Brother Luke Wittmann, FSC
1932 - 2014
62 Years as a Brother of the Christian Schools

A 1950 graduate of St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, NY, Brother Luke Wittmann attended Canisius College for one year prior to entering the Brothers’ Novitiate in Barrytown, NY. Upon graduation from The Catholic University of America, he taught for two years in each of these schools: Incarnation School in Manhattan, St. Augustine School in the Bronx, and St. Peter’s Junior High School on Staten Island. After one year at Holy Name School in Manhattan, Brother Luke was given what became a seven year assignment to St. Patrick’s High School in Newburgh, NY.

Regardless of the location, Brother Luke made a great contribution to the life and spirit of the school and Brothers’ Community. His even temperament was a calming factor in the face of the daily ups and downs of student lives. Although a quiet person by nature, his sense of humor could produce just the right remark to calm a difficult situation. He enjoyed exchanging puns with other quick-witted persons. In his leisure moments, he was an avid reader. It would be difficult to picture him without a book in hand. A pair of skis might replace the book on a winter afternoon with perfect conditions! Confreres looked to him for proofreading any important texts.

Brother Francis Bowers, FSC
1920 - 2013
71 Years as a Brother of the Christian Schools

Brother Francis Bowers delayed his entry into the Brothers in order to take advantage of a job offer on Wall Street, so he could provide financial assistance to his family, hard pressed by the Depression. After his initial religious training, he taught for a total of seven years at Ascension School in Manhattan, Saint Augustine’s Diocesan High School in Brooklyn, and Saint Peter’s Boys High School on Staten Island. During this time, he earned his MA from Fordham University. In 1953, he pursued his PhD from The Catholic University of America, which he obtained in 1959.

Brother Francis then began what was to be a fifty-four year assignment at Manhattan College! He was an instructor, and then an associate professor of English and World Literature. He was an energetic teacher, one who transfers enthusiasm to the students, motivating them to be and do the best they could. Brother Francis was born to be a Brother, and born to be a Teacher! He was a true son of St. La Salle, full of faith --- in his God, his mission, and his students, and full of zeal in forming their minds and hearts. He soon became the Chair of the Graduate and Undergraduate English Departments.

In 1970, he was asked to leave the classroom, and become Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. He, perhaps reluctantly, accepted the position. He was later tapped to be Provost, and Academic Vice-President of the College. Brother John Muller notes that “On the occasion of Brother’s completing these appointments in 1984, one faculty spokesman noted ‘The most important thing Brother Francis knows is persons.’ He went on to praise Brother for ‘his most open and supportive position regarding faculty concerns and his strong support of academic freedom.’ Such high praise for an administrator by a faculty member is rare in most academic settings.” This “retirement” allowed Brother Francis to again become a professor and return to the classroom, where he thrived for almost twenty more years! In his second retirement, he became academic advisor for interscholastic athletics for nine additional years of service to the students.

Dr. Brennan O’Donnell, President of Manhattan College, stated that “Brother Francis was, first and foremost, an extraordinarily dedicated and effective teacher who challenged and inspired three generations of Jaspers. His life was a gift to his students and a blessing to his colleagues.” May he rest in peace!

Brother Matthew Moloney, FSC
1919 - 2013
75 Years as a Brother of the Christian Schools

Sixty-one years spent in and around the classroom, each day’s work completed in a competent manner. This one sentence gives us a snapshot of Brother Matthew Moloney’s life as a Christian Brother. He was an energetic teacher, an excellent administrator, and a thoughtful and gracious Brothers’ Community Director. When not serving as an administrator, he was a great asset in giving helpful fraternal advice to younger leaders who sought him out. Blessed with a gifted intellect, Brother Matthew could teach almost any subject, and truly enjoyed preparing a course new to him — he loved a new adventure!

His assignments ranged from grammar schools to high schools and child welfare institutions, spanning the area from Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island in New York City to Yonkers and Albany, NY and Detroit, MI. Christmas cards he received displayed all those postmarks!

