



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
of the Midwest

MISSION IMPACT 2024

Saint John Baptist de La Salle
Patron Saint of Teachers - May 15, 1950

Mission Driven. People Focused.

The Lasallian mission lives and grows through the passionate commitment of our people, who transform principles into action. Our faculty, staff, Brothers, students, volunteers, and benefactors bring fresh energy and innovation to our enduring values, ensuring that our mission remains both relevant and transformative. In this way, mission and people form a dynamic synergy—Catholic values expressed through human dedication and creativity.

MISSION IMPACT 2024

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Thank you to the countless staff, volunteers, and benefactors who contribute to the impact of our work with students and evangelization in the Catholic faith. This impact report and listing acknowledges friends who made contributions, financial and in service, from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, to advance the mission of the Christian Brothers and our Midwest District ministries.

Our mission is stronger because of you!

To Our Lasallian Community,

There was a time, maybe not so long ago, when fathers hoped to pass their work and spirit on to their children. I remember a jewelry store in my old town when I was a kid. It was named Effler's and all of Mr. Effler's sons and daughters worked there. His intent was to hand it off to them. His eldest became a mechanic instead. His other children moved into other occupations. While there may be no actual cause and effect, Effler's is no longer in existence. Farming is another industry that parents typically wanted their children to pursue in their footsteps. But now, large farms are often broken into smaller acreage or have been sold to corporate interests.

St. John Baptist de La Salle was different. He was the one who broke from the family business and from the hierarchy of the Church when he gave up his canonry to serve the young poor boys of Reims who were unsupervised, dirty, and oftentimes thieves. There were young men who joined his teaching community, but many left him. It was a struggle to get his teachers organized and stable. It was so challenging that he and two of his most trusted friends made a vow to be together and to work to see the Society of the Brothers of the Christian Schools established. They would work at it even if they had to live on bread alone.

They succeeded. And now, we are their legacy. What De La Salle and his Brothers started is not just a small community but a movement—a movement to bring the Gospel to life in the world of education. We now call it the Lasallian movement. It is us—you and me and all who have embraced the vision and inspiration that St. De La Salle brought to life in the Church.

We are grateful that OUR Founder has, over more than three centuries, handed down the inspiration behind this movement. The Gospel lives in our schools because we understand that now the work is ours. Together, we can change the lives of the young and lead them to the message of Jesus and the Kingdom of God—God's name is love and the path he gives us is mercy.

Thank you for your contribution to this important work. It cannot succeed without all of us contributing time, talent, and treasure. We are grateful that you have brought your contribution to the table and have become part of the Lasallian movement.

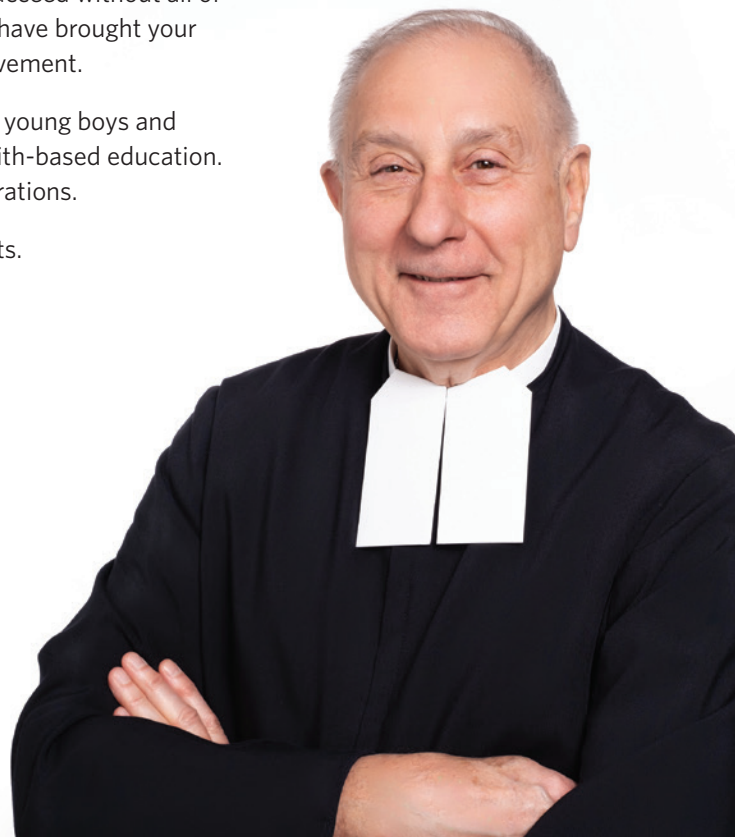
Together, we will continue to create a wonderful future for so many young boys and girls who need the loving care of good faithful teachers and solid faith-based education. De La Salle handed his vision to us. Let us hand it on to future generations.

May God bless you and may Jesus always find a home in your hearts.

Thank you,

Brother Michael Fehrenbach

Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC
Provincial Visitor, Midwest District



**Mission Driven.
People Focused.**

Formation is Transformation

St. John Baptist de La Salle made a journey of the heart.

