



December 8, 1934 – January 8, 2004

*Memorial Mass  
for Ron Limeberger*

Christian Brothers High School

January 14, 2004

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**Introductory Rites**

*Call to Worship*

Let us remember. . . *that we are in the holy presence of God.*

**Gathering Song:** "Be Not Afraid"

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,  
Blessed, blessed are you!

Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

*Procession*

Cross ~ Matt Limeberger

Book of the Gospel ~ Amanda Limeberger

*Opening Prayer*

# Liturgy of the Word

*First Reading:* Isaiah 25: 6, 7-9

Proclaimed by Amanda Limeberger

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 23

Led by Br. George Van Grieken, FSC

My shep - herd is the Lord, noth - ing in - deed shall I want.

*Second Reading:* 2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

Proclaimed by Maribeth DaRosa

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel:* Matthew 11: 25-30

*Homily*

*Prayer of the Faithful*

Read by Stephanie Burke-DaRosa

# Liturgy of the Eucharist

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,  
one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And we, though  
man-y, through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this

Verses

one Lord.	1. Gen - tile or Jew,	ser - vant or
	2. Man - y the gifts,	man - y the
	3. Grain for the fields,	scat - tered and
		to Refrain

1. free,                      worm - an or man,                      no more.  
2. works,                    one in the Lord                      of all.  
3. grown,                    gath - ered to one,                    for all.

## *Presentation of the Gifts*

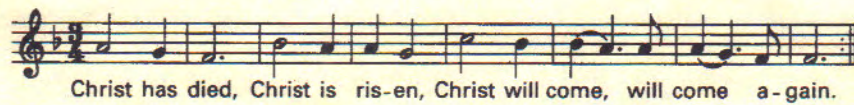
Melissa Limeberger, Matt Limeberger, Ryan Sackett, Amanda Limeberger, Eric Sackett, Max Limeberger, Megan Limeberger, Travis Limeberger

### *Preface Acclamation*



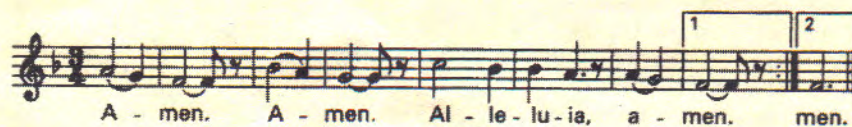
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na, ho -  
san-na on high. Bless-ed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Ho-san-na, ho-san-na on high.

### *Memorial Acclamation*



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come, will come a-gain.

### *Amen*



A - men. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia, a - men. men.

## *Communion Rite*

### *The Lord's Prayer*

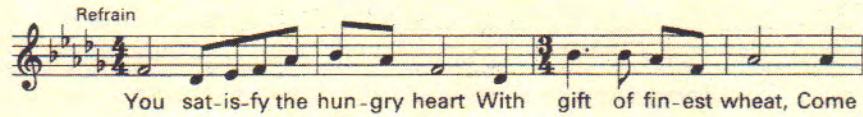
### *The Sign of Peace*

### *Communion*

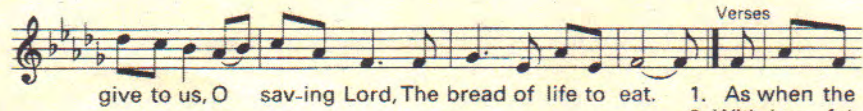
*Those who are not Catholic and who would like to come up to receive a blessing may indicate that by crossing their arms across their chest when they reach the front of the Communion line.*

## Communion Song

Refrain



You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat, Come



give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

1. As when the
2. With joy - ful
3. Is not the
4. The mys - t'ry
5. You give your-



1. shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice; So
2. lips we sing to you Our praise and grat - i - tude, That
3. cup we bless and share The blood of Christ out-poured? Do
4. of your pres-ence, Lord, No mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom
5. self to us, O Lord; Then self - less let us be, To



- to Refrain
1. when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
  2. you should count us wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
  3. not one cup, one loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
  4. all the world can - not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
  5. serve each oth - er in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

## Communion Reflection Song

*Ave Maria*

### Prayer After Communion

#### Reflections:

Richard, Donald, Chris Branich-DaRosa & Maribeth DaRosa  
Mr. Mark Wellendorf (Song), Mr. Dick Sperbeck, Mr. Jack Witry

### Video Presentation

### Final Blessing

## Acknowledgements

<b>Celebrants:</b>	Rev. Msgr. Edward Kavanagh, Rev. Michael Carroll
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	Vito Yanez and Peter Haman
<b>Greeters and Ushers:</b>	Members of the Liturgy, Mass, and Prayer Class Members of the Senior Leadership Class
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Attending clergy and CB students
<b>Musicians:</b>	CB Women's Choir under the direction of Mr. Ron Slabbinck
<b>Accompanist:</b>	Mr. Roy Spicer
<b>Sound:</b>	Mr. Kevin Haag and the CB Sound Crew
<b>Technical Support:</b>	Mr. Steve Barsanti, Br. Dan Morgan, and the CB Maintenance Staff

## Brotherly Love

By Jack Vaughn, Class of 1974

[This story appeared in the *Christian Brothers' Connection* magazine in May, 2000.]

