

Dedication of the Christian Brothers High School Monsignor James F. Church '50 Park



Dear CB Family & Friends,

You are invited to join us in honoring the legacy of Monsignor James F. Church, Class of 1950, and his lasting impact on our community with the naming and dedicating of the **Christian Brothers High School Monsignor James F. Church '50 Park**.

The dedication will take place on **Saturday, March 1, 2025**. A short ceremony and unveiling at the varsity baseball field will begin at **10:45 am** preceding the CBHS vs Vanden HS varsity baseball game. A small reception will follow in the Victor and Phela Vesci Weight Room (located inside the Jack Witry Field House at CBHS).

All are welcome to attend. We kindly request your RSVP to philanthropy@cbhs-sacramento.org by Wednesday, February 26.

Sincerely,

Steve McLaughlin, Director of Philanthropy



COMMENTS FROM BERNIE CHURCH '62

MONSIGNOR JAMES F. CHURCH '50 PARK DEDICATION
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL
MARCH 1, 2025

I AM ONE OF MSGR. CHURCH'S BROTHERS. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REPRESENT AND SPEAK ON BEHALF OF HIS FAMILY. SOME OF HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT TODAY ARE HERE STANDING BEHIND ME.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE SCHOOL FOR RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MONSIGNOR CHURCH IN WHAT HE GAVE TO THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY. THIS DEDICATION TODAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE VISION AND HARD WORK OF DR. CHRYSYAL LEROY AND STEVE MCLAUGHLIN. WE AS A FAMILY CANNOT THANK BOTH OF YOU ENOUGH. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK FR. DAN MADIGAN, WHO WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MSGR. CHURCH, FOR HIS INVOCATION EARLIER.

I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF TELLING YOU A LITTLE ABOUT THE MAN WE ARE HONORING TODAY.

MONSIGNOR CHURCH WAS THE OLDEST OF 14 CHILDREN OF JIM AND MARY CHURCH. HE HAD 7 BROTHERS AND SIX SISTERS. HE WAS RAISED RIGHT HERE IN OAK PARK. HE GRADUATED FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT 2ND AVENUE AND BROADWAY AND THEN GRADUATED FROM CBHS WHEN IT WAS LOCATED AT 21ST STREET AND BROADWAY. HE GRADUATED FROM CB IN 1950 WHICH WAS EXACTLY 75 YEARS AGO THIS YEAR.

WHILE AT CB HE PARTICIPATED IN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL AND TRACK. AS A SENIOR HE MADE FIRST TEAM ALL CITY IN BOTH BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL. HE WAS ALSO THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. AS IF HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO DO, HE WAS ALSO THE LEAD ACTOR AND SINGER IN THE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL MUSICAL.

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE SACRAMENTO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND ALSO A MEMBER OF CBHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.

HE WAS NOT ONLY A PASTOR, BUT ALSO A MENTOR, EDUCATOR AND FRIEND TO ALL WHO KNEW HIM. AS A TEACHER HERE AT CB HE TAUGHT EVERYTHING FROM CHEMISTRY TO PHYSICS TO RELIGION.

BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE OF EDUCATION AND HIS DEDICATION TO CBHS, THE SACRAMENTO CATHOLIC DIOCESE HAS DONATED \$50,000 DOLLARS A YEAR FOR 10 YEARS INTO AN ENDOWMENT THAT WILL TOTAL A HALF A MILLION DOLLARS. THIS ENDOWMENT WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE FULL TUITION FOR TWO DESERVING STUDENTS EACH YEAR.

I WANT TO THANK THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MELISSA FLOWERS AND THE BASEBALL COACH SHANE SPENCE AND THE VISITING TEAM FOR ALLOWING US TO HAVE THIS DEDICATION BEFORE TODAY'S GAME. LET'S HOPE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT GAME TODAY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TODAY TO HONOR MSGR. CHURCH AND INVITE ALL OF HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND GUESTS TO JOIN US NOW FOR A RECEPTION OVER AT THE JACK WITRY FIELD HOUSE.

THANKS AGAIN AND I HOPE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT WEEKEND.

LET US REMEMBER, THAT WE ARE IN THE HOLY PRESENCE OF
GOD

GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD, WE GATHER TODAY, A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP, TO DEDICATE THIS PARK, A PLACE OF JOY, COMPETITION, AND CAMARADERIE. WE DEDICATE IT IN HONOR OF MSGR. JAMES F. CHURCH, A GRADUATE OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE CLASS OF 1950, WHO EMBODIED THE VALUES OF OUR LASALLIAN TRADITION.

LORD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE OF MSGR. CHURCH. HE WAS AN ACTIVE AND ENGAGED STUDENT-ATHLETE, EDUCATED BY THE BROTHERS, WHO GREW IN FAITH AND CHARACTER AS A FALCON. MAY THIS PARK, BEARING HIS NAME, SERVE AS A LASTING TESTAMENT TO HIS IMPACT AND INSPIRE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS TO COME.

WE ASK YOUR BLESSING UPON THIS SPACE, THAT IT MAY BE A PLACE WHERE:

- +THE VALUES OF OUR LASALLIAN MISSION-FAITH, SERVICE, AND COMMUNITY, ARE LIVED OUT IN EVERY GAME AND PRACTICE.
- +YOUNG ATHLETES DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, LEARN THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK, AND DEMONSTRATE THE SPIRIT OF HEALTHY COMPETITION.
- +WE REMEMBER MSGR. CHURCH'S EXAMPLE AND STRIVE TO EMULATE HIS FAITH, HIS LOVE OF ATHLETICS, AND HIS COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL.

JUST AS ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE ENCOURAGED US TO SEE THE POTENTIAL IN EVERY YOUNG PERSON, MAY THIS PARK BE A PLACE WHERE POTENTIAL IS REALIZED AND DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, PRAY FOR US.

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS, FOREVER.

*Opening Remarks
from:
Dr. Crystal Leroy
President of C.B.H.S.
at Park Dedication
3/1/25*