian theory. Many of these meditations can be found on Camillus’ website: www.brothercamillus.com.

"Brother Ambassador" RICHARD ARONA is a vital member of the launch team for the new Cristo Rey De La Salle High School (CRDLS) in the Fruitvale District of Oakland. If there isn't a meeting of the team, there is a workshop or being on the phone or on the internet with counterparts at the other 32 Cristo Rey schools throughout the country or visiting one of them to do shadowings. The team has also visited schools which are also engaged in Personalized Learning. No more will there be rooms with rows of desks! Richard has assisted at booths in festivals in Oakland, gone to junior high school open houses, and visited Catholic Churches to speak at Spanish Masses from
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. He has also accompanied on of the team members in visiting African-American megachurches. All are surprised to hear the tuition will be between $250 and $2500 a year per student. Besides sometimes working from Sunday to Sunday, he has helped the Director of the Corporate Work Study Program in lining up sponsors who will provide jobs in their companies/corporations. The first freshman class will start in July.

BROTHER BERNIE LOCOCO continues to divide his time between spiritual counseling, caring for his brother, serving on advisory boards, and flying to San Antonio, TX. In October, he gave a workshop at the Oblate School of Theology on "Prayer and the Journal" and returned in February to give another on "Ministry to Ministers". he gave a presentation on "Gratitude" to directors at their February meeting.

Twenty-five of BROTHER CHARLES HILKEN'S 40 years with vows have been spent teaching at Saint Mary's College of CA. What better way to celebrate than to start a sabbatical year in Spain, then on to Yale for a conference of the International Committee on Latin Palaeography, followed by two weeks of manuscript research in Collegeville, MN at the Hill Museum and Monastic Library.

The year ended with a six-week CIL program in Rome for Brothers director, culminating with a 10-day pilgrimage to France in the steps of the Founder. Charlie will finish the sabbatical year completing a research project on a 11th century manuscript at the Vatican Library, writing book reviews for the Medieval Renaissance Quarterly, The Medieval Review, and Speculum, and, hopefully, finish a larger project on the medieval chapter room. On a more personal note, he spent 10 days in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada visiting the widow of a good friend of his, hearing redactions, serving successfully on the committee which chose a new Provost for SMC, and gathered family and friends in the Alemany community rooms the celebrate his Mother's 100th birthday. It was "a most pleasant affair."

BROTHER CHRIS PATINO reports that as District Vocation Coordinator the fall semester focused on a number of school visits and assisting with representing the Brothers at a few conferences and other promotion events. Meetings took him east with regional vocation/formation meetings taking place in Montreal and the Religious Brothers Conference Boards meeting in New Jersey. The rest of the time was spent accompanying Contact and Aspirants wither visiting on their college campuses or in their hometowns. Accompanying the residential aspirants and supporting their local community also was a large focus of the fall semester.

The semester concluded with him helping lead the faculty/staff December retreat at De La Salle North Catholic and then on to the Contact/Aspirant Advent Retreat in Southern California. Chris then spent the Christmas holidays with family in Los Angeles and catching up with former students. This semester started in frigid Chicago where he and other members of the vocation team assisted with representing the Brothers at the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) Leadership Summit. Following the conference, he returned to Saint Mary's College (where he makes an appearance once in a while!) and prepared for both the Young Men's Called & Chosen Vocation Retreat and his co-leading an Saint Mary’s College Jan Term course to Rome.

Things took an unexpected turn after the unexpected passing of the mother of the professor leading the course. Chris was then asked to take on the leadership of the course until the professor was able to join the two weeks later in Rome. All worked out well due to the careful planning done by the professor and the wonderful folks in Rome. Chris cannot speak highly enough of both the Jan Term Program and the 26 students who participated. Before returning to the USA, Chris had the opportunity to visit the Brothers' Fratelli Project in Lebanon and learn more about how we Brothers are serving the educational needs of Syrian and Iraqi refugee children. His experience there left him very inspired.

There was a brief sighting of him at SMC in mid-February before he hit the road again, this time for Los Angeles where and Brother David Caretti and the Cathedral High School Brothers' Community went to the USC Catholic Center where the Christian Brothers were the featured religious order on Sunday, 26 February. The on to New Orleans where he spoke to classes at Xavier University and helped lead the second Young Men's Called & Chosen Vocation Retreat. Next stop: University of Notre Dame to attend a conference on "Culture of Formation" before returning to New Orleans where he then participated in the Brother John Johnson Institute-SFNO cohort session. In mid-March, Chris and various Brothers staffed the Brothers' vocation booth at the L.A. Religious Education Congress. Br. Chris is very thankful for the many ways the Brothers support and promote vocations and prays "Lord, the work is yours!" (but the airline miles belong to Chris).

As Executive Director of the LEO Center, BROTHER BRENDAN MADDEN was able to present a number of donations to the Mercy Center in Oakland totaling $47,150 in support of retired religious educators and the Brown Bag Program which distributes 1.5 million pounds of food to the elderly. He also serves on the Program's Strategic Planning Committee and assists Mercy's Director of Development in preparing for the Second Annual Wine and Food Festival in October. He is a member of the Saint Columba Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Conference where he helps in the weekly distribution of food to the Afro-American community in Emeryville/Oakland and serves as Spiritual Director when needed.

The week before Christmas, due to an excess of generosity at Saint Columba's, Brendan was able to play Santa for some needy children in Guerneville, CA by delivering 17 frozen turkeys and 50 specially wrapped toys.

