



LASALLIAN NOTES

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ★ DISTRICT OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

FALL 2024 • VOL. 25

NOT ALL MISSIONS ARE OVERSEAS

Brothers Open the “Little School” in Homestead Florida

By definition, a “mission” is a ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work. Three hundred and forty-four years ago, St. John Baptist de La Salle felt that the only way to bring youth out of poverty was through education. Thus, with his newly formed band of Brothers, he began his mission of creating schools for poor boys. These modest institutions, affectionately known as “little schools,” laid the foundation for a revolutionary approach to education, one that prioritized accessibility, compassion, and holistic development. These spread throughout France, then Europe, and eventually to the eighty countries that the Christian Brothers are in today. When the Brothers began their first school in the United States in 1845, it is probable that they referred to their work here as a mission.

In 1991, a group of alumni from Lasallian schools in Cuba, who had been exiled under Castro, founded La Salle Educational Center (LEC) in Homestead FL. This after-school and summer program was to serve the needs of low-income families who work in the agricultural fields. Homestead, a city to the south of Miami FL—located between the Everglades and Biscayne National Park—is almost 70% Latino.

In 2020, the District of Eastern North America (DENA) assumed the covenant relationship to oversee and steward the work of La Salle Educational Center. By 2023, the Brothers felt



Archbishop Thomas Wenski blesses the school building in Homestead FL.

called to further address the educational needs of these children, as part of their renewed call to reach out to the periphery. This “mission” school would meet the needs of an impoverished and underserved area, where the closest existing Catholic school is more than fifteen miles away.

The Little School, opened its doors for kindergarten to fourth graders in August, 2024. The year was kicked-off on August 18th with a day that included welcoming comments from Brother Visitor, Robert Schaefer, FSC, Mass with a blessing of the buildings by Archbishop of Miami, Thomas Wenski, tours, food, and fun. The event was attended by the District of Eastern North America Leadership team, Archdiocesan representatives, the Cuban-American founders of LEC, and local residents who will benefit from the new school.

While initial school curriculum includes classes up to grade four, the plan is to incrementally expand over the next several years until the school serves a full K through 12 student population. Concurrently, plans are also underway to build upon the physical structure and facilities to accommodate the increased student body.

Mr. Michael Scaramuzzo, President of La Salle Educational Center, gives some perspective to the unique name, “Our Little School is not just a nod to history; it is a living embodiment of Saint John Baptist de La Salle’s vision adapted to contemporary needs. De La Salle’s little schools were more than just educational institutions; they were beacons of hope and transformation. He aimed to provide free, quality education to the children of artisans and the poor, breaking barriers and fostering hope within



Br. Peter Nguyen, FSC, principal of the Little School, helps a student.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VISITOR



Dear Friends,

The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He said to them in reply, "In the evening you say, 'Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red'; and, in the morning, 'Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times." (Mt. 16: 1 – 4)

In this passage from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees, who demand a sign from Him. He responds by highlighting their ability to interpret weather signs but their failure to discern the spiritual signs of the times. This passage invites us to reflect on the importance of being aware of what is happening around us from the perspective of our faith. St. John Baptist de La Salle urged the Brothers to have the "eyes of faith" – to see things as God would see them. But the key part of De La Salle's interpretation of this passage was that once we see with the eyes of faith, we must respond with an ardent zeal for the care and salvation of the young. Faith & Zeal is how the Brothers and Lasallian partners try and take the Lord's exhortation to "judge the signs of the times" to heart.

Jesus criticizes the religious leaders for their narrow focus on miraculous signs, urging them to look deeper into the meaning of His presence among them. Jesus was clear in his concern for the poor and marginalized, especially widows, orphans and strangers in the land. These groups represented those most vulnerable to the whims of society.

In this issue of *Lasallian Notes*, you will read about a number of examples of the Spirit of Faith and Zeal at work in our District as we continue to "judge the signs of the times" and respond to this invitation.

Jesus implies that the true signs of the times are not merely external events or wonders but the transformative power of God at work in the world. Quality Catholic education is one such example of God's transformative power. La Salle Academy in New York City and La Salle School in Albany have been responding to the times since the middle of the 18th century.

