

# The Huether Workshops

Brothers of the Christian Schools  
Via Aurelia 476  
00165 Rome, Italy

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## Foreword

The present booklet proposes for us a short historical trip through one of the most significant formative structures of the past three decades, which has contributed powerfully to the formation of thousands of persons in North America. The investigatory effort meticulously carried out has succeeded not only in producing a work that needed to be done, but in presenting to us a clear reflection of the main themes which Lasallian works have been taking on in their preoccupation with responding to the original charism.

The reader will doubtless do a double re-reading since he will be able, without difficulty, to compare it with what he has lived in the same decades, in another place and another culture. It will be easy to notice that the same preoccupations, tendencies, challenges and responses were being produced *mutatis mutandis* at the same time in other geographical areas, in an international Institute with leadership which was certainly unifying and with a common passion.

Furthermore, deep down, although the author has not expressed this explicitly, it is dealing with the story of one man, Br. Francis Huether, the man mainly behind this wonder in its crucial years. In the end, this Brother will always form part of our cultural heritage and our emotional world, as if he had lived in both for ever. This booklet, therefore, becomes a simple but sincere tribute to him.

The Workshops, we read several times, wished and wish to respond to the concrete necessities of those involved in the Lasallian Education Mission, and with one particular characteristic: becoming aware of the needs from experience and moving forward towards situations. And we will continue to be amazed at the endless creativity of the themes and of the audiences which are the objects of their attention. So, what starts out by being a simple reflection on education, quickly moves on to other fundamental themes: Catechesis, the formation of Lasallians, financial resources, school management, technology in education, education for justice, the rights of the child, the Volunteer movement, collaboration with the Church... Inevitably the reader who is well

informed about the realities of North America will ask himself about the influence of these meetings on the responses and the works which have been created in recent years. As regards the participants: from Brothers at the beginning - because this was appropriate - to the full inclusion of lay Lasallians from the third year on. Directors, Brothers in general, teachers, counselors, tutors, heads of study and discipline, sports trainers, child-care staff, young university undergraduates, etc. have had their opportunity and their platform for genuine and decision-making expression since the move from Brothers' school to Lasallian school was faced up to in a decisive and intelligent manner at just the right moment.

To end, I point out that the Huether Workshops, thanks to their quality and their openness, opted for an international look. From 1977 the participation of Canada and Mexico became the norm. At present, participants from many other countries benefit annually from this initiative in which satisfaction is guaranteed.

Br. Alfonso Novillo.

## Introduction

The United States Christian Brothers regional educational meetings, or workshops, have a history that date back to 1938 or 1939. (The Acts of the First Regional Chapter (1968 publication p. 39) lists the first organizational meeting of what was then known as the Christian Brothers Educational Association — CBEA, as happening in 1938. The Christian Brothers Newsletter, *CB Today*. (February, 1978, p. 2), pays tribute to the work of the CBEA, but lists 1939 as the date of the first meeting. This date difference, together with the change in names for the sponsoring organization for U.S. educational workshops — CBEA — Christian Brothers Education Association; NECCB — the National Educational Conference of the Christian Brothers; RECCB — the Regional Educational Conference of the Christian Brothers, and the HUETHER WORKSHOPS need to be explored. The research for this MEL BULLETIN becomes a search for correct dates and titles from a variety of sources, for no accurate information on the topic of educational workshops exists in any US District Office or at the Christian Brothers Conference Office in Landover, MD.

The challenge at the beginning of this booklet was to locate information on the ten workshops that were held during the 1970's and early 1980's, which were not recorded in any District or Regional office. It was the assistance that was received from the following five sources that made this story possible. Without the data gathered from these sources it would not have been possible to develop the workshop themes with any degree of accuracy. Michele Beauboeuf at the Christian Brothers Conference helped to gather the information on the most recent years of the workshops. Andrea Miller, of the California District Archives in Napa, CA, found many Visitors' Conference minutes that gave us invaluable data on the early 1970's meetings. Brother Joseph Grabenstein, archivist for the Baltimore District at La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA, uncovered many summaries of District meetings that helped to complete the Huether Workshop story. Brother Luke Salm, at Manhattan College in New York, sent information from the New York District Archives that also helped to complete the writing. Brother Robert Werle's well-organized

Midwest District Archives, furnished information that was critical to the development of this story.

# The Huether Workshops 1973 – 2004

## Preliminaries.

The United States Regional Christian Brothers educational workshops, to be named Huether Workshops in 1985, came into being in 1973 and were the result of a US Regional Chapter decision in 1968. The Chapter delegates felt that the educational programs of the Christian Brothers Educational Association (CBEA) should be continued, but perhaps in a more structured form. The Brothers, who on their own initiative had organized the CBEA, had given to the eight Districts of the United States a professional association of which they could be proud.

*The Christian Brothers TODAY*, in 1978, reflected on the contribution of the CBEA to the growth of educational association among the Districts of the United States. It stated that this group had met since the late 1930's for almost thirty years and cemented professional and fraternal relationships among members of the Brothers' religious family that had been previously sharply separated by geography. It was through the attention that the CBEA brought to the Brothers' work that they "became better informed on the Christian Brothers' glorious apostolate from coast to coast."<sup>1</sup>

The statement that introduced a Chapter motion (Regional Chapter of 1968) highlighted the work of the CBEA and stated procedures for this organization to continue in some form. The full statement reads:

"The CBEA was organized in 1938 at a meeting held at Manhattan College. Since that year annual meetings have been held, except in years when there were US FSC meetings in connection with the General or Regional Chapters. The twenty-six meetings that were held have been productive of considerable good: exchange of information among the Brothers, and cooperation on certain topics. The quality of the meetings has improved with the years, though certainly no Brother would admit that all were equally successful."

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<sup>1</sup> The Christian Brothers TODAY, Volume 9. No.1, February, 1978. Page 2.

“The real purpose of the CBEA is one of service to the Brothers and their schools by encouraging them to a more effective apostolate of education.”

“At first the Board of Directors of the CBEA was made up of elected delegates. However, about 1956, it was decided that the Board consist of the Officers of the CBEA, plus the Brothers Visitor. The move was made with the hope that the Association would succeed better in its projects with the active participation of the Brothers Visitor.

“The officers of the Association were elected, and all, including the Executive Secretary, served on a voluntary part-time basis.”

“There is strong opinion at the present time, as expressed by a memorandum of its officers, that the CBEA should continue, that it should become something of an ‘official’ voice of the Christian Brothers in educational matters in the US, and that its Executive Secretary should be assigned full-time to carry on the work of the Association and other pertinent educational matters. This matter was referred by the US FSC Conference of Visitors to the FSC Directors of Education at their meeting at San Francisco this spring, and this is their recommendation.”<sup>2</sup>

In view of the above, Committee VI of the US Regional Chapter of 1968 entered the following proposition:

**Proposition 18:**

That the Conference of Brothers Visitors reconstitute the Christian Brothers Educational Association by the appointing a full-time Executive Secretary and by establishing a Board of Directors made up of elected members from each District and a member of each District Administration.

Vote: 42 yes; 14 no; 6 abstentions.<sup>3</sup>

The votes on various propositions introduced at this Regional Chapter were generally accepted with large margins of approval. In fact, very few negative votes were cast on any proposal, other than on the proposals of the education committee. While propo-

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<sup>2</sup> *The Acts of the First United States Regional Chapter*. Christian Brothers National Office, Lockport, IL July, 1968. Page 39.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* Page 40.



sitions on the Religious Life of the Brothers and religious education received unanimous approval or acceptance in the 90%+ range, two of the votes on educational concerns received approval only in the 67% area. The 40 negative votes and 20 abstentions on four of the educational committee proposals indicate that the delegates were not certain as to the best method of addressing the school concerns of the Districts.<sup>4</sup>

Brother Francis Huether of the LINE District (Long Island/New England) who held the position of Executive Secretary of the CBEA began quickly to implement the wishes of the Chapter delegates, namely a reorganization of the CBEA. He called a meeting of the CBEA for October 1969, at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting was to review the general work of the CBEA and to discuss the role of the Executive Secretary. Since the group envisioned a national association, the location of the national office became a topic for discussion. Some members felt that it should be located at the Christian Brothers Conference National Office located in Lockport, IL, while others felt that the location should be someplace 'where the action is' like Washington, DC. It was decided by voice vote that the office should be in Washington. It was also agreed that a new constitution and by-laws should be developed and that a location must be found for this quick action. The only place that was immediately available, however, was the Lockport, IL site, so the decision was made to set up headquarters in Lockport.<sup>5</sup>

A possible explanation for some of the Chapter votes on educational concerns stems from the doubts that some may have felt regarding the creation of a national organization rather than allowing each District to act on its own. The Chapter had given much freedom to Districts, communities and individual Brothers to set the direction for their future work within the apostolate. Some felt it would be very difficult to plan for the future of the schools when so many variables existed in the process. A Brother now might decide to seek an apostolate with the poor, or in special education, or to work with drug addicts. These newly found options could have an effect on the Brothers' corporate commitment to schools.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid Page 37-40.

<sup>5</sup> CBEA Minutes, Meeting of October 20-21, 1969.

Brother Francis, despite some doubts about the future direction of our educational mission that he sometimes expressed in conversation, remained firm that we must move ahead. In an interview in *The Christian Brothers TODAY* (February, 1971) he mentioned that the Catholic schools in America are on “the verge of a new and exciting era and that he and the Brothers intend to have an active role in it.” He spoke about the new forms of work that the Brothers were now engaging in and their effect on alumni and benefactors. He felt a need to insure these people that the Brothers were still the Brothers that they once knew. He stated that he has met alumni and benefactors who were disturbed and discouraged because they think that the Brothers have changed. “Perhaps the Brothers have changed”, he said, “in an exterior way. Perhaps it is not unreasonable that in some exterior observances, other religious have changed, too. But, by and large, the vast majority of Brothers have not changed their fundamental dedication to the work of St. John Baptist de La Salle. The kind of service the Brothers render today may be somewhat different because the needs of the people are different. People whom the Brothers served a generation ago are now often served better by other sources. But there are new needs to be taken care of: the dropout, the drug abuser, families suffering from disadvantages far worse than those which were imposed upon the average Catholic of 50, 80, or 100 years ago. The Pope, the Church, Vatican II, have called upon all to serve these needs, to serve our disadvantaged friends, our disadvantaged brothers.”<sup>6</sup>

The Education Executive Secretary of the Christian Brothers Conference, with a committee of District administrators and elected Brothers, sponsored the workshops that were developed as a result of the Chapter. The first title given to this group was the National Education Council of the Christian Brothers (NECCB).<sup>7</sup> This later became the Regional Education Council of the Christian Brothers (RECCB) when the Toronto District joined the US Region. Later, in 1985, to honor the man who was responsible for so much of the success of these educational conferences, these annual workshops became known as the **Huether Workshops**. It is important to keep in mind that the Huether Workshops have

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<sup>6</sup> *The Christian Brothers TODAY*. Volume 2. No. 1, February 1971, Page 2.

