

## History of the San Francisco District

By Brother Brendan Kneale, FSC, and Brother Bertram Coleman, FSC

### Beginnings



Historians can only speculate on the reasons that compelled Joseph Sadoc Alemany, O.P., Archbishop of San Francisco in the mid-nineteenth century, to spend ten years pleading with various church authorities in order to get the Christian Brothers to come to California. In 1867, after exhausting every other avenue, Alemany appealed directly to the Vatican to put pressure on the Brothers' Superiors to send nine Brothers from the District of New York to fill a great need on the West coast. The Brothers arrived in San Francisco the following year, under the able leadership of Brother Justin McMahon, a dynamic and politically astute Irishman.

Alemany's immediate need of the Brothers was the up-building of Saint Mary's College, a high school and budding four-year college which the Archbishop had founded in 1863 to serve the booming population of San Francisco. From its establishment, the school's leadership had been weak and its finances poorly managed. Given the Christian Brothers' long history of school management and Brother Justin's own such success on the East Coast, he was the ideal person to rectify the situation and create a viable and quality educational institution for San Francisco. Moreover, he wisely planned for the future of the school and the new District of San Francisco by recruiting Brothers and new vocations, establishing feeder schools, and securing solid financial support. One of his first tasks was the successful procurement of a University Charter from the State of California, resulting in the first awarding of Bachelor Degrees from Saint Mary's College in 1872.

The appended listing of institutions established by the District reflects the growth and development of the Brothers' mission on the West Coast over the two decades following their arrival in California. In downtown San Francisco, in Sacramento, in Oakland, and in other area locations, grammar schools and high schools - some of them incipient colleges - were established. The manpower needed for this expansion came largely from Brothers recruited from New York, Prince Edward Island, and Ireland. At the same time, the San Francisco District brought dedicated and able laymen into the schools to provide needed expertise.



### The Latin Question

One of the interesting and historic problems that arose in the early years of the District was that of the teaching of Latin. From the beginning, Archbishop Alemany hoped that priestly vocations would be generated from his Catholic schools and colleges. The teaching of Latin greatly expedited the preparation of young men for theological study. The teaching Order of Christian Brothers, in direct contrast, had been established in 1680 France specifically to teach the poor children of Reims in their own language, not in the Latin language reserved for teaching of the upper classes. Faced with this contradiction to their basic principles in the young San Francisco District, as well as similar expectations in other Districts in the United States, the Brothers acquiesced to Alemany's requirement and taught Latin at Saint Mary's College. The Order's French Superiors, however, were anxious to uphold the Brothers' traditional ban (and may have been influenced by an anti-American bias), and the resulting tension created an entire chapter in the Brothers' history now called "The Latin Question." Most of the 9,000 Brothers worldwide at that time were against teaching "The Classics," while the American Bishops highly favored it. Some Brothers were exiled during the struggle over the Issue - Brothers known to be outstanding teachers spent a few years in France as punishment for their ignoring of the ban in

schools in the United States. The American Bishops finally prevailed by appealing to the Pope. In 1923, a Papal Bull, or edict, settled the matter in favor of the Bishops. The obedience of the Brothers' Superiors to the Pope, however reluctant, was rewarded by a phenomenal growth of the Christian Brothers' educational work throughout the United States.

### Growth



In the early years of the District, evidenced in the appended list, schools of all grade levels were established in numerous California cities, as well as in several out of the way areas and in neighboring Oregon and Washington. In 1894, the Christian Brothers assumed responsibility for Saint Vincent's Orphanage near San Rafael, California, as well, after considerable effort by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. As the move to focus on secondary education took hold, some of these early institutions existed only briefly. Before the trend to teaching primarily in

high schools, considerable emphasis had been placed on career and business education for young men, particularly banking and bookkeeping. This was true in San Francisco and Sacramento, as well as at the Brothers' business college in Portland, Oregon.