And so it goes......

Brother Brendan Madden, FSC
Correspondent
Vancouver resident and philanthropist Elsie Franz Finley and her late brother, Robert W. Franz, have donated $1.25 million to La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, a co-ed high school of 700 in Milwaukie.

$1 million will go toward expanding and renovating the entrance to La Salle’s athletic facilities to make the campus safer and more secure. The project, say school leaders, also will “enhance the overall student experience” by renovating the locker and training rooms and replacing the gym floor.

When complete, the renovated athletic facility will be named for the late Father Lawrence Saalfeld, a longtime La Salle trustee and church pastor who Franz Finley described as “one great priest.”

The balance of the gift will establish – as part of the La Salle Educational Foundation – the Father Saalfeld Endowment Fund, which will award need-based scholarships so underserved students can attend La Salle.

“The gift has a special sentimentality because it comes from Elsie Franz Finley, who served La Salle as the first woman trustee,” said Denise Jones, president of La Salle Prep. “It also honors two values that Father Saalfeld held dear: Access to Catholic education for all students and the life lessons kids learn through sports.”

Saalfeld was a faithful fan of the Falcons. He often came to basketball games and cheered for La Salle from the bleachers. On the Feast of St. Nick, he dressed up as Kris Kringle and walked down hallways of the school to give candy to students.

“Naming this space after him is perfect because he knew how to connect with kids,” said Jones. “It was a delight to witness the joy he received from simply being with our students.”

Franz, who was a banking executive, and his sister got to know Father Saalfeld while Saalfeld served as pastor of Milwaukie’s St. John the Baptist Catholic Church from 1968-1983. The family got involved with La Salle when Saalfeld invited Franz Finley to join him on the school’s board of trustees.

“Catholic people, especially in the southeast metro area, have a responsibility to provide religious education to our youth,” said Saalfeld, who died in 2007. “La Salle has been and continues to be vital to the Church’s mission and deserves our full support and that of the community at large.”

The donation came as a result of a letter Saalfeld sent to the Franz family about 20 years ago. In the letter, the priest asked the siblings to fund a new chapel for the school.

In January – a little more than a year after her brother died – Franz Finley came across the letter again. Curious, she called La Salle. After learning the chapel campaign had ended, she asked if there was another way her family could honor Father Saalfeld at the school he loved so much. Yes, she was told. There was.

“We have much to be thankful for at La Salle,” said Andrea Burns, La Salle’s vice president of foundation and major gifts. “We continue to realize the many blessings from those who came before us – those who believed and had faith in the Lasallian mission and the school.”

Since growing up in Milwaukie, the Franz siblings have made an enormous impact on Catholic ministries throughout the Northwest. Their support of the University of Portland led to construction of a 78,000-square-foot academic building named Franz Hall. In addition, their gifts to the Providence Portland Medical Foundation led to the establishment of the Robert W. Franz Cancer Research Center, which has more than 100 researchers specializing in immunotherapy.

The gift – the second-largest La Salle has received since opening in 1966 – means that Robert Franz, Elsie Franz Finley, and Father Saalfeld always will be part of the Falcon family.

“We are incredibly grateful for their tremendous gift,” said Burns. “It will have a lasting impact on our community, especially our students.”

Ms. Lisa Daniels
Correspondent
More than 200 La Salle students received recognition for their academic achievements at the school’s Academic Awards ceremony on January 25, 2018. Jaime Kwong, Class of 2014 and recently awarded 2018 Marshall Scholar recipient spoke to the student body, faculty, and select chairs of the Boards of Regents and Trustees about her Lasallian experience. La Salle High School’s President Richard Gray, Principal Courtney Kassakhian, and Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction Tina Bonacci ’94 awarded the certificates and honors.

“The academic achievements awarded to this group of students today is a reflection of the students’ notable diligence, hard work and motivation to succeed in the academic environment,” stated Gray.

President Gray also awarded Robin Cadd ’19 the 2018 Robert Alcorn Scholarship in Humanities and Joshua Ng ’19 the Bob Thomas Scholarship in Math and Science. Each student was nominated for his or her distinguished academic achievements, including each maintaining a GPA of 4.3 or higher for each of the last five semesters.

Almost 400 students received recognition for being inducted into five of La Salle High School’s honors societies: California Scholarship Federation (CSF), National Honors Society (NHS), Science National Honors Society (SNHS), Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honors Society, and the Hispanic Honors Society. Over 200 of the aforementioned students were awarded Gold Certificates for having earned a GPA above 4.0 in the 2017 spring semester. Lastly, La Salle High School awarded 22 students with the Academic Achievement Award for their feat of increasing their GPA by 0.5 points or more by the end of the semester.

Mr. John Blackstock
Correspondent

Provincialate Community | Napa, CA

December Adventure

As indicated in the last newsletter, the end of December saw the actual implementation of the “Swimming with the Manatees Project” in Florida by Brothers James Joost, Jack Henderson, Thomas Westberg and Mark Murphy. It was all that it promised to be and then some – bordered on the “mystical” as accounted by one and “really impressive” agreed by all! The manatees were friendly and gentle, the guide was excellent (and very understanding of one participant whose coughing and sneezing from a cold did not help keep his head and scuba equipment continuously in the water) – all factors that made the entire trip well worth the effort. Jim and Jack stayed in the water the longest and were rewarded by getting to a lagoon with crystal clear water and excellent pictures of interacting with the manatees. It was the unanimous conclusion by all that we would recommend the trip to anyone considering it.