Principal Tom Rutten on Ron Limeberger: "He's a huge part of this institution. He's a classic ... When you think in terms of what people remember who've graduated from here over the last 40 years, one of the things they're going to connect to is Ron Limeberger."

Athletic Director Greg Meegan on Ron Limeberger: "To say that (he) has made a significant contribution to CB athletics is like saying that Abe Lincoln was once President of the United States. Ron Limeberger *is* CB athletics. For 42 years, anyone who has been privileged to play in, coach in or just watch a CB athletic contest has been influenced by Ron Limeberger. Perhaps the greatest thing any of us can say about him is that we cannot yet conceive of how we are going to fill the void when he finally retires."

Now, Ron Limeberger on Ron Limeberger: "I've enjoyed my career at Brothers. I wanted to give back what the Brothers gave to me, and I think I've done a pretty fair job."

A pretty fair job indeed. Since the day in 1958 when Brother Pius hired the newly minted graduate of Sacramento State College – and before that, Christian Brothers at 21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway – Limeberger has been giving the school his all, in the classroom, on the athletic field and with the larger CB community.

Limeberger will have completed 42 years with Christian Brothers when he retires at the end of this school year. It's a career that has included long stints as athletic director, 31 years as a baseball coach, 11 years as a basketball coach, countless hours as a P.E. teacher – and so many years teaching driver's education and training that, he says, "Everybody keeps saying I taught half the guys out there" on Sacramento's roads.

That ought to be enough for any one teacher, even for a guy whom Meegan calls "a throwback to the days when the worth of a person was measured by three things: loyalty, commitment and sacrifice." But as Meegan points out, we've hardly seen the last of Limeberger: "The one thing that makes his retirement tolerable is that he will remain involved with the school through his involvement in the LaSalle Club" and through his informal role as "athletic mentor" to Meegan's department.

Limeberger is the LaSalle Club's treasurer and, Meegan says, "its spiritual guide." Through the club, Rutten says, Limeberger is "a tremendous connection for a lot of people to this institution. ... I can't imagine he's going to go away – and I mean that in a good sense."

For his part, Limeberger says he plans to keep serving the school he loves by teaching – "I'll substitute if I have to" – and working with the LaSalle Club "as long as the LaSalle Club is going to continue at Brothers." Beyond that, "I'm just going to relax and take it easy," and he's forward to traveling with his wife, Joan, and not having to answer to the school bell.

In his final year on the staff, Rutten says, Limeberger is "teaching (P.E. and driver's ed.) and serving as a mentor" to the Athletic Department. "That's where the connections and the memories he has of so many things pay off. He's a walking encyclopedia of Christian Brothers athletics – who you work with, who you talk to, who's going to be there to support the school in athletics. He's a very valuable resource."

"Both as a coach and the current athletic director, my job has been made infinitely easier because of Ron's unselfish help," says Meegan. "He is always there for me, as he is for everyone associated with CB athletics."

"I heard someone once say that Ron knows where all the bodies are buried at CB. Well, he not only knows where they are buried, but he taught them all when they were students!"

The first chapter of Encyclopedia Limeberger was written a half-century ago when he attended grammar school run by the Christian Brothers. He switched to Immaculate Conception to finish his elementary years, then returned to CB for high school.

After graduating from Sac State and taking the CB teaching job in September 1958, Limeberger soon became athletic director. When the Bishop Armstrong campus opened in 1962, he moved there and served as athletic director at Bishop Armstrong and CB until 1989. He also coached basketball and baseball during those years.

His baseball coaching career ended on a memorable note in 1989 with a championship-winning team that included Andy Fox, who signed with the New York Yankees and is now a utility outfielder for the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Bo Dodson, who signed with the Milwaukee Brewers and now manages the Solano (formerly Sacramento) Steelheads in Vacaville. Limeberger was named baseball coach of the year on The Sacramento Bee's All-Metro League team.

"I said, that's a good time to go out," says Limeberger. "Thirty-one years coaching baseball – that's an accomplishment, isn't it? We had a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it."