He gave up his position and wealth to follow his calling—to educate the poor. Lasallian Formation is also a journey of the heart, deeply rooted in the spirituality and values of that same calling. It nurtures a profound connection to the charism of the Christian Brothers, igniting a passion for faith, community, and service.

It is St. John Baptist de La Salle's vision of educating and serving the poor that drives Formation—helping us to embrace and live out Lasallian values with faith and zeal. Each of us has a role within the broader Lasallian mission. Formation equips us to fill that role in the capacity that best suits us and our lives.



Participants at LSJI 2024 in Chicago - Urban Intersections of Injustice.

Today, St. John Baptist de La Salle calls us to be instruments of hope and compassion, carrying forward the Brothers' legacy of transforming lives. As different as today's world is from that of St. De La Salle, it is through Formation that the mission is preserved and adapted to meet contemporary challenges. Through it, educators and leaders develop the spiritual, moral, and pedagogical tools needed to continue the Brothers' work and ensure that the Lasallian spirit of education for all, particularly the marginalized, endures.

Just as Lasallian education transforms lives, so does Lasallian Formation. At its heart, it is a journey of discovering the sacred in the everyday—of seeing Christ in the faces of the vulnerable and finding joy in serving others. As the Brothers' numbers decline, Formation remains the most powerful way to sustain our mission, uniting hearts and spirits to ensure that their work continues to shine as a beacon of God's presence in the world.

The power of the Lasallian mission is such that many involved feel "the call"—the need to turn avocation to vocation.

According to Kerry Conroy, Director of Formation for Mission, these members of our Lasallian family are looking for deeper meaning, a vocation greater than themselves.

For these individuals, the wish to follow in the footsteps of St. John Baptist de La Salle, requires further education and training. The Lasallian Formation Program provides that process. It is an effort to be intentional about the development of Lasallian Catholic culture. It is a transformational process that engages the whole person: academically, socially, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. And as our Christian Brothers age and retire, the work of Formation is more important than ever.



Director of Formation for Mission, Kerry Conroy, and JJI cohort participant, Bill O'Brien of Lewis University, enjoy a Parmenie Walk as part of the weekend program at the Darst Center.

For Conroy, her call to Formation came via the power of invitation. A colleague saw something in her and invited her into the process. After initial resistance, she could, at her every step, from teacher to counselor to administrator, feel the hand of God at work. She sees her role as that of bringing to people the opportunity, the invitation, to participate in Formation, so that more people can know the extent of their Lasallian mission—the feeling that they are involved in something greater than their own ministry.

Conroy's vision for the Lasallian Formation Program is to create more local options, more realistic opportunities that fit more easily into people's lives. These programs will be focused on the local school and community. ■

**“Things change
when you can see a
bigger picture and
greater purpose.
It changes your
outlook and the
nature of what you
are doing.”**

– Kerry Conroy, Director of
Formation for Mission

LaSalle Midwest Formation Programs

Mission Driven Governance

Young Lasallian Professionals

Lasallian Youth

Lasallian Institute for the
Formation of Teachers (LIFT)

McLaughlin Social Justice
Institute (MSJI)

Lasallian Companions

Environmental Sustainability
Education Initiative (ESEI)

RELAN Regional Formations Programs

Buttimer Institute of
Lasallian Studies

John Johnston Institute (JJI)

The Lasallian Social Justice
Institute (LSJI)

Brother Francis Huether
Conference

Lasallian Association of
Secondary School Chief
Administrators (LASSCA)

Twinning

International Programs

Online Formation

Lasallian Women of
Hope (LWH)

For additional information on
the Formation Programs listed
above, scan the QR code below.



Mission Driven.
People Focused.

Lasallian Schools Today

As the Lasallian mission has grown and evolved over the past three centuries, one aspect remains constant—the education of young people.

And over this time, a Christian Brothers education has come to mean more than learning from a book in a classroom. Yes, a Christian Brothers education is rigorous, giving students an academic advantage in preparing for any college, university, or other form of continued education. And it is also practical, giving students the skills necessary to become strong and successful community members. But a Christian Brothers education is more than that. A Lasallian school is a community of learners—part of an educational system and community that spans the globe, allowing students to cultivate a larger, more comprehensive view of the world. It is personal, touching the heart of each student, inspiring them to understand, meet, and surpass their own expectations, to achieve academic success, and to experience personal and spiritual fulfillment in a safe and nurturing environment.

Today, however, there are fewer Christian Brothers in the schools to nurture that environment, and their numbers continue to dwindle. Despite this, the schools have sustained their commitment to the Lasallian mission of student-based, educational excellence. As the number of Christian Brothers has declined in recent decades, their role in Lasallian schools has evolved in profound and meaningful ways. To some, it might seem a lesser role, but rather than diminishing their impact, this transformation has allowed the Brothers to focus their presence on the spiritual and mentoring aspects that lie at the heart of the Lasallian mission. Their daily witness through prayer and contemplation continues to ground our institutions in the sacred purpose that has always defined Lasallian education. The role of the Brothers now manifests through prayer, presence, engagement, and mentoring.