<sup>7</sup> NECCB Minutes, Meeting of December 4-5, 1969.

their origin in the Regional Chapter of 1968 and that Brother Francis directed the first sixteen annual workshops. Many other meetings, assemblies and workshops that Brother Francis organized (for example, religious education and Social Justice gatherings) are not part of what are known in the United States as Huether Workshops. The Huether Workshops are annual events, usually held in the fall of the year, to explore educational topics of elementary, high school and university teacher interest, and Chicago, IL is their usual meeting site.

Brother Francis was the right man for the times. Perhaps this tribute to Brother Francis, written in 1997, when the workshop of that year was dedicated to Brother Francis, captures the spirit of the man who was to lead the US Brothers in their programs through the years.

*The educational landscape in the 1970's erupted in swift and sudden change in the United States. A revolution in academia was taking place! Extremists were quick to establish their positions, with de-schoolers wishing to demolish the schools, as they presently existed, and the home-schoolers wishing to have their children taught at home. The educators in the wide middle area were in a state of flux.*

*Brother Francis Huether realized that it was time for him as Director of Christian Brother Education to seize the moment and call his troops together so that they could clarify their Mission. The first meeting in Minneapolis, MN, in 1972, to which many school administrators were invited, was Frank's answer to addressing the needs of the times.*

*Latin, as part of the school curriculum, became one of the victims of school change in the 1970's. However, we still have in our lexicon the expression **sui generis** — one of a kind. How well this describes Frank!*

*Who among us has demonstrated his love of teaching to the extent that when he was free from teaching in his own school, he signed on as a substitute teacher in a nearby public school? Who but Frank could be a member of the Koplring Society, an organization founded by a German priest to help German immigrant workers find homes; and also be a translator of the writings of St. John Baptist de La Salle, a French priest who helped French youngsters find schools? Who else but Frank, such a lover of fine*

*music, a devotee of the theatre, a man so familiar with books and poetry, could be honored at this special workshop devoted to technology?*

*It is to Brother Francis Huether, the spark that ignited the Huether movement and the carrier of the flame from which thousands of Lasallian Educators have received their light, without diminishing Frank's brightness in any way, that this workshop is dedicated.<sup>8</sup>*

The name **Huether Workshop** served as the title for these workshops until 2002. The cover for the 2002 program identified itself as the **Huether Lasallian Conference**. The Christian Brothers Conference, in its listing of programs, refers to these meetings as **Huether Conferences**. The Christian Brothers Conference on its Internet page describes these present-day meetings in an up-to-date fashion. This summary is listed here to give the reader an overview of the programs as they exist today (2005).

"The Huether Conference began in 1972 as an informal discussion on educational concerns among seventeen Christian Brother administrators. The Huether Conference has now become a significant education conference drawing over 200 participants annually from the United States, Canada, and abroad."

"Organized annually around a particular theme, the conference includes prominent speakers, workshop sessions, liturgy, and an awards banquet—all directed to deeper understanding of the 300-year Lasallian tradition".

"A prominent feature of the Huether Conference is the presentation of the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award at the closing banquet. Established in 1989, this annual award is given to an educator in each of the Districts who exemplifies the ideals of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron of Teachers."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Tribute to Br. Francis Huether. 1997 Workshop Program.

<sup>9</sup> Christian Brothers Conference, Internet Page, 2004.

## Beginnings

### The workshops of the 1970's.

The National Education Council of the Christian Brothers (NECCB) met from 1969 to 1972 to set a direction for the Brothers' education mission into the future. The minutes of these meetings reveal a serious dialog on the issues of the day by a most professional group of educators. The discussions were indeed 'cutting edge conversations.' They spoke about the radical demands of the *Declaration* that was written during the second session of the Thirty-ninth General Chapter in 1967, and expressed uncertainty about how these demands could be implemented. They even wondered if the Brothers were disposed to respond creatively.<sup>10</sup> These Brothers even wondered if some evolving concepts which minimized the role of the school, already made some of the demands obsolescent. They discussed Ivan Illich's ideas that schools were perpetuating an evil society, an acquisitive society. How did the Brothers' work today show real concern for the poor, they asked? The minutes of these meetings also furnished a reading list for the members of the NECCB.<sup>11</sup> The minutes revealed that the best minds of the Brothers were wrestling with the most serious challenges of the day.

After their discussions the NECCB realized that it was virtually impossible to give a simplified, clear picture of education today. Change was everywhere, they said, and while there are encouraging signs for the future some of the same ills that affect education today happen to be prevalent in some of the Brothers' schools. They found that the education scene varied greatly across the eight Districts and that some schools reaffirmed their commitment to what they were presently doing while others were giving wide latitude to develop new ideas. They also noted that in the schools that were still doing well, there was a trend toward conservative positions. They found, too, that in some cases newer apostolates did not hold the interest of those who had initially

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<sup>10</sup> NECCB Minutes, Meeting of November 1, 1970.

<sup>11</sup> NECCB Minutes, Meeting of March 10-11, 1971.

expressed interest in them. These Brothers wondered, too, if a national effort was really needed since some of the Districts were conducting their own workshops. However, all felt that the NECCB should continue as a vehicle for inter-district exchange of ideas, problems and perspectives on education.<sup>12</sup>

The language in the minutes of some of these meetings reveals the seriousness of the discussions. Such terms as 'after an exhausting discussion,' 'a long, often profound discussion,' 'are our schools being challenged existentially?' serve to let the perceptive reader know that any workshops that will be forthcoming will deal with serious concepts. They did not come up with many answers, but expressed themselves in such ways as 'we still search haltingly for a way to fulfill our corporate commitment to education in service of the poor.'

It is interesting to note the wide range of topics discussed by the officers of the NECCB at these meetings. The officers were indeed sharing ideas, challenging one another, and without their knowing it, perhaps, preparing agenda topics for the workshops that were to begin in 1973.

One far-reaching discussion dwelt on the proposed CIL (International Lasallian Center) education program for 1972-73 in Rome. (Centre International Lasallien (France) — Centro Internazionale Lasalliano (Italy). CIL had asked the NECCB for their observations on the proposed program and Brother Francis was asked to give the group response. CIL received a clear, crisp Huether response. Brother's letter found the CIL plan to be 'unsatisfactory, unattractive and inadequate both in scope and in its approach to the evolution of education and schooling going on right now around the world.' In a follow-up letter Brother Francis suggested that the position of Secretary of Education in Rome be given full-time status for this 'would give education the attention which its primacy in the Institute demands.'<sup>13</sup>

While the NECCB was in serious dialog among its members about the possibility of a national workshop or letting the local Districts take command of their own future, the Visitors, too, were discussing District and inter-District programs. They were also con-

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<sup>12</sup> NECCB Minutes, Meeting of October 14, 1971.

<sup>13</sup> Brother Francis Huether letter to Brother Leo Kirby, March 14, 1971.

cerned with their relationship with the NECCB and wanted to hear from Brother Francis about his plans for the future. Brother Francis' three-year term as Education Secretary was about to expire and he had expressed a willingness to resign.

A selection from the Minutes of the Christian Brothers Conference (Visitors and Assistant Visitors of the US eight Districts) follows. This group would summarize any report they had received from Brother Francis and then give their response. The result was that this exchange moved the NECCB closer to a decision about a series of national workshops.

"It was remarked that the Conference needs to be clear in its direction to the National Education Secretary. The FSC's should be represented at the national level in the principal education bodies, through its secretary."

"Brother Francis mentioned that he has found that we Brothers are still very wary of the renewal of the school and of new methods of education. The typical reaction of many Brothers when faced with this challenge is that 'they're taking away from our FSC schools' and they regard the setting up of non-school apostolates as somehow destructive of the typical 'Brothers' school.' And this, despite the very clear call to educational renewal in the *Declaration*."

"He noted that he and the NECCB are at present taking no part in the organization of CIL. The last session which had education as its theme, was entered into indirectly. However, he encouraged participation by each district in the CIL program which has for its topic next spring religious consecration and the catechetical apostolate."

"It was noted that renewal is basic to our life, closely connected with our image of ourselves as Christian Brothers, leading a viable, useful life. A real effort needs to be made to change attitudes, starting with our own FSC leaders in our Districts; for example, any apostolate outside the school being viewed with suspicion. Local leadership is needed to implement renewal. We need to share ideas nationally on the level of the apostolate. There are many such workshops organized by other groups, but it was felt that we need a similar experience participated in by Brothers only to help our own Brothers."

“After discussion, the resolution was made, duly seconded, and passed unanimously that the NECCB be instructed to consider whether it would be advisable to hold a national FSC education workshop to direct attention to educational renewal by FSC.”<sup>14</sup>

The following month’s meeting of the NECCB indicates that this group took up the challenge and began plans for what was to be the first Huether Workshop. The minutes of this October, 1972, meeting contain the following paragraph:

“The Visitors’ request that NECCB examine the advisability of an FSC conference on our leadership in educational renewal was exhaustively examined, and during these sessions reports on the topic were submitted by two ad hoc committees. NECCB voted unanimously in favor of such a conference, with attention particularly to leadership responsibility in religious education and the ‘religious’ school. A preliminary program was worked out, and the Secretary was directed to develop it in some detail and have it ready for refinement and approval at the January meetings.”