Funerals

We had a series of funerals during this time period for Brothers from the Holy Family Community and an Affiliated Member – all who had lived good lives and peacefully returned to God: Brothers Dominic Berardelli, La Salle Bossong, Conrad Kearny, Brendan Kneale and Fr. Patrick La Belle,OP, AFSC. The eulogies and responses from many who came for the services were genuinely encouraging and brought home the Founder’s 16th Meditation for the Time of Retreat: “What joy it will be for a Brother…to see in heaven the students whose salvation he has helped to secure…” (At press time, the District announced the passing of Brother Philip Keavney, who died on April 1 in Napa.)

Community Life

February turned out to have a number of occasions when the community gathered for reflection on our life together: a review of our Annual CAP; District Day presentations/discussion by Brothers and Lasallian Partners on the theme of experiencing consecration and the mission – with the evening celebration of various years of jubilee; and a community day of Recollection on the First Sunday of Lent given to discussing Chapter Three of the Pope’s JOY OF THE GOSPEL. Two major areas of our community experience were clearly valued: the ministry of hospitality that we offer as the Provincialate community and our own Friday experiences of shared faith and prayer centered on the Sunday gospel.
March Intercapitular Meeting – Rome

Brothers Donald and James have returned and shared with the community both their experiences in Rome and the reflections of the District Council’s reflections from their meeting on the 26th.

Prayers and blessings of the celebration of the Resurrection to all.

Brother Mark Murphy, FSC
Correspondent

Saint Mary’s College High School | Berkeley, CA

Easter Greetings, Fellow Lasallians! March rains continue here in Berkeley, but nothing is dampening the spirit of the Panther sports teams, including the Boys’ Basketball Team that made it to the Division 4 Regional playoffs with huge support on St. Patrick’s Day! Irish Green was all Panther RED & WHITE that night in the school gym! In an instant overtime classic, the Saint Mary’s Panthers fell to upset-minded Stuart Hall of San Francisco 62-68. Great run by the Panthers this season! As spring arrives, the weather is not daunting the construction crews busy completing the new Saint Mary’s Student Chapel.

Panthers – from Sea to Shining Sea! Faculty and students could be found around the campus, around Berkeley, around the San Francisco Bay Area, the USA, and the globe during Enrichment Week in early March. Several dozen faculty-created courses for the annual program provided adventures this year from woodworking class and building stereo speakers; learning to cook and drive; extreme sports; culture, hiking, and nature journeys around the Bay; a multitude of service projects; college visits and more, to exploration of people and places in Israel, Morocco, Lasallian schools in the Philippines; sights and sounds of New York City; the Underground Railroad Museum (and BBQ) in Memphis; New Orleans Jazz; and the annual visit to De La Salle Blackfeet School in Montana. This and much, much more engaged students in community-building, self-awareness, discovery of untapped talents, and a great look at the great world outside the classroom.

Vimeo Saint Mary’s! Want to see Saint Mary’s up close and personal? Thanks to the great work by Brother Dan Morgan, FSC, sports, events, Enrichment Week, chapel construction, and so much more is available in short videos on Vimeo, at the right side of the school web site home page at www.saintmaryschs.org. Check it out!

Speaking of Movies: The newest Marvel Comics hero to hit the big screen is "The Black Panther," that’s breaking records around the world. Saint Mary's very own Panther, Ryan Coogler, Class of 2003, is the director and co-wrote the screenplay. Coogler also wrote and directed "Fruitvale Station" (2013) and co-wrote and directed "Creed" (2015). After Saint Mary's, Coogler attended CSU Sacramento and USC School of Cinematic Arts. Want to see Saint Mary's and its historic Peralta Park campus on the big screen (well, on your TV)? Check TV listings or your video rental resource for the Marin, California-produced and really enjoyable 2008 film, "Her Best Move," about high school soccer. The school campus appears in about 90% of the scenes and looks great. A number of Saint Mary's students, now alumni, joined the production as extras!

President Named: On January 25, Saint Mary's Board of Trustees announced its selection of Mr. Lawrence Puck to succeed Brother Edmond Larouche, FSC, as President of Saint Mary's College High School, effective...
A native of San Francisco, Lawrence is an alumnus of Saint Mary’s Class of 1978, and has a BS in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco. He joined the Saint Mary’s staff in 1980, and has served as teacher, Dean of Student Life, Director of Campus Ministry, Vice President for Operations, Director of Admissions, Director of Alumni Relations, Director of Communications, and most recently, Vice President. Brother Edmond, a Class of 1966 alumnus, has served as school President since 1997 and is the Director of the Brothers’ Community on campus. He announced his retirement last August.

A Precious Gift: Eleven young women “made the cut” after school on February 15, donating eight inches or more of their hair for Pantene’s “Making the Cut” program that makes wigs for children with cancer. The generous group included five freshmen, three sophomores, one junior, one senior, and Math teacher Kelsey Holtzinger. Generous volunteer stylists from the Napa area were on hand again to cut and style donors’ hair at no cost. Perhaps the most striking transformation was sophomore Medea Sanabria (pictured) who glowed throughout the process, having grown her hair for many months just for this special gift.