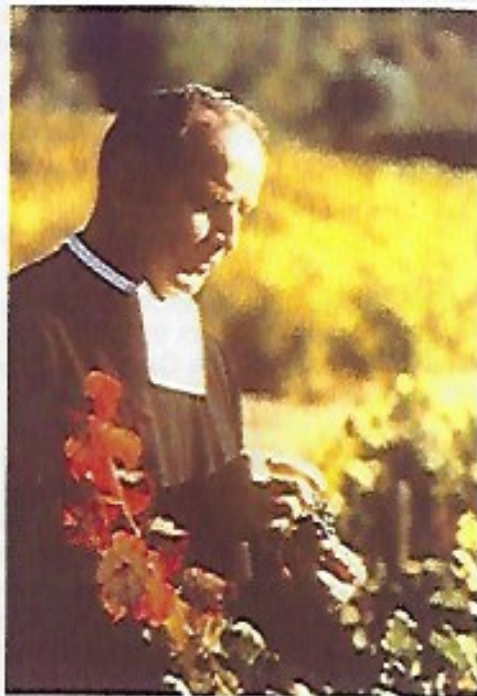
Expansion in the District and establishment of new schools – along with perhaps an overly optimistic spirit – resulted in new construction projects in the 1920's. No one could foresee the Great Depression of the early '30s. The financial conditions of the time caused the Brothers to borrow funds for needed building and maintenance. The Novitiate facilities in Martinez were outdated and had been outgrown. With borrowed funds, impressive new facilities were constructed in the hills outside Napa, creating Mont La Salle which today houses De La Salle Institute, a conference and retreat center, the Christian Brothers Novitiate, and a residence for retired and infirm Brothers. In 1927-28, the District supported the move of Saint Mary's College from crowded facilities in Oakland, where it had moved in 1889 from its original location in San Francisco, and again borrowed funds to construct a beautiful campus in Moraga. Within a few years, a declaration of bankruptcy was necessary, not uncommon at the time. It was only with great effort and considerable sacrifice on the part of lenders, as well as the generosity of San Francisco's then Archbishop John J. Mitty, that District properties were saved.

### The Winery



A small wine-making operation, specifically altar wines, had begun in Martinez in the early years of the District, and had continued at Mont La Salle, with little change in its productivity or in its

income, which assisted with the operation of the schools. By the mid-1930's, a young Brother, John Hoffman, took over the enterprise. He had energy, vision, and good business acumen, and not least, the assistance of a talented wine maker, Brother Timothy Diener. Phenomenal growth and great success attended the efforts of these Brothers. The debt to Archbishop Mitty was repaid, new schools were financed in Bakersfield, Fresno, and Reedley, to name a few, and a nationwide market was developed for Christian Brothers wines and brandy. Other high schools were founded in Pasadena, Concord, and Milwaukie, Oregon. Saint Mary's College received a considerable infusion of financial support



during the 1950s and 1960s. A fine retreat house for high school students was established in St. Helena, near Napa. During this same period, vocations to the Christian Brothers experienced considerable growth, as well. When Brother John died suddenly in 1954, several able Brothers followed him as Presidents of the Winery.

Significant change occurred in the 1980s, however. Changes in marketing and competition and the fewer number of Brothers interested in the work of winemaking resulted in the sale of the winery in 1989.

### **Since Vatican II**

At the time of Vatican Council II in the mid-1960s, the District of San Francisco had over 250 Brothers, whose median age was about forty. Several Brothers were serving in overseas missions, notably the Philippines, Africa, and at Bethlehem University in Palestine. A subsequent decrease in vocations by nearly 50%, and a resulting dramatic increase in the Brothers' median age paralleled similar changes in many religious orders and in the diocesan priesthood. What at the time was considered a radically serious problem was later interpreted by the Christian Brothers at their 42nd General Chapter in Spring 1993 to be a grace – an occasion to appreciate in a new way the work of lay colleagues. Said to have initiated the Age of the Laity, Vatican II gave special attention to the growing role of, and need for, lay colleagues to serve as faculty, administrators, and support staff. This historic development in the Church, and particularly in the work of the Christian Brothers and the Institute, seems to characterize the move in the 1980s and 1990s toward "sharing of the mission" with lay boards of trustees, lay presidents and principals, District officers, deans, and men and women faculty. As a case in point, La Salle High School in Milwaukie, Oregon, is today conducted as a Lasallian institution of the De La Salle Christian Brothers with an entirely lay administration, faculty, and staff. Boards of trustees have been formed in nearly all the schools and are wholly or predominantly comprised of lay Partners. The Brothers' own recreational and retreat facilities have been opened to lay colleagues and their families. Staffing by Lay persons at all levels of the District has increased dramatically. A Lasallian spirit and renewal of the Brothers' mission on the West Coast and worldwide continues to grow and flourish, as formation programs deepen the understanding of lay men and women about the values and traditions of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

### **Conclusion**

This brief history of the San Francisco District of the Brothers of the Christian Schools would reveal to the perceptive that the grace of Providence and the strength of a common commitment have been at work these past 130 years in this part of the International Institute and the American Catholic Church.