The NECCB, under its dynamic leader, Brother Francis, and a most professional group of Brothers from the eight Districts, were the ideal group to establish the Huether Workshops as a serious, professional and creative force to study the problems and challenges that were to face the Brothers’ educational mission through the years.

The NECCB thought that a national workshop was the best way to move the Brothers into the future, despite some concerns about how such a program would be received by the Brothers across the country. In late December plans were made for what was to become the first national meeting of what we now know as the Huether Workshops or Huether Conferences.

The planning for this first workshop indicated that the concentration would be on the Brother’s leadership in their secondary schools, which were described as a special sort of religious institution and as a culture for developing and nurturing religious experience. They wanted to choose participants who had a special interest and experience in this area of education. They intended to invite six Christian Brothers from each District.

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<sup>14</sup> Christian Brothers Conference Minutes, September 9-12, 1972.



Some interesting observations might be made about the planning process. Only Brothers were invited, as this reflected the make-up of our schools at this time, at least at the administrative level. They sent out a reading list to prepare the participants for the meeting and asked for special topics for discussion. To illustrate how these times were different from today's culture, consider that the price of a room at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis, where the meeting was to be held, was \$12 per night! And education today has changed just as much as the hotel prices!

The workshop took place in Minneapolis, MN on March 21-23, 1973 at the Leamington Hotel. This meeting was highlighted in *The Christian Brothers TODAY*, May 1973, issue when it mentioned that almost 50 Christian Brothers from all over the United States gathered last March for four days of serious work. The theme was **The Christian Brother as a Leader in the Catholic School**. "Throughout the work sessions constant emphasis was given to the leadership role of the Brother **as a religious and as an educator** in his school community. Particular attention was given to this leadership activity with reference to the students, the chief members of the school community." Brothers' schools from seventeen states and the District of Columbia were represented among the participants.<sup>15</sup>

Two weeks after this first workshop, Br. Francis had Br. William Rhody prepare a questionnaire to sound out the reaction of those who had attended. (Brother Francis, in his letters to his committee, signed off - 'Fraternally yours, Frank.' From now on in this writing 'Frank' will oftentimes replace Brother's religious name, for convenience sake and for the reason that this is how he is remembered by so many of the Brothers. Frank reminded the delegates in a cover letter to this evaluation that their present school was in the arena for your leadership efforts: synthesize what must be done, what is desirable to do and what is possible to do, and make that synthesis work. He was already planning for the next workshop as he asked that the workshop recommendations be followed up and that new men be tapped for participation in follow-up workshops.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *The Christian Brothers TODAY*, Volume 4. No. 2, May, 1973.

<sup>16</sup> Brother Frank Huether letter to Delegates, April 19, 1973.

The evaluation results were most positive. The Brothers welcomed the opportunity to talk to one another about general school problems. They found the work of Br. John Linhardt, as facilitator, most helpful because meetings such as this, where ideas could be freely shared, were new to many of the participants.

The enthusiastic reception afforded the first meeting moved the NECCB to plan the second meeting for November 8-11, 1973 in Chicago at the Bismarck Hotel. This second workshop was to be a follow-up of the Minneapolis workshop. The title was to be similar; **The Christian Brother as a Leader in the Catholic School - Part II** (The minutes of the NECCB planning for this meeting listed it as a follow-up session. It is being listed here as the second part of a continuing program). Frank mentioned in an October letter to his committee that forty of the participants at the first workshop have elected to return. He felt that this was an extraordinarily high percentage and an indication of the importance of the program. He included some details for preliminary planning but reminded the participants that the workshop is really theirs. He wrote that the workshop provides a unique opportunity for the men involved in the work of the school to focus on issues and problems which they themselves really want to address. He felt, too, that the workshop would provide an outstanding opportunity for the Brothers in the schools to influence the forthcoming Chapters in Rome. He closed his letter with a challenge: 'But to realize this ambitious goal we must seize the opportunity now!'<sup>17</sup>

This third workshop, again with its emphasis on Christian Brother school leadership, was to be named **The New Leadership Workshop**. Committee members were to seek Brothers who had not participated in the previous workshops, for new leadership training was needed for the Brothers' schools, as at this time it was presumed that the Brothers' schools would continue to be administered by Brothers.<sup>18</sup>

It must be remembered that the times when these workshops were taking place were transitional days. It is to the credit of the General Chapter in Rome and its publication of the *Declaration*;

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<sup>17</sup> Brother Frank Huether letter to Committee, October 24, 1973.

<sup>18</sup> Christian Brothers Conference Minutes, October 19-21, 1973.

the Regional Chapter in Lockport, IL (now Romeoville, IL) and its insistence that a national committee of Brothers take the leadership of education in their schools, that much of the success of these early workshops is due. These Chapters gave support to the NECCB and encouraged them to move forward, to take risks.

Many of the topics discussed by the NECCB in their meetings and indeed in the workshops themselves bordered on what were considered risk areas. They asked questions such as: Does the Catholic school really have unique characteristics? What is its future? Did the first Regional Chapter propositions on education really mean anything? What new model of educational administration must we adopt? How about service to the poor? Is education for peace and justice a myth? What about our role in military schools? (Remember this was the Vietnam War era). How are we to treat our lay teachers? What about Boards? Should the Brothers give up ownership of their schools? All these topics were to be viewed by the Brothers from the position of Brother leadership.

To summarize, the first three Huether Workshops were considered administration workshops. The administrators were Christian Brothers so that is who attended the workshops. The workshops were opportunities for the Brothers to find out where they were and where they intended to go. The overall intent was to present the programs for the future to others in the school apostolates, once the Brothers were clear as to where they intended to go.

### **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 1**

#### **Christian Brother as Leader in the Catholic School**

March 21 — 23, 1973 — Minneapolis, MN

### **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 2**

#### **Christian Brother as Leader in the Catholic School Part II**

November 8 — 11, 1973 — Chicago, IL

## HUETHER WORKSHOP # 3

### New Leadership

March 21 — 24, 1974 — Chicago, IL

While the NECCB was putting its emphasis on school administration leadership, its subcommittees were exploring other areas of concern for the Brothers. Two of these concerns were about the religious identity of the schools and the elements of social justice that should be part of the Catholic school. Brothers who were active in these endeavors, namely Br. Jeffrey Calligan and Brother Alfred Marshall, felt that joint sessions with their committees and the NECCB could bring about some attractive future workshops. They felt that a joint meeting 'could help illuminate for our Brothers the relationship between schooling and true religious commitment, and between secular education and the cultivation of a thirst for justice and peace.'<sup>19</sup>

The report of the subcommittee on NECCB and Social Justice attempted to describe the condition of social justice in the Brothers' schools. The minutes of the NECCB (January, 1974) meeting summarized their findings. "In reviewing the acts of the First Regional Chapter at its January meeting in Lockport, NECCB noted that concern for action with the issues of social justice and poverty, as called for in Propositions 19-25 of the 1968 US FSC Regional Chapter, have not been vigorously nor effectively promoted throughout the various provinces, (Districts) although in every province there are pockets of intense interest and excellent work."

The conversations between the NECCB and the religious identity and social justice committees led to the formation of the fourth Huether Workshop. This workshop was to address **FSC leadership in Religious Education** and was scheduled for the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago, November 14-17, 1974. Again the planners wanted to talk among themselves and therefore decided that there would be no non-FSC participants and no outside presenters. Br. John

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<sup>19</sup> Christian Brothers Conference Minutes, February 2-6, 1974.

Linhardt would be available to facilitate the meeting, if he was needed.

The NECCB in following up on this workshop realized that the topic of the religious identity of the school and the active participation of the Brothers in school renewal was a complex issue. They felt that the workshops were important and should continue but that much exploration needed to be done by their task force committees and the information that they discovered could be circulated to the Districts. They realized that their work in this area was incomplete so they determined that another workshop was needed in the area of religious education.

Brother Jeffrey Calligan, who was active in this area of religious education, was asked to design a Workshop on Religious Education to be based on responses that he was to seek from each District. The general topics for this workshop would include social awareness, retraining of religion teachers, Faith development, and the planning and cooperative efforts that must be a part of the Catholic school.

Another workshop called **Catechetical Workshop II** was held on November 21-26 at St. Paul's School, Covington, Louisiana. It was booked as four solid days of work and brought in a strong input team of religious educators. The participants were those Brothers involved at the secondary level, or in teacher preparation, and those responsible for leadership at the District or national level. The workshop was described in the minutes of the Christian Brothers Conference Minutes of February 1-4, 1976, as a meeting of Brothers engaged in religious education coming together in a 'retreat' atmosphere with spiritual and liturgical input, with emphasis on the traditions of St. de La Salle. Brother Jeffrey mentioned that the work of the Catechetical Directory was in limbo because of the multitude of suggestions received from US Catholics.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 4**

**Religious Education Workshop I**

November 14 — 17, 1974 — Chicago, IL

## HUETHER WORKSHOP # 5

### Catechetical Leadership Workshop II

November 21 — 26, 1975 — Covington, LA

The NECCB requested statistical reports from each District on the presence of the Brothers in their various educational activities. From these reports, and from their own task force studies, they realized that many challenges were ahead. As they looked at these challenges and reviewed the past two workshops on the religious dimension of the work in the schools, they again realized that a school's success depended upon the Principal. Therefore, more renewal programs would be needed for school administrators if the culture of the schools were to change. It was decided that once again, the leadership of the schools needed to be addressed in a workshop or two. They decided to set aside November 17-20, 1975 for this workshop. The invitation would be extended to non-FSC administrators or their delegates.

The committee expressed awkwardness in such expressions that they were using like 'FSC' and 'Non-FSC' schools. They were seeking a descriptor for what we once called Brothers' schools. The term 'Lasallian' was just coming into vogue but was not yet a part of our everyday language in describing the schools. Perhaps, the plan to accept lay administrators into the next workshop prompted this discussion at this particular time.