This year we have launched a new ministry by opening a school for the children of migrant workers in Homestead Florida. This new endeavor brings the best of our Lasallian tradition to a community in need of a school centered on Jesus and his Gospel.

God delights when individuals and communities take up the Gospel challenge to judge the signs of the times and respond with courage and generosity. Your continued support helps enable our Community to continue to be faithful to this mandate. Thank you!

Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever!

Respectfully,

Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC

Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC

Provincial/Visitor

rschaefer@fscdena.org

De La Salle
ST. JOHN BAPTIST
DE LA SALLE
FUND

THE SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE FUND seeks to ensure that a Lasallian education is available and accessible to those students most in need. The Fund provides tuition assistance for students to attend one of our Lasallian schools. With your support, we are now providing more than \$1 million annually for our students in need. All are welcome to join the Brothers in this specially-dedicated scholarship fund which continues to grow each year.

FACE OF THE FUND: JOSEPH MANTILLA

by Joseph Mantilla '26 - Junior at La Salle Academy, New York NY

When I first visited La Salle Academy in Manhattan, I met a small, diverse community of students who all called themselves brothers who were willing to help and support each other. With my family in agreement, I decided to attend La Salle Academy because of the brotherhood shared by these students from so many backgrounds and ethnicities. However, it was also the St. John Baptist de La Salle Scholarship Fund that helped me fully decide that I should choose La Salle Academy.

Now in my junior year at La Salle, it has been an incredible experience for me and my family. All of my teachers and classmates have been extremely encouraging and thoughtful to me, and that has inspired me to help others in my community. I have done very well in all of my classes so far, getting First Honors every year. Additionally, I am proud of being a key member of the La Salle Academy Cross Country and Track teams, as I have many achievements in those sports. Finally, on top of being part of Student Government at the school, I have also taken part in some after school clubs at La Salle, such as the Asian American Club and Lasallian Youth. I am grateful for all that I've been able to experience at La Salle. I will never forget how the St. John Baptiste de La Salle Fund helped me choose La Salle Academy over other options, and I thank the Brothers of the Christian Schools for this gift.



Not All Missions are Overseas

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underserved communities. By calling our institution the Little School, we honor this legacy.”

“What excites us the most about the Little School’s opening is the opportunity to instill the Lasallian values of faith, service, and community from the very beginning of the education of our students,” Scaramuzzo said.

“We are committed to fostering a nurturing environment where each student is known, loved, and challenged to reach his or her fullest potential, both academically and spiritually. Our goal is to inspire our students to become not only successful learners but also Lasallian leaders who live out the Gospel in their daily lives.”

The Little School at the southern tip of Florida is truly a mission, reaching across the Everglades to bring God’s hope through education to those in need.



President Michael Scaramuzzo greets one of the families who will be served by the Little School.



Mrs. Brenda Blanton teaches class at the Little School.



Br. Robert Schaefer, FSC, Visitor, (second from right) and Rev. José Joaquín Espino (left), founder & Board member, with honored guests.

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Nearly eighty Brothers attended a special Mass at De La Salle Hall for resident Jubilarians.



Br. Javier (center) receives the Brothers' habit from Br. Robert Schaefer (right) while Br. Javier's sponsor, Br. Edward Shields (left) stands by his side.



Brothers gather for a luncheon and comradery following the Jubilarian Mass and renewal of vows.

Brothers Celebrate Milestones

In late June, more than one hundred Brothers from across the District gathered to celebrate their vocation. The weekend began with a Friday afternoon Mass at De La Salle Hall, our skilled nursing care Community adjacent to the campus of Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft NJ. The Mass honored resident Brothers celebrating jubilee milestones. The Mass was followed by a barbeque on the patio. The celebration continued Saturday with Mass and a ceremony honoring all of our Jubilarians. Also at the ceremony, postulant Br. Joshua Bashore, FSC, renewed his promises, and Br. Javier Castro, FSC, received the Brothers' Habit. Following Mass, CBA Lincroft hosted a luncheon for all attending.

On September 6th, more than fifty Brothers joined family members and special friends for a ceremony at Manhattan University, to witness the perpetual vows of Br. Paul Avvento, FSC.

These celebrations of the Brothers' vocation were inspirational for all. Please join us in praying for many more years of faith and service for each of these wonderful men.



