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HISTORY
Of

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

by Brother Urbanus Lewis Treacey

The Right Rev. Dr. O'Connell was consecrated Bishop of Flaviopolis, in partibus infidelium, and Vicar Apostolic of Marysville, February 3, 1861. When the Diocese of Grass Valley was erected by his Holiness Pope Pius IX on March 22, 1868, Bishop O'Connell established his seat there. The northern and southern limits of this Diocese were 42 and 39 degrees, north latitude, and therefore Sacramento (38 degrees 35minutes) remained within the limits of the San Francisco Diocese.

The Right Rev. Patrick Manogue was appointed Coadjutor to Bishop O'Connell of Grass Valley, January 16, 1881. When Bishop O'Connell resigned, March 17, 1884, Bishop Manogue succeeded him.

The Diocesan boundaries were changed on May 28, 1886, and the new See of Sacramento established. Instead of indicating the boundaries in terms of latitude, the new diocese was outlined by counties, thus moving the southern boundary farther south and including the City of Sacramento within its limits. The Episcopal See was immediately moved to Sacramento, St. Rose's Church being used as the pro-Cathedral.

Father Patrick Scanlan made his first appearance in Sacramento in 1868, when he was appointed assistant to Father Cotter. He succeeded Father Gibney to the pastorate in 1870, and acted in this capacity until he was transferred to San Francisco in 1881. With Father Scanlan begins the history of the Brothers in

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Sacramento. During his pastorate the parish rapidly grew in numbers. He established a school for the children of his parishioners, but their numbers became so large, in 1876, that he was compelled to look for more extensive quarters.

The result was that the foundation of St. Patrick's Institute was laid, in the early part of the same year, at the corner of Twelfth and K Streets. Although the number of pupils was more than enough to tax the capacity of the old school at Seventh and K Streets, it was not enough to justify the calling of the Christian Brothers to Sacramento. Many there were however who had faith enough in the project to urge them to go out to work for its realization. Some earnest workers immediately started a campaign for funds which was successful beyond their most sanguine expectations.

Foremost among these was Miss Maggie Cunningham, then a young woman of compelling character and endowed with a wealth of executive ability and energy that would ensure the success of any enterprise that she might undertake. She set her whole heart in this great work, making a house-to-house canvas until she had collected sufficient money to start a building that would be of such proportions as to accommodate a school faculty and a number of resident students. She was aided in this work by a number of devoted women, notably Mrs. Horan and Mrs. Mary Scribner. Miss Cunningham is still alive (January 6, 1925), but is now advanced in years. She is still deeply interested in the success of the Brothers in Sacramento, in fact, she is as loyal to-day as she was forty-eight years ago when she shouldered the responsibility of establishing them here. When the campaign for raising funds for the new school was projected last June, she was the first and largest individual subscriber, (\$1000).

The cost of the building amounted to \$24,000. On Saturday, July 15, 1876, a community of seven Brothers arrived from San Francisco to take charge of the new school. The Brothers composing this community were: Brother Cianan, Director, Brother Alexander Sebast, sub-Director and teacher of the First Class, Brother Lamand, Second Class, Brother William, Third Class, Brother Ulfrid Patrick, Fourth Class, Brother Wenceslaus teacher of French, German, drawing and penmanship, Brother Finton, Prefect.

The school was solemnly dedicated by the Most Rev. Joseph Sadoc Alemany, Archbishop of San Francisco, on Sunday, July 16, 1876. It was dedicated under the name of St. Patrick's Institute, and placed under the protection of St. Patrick. The Brothers, however, from the very start called it the Sacramento Institute and this name it retained until 1896, when Right Rev. Bishop Grace urged the Brothers to change the name to that of the Christian Brothers' College. Why the new school is called "Christian Brothers School" will be explained later.

After the dedicatory ceremonies, addresses were made by Archbishop Alemany, Governor Irwin and Adjutant General Walsh of the State of California. His Grace spoke eloquently, dwelling chiefly on what the Church has done in every age for the cause of education. He expressed himself in terms of great praise of the success of our Brothers in the great work of Christian education, and predicted that happy results would follow the establishing of the Community in the City of Sacramento. Governor Irwin and General Walsh were both happy and encouraging in their remarks. The house was then thrown open to visitors, and a large concourse of people, Catholic and non-Catholic, made a thorough inspection of the premises.

The institution was then handed over by the pastor, Father Patrick Scanlan, to the Brothers who were to assume all expenses bearing on the school and the community from that day forward.

On Monday, July 17, 1876, the Brothers commenced to receive pupils. There was quite a throng of applicants. During the week all arrangements were made to commence classes on Monday, 24th. On that day the register showed a total of 200 pupils. In less than two months the number increased to 250.

