



The Bugle

Some weeks ago, a gentleman by the name of John Bare contacted the Development Office to inform them that he had discovered at the contents sale of a house, a bugle that has engraved on it the letters D.L.S. Hon. Lt. Col. Frank O'Connor. Senator Frank O'Connor was an alumnus of the College at its prior campus on Duke Street (Jarvis and Adelaide). In his youth, the future Senator O'Connor had borrowed some funds from the legendary Brother Alfred Dooner, fsc. It was Brother Alfred that would engage the assistance of leaders in the Catholic community in the 1930s to establish De La Salle College at the current Oaklands site. Senator O'Connor had by then become very wealthy as he founded the successful confectionery company, Laura Secord. He would become a major benefactor of the Brothers' educational work in Ontario and was very involved in the De La Salle Cadet Corps.

The work of the Senator and others like him in our community was pivotal in the development of our famed Old Drum and Bugle Corps. Whether performing here on the campus, at competitions against other schools or marching proudly as part of parades, the Corps has left an indelible mark on the culture of the College. Its legacy has provided generations of our students with unforgettable



memories, a tradition that continues to this very day.

The talents of our current Cadet Corps and marching band were on full display just last month, as our students continued the famed Del tradition of marching in the Toronto Santa Claus Parade. Year after year, they spend their November lunch breaks and Saturday morning's marching back and forth in front of the school preparing for their performance in front of the children and families of our city, who eagerly await the arrival of Santa Claus. Opportunities like this that allow us to showcase our cadets and musical talents are a testament to the dedication of Senator O'Connor and others like him to the Corps. The unexpected delivery of the bugle bearing his name and honorary rank

is a reminder of that dedication and how very proud we are to call both he and all who pass through our hallways, Del Alumni.



Pictured above: the late Senator Frank Patrick O'Connor.



A Christmas Message from the Development Office

It is hard to imagine a time when it was not the Christmas season here at De La Salle. It is a busy time of year at the Heritage House, which over the years has housed students, Brothers, friends, families and visitors from all over the world. It is a place that is constantly bustling through the seasons, but as Christmas time approaches, it transforms into a Winter Wonderland. From the Annual Grade 7 Victorian Christmas to the Cadet's Battalion Ball, to a host of other Christmas parties, the 'House' as we so fondly call it, summons memories of a bountiful and blessed 2019 at De La Salle.

For the past six years, the new year has kicked off with the Annual Alumni Hockey Tournament. It's always a great time to see familiar faces and get better acquainted with new ones, amid healthy on-ice competition between various generations of our alumni. That said, we cannot forget that the reason we come together for the day: to raise funds for Skate with Daniel, a charity that supports one of Del's own.

We also take this time to prepare for our annual spring events, such as our alumni soccer and golf tournaments, both of which saw amazing participation this past year.

This year we continued with our established campaigns, Founder's Day celebration and just recently, Giving Tuesday. The College was blessed with your overwhelming support, and for that, we sincerely thank you. It is a genuinely heartwarming feeling of affirmation, knowing that you value a student's education just as much as we do. Your donations allow those who might not otherwise have access to a Lasallian education, the opportunity to share in the same experience you once did. We

are beyond proud of our community!

What we most fondly look back on though are many reunions that took place this past year. Having the chance to see you in person affirms why we love doing our jobs. Reliving the memories, experiencing that sense of nostalgia and being able to catch up with friends and teachers is something we know that you truly cherish.

We are grateful for the grace of God in our work and your hearts. As we await joyfully to celebrate the birth of Christ, we not only look back but forward to the beginning of a new year.

We are looking ahead to more events, engaging more alumni, and, most importantly, affecting more positive change for families of De La Salle College.

We wish you a beautiful and restful Christmas, may God bless you in 2020.