After the Friday Mass at De La Salle Hall honoring resident Jubilarians, Brothers enjoy a barbeque.

BROTHER JUBILARIANS

75th



Br. Colman Coogan



Br. Robert Hebert

70th



Br. Dennis Berry



Br. Malachy
Broderick



Br. John Buckley



Br. David Detje



Jubilarian Brothers recite their renewal of vows at the Mass and celebration in their honor.



Brothers take part in the tradition of the Accolade, a welcoming embrace to Br. Paul Avvento after his Perpetual Vows.



Brother Paul Avvento (center) professes his Perpetual Vows while his sponsor, Br. Peter Killeen (right), stands by his side in the Chapel of De La Salle and His Brothers at Manhattan University.

We Honor

La Salle Hall - Beltsville MD (B)
De La Salle Hall - Lincroft NJ (L)

Christian Brothers Center - Narragansett RI (N)
Presentation Manor - Toronto ON (T)

our elder and infirm Christian Brothers in residence (as of 9/30/24) at:

Br. Peter Arpin (N)
Br. Thomas Barton (B)
Br. Dennis Berry (T)
Br. Malachy Broderick (B)
Br. Raymond Bronowicz (B)
Br. Raymund Buck (L)
Br. John Buckley (N)
Br. Colman Coogan (B)

Br. Peter Costello (L)
Br. Jerome Cox (N)
Br. Mark DePietro (B)
Br. Thomas Dunn (N)
Br. George Edwards (T)
Br. Jack Farrell (L)
Br. Walter Farrell (T)
Br. Gerard Frendreis (B)

Br. Charles Gresh (L)
Br. Robert Hebert (N)
Br. Allen Johnson (B)
Br. Joseph Jozwiak (L)
Br. John Karl (L)
Br. Leslie Luker (L)
Br. Francisco Martin (L)
Br. John McAndrews (L)

Br. Francis McCrea (T)
Br. John McErlean (L)
Br. John McGann (N)
Br. Michael McKenery (L)
Br. Frederick Mueller (N)
Br. Charles O'Connell (L)
Br. Mel O'Neill (T)
Br. John Patzwall (B)

Br. David Rogers (L)
Br. Joseph Schafer (L)
Br. John Vella (T)
Br. Philip Whitman (L)
Br. Robert Wilsbach (B)



Br. Gregory Flynn



Br. Mel O'Neill

60th



Br. John Bassett



Br. Joseph Brienza



Br. Robert Ferguson



Br. Charles Filberg



Br. Allen Ganz

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

LASALLE SCHOOL – ALBANY NY

By Mr. David Wallace, Executive Director

LaSalle School, Albany is celebrating 170 years as an agent of healing for youth! We have come a long way from our humble beginnings as an orphanage in 1854. As one of the six unique ministries in this District known as the Lasallian Association for Youth and Family Services (LAYFS), LaSalle School has evolved to provide specialized educational and therapeutic programming for youth with complex needs. What hasn't changed in 170 years is that it still takes a community of dedicated Lasallians to care for kids, who without us, might never reach their full potential.

On campus, youth development and nursing staff in our **Residential Treatment Program (RTP)** provide around the clock support to residents. Youth enrolled in RTP come from across New York in need of specialized care for any combination of issues such as complex trauma, medical/mental illness, intellectual/developmental delays, and delinquency.

LaSalle's **Juvenile Reporting and Family Center (JRFC)** team provides after school recreational and vocational support to Albany youth as an alternative to detention. Successes in this program have led the NYS Office of Child and Family Services to use the JRFC as an aftercare option for youth returning from incarceration, to ensure safe and successful reunification with family and community.

Faculty in our **Day Educational** program provide departmentalized, special education (grades 6-12) for our residential youth, and for an additional twenty-four day students, bused from districts within a one-hour radius. While most programming emphasizes treatment, our staff work hard to ensure that our kids get to experience a variety of nurturing, recreational, and life shaping experiences. Last June, all but one of our seniors donned caps and gowns, walked across that stage, and proudly earned their diplomas to the cheers of friends, family and teachers who all knew how far each of them had come!

