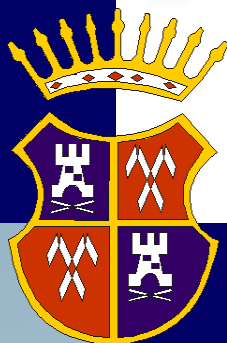


ONE

LASALLE

Newsletter of the



NZ Lasallian Family

*"To touch the hearts of
your pupils; this is the greatest
miracle you can perform"*

Welcome to the first issue of "One Lasalle". A new newsletter to showcase and provide a tangible link between the members of our Lasallian family in New Zealand. In the spirit of community and association it is hoped that this can be one way to foster sharing between our three great schools. As Lasallians in a global family, we are the guarantors of the on-going mission as the institute faces a new time of transition and transformation.

It is a time of new challenges but also of real hope. We pray that this newsletter be one avenue to connect, to inspire and to renew.

Live Jesus in our Hearts. Forever.

Kane Raukura
Editor / Lasallian Facilitator
De La Salle College

In this issue:

DLS

Our place - past and present.
Some history and information.

JPC

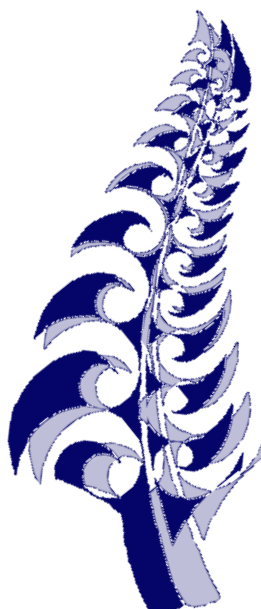
History of John Paul College
Rotorua.

FDMC

History, information and
important values.

Formation

One commitment leads to
another!





DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

De La Salle College, Mangere East, came to be in June 1953 after a late start. When the Brothers had arrived from Australia, in February, the building operations had only just commenced. So Br. Peter Duffy, the first brother director, set about learning the finer details of NZ's educational requirements, selecting textbooks, choosing a uniform and doing odd jobs on the new school site.

The school was located on the old Puhinui Trotting Club grounds, so much preparation was needed. Then, as is still found now, a huge input from families, staff and community has slowly turned the site into the great place it is today. A large majority of the college buildings were built with parents providing the labour and know how.

The beginning years were difficult, with tuck-shop profits sometimes being divided up to pay staff and sheep being used to keep the grass down on the number one field. Not too many visiting rugby teams were keen to tackle on that field! But, as with all adversity, God delivers. With the generosity of many kind souls over the years, the foundations of De La Salle College, Mangere East, were passionately laid down.

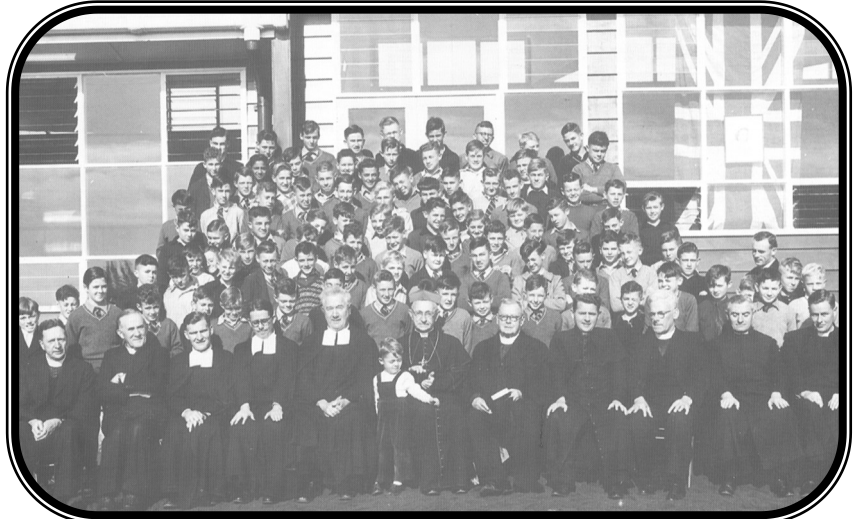
Today, we are a school of 1002 pupils and 90 staff. We are blessed to still have a brother principal, Br. David Miller and three other brothers on staff. Brother Declan, Brother Colin and Brother Jack.

"De La Salle College exists to educate boys through a Catholic and Lasallian tradition to be exemplary and nationally recognised."

As a school, we focus daily on achieving our mission statement. We are a proud boys school that produces outstanding all round achievers in the cultural, sporting and academic fields.

Live Jesus in our Hearts!

Kane Raukura - Lasallian Facilitator DLS



First day 1953! 96 students with Bishop Liston centre and flanked by the Brothers and supporting parish priests.



Br. Colin Griffin, 1970, with families and friends of the College. Turning the first sod for the foundations of the new hall.