The intention of Father Scanlan was that there should be a number of boarders to help in the support of the community, as the tuition rates were very low, ranging from \$3 to \$10 for periods of two and one-half months. At the end of September there were twelve resident students. The conditions under which the Brothers accepted the institution were that they would charge those who were able to pay, but would not refuse pupils whose parents were too poor to pay.

The pastor furnished four classrooms with desks sufficient to accommodate 260 pupils, besides a teacher's desk and a revolving chair. The Community Room was well furnished for the seven Brothers who assumed charge of the school. Besides the beds and bedding for the seven Brothers, twenty beds and mattresses were added for the boys' Dormitory. The kitchen and dining room were fully equipped for the accommodation of thirty persons. The parlors were equipped with two tables and a dozen plain chairs. The classroom furniture was limited to two Franklin globes, two dozen blackboard erasers and a like number of pointers. The foregoing is the total amount of furniture found in the building when the Brothers assumed charge.

The ownership of the house and lot was retained by the parish, having been purchased and built by the pastor and his parishioners. The Brothers agreed to pay the insurance, taxes and street assessments, without calling for further help from the parish. The community expended \$250 on extra fittings for the comfort of the Brothers. The unfurnished part of the house which consisted of three large classrooms was equipped by the Brothers during the month of October, 1876. This expenditure amounted to \$943.75. Brother Justin, Visitor of the San Francisco District, agreed to all these things.

The first public entertainment given by the students, was held in the Assembly Chamber of the State Capitol Building on May 28, 1877, Governor Irwin presiding at the conferring of certificates. The members of the Board of Education attended in a body, as well as many of the State officials and representatives of various other public organizations. Two diplomas were awarded from the Commercial Department. The entertainment was pronounced a grand success, and augured well for the success of the new institution.

Two succeeding entertainments were held in the same place, Governor Irwin presiding, Saturday, May 25, 1878, and Grover L. Johnson delivering the address to the graduates. On June 2, 1879, Hon. Joe Hamilton presided and Hon. E. Maslin delivered the address. The use of the Chamber was obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Beck, then Secretary of State. The second scholastic year commenced on August 5, 1877. The classes were well filled, a large number of new pupils having registered during the vacation.

Dear Brother Patrick, Assistant, visited the Community on October 22, 1879. On his departure, he brought Brother Justin with him, the latter being appointed to the Visitorship of New York. Brother Bettelin succeeded him as Visitor of California.

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Brother Cianan was changed to San Francisco Dec. 13, 1879. Brother Stephen was appointed to succeed him. But he only remained in office two weeks as he was called to New York on December 28, 1879. Brother Bertram arrived on January 5, 1880, to replace Brother Stephen as director. He continued in office until August 29, 1880, when he was changed to St. Mary's College, ^{San Francisco} ~~Oakland~~. On the same day Brother Sabinian was installed as Director.

Brother Sabinian was changed to St. Joseph's Academy, Oakland, on January 1, 1881, and Brother Bosonis John replaced him as Director. On May 1, 1883 Brother Bosonis was changed to Sacred Heart College, San Francisco, and Brother Genebern appointed in his place. The Rev. Father Grace, Pastor, donated the proceeds of a raffle for the installing of a Banking Department in the School. In consequence, this department was opened January 17, 1884. The new equipment cost \$525.

Brother Genebern remained in office until November 28, 1886, when he was succeeded by Brother Cianan who again acted as Director until November 15, 1889. Brother Cianan was succeeded by Brother Bosonis John who remained in office until January 29, 1892. Brother Cianan returned for another term, replacing Brother Bosonis, and continued in office until July 12, 1894. Brother Walter Erminold succeeded Brother Cianan and acted as Director for the space of one year. Brother Victor Ambrose arrived in July 1895 to succeed Brother Walter.

Brother Ambrose Remained in office until his tragic death, July 4, 1898. He was sailing on the French Steamer La Burgogne, on his way to Paris for the three-months retreat, when, almost in mid-ocean and under a heavy fog, the Steamer Cromartyshire crashed into the La Burgogne. The La Burgogne sank almost immediately and

with it went Brother Ambrose and about 500 other passengers. There was a panic after the collision, which accounts for the great loss of life. Only a few of the passengers were saved. One of the survivors gave a pleasing picture of Brother Ambrose standing on the deck of the doomed vessel, consoling and encouraging a group of panic-stricken passengers who had gathered around him in search of advice and encouragement.

Brother Vellesian who was then teacher of the first class was appointed Director to replace Brother V. Amrose. In July 1900, he was changed to St. Mary's College, Oakland. Brother Walter Erminold was again appointed to replace Brother Vellesian, and remained in office until 1906, when he was called to the Mother House in Belgium.