First and foremost, the Brothers' commitment to daily prayer and spiritual reflection maintains the sacred foundation of our mission. Their consistent prayer for our students, employees, institutions, alumni, and all of our Lasallian family, reminds us all that our work is ultimately grounded in faith and service to God's purposes and to each other.

Through their visible presence—attending events, participating in ceremonies, sharing meals, and engaging in daily conversations—the Brothers embody our Lasallian heritage and values. Their presence serves as a living reminder of our history and mission, bringing authenticity and depth to our identity as Lasallian institutions.

One of the hallmarks of the Brothers' educational work is their encouragement of the young. Today, the Brothers offer steady encouragement to faculty, staff, and students as they navigate challenges and opportunities. Their words of support, informed by decades of experience and deep understanding of our mission, help balance perspective, strengthen resolve, and remind us of the meaningful purpose behind our work.

Drawing from their vast experience and deep understanding of Lasallian principles, the Brothers guide and shape new generations of leaders. Through both formal and informal mentoring relationships, they share wisdom, tell stories that illuminate our heritage, and help others discover their role in their communities and in advancing the Lasallian mission.

In the past, the Brothers were the "hands" of the mission, operating schools from administration to teaching. Today, they are its heart.

“Our mission has always been the human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor. We are rooted in faith (God’s providence) and zeal for the welfare of youth.”

—Scott A. Kier, Ed.D., Superintendent of Lasallian Education

According to Scott Kier, the superintendent of schools in the district, the reason the schools can continue to embody the mission every day despite there being fewer Brothers is the model of “mission driven governance.” This is a commitment of school leadership not only to best practices, but to operating within the mission. Twenty to thirty years ago, the Christian Brothers, understanding the challenges ahead, made a commitment to building school boards, allowing these local boards to take ownership of the schools through hands-on oversight, with the president in the role of chief mission officer. In this model, the role of the district has been to encourage and build boards both through demographics and best practices, while ensuring the maintenance and sustainability of the Lasallian mission.

Within the past five years there has been an infusion of new leadership in district schools, from administration to the faculties, and with it, a re-invigoration of mission. This has been accomplished through the mission-driven model as well as the district’s continual work with school boards on formation—developing school leaders who see their role not just as avocation, but as vocation. In this way, with Kier working with the boards and Kerry Conroy, the district’s formation director, working with faculty, our schools continue to carry out the Lasallian mission every day.

Lasallian schools, by choice and mission, have always been committed to students of lesser means. As an example of the vibrance of the mission, despite the many challenges that face Catholic schools today, that commitment too, remains strong. In the last school year, 4,524 students, 53.4% of the total students enrolled in the district, received more than \$18M in need-based grants. This is telling, since the average tuition (for those schools that charge tuition) is \$12,100, with a low of \$1,000 and a high of \$18,610. It costs an average of \$16,603 to educate a pupil in a District Lasallian school.

As Lasallian schools continue to adapt to changing educational landscapes, the Brothers’ role becomes increasingly critical in maintaining our core identity. Their ability to inspire and connect across generations ensures that the mission transcends institutional structures. By nurturing a deep understanding of Lasallian values among lay colleagues and students, the Brothers create a living legacy that is not dependent on their number, but on the strength of their commitment and the depth of their spiritual vision.

The Brothers’ role can be compared to a living bridge between our founding charism and our contemporary mission. Through their encouragement of lay partners and their mentoring of new generations of Lasallian educators, they ensure that the essential character of Lasallian education remains vibrant and true to its origins. Their wisdom and experience provide invaluable guidance as we navigate the challenges of modern education while remaining faithful to our core values and beliefs.

Perhaps most significantly, the Brothers’ influence extends far beyond their numbers through the ripple effect of their relationships with faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Their prayers for our community, their encouraging presence, their thoughtful counsel, and their dedication to mentoring future leaders, all multiply their impact throughout our community. In this way, while their numbers may be fewer, their role in sustaining and strengthening the Lasallian mission remains both essential and powerful.

Today, Lasallian schools are well positioned for continued success, despite the many challenges faced by school districts today. An example of how this success is facilitated is the district’s work in encouraging partnerships between schools. This has helped to build economies of scale, allowing schools to do things together that they would not have had the wherewithal to do individually. These things can range from greater purchasing power to joint programs for students. In addition, most schools are seeing an increase in enrollment post-pandemic, with a total of 8,472 students at last count.

From mission-driven governance to the building of partnerships and the continued commitment to underserved, under-resourced students, the Lasallian family can be confident that, with the prayer, presence, encouragement, and mentoring of the Brothers at their heart, school leadership is not only working at, but succeeding in maintaining and sustaining the Lasallian mission in district schools today. ■

**Mission Driven.
People Focused.**

Fostering Connections

St. John Baptist de La Salle undertook significant travels in his lifetime.