The committee did feel that their work with the workshops was bringing results both from the statements received from the participants and from their reading of the District reports. In one of their reports they stated: "Despite appearances and some conservative places, our schools have changed much in recent years. Many of the humanizing recommendations of the Declaration and the Rule have been implemented. Regulations, administrative practices, curricula, and classroom methods have been opened up. Students have a voice. Staffing is very different from what it once was. There are new ideas in religious education. Much still needs to be done, especially in the matter of social

awareness, education for peace and justice, and minority enrollment.”<sup>20</sup>

The NECCB was broadening its concern to many other aspects of the Brothers’ work rather than just secondary school administration. It was concerned about the religious life of the school, peace and justice issues, and as to how many of the proposed social concerns would fit into the school and mix with the academic curriculum. The committee also reviewed the growing movement of the Brothers who were working in state-supported work among the disadvantaged in child-caring places. They also asked the colleges if there were any issues with which they could cooperate on the national level. The fact that laypeople were to be invited to the next workshop reveals a significant change that was taking place in some high schools, namely, the recognition of the role that lay administrators were beginning to assume in the high schools.

The workshop that was in the planning stage for November 1976, was to focus on practical day-to-day activities of the principal in the school situation with many mini-sessions and panels as part of the program. The actual agenda was to be determined after sounding out the school administrators and reviewing the topics that the NECCB developed from their discussions and readings. The preliminary notices about the workshop stated that 80 administrators from across the country would be attending this workshop and that there would be input sessions on ‘Administrative Styles and Decision Making’, ‘Conflict Resolution’, and ‘Faculty Selection and Development’ as part of the program. One of the suggestions made at this workshop, which received a high percentage of favorable votes, was that there be a follow-up workshop for second-line administrators.

The NECCB took on an international flavor when in 1977 it opened up its membership to the Brothers in Canada and Mexico. The group also took an interest in the developing volunteer programs that were starting around the country and the committee made a definite commitment to create a program that would help our schools and other apostolates with this special service. The seed was being sown for what was soon to become the dynamic Lasallian Volunteer movement across the country.

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<sup>20</sup> NECCB Minutes, Meeting of January 17, 1975.

As plans developed for the 1977 workshop for assistant administrators the committee worked on some structural changes for the meeting. The focus of this workshop was to be upon the problems and services that were part of the daily experience of these school administrators. The major input sessions were to be more structured, more emphasis was to be given to the contributions of the participants, and the major presenters were to be given specific directives so that the needs of the participants would be met. Apparently, the planners felt that the participants would be new to these workshops, and that they would bring a wider total range of concerns, but from within a narrower individual perspective. The workshop, therefore, needed to tie together a program that would highlight their schoolwork as a dimension of a truly Christian ministry. Brothers, Sisters and laypersons were expected to be part of this workshop group.

The first three workshops identified the Brother Principal as the person responsible for the development of all programs in the school. He was to be the change agent to implement the General Chapter and Regional Chapter recommendations for the Brothers' educational apostolates. The following two workshops focused on the religious and social justice dimensions of the school, but again putting the responsibility on the principal to see that religion and social justice activities were to be present in all school activities, and not confined to classroom activity. A follow-up from this was that once again it was time to review these responsibilities with the principals and assistant principals, and this was to be accomplished in the workshops of 1976 and 1977.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 6**

**Chief Administrators Workshop**

November 17 — 20, 1976 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 7**

**Assistant Principals**

November 16 — 19, 1977 — Chicago, IL



The evaluations received for these workshops were 'strikingly favorable' according to minutes of the following meeting of the RECCB. But as soon as one workshop was ended, the focus was on what the next workshop should address. The topic suggested was **Helping Teachers Grow**.

It was at this time (1978) that the 'National' in NECCB was replaced by 'Regional' as the District of Toronto and Northern Mexico expressed interest in being included in the work of the committee. The term 'Regional' indicated that the committee was assuming 'international' outreach. However, committee members felt that the term 'National' should be retained in the title whenever there was a question of dealing with agencies outside the Conference of Brothers, since in the external forum 'National' had a broader meaning than 'Regional.'<sup>21</sup>

The organizational work for the 1978 workshop, **Helping Teachers Grow**, stated as its purpose a concern for the growth of persons as professionals, not with teaching methodologies. It is designed to help experienced classroom teachers and/or immediate supervisors. The workshop assumes that the effectiveness of the classroom teacher is determined by his affective relations with his pupils and his fellow educators. It is to affirm the career of teaching. The participants would be Brothers and laypeople who were department chairpersons, master teachers, and teacher supervisors. The workshop would be designed to assist experienced teachers to recognize the effectiveness of the classroom teachers and their potential for influence with the students and their fellow teachers.

The planning for the next workshop (1979) immediately followed the successful workshop for teachers, and the general interest seemed to be for the principals again, but strictly for them as religious leaders in the school. It was to be taken in a broad sense of the principals' concern for school ambiance, just relationship with staff and students, campus ministry, and faith and conscience development. However, some members of the Religious Education Committee of the Districts were less than enthusiastic about the program. They felt that the program would either not reach the people who are really effective in the schools, or it will

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<sup>21</sup> RECCB Minutes, Meeting of March 7, 1978.

reach administrators who are too involved in the management process to be concerned with religious education. It was felt by some that the principal might even ignore this responsibility or delegate it to someone who may be more or less effective. Their suggestion was that the participation in this workshop needed to be broadened to include others than the school administration.<sup>22</sup>

The RECCB suggested to the Districts that they select the participants and that all need not currently be principals. However, the thrust of the presentations would be on the school leaders' relationship to the mission, the faculty, and the student, and his overall commitment to religious leadership in Catholic education.

The minutes of the various RECCB meetings show that they were alive to all sorts of educational activity. They had the participants evaluate each workshop and then attempted to work some of the suggestions into the next workshop planning. This process gave them an understanding of what was going on in the schools. They in turn brought to the schools new ideas and gave the school administrators a broader view of their work. The exchange of ideas helped both the committee and the schools.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 8**

**Helping Teachers Grow**

November 15 — 18, 1978 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 9**

**The Principal as Religious Leader**

November 14 — 17, 1979 — Chicago, IL

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<sup>22</sup> RECCB Minutes (Appendix B), Meeting of March 15, 1979.

## Growing in stature

### The Workshops of the 1980's

As the RECCB in its January 1980, meeting evaluated Workshop '79 they found that the participants expressed general satisfaction. They also found that some of the Districts were developing their own programs as follow-up activities with their school faculties. There was concern, however, among their own members as to the reasons for what they described as last minute 'no shows' and the striking decline in participation on the final afternoon where there were some serious areas that were to be discussed. They questioned themselves as to their own leadership in choosing topics for the workshops. 'While the opinion of men in the field is important,' the minutes stated, 'it was agreed, mere popularity of a subject, often enough evanescent, should not be the deciding factor.'<sup>23</sup>

The planning for the next workshop (1980) opened up discussion on the relationship of the Brother and the family, and the family and the adolescent, with the final title for this workshop becoming, **Family and Adolescent: An Educational Perspective**. Special consideration was given to choosing the main speaker, but also to the mini-sessions that needed to be attractive and capture the continuing attention of the participants. Such areas under consideration were: 'Family Crises and School Sensitivity,' 'The Faith of the Adolescent,' 'School Ministries to Help Families,' and 'Retreats, Encounters, and Family Life Programs.' Guidance personnel, campus ministers, deans, vice-principals, and social workers were the expected participants for this special workshop.

The RECCB was usually a year ahead in their workshop organization and before the 1980 workshop was held, plans were being developed for a follow-up workshop for 1981. The initial proposed theme was **Leadership Development among Christian Youth**. "The program," the minutes of their November, 1980, meeting stated, "will seek to serve the needs of a diversified group: moderators, assistant principals and deans, strong teach-

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<sup>23</sup> RECCB Minutes, Meeting of January 10-13, 1980.

ers, etc. and will focus on skills, techniques, etc.” The development of the topic was to be refined in their subsequent meetings during the 1981 year.

The title selected was, **Student Leadership in the Catholic High School**. The participants were to be faculty members effective in developing student leadership (selected in each District). The workshop was to have two themes, one formal - fostering student leadership through school-sponsored activities, and one informal - the school’s response to emerging student leadership, both positive and negative. The workshop was to look at what are the reasonable expectations from student leaders, the models and the ways to develop Christian leadership, and what later becomes of school leaders.

A note here on the presenters for these workshops is important for the reader. The minutes of the NECCB and RECCB meetings include the discussions on the workshops, mostly in the planning stages. Many of the presenters and keynoters are suggested, first choice, second, etc. It is the task of the Secretary, or some delegated member, to contact these people to see if they are available. The only way that one can know who the final choices were is to have a copy of the final workshop program. However, none of the Districts or the Conference Office has been able to locate any of the programs for these early workshops. Sometimes a name is mentioned in the evaluation form but these are rather incomplete sources. For the readers’ information, the first workshop for which an actual program (copy) is available is 1984. From that date onward, mention of presenters will be included in the summaries of the workshops.

The two workshops of 1980 and 1981, which deal with the school, the family and the adolescent took this final form.

### **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 10**

#### **Family and Adolescent: An Educational Perspective**

November 19 — 22, 1980 — Chicago, IL

## HUETHER WORKSHOP # 11

### Student Leadership In the Catholic High School

November 18-21, 1981 - Chicago, IL

Each meeting of the RECCB furnished the committee the opportunity to discuss current education topics, concerns about their own work, and evaluation of the previous workshops. The March 9, 1981 minutes of this committee show the 'give and take' that existed in some of the conversations. Br. Francis in reviewing the regional statistics on the educational apostolates thought, "that while the Brothers remain overwhelmingly committed to the school, a stagnation is appearing and the crisis is still ahead." This he claimed "would be resolved only by the impetus of new apostolates, which must be in the inner city and junior high schools."

The minutes show that there was almost unanimous agreement that his interpretation was incorrect. "The figures, and realities," it was argued, "show that, while there is a continuing decline, there are clear signs that Districts have learned to manage manpower, concepts of service, recruitment, and cooperation with lay people on staff and board much better; that there is justifiable optimism because Districts have clearly confronted issues and taken positive steps to deal with them; that in short the statistics when viewed in terms of actual District realities show that the crisis is past and that we are now in a time of affirmative action in the apostolate of education in service to the Church and society."

The committee meetings were truly alive. One wonders if Frank was becoming a prophet, a man with vision as yet not recognized, for his statement on revival through inner city programs was quite revolutionary in 1981. Did he envision something like the San Miguel schools that indeed were to bring much new life to the Districts a little over ten years later?

