

**Brothers Tribute Event**  
**Sunday, May 15, 2011 (Founder's Day)**

**LORCAN'S SCRIPT**

((WELCOME))

Good morning. Welcome to Christian Brothers. As you can see on the inside cover of your worship aid, we have a brief program for you this morning.

Bishop Soto asked me to bring his regrets. He would like to have been here but had unavoidable Confirmation conflicts. Bishop Quinn also sends his regards. Both these men are DEEPLY grateful to the Brothers for the gift they have been to the Diocese of Sacramento.

((PAUSE)) Because I know there are many guests present today that have not been to Christian Brothers High School in a number of years, I'd like to take a moment to bring you up to speed on our school today.

((STATE OF THE SCHOOL))

- We are 1,022 students strong. Interest in enrollment remains high and we expect to have another freshman class of 270 students in August.
- We are 50:50, male: female. For most of the past twenty years -- since going coed in 1990 -- we had been disproportionately male. But when Loretto High School closed two years ago, we welcomed in 126 young ladies ... and we were 50/50 overnight.
- While the majority of our students come from the City of Sacramento, we do draw from a wider area welcoming students from communities like Vacaville, Galt, Placerville, Auburn, and Yuba City.
- Like most Catholic high schools, we struggle to keep tuition affordable ... without sacrificing excellence in mission. Over the past three years, we have been able to hold TUITION INCREASES UNDER 1%.
- Our commitment to providing tuition assistance to those in need is strong. We distribute more than \$1.4 million in tuition assistance to 251 students. That is one out of four CB students.
  - Today's event raised approximately \$4,000 for the Br. Bertram Coleman Endowed Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all of you who made a gift to that fund in honor of the Brothers.
- Our students reflect the ethnic diversity of our region. We are proud to be a model where people from diverse backgrounds come together to form a rich, respectful, genuine community.
- Our academic excellence is second to none. The class of 2011 has been offered admissions to the following colleges: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Penn, Columbia, Cornell, Brown, Georgetown ... the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs ... Stanford, Notre Dame, ... and of course ... St. Mary's College of California.
- We have a strong Campus Ministry program with engaging retreats and liturgies. More than 80% of our seniors voluntarily elected to participate in our four day Kairos retreat experience.
- Our students live out our motto of "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" through a wide variety of Christian Service activities.

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- Our sports teams consistently win league titles and qualify for playoffs.
- Our faculty and staff are dedicated professionals who embrace their professional responsibilities as a calling from God. Several years ago, CB administrators made a commitment to strengthen salaries and benefits. This has enabled us to attract and retain the finest mission-centered teachers for our students today.
- Thanks to the vision and generosity of many, we have invested more than \$15 million in campus improvements over the past ten years. And still ... we are in the enviable position of being DEBT FREE today.

While we are rightfully proud of these measureable accomplishments, the essence of our Catholic, Lasallian mission has not changed.

So that's a quick snapshot of Christian Brothers High School today.

((((TESTIMONIALS)))

To share some thoughts on this occasion, we are blessed to be joined by Br. Stanislaus Campbell, FSC Visitor for the District of San Francisco.

((((TESTIMONY #1 – BR. STANISLAUS CAMPBELL FSC)))

((((TESTIMONY #2 – BR. JOHN MONTGOMERY FSC '81)))

((((TESTIMONY #3 - LORCAN)))

When Br. Cianin Griffin, FSC opened St. Patrick's Institute on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and K in 1876 with six Brothers, Ulysses S Grant was president. The Diocese of Sacramento did not exist. Thomas Edison had not yet invented the light bulb. Tuition was \$40 a year ... and was only collected from those who could pay.

Over the past 135 years, Sacramento has been home to more than 375 Brothers. Look around the room today. THAT'S how many Brothers have ministered to our students. A complete list of these Brothers – along w/ their years of service – can be found in the recently produced CB history book entitled, "Let us Remember."

