

The Cardinal

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HELLO AUTUMN



The season has changed from summer to autumn, time has fallen back, but Lasallians continue to be diligent and active in their academics as well as extracurricular activities. Lasallians celebrated International Days for Peace and National Vocational Awareness Week. Clubs have started and sports continue to play a dynamic role in our community.

Autumn has become the new spring for Lasallians.



Lasallian Days for Peace

AN INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER RICHARD

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna



Brother Richard Galvin, FSC

La Salle students joined with Lasallians from around the world to celebrate International Lasallian Days for Peace on September 21st. La Salle was one of many Lasallian ministries participating in the prayer vigil.

Carlos Apreza (2022), president of the student body, launched the prayer service with a brief introduction on the importance of observing Days for Peace. Frank Reyes, (2022) student body secretary, reminded students of St. Paul's message to the Corinthians, "strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace." - Corinthians 13:11. Alejandro Alvarez Luna (2022) and Aaron Parajon (2022), vice president, gave reflections on peace. Alejandro explained the impact of achieving peace and Aaron reflected on the theme "Rising Together for Peace" at La Salle.

At 2:30 p.m., La Salle took part in an additional prayer service in our Chapel. The prayer was led by sophomores Matheus De Souza, and Rowan Torres. Eamon Moogan (2023), shared his view of peace and challenged all present to be agents of peace.

La Salle students also marked the occasion by contributing artwork and recommending suggestions to achieve peace. These suggestions appeared on forms which were displayed with student artwork on the third floor.

In a recent interview, Brother Richard, Campus Minister, stated, "When we advocate to be agents of peace, there will hopefully be less problems in neighborhoods and communities." He believes that uniting in prayer will achieve peace.



The Cardinal staff poses for a picture with Brother Richard in front of La Salle's mural for peace



VOCATIONS

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna

In observance of National Religious Vocation Awareness Week (11/7-11/13), *The Cardinal* recently interviewed Brother Thomas Casey, President of La Salle Academy.

Brother Thomas Casey joined the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1972. He initially wanted to become a priest when he was in middle school. That ambition, however, receded in high school. At Manhattan College, Brother Thomas became engaged in the activities that the brothers offered. He was intrigued by communal living because he saw the impact the Brothers made on young people's lives. As Brother Thomas wanted to do something that would impact the need for peace and justice, he became a brother. Since he had grown up as a man of faith and as an altar server, becoming a brother was a joy.

As a Brother of the Catholic faith, Brother Thomas has taken three vows: poverty, chastity, and obedience. In addition, as a Brother of the Christian Schools, Brother Thomas has taken the vows of association for service of the poor through education and stability in the institute.

Brother Thomas' first communal home and first teaching assignment were in Rhode Island. His most meaningful experience was when he worked with a group of people to start a middle school in Freeport, Long Island. The parents of these young men wanted an alternative to the public school system but didn't have the fiscal means to afford one or win a charter school lottery. Through the Lasallian network, Brother Thomas has met various people from Ireland and Bangkok. This has broadened his awareness and has helped him to understand the international dimension of being a brother.

Brother Thomas' advice to young men who want to become brothers is to share with someone your thoughts and feelings about what you want to undertake. Ask God for guidance and take advantage of opportunities to learn more. Brother Thomas encourages anyone who is thinking about the vocation to check it out, because it is a process that takes years. Brother Thomas believes to be a brother is to do the right thing, do it well, and be a good role model. Be available, be selfless, be caring, be helpful, and realize life is bigger than you.

Brother Thomas's favorite saying is "Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God." He likes this saying because it always reminds him that it is just not about him but everyone. He cannot be a brother without a connection to someone. No one can be a brother without a sibling. Secondly, the saying reminds him that there is a higher power who has put him here for a reason. It tells him that wherever he is, he is in a holy place whether it is the seashores or subway cars. Thirdly, the saying connects him with St. John Baptist de La Salle who started the movement of which he now belongs. Whenever he hears the saying, it reminds him he is not alone. He is part of the worldwide Lasallian movement and its fraternity. It allows him to live out his baptism in a manner that is benefitting and rewarding to others and himself.

The Cardinal thanks Brother Thomas for his insightful and reflective thoughts on his vocation.