Members of the Moloney family loved him and his company. Brother Matthew spoke proudly of the accomplishments of his nieces and nephews, and his grandchildren and grandnephews. He gently encouraged them to share their success with the Brothers and their ministries.

Nine years ago, eighty-five year old Brother Matthew requested to become a resident of De La Salle Hall “while I’m young enough and healthy enough to enjoy retirement!” And enjoy he did! His kindness, willingness to help, and concern for others brought joy to the Brothers and all the staff.

As he conquered all educational matters in his active life, he set out to conquer all retirement opportunities. Familiarizing himself with the computer, he used it to teach himself Spanish, with the help of two confreres, so he could assist a Brother whose ministry in retirement was teaching English to local migrant parishioners. He learned to play the synthesizer. He became an avid adult tricycle peddler! Brother Matthew was a regular on the Tuesday “out to lunch” trips, and at the Friday night card games. In his spare time, he read widely, keeping up on current world news as well as trends in religion. All this activity came after community prayers and daily Mass!

Brother Matthew prayed for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. Two months prior to his passing, he actively joined about fifty Brothers at a “Vocation Summit” Weekend Retreat. He was a “Brothers’ Brother!” We pray that Brother Matthew enjoys Retirement Phase 2 in Paradise!
On February 22nd, Pope Francis elevated nineteen Bishops to the rank of Cardinal at St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City. Among them was Quebec Archbishop Gerald Lacroix, who graduated from Trinity High School in Manchester, NH, in 1975. The Christian Brothers taught at Trinity in that era.

Cardinal Lacroix was the only newly appointed Cardinal from North America. This is notable in view of Pope Francis’ increased focus on the Church’s growing presence in the Southern Hemisphere. Cardinal Lacroix spent ten years as a missionary priest in Columbia, and was an active endorser of missionary work in the developing world. Congratulations to the Cardinal from our Lasallian Family!

In the Summer 2013 issue of Lasallian Notes, we stated that our Provincial, Brother Dennis Malloy, had accepted the invitation of Bishop Neil Tiedemann, CP, of the Jamaican Diocese of Mandeville, to provide leadership at St. Vincent Strambi School located in the town of Bull Savannah on the south central side of the Island. It is the sole independent Catholic high school in the country, and carries the responsibility of both the education of the impoverished youth in the community as well as the evangelization of the citizens in the Catholic faith. The school faces many challenges, but Brother Augustine Nicoletti, Brother James Wallace, Brother Kent Connolly and lay partner Richard Ward see opportunities to bring themselves closer to the people of Bull Savannah and enrich their lives with both education and religious life. Richard has been Campus Minister at La Salle School in Albany, NY, and at La Salle Academy in New York City.

St. Vincent School serves 130 students from grades 7 to 13 who are split into three groups: students who are on the normal grade level, those who are behind in their academics or have special learning needs, and the older children who are enrolled in a two-year vocational program that teaches career skills such as carpentry, basic business, or hospitality and tourism.

The school has a host of issues that the staff is striving to not only address but turn to their advantage. Situated in a tropical climate and possessing no air conditioning in either the school or the community residence, these volunteers understand how the heat and humidity can impact student progress and are redesigning schedules and job assignments to ease the hardship. Though English is the official language of the country, the Patois dialect is spoken at home and among the students. By learning the language, community members can better understand the region’s culture and grow closer to the youth as well as the local population. With limited funding from a community that struggles to pay tuition, the teachers adapt their teaching methods to the resources available. Notice the sparse learning tools.

The staff of St. Vincent Strambi School strives to spread the Gospel to the 8,000 Catholics in the Diocese. Please include these Lasallians and their students and families in your prayers!
It seems that every generation has some trouble talking with the one that follows. New culture, new music, new technology, new lingo all create a gap between the older and the younger. So how does one reach the next generation to talk about something as enigmatic as religious vocations, especially when there are fewer religious able to communicate to young folks today?