Learning, Up Close: Math teacher and Panther Track & Field coach, Mr. Jonathan Heuer, shared a photo of his Introduction to Architecture class getting a study-tour of the school chapel site in late January. The tour was led by two of the Mark Cavagnero Associates architects (San Francisco), the head Roebbelen Co. contractor, and school president Brother Edmond Larouche. "The kids loved it," said Mr. Heuer, "and they got to keep the safety glasses!" Meanwhile, Religious Studies teacher, Mr. Jeremy Marks, and three seniors represented Saint Mary's and the school's Peace and Justice Club at the third annual Bay Area Social Justice Teach-In at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland on January 27. More than 100 students from ten high schools participated.

Student Standouts: Junior Alexander Lieske has been awarded a Congressional Award Gold Medal in a program of the United States Congress which offers awards to young Americans who set and achieve goals in the categories of public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration. Lieske has already received bronze and silver medals, and his gold medal will be presented to him in Washington, D.C. in June. One of Saint Mary’s newest club sports is making great strides. Earlier this year the F.I.R.S.T. Tech Challenge Robotics Team, “Robust Robots,” took first place among 26 teams at a qualifying tournament. With a record of nine wins and one loss, they were set to compete against the best teams in Northern California. “FIRST” (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 to inspire young people’s interest and participation in science and technology.

Saint Mary’s AP student artwork was on display during February at the local Espresso Roma Café around the corner from campus. The annual show is a great hit with café patrons and neighbors.

Lenten Service: The Saint Mary’s community gathered in the auditorium for an Ash Wednesday liturgy and distribution of ashes on February 14, also celebrating Valentine’s Day with treats and activities. The community celebrated Black History Month during February, highlighting the school’s Inclusive Community web site, which provided student-gathered prayers for Black History and Heritage. Lent also means time for the annual food drive for the County Community Food Bank, weekly student-made PB&J sandwich donations to the Berkeley Catholic Worker, and, after Easter, the annual toiletries drive in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Saint Mary’s annual and always highly successful Red Cross Blood drive takes place March 27 in
the school gym, drawing families, alumni, neighbors and friends to donate to the cause.

**In Solidarity and Prayer:** At ten o’clock on March 14, the Saint Mary’s community gathered around the campus Cross for 17 minutes in remembrance of the students killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida a month earlier. The prayer service was coordinated by student leaders as part of the larger nationwide event taking place that same day.

**“Mysterious and Spooky”:** Everyone’s looking forward to the Performing Arts Department’s annual spring production. In late April, they will present five performances of “The Addams Family Musical.” The cast and crew are working hard, right through Easter vacation, to put on a great (but “creepy and kooky”) show!

Best wishes from Saint Mary’s High to fellow Lasallians around the District for a Happy Easter and successful wind-down to the school year.

*Ms. Jeanne Gray Loughman*
*Correspondent*

**Saint Michael’s High School | Santa Fe, NM**

*Community News*

The Christmas holidays began early with students bearing gifts for the Brothers. This is an annual project for Janis Chitwood, one of the teachers, and the students outdid themselves with a shopping bag stuffed with goodies for each Brother. Another early treat was a visit from Brother James Joost and Mary Kelly. The latter was able to begin getting acquainted with each of the Brother and their needs and also meet with our visiting nurse, Monika Laendle, to begin “electronicizing” the Brothers’ health information. Those of us who are technologically challenged will much appreciate the help with that task!

During the holidays and after, Brother Brian Dybowski continued to improve in his mobility and has received a number of visits from former students, colleagues, and friends. Former student, Linda McLellan, and her husband, Ed, a retired physicist from Los Alamos, have visited several times as has former CSF colleague, Cheryl Odom. Also making a couple of visits were Dr. Ed Ochoa and his wife, Judy. He was in college with Brothers Brian and George Hetzel and he visits from El Paso when he can.

The holidays were quiet and pleasant for the Brothers. Brother Mel Pelton took the opportunity to visit friends in El Paso. Unfortunately, Brother Tom Daigle’s health deteriorated over the same period so he was not able to participate in most of the festivities.

With the beginning of basketball season, Brothers Martin Swonke and Mel resumed their support of the teams. Unfortunately, support does not always compensate for discrepancies in talent between the Horsemen and their opponents – as one report in the newspaper pointed out, “You can’t coach height.” Still, the students appreciate the Brothers presence. In fact, Brother Mel has even traveled for a few out-of-town games either with the team or with friends to assure their play is cheered loudly. As baseball season has begun, they provide similar support for those athletes.

With the new year came quite a few health problems, with several Brothers developing colds or flu. Fortunately, most seem to have recovered reasonably well, thanks to good care from our visiting nurse, Monika, who also assures many Brothers get to their doctors’ appointments and tracks their taking their medications. Brother Brian has continued to improve in mobility and activity levels, and his tests show the therapy sessions are helping him improve. Bill O’Donnell, a friend who has been associated with the Spirituality Institute for many years, stayed with the community several weeks because his health problems prevented him from living alone. Bro. Joe graciously shared his second room with him. After considerable improvement, Bill suffered a setback then got back on the road to recovery and was able to return to his own place about the end of February. Prayers for all who are suffering various maladies are appreciated!

Brother Ricardo Palacio has continued addressing “deferred maintenance”, aided by a couple of the maintenance staff of the school. The dent in the need is still relatively small, but the improvements are noticeable. We hosted worker Frederico, his wife, Brenda, and 2 of their children at lunch to express our appreciation for his maintenance work for the Brothers and her assisting with Brother Brian with his morning needs. He is leaving St. Mike’s to take a position at the Cathedral.

