CBHS affiliated two new members

On November 3rd Robert C. McEniry and Msgr. Peter Buchignani were affiliated to the Institute by the Brothers at CBHS in Memphis. Robert graduated from CBHS in 1959 and then attended Vanderbilt. He served for thirteen years on the Board of CBU, three as the Chair. He is the Honorary Chair of the current CBHS capital campaign and a Hall of Fame member. Msgr. Buchignani graduated from CBHS and then entered the seminary in Kentucky. He celebrated his first mass at the Brothers’ Generalate in Rome. He served for many years on the Boards of CBHS and CBU and is a CBHS Hall of Fame member. Congratulations to both!

Advent Brunch planned at the Provincial residence

This year the annual Advent Brunch will be at Sunday, December 13, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Provincial Residence in Chicago. Please RSVP by December 8th to Brother Bede Baldry - bbaldry@cbmidwest.org or (773) 586-0562.

Brother Jerome extended invitation to art show

Brother Jerome Cox has invited everyone to a show and sale of his handcrafted sculpture and jewelry. All proceeds support the student work/study programs and the maintenance of the villa and church at the International Art/Culture Center located at San Martino A Scopeto in the Tuscan hills near Vicchio, Italy. The city of Florence is easily accessible by car or train. San Martino, which continues the tradition of an international creative arts community, is part of Brother Jerome’s life's work as a Christian Brother. The show will be held on December 4th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on December 5th from 12 pm to 5 pm at Maureen Warren Studio, 1474 W. Hubbard, Chicago, IL 60622. (312) 666-0553. That is one block east of Ashland and one block south of Grand in the West Loop.

“A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices…”

Even in our troubled world today we have reasons to be grateful and hopeful.

Many blessings for Christmas and the New Year
Many blessings for Christmas and the New Year

Brother Florent appointed Visitor

Superior General Brother Robert Schieler has appointed Brother Florent Gaudreault to serve the District of Francophone Canada as Visitor. The installation takes place on February 2, 2016, and the term will be for three years. Brother Florent will succeed Brother Louis-Paul Lavallée. In order to support Brother Florent in this position, the District Chapter recently appointed Brothers André Dubuc, Fernando Lambert, Lionel Potvin, Robert Lavallée and Daniel Croteau to the District Council. Since 2012, Brother Florent has served as liaison to the General Councilor for the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN), representing his District of Francophone Canada at the Office of Lasallian Education and offering translation services as needed for Christian Brothers Conference. He also serves as his District’s ex-officio representative to the Lasallian Education Council (LEC). Previously, Brother Florent was Director of Résidence De La Salle, the Brothers’ retirement community in Laval, Québec.

Spring 2016 Lasallian Days announced

The following Lasallian Days for 2016 have been announced: Naples & Sarasota, FL (February 10-11); Tucson, AZ (February 18); Dallas/Fort Worth, TX (March 1); Tulsa, OK (March 2); Kansas City, MO (April 2); Saint Louis, MO (April 27). Invitations will be mailed to Lasallians in those areas. For more information or to receive an invitation, please contact Samantha VenHuizen at the Burr Ridge office – (630) 323-3725 ext. 220 or svenhuizen@cbmidwest.org

Consider setting up a Donor Advised Fund

A donor-advised fund is a separately identified fund that is maintained by a section 501(c)(3) with the gifts of other individuals. The organization (e.g. Fidelity or Charles Schwab) has legal control over the money in the fund, but the donor maintains the recommendation that funds be designated to particular charities. The benefit of naming the Christian Brothers of the Midwest as an intended charity is that the donor has an outright record of any gift history. Those who establish the DAF may also be claiming a higher charitable tax deduction. As of November 16th, the Christian Brothers have a link set up for donors who want to recommend them as the recipients of a DAF. This means that those who have a donor advised fund through Fidelity, Charles Schwab, or the Kansas City Community Foundation can log into the account online and specify an amount to be designated to the Christian Brothers.

The Shop has new items

Get something for everyone on your shopping list this year! The Shop now features a new Midwest District travel mug. Several Brothers have already bought mugs as gifts for family and friends. Additionally, a newly designed Lasallian themed Christmas card is now available! Be sure to get Christmas cards before they run out! For information, visit http://www.cbmidwest.org/WP1/shop/ or email svenhuizen@cbmidwest.org.