The planning for the 1982 Workshop indicated a desire to link the work of the schools to the total Church. The preliminary draft, which was to undergo refinement in the next meetings, called for a workshop on the **Mission of the Educator in the Brothers'**

**Schools as Responding to the Call of the Church.** There was to be an impressive list of presenters and many mini-sessions with facilitators from the committee itself and other selected teachers. The target group was again to be the school administrator, or his delegate in the religious/spiritual development of the teaching staff.

The place was to be once again in Chicago, in November, and at the Bismarck Hotel. The main presenter was to be Father Alfred McBride, O. Praem. Many other prominent educators were listed in the planning phase to take over some of the second day sessions, but, since no final program is available, it is not certain which of these did participate. Mr. Thomas Brady, from St. Mary's, Berkeley, CA was the final day presenter. He shared a six-page design that he created entitled: 'The Compleat Faculty: The Layman's Point of View.'

The Christian Brothers Conference of Visitors, in the minutes of their meeting of June 14/16, 1982, revealed a very positive approval of the work of the RECCB and their workshops. "It is safe to say that over the years the national workshop/meeting experiences sponsored or endorsed by RECCB have received enthusiastic and encouraging overall response by the participants and their sending Districts or institutions. They are always well attended; and, with the exception of a speaker or presenter now and then, receive high evaluations by the participants. The themes chosen are always timely and have a practical orientation."

The RECCB committee was a group that always took a forward glance. They began planning workshops a year or more ahead and always tried to keep the school administrators and teachers looking forward also. It was from this perspective that they put together the next workshop, the title to be *The Ministry of the Teacher in the Catholic School as We Face the Twenty-first Century*.

Brother John Nunes, Administrative Assistant for the Brothers of the California District, described this workshop in his invitation to the principals of the District schools. 'The general theme is the role of the teacher in the Catholic schools as we face the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The premise of this workshop is that high technology, radical change in the perception of religious values and social mores, and new cultural and ethnic pluralism presage a revolution at least as significant as the industrialization of Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup>

century. Like those that have preceded it, this Workshop is a working project. Presentations will be by speakers of national repute and qualifications, among them Dwane Heubner of Yale University of Divinity and Michael Warren of St. John's University.<sup>24</sup>

The outline presented by the RECCB in preparation for the workshop described the workshop in more detail. Dr. Heubner would talk about the impact of high technology upon teaching, particularly as related to philosophy, curriculum design, and the specific concerns and needs of the classroom teacher in the Catholic school. Dr. Warren would talk about the condition of youth as we head for the millennium and the Gospel and school as forces for forming the consciousness of youth. Brother Neil Kieffe's topic was entitled: 'Concrete Encounters of a New Kind with the World of Educational Technology.' Sr. Carol Jegen, BVM, was to follow with a presentation on 'Global and Multiethnic Education for the Twenty-first Century.'

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 12**

**Responding to the Call of the Church  
The Mission of the Educator in Our Schools**

November 18 — 21, 1982 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 13**

**Role of the Teacher in the Catholic School  
As We Face the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

November 16 — 19, 1983 — Chicago, IL

There were 83 participants for Workshop '83. A very complete evaluation was part of the RECCB minutes for November 22,

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<sup>24</sup> Brother John Nunes letter, California District Letter, March 7, 1983.

1983, soon after the workshop. Some of the participants found the opening session a little heavy and suggested that since so many arrived just before the workshop that maybe a lighter opening session would be helpful. But most were very positive and as one participant mentioned, 'You can't go wrong on an experience like this - just give a dynamic, involved national group some input to get them going, and the discussions and shared energy are bound to be high-quality and creative. It was excellent.'<sup>25</sup>

The preliminary preparation for the next workshop focused on the formation of the Christian student in a troubled world, with the focus groups being subject-area teachers and supervisors of instruction; department chairpersons and curriculum directors; counselors, coaches, deans of discipline.

The title agreed upon became: **To give a Christian Education to Youth: Our Mission in the World Today**. Peter Holland, Research Associate for Huron Institute, Cambridge, MA and Frank Bucaro, Founder of Ministry Management Consultants of Illinois, were the chief presenters. Supporting casts of many leading educators across the US were to lead the mini-sessions which addressed such issues as drug use, service, athletics and discipline in an undisciplined world.

The reader may notice a change of approach to the story of these Workshops. Before the 1984 Workshop, the information was gathered from notes on the NECCB and RECCB Meetings and the Major Conference of Visitors Meetings, with occasional pieces from District memos. From 1984 onward, copies of the workshop programs became available so more information will be given about the actual format of each workshop, and not as much data will be developed on the planning for the workshop itself.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 14**

**To Give a Christian Education to Youth  
Our Mission in the World Today**

November 14 — 17, 1984 — Chicago, IL

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<sup>25</sup> RECCB Workshop Evaluations Report, November 22, 1983.



The citation in the introduction of the 1986 Christian Brothers Educational Workshop stated that “at the November, 1985 Workshop, the name of the Workshop was officially changed to the **HUETHER WORKSHOP** to honor Brother Francis Huether for his many years of dedicated service to the Educational Apostolate of the Christian Brothers in the United States and English-speaking Canada.” In July 1986, Brother was to complete sixteen years in his position as Secretary for Education for the Christian Brothers Conference. He would remain active as a consultant and motivator to the RECCB and was an honored guest and friend to many, many participants at the workshops to follow.

The Workshop of 1985 was to be his last one as the Conference Secretary. This workshop was entitled **Characteristics of Lasallian Schools**. The goal of the workshop, spearheaded by Brother Francis, was to produce a statement on the nature of the Lasallian educational establishment and to design a strategy for implementing it. The Minutes of the RECCB meeting of November 20, 1984, described the inner workings of this workshop to be a radical departure from previous workshops, and that the participants needed to be aware that they would share in a creative act. Participants should be from the total school staff, not solely Christian Brothers, but selected with a view to contributing to this creation. The ‘seed’ paper on **Lasallian Characteristics** was the document that would guide the discussions.

The Introduction to this 1985 Workshop describes the workshop to the participants in this manner: “For many years now, addresses and publications examining St. John Baptist de La Salle’s concept of the school have attracted considerable attention and have stimulated the wish to understand better what makes a school Lasallian. Because these analyses have not had wide circulation, however, relatively few administrators and teachers have had opportunity to examine them themselves and reflect in any depth on what they tell us.”

“In October, 1984, the Regional Educational Committee of the Christian Brothers, recognizing this interest, decided to synthesize these ideas into one document which would be brief, clear, informative, and challenging. A writing committee of four RECCB members was established, and a year of intensive work followed, with input from teachers throughout the region. The RECCB, itself,

discussed and revised the document in four separate meetings, and nine drafts were prepared during the past year.”

“The paper which resulted reflects the research of Lasallian scholars, the deliberations of the RECCB, and the input and reaction of school people like yourselves from the United States and Toronto.”

“This is the document on which you will be working for the next four days: ***Characteristics of Lasallian Schools.***”<sup>26</sup>

Presenters were: Brother Michael O’Hern, Brother Joseph Boggio, Mr. Thomas Brady, and Brother Terence McLaughlin.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 15**

**Characteristics of Lasallian Schools**

November 13-16, 1985 - Chicago, IL

Brother Robert McCann became the new Secretary of Education for the US and Toronto Region in 1986. The focus of the workshops remained the same but with additional outreach activities. Brother Robert added the creative Lasallian Teacher Award Ceremony to the workshops. Each school was to select their Lasallian Teacher of the Year and this person was to be a guest of the workshop in Chicago. Expanded exhibits were also part of the workshop activity, especially the St. Mary’s Press displays of teacher and student audio/visual aids.

The theme for the 1986 Workshop was to be a follow-up to the workshop on the **Characteristics of Lasallian Schools**. The focus was to be on those things that will guarantee a future for these schools. The reality of finances came to the fore as many school administrators questioned the future when the present financial situations, in many cases, did not look promising. It is good to believe in the Lasallian School, they felt, but it is necessary to take the necessary steps to properly secure its future. This workshop was to inform the participants of the opportunities available for

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<sup>26</sup> Characteristics of Lasallian Schools Workshop Program, November, 1985.

increased funding and to make them aware of their responsibility in the area of planning which is fundamental to the future of the schools.

Two Lasallian college presidents were asked to make presentations at this workshop. Brother Patrick Ellis, President of LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA, gave the keynote address. The title of his address was: 'Development is Everybody's Business.' Brother Louis deThomasis, President of St. Mary's College in Winona, MN, gave the main address on the second day. His topic: 'Management of Resources.' The final day presenter was Dr. Calvin Stoney, a former development director at three private colleges and at the time of the workshop a partner in a management consultant firm. His talk was entitled: 'Fundamentals of an Effective Development Program.' Six mini-sessions concluded the program.

The Huether Workshop, 1987, was dedicated to Brother David Delahanty who had died a month before this workshop. His life was one of dedication and service in the field of education. He had been an active member of the planning committees for previous workshops and was recognized as one of the foremost academic leaders of the Brothers in the United States. At the time of his death Brother David was President of Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. The dedication write-up in the workshop program concludes by stating, "Brother David was truly a Brother, a teacher, an administrator, a President, who really cared. May he be a model to all who follow St. John Baptist de La Salle in the ministry of education."<sup>27</sup>

The theme for this Workshop as expressed in the program introduction was being planned especially for teachers who have between five and ten years experience. It is the expectation of the coordinators that this workshop would in some way inspire young teachers to remain in the profession. The presence of master teachers and administrators will assist in the process. Statistics showed, it was said, that a large number of teachers leave the Catholic school system, or the profession as a whole, after five years of teaching. This workshop was intended to address this issue.

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<sup>27</sup> Huether Workshop Program 1987, Dedication page.

Brother Gerard Rummery, General Councillor Casa Generalizia, Rome, Italy, was the main speaker. He was a Brother of world-wide experience. He had studied extensively in Australia, England, Rome and Paris and in several catechetical centers in Europe. In addition, he was recognized as a wonderful speaker. The title of his presentation was: 'The Teacher in the Lasallian School.' Sister Mary Peter Travis of the University of San Francisco, followed with an analysis of 'The Teacher in Transition.' Brother Robert Kealey, Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), addressed the participants on 'Attitudes of Teachers in Catholic Education.' Michael Guerra, Executive Director of the NCEA Secondary School Division presented some research that formed a national portrait of the Catholic School.