Recalling the years when CB's baseball team had to use William Land Park because the school lacked ballfields – "I remember plowing those fields out there (at the current campus) and getting them all ready for diamonds" – Limeberger points proudly to the growth of CB athletics. "People don't realize that we have about 900 kids (in the student body), and I'll bet there are a total of almost 300 playing sports. That's quite an athletic program that people have put together, and I think we do a good job, we do an 'above' job."

He's also proud of the home-front support he received during his long years of coaching from his wife, Joan, daughter Jill, '79 Manogue graduate, and sons, Mike and Mark, both '76 CB

graduates. "Joan was always behind me. A coach is gone all the time, and she was always there at the games, as much as she could be with the kids. Pretty soon, the kids were my ball boys. Mike was my scorekeeper for baseball, and Joannie made every game out there – so you can imagine, there's 700 or 800 baseball games she's been to, and probably just as many basketball. It's very rewarding that my family has always stuck behind me."

From his earliest years at CB athletics, Limeberger has worked tirelessly with the larger school family, including alumni and support groups like the LaSalle Club, and he's legendary for maintaining relationships – and knowing whom to call when outside help is needed.

The community is a very important part of the school," he says. "I can still call people who will help me when I'm stuck. My Dad told me, 'Always keep some irons in the fire for when you need them.'"

"His connection to the LaSalle Club, his connection to alumni – he's had such a significant impact on a lot of people," says Rutten. "He's a tremendous connection for a lot of people to this institution."

"For any one institution to be blessed with the loyal service of a man like Ron Limeberger is truly something special," Meegan agrees. "But for that blessing to continue through three generations of CB Falcons is unheard of. As a teacher, coach, mentor and friend, Ron Limeberger is unmatched."

For all the games, for all the alumni dinners, the core of Limeberger's career remains his years in the classroom. "A good teacher is a good coach, a good coach is a good teacher," he says, summing up his philosophy.

"Once you learn to teach, it just sort of flows with you. Each kid is an individual – I figured out the other day I had about 16,000 students over the last 42 years. It's not only the ones you've touched but the ones who've touched you. ...

"When a student comes back later in life and says, 'Hey, thanks,' then I've done my job. ... I guess a teacher likes to make friends – you don't want to make enemies – but you want to get a certain thing done in a certain way so that you teach the kids what the world out there is going to be like. It's not all peaches and cream, as they say.

"You've got to push some kids a little more than others, and you've got to lead them differently. That's the difference between a good teacher and a mediocre one – you know how much you can push, then you lay off, then you come on to them again. The next day, you push a little more. ... If a kid doesn't want to do it, he's not going to do it. But if you can show a kid that he can do it, and then he does it, that's great."

That old-fashioned directness is the Limeberger touch. "He never wavers in his support when you are in the right, and he never shrinks from his duty to admonish when you are in the wrong," says Meegan. "What you see is what you get with Ron Limeberger. He has only one face, and it is always to the front. He is brutally honest, courageous under fire and the most loved teacher and coach I have ever known."

"The kids always think I'm so harsh," Limeberger says. "I'm a piece of cake when you come right down to it. I may bellow off, but I don't bellow off in such a way that I stay off. You can't lose your cool. I know I'm a good teacher because I stay one step ahead of the students all the time – you have to. ... Kids will tend to respect you as much as you respect them. ... Kids are smarter than you think they are, and they know when you're telling the truth."

Complementing that teaching philosophy has been Limeberger's lifelong pride in Christian Brothers. "There's an old saying, 'Once a Brothers boy, always a Brothers boy.' You can always tell them apart. ... There's nothing wrong with the public schools – they do an excellent job – but I think we do just a little better job. There's that special attention that each individual teacher gives each individual kid. We're very sincere, and I think the kids know it.

"It's a good school. I want it to continue to be a good school, and I think I helped make it a good school as just a little part of the whole mechanism. The Brothers started it, then the laymen came along, and now the laymen have more of it. I remember when there were 26 Brothers on the staff and only five or six of us. That's changed, but the school hasn't changed – that's the big thing. If we all believe in the same thing, then the school won't change."

Limeberger's dedication is the moral of Meegan's favorite story about him, about the time last year when Limeberger had gallbladder surgery. "I called him on the phone after football practice to see how he was doing, and through a heavily medicated fog (he was just out of recovery and in his hospital room), he wanted to know if I needed anything.

"Well, I continued to try to tell him I was just calling to see how he was doing, and he insisted that he could get out of bed and be at school within half an hour to help us. I assured him that all was OK at CB, but he wasn't buying it. It took some strong negotiations with his wife and son to convince him to stay in bed.

"You see, even then he knew what no one of us is willing to admit. It is going to be very difficult to get along without Coach Limeberger."

**Program Production:** Br. George Van Grieken, FSC and Mr. Michael Gorman, '68

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