On February 26, the community hosted for dinner 4 young men who would be attending the Called and Chosen
retreat. Their parents also attended and were able to meet the Brothers informally. **Brother Ricardo** accompanied the students to Baton Rouge for the event. Please join us in praying for them as they discern their vocation.

On March 1, **Brother Christopher Brady** joined our community. He will guide some renovations needed to bring the residence up to standards for the Brothers as we have greater physical needs. About a week later, Mont La Salle health care coordinator **Mary Kelly** came to assess whether **Brother Tom** would be able to move to Napa, which was planned for shortly after his 91st birthday which was March 9. Because he was not quite ready to travel, Mary will return in April. Fortunately, he was well enough to celebrate his birthday in style with Mass followed by a Cajun dinner of catfish courtbouillon prepared by **Brother Don Mouton**. **Cheryl Odom** provided side dishes, and **Patsy**, our cook, prepared his preferred cherry birthday cake. Cheryl and other friends from the College days have begun treating the Brothers to Friday evening dinners which is why she was helping with the celebration. Also participating were our nurse, **Monika**, and her brother, **Manfred**, a photographer who recorded the event with photos.

Absent from the celebration were **Brothers Arthur Carroll** and **Ricardo**, who had planned to assist **Brother Tom** on his trip to Napa. Rather than lose the tickets they already had, they decided to visit California anyway.

Another visitor was **Brother Mariano Lopez**, who was in town briefly for the funeral of his uncle, **Joe Velarde**. Brother wasn’t able to stay except for the day of the funeral but returned to his duties at Cathedral in El Paso immediately.

Also making his annual visit in March was **Brother Jerome Cox**. He was headed West on his annual “show and sell” journey through the U.S. in support of his school in Italy. After several days in Santa Fe, he continued his “Westward, Ho!” trek. He will return to spend the last several days of Holy Week with us.

We have had a relatively warm and very dry winter, so the ski areas are suffering lack of snow. Perhaps spring will be more generous than winter. The whole state is in a declared state of drought, so please pray that the Lord will bless us and our water sources lest spring and summer fire seasons be devastating!

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**Brother George Hetzel, FSC**
**Correspondent**

**Saint Paul’s School | Covington, LA**

**Community News**

After a rather cold winter, spring seems to settled in here in Louisiana. The birds are nesting in their comfortable lodgings made by Brother Alfred Baltz. The Canadian geese have returned to our small lake island to build their nests. Hopefully, come Easter, there will be baby goslings swimming in our lake. Of course, with the budding flowers and the pollen falling from the pine trees, there’s a lot of sneezing and watery eyes. Beauty does come with a price. The Azaleas are in bloom and they are especially beautiful this year.

Prayers are requested for Brother Jeffrey Calligan who fell down and fractured his upper right arm. He also is being treated for congestive heart failure. We hope to have him back for the celebration of his 60th anniversary of Habit Taking which will take place at District Day on April 21st.

**Brother Robert O’Kane** was away from the community for a week on a Caribbean Cruise with his sister.

**Brother Bill Ray** celebrated his 75th birthday on February 24th. On February 27th, Brother Duane Gregory celebrated his 93rd birthday. **Brother Director**, **Brother Jerry Vincent**, celebrated his 80th birthday.

On March 17th, we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day. Our cook **Barbara**, when she realized that it was St. Patrick’s Day, ran home to dress in green. Happily, for the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th, we were able to have a priest to celebrate Mass.

**Brother Louis Welker** is busy with the annual St. La Salle Auxiliary Drive. So far, the results look very promising. He conducts the Auxiliary Drive exactly like late Brother Daniel Duplantis. Please remember to pray for all the living and deceased members of the Auxiliary.

**Brother Ralph** continues to work in the gardens around the residence and in the courtyard. Brother Duane Gregory makes sure that the ant piles are kept under control and he is a dedicated weed killer. Twice a week, a student from the Key Club comes after school to lend him a hand.

Our **Marian Players** presented the musical Godspell. Every performance was sold out much to the delight of Denny Charbonnet, our Drama director.

In observance of the national student walk out in memory of the victims of the Florida school shootings, St. Paul’s held a prayer service with the entire student body present.

In the middle of March, the community purchased a handicapped van in order to help the Brothers in wheel chairs get to their medical appointment. **Brother John Fairfax** made the maiden voyage in our new acquisition.
During Holy Week, the Marian Players presented a Passion Play for the entire student body. It was a very moving performance.

Back in the community, Brother Louis Welker, Brother Duane Gregory and Brother Peter Dudenheffer prepared things for the Easter Triduum. Brother Louis Welker claims that the Easter Triduum is a sacristan’s nightmare. Mr. Charles Legendre, AFSC served as musical director for the Easter Vigil. Father Killian Togh, OSB was our celebrant for both Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter Season!

Brother Louis Welker, FSC
Correspondent

School News

Saint Paul’s HOSA Wolves recently attended its State Leadership Conference. HOSA is an international student organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science division of the Association for Career and Technical Education. The Conference is a three-day event where participants attend workshops and compete in knowledge and skills testing. The Wolves returned with seven first-place and seven second-place awards, for a second-place overall finish.

Saint Paul’s junior Jackson Gold scored a perfect 36 composite score on the ACT. Three of his classmates - Andrew Norlin, Ross Hightower, and David Needles - each scored 35.