These travels were not characterized by extensive geographical exploration but by his dedication to establishing schools and supporting the formation of the teaching community he founded. De La Salle's travels were pivotal in spreading his educational vision across France. His movements reflect his deep commitment to providing quality education, particularly to underserved communities. His efforts laid the foundation for the global presence of the Christian Brothers today.

Unlike today's digital interactions, face-to-face relationships foster genuine connection, understanding, and trust. The sharing of physical space, person-to-person, strengthens bonds, builds empathy, and creates a sense of community. It reminds us of the importance of human presence in a world increasingly shaped by technology. This is the lifeblood of the Lasallian mission and community: its people.

Just as St. De La Salle realized the strength of in-person relationships, the Christian Brothers today understand that people are the backbone of the Lasallian sense of community we hold so dear. There is no mission without relationships—between our ministries, our work, and our Lasallian family members.

Today, it is not uncommon for us, staff or Brothers, to travel to various parts of the country in our efforts to nourish those relationships that sustain the Lasallian mission. We ask that you pray for us in our travels, and look for us in your part of the country so that we may see each other again, person-to-person, face-to-face. ■



1 Alumni and friends enjoying time together - (clockwise from the bottom left): Don Musil (Parent, Montini Catholic), Mike McGowan (Montini Catholic '71), Anthony Chimera (CBMD Staff), Joe Falese (Lewis University '78, '84), Bob Maday (St. Joseph '73), Kim Kalafut (CBMD Staff), John Casey (St. Mel '58), Brother Visitor Michael Fehrenbach, and Julia Musil (Parent, Montini Catholic '77).

2 Br. Louis Rodemann receives the "Man of the Year Award" at the 2024 De La Salle Kansas City High School Lunch Reunion.

3 Br. Joel McGraw with Sophie "Sue" Schutz and her daughter, Karen LeMay Coggins.

4 Vincent "Skip" Braband (St. George '65), Kathy Murray, and Antoinette White (John - St. George '57) enjoy an alumni luncheon in Naples, Florida.

5 Dr. Hugo Keim, M.D. (St. George '52) with his wife Alicia Nimpius.

6 Br. Tom Hetland sharing stories from the past with Dr. Michael Karbowski, M.D.

7 Br. Joel McGraw with Dick and Flo Gadomski.

8 Friends enjoying breakfast - (L-R): Linda Rinella, Art McGivern (St. George '65), Anthony Chimera, Kim Kalafut, Joanna Wagner (CBMD Staff), Bob Ortbal (Christian Brothers High School, Quincy, IL, and Lasallian Companions), Br. Tom Hetland, Donald Gimbe (St. Mel '58), Vincent "Skip" Braband (St. George '65), and Tom Rinella (St. Pat's '63).

9 Br. Dale Mooney (President of De La Salle Blackfeet) and Paul Quinn (St. George '66) at the Annual Saints and Sinners Luncheon.

10 Br. Tom Hetland, Anthony Chimera, and Joanna Wagner enjoy some time with special friends in Kansas City, Lan and Dennis Bui (front row).



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A Prayer for Our Benefactors

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

God our Father, Jesus our Brother, and Holy Spirit our Sanctifier...we Brothers of the Midwest District are thankful for the material gifts made to us and to our ministry of Catholic education by our alumni, their families, and our friends who support our mission of serving the Church through education. And we are grateful that they have helped us serve our senior men and the many Lasallian ministries entrusted to our care. We ask you, Holy Trinity, to bless and be with our benefactors now and always. Fill them and us with a spirit of love so that together we can help create a world in which all people thrive. We pray in Jesus' name, our Lord and brother. Amen.

*St. John Baptist de La Salle. Pray for us.
Blessed Brother James Miller. Pray for us.
Live Jesus in our Hearts. Forever.*

Dear Friends,

Our Lasallian family is founded on relationships built on shared fundamental beliefs that guide how we treat each other, make decisions, and envision our futures—futures embedded in our Lasallian mission. These values-based relationships are established on the sacred value of trust. Our partners trust in us to be good stewards of the resources needed to advance our Lasallian mission. Their generosity embodies their trust that we will show the proper care and responsibility for those resources in our work.

Our commitment to this sacred trust manifests in every aspect of our operations—from the careful management of financial resources to the thoughtful development of programs that serve our students and communities. Each decision we make is guided by both our fiduciary responsibility and our deeper moral obligation to honor the faith placed in us by you, our partners and benefactors. As good and faithful stewards of the Lasallian mission, we understand that every resource entrusted to us represents not just material support, but also the shared hopes and aspirations of our entire Lasallian family for transformative education and service to others.

This shared responsibility requires us to be intentional and strategic in our resource allocation. We must balance the immediate needs of our campuses and programs with long-term sustainability, ensuring that our Lasallian mission endures for generations to come. We strive to make the most impactful and efficient use of the resources entrusted to us, and in so doing, we honor not only the generosity of our Lasallian community, but also the sacrifices made by the Brothers who dedicated their lives to this cause.

All the members of our Lasallian family share one important goal: doing good in the world. We want to have a positive impact on our families, our communities, and our society. Through kind and thoughtful actions, we create a real, tangible, impact in the world. This goal to do good starts with generosity. Generosity comes from within, from a willingness to share one's good fortune. And generosity can create an example for others and inspire them as well.