Five CB alumni are Brothers: three of whom are with us today ... Br. Bill Beatie '47, Br. John O'Neill '47, and Br. John Montgomery '81. Five other CB alumni – who served as Brothers their entire adult lives -- are buried in the cemetery at Mont La Salle in Napa.

It is impossible to qualify or quantify how much the Brothers have meant to Sacramento. Brothers Boys built this town ... quite literally ... as many CB alumni are developers.

Just about every Catholic church built in Sacramento lists Christian Brothers alumni among its founding fathers.

Peter Shields, class of 1879, is widely credited for establishing what is now UC Davis. Earl Desmond, class of 1911, successfully established what is now Sacramento State. His great grandson will graduate this year ... in 2011 ... a hundred years later.

Jack Kearns, class of 1951 was police chief for twenty years spanning four decades.

Try to imagine what Sacramento would be like today had the Brothers not opened up this school. It's impossible.

The Brothers have blessed us with a rich tradition. We are grateful. We are honored. We proudly embrace the opportunity to continue the legacy.

Over the past few months, I've been asked how the school will be affected when the Brothers close the residence.

We are sad that this chapter of our history has come to an end. But just because the Brothers are no longer *on campus* does not mean the Brothers' *influence* is gone.

The De La Salle Christian Brothers ... and in particular, the District of San Francisco ... is way ahead of the curve in the Church today. With tremendous foresight, the Brothers have been preparing us for this day for decades. They have invested in training the laity and they have proudly shared their charism.

The Brothers have established progressive and responsible governance structures to ensure the strength of the mission. There are reserved powers that the Brothers continue to hold. For example, every member of the Board of Trustees is appointed by the Brothers ... and only after the prospective trustee has received training on what it means to be a Catholic, Lasallian school.

Our faculty and staff have taken full advantage of outstanding formation opportunities such as the Lasallian Leadership Institute, the Buttimer International Institute of Lasallian Studies, just to name a couple. To my knowledge, no other school in the western United States ... has as many lay teachers and administrators formed in the charism as Christian Brothers – Sacramento.

The Brothers' investment in training ... and our faculty's willingness to embrace the invitation ... IS bearing fruit.

Every six years, the District of San Francisco asks its schools to intentionally assess its Catholic, Lasallian culture. This past March, we were visited by five Lasallian educators from other schools to monitor and evaluate our assessment process. We received strong feedback from our students, parents, and our faculty/staff. But perhaps the most compelling feedback was not in the final report. I asked one of the visiting team members, "If you could steal one aspect of Christian Brothers High School and take it back to your school, what would it be?" Without hesitation, he said ... "The commitment of your faculty and staff to Lasallian formation. They get it. They love it. And your students know it."

I've only been in the Lasallian world for seven years. I'm quite mindful that, in thanking you today, I stand on the shoulders of many dedicated Lasallian educators, many loyal alumni, and many grateful parents and friends. These women and men have DEEP ties ... representing decades, even generations ... of fraternal relationships with the Brothers. It is my privilege to represent their sentiments.

- On behalf of the greater Sacramento community, THANK YOU.
- On behalf of the 20,000 alumni living and dead, THANK YOU.
- On behalf of our 1,000 students and their parents, THANK YOU.



**MOST REVEREND RICHARD J. GARCIA, D.D.**  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey*

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Homily  
Christian Brothers  
High School  
Sacramento

May 15, 2011

It is a time of joy to be back here at Christian Brothers High School. A place so sacred to me for the nine years I lived nearby and it still remains deep in my heart. I often pick up my honorary diploma and I remember that I am in the Holy Presence of God with all of you.

And it is in that Holy Presence where we find ourselves today. We gather to remember, to rejoice and to renew a Testament, that of St. John Baptist de La Salle. He stated.

“You must not doubt that it is a great gift of God, this grace He has given you to be entrusted with the instruction of children, to announce the Gospel to them and to bring them up in the spirit of religion”.