(From left to right) Brother Thomas Casey, FSC, Brother William Johnson, FSC, and Brother Richard Galvin, FSC



WARS & PEACE

The Taliban's Attack on Dignity and Peace

By Joshua A. Rocamora



Associated Press



Associated Press



The Guardian

Wars have disrupted peace and claimed billions of lives around the world. Even today, wars continue to destroy numerous families, displace millions of people, and cause suffering. Recently, a humanitarian crisis erupted in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over following the United States' abrupt withdrawal from the country.

While many may focus on the political aspect of the recent event, attention to the human aspect of conflict must also be scrutinized. The Council of Foreign Relations reported that the Taliban's violation of human rights is affecting the peace and dignity of Afghans. The Taliban are detaining protestors and journalists. They have enacted laws and implemented inhumane punishments to those who are not aligned with the Taliban's strict lifestyle. Women are stripped of their rights, religion is restricted, and suffering is inflicted. Public execution and desecration are common practices of the Taliban as they plant fear into millions of Afghans. Recently, the Associated Press reported that the Taliban hung dead bodies to warn those who would commit crimes.

Along with the thousands of deaths caused by violence, The United Nations reports that Afghans are facing an economic crisis following the political transition. The United Nations expects that 97% of all Afghans can fall into poverty by mid-2022. CNN predicts that with the current inflation rates in Afghanistan, prices of food and fuel can increase by over 30-40%. This means that Afghans will endure more suffering from famine. The United Nations estimates 3.2 million Afghan children, under five, are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year.

The Taliban's attack on human dignity and peace is just an example from a long list of conflicts throughout human history. It serves as a reminder why conflict is an obstacle to peace. In an interview with *The Cardinal*, Mr. Estevez, La Salle's Religion Department Chairperson, stated conflicts affect human dignity and interconnectivity of humans. If the world focuses more on what we have in common as human beings, we can come to the true realization that we are indeed equal. Mr. Estevez believes that the world can rise in peace through prayer.



RACIAL INJUSTICE

Peace is the Missing Piece

By Christopher Hurley



Central Press/Getty Images

No one should be treated differently because of their race, ethnicity, nationality, class, caste, religion, belief, sex, gender, language, age, health, or other status. Whether it's in the United States, Africa, Australia, Latin America, or India there are reports of inequality. Victims usually report heartbreaking stories about the injustices they suffer.

Recently there has been an increase in racial discrimination in the United States. In the past year there were 3,800 anti-Asian racist incidents, mostly against women (NBC News). Asian Americans were treated horribly during the year of 2020 because of racial stereotypes and a lack of respect from other citizens.

The FBI reported that 15,136 law enforcement agencies submitted incident reports involving 7,759 criminal incidents motivated by bias toward race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity in 2020.

If people rise to peace through prayer, there may be less discrimination in the world today. Through prayer everyone can speak to God and find peace within themselves, their communities, and the world. No one should be labeled differently because of their color, race, gender or any other classification. *The Cardinal* rises for peace with the recognition that God has made everyone according to his own image and likeness and God teaches everyone to love each other.



DISINFORMATION

Profit vs. Truth

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna



ABC News Photo Illustration, iStock Vectormine

In 21st century America, the traditional forms of media, such as newspapers and televised news broadcasts, have been thrown out the window. In its place most people now get their news from alternate sources, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. With the rise of alternate sources, the spread of disinformation has become disturbing. Merriam-Webster defines disinformation as "false information deliberately and often covertly spread in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth."

According to whistleblower, Frances Haugen, Facebook's priority is money instead of accurate news reporting. When profit is the company's main motivation rather than the safety of its customers, problems in all aspects of life, such as health and politics, arise.

There is no better example of the dangers of disinformation than when the January 6 Capitol riots occurred. Without the spread of false information, such as the claims that Joe Biden had stolen the election through voter fraud, this riot may not have occurred. The misleading narratives spread quickly on social media and led to the galvanizing of Donald Trump's base to storm the Capitol building.

If we are to rise for peace, regulating sites like Facebook and Twitter should help to curtail the spread of disinformation.



COLLEGE VISITS

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna

October 13, 2021 was college visitation day. 11 students visited Columbia University, 17 students visited St. Francis College, one student visited Pace University, and 22 students visited Manhattan College. Based on recent feedback, Manhattan College was the highlight.