Help locating missing Affiliated Members

The District Office is trying to finalize the Master List of Affiliated Members who are currently unlocated. Check the list at the end of this newsletter or at http://www.cbmidwest.org/WP1/findafsc/. If anyone can provide any information for any of these missing Affiliates, please call Megan Davison at 630-323-3725, or email mdavison@cbmidwest.org

Retreat was held for Brothers in initial formation

Sixteen Brothers in various stages of initial formation in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN)
Sixteen Brothers in various stages of initial formation in the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) gathered for a retreat October 15-18 at Mont La Salle in Napa California. The gatherings, which happen twice a year, are opportunities for Brothers to connect across the Region to share in formative experiences together, as well as build community together. The reflective retreat, facilitated by Sister Joann Heinritz, CSJ, was an opportunity for those in initial formation to find a space for personal and shared reflection, as well as the opportunity to deepen relationships with fellow Brothers from across North America. “It is always a blessing to come together and share our new experiences of ministry and community,” said Brother Johnathon Emanuelson, a novice at the Chicago Regional Novitiate. “There are always changes in our lives, and it is very meaningful when we have the opportunity to share and process them. It is a chance to begin new friendships and rekindle older ones. It gives joy to my experience as a Brother and contributes to the sense of my role in the future of the Institute.”

The new Rule has arrived

Brother Larry Schatz, Visitor, reported that the copies of the revised Rule of Life 2015 have been delivered to the Burr Ridge office. They will be packed and shipped to the Brothers after Thanksgiving.

Happy Birthday Brother!

This feature supports a Brother in Skilled Care. Send a card or letter; make a visit or a phone call.


Congratulations to the 2015 Distinguished Lasallian Educators

The awards for the 2015 Distinguished Educators were presented on Saturday, November 21st at a banquet at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza at the conclusion of the 2015 Huether Lasallian Conference. The Midwest District had three recipients. Brother Michael Rivers is a Learning Lab Teacher at Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, MN. He has been teaching for 47 years and found his passion among those who struggle with learning challenges. Dr. Dennis H. Cremin is a Professor of History at Lewis University, in Romeoville, IL. He models the personalized interaction with students, mastery of subject matter, and use of innovative pedagogy that characterizes Lasallian educators. Patricia Norusis is a Learning Lab Teacher and Department Chair at Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, MN. She has been teaching for 43 years and has served as a mentor to younger teachers. Congratulations to all!

SMUMN broke ground for science building

On October 9th SMUMN broke ground on an innovative $19 million Science and Learning Center on the Winona Campus. Highlights of the building include the following: (1) State-of-the-art classrooms and labs that will serve as optimal learning environments and provide a platform for increased research opportunities. (2) A layout specially designed to promote hands-on learning opportunities. (3) An interior atrium that will visually connect all three floors and welcome sunlight from the building’s skylights, creating ideal spaces for study and student engagement.
hands-on learning opportunities. (3) An interior atrium that will visually connect all three floors and welcome sunlight from the building’s skylights, creating ideal spaces for study and student interactions outside of the classroom. (4) A 120-seat tiered auditorium that will accommodate special events, guest speakers, and student presentations. Wight & Company of Chicago is serving as the architect and general contractor. Construction began immediately after the groundbreaking, and the building was estimated to be completed by June 2017. “It’s a special honor and privilege not just to break ground for a new building, but to break ground for a new academic building on this campus; academics is the heart and core of what a university is all about,” said Brother William Mann, President, noting that many successful Saint Mary’s science alumni have gone on to make significant contributions for the betterment of society, work that is deeply embedded in the Lasallian Catholic heritage.

Regional Council of Young Lasallians met in Montreal

The Regional Council of Young Lasallians (RCYL) gathered in Montreal, Canada October 28-30 for a meeting that looked at Circular 470 and the development of the Young Lasallian Movement throughout the Lasallian Region of North America. In addition to sharing District efforts focused on adolescents and young adults involved in the Lasallian Education Mission, the group met concurrently with the Regional Council of Christian Brothers (RCCB). The groups met together for a presentation about the history, progress and initiatives of the RCYL, while the RCCB proposed opportunities and questions for the RCYL to consider moving forward. The RCYL animates the International Lasallian Days for Peace initiative as well as Spring into Action, an opportunity to highlight service in the Lasallian mission. The group has other sub-committees that focus on formation, social media efforts and presenting at gatherings of Young Lasallians. A newly created sub-committee has been tasked with proposing and implementing an initiative that “creates a culture that promotes awareness and advocates for the Rights of the Child.” Former Superior General, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría said that the “rights of the child is a flagship cause of the Institute and Lasallian educational mission.”