Since July 1876, Brothers from Brother Cianin Griffin to Brothers Donald, Christopher and Thomas now have lived and shared this Testament both in word and service. Transitions are hard on us human beings. They cause us anxiety, pain and even fear but they also motivate us to reach deeper within ourselves to be stretched by God’s unfailing love and presence in our lives.

This transition of our Brothers’ departure does both. We remember and treasure the past especially those Brothers who changed the lives of so many alumni and alumnae over the 135 years of their presence here. This school has seen so many transitions in the past, the physical areas from

location to location, a name change from Christian Brothers School to Bishop Armstrong to our name now Christian Brothers High School and then in 2009, the gift of the former Loretto High School students and their families.

Yes- transition upon transition but through you we have been in the ever faithful and Holy presence of the God who loves us. We remember the past and hold it all as in an earthen vessel. However, we do so rejoice in what God has accomplished in this incredible institution.

We also rejoice in the legacy of the Christian Brothers of ST. John Baptist de la Salle. Knowing their grace and gifts as these Brothers taught my brother and my brother in law and my Mother used to sell the Brothers shirts and ties at Macy's and my own relationship with them, I rejoice with you the families, Alumni present, students and the profound gifts each of the Brothers have left in this institution but even more the legacy they have left in our hearts.

I always enjoyed my visits here when you invited me and I even enjoyed my visits here when you did not invite me. This was my favorite school and even though I could not say it when I was here, now that I am no longer in the Diocese, I can.

It is true that this institution has borne many different names in its long history and been situated in many different places, yet it has carried with it one sign – the motto of the Institution of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. “Signum Fidei” “ Signs of Faith”

We have remembered and we have rejoiced. Now it is our task and our privilege to renew, to recommit ourselves to this long standing Testament of Faith – The Brothers had both the vision and the wisdom to assist so many of their colleagues in the Lasallian tradition over the past years. This is both a gift and a promise –

A Gift for us and for which to thank our God and a promise that the tradition, the concern and the love for youth of St. John Baptist de La Salle will continue and prosper. For the vision and the wisdom of the Brothers allows this and other institutions to thrive and serve so many for many more years for the Brothers have ably and truly shared so generously their unique charism to include and incorporate so many others in their educational mission.

“You, Dear Brothers have been both the gatekeepers and the gate”

Gatekeepers – As you have carefully and skillfully provided with a spirit of an option for the poor – For so many students to benefit and love these students into their future lives and careers.

And the Gate itself through which so many have walked into their futures, listening to and recognizing your voices Brothers. Thanks, my friends we do “Remember, Rejoice and Renew” our love for this school, for the Brothers and for the legacy passed on to us all. For as St. John Baptist de la Salle said so well”

“Be satisfied with what you can do, since this satisfies God, but do not spare yourself in what you can do with the help of grace. Be convinced that provided you give willingly, you can do more with the help of God’s grace than you can imagine.” Thank you – Brothers for 135 years of a Holy Presence with us. And our loving God has imagined even more for us in the future.

Yes – we are in the holy presence of God and God is never far from any one of us.

God Bless you and Thank you.



Br. John Montgomery's Speech

**Christian Brothers High School**  
**"Tribute to the Brothers"**  
**May 15, 2011**

In most of our Christian Brothers Lasallian schools in the U.S. and around the world this past week, our students and faculty held special events to honor St. John Baptist de La Salle's founding of the Brothers and the first Christian Schools which originated in France in 1680. While John Baptist de La Salle was officially canonized a saint in 1900, and whose feast day is celebrated by the universal Church on April 7th of each year, to the Brothers is it this day - May 15th - that we chose to celebrate because it was on May 15th in 1950, that St. La Salle was declared the "patron saint of teachers." It is very appropriate then that we have this celebration today in honor of the Brothers and our history in Sacramento.