Merry Christmas,

The Development Office



The Winter 2019 Signum Fidei issue is brought to you by:

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A Christmas Message from Brother Domenic



Dear Alumni:

Love is the greatest power in the world. It is stronger than any human force and even stronger than death itself. It depends not upon coercion or force but upon inspiration. Love, which is pure charity, is the first law of God. All other laws are rooted in it. Love depends not upon any power in the world. It has its roots and inspiration in God alone. Only the Almighty power of God is capable of inspiring divine love from which all human love flows, and without divine inspiration, love cannot endure.

Charity, then, is the love of God and neighbour. This love should prompt us in all that we do for our neighbours. Our intention towards our neighbours should be purified each day with prayer, and that should be a prayer that all things we do might be prompted by the love of God, and no worldly reason, no matter how noble, can take the place of charity. No philanthropic project, no political agenda, no matter how meritorious or stupendous, if not properly rooted in God, can be compared to the widow's mite in terms of real charity or value. In our days when

so many causes to alleviate the sufferings of people around the world and at home, or intended to right injustices, it is well to remember prayerfully the words of the Apostle to the Gentiles on charity - that it will avail nothing unless God is part of our plans and endeavours.

Did you ever playfully, but never with more serious intent, ask a little child the question: How much do you love me? The response was prompt and decisive. Do you remember that they were no words spoken in the answer? There was only an eloquent gesture. Little arms outstretched all the way as far as they could. The child was showing that his or her love was boundless. Let us imagine now that we could phrase the same question to Infant Jesus as we knelt before him as he lay in the manger in Bethlehem. How much Lord do you love me? He would give the same answer. The answer would be identical to the little child's response - no words spoken but an eloquent gesture of arms outstretched all the way to show his boundless love in his becoming man, his healing words, his dying on the cross and his promise of eternal life.

My wish for our students above all this Christmas is that they will learn here the true meaning of charity. In learning and living the significance of charity in our lives, our young people will know why we celebrate the Nativity of Christ and how to celebrate it worthily each day. I close with a quote from Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, of whom I wrote in my last message. It is, I believe, a wonderful testimony of a young Catholic who showed it is possible to rise above the affairs of this world to live a Christian life of charity. He is a model for us all but, especially for youth today who are

assailed by so many falsehoods and by those who would lead them astray. I offer it to you as a prayer to consider as you prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child. Let it serve as a source to help us celebrate with true joy our Christmas festivities.

"Each of you knows that the foundation of our faith is charity. Without it, our religion would crumble. We will never be truly Catholic unless we confirm our entire lives to the two Commandments that are the essence of the Catholic faith: to love the Lord, our God, with all our strength, and love our neighbour as ourselves. With charity, we sow the seeds of that true peace which only our faith in Jesus Christ can give us by making us all brothers and sisters. I know that this way is steep, and difficult, and strewn with thorns, while at first glance the other path seems easier, more pleasant, and more satisfying. But the fact is, if we could look into the hearts of those who follow the perverse ways of this world, we would see that they lack the serenity that comes to those who have faced a thousand difficulties and who have renounced material pleasures to follow God's law."

"May peace reign in your soul... any other gift we possess in this life is vanity, just as all the things of this world are vain."

A happy and holy Christmas to all and may the Good Lord bless us with peace and joy in his love throughout the New Year.

Brother Domenic, fsc

Brother Domenic, fsc
President

Prospective Student Open House

On Tuesday, December 17, prospective students of De La Salle and their families attended an information night at the College. It consisted of a panel discussion in the auditorium featuring Del Alumni. They took questions from the audience and spoke about their experience as students. Following the event, we asked them what keeps bringing them back to Del?



"I'm happy to give back because I'm so grateful for being able to be part of the Lasallian community worldwide."
Emma De Tommaso (DEL17)



"When I come back, the memories start flooring in. Being able to reconnect with teachers is great."
Stefano Magliocchetti (DEL17)



"The tremendous sense of community that was instilled in me over the last six years keeps me coming back."
Ashley Kivlichan (DEL19)



"Great memories, great friends, great teachers."
Matthew Glossop (DEL09)



"I feel like I owe it to Del, to come and give back to the community that has given me so much."
Erica Dignam (DEL 19)



"I wanted to return to the place that shaped me into the person that I am today."
Daniel Grossi (DEL19)