A special presentation given by Dr. James Coleman of Chicago University discussed his latest research about Catholic Schools as recorded in his book: *Public and Private High Schools; The Impact of Communities*. It was Professor Coleman who coined the term 'social capital' as one of the main reasons why Catholic schools are so successful. This social capital was the strong support of the parents who desired that their schools be effective and therefore they invested in the schools' future.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 16**

**Resource Management and Development**

November 12 — 14, 1986 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 17**

**The Teacher in the Lasallian School**

November 19 — 22, 1987 — Chicago, IL

**Together and By Association... Schools** was to be the topic for the 1988 Huether Workshop. This theme is developed in the intro-

duction section of the Workshop program. This writing states "Association is the second of the Characteristics of a Lasallian School and one that unites faculties and staff - Brothers, laity, other religious and clerics - in the operation of the school". It is a traditional Lasallian term. The vow formula of the Brothers declares "...the Brothers of the Christian Schools ...are associated to conduct, together and by association, schools for the service of the poor."

"The term now extends to all who are associated with the Brothers in the conducting of the schools. The planners hope that this workshop will sharpen our concept of Association and encourage each of us to work more diligently in putting it into practice."

"In his keynote address Brother William Mann will put into focus this traditional Lasallian term. His presentation will bring us from the time of de La Salle to the present. Brother Frederick Mueller will place Association in our schools today."

"The Panel members are people who have been practicing Association in the different apostolates of the Christian Brothers. Joan Zientek will move us another step as we look at the collaboration of the parents and the school for the benefit of the students. Finally, Dr. Arnie Bacigalupo will assist us in integrating what we have experienced during the workshop and suggest to us skills necessary to bring these concepts into our schools and to practice Association."

"The higher education participants will meet in special session to discuss how their educational institutions may practice Association with one another on a national level."

Huether 1989 was to highlight what it meant to be a **Christian School**. The workshop was to be open to all Lasallian educators but there was to be an explicit invitation to campus ministers, religion teachers, religion chairpersons, and administrators who were especially interested in this topic for their school.

Father Michael Hines, Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame was selected to be the main speaker. He has lectured widely in the US and Europe, and his articles have appeared in numerous journals. His topic was: 'The Challenge of Keeping the School Catholic.' Eight mini-workshops that addressed such concerns as, 'The Liturgical Life of the School,' 'Spirituality of the

Teacher,' and 'Spirituality of the Student,' completed the second day's session. Brother Jean-Marc Cantin, Visitor of the District of Ottawa, Canada, was the main Saturday speaker. The title of his presentation was: 'De La Salle's Vision of the Christian School.' As usual for these meetings, the workshop finished with the Mass of Saint John Baptist de La Salle followed by the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Awards Dinner.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 18**

**Together and By Association... Schools**

November 17 — 20, 1988 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 19**

**The Christian School**

November 16 — 19, 1989 — Chicago, IL

## Recognized leaders in education

### The Workshops of the 1990's.

A two-year series on the **Management of Schools began in 1990**. The participants for the first in this series, Workshop '90, were to be the chief administrators of the school: board members, presidents, principals, and those involved in curriculum development and supervision of teachers. In 1991, the second year of the series, the participants were to be vice-principals for student activities, deans of discipline, guidance personnel, athletic directors, coaches, and moderators.

The '90 program explained to the participants that the concept of school management is one that De La Salle took as the cornerstone of his schools. His book, *Conduite des Ecoles*, was one of the first handbooks for principals and teachers. His vision was that a quality school was a well-managed school that met the needs of the students. Add the Christian dimension and the plan for a Lasallian School is in place.

The speakers selected for this workshop were all practicing educators. The two keynoters were; Sister Clare Fitzgerald, the Director of the School Leadership Program at Boston College, a person recognized nationally as one of the foremost advocates of Catholic schools, and Brother William Harkins, Dean of the School of Education and Human Services at Manhattan College in New York City. Six well-respected workshop speakers were to follow: Brother James Wallace of Manhattan College, Dr. Karen Ristau of the College of St. Thomas, Brother Lawrence Colhocker of LaSalle University, Brother Peter Campbell, CFX, an attorney with the Catholic Health Association, Brother Carl Koch of St. Mary's Press, and Brother Theodore Drahmann, President of Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN.

The follow-up Workshop in 1991 took place on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of De La Salle and two of his closest followers taking what has been called 'the heroic vow.' This took place at a time when it seemed that the entire educational venture of St. de La Salle might collapse. A letter of Brother Robert McCann to the partici-

pants who were expected to attend this workshop mentioned that there was a link between 1691 and 1991 in the Lasallian world. "Today we are experiencing the same lack of finances, lack of commitment, lack of support that De La Salle felt in 1691," his letter stated, "and we can learn from him what the spirit of Faith means as we struggle with our special apostolates today." The letter also mentioned that this year the workshop would add a special component for those involved in Special Education.<sup>28</sup>

The speakers were Mr. Thomas Zanzig, author, editor, and consultant at St. Mary's Press (Winona, MN), Father Dale Fushek of Mesa, Arizona, a pastor who developed a very vibrant teen program for his parish, and Brother Kevin Hargadon, clinical psychologist. The workshop leaders were to be Mary Brennan, Coordinator of the Drug and Alcohol Services of the San Francisco District, Brother Joseph Jozwiak, Secretary of Formation for the Christian Brothers Conference, Gary Oberste, Vice Principal for Student Activities at Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, OK, and Martin Stanczak, Athletic Director at LaSalle College High School in Philadelphia.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 20**

**Management of Schools  
Part I**

November 15 — 18, 1990 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 21**

**Management of Schools  
Part II**

November 21 — 24, 1991 — Chicago, IL

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<sup>28</sup> Brother Robert McCann letter to participants, September 3, 1991.



The program for Huether 1992 was called: **To Teach All Nations - The Multicultural World of Lasallian Education.** The Welcome section of the program mentioned that there were to be over 150 Lasallian educators from the United States and Canada and that the speakers were bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from their various ministries throughout the North American continent.

The lead talk was by Brother Michael Collins whose topic was 'Racism in Lasallian Schools.' The first full day of the workshop offered the participants choices of four sessions in the morning and four in the afternoon. The morning sessions included African American Culture, with presenters Sister Reginald Gerdes, OSP, who was the first African American to integrate a school in South Carolina, and Brother Brian Henderson who volunteered his time at an African American parish to prepare teenage candidates for Confirmation.

A second workshop offering was entitled Asian Cultures, with Brother Francis Tri Van Nguyen as leader. Brother is an Associate Professor at La Salle University and a consultant to the Philadelphia Archdiocese Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization on matters concerning the Vietnamese community. A third session on Hispanic Cultures was led by Modesta Martinez and Sister Dominga Zapata, SH, each of whom worked in Hispanic Ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The final morning session addressed Urban Cultures, with Brothers Robert Kinzler and Edward Phelan, who had extended experience in inner-city and youth care homes.

The afternoon workshop sessions were action plans for participants to follow depending on their particular positions. Cecil Subryan led the discussion on 'Integrating Multicultural Values in the School and Curriculum.' Vincent McMahon and Kevin Murphy facilitated the discussion on 'Moving Out of the School into the Multicultural World.' Kathleen McGinnis's presentation focused on 'Peace and Justice Issues in the Total School and Curriculum.' Keith Elaine Packard and Margie Tomlinson, in their workshop, talked of 'The Teacher in the Multicultural Classroom.'

The attractive program handout presented lengthy write-ups on the presenters and also featured one-fourth page ads from the seven Lasallian Colleges in the US and Christian Brother Services in Romeoville, IL.

Huether Workshop 1993 was to be: **Called to be Light for the World.** The featured speaker was Father Joseph Girzone, a highly-respected author who later became best known for his *Joshua Series*. The title of his presentation was: 'Telling the Jesus Story.' The presentation was to present Jesus, faithful to the Gospel, so to make Him the center of Evangelization.

The program for the second day opened with a talk by Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC. The descriptor for her talk mentioned that 'as we experience the myriad changes of our times, we are mindful that the Church too, as a human community experiences change, challenge, and question. Yet, in all of this, there are some constants for us that serve as touchstones as we continue to shape the Church of the 90's.

The workshops that followed were: 'The Classroom of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Brain-Compatible Approach,' led by Brother Robert Bimonte; 'Prayer and Adolescents,' by Brother Carl Koch; 'Spirituality for Lasallian Educators' by Brother Miguel Campos; 'Campus Youth Ministry,' by Ms. Marilyn Kielbasa; 'Religion Education in a Multicultural Classroom,' Ms. Margie Tomlinson and Ms. Patricia Spencer; and 'The New Catechism: What's Old, What's New?' was presented by Ms. Jean Marie Hiesberger.

Dr. Robert Kealey made the Saturday morning presentation entitled: 'Lasallian Educators: Called to be Light for the World.' This talk was described in the program in the following manner: "St. John Baptist de la Salle frequently used the figure of light in his writings, encouraging Christian educators to reflect the light of Jesus that burns within them as they work to bring the light of knowledge to their students. This remains the mission for Lasallian educators today."

## **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 22**

### **To Teach All Nations: The Multicultural World of Lasallian Education**

November 19 — 22, 1992 — Chicago, IL

## HUETHER WORKSHOP # 23

### Called to be Light for the World

November 18 — 20, 1993 — Chicago, IL

The title selected for the 1994 Workshop was: **The Lasallian Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Shared Mission.** The program Welcome section mentioned that 'A Shared Mission' is unusually significant this year. Lasallian educators in North America are responding to a world-wide call to increase their efforts to inspire all who are part of Lasallian schools, colleges, and institutions of all types, with a deeper understanding and a clearer vision of the message of St. John Baptist de La Salle, and its relevance for education today.