At my particular Lasallian school in Los Angeles we held special activities each day of the week to celebrate our unique heritage and mission. I was even interviewed by one of our campus television news anchors. What the student interviewer asked me really made me think of CB. In the interview he asked: "What inspired me to be a Brother and teach in a Lasallian school?" Knowing that whatever I would say would be edited down to a short sound bite, I knew I had to give a short & pithy answer. My response: "I was inspired by the Brothers community at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento when I was your age".

When I was at CB as a student 30 years ago, there were 13 brothers in the school. A few of those Brothers I'm proud to say are here today. Some wonderful Brothers - Brother Bede, Brother Richard, Brother Adrian, Brother Joseph Enright, Brother Bertram and others - have died over the last 30 years and are with our Lord in heaven.

I've always been proud to be a CB alumnus and a Brother, but I wouldn't be honest if I didn't say I am also saddened by the closure of the Brothers community here in Sacramento.

In many ways the closure of the Brothers community will not change what is currently happening in the school. Certainly the school will continue to operate in full partnership and solidarity with the Brothers and all our other Catholic Lasallian schools that make up our San Francisco District in the western United States. In this sense nothing changes.

Certainly, the Board of Trustees, along with the strong lay leadership of the school by the President & Principal, with a wonderful and dedicated faculty & staff will continue. Fortunately, due to strong leadership and educational and spiritual formation provided by the Brothers' Provincial Office in Napa, the teachers, staff and students will continue to benefit from the ongoing work that all our Lasallian schools

enjoy. For many years the success of CB - like most Catholic schools, Catholic universities, Catholic hospitals, even some Catholic parishes - has rested in the hands of competent lay leadership. That will continue. Today as a Brother and graduate I am proud to thank and recognize the administration, faculty, alumni, donors, trustees, parents, students and friends and all those who have made CB such a special place. While it is sad to see other Catholic schools close, that will not be the case for Christian Brothers now or in the future.

So if CB is operating so well as a Catholic, Lasallian high school, why are the Brothers leaving Sacramento? No, we are not joining the Maloofs and trying to extract a better deal! *(The Maloofs are the owners of the NBA team in Sacramento who have been threatening to leave Sacramento for years).*

So, why the change?

When I graduated in 1981, CB was all boys. There were 707 students in the schools. 151 graduated my senior year. *(I was fortunate enough to be the class valedictorian).* This year, the school opened with an enrollment of just over 1,000 boys and girls. In 1981, there were about 200 Brothers in our province.... today, we have about 90 Brothers... and like other religious orders we're not getting any younger. Thirty years ago most of our residences had 10 to 12 Brothers living in community; today most of our communities are half that size. Should this discourage us? No. Do we have to do something about it? Yes.

When I told the student reporter this week that I joined the Brothers in part because of the inspiring example of the Brothers community at CB, what I was truly saying, was that the life we Brothers share in community is very dear to our hearts and our identity. It is at the core of who we are. We are Brothers, not bachelors. In order for us to love our students, we have to feel loved. Loved by our fellow Brothers and Christ himself. Having enough Brothers living together under one roof, where we can pray, share our faith, celebrate Eucharistic, develop loving-bonds of friendship in a healthy, loving way, can only happen if we Brothers do indeed live together in community with a sufficient number of other Brothers.

Having too few Brothers in one house is not good for the Brothers or an inspiring vision for our future. We are men, not messiahs. Because CB is not in close proximity to other Lasallian schools it is not feasible for the Brothers to live here under one roof and commute to other Lasallian schools as is the case in the Bay Area or in Southern California. The importance we Brothers are placing upon the quality of our relationships with our own Brothers, is at the heart of why we are making this transition from Christian Brothers High School.

Understood in this context, the change we are celebrating today is really one that is being done to help us Brothers live more authentically our vowed life as Christian educators in the spirit of Saint LaSalle. For 135 years, the diocese of Sacramento has been our home, our friend. While we may no longer be able to rest our head within the confines of this property or within the diocese, please know you will always be our friend.

Thank you.

Brother John Montgomery, FSC  
Cathedral High School, Principal  
Christian Brothers High School, Class of 1981