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

*Institutions/Communities in Bold are currently active. Inclusive dates for other foundations indicate the years the Brothers served these institutions and do not necessarily mean these places are currently closed.*

Saint Mary's College (Saint Mary's High School) (Saint Mary's Grammar School)	San Francisco	1868-1889
Saint Mary's College Oakland (Saint Mary's College High School)		1889-1928 1889-1925
<b>Saint Mary's College</b> <b>(Joseph Alemany Community)</b>	<b>Moraga</b>	<b>1928</b>
<b>Saint Mary's College High School</b>	<b>SMC</b>	<b>1973</b>
Saint Mary's Grammar School	<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>1925</b>
Saint Mary's Residence School	Berkeley	1925-1969
Saint Mary's Novitiate	Mont La Salle, Napa	1969-1986
Saint Joseph's Novitiate	San Francisco	1868-1870
Holy Angels Novitiate	Oakland	1870-1879
<b>Mont La Salle Novitiate</b>	Martinez	1879-1932
Saint Joseph Academy	<b>Napa</b>	<b>1932</b>
Sacred Heart College	Oakland	1870-1928
	San Francisco	1874-1906
	Eddy & Larkin	
	Fell St (Sacred Heart Parish Hall)	1906-1914
	Ellis & Franklin Sts.	1914-1929
Sacred Heart College High School	Ellis & Franklin Sts.	1929-1944
Sacred Heart High School		1944-1987
<b>Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory—new school building on Eddy St. with remaining buildings at Ellis &amp; Franklin (De La Salle Campus) &amp; Cathedral High School Gough &amp; Franklin (De Paul Campus) 1987</b>		
Saint Patrick Institute Sacramento (Sacramento Institute) (Christian Brothers College)	12 <sup>th</sup> & K Sts.	1876-1879 1879-1904 1904-1924
Christian Brothers School	21st & Broadway	1924-1964
Bishop Armstrong High School	Sacramento Blvd	1956-1969
<b>Christian Brothers High School</b> (Sacramento Blvd changed to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd 1989)		<b>1969</b>
Guadalupe College	Santa Inez	1877-1883
St. Anthony's Grammar School	Oakland	1880-1914
St. Mary's Grammar School	Oakland	1881-1914
Holy Family/Provincialate Community	Martinez	1882-1932
<b>Holy Family Community</b>	<b>Mont La Salle, Napa</b>	<b>1932</b>
Provincialate Community Rheem Valley Lafayette	Moraga	1961-1973 1973-1989
<b>Provincialate Community</b>	<b>Mont La Salle, Napa</b>	<b>1989</b>
Saint Patrick's Grammar School	Oakland	1884-1914
Saint Peter's Grammar School	San Francisco	1886-1953
Saint Michael's College	Portland, OR	1886-1922
Sacred Heart Grammar School	Oakland	1886-1901
Saint Francis de Sales	Oakland	1889-1899
Junior Novitiate (High School)	Martinez	1891-1932
Junior Novitiate	Mont La Salle, Napa	1932-1969