Students arrived on the Manhattan College campus with Ms. Toney, Ms. Ritziu and Mr. Perez. They headed first to the Higgins Engineering Center and Leo Hall. At the engineering center, students conducted a chemical reactor experiment. In the biology laboratory students observed an enzyme reaction using peroxide and liver. At Manhattan's television studio, Aaron Gray and Mariano Mitchell hosted a brief news program with Kenneth Prophete as the weatherman. The next stop on the tour was the sound studio where the professor played a piece of music and asked students what scenario best fits the music. At the O'Malley School of Business, students enjoyed a financial literacy game. The final activity was at the School of Education and Health where students participated in fitness exercises.

The visit concluded at Locke's Loft on the 3rd floor of Thomas Hall where students enjoyed lunch, met with Lasallian ambassadors and the Manhattan College's men's basketball coaches.



Manhattan College



Manhattan College Biology



Columbia University Campus Tour Group



Manhattan College Physical Therapy Demonstration



St. Francis College Visit

SPORTS @ LA SALLE

Track and Field Update

by Christopher Hurley

La Salle Academy's track team is having a successful year. Mr. William Hackshaw has been coaching for 30 years and this is his 4th year coaching at La Salle Academy. He is very pleased with his team. The outdoor track season started in August and ended the second week of November.

The La Salle team has an intensive training program after school Monday to Thursday and has races on Saturday. So far La Salle has competed in the Bronx Championship, Sectional Championship, and the City championship. When Coach Hackshaw was asked who his fastest runner was, his response was Joshua Louis, (2022). His best relay team is Joshua Louis (2022), Jack Walsh (2022), Aydan Solages, (2023), and Landon Cauchi (2024). The best long distance team is Carlos Tapia (2022), Jordan Pro (2023). Jase Pabon (2023), Edgar Alvarado (2023), Julian Quezada (2023) and Sam Wiley (2024). Coach Hackshaw reported that the most improved athletes are Jordan Pro (2023), Zachary Cleland. (2024), Reeve Walsh (2024), and Austin Guo (2025).

La Salle Soccer Update

| Date | Home | Away | Result |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| September 13 | La Salle | St. Raymond | L 2-5 |
| September 17 | La Salle | St. Edmund | W 10 - 2 |
| September 21 | La Salle | Cristo Rey | W 6 - 1 |
| September 22 | Cardinal Hayes | La Salle | W 1 - 0 |
| September 27 | All Hallows | La Salle | W 2 - 0 |
| October 1 | La Salle | Sacred Heart | W 7 - 2 |
| October 8 | Bishop Loughlin | La Salle | W 3 - 1 |
| October 11 | Cathedral Prep | La Salle | W 7 - 1 |
| October 14 | St. Raymond | La Salle | L 1 - 2 |
| October 22 | La Salle | Cardinal Hayes | L 0 - 3 |
| October 25 | Sacred Heart | La Salle | W 3 - 2 |
| October 27 | La Salle | All Hallows | L 1 - 2 |

Playoffs

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------|---------|
| November 5 | Cathedral Prep | La Salle | W 4 - 1 |
|------------|----------------|----------|---------|

Semifinals

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| November 9 | Cardinal Hayes | La Salle | L 1 - 2 (Penalty Kicks: 8-10) |
| November 11 | Cardinal Hayes | La Salle | |

La Salle Welcomes Virgin Mary

By John Diaz

When our new school chapel was finished in the summer of 2017, it was missing one important representation: Mary the Mother of God. Mary is significant to Catholics as she represents humility, purity, wisdom, and motherly love. Catholics continuously call on her for advice and guidance. With all these points in mind, why didn't La Salle have a statue of Mary in the School Chapel?

Brother Thomas Casey set out on a mission to find a statue of Mary. By pure luck, he found one. During the pandemic, while reading a copy of *Catholic New York*, an Archdiocesan Newspaper, Brother Thomas noticed that St. Brigid's parish had a new pastor, Father Sean Connolly. They developed a friendship that motivated Father Connolly to give the statue of Mary as a gift to La Salle.

Once the statue arrived at La Salle, Brother Thomas asked Ms. Mollie O' Mara, our Art teacher, to refurbish the statue. Ms. O'Mara graciously accepted the task and selected Jeffrey Acquaah (2023) and Michaël Lennon (2023) for the restoration of the statue.

Ms. O'Mara used many materials to help restore the statue. What was most interesting is that the restoration team found out that leather paint, which is usually produced to paint sneakers, was a key element in fixing the statue.

The statue of Mary now looks serene, exquisite, and beautiful in La Salle Academy's chapel.





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