Senior Luc Hebert was recognized as Journalist of the Year by the Louisiana Journalism Education Association (LJEA). Students from over 80 schools were entered in the competition. Luc received a four-year academic scholarship to Loyola University New Orleans and will represent Louisiana at the National JEA Conference in April.

Saint Paul’s Senior, Robert Anthony Ferrante III, received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland for the fall of 2018.

On March 19th, Saint Paul’s celebrated Saint Joseph’s Day with the New Orleans tradition of the Saint Joseph’s Altar. Saint Joseph is the patron saint of the Christian Brothers and revered in Sicily for answering prayers during a famine. The altars are divided into three sections, representing the Holy Trinity, and filled with traditional foods as offerings of thanksgiving.

The Saint Paul’s Marian Players presented their 25th anniversary production, Godspell, March 19-29 at the school’s Alumni Memorial Theatre. This marked the fifth revival of the school production, which has run every five years since 1990. It also marked the final production for Saint Paul’s drama director Denny Charbonnet, who will be retiring after 31 years at the helm.

The Marian Players also performed a dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus for the Brothers, administration, and faculty and student body of the school on March 28th in the Briggs Assembly Center.

The annual Celebrity Waiters fundraiser dinner on March 22 was a wonderful success, with over 300 attendees. Entertainment was provided by the “Soul Queen of New Orleans”, Irma Thomas.

Ms. Karen Hebert
Correspondent
Pre-Synod Gathering | Rome, Italy

“This trip keeps becoming more and more amazing!”

A worldwide gathering of young Catholics last month left a historic mark on the life of the Church and gave its participant from the District of San Francisco New Orleans a considerable collection of unique experiences and memories.

The Pre-Synodal Gathering of Young People took place March 19 – 25 in Rome. It included approximately 300 “live” delegates and guests, with close to an additional 15,000 young persons participating via social media and other online platforms. Among the delegates in attendance was Brother Javier Hansen, FSC, from the District of San Francisco New Orleans. Brother Javier was one of three U.S. delegates and the Gathering’s only De La Salle Christian Brother delegate. He arrived looking forward to being able to “offer the perspective of many young religious in this country and those who are currently discerning religious life.”

With the theme, “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment,” the Pre-Synod Gathering focused on input and conversations around 15 key questions posed to participants. The questions addressed in various ways issues impacting the faith life of young people, vocation discernment among young people, and young people’s pastoral experience of the Church.

On the final day of the Pre-Synod, the delegates submitted to Pope Francis a formal summary of their observations and recommendations. Final Document of the Pre-Synodal Meeting of Young People is a 7000-plus word statement representing the distillation of 26 separate reports from the Gathering delegates’ work groups.

Throughout the Pre-Synod, Brother Javier shared much of his daily experiences via Instagram. His first posts were of the excitement of his first visit to Rome, including the Generator and the Vatican. “My first St Peter's sighting,” he wrote. “Nothing could have prepared me for the gradual magnificence of walking up to the piazza.”

The opening session of the Pre-Synod provided another extraordinary first for Brother Javier when the Holy Father, Pope Francis, arrived. “I was able to shake hands with Pope Francis and introduce myself. An amazing dialogue with Pope Francis and young people from every continent.”

As the work of the Gathering began, Brother Javier posted: “A true cosmopolitan experience. We began our work session by breaking up into language groups. English is the most popular with eight small groups. There are people in my group from England, Australia, Zimbabwe, Greece, Poland, Germany, Jordan, Egypt, Slovenia, Poland, Philippines, and Romania.”

Both local and international news organizations’ coverage of the Pre-Synod included interviewing delegates. “Today consisted of meeting with both Eternal Word Television Network and Catholic News Service to do interviews,” Brother Javier reported.

Regarding the delegates’ experience of the Pre-Synod, a significant component proved to be the opportunity for engage with international perspectives and concerns. In a print interview with CNS, Brother Javier said that he had observed to his fellow delegates, “One of the characteristics of the American church is this extreme polarization between liberal and conservative Catholics, and I was surprised that one thing I found was that that is more or less uniquely American.”

In addition to his work as a Pre-Synod delegate, Brother Javier’s week was also filled with enough special encounters and enrichments to lead him to post, “This trip keeps becoming more and more amazing!” His adventures included time exploring Vatican City and Rome, a concert at Castel Gandolfo, Vespers in the Sistine Chapel, and the Via Crucis at the Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano. He also had the pleasure of bringing a number of his fellow delegates for a visit to the Generalate.

The Gathering concluded on March 25 with Brother Javier and his fellow delegates walking in the Palm Sunday Mass procession with Pope Francis. An unforgettable and to an unbelievable week.
Former OOE Member Heather Ruple Gilson Named Co-Secretary of Lasallian Association

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General, has announced that former District of San Francisco New Orleans Director, Young Lasallians, Heather Ruple Gilson, will serve as Co-Secretary of Lasallian Association for the Institute, effective September, 2018.

Brother Robert made the announcement on the Institute website. The announcement reads in part:

“I am delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. Heather Ruple Gilson as the Co-Secretary of Lasallian Association. As Co-Secretary, Heather will work closely with Br. Paco Chiva who, with her, is also Co-Secretary of Lasallian Association.

Her appointment is a concrete sign of our commitment to engage all Lasallians, especially women, in delivering the Lasallian educational mission.