Saint Vincent's Orphanage	San Rafael	1894-1922
Saint Mary's Grammar School	Portland, OR	1895-1900
Saint James Academy	Vancouver, WA	1897-1911
Saint Patrick's Grammar School	Walla Walla, WA	1899-1909
De La Salle Business School		1909-1920
Holy Cross Grammar School	Santa Cruz	1900-1921
Mission Dolores Grammar School	San Francisco	1911-1926
Scholasticate St. Vincent's	San Rafael	1913-1922
St. Mary's College	Oakland	1922-1928
St. Mary's College	Moraga	1928-1964
Assumption Hall (SMC)		1964-1992
Benilde Hall (SMC)		1964-1969
Junior Scholasticate		
	Martinez	1923-1928
Pre-Novices	Berkeley	1928-1929
	Benilde Hall (SMC)	1970-1985
	Assumption Hall (SMC)	1985-1993
Sacred Heart Junior High School	Los Angeles (Lincoln Heights)	1923-1925
	<b>Los Angeles (Bishops Rd)</b>	<b>1925</b>
<b>Cathedral High School</b>	San Francisco	1924-1953
Saint Peter's High School	Fresno	1945-1998
San Joaquin Memorial High School	Bakersfield	1947-1971
Garces Memorial High School	<b>Pasadena</b>	<b>1956</b>
<b>La Salle High School</b>	Reedley	1958-1989
La Salle School		1985-1989
St. Miguel Community	St. Helena	1963-1992
Christian Brothers Retreat House	<b>Concord</b>	<b>1965</b>
<b>De La Salle High School</b>	<b>Milwaukie, OR</b>	<b>1966</b>
<b>La Salle High School</b>	Napa	1966-1972
Justin High School	<b>Napa</b>	<b>1972</b>
<b>Justin-Siena High School</b>	<b>Tijuana, Mexico</b>	<b>1981</b>
<b>Centro La Salle</b>	(with District of North Mexico)	
	St. Helena	1981-1983
De La Salle House (MLSV Brothers)	Napa	1983-1989
	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>1983</b>
<b>Vaugirard</b>	San Luis Obispo	1983-1996
Newman Center		1987-1996
St. Yon Community	Los Angeles	1986-1996
Miguel-Hildago Institute	<b>San José</b>	<b>1990</b>
<b>La Salle Vietnam House</b>	<b>Oakland</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Lasallian Educational Opportunities</b>	<b>Emeryville</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Saint La Salle Community</b>	<b>Yakima, WA</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>La Salle High School Community</b>	<b>Napa, CA</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Latino Adult Institute</b>	<b>Yakima, WA</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>La Salle High School</b>	(move to Union Gap, WA)	<b>2000</b>
	Sunnyside, WA	1998 - 2002
St. Joseph School	Sunnyside, WA	1999 - 2002
Blessed Solomon Community	<b>Berkeley, CA</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>De La Salle House (Pre-Novitiate)</b>	<b>Mont La Salle, Napa, CA</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Rancho Los Hermanos</b>	<b>San Francisco, CA</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>De Marillac Middle School</b>	<b>Portland, OR</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>De La Salle North Catholic High School</b>		

# Christian Brothers

## An Archbishop's Vision and a Lasallian Tradition

By Andrea Miller  
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De La Salle Christian Brothers

For 135 years, the De La Salle Christian Brothers have provided "a human and Christian education" for young people in San Francisco and the West. It was not by accident, but rather by design, that they were sought by the first Archbishop of San Francisco to play a role in the educational system he envisioned.

By the time he was installed as head of the newly formed, sprawling Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1853, Joseph Sadoc Alemany had already been busy recruiting religious to teach the Catholics of California. Having received the cooperation of several orders of sisters whose focus was on the education of young women, he now sought a congregation to run a college he proposed to establish for young men. He intended the institution to provide both a secular and a religious education, not only to preserve the Catholic faith in the face of San Francisco's basely and material lure, but also to produce the priestly vocations the frontier archdiocese critically needed. Part of his goal had already been met by the Jesuits, who had established two colleges, Santa Clara in 1851, and Saint Ignace College in San Francisco in 1855, but Alemany saw a greater need, one which included boarding accommodations to serve the far-flung region. And he knew he wanted the Christian Brothers to take on the responsibility.

The Archbishop had learned of the Christian Brothers'

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TO ALL CREATION



dedication to teaching from his years of missionary work in the eastern and midwestern United States. Founded in France in 1680 by John Baptist de La Salle (who would be canonized in 1900 and declared "Patron of Teachers of Youth" in 1950), the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Frères Scholaires Christianisateurs) were dedicated to the practical, Christian education of the poor. In tailoring teaching processes to fit the needs of the underprivileged, De La Salle incorporated life-sized statistics, such as teaching in the vernacular rather than in Latin. A pedagogical pioneer, he instituted teacher training programs and provided consistent structures that addressed the social needs of the students. Most importantly, the Brothers made the instruction available, gratis, to the poorest of children. In the rigid, class-conscious society of 17th-century France, these practices were certainly counter-cultural. Over time, however, they inspired a large congregation of men who devoted themselves to the schooling of youth throughout Europe and beyond.