That’s exactly what Communication Majors at La Salle University were asked! “If you were in the Christian Brothers’ shoes, how would you talk to you about considering a religious vocation?” With the help of Communications Professor Dr. Michael Smith and his Public Relations Campaigns and Public Relations Writing Classes, students researched the Christian Brothers, the current state of religious vocations, and how best to market to this key demographic. The Just Try It On campaign plan was born! It grabs the attention of young people, especially young men, through print and other visuals, and leads them to consider trying on the life of a Brother, and invites them to learn more through social media and digital marketing channels like Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, etc. The first video is already on the Province website (www.fscdena.org/justtryiton), with social media channels now being created. Just Try It On officially premiered, right where it started, at La Salle University, during a basketball game in January, complete with print and other visuals, to raise awareness of the need for Christian Brothers.

It is our hope that those who feel called may quite literally call back on their mobile phone or other device, and contact us. For almost every Christian Brother, his vocation started with an invitation. For today’s young people, the written or verbal invitation has been replaced by an informational post on Facebook, a tweet on Twitter, or a video message on You Tube. But the mission to touch hearts and educate the needy is still loud and clear! Even if you are not into the digital age, please pray for our success!

Know someone who may be interested in the Brothers of the Christian Schools?

Just Try It On
www.fscDENA.org/vocation

Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award

Brother David Detje has spent 26 years as the Science and Mathematics Department Chair of De La Salle Academy in New York City. Recognized for his meticulousness and serious but gentle demeanor, Brother David breaks down complex lessons into segments that students are better able to absorb. His keen interest and expertise in technology assures that his students are at the leading edge of this now vital tool. From very early in the morning until late in the evening, he makes himself available to students for tutoring or for conversing on life and spirituality, a practice that has led others to refer to him as the “Soul” of De La Salle Academy. Congratulations, Brother David!
March 2014

Dear Friends:

THANK YOU! Your continuing generous donations for our retired and infirm Brothers is deeply appreciated.

Not only do your gifts permit us to deliver the best in medical care to the Brothers, but your kind support also provides those little special treats that brighten a dark snowy day --- perhaps a guest speaker, author, or musician. Or maybe something to brighten a holiday, such as a picnic on the decorated patio for the Fourth of July. Your kindness makes the smiles shown in these photos to be routine and ongoing, not “put ons” because the camera is present!

We are especially grateful for your gifts during 2013, a year with numerous signs of a troubled economy. Be assured that special sacrifice on your part is met with special prayers for you and your intentions on our part!

Brother William Martin, FSC

Brother William Martin, FSC
Lincroft Development Office

Babe Ruth’s 100th Anniversary

St. Valentine’s Day 2014 marked the 100th Anniversary of George Herman Ruth’s signing of his first professional baseball contract with the minor league Baltimore Orioles. You may have heard this on the sports news broadcasts that day.

What you probably did not hear was the fact that the future Hall of Famer was introduced to the game by a man Babe would later describe as the greatest person he ever knew. Brother Matthias Boutilier, a six and a half foot tall, 250 pound Xaverian Brother who served as disciplinarian of St. Mary’s Industrial School for Boys in southwest Baltimore, was Ruth’s father figure. Sent to the training school by his parents at age seven as an “incorrigible”, Babe lived there for twelve years, in a setting designed to straighten out wayward youths.

Brother Matthias used to “bunt a ball to me by the hour, correcting the mistakes I made with my hands and feet” he wrote in an essay for Guideposts magazine published shortly after his death in 1948. Brother Matthias must also have been a pretty good hitting coach, as Babe later became known as the “Sultan of Swat”!

(Extracted from an article by George P. Matysek, Jr. in the Catholic Review of the Baltimore Archdiocese.)

La Salle Provincialate Development Office
Summary of Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME:</th>
<th>Recent best year - 2010</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Lasallian Notes</td>
<td>$319,268</td>
<td>$350,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From other solicitations</td>
<td>46,843</td>
<td>31,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$366,111</td>
<td>$382,058</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Office and Administration</td>
<td>$59,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, Production, Postage</td>
<td>72,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$131,587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSFER:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To La Salle Provincialate, Inc. for the care of the Brothers</td>
<td>$234,524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$366,111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Income reported above does not reflect Gifts and Bequests received directly by La Salle Provincialate, Inc. and by the District of Eastern North America.