With her husband and two small daughters, upon hearing the news of our appointment Heather said: ‘I am very excited and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Secretariat for Association and Mission. Thank you for the trust and confidence. I look forward to meeting and working with Brother Paco and beginning to plan how we will be able to move Association for Mission forward for the Lasallian Family.’”

Read complete announcement from Brother Robert Schieler, Superior General.

Spring Job Alike Workshops Continue to Grow

The Office of Education’s annual job alike workshops for District Lasallian educators continued this spring with two well-attended and enthusiastic gatherings.


37 teachers from 16 schools participated in the world languages workshop, while 27 teachers from 14 schools attended the visual and performing arts workshop.

The job alike workshops are planned and directed by SFNO Director of Formation for Mission Greg Kopra.

Kopra’s planning includes meeting with participants in advance to help determine workshop content and also to involve attendees as presenters and facilitators.

The Office of Education job alike workshops gather Lasallian educators in specific subject or student program areas every other year. The goal is to bring them together to meet, share, network, and learn, all in light of the Lasallian mission.

In addition, workshops in school administrative areas have recently been added, including institutional advancement directors, school finance directors, and school communications directors. These are being conducted in conjunction with the Office of Education.

Young Lasallians Summer Event Sign-Ups Begin

Registrations for the SFNO summer, 2018 Young Lasallian events are underway.

Sign-ups have begun for both the June 17-22 Lasallian Youth Assembly and the July 15-20 Lasallian Student Leaders gathering.

The Lasallian Youth Assembly (LYA) will be held at the University of Portland, Oregon. This year’s theme will be “Hidden No More: Shedding Light on Human Trafficking.” Participants will be joined by experts in the field, will learn about the social justice concerns facing those who have been trafficked, and will be invited to respond as Young Lasallians and members of the Lasallian Family.

Lasallian Student Leaders (LSL) will convene at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga. In its 15th year, LSL will continue to provide SFNO high school student leaders with skills training, best-practice sharing, and planning opportunities to enhance their effectiveness as principle and mission-centered Lasallian leaders.

Both of these Young Lasallian summer events are directed by Kenenna Amuzie, Director, Young Lasallians. The events are sponsored by the SFNO Office of Education.
The SFNO District’s 2018 Called & Chosen Vocation Retreats took place during the first half of the winter semester. The Retreats are annual gatherings offered by the District’s Office of Education Young Lasallians Programs, with support from the District’s Office of Vocation Ministry.

The first young men’s retreat was held January 13-15, followed by the young women’s retreat February 17-19. Both took place at St. Joseph’s Camp, California. The second young men’s retreat was held March 2-4 at Greenwell Springs, Louisiana.

Forty-four young men representing 14 schools, and nineteen young women representing seven schools, each participated in one of the three scheduled retreats. Staff members from the District’s Office of Education, as well as vocation coordinators from the participants’ schools, rounded out the attendees.

Participating schools included Archbishop Rummel High School; Cathedral High School, El Paso; Christian Brothers High School; De La Salle High School, Concord; De La Salle High School, New Orleans; De La Salle North Catholic; Justin-Siena High School; La Salle Catholic College Preparatory; La Salle High School, Yakima; Mullen High School, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory; Saint Michael’s High School; Saint Paul’s School; and San Miguel High School.

Each year, the Called & Chosen Retreats bring together high school juniors and seniors wishing to consider more closely their vocation by reflecting on who they are and who God is calling them to be. The Lasallian tenets of faith, service, and community provide a framework by which students consider their personal journeys up to the present. They consider their own experiences, as well as reflect on those models of faith, service, and community that have helped shape them into who they are now becoming.

The retreats provide time for prayer, personal reflection, small group sharing, and vocation talks by those called to marriage, the single vocation, and religious life. Through the accompaniment of school moderators, members of the District Vocation Team, and other support staff, the students spend time discerning where God is leading them and how they can respond to God’s successive calls. The hope is that students leave with insight and encouragement. As one student participant commented, “A highlight for me was to know that, no matter which vocation I choose, God will always be there.”

Students regularly express the impact of being able to come together from Lasallian schools across the District and build community with one another. This happens through both the formal activities noted, and also through informal times such as evening socials and recreation. In addition, each retreat allows students a time of personal prayer which leads into the communal celebration of the Sunday liturgy. As one student participant commented, “I will take away new friends and a deeper understanding of my faith.”

The retreats close with an invitation for students to consider their ongoing participation in the Lasallian mission beyond high school, and with a commissioning prayer service in which students are encouraged to go forth in a spirit of service rooted in the Gospel. Offering her observations of this year’s retreats, Kenenna Amuzie, Director of Young Lasallian Programs commented, “The profound spirit of openness shown by the students was incredibly moving.” Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, Director of Vocation Ministry, added, “It is incredibly hopeful to see these young people express a deeper sense of the presence of God in their lives.”

Story courtesy Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, Director of Vocation Ministry. Photos courtesy Simon Rebullida, Justin-Siena High School vocation coordinator, except March 2-4 group photo, courtesy Brother Chris Patiño, FSC.
SFNO’s Residential Aspirants and Postulants: In Their Own Words

Francisco Barenco | Residential Aspirant, Saint Mary's College High School

“I grew up in Mexico, the youngest of six with two teachers as parents, in a household where religious education and our academic preparation took priority over everything else. My parents had an intrinsic relationship with their faith. We would pray the rosary every day and hear my father’s reminder: ‘The family that prays together stays together.’ I guess there must have been something to that because we are a very close family.”