And this educational philosophy seemed to fit well with the open, opportunity-filled American society of the 1800s and burgeoning post-Gold Rush California, where most Catholics were European immigrants with little money and in great need of education. The Christian Brothers were, the Archbishop knew, exactly what he was looking for. In 1856 he began a campaign to obtain the Brothers for his proposed college, first writing to the provincial of the North American region, and then appealing directly to the Superior General of the Institute in Paris, asking for "... a colony of your good Brothers for the



Sacred Heart College, completed in 1874, was located on Eddy and Larkin Streets until it was destroyed by the fire that followed the 1906 earthquake.

good education of our young men." The replies to his requests were uniformly negative. At the time, the Christian Brothers had been teaching in the United States for a little over a decade and numbered about 200. They had difficulty enough meeting the demands of their rapidly growing schools on the East Coast, and the notion of sending precious staff across the ocean seemed imprudent.

The Archbishop nonetheless completed the construction of Saint Mary's College, which opened for classes in 1863 under the direction of Father John Harrington, who was soon succeeded by Father Peter J. Grey. While the clergy that were placed in charge were capable, they were often distracted by other responsibilities, and the infant institution struggled. Alemany renewed his quest for the Christian Brothers. After polite refusals from both the North American Provincial and the Superior General, he journeyed to the Vatican in 1867 and put his request directly to the Pope. This effort finally succeeded: Pope Pius IX asked Brother Patrick, head of the United States District, to provide the needed personnel. A group of Brothers was placed under the direction of Brother Justin McMahon, who, at the age of 34, would become the first Brother Visitor (provincial) of the District of San Francisco.

On July 16, 1868, nine Brothers boarded the Ocean Queen in New York. Among them only one was a born American, the others being immigrants from Ireland, Germany, and Switzerland. The *New York Tablet* for that date reported the event:

"The stirring notes of the college [St. Mary's College] had soon attracted the passengers on the steamship, but it was some time before the Brothers made their appearance. . . . Though it was difficult to distinguish the expressions of surprise and gratification they uttered, there was no mistaking their emotions when the sweet, sad notes of 'Home Sweet Home' reached their ears. The cheers and waving of hands and handkerchiefs on board the college boats fully attested the cordial love the evening party entertained for the departing Brothers, and this enthusiasm for their friends affected them so deeply that not a few had to withdraw from the public to give vent to their feelings in

secret. At one o'clock the Ocean Queen steamed majestically from the wharf. . . and a final adieu was waved to Brother Justin and his companions who waved back again and again, no doubt with widely mingled emotions."

After eight days at sea, two days crossing the Isthmus of Panama by train and wagon, and 13 days aboard the *Montana*, a wooden side-wheeler steamship carrying six hundred passengers and a herd of livestock, the Brothers sailed into San Francisco Bay. The very next day, the pioneers met the persistent Archbishop who had brought about their assignment. With little delay, the group loaded their baggage into carriages and made the five-mile journey along Old Mission Road to Saint Mary's College, where Brother Justin accepted the keys and the responsibility for the school. Apart from eight hundred dollars that the San Francisco Archdiocese paid for their passage, the Brothers received no other financial backing, and it was up to Brother Justin to manage the survival, and growth, of the venture.

The Brothers soon discovered that they had assumed control of an institution beset by financial problems caused by debt and over-estimation of donations. Enrollments rose and fell like the tides, and tuition payments were often made in goods and produce rather than cash, providing little

relief from the perilous financial situation. When the academic semester opened that August of 1868, the college was \$75,000 in debt, and of the 49 students who had enrolled in June, only 34 appeared for the first day of classes. It was providential that Brother Justin had been chosen to lead the project. A man of energy, vision, and practicality, he possessed the talents needed to reanimate the floundering institution. With characteristic activity, he took advantage of every opportunity to advertise the change in school administration, enlisting the Archbishop in writing letters to parishes and communicating through the press. A reporter for the *San Francisco Alta Californian* wrote:

"We learn from these gentlemen that their object is to give a thoroughly practical education to those confined to their care. They appear to understand in what education really consists and how important it is to train our youth in such a manner that they will be able on leaving college to take their place with credit in the counting house, the mining district, in law or medicine."

