

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Chapel Expansion



A Sacred Place

St. John Baptist de La Salle instilled a spirit of prayer and reverence in his students, beginning the school day and pausing every half hour to acknowledge, “Let us remember that we are in the Holy presence of God.” In that same spirit, prayer is a central element of life at Christian Brothers High School. It precedes all classes, Masses, administrative meetings and community gatherings.

“We are a proud Lasallian Catholic community. As such, we celebrate the living presence of God in our students, our community and in our world,” says President Lorcan Barnes. “We don’t, however, have a central gathering space for prayer that properly reflects our Catholic, mission and faith.”

This summer, that will change as CB is expanding and renovating the chapel to create a spiritual centerpiece for the campus. The existing chapel, built in 1956, served as a worship space for the community of Brothers. As such, it is too small to meet the needs of students, and its entrance is oriented toward the former Brothers’ residence. There is no direct point of access for students, and the exterior does not convey a sense of sacred place or welcome.

Renovations will expand the chapel, relocate the entrance and altar, and create an expressive exterior at the front of the school. From the street, visitors will see a significant symbol of our Catholic identity. From the lawn, students will encounter a welcoming and visible reminder of our Catholic faith. The chapel’s larger, light-



filled interior will accommodate more students for Mass, Lenten reconciliation, retreats, and prayer experiences. It will also bear the name, ‘Chapel of St. Joseph’ who is the patron saint of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

“Our goal is that when school begins in August, students will see a beautiful, consecrated space for group worship and personal reflection, reinforcing our mission to inspire students in a Christ-centered Catholic community,” says Barnes.

This chapel renovation is possible thanks, in part, to a generous lead gift from John Jackson, Sr. in honor of his late wife Claudine. Donors at the 2015 auction also gave \$120,000 to purchase furnishings and decorative symbols of faith.