De La Salle College, in modern times, 2010 whole school photo outside the MPC (multipurpose centre) plus staff.



JOHN PAUL COLLEGE, ROTORUA

**Ma te Pono, me te aroha
Through Faith and Love.**

In May 1987 John Paul College opened its doors to 687 students, who had formally attended either MacKillop College or Edmund Rice College. A desire for co-education and the prediction of falling rolls provided two strong reasons for the school to combine. In 1998 at the invitation of Bishop Denis Browne, the association of the College with the De La Salle Brothers began with the establishment of a Brothers' community. The association was formalised in 1999 with a request from the Board of Trustees that John Paul College become a Lasallian Associated School.

As the only Catholic School in the city of Rotorua, we are now delivering a quality, Catholic education to 1,100 students as well as an International fee-paying student body who live with home stay families. We are a multi-cultural school and we believe in respecting all people, celebrating nationality and culture.

In 2010 a Signum Fidei group was commissioned by Bishop Denis Browne, in the presence of Brother Ambrose Payne, Superior and Brother Mark McKeon, Auxiliary Visitor. This group of dedicated teacher's, meet monthly for prayer, reflection and fellowship, and have specific focus to reach out to the marginalised students in our school community.

John Paul College is proud to be a Lasallian school. We are grateful for the De La Salle Brothers who have contributed to enhancing the Lasallian spirit at our school by facilitating Year level retreats, Staff Development Days and attending our School Masses and Founder's Day celebrations. Their presence in our school and their ongoing commitment to John Paul College has strengthened our resolve to continue in the footsteps of the founder St John Baptists de La Salle in providing a human and Christian education.

Bernadette Fredrickson - Campus Minister and Lasallian Facilitator JPC.



Main entrance to John Paul Colleges wonderful grounds



Everyone giving it a go! JPC Tabloid Sports Day 2010.



John Paul College is well known locally in Rotorua and further afield for its amazing school productions. Shown is the classic by Victor Hugo - Les Misérables



FRANCIS DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COLLEGE, NEW PLYMOUTH

On the west coast of the North Island in the pastoral district of Taranaki lies the city of New Plymouth. Francis Douglas Memorial College is situated on a 27 hectare block of land near the western outskirts of the city. It was here that the De La Salle Brothers came in 1959 to open a Catholic boarding and day school for boys.

The Brothers, a Catholic Chaplain and their lay partners formed a dedicated community with the parents in sharing a common mission of providing Christian education for Taranaki boys. The college is dedicated to the memory of Father Francis Vernon Douglas. Father Douglas was a Columban missionary, who spent his early years as an assistant priest at St. Josephs Church, New Plymouth. In 1939, he began work in the Philippines where it is believed he was executed by enemy forces during World War II for assisting guerrillas. His body has never been found.

Such was the affection in which Father Francis Douglas was held by the local Catholic community that it was decided to name the new Catholic boys College in his honour. The College opened on 9th February 1959 with 30 boarders and 160 day boys. With quick growth, it soon established a reputation for academic achievement as well as for its sports success, its cultural activities, and its strong spirit. Today Francis Douglas has 122 boarders and 750 day boys. The College employs about 100 staff who work in the school and hostel. The size of Francis Douglas Memorial College means that all students are well known. Their pastoral care is paramount. The College staff are committed to teaching the Lasallian vision, mission and to touch hearts. Our students show College pride and identify readily with St John Baptist de La Salle and Francis Douglas.

The Brothers have not resided at the College since the end of 2009 however they are still very much the heart of our school being represented on our College and Hostel boards and leading our Signum Fidei, Retreat programmes and In-Service days. The College is committed to providing a Catholic, Lasallian education that prepares young men for university, work and life. The college seeks to educate students spiritually, academically, physically, and socially through the promotion of a vital faith life, sponsorship of strong academic values as well as a wide range of student activities, and the witness of concerned and dedicated teachers, pastoral and administration staff. Our aim is to produce a good college man.

Sjaane Simpson - Dean of Boarding



A beautiful morning in Taranaki overlooking Francis Douglas Memorial College



Foundation staff members from left to right: Br. Alban Foley, Br. Benignus Davis, Br. Jerome Foley, Fr. James Austin (Chaplain), Br. Francis Sullivan, Br. Fabian Boundy.



First Day Students



FDMC students excelling in cricket



The LASALLIAN Formation PAGE (1)

BRINGING THE FOUNDERS MESSAGE TO YOU

One Commitment Leads to Another

A Spiritual Approach to Our Ministry With Students (adapted)

(Thanks to Tina Bonacci, USA , for providing this resource)

In 1997, I began working at De La Salle College in Mangere East, South Auckland – a Lasallian school – or, as I heard some of my colleagues say, a “Christian brothers” school.