Following is a list of those who have invested in the work of the Christian Brothers and the Lasallian mission. This outpouring of generosity is truly inspiring. We thank you all for your faith and trust in us and our work.

With gratitude,



Anthony C. Chimera, M.B.A.
Director of Development
Alumnus, De La Salle Institute



Statement of Operations

Revenue

YEAR ENDING	8/31/2024	8/31/2023
Brothers Ministerial Compensation	\$ 1,580,504	\$ 1,761,342
Charitable Contributions		
Annual Giving	893,292	811,858
Wills/Bequests	1,540,000	2,980,000
Investment Income	268,888	195,436
Solidarity Fund Revenue	271,722	298,020
Miscellaneous Income	17,358	148,198
TOTAL	\$ 4,571,764	\$ 6,194,854

Expenses

YEAR ENDING	8/31/2024	8/31/2023
Administrative	\$ 1,749,146	\$ 1,439,642
General Operations	1,036,407	790,275
Senior Brothers	833,315	740,846
Formation and Mission	426,945	543,587
Brothers Burial Expenses	56,269	71,866
Miscellaneous Expense	20,100	28,792
TOTAL	\$ 4,122,182	\$ 3,615,008
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 449,582	\$ 2,579,846

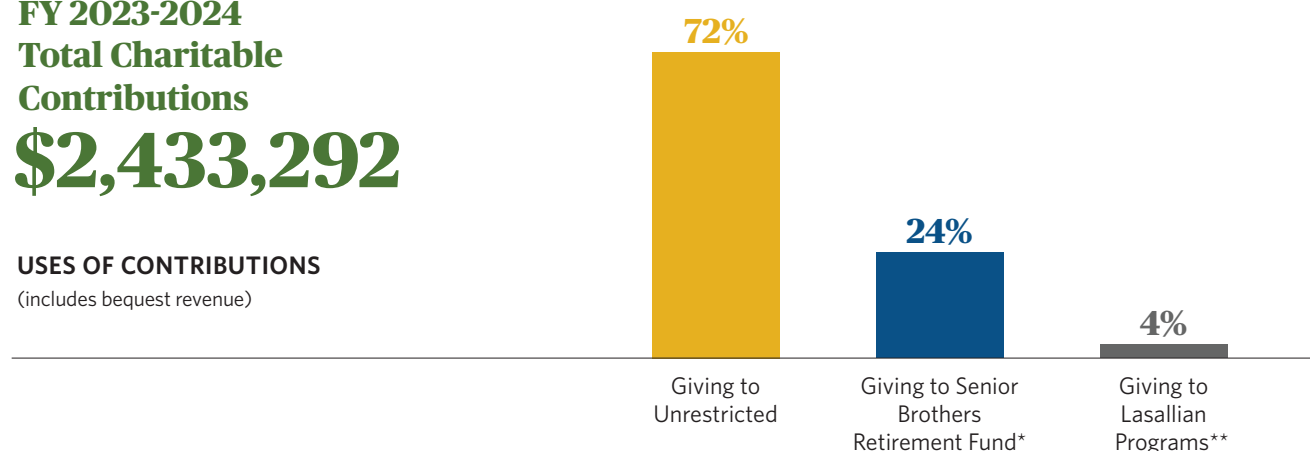
FY 2023-2024

Total Charitable Contributions

\$2,433,292

USES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

(includes bequest revenue)



*Includes endowment additions for Senior Brothers.

**Includes Lasallian Education, Lay Formation, Vocations, and Young Lasallians.

2023-2024 Honor Roll of Donors

Sister Louise Member

\$50,000+

As a Sister Louise Member, you represent the culmination and continuation of the work of St. John Baptist de La Salle. Your message is that the pioneering work of St. John Baptist de La Salle is appreciated even today.

Anonymous
Dr. John Johnson †
Ms. Catherine McEvoy †
Mr. Jerome VanGorkom †

Providential Member

\$25,000 - \$49,999

As a Providential Member, you are one of those benefactors for whom De La Salle prayed. You are a collaborator with St. John Baptist de La Salle in educating young people today.

Anonymous
Mrs. Betty Kabara
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Joette Gostomski
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel & Carol Brennan

Heroic Vow Member

\$10,000 - \$24,999

As an Heroic Vow Member, you exemplify that pledge of continuing the work of the Lasallian mission regardless of any difficulties that lie ahead.

Anonymous
Adeline and Bernard LoCoco Donor Fund
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Helen V. Brach Foundation
Jean and Peter LoCoco Donor Fund
LASAN Education and Charitable Foundation
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Mrs. Colleen Gorski †
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Mr. Thomas McElyea
Mrs. Cecile Pfaff
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Jane Quinn
Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Lauren Schellman
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Deborah Waechter
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Zyck

Guiding Light Member

\$5,000 - \$9,999

As a Guiding Light Member, you support young people as a guide, encouraging their education and preparation for a life of lived Catholic values and service.