Brother Justin had the college's prospectus published in local papers every day for an entire month to broadcast Saint Mary's offerings in commercial, classical, and scientific studies, stressing the close guidance that distinguished the Brothers' program: "Living in the same houses, sitting at the same table, presiding at the recreations, and, as far as possible, forming a family circle with their pupils, it is reasonable to suppose that the Brothers can easily gain their confidence, and thus be in a position to direct them more successfully in their studies. The discipline, though mild, is sufficiently energetic to maintain good order."

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS, page 15



Brother Justin McMahon, first Visitor of the Christian Brothers in the San Francisco District, established several schools between 1868 and 1879.



St. Peter's class of 1897.

## Christian Brothers . . .

■ Continued from page 14

The first year was often discouraging. Added to the difficult teaching conditions were an outbreak of smallpox and an October 1846 earthquake that badly shook the college building. "The boys were at breakfast when the shock came. Immediately there was a mad rush for the doors and windows to escape into the yard where they were further endangered by falling rocks from the chimneys and dormer windows. This experience naturally rendered the students susceptible to the least strange happening, for later when a terrific wind and storm howled about the gables, the boys were frightened so that they knelt in their beds and prayed for the chance to go to confession." (From a manuscript memoir by Brother V. Cyril)

Some of the Brothers talked of leaving the fledgling enterprise, but Brother Justin never flagged, informing his Brothers, according to one account, that "if they gave up the work, he would carry it on alone, and with the help and blessing of God, succeed. This had the desired effect, and they soon took heart again. The spirit of self-sacrifice and zeal for Christian education made them forget present hardships and hope for a better time."

Continuing his efforts at public relations, Brother Justin arranged for the press to be brought to Saint Mary's in carriages for campus tours and an introduction to the school's aims. At graduation time, the San Francisco community was invited to the college to observe the public examination of matriculating students, enjoy musical recitals, and listen to ecumenical recitations. These efforts brought results. By the second year of the Brothers' administration, the number of students had tripled. In 1872, the State Board of Education awarded Saint Mary's a charter allowing it to grant degrees. By 1875, Brother Justin could legitimately claim that "the college is big, far the largest of any in the West or on the coast."

To provide for future enrollments, Brother Justin tended to the development of feeder schools. Because the Old Mission Road location made Saint Mary's College inaccessible for most of the youth of San Francisco who lived several miles away in the heart of the city, Brother Justin proposed in 1871 to build a high school for young men nearer the metropolitan center that would serve all of the San Francisco parishes. (St. Mary's College would later move to Oakland in 1888, and to its current location in Moraga in 1928.) In his typical can-do manner, Brother Justin set out to raise funds for the high school project, petitioning businessmen, organizing a surprisingly successful bazaar, and enlisting the support of pastors. By 1874, Sacred Heart College, an imposing structure on the corner of Ellis and Hyde Streets was opened, and within a year it had an enrollment of seven hundred students with a faculty of 18 Brothers and one professor.

Like most other "colleges" in the early West, Sacred Heart offered classes from elementary through university level, and advertised "four separate departments: the collegiate, a three-year course; the academic, a four-year course; the commercial, a two-year course open to graduates of grammar schools; and a preparatory or grammar school course in four grades open to boys of ten years or over." The original building was destroyed in the great earthquake and fire of 1906. As a contemporary account reported: "Flames drew perilously near Sacred Heart College, but were successfully repelled. Next day, Thursday, the flames . . . crept slowly up Eddy Street and toward evening reached Larkin. The prominent College was the last of that awful



A year prior to the 1906 earthquake, Sacred Heart students were photographed in their classroom at the Eddy and Larkin Street campus.

day's tribute to the flames." When the embers had cooled, all that could be salvaged was a few photograph albums and a tuition ledger.

Sacred Heart continued in temporary quarters until a new structure was completed at Ellis and Franklin streets in 1914. Over the years, it continued to produce graduates who were prominent in Church, business, and civic affairs. By the turn of the century, it could boast 40 priests among its alumni. Later classes produced San Francisco mayors, Joseph Aloisio and Frank Jordon. (The school continues today as Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, sponsored jointly by the Christian Brothers and the Daughters of Charity.)

Elementary education was also served. In 1886, twelve years after the opening of Sacred Heart College, the Christian Brothers began teaching at St. Peter's, a parish school for boys in the Mission District. In 1924, a high school department of the school was started which was tuition-free. Over the years, St. Peter's also provided many young graduates to the clergy and to religious orders. The Brothers' educational efforts, like the Archdiocese itself, spread well beyond the city limits of San Francisco. Within ten years of their

arrival on the West Coast, they began work at elementary schools in Oakland, operating five parish institutions.