With concern for refugee children becoming lost in the system, LaSalle opened a new federally funded program, dubbed the **"Brothers House,"** to provide temporary shelter and family reunification to refugee boys. Since opening in June 2023, staff have already reunited over 150 youth with their families, already residing in the US.



A new graduate of LaSalle School receives his diploma from Mrs. Jon Healy, RN, Board chair, as Mr. David Wallace, Executive Director of the school, waits to shake his hand.

Off campus, social workers and case managers in the **Counseling Center at LaSalle (CCL)**, provide behavioral health services to over 200 youth daily. The CCL is the only behavioral health clinic in the Capital District dually licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health and Office of Addiction Services and Supports to specialize in the care of youth and families. Recently, LaSalle also created the **Ulster County School Support Team**, an innovative new program designed to address the effects of trauma, increase school engagement, and bolster mental health resources for youth in the county's nine school districts.



LaSalle School students experience fun, growth, and teamwork during summer excursions.

BROTHER JUBILARIANS

60th



Br. Joseph Garito



Br. Philip Rofrano



Br. Joseph Schafer



Br. Stephen Tuohy

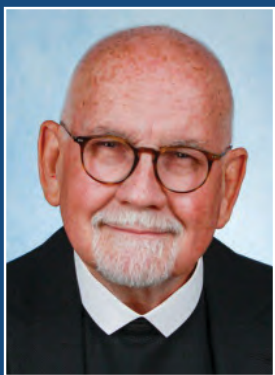
50th



Br. Daniel Aubin



Br. Robert Berger



We get to a point in life where we can ask questions that might not have occurred to us earlier on, or we were too busy with other things to ask. I sometimes wonder, “How did I get here?” — here being a Brother of the Christian Schools, from there, being a punky kid brother to an older brother who happens to be a Loughlin graduate.

The relationship that the word “brother” signifies has meaning for me rooted in my childhood experience and enriched in adulthood. Brother implies equality. There is no hierarchy in the relationship. When a classmate from Mater Christi asked me to come and see what the Brothers were about, I said, “Why not?” Over time, I learned that we are a pretty good fit. There are always rubs along the way, but it is the relationship that gets us through.

The title “Brother” strives to capture a way of being in relationship to the people we have lived with along the way. I have been blessed to have lived with Lasallian Volunteers and others seeking a place to call home, which we Brothers call Community; I have valued that kind of living because it helps keep me in the flow of life. A danger of religious life is that it can become quite insulated. In it’s extreme, it could be isolating.

I think that “brother” is also how the Brothers and I choose to relate to those we work with and the students we teach. Brother Charlie Kitson was fond of saying “brother is a verb.” It is important for us to brother each other, showing care for those with whom we live and work.

What about God? Well, metaphors matter. I remember being on the rocks at Narragansett RI. I was having a prayerful afternoon. To avoid getting wet as the waves hit the rocks, I was dodging the sprays of water. As I turned away, quite proud of myself for succeeding, I stepped into a fairly deep puddle. I laughed out loud because it struck me that so it is with God. We sometimes seek to avoid God, but God manages to find us.

And, that is how I got from there to here.

LASALLIAN SPIRIT IN ACTION

Young Lasallian Inspires Fellow Students to Help Homeless Youth

William Patterson '27 from Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) in Lincroft NJ, takes our Lasallian teachings to heart. As a freshman, he organized school wide participation in Sleep Out New Jersey, an annual event hosted by the New Jersey branch of Covenant House, an international charity that battles teen homelessness, abuse, and human trafficking.

During the event, participants sleep outside with a box and a sleeping bag to raise awareness about youth homelessness. Leading up to the event, they become “student advocates” educating their peers and community about the work of Covenant House. William spread the word through the CBA halls and was able to get twenty-four of his fellow students to join the initiative. Together, they raised \$22,000 to support the mission of Covenant House, making them one of the top three teams from across the state.

William stated, “I have been fortunate to have loving parents, food, clothes, education and a family home. Having a bed and a safe place to lay my head at night is a gift. I hope and dream for every young child or teenager to have a place to feel safe and loved.”



CBA Lincroft student William Patterson '27 (center, holding sign) leads his team in the Sleep Out Against Homelessness event.