Airdo Werwas, LLC
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Catherine Cassato
Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Sara Colella, CPM
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Isabel Curley
Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Jami Gattuso, Jr.
Mr. Michael Harris
Mr. John Herrick
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Mr. & Mrs. John & Judy Meade, Sr.
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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Barbara Ross
Mr. & Mrs. William & Jane Rybak, AFSC
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Barbara Sullivan, AFSC
Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Laurie Werner
Mr. Jack Wilborn
Dr. & Dr. Leslie & Margo Wolf
Mrs. Mary Wolfe †

Fraternal Member

\$1,000 - \$4,999

As a Fraternal Member, you follow the path of the first Brothers, walking with others, and your generosity is an example for others to walk with you.

Anonymous
Carrigan Family Foundation
Kathleen and David Kennedy Foundation
Philip H. Corboy Foundation
St. George Alumni Association
Thomas W. Dower Foundation
Turano Foundation, Inc.
Wintrust Financial Corp.
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Mr. & Mrs. Emil & Mary Ann Mahler, Jr.
Mr. Robert Malone †
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Margaret Maruszak



To learn more about our named giving levels, please visit www.cbmidwest.org/giving/saint-yon-society or scan the QR Code.

*A Center for Justice***Br. David Darst Center**

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 Mr. Thomas McEllistrem
 Mrs. Margaret McEnery
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Paula McEniry, AFSC
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur & Anne McGivern
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 Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Francine McHugh
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Phyllis McLean
 Ms. Cathleen Meegan and Mr. Vincent Walsh
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 Mrs. Lee Stock
 Mr. & Mrs. William & Kathleen Streff, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Stanley & Connie Suchta

The Darst Center's mission is to "provide transformative social justice retreats and immersion experiences grounded in the Lasallian tradition and Catholic Social Teaching." The Center introduces groups to injustice through hands-on experience working in shelters, soup kitchens, inner-city schools, re-entry programs, immigration resource centers, and other local organizations. Its goal is to put a face on those who are poor and marginalized, and to personalize the issues beyond abstract figures and statistics.

Keith Donovan, the Center's director, describes it this way: "I hope that we open the eyes of the folks who attend our programs to see things from new perspectives, to question the status quo, and to imagine both what a different world could look like and how they might be part of building that new vision."

The Darst Center ministry developed in response to the growing need to educate people, especially youth and young adults, about the issues of social justice and to inspire them to be intentional about their own just living. Br. Denis Murphy, founder of the Center, hoped to create a ministry where the "client" wasn't the person on the margins; rather, the "client" was a high school or college student who often came from more privileged backgrounds and who had little lived experience with urban challenges. The typical retreat group comes to the Darst Center with limited personal exposure to the injustices prevalent in this social context.

As to his vision for the Center, Donovan says, "I hope that the Darst Center can be seen as a place that helps people wrestle with what perpetuates injustice in our communities and gives people the tools and inspiration to consider what they can do to bend the arc of the universe just a little bit more toward justice in their everyday lives."



Students from CBHS (Memphis) and DLS (Minneapolis) volunteer at one of the Darst Center's partner agencies, Streetwise, helping to serve the homeless.

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10
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Laying the Foundation for a Life Without Limits

San Miguel School Chicago

“True and sustainable resilience” is the goal at San Miguel School in Chicago’s tough Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood, according to Julie Hendry, the school’s new executive director. Hendry began her position last September. She was so excited about the mission of San Miguel School Chicago that she moved from Dallas, TX to accept the opportunity. San Miguel is unique in the Chicago area in that it is small, personal, student-centered, and tuition free.

Students at San Miguel School Chicago are provided all the social, emotional, and educational support necessary to successfully achieve what Hendry describes as a sustainable transformation based around the Lasallian charism. The school, which houses a maximum of 75 students grades six through eight, exemplifies the whole-person philosophy of a Christian Brothers education, where children share a sense of belonging, and are known by their names and who they are, and not just as file numbers.

The school provides a Bridge Program to help graduates transition into elite high schools such as Walter Payton College Prep, St. Ignatius, Whitney Young, and our own De La Salle Institute. And the education doesn’t stop there. Alums of San Miguel School Chicago are encouraged to come back for tutoring and skill development throughout their high school careers.

Students emulate the Brothers by building people-centered relationships based on care and community. The community is so important that the school also houses a community center which provides classes, such as ESL, exercise, or health for local residents.

So grounded is the Lasallian mission, that the school now staffs six to seven alumni who have come back to share what has been given to them, in true Lasallian fashion.



San Miguel School Chicago students take pride in St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Lasallian spirit.

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72%

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Bringing Healing and Empowerment to Indigenous Peoples

De La Salle Blackfeet School

Browning, Montana is home to one of the more unique ministries of the Christian Brothers of the Midwest District. It is the home of De La Salle Blackfeet, the only Lasallian school in the United States with a primary focus on indigenous peoples. The school serves students from 4th through 8th grade, and follows the Christian Brothers' San Miguel model, with a small student body, small class sizes, and extensive support.