During my first few years at De La Salle as a teacher, I began to re-hear the story of John Baptist de La Salle, and I liked what I heard. I heard the story of a man who for many years had no desire to mix with those on the margins of society, but who had a deep faith in God and a strong desire to do whatever God asked of him.

It is a story of someone who, little by little, found himself getting involved with charity schools that enrolled young men from families that were economically poor – so much so over time that, after 15 years, he dedicated his life to this educational ministry.

Ultimately, he freely chose to do this, because he had come to understand God’s call – and, with it, his own passion for the work. It is a story of one person’s evolving relationship with God – a relationship that leads him to know, in faith, that God is inclined to bring people along a little bit at a time, honoring their place in life while at the same time gently yet persistently nudging them forward. In my formation work with Lasallian educators, I have come to realize and appreciate that De La Salle’s story is not unique. All of us have experienced unexpected (and sometimes unwelcome) twists and turns in our lives that take on new meaning when we look back at them someplace down the road.

I can recall taking a job I really didn’t want because it was the only job available to me, taking it only to buy myself some time to find the job I really wanted, and finding over time that in fact it was a job that changed the direction of my entire life for the better. I can recall losing a job I wanted to keep only to discover unexpected gifts in the 18 months that followed. I feel privileged to be associated with an educational heritage that has this experience as part of its founding story. What’s more, this experience operates in significant ways in our schools. Let me explain...

Our Institute has its beginnings with a young priest from a well-to-do family who has a soft spot in his heart for the plight of a man who wants to start a free school for sons of the working class and the poor in Rheims. “Out of pure charity” for the man, John Baptist de La Salle agrees to come to his assistance. This decision sets off a chain of events that, fifteen years later, finds De La Salle taking vows for life with a group of teachers who call themselves Brothers of the Christian Schools. Some years later, De La Salle reflects on the journey:

*“If I had ever thought that the care I was taking of the schoolmasters out of pure charity would ever had made it my duty to live with them, I would have dropped the whole project. For since, naturally speaking, I considered the men whom I was obliged to employ in the schools at the beginnings as being inferior to my valet, the mere thought that I would have to live with them would have been insupportable to me. In fact, I experienced a great deal of unpleasantness when I first had them come to my house. This lasted for two years. It was undoubtedly for this reason that **God, who guides all things with wisdom and serenity, whose way it is not to force the inclinations of persons, willed to commit me to the development of the schools. God did this in an imperceptible way and over a long period of time, so that one commitment led to another in a way that I did not foresee in the beginning.**”*

In today’s vernacular: What a long, strange trip it’s been. What is most significant in De La Salle’s reflections is his faith response: this is not a series of random, haphazard events. Rather, these are evidence of God’s gentle yet persistent presence in his life. A God of “wisdom and serenity” – not a God of impulse, not an authoritarian God. A patient yet determined God, who, in the words of the author of the Book of Revelation, “stands at the door and knocks,” waiting for the time when the one inside is ready to open the door (but a God who, it must be noted, keeps knocking until the door is indeed opened. God is indeed patient – and relentless!).



The LASALLIAN Formation PAGE (2)

BRINGING THE FOUNDERS MESSAGE TO YOU

It is this vision of God that informs the evolving network of schools that came to be called the Christian Schools, then Brothers' Schools, and now Lasallian Schools.

Little by little, step by step, patiently we work with students, establishing relationships over time like an older brother or sister does with a younger sibling. Little by little, step by step, we instill a love for schooling in the young people entrusted to our care.

Little by little, step by step, our eyes are opened to the wonderful work to which God has called us – a call that is manifested in a series of smaller commitments that lead to larger commitments. What begins with accepting a job because we have bills to pay grows for some to a lifetime commitment to educate young people according to the heritage begun nearly 330 years ago by a young priest in France who was convinced that he was only being a good guy by introducing a stranger from out of town to a couple of parish priests and wealthy friends.

De La Salle's first "yes" led to a myriad of other "yeses" that changed not only the lives of countless young boys in France, but also the life of that young priest, revealing to him gifts and passions he never knew he had in him.

And isn't this what we hope for every single student entrusted to our care? That, through our gentle yet persistent belief in them, they will begin to embrace their own giftedness and potential?

When our first attempts to reach someone fail, we do not throw in the towel and walk away. Rather, we try again – pursue another angle, try another technique, come back with renewed determination the next day.

We never stop believing in them, we never stop loving them. When De La Salle tells us in his Third Meditation for the Time of Retreat that we are to be "ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ," I like to think that this is what he meant.

For Your Reflection:

This reflection speaks of the winding path that got Saint John Baptist de La Salle involved with education, an involvement that became his life's work.

What brought you to this school and eventually to be a member of this group? Have you experienced any unexpected twists and turns along the way?

De La Salle writes of a God of "wisdom and serenity," a God not inclined to force people but rather inclined to lead people slowly and even imperceptibly from one commitment to another.

In what ways does this describe your journey as a teacher at DLS / JPC / FDMC?