A statement that Brother John Johnston made on a previous occasion, when he was Superior General, served as the focus for what our schools needed to become: "Our mission today is truly a 'shared mission.' It is a mission exercised by Brothers, laymen and women, priests, and members of other religious institutes. We are members of what we call the 'Lasallian Family': a communion of persons charged by God with the mission of human and Christian education in the World."<sup>29</sup>

The program message continued: "We will be led in our discussions here by a talented group of Lasallian educators who met for an intensive working period this summer to prepare a practical plan for *Shared Mission* in the North American Region. Under their leadership, it is hoped that our conference will result in a blueprint for action in all of our Lasallian works."

The Keynoter was The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Winona, MN. Sister Ann Marie Lustig, OP, presented the 'Overview of the Shared Mission Document' the following morning. It is significant that the two main presenters represented the Lasallian Family in operation. Brother Michael McKenery led the Saturday morning discussion on school activities within the Region. The workshop closed with

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<sup>29</sup> Brother John Johnston Quotation, Workshop 1994 Program.

liturgy by Father Paul Novak, OSM, with the Chicago Lasallian Youth choir adding to the ceremony. The Distinguished Lasallian Awards Dinner followed.

The program for the Huether Workshop 1995, with its dedication to Brother John Johnston, American-born Superior General, presented a rather challenging theme title: **Lasallian Leadership; Carrying on the Vision of St. John Baptist de La Salle.** It also stated that this topic presents a plan for the leadership cadres of our schools and educational centers to move steadily ahead in their realization of the responsibility that is theirs.

The speakers for this workshop were indeed a powerful and experienced group. Brother Luke Salm began by explaining the Mission of St. La Salle and the unique opportunities that are present for the Lasallian mission today. Sr. Mary Benet McKinney, OSB, NCEA Board Consultant, spoke of the role of the Board in the Ministry of Catholic Education. Brother Miguel Campos highlighted the Lasallian spiritual heritage of our times by charting the ups and downs on the adult professional journey. Brother Frederick Mueller developed the theme of Characteristics of Lasallian Schools and Mr. Thomas Curley, President and Publisher of *USA Today*, and Board Member of La Salle University, spoke of the motivation necessary for a board member.

Father Dane Radecki, O.Praem led the closing liturgy. The Chicago Lasallian Youth Choir again performed. The Distinguished Lasallian Educator Awards Dinner followed, closing with a rendition of *Honneur a Toi*. A rather large group of Lasallian organizations held exhibits at this workshop including: Buttimer Summer Institute, Christian Brothers Investment Services, Christian Brother Services, Lasallian Assembly '96, Lasallian Colleges and Universities, Lasallian Publications, Lasallian Volunteers, Lasallian Youth, and St. Mary's Press.

#### **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 24**

#### **Lasallian Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century A Shared Mission**

November 10 — 12, 1994 — Chicago, IL

## HUETHER WORKSHOP # 25

### Lasallian Leadership Carrying on the Vision of St. de La Salle

November 16 — 18, 1995 — Chicago, IL

There was no workshop planned for 1996 because regional workshops and meetings were to be replaced by a National Assembly to which all Brothers of the US and Toronto District were to be invited. Religious and educational concerns would be discussed at this general gathering. 1996 marks the first year since these workshops began that no Huether Workshop would be held.

#### Author's Note:

This break in the action gives us time to correct an error in the numbering of the Huether Workshops that has crept into the reporting. The workshops for the '90's begin with Workshop '90, which is stated states in the program to be the 20<sup>th</sup> workshop, and this is correct. The 1991 Workshop in its program lists itself as the 21<sup>st</sup> Workshop, and this is correct. The 1992 Workshop program does not give itself a number, nor does the section of the 1993 workshop that is available at this time. The 1994 Workshop begins numbering again and lists itself as the 23<sup>rd</sup> workshop. **The 1994 workshop should be the 24<sup>th</sup>.** The significance of this error is that the numbering of workshops into the future is wrong and the 1996 Workshop, which highlighted its celebration as the 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee program, was really #26.

The 1997 Workshop had as its theme **Technology in Lasallian Ministries**. This Workshop was dedicated to Br. Francis Huether (as highlighted on Page 6 of this booklet). The Introduction to this workshop mentioned that this workshop focus responds to many requests from our Lasallian leaders who want to meet the challenge of the rapid changes in communication in recent years. The

Brothers were urged to continue the quality of their work by utilizing the best educational tools available to them. This means, it advised, that much more has to be added to our chalk and eraser repertoire if we are to join our colleagues be on the 'Information Superhighway.'

The workshop opened with a preliminary session led by Brother John McGoldrick, who provided a brief introduction to the world of computers. The Keynote address that followed, 'Students in Cyberspace,' employed various media and methods in considering the role that the teacher faces with new technology, and the students who plunge into or race away from an encounter with the computer. A panel presentation followed on 'World Wide Educational Technology,' led by Mr. Gery Short and five other panelists.

A group of 'strands', similar to what were previously called 'mini-sessions' with titles such as: 'The Technology Enriched Curriculum,' 'Staff Development - Technology Development,' 'The Internet as a Research Source for Students,' 'School Networks - Connecting a School Site,' were also part of the program. In all there were five sessions with four strands or mini-sessions in each grouping.

The workshop to follow, that of 1998, much different from Workshop 1997, featured once again Lasallian concepts and was to be titled: **Lasallian Ministries as Faith Communities**. The Welcome page of the program stated that the delegates to the 1993 General Chapter in Rome saw, as an ideal to be pursued, "that every Lasallian work, when that is possible, favors the birth of a community of faith, a reference group capable of welcoming various persons (Brothers, priests, religious, laity, young people...) who wish to deepen their faith and whose concern it is to proclaim in an explicit way Jesus Christ and to commit themselves to the service of the poor" (Circular 435,5.5).

The Keynote Address by Mr. Patrick Daniels, was on 'The Vision of Faith Community.' The main address the next morning by Mr. Thomas Zanzig was on 'Conversion within Community.' Twelve breakout sessions followed addressing such topics as: 'Teaching as a Spiritual Journey,' 'Shepherding the Faith Community,' 'Promoting Social Justice and Service' and 'Multiculturalism in the Catholic High School.'

Huether Workshop 1999, **To Act Justly, Love Tenderly, and Walk Humbly with your God**, was supported in the Welcome page of the program by the strong statement that: "For any educational activity to be vigorous and legitimate, it must be inspired by a great purpose. The *promotion of justice*, in connection with evangelization and making Jesus Christ known, can be the purpose that will animate our activity, in school or out of school. [We are] sent to prepare the way of the Lord in much the same manner as St. John the Baptist...as messengers to the young to declare the truth that makes men and women free. The goal of liberating individuals, and even society as a whole, is what should motivate us to work for justice and make the young people [and adults] who come to us instruments in the quest." (Message from the General Council, 1979).

Two well-known speakers addressed the participants. Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J., the author of the book, *Dead Man Walking*, shared her story and the experiences that have led her to devote her energies toward educating the public about the death penalty. Father William Byron, S.J., former President of Catholic University in Washington, DC, spoke of 'Sharing Catholic Social Teachings: Challenges and Directions.' An added feature of this workshop was an immersion experience where the participants traveled in vans to some of the blighted areas of the city to see, and reflect upon, some of the results of inequality and injustice. Many attractive and informative breakout sessions followed led by Brothers and lay associates.

### **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 26**

#### **Technology in Lasallian Ministries**

November 20 — 22, 1997 — Chicago, IL

### **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 27**

#### **Lasallian Ministries as Faith Communities**

November 19 - 21, 1998 - Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 28**

**To Act Justly, Love Tenderly, and Walk  
Humbly with Your God**

November 18 — 20, 1999 — Chicago, IL



## Huether Workshops enter 21<sup>st</sup> century

### Workshops 2000 – 2004.

The 2001 Huether workshop contained a very informative capsule history of the Huether Workshops. It captures the story of the workshops very well and is added here to give a recap of what the Huether Workshops have been up to 2001.

“In 1973 the Regional Educational Council of the Christian Brothers in the United States organized a workshop to provide Lasallian educators with a forum to address the strengths, weaknesses, and above all, the common principles of Lasallian education by those immediately involved in the actual educational work on a national and, shortly thereafter, regional level, to include Canada. Brother Francis Huether, who began the workshop with the education directors of the American provinces of the Brothers, was serving as National Education Secretary at that time. When he retired from his position, the annual conference was given his name.”

“From its very beginning the workshop, intensely Lasallian in orientation, has been a success. Perhaps with thirty to forty participants initially, the roster has grown to a hundred and, most recently, to about two hundred Lasallians, from around the country and from international educational venues.”

“From its initial sessions in Minneapolis, the workshop soon settled on Chicago at the Bismarck Hotel for its annual site. The format of the workshop has evolved from its early years as a forum for discussions, to having guest speakers address current Lasallian and education issues and mini-sessions to explore the workshop’s theme in depth. Thus the overall organization of the workshop stabilized without falling into a rut. The Lasallian focus continues to be its chief consideration, and its concentration on the Lasallian School has carried over to teachers and administrators in other parts of the Institute.”

“In addition, specialized education ministries have been a part of the Workshop programs, such as religious education and unique educational services to the poor, and participants have come from

distant Lasallian sites. Exhibits by Saint Mary's Press and Lasallian Publications have made participants aware of that specialized ministry."

"A significant development of the evolution of the Workshop began in the mid-eighties with the effort to describe and identify this 'Lasallian School.' Out of that search emerged the draft of a paper that was circulated for a year among the principals committees around the United States and Toronto, and then brought to the 1985 Workshop. At that remarkable Workshop nearly 150 Brothers and partners from virtually all the establishments of the Region met to analyze, refine, and endorse the paper, and to plan for its practical implementation. The result of this work was the document **Characteristics of Lasallian Schools**. In the years immediately following its publication, individual Districts sponsored local workshops to describe and discuss these characteristics, giving great impetus to the Shared Mission movement. That movement would result in a similar process ten years later when partners and Brothers gathered at the 1995 Workshop to analyze, refine, and endorse a document of guidelines for fostering the Shared Mission in the region."

"Brother Robert McCann, who succeeded Brother Francis Huether as Regional Education Secretary in the late 1980's created a new closing session for the annual Workshop: The Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award's Dinner. This is a tribute to an individual selected in each of the Districts of the Region as an outstanding Lasallian Educator. In recent years, under the leadership of Brother Theodore Drahmann, Brother Robert McCann's successor, participation in the Workshop has come from Lasallian colleges and universities."