The Christian Brothers arrived in Browning 24 years ago at the invitation of the local Little Flower Parish after a failed attempt to open their own Catholic School. And the impact of the school has been tremendous. With the support and education of DLS Blackfeet, students graduate from high school at a rate of 95%. Many Blackfeet graduates go on to success at elite colleges and universities across the country.

To bring awareness to the challenges faced by indigenous peoples, DLS Blackfeet runs a week-long immersion program, attended by representatives of Lasallian schools from all over the country. After Mass and orientation, participants are assigned grade levels for which they work during the week. They also learn of things such as indigenous land use and meet with local community members.

De La Salle Blackfeet hopes to bring visibility to an invisible community and to combat the social injustices that this community faces. As Jon Ficaro, the school's Immersion Program Director and Director of Development says, "As Catholics, we are our brother's keeper; it is our responsibility to accompany this community in their process of healing from injustices of the past, and to empower them to shape their future."



Students at De La Salle Blackfeet actively participating in their lesson.

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Midwest District 2023-2024

There are

90 Brothers

Active in Ministries and Retired

24 Ministries

Schools, Retreat, Educational Centers

3,965 Lay Partners

Administration, Faculty, Staff, Non-Faculty

24,161

Students served in the Midwest District

\$32 million

In Financial Assistance Awarded to Middle/High School Students

\$144 million

In Financial Assistance Awarded to University Students

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A History of Lifelong Friendships

De La Salle Kansas City

"Longstanding relationships are what we are about—it's who we are."

Dan Bonderer, Class of 1969, Vice-President, Alumni Association, on longstanding relationships among De La Salle Kansas City alumni.

Today, the De La Salle Kansas City Alumni Association is going strong, fueled by a transformational experience and an appreciation for the teachers who helped make them become the successes they are today—teachers who were interested, focused, and tough. The reunions are so important that alums pitch in to make sure everyone can attend. Those with greater resources help assure that those who have fewer resources are all able to experience this time together. Even homebound alums make arrangements to get to the reunions, where they relive the best memories of their lives, and to look at them, you'd think they were back in high school again.

De La Salle was in a rough part of town, but it was a school of choice for those who attended. In addition to rigorous academics, students faced the challenge of real growth through cultural interaction with people very different from themselves. But the Christian Brothers there were up to the challenge as molders of men. And they fostered the development of long-term relationships, something for which the alums of De La Salle Kansas City are known.

De La Salle Kansas City's Alumni Association is holding their 70th reunion luncheon on Friday, April 25, 2025.



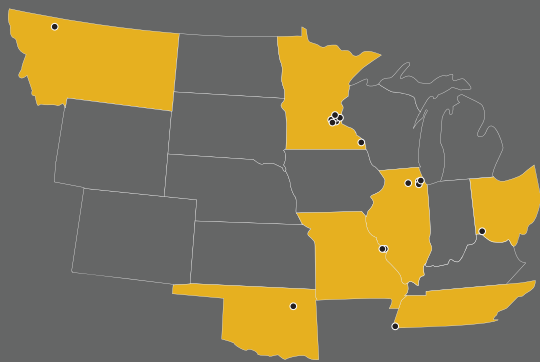
More than 200 alumni and friends enjoyed gathering at the 2024 Annual De La Salle Kansas City Reunion Luncheon.

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Midwest District At A Glance



The Midwest District is one of four districts that comprise the Lasallian Region of North America, which includes Lasallian ministries in the United States and Canada. The Midwest District encompasses seven states and includes three universities, twelve high schools, and three middle schools. There are four retreat centers, one publishing house, and one Provinciate office.

Illinois

Brother David Darst Center
Chicago
 De La Salle Institute
Chicago
 La Salle Manor Retreat Center
Plano
 Lewis University
Romeoville
 Instituto Fe y Vida
Romeoville
 Montini Catholic High School
Lombard
 Resurrection College Prep
 High School
Chicago
 Saint Patrick High School
Chicago
 San Miguel School
Chicago

Missouri

Christian Brothers College
 High School
St. Louis
 La Salle Retreat Center
Wildwood

Montana

De La Salle Blackfeet School
Browning

Minnesota

Benilde-St. Margaret's School
St. Louis Park
 Cretin-Derham Hall
St. Paul
 DeLaSalle High School
Minneapolis
 Dunrovin Retreat Center
Marine on St. Croix
 Holy Family Catholic High School
Victoria
 Lasallian Educational and
 Research Initiatives
Winona
 Saint Mary's University
 of Minnesota
Winona
 Totino-Grace High School
Fridley

Ohio

La Salle High School
Cincinnati

Oklahoma

San Miguel School of Tulsa
Tulsa

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A Symbol of Tradition and Unity

St. George High School

The St. George High School Alumni Association remains vital to this day because of the work of Br. Luke Clement, who formed the Association, and then Br. Peter Donlan, who inherited it and built it into a strong, stable organization. A symbol of this strength and the alumni's continued dedication to the Christian Brothers and the mission of education, is the Burnell Tuition Assistance Program, or "TAP."