“Unlike most of the contacts and aspirants, I did not attend a Lasallian school. My first contact was with Brother James Joost and Chris Patiño. My first visit was with the Sacred Heart Community in San Francisco. We visited De Marillac. The homeless. The free dinner. Afterwards, it was like fireworks in my head and my soul. I knew instantly that I wanted to serve Christ by serving the poorest of the poor.”

“Living in community has allowed me to observe the Brothers live the mission by working tirelessly and yet always being happy knowing that they are doing it all for Jesus. It has been edifying to follow their prayer life, their mission, and always being present for anyone. Watching them serve the poor, prepare their prayer just like they would a lesson, has confirmed in my soul that I want to be serving Christ by serving others as well.”

Raphael Rodriguez | Postulant, Cathedral High School El Paso

“I was born in Aguascalientes, Mexico in a very tight knit family; we lived with my grandfather and an aunt. I spent about three years as a child in Mexico before coming back to the United States for good. I am from Boyle Heights outside of East L.A. and attended Cathedral High School. My sophomore year of college I decided I would attend a university in the east coast; I needed change. As fate would have it, my time with the Brothers would be extended studying at La Salle University.”

“I first met the Brothers in my interview night for Cathedral with Brother John Montgomery and really got to know them through Brother Chris Patiño and Brother Paul-Andre Durham. As a whole, what impressed me the most was how genuine they all seemed to be. They looked out for our best interest even when we were the ones causing them many a headache. The fact that Brother Paul never gave up on the immature freshman and sophomore that I was always stayed with me.”

“For me, the draw has always been about the community. My passion for the students and this ministry came when I finally stepped into my own classroom. I think a key moment this year that let me know I was on the right track was my 5th period freshman religion class. Although rowdy and rambunctious, I have always made sure to let them know that they are collectively better.”

Andrew Wozniak | Residential Aspirant, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory

“I grew up in a family of eight in a small town called Lake in the Hills, Illinois. I was a huge Chicago Cubs, Bears, and Bulls fan and loved doing cross country and track in high school. I felt called to be a teacher when I took U.S. History during my junior year. My teacher, Mr. Powe, was a wonderful teacher with very creative ways of presenting his material. I was also inspired by my first U.S. history professor, Dr. Larry McAndrews, at St. Norbert College.”

“My first experience with a Brother was at St. Mary's College, Brother Charles Hilken. He left such a strong impression on me that I wanted to continue to see him after I graduated. When he invited me to have dinner with his community, I accepted without hesitation. He and the Brothers were so peaceful and relaxed, but also strong with their faith. I fell in love with the program almost immediately and realized that I needed to give this a chance and see if it was the right path for me.”

“I find myself called to be the mentor to my own students that other Brothers have been to me. Moments that stand out for me are the love and support I have received from my fellow community members. When I have struggled throughout my first year of teaching, the community has stepped in to help me lesson plan, guest lecture, visit my classroom, and interact with my own students. I feel lucky to be a part of a program that allows me to experience this every single day.”
Brother Philip Keavney, FSC, passed away on April 1, 2018.
† Claudia Hoover, sister of Brother John Hoover, FSC, passed away on February 27, 2018.
† Joe Velarde, uncle of Brother Mariano Lopez, FSC, passed away on February 27, 2018.
† David Gallagher, brother of Brother Ronald Gallagher, FSC, passed away on February 25, 2018.
† Brother Brendan Kneale, FSC, passed away on February 22, 2018.
† Brother Conrad Kearney, FSC, passed away on February 5, 2018.
† Maryanne Leahy, mother of Lasallian Partner Denise Jones, passed away on January 22, 2018.
† Brother La Salle Bossong, FSC, passed away on January 21, 2018.
† Johannes Pattiradjawane, CNA at the Holy Family Community, Mont La Salle, passed away on January 8, 2018.
† Louis Myer, AFSC, passed away on December 30, 2017.
† Brother Dominic Berardelli, FSC, passed away on December 28, 2017.

Papal Intentions

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.

JUNE
Universal: Social Networks
That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

JULY
Evangelization: Priests and their Pastoral Ministry
That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

AUGUST
Universal: The treasure of Families
That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

SEPTEMBER
Universal: Young People in Africa
That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

OCTOBER
Evangelization: The Mission of Religious
That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

NOVEMBER
Universal: In the Service of Peace
That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

DECEMBER
Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith
That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.
Formation mates (l-r) Brothers Kevin Slate, Jack Henderson, James Joost and Jesus Lara enjoy a reunion at District Day. 
*Photo courtesy Br. James Joost.*

Br. Javier Hansen discovers that the Founder’s name is very well known in certain parts of Rome!
*Photo courtesy Br. Javier Hansen.*

John Roberto opens the LCAP workshop day at Christian Brothers HS.
*Photo courtesy SFNO Communications.*

The Johnston Institute SFNO Cohort II participants pose at the entrance to De La Salle HS in New Orleans.
*Photo courtesy Chris Trinidad.*

Br. Robert Schieler, Superior General (r) and Br. Tim Coldwell, General Councillor, RELAN, with a copy of the new RELAN Communications Plan.
*Photo courtesy Generalate Communications.*

SFNO’s attendees of LASSCA 2018 in Orlando, FL.
*Photo courtesy Christian Brothers Conference Communications.*