

# CB's New Brothers

Meet Brother Christopher Donnelly, FSC and Brother Donald Johanson, FSC



*New Brothers, New Teachers: Brother Christopher Donnelly, FSC (left) and Brother Donald Johanson, FSC (right) at the annual ice cream social last August for incoming students and their parents.*

**C**hristian Brothers is honored to welcome Brother Christopher Donnelly, FSC and Brother Donald Johanson, FSC to our community. CB has a rich tradition developed by the Brothers' legacy, with many members of the alumni fondly remembering their own days sitting at a desk with a Brother at the head of the class. Although lay educators have increasingly supported their mission over the years, the Brothers' presence is still a vital part of the Christian Brothers experience. These men, who join Brother Thomas Pham, FSC and Brother George Van Grieken, FSC in residence, embody those great qualities to which students and graduates have become accustomed: they are faithful, they are gracious, they are warm and welcoming.

## MEET BROTHER CHRISTOPHER DONNELLY, FSC

When first seeing Brother Christopher Donnelly, the first thing that pops out is his smile. Welcoming, hospitable, his gracious smile suddenly turns into a

laugh. He's a joker—it's the kind of personality that puts one at ease. It explains his success as a Brother, as a teacher and a friend.

Born in Oakland, California, Brother Christopher, 56, was one of six children. His father and mother divided the time with their children between homes in the Bay Area and the Sacramento region. The Donnellys also have a family cabin in Dunsmuir.

Catholic education has long been a part of Brother Christopher's life. Spending his winters in Oakland after finishing Catholic elementary school, he attended St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley—his first experience with the Brothers. They made such an impression on the young scholar that he joined the order after graduating from high school.

"While attending St. Mary's College High School the Brothers made a real impact on me," he said. "Their professionalism, dedication, and the care they showed for their students literally changed my life."

After joining the Christian Brothers, Brother Christopher attended St. Mary's College, graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor's Degree in Theology and minors in Math and Humanities. He holds two Master's Degrees: one in theology, the other in school administration; and fitting for a Christian Brother, he also holds a lifetime K-12 teaching credential and an administrative credential.

Since taking on St. John Baptist de La Salle's mission, Brother Chris has traveled all over the Western states, serving at San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno; La Salle High School in Pasadena and Milwaukie, Oregon; Justin Sienna High School in Napa; Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco and La Salle High School in Yakima. He has spent close to 40 years of his life serving the educational needs of hundreds—and it's a life he loves.

"There are many touching moments in my years as a Christian Brother, but I find that I am still in awe when I recognize times when God uses me to reach out to a student in need," he said.

Now at CB, Brother Chris teaches math and is the new Director of Facilities. Although he has only been in residence for a few months, he says the school feels like a good fit.

"Christian Brothers is a Christian community of teachers and learners who clearly care about each other," Brother Chris said. "I have seldom seen a school with so many smiling faces! I am impressed with the quality of both teachers and students."

Brother Chris keeps himself busy outside of the classroom, but sticks to his service roots. He is a fire chief in a volunteer fire department at Huntington Lake; he is an EMT, a bonded locksmith and a skilled craftsman. For fun, he is a private pilot (and he is looking for a copilot if someone has a plane he could share.)

To learn more about Brother Chris (or to offer a plane), email him at [brochris@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:brochris@cbhs-sacramento.org)

## MEET BROTHER DONALD JOHANSON, FSC

To look at Brother Donald Johanson, one can see the spirit of the Christian Brothers—affable and courteous, his friendliness goes without saying. Always ready to offer a helping hand or words of advice, he is a man consumed with the well-being of others. Simply put: he cares.

Brother Donald, 60, was born in Colusa, California. Moving to the Bay Area for school, he attended Sacred Heart High School, graduated from San Francisco State College with a B.S. in Mathematics, and eventually earned an M.S. in Computer Science at the University of San Francisco.

Like Brother Chris, Brother Donald is also a pilot, having served in the Air Force from 1970 to 1975. While in the service, he flew C-141 Starlifters.

Trading one uniform for another, Brother Donald joined the Christian Brothers in 1975. He says his choice

has defined his life.

"I wanted to be a Brother because I admired the Brothers who taught me at Sacred Heart in San Francisco," he said. "I wanted to have a purposeful life, and teaching seemed like the best fit for me."

Brother Donald began his life with the Brothers teaching at De La Salle High School in Concord. In addition to his work in the classroom, he also spent time working in the Administrative Computer Center and then became the Vocation Director for the Brothers.

Returning to the school that provided him the inspiration for choosing the Brothers' vocation, Brother Donald began teaching at Sacred Heart in 1989. During his tenure there, he served as a math and computer science teacher, Director of Studies, Director of Technology and Director of the Brothers' Community.

In 1998, Rome came calling and Brother Donald went abroad to develop the Brothers' international Web site. While in Rome, he also served as the curator of the Christian Brothers museum, was Director of Technology and co-administrator of the Casa Generalizia.

Brother Donald returned to the states to join Christian Brothers High School. Now the Director of the Brothers' Community and back in front of a math class, he says that CB is a place he is happy to call home.

"Christian Brothers is a great place at every level," Brother Donald said. "The kids are wonderful, the staff and parents are very positive and supportive, and I am enjoying the challenge of returning to teaching after 10 years out of the classroom."

Although he hasn't had much free time, he looks forward to reworking the Christian Brothers Web site. Eager to work and happy to serve, brother Donald says, "I hope to be here at CB for a long time."

To learn more about Brother Donald, email him at [brodonald@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:brodonald@cbhs-sacramento.org)



New Brothers, New Teachers: (back row, l-r) Rene Cardenas, Br. Christopher Donnelly, FSC, Br. Donald Johanson, FSC, Robert Boriskin; (front row, l-r) Assistant Principal Noel Hesser, Lucy Castanon, Jade Mamola and Jake Hunley '95.