In 1903 a new wing was added to the main building. The new addition cost about \$5000. This money was obtained through the capable canvassing of dear Brother Ulfian John, who did much for the school on many other occasions and in many ways. He collected the money that added to the equipment of the Banking Department shortly after its installment. The Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy jointly own a burying place in Saint Joseph's Cemetery. This was purchased and improved through the efforts of Brother Ulfian. He built up a Sanctuary Society at the Cathedral that is still talked about in the most favorable manner by those who witnessed the high class of service rendered by its members.

Mrs. M. Bethel gave Brother Ulfian the \$5000 for the building of the new wing. This kind lady did much more for the Brothers. She was ever ready to help them in their needs.

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Brother Florinus Peter arrived on August 6, 1906 to succeed Brother Walter. During his term in office he made many repairs and improvements, notably increasing the capacity of the place for the accommodation of more boarders. He was Director of the house in Vancouver, Washington, before he came to Sacramento. On August 16, 1909 he was transferred to St. Joseph's Academy, Berkley, and was succeeded by our dear Brother Victorinus Leo. Brother Leo had been teaching the First Class several years before his appointment to the Directorship. He continued as such until July 1, 1911, when he was selected for Master of Novices.

Brother Florinus again returned as Director and remained in office until July 1914, when Brother Ximenes George replaced him, being called from the Directorship of Walla Walla for this purpose. After a year of brilliant and efficient service he was appointed Director of the Christain Brothers' Buisness College, Portland, Oregon.

During the mounth of August, 1915, Brother Victorinus Jasper was appointed to succeed Brother George. He occupied this position until August, 1919, when he was called to Saint Joseph's Academy Oakland, as sub-director and teacher of the First Class. Brother Florinus, Leo and Jasper kept poor records.

On August 1. 1919, Brother Ulmerus Vivian was appointed Director, to succeed Brother Jasper. He immediately took steps to have the house, which was now in a very delapidated condition. renovated and painted . The result was that the Rev. Father Ryan, Pastor, had two coats of paint applied to the exterior of the building, papered bothe the classrooms and private rooms. put

new supports under the galleries and renewed parts of the foundation

During the year that Brother Ulmerus Vivian was in charge three separate fires threatened the building, but in each case the fire was extinguished before doing much damage. The loss in each instance was covered by insurance. After a strenuous year in which he accomplished much for the welfare of the house, Brother Vivian was called to the Directorship of Saint Peter's school, San Francisco. Dear Brother Ximines George who was in charge of the Business Class was re-appointed to the Directorship to replace Brother Vivian.

The Brothers in California have few men of Brother George's type. Besides being a sincere religious, he is endowed with a capacity for work away above the ordinary. During the year and a half that he now acted as Director, he also taught all day, looked after the temporal needs of the house and attended to the books and bills. During vacation periods he renovated school furniture, painted, scrubbed, swept and did all manner of manual labor around the rapidly disintegrating building. When he was appointed as pro-director of Sacred Heart College, December, 1921, it was no easy matter to find a man capable of succeeding him. However, an almost perfect duplicate was found in the person of our dear Brother Vellesian, so he was appointed to succeed Brother George.

During the Directorship of Brother Vellesian, the institution crowded more history into its life in two years than it experienced since its establishment in 1876. The old school went out of existence and the new School, vastly superior in every way, quickly replaced it.

Early in 1923 the property at Twelfth and K Streets was sold for the sum of two hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$210,000.), with provisions that the place be vacated not later than June 1st. This left the Brothers in a most uninviting situation, with no possibility of having the new school in readiness for the opening of the next semester in the latter part of August, and with no available place in sight for the continuance of the school.

Brother Vellesian was the man who had to face the new conditions. The present school with its large enrollment and high scholastic standards, stands as a lasting monument to his prudence, energy and executive ability.

After the old school had been torn down he lost no time in securing a temporary building in which classes could be continued. The only available place in the city was an abandoned public school, located at Thirty-ninth and J Streets. This was finally secured and no time was lost in equipping it with the desks and furniture saved from the old school.

Another problem now confronted him, namely, that of securing suitable living quarters for the Brothers and the thirty boarders that desired to continue as such with the Brothers. To meet this demand he rented the old residence of the late Senator Cox, together with a cottage close by. Both being located at Twentieth and T Streets.

Thirty-ninth and J Streets are about two miles distant from Twentieth and T. To meet this inconvenience an auto-bus was procured and pressed into service in bringing the boarders to and from school. This required two round trips each day, as the boys returned for lunch. The Brothers did the same in another machine.

Strange as it may seem the High School Department of the temporary school developed its standards to such an extent, that even while laboring under such disadvantages it increased the popularity of the Brothers as teachers. The idea was stressed that the students were to devote their time there in fitting themselves for the high grade of work which is now carried on in the new school.