Br. John Crawford



Br. James Dries



Br. William Hudson

40th



Br. Joseph Reed

25th



Br. Joseph Juliano



PATRICK & FRANCES KEOGH HAVE REMEMBERED THE BROTHERS

I am very proud to say that Frances and I have remembered the Christian Brothers in our estate plans. After all, they played an extremely important part in making me and my brothers the persons we are today. I would go so far as to say their influence was second only to that of my loving parents.

My family history with the Brothers may not sound totally unfamiliar to some of you. I was the second of three sons—Mike, Pat, and John—of Irish immigrants who were working as supers in an apartment building in the south Bronx. My parents found a way to put all of us through sixteen years in Christian Brothers schools; Sacred Heart elementary school, Manhattan Prep, then Manhattan College. All three went on to excel in their graduate work at prestigious institutions, have wonderful families and successful careers, and become strong members of their communities. All this was because of two parents with grade school educations, and the extraordinary education, skills, and discipline acquired from the Christian Brothers through their schools.

Personally, I attended night school at Georgetown University

to earn my law degree, and had a great career with the government, then private practice, and now as a pension specialist and author. My work has taught me the importance of wills and estate planning, and made me think about all those who have been important in my life. That is how I came to include the Christian Brothers.

Our parents and Mike are gone now, but generations of this family will owe a debt to the Brothers for what they have given us.



Patrick J. Keogh

For information on how you can remember the Christian Brothers, contact Patrick Donahue at (732) 380-7926, or at donahue@fscdena.org

Lasallian Heritage Society

We would like to recognize and thank the following individuals who have informed the Brothers that we are being remembered in their wills or other estate plans.

If you have remembered the Brothers, but do not see your name here, or if you have questions about enrolling in the Lasallian Heritage Society, please contact Patrick Donahue in our District office at (732) 380-7926, or at donahue@fscdena.org.

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TRANSITIONS

REMEMBERING THE BROTHERS WE HAVE LOST

Full obituaries and eulogies available online at www.fscdena.org



BROTHER BRENDAN GERRITY, FSC **1937 - 2024**

Br. Brendan Gerrity, FSC, was born James Henry Gerrity on April 13, 1937 in New York NY. He entered the Barrytown NY Novitiate on February 2, 1955, and received the Habit and name Christopher Brendan on May 14, 1955. Br. Brendan pronounced Perpetual Vows in Barrytown NY August 26, 1962.

Br. Brendan's first teaching assignment was in Manchester, NH, and he fell in love with New England. He joined Ocean Tides School in Narragansett RI in 1982, and spent the rest of his life providing loving care and unwavering support to the at-risk young men there. He touched the hearts of many students and helped them to build successful lives.

Br. Brendan was a symbol of God's love to everyone. Br. Daniel Aubin, FSC, said he was a "brother, friend, and mentor."



BROTHER GREGORY QUINN, FSC **1928 - 2024**

Br. Gregory Quinn, FSC, was born George Patrick Quinn on June 22, 1928 in Providence RI. He entered the Barrytown NY Novitiate on June 6, 1946, and received the Habit and name Bertin Gregory on September 7, 1946. Br. Gregory pronounced Perpetual Vows at Hillside Troy NY in 1953.

Brother Gregory began teaching in NY, and was then called to serve at *Colegio San José* in Nicaragua and at Saint Joseph's School in Ethiopia. Upon his return, he taught in NY and NJ before serving as Director of the RCIA program for a parish with a Spanish-speaking community for many years.

Br. Gregory was a beloved uncle. In his niece's words, "If you know God's love, God's patience, God's kindness and God's mercy, then you knew my uncle."



BROTHER JAMES WALLACE, FSC **1937 - 2024**

Born Henry David Wallace on May 25, 1937 in Addison NY, Br. James entered the Barrytown NY Novitiate on June 29, 1955. He received the Religious Habit and Name, Aquinas James, on September 7, 1955. He pronounced Perpetual Vows in Barrytown NY in 1962.

Br. James began teaching at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo NY. Called to missionary work, which he relished, Br. James served for 24 years in Ethiopia, South Africa, Jamaica and Kenya. He was also a professor and an administrator at Manhattan College in NY.

Br. James was a Christian Brother for 69 years. "We look up to Br. James as an exemplar Brother who inspires us, given his active life of fulfilling the Lasallian Mission all over the world," said Br. William Martin, FSC.