Rest in Peace

Larry Gorrell, 67, SMUMN ’74, died in Minneapolis, MN, on November 11th. A former Brother, he entered the novitiate in Winona in 1966, taught at Totino-Grace H.S. for ten years, and withdrew from the Institute in 1980. He had a long history with SMUMN beginning in 1990. Survivors include two brothers, two sisters, and nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 18th at Saint Maron Church in Minneapolis.

Help the District office find missing AFSCs

If anyone can provide any information for the following Affiliated Members, please call Megan Davison at 630-323-3725 or email mdavison@cbmidwest.org

Robert J. Adams, Affiliated in 1972 in Louisiana
Alfred J. Bambini, Affiliated in 1961 in Winona, MN
James Bansley, Affiliated in 1972 in USA
Margaret Burley, Affiliated in 1975 in Saint Paul, MN
Lawrence Carr Affiliated in 1965 in Winona, MN
Dr. John B. Devine, Affiliated in 1963 in Saint Louis, MO
George Donovan, Affiliated in 1973 in Saint Paul, MN
Paul Graf, Affiliated in 1979 in Saint Paul, MN
Mr. Eldon Gremelsbach, Affiliated March 29, 1959 Winona, MN
Mr. Thomas Hanlon, Affiliated November 21, 1960 Saint Louis, MO
Mr. William Johnson, Affiliated May 18, 1979
Mrs. Marion Kaczorowski, Affiliated December 20, 1968
Health Notes

Joy In Simple Wisdom

“My sheep hear my voice says the Lord, I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27

Greetings to all as we begin this beautiful and sacred season of Advent, a time of waiting and great anticipation for the birth of the Christ Child! As I have been praying and reflecting on what to write for the Advent health notes, I was privileged to hear a wonderful homily given by our pastor, Father Bob. This simple yet profound verse from John, today’s Gospel Acclamation, beautifully depicts joy in simple wisdom and provides a wonderful invitation into this grace filled season of Advent.

Father Bob opened his homily by sharing the beautiful simplicity of sheep and their deep love for and closeness to their shepherd. He then went on to share an inspiring story about a retreat he had attended several years ago titled “The Sound of His Voice.” He said the two guest speakers for the retreat given at the Catholic Church in his home town were a scripture scholar and the pastor from his church. The pastor opened the morning session with a prayer and this verse from John’s Gospel. The wise scripture scholar then came forward and shared an insightful presentation about sheep and everything you could possibly want to know about sheep herding as he connected them to this passage. It was clear this man knew scripture and sheep very well. The pastor closed the morning session with an inspirational and grace filled message and ideas for applying what they had learned to their lives.
connected them to this passage. It was clear this man knew scripture and sheep very well. The pastor closed the morning session with an inspirational and grace filled message and ideas for applying what they had learned to their lives.

As they broke for lunch Father Bob ran into a kind elderly woman as they made their way down the hall. As he asked her how she had liked the morning talk, her response deeply touched him as did the beautiful sparkle in her eyes as she spoke. She simply said, “The learned man knows a lot about scripture and sheep, but Father knows the Shepherd and the sound of his voice.” Father Bob said he’s never forgotten her beautiful words and the spirit with which she conveyed them. He added that learning to listen to the Shepherd’s voice has deeply impacted his personal relationship with Jesus and his ministry as a priest. After hearing Father’s comments, I must admit I will be thinking about our Shepherd and the “sound of His voice” in a whole new way.

Advent provides a wonderful opportunity for us to lean in to the sound of the Shepherd’s voice, the One who “knows us,” so we can listen to him and follow where he leads. As people of faith, we can be examples to those we love and encounter each day of what “joy in simple wisdom” looks like. Simple steps to quiet our lives and deepen our awareness of Emmanuel, God with us, can transform us, our families and our communities. Walking into this Advent season with intentionality and grace will allow us to experience the simplest of joys in a whole new way. I pray you will have a blessed Advent and Christmas with many opportunities to draw near to the manger and to listen to the sound of his still small voice saying “I am with you.”

With prayer for you always,
Becky Running, RN, C
Twin Cities Nurse