"Surely one might well say that what began as simply a discussion about schools is now a significant element in the Lasallian Family ministries of the United States and Toronto Region."

It is unfortunate that the lead workshop of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Workshop 2000, is not well documented in the Christian Brothers Conference files in Landover, MD. for no workshop program is available. Only an incomplete Distinguished Lasallian Educator Dinner program is available. However, Brother John Johnston, who came to the Conference office in 2001, remembers some of the highlights of this workshop. He mentions that the keynote

speaker was Monica Hellweg, at that time General Secretary of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. The other major speaker was Brother Armin Luistro, at that time Visitor of the Philippines. There were, of course, numerous breakout session presenters.<sup>30</sup> The title of Workshop 2000 was Leadership and the Lasallian Vision: A Vision For Today and Tomorrow.

The Welcome section of Workshop 2001 mentioned, "As you know, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter has directed that the rights of children be a major focus of Lasallian mission. The outstanding number of participants at Huether 2001 indicates clearly that Lasallians throughout the United States/Toronto Region are determined to make the promotion of rights of children a high priority in their mission. We hope and expect that these three days of prayerful sharing and brainstorming will foster a process of synergy that will shape the response of the Region to the directive of the Chapter."

"In view of this hope and expectation, the planning committee has assembled an impressive group of speakers and breakout session presenters. They are well aware of the purpose of Huether 2001 and are committed to helping us realize our objectives. Ultimately the success of this workshop will depend on the quality of our participation and of our commitment to a 'culture of action.' We want Huether 2001 to help Lasallians throughout the Region defend and promote the rights of children and youth and walk side by side with young people who are 'poor, abandoned, and far from salvation'." (St. de La Salle).

There were three presentations listed as keynote addresses. The first by Brother John Johnston, 'Jesus Was Indignant... Are We?' On the following day, Mr. Jonah Edelman developed his topic, "Where Do We Go From Here For Your Children.' The Saturday address by Ms. Audrey Kitagawa of the United Nations was, 'Protect Our Future: Protect Our Children.' Ten breakout sessions that addressed many specific child concerns were also part of the program. The titles are very thought-provoking, such as, 'Land Mines: Mutilation and/or Death,' 'Child Labor in the World Today,' 'Young Refugees,' 'Hungry and Starving Children,' 'Sexual Orientation and its Impact on Youth,' and 'Gang Violence.'

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<sup>30</sup> Brother John Johnston, e-mail, August 12, 2005.

## **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 29**

### **Leadership and the Lasallian Vision: A Vision for Today and Tomorrow**

November 18 - 20, 2000 — Chicago, IL

## **HUETHER WORKSHOP # 30**

### **Promoting the Rights of Children**

November 15 — 17, 2001 — Chicago, IL

A quick look at the 2002 Workshop program reveals a change in the title of these workshops. This new title is HUETHER LASALLIAN WORKSHOP. There was also an add-on to the history of the workshops that first appeared in the 2001 program, perhaps for clarification. The clarification was that Brother Theodore Drahmann and his successor Brother Robert Schieler encouraged the inclusion of participants from the Lasallian colleges and universities in the annual conference. It added that this past year, the Regional Education Board added the word 'Lasallian' to the title of the Huether Lasallian Workshop.<sup>31</sup>

The Welcome page of this 2002 program stated, "You are joining more than 200 Lasallians with a commitment to arts education. We encourage you to get to know personally as many participants as possible during these days. You have a unique opportunity to celebrate arts education, to learn from the presenters, and to share your experiences, concerns, and proposals on the role and contribution of arts education to Lasallian education. We hope and we expect that our activities together these three days will foster a process of synergy that will help us strengthen arts education throughout the Region."

The keynote address was given by Brother Michael McKenery and entitled: 'The Arts: A Creative Prism at the Heart of the Mission of

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<sup>31</sup> Workshop 2002 Program, Brief History Page.

the Lasallian School.' A guided tour of the Art Institute of Chicago followed. A very comprehensive and attractive series of breakout sessions were available to those present, such as, 'The Spirituality of Sound, Poetry in Motion,' 'Musical Theatre,' 'Teaching Music from a Multicultural Perspective,' 'Learning About Cultures Through Art,' and, 'Moving with Spirit.'

Another name change was made in the 2003 Workshop. The Workshops are now to be known as Conferences, as in HUETHER LASALLIAN CONFERENCE. The brief history of the workshops was presented but again with an added two paragraphs.

The additions: "Last year the Regional Education Board, led by Brother John Johnston, the Director of the Office of Lasallian Mission, added the word 'Lasallian' to the title of the Huether Lasallian Workshop. That group added the dimension of student participation to the program that included over a hundred students from Lasallian art programs in the United States and Toronto."

"This year, under the leadership of Brother Kevin Dalmasse, Brother John Johnston's successor, the Huether annual meeting has been renamed to more accurately reflect the nature of the event, and is now called the Huether Lasallian Conference."<sup>32</sup>

The title for the Huether Lasallian Conference, 2003, was **Making Lasallian Ministries Accessible to All**. The Welcome page of the program mentioned "that nearly every type of ministry is represented, from elementary schools to universities, from high schools to childcare agencies, and from Miguel schools to special centers for adult learners."

"Those who make these diverse ministries possible are present, too, and impressively so: teachers, administrators, counselors, admissions and financial aid officers, campus ministers, alumni, board members, and more. And all have come to deepen their commitment to the Lasallian mission of providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor."

Brother William Mann gave the keynote address, 'Lasallian Mission: A Way of Educating for Life for All.' Field trips were also made available to De La Salle Institute and to the newest San

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<sup>32</sup> Workshop 2003 Program, Brief History Page.

Miguel School in Chicago, the Gary Comer Campus. A variety of breakout sessions were made available to this diverse group of Lasallian educators. Among them were: 'Connecting Fundraising with Mission,' 'Impact of Culture on Education,' 'Creating a Seamless System of Education in the Lasallian Network,' 'Accessibility of our Schools to Students with Special Academic Needs,' and 'Lasallian School Culture.' The final morning six special sessions, labeled, Interest Groups, involved the participants in discussions on their special field of concern.

The Huether Lasallian Conference for 2004 makes an interesting change in location. This program's addition to the history section, announces: "And this year, the Huether Lasallian Conference moves to San Francisco where over 300 Lasallians will begin a new chapter in the gathering's history. There continues to be much energy and life to Brother Francis' vision for a stronger association of truly remarkable educational ministries!"<sup>33</sup>

The program, with the Golden Gate Bridge as background, displays the title for this Conference: **Bridges to the Heart - Pastoral Ministry & Faith Formation of Students.**

The Welcome page of this program gives a spirited message to all the participants, written by Brother Kevin Dalmasse. "It gives me great pleasure to WELCOME you to the 32<sup>nd</sup> (sic) annual Huether Lasallian Conference! For over thirty years our assembly was warmly hosted by the city of Chicago, but this year, for the first time, we gather in beautiful San Francisco. We come together in this new place to celebrate our association as Lasallian educators and to explore in earnest a theme of considerable student importance: *Bridges to the Heart: Pastoral Ministry and Faith Formation.*"

"You are among a record number of participants, nearly 300 in all, for what promises to be a professional and personal formation experience of great value. Gathered together these next few days are teachers, campus ministers, administrators, counselors, and student leaders representing nearly every type of educational ministry imaginable. Through a mix of keynote addresses, breakout session presentations, best practices table discussions, and prayer

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<sup>33</sup> Workshop 2004 Program, Brief History, page 4.

services, we hope to provide you with ample opportunities to deepen your appreciation for the issues surrounding the evangelization of the young people entrusted to your care. And while our planning committee has taken much care to develop a conference program that is at once stimulating and provocative, we understand that it is in the personal and spontaneous interactions with your fellow Lasallians this weekend that you are likely to discover the learning experience of greatest benefit. And so we invite you to enter fully into the spirit of this special event and to enjoy the charms of the 'City by the Bay'."

The Conference schedule was loaded with what were identified as 'Best Practices Sessions', very practical 'hands-on' meetings to share success stories and to ask questions on best procedures to address certain challenges. More formal breakout sessions followed these early morning 'Practices' get-togethers. These sessions were many in number but the sense of the focus can be seen from the mention of some of these special meetings: 'Diversity: Gift and Opportunity,' 'All are Welcome: Addressing Sexual Orientation in Catholics,' 'Lasallian Schools,' 'Preparing Vibrant Worship,' 'The Lasallian Youth Movement: A Look at Today, A Plan for Tomorrow,' 'Bridging the Gap: From Their Textbook to Your Educational Outcomes,' 'Service-Learning Work,' 'Faith Formation for Faculty and Staff' and 'Ministry Loves Company: A Peer Ministry Model for Your School.'

The conference keynote address was saved for Saturday morning and tied together all the various ideas expressed in the working sessions. The speaker was Dr. Michael Carotta. His topic: 'Intrusive Presence: Four Bridges to the Spirituality of Adolescents.' Dr. Carotta is the author of the book, *Sometimes We Dance, Sometimes We Wrestle: Embracing The Spirituality of Adolescents*.

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 31**

**Visual and Performing Arts Education  
and the Lasallian Mission**

November 21 — 23, 2002 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 32**

**Making Lasallian Ministries  
Accessible to All**

November 20 — 22, 2003 — Chicago, IL

**HUETHER WORKSHOP # 33**

**Bridges to the Heart  
Pastoral Ministry & Student Faith Formation**

November 18 — 20, 2004 — San Francisco, CA

A Regional Assembly of Christian Brothers and Lasallian partners will replace the 2005 Workshop. This Assembly will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 15-20, 2005.

**Final questions**

**For reflection and sharing**

1. What do you consider the keys to the success of this initiative? What would you highlight from its global development over the years? Do you know of any similar Lasallian programme?
2. Do you see any relation or connection between the development of the Huether Workshops and the development of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools itself? For example: common themes, priorities, Chapter decisions, programmed lines of action, etc.?
3. Given your present understanding, what do you think could be the themes or titles of the next Huether Workshops?



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