Although the preliminaries of the new school extended over a period of seven months, once the construction began it was executed in record time. The contract was let on February 4, 1924, ground was broken Feb. 11th, the cornerstone was laid on May 18th, classwork began on September 15th and the whole structure was completed before the dedication, which event took place Nov. 23rd.

After the sale of the property on Twelfth and K, the Right Rev. Bishop Keane agreed to hand over to the Brothers the sum of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000) and a piece of ground amounting to four and one-half acres. This is the property on which the new school now stands, and is estimated to be worth about thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000).

The institution had to be incorporated in order to be able to obtain a loan to the amount of thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000) necessary for the completion of the buildings. For this purpose, articles of incorporation were drawn up on September 24, 1924, and accepted by the State of California on November 5, 1924. The corporate title is:

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SCHOOL OF SACRAMENTO.

(Note: No apostrophe appears after Brothers in the corporate title) By-laws were drawn up and are on file at the school. The following members comprise the Board of Directors: Edward I. Fenlon (Brother

Zeticus Joseph), Arthur J. Mallon (Brother Urban Gregory), Henry I. Mallon (Brother Vellesian), John W. Treacy (Brother Urbanus Lewis) and John J. Downey (Brother Ulbertian).

Brother Zeticus Joseph, Visitor, was elected Chairman and Brother Lewis, Secretary.

Besides the amounts already mentioned a sum amounting, to date, to nineteen thousand twenty-five dollars and sixty-five cents (\$19,025. 65) was collected for the school in the drive for funds projected by the businessmen of Sacramento during the month of June, 1924. This money was collected for the purpose of furnishing the new institution.

The drive proved to be very popular, as the men who undertook the task of canvassing the City for the money met with the hearty co-operation of the businessmen and merchants. Non-Catholics were more than generous, as the greater part of the amount collected came from non-Catholics and from non-Catholic sources.

The total cost of the buildings, to date, amounted to two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000). The Brothers possess the right of ownership as long as they remain, and teach school in Sacramento. There is a provision, however, that if they withdraw from Sacramento, or cease to teach school there, the amounts mentioned and the property would revert to the Diocese.

Any funds collected hereafter for the Brothers will be free from lien by the Diocese. Formal contracts are here on file giving all details pertaining to the ownership and regulating the method of procedure in case of any fundamental change in the conditions which now exist.

The Community is now composed of Twelve Brothers.

The change of name from that of the Christian Brothers' College to the CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SCHOOL calls for a brief explanation. When a school was established forty or fifty years ago the State paid no attention to its standards or to what it proposed to teach. There being no national system of education in the United States, the burden of building schools and of supplying them with teachers rested upon the separate states. On this account, private schools were welcomed and encouraged.

Most of the private schools were built by different Religious orders, and as the standards of comparison were few, the pioneers were very free in their use of the term "college", although the courses given had few ^{if} ~~or~~ any college subjects.

In recent years the large universities gradually gained control over the courses given in the high schools, by making admission to the universities impossible unless the preparatory courses corresponded to their suggestions. They are now in a position to dictate standards. There are also other agencies now seriously at work in bringing about a national-system of education.

The Bureau of Education and the different educational associations are gathering data from the printed circulars issued by private schools and they are making comparisons. Schools that assume the title of college without giving college courses are strongly criticised and are looked upon as being only fakes.

Our school being a combination of grammar and of high school has about the most appropriate title that could express such a combination. The title was agreed upon after Brother Visitor, Brother Vellesian, Brother Lewis and others discussed the matter from all possible angles. It has now a corporate title and cannot be changed without going through a legal process.

The present plant consists of two buildings, each two stories high and both built of re-inforced concrete. They are connected by an arcade of the form of a circular arc. The arcade is to serve as an entrance to the gymnasium-auditorium which will be built at the earliest possible date that circumstances will permit. Mission style dominates the architecture. The type of construction is known as "Class C". It is practically fire-proof.

The Residence building is 238 feet long, and 60 feet wide. The School building is 200 feet long by 60 feet. There are accommodations for over sixty boarders in the Residence and the School is large enough to accommodate about 500 students. The School is equipped with modern laboratories for the teaching of biology, chemistry and physics. These are well supplied with the necessary appliances for carrying on high school work.

The entire north end of the residential building is set apart for the use of the Brothers. Doors which may be locked separate the remainder of the house which accommodates the help and the boarders.

Nearly two hundred young trees have been planted around the premises. In future years these will furnish the shade so necessary in Sacramento during the summer months which are usually excessively warm.

The whole structure is regarded as being ideal for educational purposes. It is a beautiful looking plant and is admired by all who see it. The design is somewhat original. The exterior is well proportioned, its lines are graceful and pleasing to look upon. The interior is remarkable for the compactness and convenience of its different departments. The two buildings have a floor-space of approximately fifty-five thousand square feet.