



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 15, 2020

*"Let us pray before starting whatever we need to do."  
St. John Baptist de La Salle*

Dear Friends of Christian Brothers High School:

Looking back on my sixteen years at Christian Brothers, I am struck by the profound wisdom of these simple words. As a Lasallian Catholic community, our gatherings, school days and classes characteristically begin with prayer. "Let us remember that we are in the Holy presence of God" is a phrase that echoes through our halls, classrooms, fields, and hearts. As President, I think back to the prayers that launched innumerable meetings, strategic planning sessions, capital campaign activities, prayer services, masses, and signature events. I think back to the sorrowful prayers that united our community following the deaths of a beloved principal and cherished students. And, I think back to the hopeful prayers that have begun each school year for 144 years.

When I arrived in Sacramento in 2004, CB was a bit of a hidden gem. Thanks to the power of prayer, the grace of God, the wisdom of the Founder and the Christian Brothers, the talents of our dedicated faculty and staff, and the incredible partnership we share with our alumni, families and friends, the school today shines brightly as a precious jewel in the heart of Oak Park.

We have celebrated grand openings for the Jack Witry Field House, the George Cunningham '40 Performing Arts Center, the Chapel of St. Joseph, engineering labs and the Peter P. Bollinger '57 Stadium. Our enrollment is at capacity as we have grown to become Sacramento's largest Catholic school and we are proud to lead the region in need-based tuition assistance providing just over \$2.8 million to 421 deserving students this past year.

But as I reflect on these changes, I'm most proud of the human and Christian education that took place before I arrived and will continue long after I leave. CB is a microcosm of what Christ's Kingdom CAN be and I am forever grateful to the generous benefactors who make it possible for the school to provide access to a world-class education for students from low- and modest-income families. Seeing students take pride in their accomplishments; knowing lifelong relationships are being established; watching students grow into spiritually rich, morally courageous, and intellectually distinguished young adults...THAT'S what I'll miss the most.

Dr. Crystal LeRoy, Ed.D., will officially begin her service as CB's president on July 1. Unofficially, she has been working behind the scenes these past few months to ensure a smooth

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN THE LASALLIAN TRADITION

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transition. CB is blessed to have an educational leader of her caliber to lead us toward our sesquicentennial in just a few years (CB will turn 150 in 2026!). Joining President LeRoy will be Ms. Annemarie Bacich, M.Ed., CB's new principal. She is a dedicated educator with more than 20 years' experience in Catholic education.

With such strong leadership at the helm of our solid team of faculty and staff, financial strength, excellent reputation, great students, and engaged parents...the ingredients are in place for a bright future. CB will look different in many ways when we begin our 145<sup>th</sup> year, but we will still be guided by faith and committed to our mission to *provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor.*

On a personal note, I began my lifelong journey in Catholic education as a nervous first grader in 1973. I was blessed to attend Catholic schools all the way through college. Three months after graduating from LMU, in 1989, I began my professional vocation in Catholic education as a high school teacher. For the last 24 years, I have had the honor of serving as a President/CEO of two outstanding Catholic high schools, including the last 16 at Christian Brothers.

This year will be my first in almost 50 years without a "first day of school" and I will certainly miss it. Yet, I take the wisdom of the Founder with me and will certainly *pray before starting whatever I need to do.* I am pleased to share that my wife and I recently purchased Lester Consulting Group (LCG), a local firm that serves nonprofit organizations by providing fundraising counsel, governance training, strategic planning, and executive coaching. I look forward to helping other organizations advance their missions in an impactful and sustainable manner.

For 16 years, the CB community has touched my heart and nourished my soul. From the Brothers and the Board of Trustees, to our alumni and alumni families, our faculty and staff, and our current students and families, I have had the honor of serving a sacred mission with – and for – outstanding people. Patti and I are blessed that our three sons – Jimmy '12, Jack '15, and Pat '17 – are CB alumni and we are forever grateful to the teachers, coaches and staff members who partnered with us in their formative years of high school. We will forever maintain a proud affiliation with Christian Brothers High School, and I look forward to seeing you at CB events.

God bless,

Lorcan P. Barnes  
Outgoing President/CEO

From: Christian Brothers High School [smithfagan@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:smithfagan@cbhs-sacramento.org)  
Subject: Surprise Tribute in Honor of President Lorcan Barnes  
Date: Jun 11, 2020, 7:10:12 PM  
To: [jkirrene@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkirrene@sbcglobal.net)



June 11, 2020

Dear Friend and CB Supporter:

After 16 years of service, Lorcan Barnes is approaching the end of his tenure at Christian Brothers High School. Lorcan and his wife, Patti, along with sons Jimmy '12, Jack '15 and Patrick '17 have been an integral part of this community. We had hoped to offer Lorcan a send-off party befitting his service and his impact on this school. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has had other plans, and a gathering in person this summer is unlikely. However, we all still want to show Lorcan our deep appreciation, and sincerely thank him for all he has given to Christian Brothers.

We invite you to join us. Here are three options for your consideration. Please join us for any or all of the following! Read below for details on a Zoom celebration.

### Shhh...These are a surprise for Lorcan!

#### 1. A Letter of Appreciation

We invite you to put pen to paper and write your personal farewell to Lorcan. Please return your letter to us by Friday, June 19 via mail to Christian Brothers High School, attention: Advancement Office or email to [smithfagan@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:smithfagan@cbhs-sacramento.org). We will assemble all the letters into a farewell package.



#### 2. Tribute Video



Please consider recording a 30-second video and upload it to <https://www.tribute.co/lorcan-barnes/>. These individual clips will be edited into a keepsake farewell video.



### 3. The Enduring Gift of Education

This is the gift that we believe will be the most meaningful to Lorcan – far more valued than any party we could host. Lorcan does not know about this plan.

The Advancement Department and members of the senior management team at Christian Brothers have led the way with initial contributions to establish the **Lorcan and Patti Barnes Endowed Scholarship Fund** at Christian Brothers High School. We invite you to join us. This will be a permanently endowed fund in Lorcan's honor. A decorative

certificate naming the fund, along with a list of donors, will be presented to Lorcan and Patti.

We recognize and understand that many charitable demands are being made of you at this time. Please know this is an invitation and opportunity, and by no means should you think of it as an obligation. Gifts of any size are welcome and deeply appreciated.

You can make your gift at [www.cbhs-sacramento.org/support](http://www.cbhs-sacramento.org/support), or simply mail a check to Christian Brothers High School, attention: Advancement Office.

Questions please call Nancy Smith-Fagan at 916-733-3647.

Finally, we invite you to join us on Thursday, June 25 at 4:30 p.m. for a live Zoom event at which we will present these gifts to Lorcan, and raise a glass in a celebratory toast – until we can meet again in person.

Please email [nsmithfagan@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:nsmithfagan@cbhs-sacramento.org) to be added to the Zoom invitation list.

Sincerely,

Nancy Smith-Fagan, Director of Advancement;  
Myra Makelim, Director of Human Resources;  
June McBride, Director of Finance;  
Joanne McShane, Director of Parent Giving;  
Kristen McCarthy, Director of Admissions & Communications;  
Trina Koontz, Interim Principal;  
Yolanda Torrecillas, Director of Alumni Giving;  
Joy Prevost, Data Manager;  
Joan Schubert '00, Events Coordinator

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**STAY CONNECTED:**



Christian Brothers High School

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