Because so many of the boarding students at Saint Mary's College had come from the Central Valley, Brother Justin agreed to staff a high school in Sacramento and opened St. Patrick's Institute (now Christian Brothers High School) in 1876. The Brothers also operated Guadalupe College near Santa Ynez Mission and Holy Cross grammar school in Santa Cruz, as well as serving for various periods at St. Vincent's Asylum in San Rafael, Christian Brothers Business College in Portland, De La Salle Business School in Walla Walla, and Saint James Academy in Vancouver, Washington.

The District's statistical report for 1901—just 35 years after that first small band of men sailed through the Golden Gate—shows 94 Christian Brothers teaching in 23 schools with a total enrollment of 2,306.

As the years went by, schools closed and schools opened, new needs arose and new conditions were adapted to, but through it all the edu-

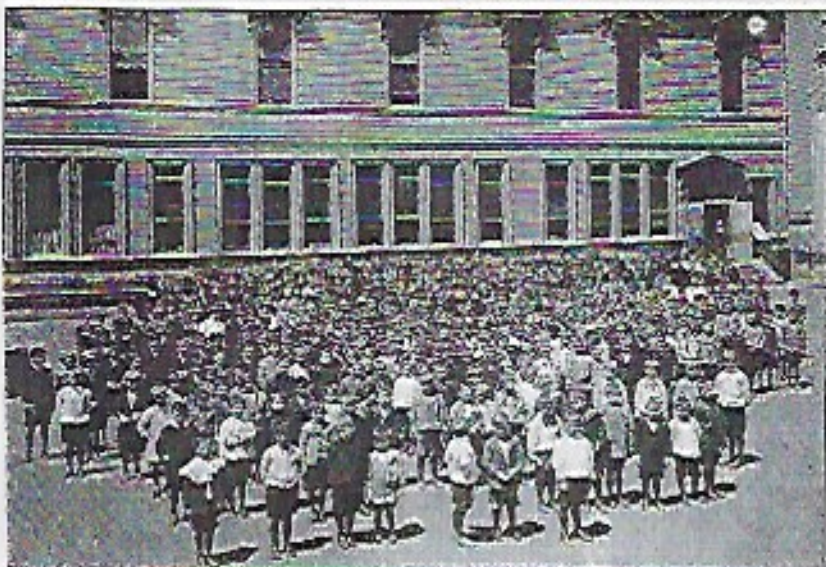
ational mission endured. Today, the District of San Francisco (comprising California, Oregon, and Washington) is associated with Saint Mary's College in Moraga, 10 high schools, one middle school, and various other educational programs for children and adults. The District has 120 Brothers and over 700 lay partners, carrying on many longstanding educational institutions and continuing to create new ones. We serve directly the youth of underserved neighborhoods. Recent initiatives include De Marihue Middle School in San Francisco's Tenderloin (sponsored jointly with the Daughters of Charity) and De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, which has joined with the local business community to create internships that support college-preparatory education. In Oakland, the Lualaba Educational Opportunities Center (LEOC) provides tutorial support and educational enrichment to elementary school students. Other works include the Latino Adult Institute in Napa, De La Salle Chapel for the Vietnamese community in San Jose, Centro La Salle in Tijuana, the new San Miguel High School in Tucson, and partnerships with Lualaba works in Asia and Africa. In recognition of the Brothers' work, Catholic Charities of the San Francisco Archdiocese has given them its "Outstanding Community Organization" award for 2003.

Archbishop Alemany was right, it seems, to seek out the De La Salle Christian Brothers. That small group of Brothers who arrived in 1868 succeeded in establishing for San Francisco and the West a Lualaba educational mission that has served tens of thousands of students and continues to expand its efforts today.

For more on the history, mission, and current activities of the De La Salle Christian Brothers' District of San Francisco, as well as links to Lualaba works worldwide, go to [www.delasalle.org](http://www.delasalle.org).



In 1888, Saint Mary's College moved from San Francisco to a larger, warmer location in Oakland at 20th and Broadway.



Students at St. Peter's Boys' School gathered for this 1911 photo.