TAP has been in operation now for 25 years and has provided over \$208,000 in scholarship funds to students at St. Patrick High School. The Association began the program as a way to show appreciation for the influence of the Christian Brothers on students' lives. Through other activities, the Alumni Association also raises funds for the care of senior Brothers.

St. George was characterized by the personal involvement of the Christian Brothers. The ability to speak to a Brother, before school, after school, during extra-curricular periods, man to man, was important to the development of St. George students. Through the dedication of the Christian Brothers, a young man could learn from the experiences and perspectives of an older, more experienced man freely, without constraint, and without fear for confidentiality. But not only could a student approach one of the Brothers; oftentimes, a Brother or another staff member would approach students with concerns about their wellbeing.

"This caring, person-to-person connection, as well as the privilege of being taught by great teachers, was immensely important to young men like me."
-Paul Quinn, St. George alum, Class of 1966, St. George Alumni Association Secretary

St. George High School's Alumni Association is holding their 2025 reunion luncheon on Monday, May 5, 2025, at Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, Illinois.



Classmates Dennis Reardon '60 (left) and Phil Zera '60 (right) enjoyed time at the 2024 Annual Reunion Luncheon with their former teacher, Br. Richard Geimer '53.

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There are

2,883 Brothers

Worldwide in Schools, Retreat and Educational Centers
370 Brothers in the United States

75 Years

Average Age of Christian Brothers

1,154 Ministries

Schools, Retreat, Educational Centers

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The Spirit and Camaraderie of the Knights Lives On **St. Mel High School**

St. Mel High School opened on the west side of Chicago in 1918. It was a parish school named for one of two brothers (both saints!), who were nephews of Saint Patrick. Over time, St. Mel became well-known throughout the city, and developed a tradition of scholarship, action, and dedication to its Catholic, Lasallian mission. Its combination of training in religious, academic, and cultural disciplines with its military and physical education programs, made it one of the premier schools in Chicago. In addition to rigorous academics, outside the classroom there were a number of after school activities where students had the chance to interact with each other. And the Christian Brothers were there to facilitate and develop this growth and change.

Alumnus Pat Savage recalls that St. Mel was a school that fostered togetherness—it was a school where you could “get to know people” and that togetherness was what made St. Mel a special place. In addition, as a long-time teacher himself, Pat sees the value in the education he received at St. Mel, as well as in Catholic education today, where students are taught to high standards and a higher level of care.

Despite having been closed since 1970, the St. Mel Alumni Association remains strong, with alums motivated by the Lasallian experience and an appreciation for the teachers who helped make them into who they are today. St. Mel reunions are important today because they offer more than a chance to reconnect with old classmates—they provide a moment to reflect on life’s journey and remember an important time in the unique environment of a Christian Brothers school. They remind us of who we once were, to share and celebrate who we have become, and often help us understand how our Lasallian experience shaped our paths.

Save the Date! The next St. Mel Alumni Association Reunion Luncheon is Friday, June 6, 2025, at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Schaumburg, IL.



Pat Savage '62 addresses his fellow Knights at the 2024 Annual Reunion Luncheon.

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Leaving Your Legacy

How will people remember us? There comes a time in our lives when we look to the legacy that we will leave. It is the sum of the personal values, accomplishments, and actions that resonate with the people and organizations in our lives. We hope this lasting legacy has a positive impact on other people—family, friends, colleagues, even strangers.

Planned gifts ensure that the Christian Brothers and our Lasallian mission remain viable for future generations of young people who will receive the education and values needed to live lives of character, dignity, and service in a world in which these qualities are very much needed.

Please contact **Anthony C. Chimera**, Director of Development, at 630.323.3725, Ext. 211, or achimera@cbmidwest.org, if you are interested in learning more about legacy giving to the Christian Brothers of the Midwest. Our Office of Gift Planning can review your goals, discuss ministries you wish to support, draft sample language for your will or trust, and explore gift vehicles that provide lifetime income and tax benefits.

If you have remembered the Christian Brothers of the Midwest in your estate plan, please let us know so we can appropriately thank you and ensure that your gift intention is honored according to your wishes. Thank you.

Please visit www.cbmidwest.org/giving/parmenie-heritage-guild to learn more about special gift planning or scan the QR code to the right.



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Br. Joseph Zastrow, FSC †
Br. Larry Zeman, FSC †
Br. Linus, FSC †
Br. Manfield, FSC

A portrait of an elderly man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a dark sweater over a collared shirt. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

KabarA

CHALLENGE 2025

Supporting the Care of Our Senior Brothers

Beginning May 1st

Br. Ed Staszak, FSC served for many years as a teacher and guidance counselor at De La Salle Institute, St. Joseph High School Westchester, and Driscoll Catholic High School. While he has had some recent health issues, he remains very active with daily workouts, and participates in a polka club. Learn more as we spotlight Br. Ed in our upcoming KabarA Challenge 2025.

**Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the canonization of
Saint John Baptist de La Salle and his 75th Anniversary
as Patron Saint of Teachers**



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