BROTHER PATRICK MCNALLY, FSC **1937 - 2024**

Born Patrick Michael McNally on June 5, 1937 in Grosse Pointe MI, Br. Patrick entered the Barrytown NY Novitiate on June 29, 1955. He received the Religious Habit and Name, Cornelius Patrick, on September 7, 1955. He pronounced Perpetual Vows in Barrytown NY in 1962.

Br. Patrick taught in NY before serving at De La Salle Collegiate High School in Detroit MI. He would spend a total of 40 years there sharing his passion for the arts and producing the school's plays each year. He engaged students with his infectious love for musicals, and his commitment to his students extended far beyond the classroom.

Those who knew Br. Patrick described him as a faith-filled, kind, and spirited Christian Brother who had unwavering faith and devotion to the brotherhood.



BROTHER PAUL WILCOX, FSC **1937 - 2024**

Born Paul Joseph Wilcox in Toronto Ontario on June 30, 1937, Br. Paul Wilcox, FSC, entered the Novitiate in Scarborough Ontario on July 3, 1954. He received the Habit and name Tullian William on September 1, 1954, and pronounced Perpetual Vows at Christian Brothers College in Scarborough Ontario on August 24, 1962.

Br. Paul, affectionately known as Br. Willy, taught in schools in Montreal, Uxbridge, Toronto and Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Br. Paul always looked for opportunities to learn and taught his students to do the same. Br. Paul's last assignment was teaching at De La Salle College "Oaklands" where he stayed in residence for some time.

Br. Paul's life was marked by his profound Christian identity and a life of service until he was called home by God.

Stewardship Gifts: June 19,



Brothers Joseph Willard, Robert Schieler, Joseph Scheiter, and Kevin Stanton welcome incoming freshmen to La Salle University.

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Mr. Wally C. Adam
Mr. John V. Albertella
Rev. Robert E. Albright
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Postulant Br. Joshua Bashore (right) renews his annual Promises with Br. Frank Byrne, Auxiliary Visitor, witnessing this rite.



Br. Ray Bronowicz at La Salle Hall, Beltsville MD, celebrates his 95th birthday.

2024 to September 18, 2024

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ERROR OR OMISSION?

The recognition lists in this issue represent gifts received from June 19 to September 18, 2024. We make every effort to be as accurate as possible. If you feel, however, that there is an error or omission, we apologize and ask that you call our Advancement Office at (732) 380-7926, to advise us of the problem.

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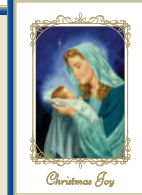
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We are sincerely grateful to our friends and their families who have thoughtfully remembered the Brothers with requests for gifts in lieu of flowers.

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Vol. 25



Dear Friends,

I have been so inspired by this story of Lasallian dedication that I present it to you in place of my usual message.

Mr. Kevin Leyden (see photo, right) is an alumnus of La Salle Institute (LSI) in Troy NY, and a former Brother. He taught as a young Brother for several years before discerning that this was not the vocation to which he was called. He then had a wonderful career in government and business while remaining faithful to his *alma mater*, to the Brothers, and to the mission of our Founder. (In fact, in his retirement, he has become a full-time volunteer at LSI, as teacher and administrator.)

In recent years, Kevin became interested in the beautiful set of eight stained glass windows in the Manhattan University chapel. Several years ago, these century-old masterpieces were recovered from a former Brothers' novitiate in Barrytown NY, restored, and installed at Manhattan University. Kevin heard that they use the windows, which depict the life and works of St. John Baptist de La Salle, to teach new students about our Lasallian heritage.

He thought it would be wonderful if more of our schools could do this, so he took it upon himself to reach out to the company who restored the windows. He personally consigned them to create smaller replicas of the entire set of windows, which he has donated to La Salle Institute. They have recently been installed in the student center, and will be used to teach students about our Founder.

He has said that he hopes our other Lasallian schools might want to do the same, since the templates have already been designed.

Please join me in a prayer of thanks for this faithfulness, and for the students who will benefit.

Live Jesus in our hearts!

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Donahue
Director of Advancement



Mr. Kevin Leyden with one of the window replicas.

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