

July 31, 2001

«CASAddSal»

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Dear «CASAddSal»«AddSal»,

I was at my sister-in-law's surprise 50th birthday party and ran into a fellow I knew from my high school days. He is moving back to California and has a son who is about to enter high school. He asked about Christian Brothers. I talked about our being coed. I pointed out the multiple levels of diversity, the strong athletic programs – both men and women's, and our 100-hour Community Service requirement.

"What about the upper-end academics?" he asked. It seems his son is very bright. At about that moment I spied a friend of mine who has a son at Brothers. She has three other children who have attended private schools in Sacramento. "Ask her," I suggested.

Of all the private schools she has encountered, she ranked Christian Brothers' top-end academic program as the best. Wow! This from a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Santa Clara. It may sound a bit self-serving, but I agree with my friend. The academic program here at Brothers does a fantastic job with all students.

Two days after the surprise party ... and the positive comments ... Mary Hesser, one of our counselors, sent me an e-mail. One of our students, a junior, scored a perfect 800 on the Math portion of the SAT. He scored 700 on the Verbal section. Many of our students scored in the 1290 to 1480 range on the SAT. Twelve of our kids are Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This means that 12 of Christian Brothers' students are in the chase for becoming National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists or Finalists. National Merit Scholarship Finalists represent the top 1% of all students in whole United States.

The College Board has selected two of our students for the National Hispanic Recognition Program and eight students have been selected as Ventures Scholars. The Ventures Scholar Program is dedicated to increasing the historically underrepresented in health, math, science, engineering and technology-based careers.

One of the strong suits of a Lasallian education is the diversity that we offer, that we promote, that we cherish. Diversity comes in a variety of sizes and shapes and colors. At Christian Brothers we enjoy cultural diversity. We celebrate our ethnic diversity. We cultivate economic diversity. We program academic diversity. Yes, we do not simply work with the top 10% to 15% of all elementary school graduates. We accept students with a range of academic abilities.

We are proud of all our students. 100% of last year's graduates went to college. Our staff does a first-class job of educating all levels of students – those bound for Stanford and those headed to lesser-acclaimed colleges.

Academic diversity has two ends to it. We are doing a superb job ... at both ends.

God bless,

Mark L. Warren
President

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**To the Friends of the Brothers
November 2001**

Dear first name,

We have witnessed extraordinary events in the last month and a half. The images of the horror have been forever etched into our memories, and for many of us, it was personal. My brother was supposed to be staying at the Marriott Hotel which is ... was ... at the base of the two Towers on September 11. The Marriott is now buried under thousands of tons of rubble.

We have heard countless stories of heroes. Firefighters, police, paramedics and average citizens who, without regard for race, creed, color or ethnic background, simply moved in to help, always at great risk and sometimes at great cost. It struck me that oftentimes heroes walk among us unnoticed and unrecognized.

Mr. Mike Desmond spent a lifetime educating kids. He worked in the public school system and for Bishop Manogue before coming to Christian Brothers High School. Sometimes a teacher comes along who earns a special place in the Teacher's Hall of Fame. Mike Desmond was one of these. He was an academician, demanding, interesting, focused. A true educator. And his students loved him. His corny sense of humor, quick wit and love for his students made him a favorite. St. Philomenes Church was packed for both the rosary and the funeral - a testament to the number of lives this man, Michael Desmond, touched.

Suzannah Rufu is our Campus Minister. Susannah has been with us for two years. Janis Hoffart has been the Principal's Administrative Assistant for 20 something years. Gabrielle Truite has taught German at CB for the last 13 years. These three women took one month of their summer vacation and went to India ... with the Christian Brothers. They dug ditches. They hammered nails. They lugged mortar. They whitewashed walls. They did manual labor as they worked to help build a new classroom wing for use as an electrical engineering educational and training center. No air conditioning. Limited bathing water. No Western food. They simply served the people of Boys Town in Pulluthu, a Christian Brothers vocational training boarding school. It was hard work, not a sightseeing trip. At separate times, all three told me, "I'd go back in a minute."

I offer a prayer.

In the path of darkness, I follow your light.
In the land with no water, I search for your well.
In the heart of hardness, I find your love.
In the minds of ignorance and hate, I find the weak.
In the unforgiven, I see the forgiven.
In those with no hope, I find faith.
In the poor, I find the most wealthy.
In the blood that you shed, I find my God.

This prayer was written by Nicole Myers ... as a sophomore at Christian Brothers.
Heroes come in a variety of sizes, shapes, backgrounds, and ages. And sometimes you
don't have to look very far to see them.

Live Jesus in our hearts ... forever.

God bless,

Mark L. Warren
President