"I'm very grateful for the support and the experience I had, so I'm happy to come back and do anything I can to help."
Aliko Karanikas (DEL19)



"I love this community so much, I couldn't stop coming back even if I tried."
Jonathan Fortini (DEL17)



"Staying involved in the community and inspiring students helps me to grow my own network."
Domenique Barbaro (DEL16)

The Sentinel

"In my Father's house are many mansions." (John 14:2)

Advances in cosmology reveal the astonishing, endless vistas of space, allowing us to be forgiven for puzzling over or fearing the destiny of human life on this tiny planet. Hard science asks if our existence can have any eventual meaning. Is it more significant than an insect whose life spans a few minutes or hours? These are troubling questions, especially in an age of advancing secularism and materialism in which religious conviction is all too often undermined.

In the upheaval, we may wonder at times if we are on a spiritual journey after all. If not, then our fragile existence is pointless, leaving evolutionary trends to descend to more and more primal urges, to mere physical evolution at the mercy of a multitude of gratuitous climactic events. But people of faith must remain steadfast in their belief in God and the chance of a heavenly life after the life here on Earth. Their certainty is echoed by the convictions of those who, like T. de Chardin, see a wide-open highway to heaven, without equivocation or hesitations. He believes, "we are not human beings having a spiritual experience; rather, we are spiritual beings having a human experience."

This journey has the sweet and easy flow of Shakespeare's interplay of day and night, the miraculous co-existence of two streams of creation, separate but together and seamless. As well, we see the duality of all of nature, and of our own nature. It is one that trumpets to those willing to hear the magnificence of creation and wisdom of our Creator. This gentle flow of day into night and night into day again suggests

the almost invisible daily alternation or the contrast between our weaker instincts and our "better angels." For in this cosmic confrontation, we will find the elusive meaning of our "better efforts."

"There's a race to be run. There's a victory to be won." Now more than ever, the faithful should be attentive to society's shift towards the popular trends of nihilism, materialism and secularism. Each is, without a doubt, an inherent challenge to the Christian foundations of our society, a byproduct of which is the relativism we see dominate public discourse today. Will Durant, the astute chronicler of our history and our foibles, has an apt summary of the dilemma: "Our culture is superficial today and our knowledge dangerous, because we are rich in mechanisms and poor in purpose."

The complexity of our age is problematic, leaving us at a tipping point. De La Salle "Oaklands" is also caught on this point, as the times would have it, on the cutting edge of rapid cultural change. Amid this change, Del is counter-cultural, as we quietly manage, and as our grads will confirm, to stand opposite the lures of relativism, maintaining classical rigour in academics, deportment, industry, generosity and spirituality. We make no small effort to ensure that our goals are authentic, an effort that is no walk in the park.

Today, we are the last Lasallian school in Canada, a crucial development. Could it be that the future role of our College is to help point the way to a renewal of a fragmented society? Are we now called to help shine a light on a stable educational path for students, born into a culture that further sidelines the perspectives of people of

faith? Do we inevitably find ourselves to be a final vestige, the last sentinel in a society that has chosen to immerse itself in the vast ocean of relativism?

It depends on who we think we are and what we believe to be our destiny. Our creed is intentional and spiritual, and that makes us unique. Of course, any good school will claim to be unique. The claim is universal, and since most, if not all, institutions broadcast their exclusive grandeur, everyone else must do so to keep pace. So to must Del, so that our claim is authentic and true.

Our values here at the College are classical, timeless - our graduates prove this every day through successes and achievements. They are truly inspirational and exceptionally successful. And while they may be at time buffed by the strong head-winds of a society steeped in relativism, they overcome the ramparts thanks to their formative years on our campus.

To our Del alumni, consider becoming a supporter of this great enterprise we have all been so fortunate to be a part of in our formative years. Please consider giving a gift to help preserve this enduring institution that is close to our hearts. Currently, over 100 of our 600 students are on bursaries, allowing young people of every background access to a Lasallian education. Your generosity and the generosity of others in our community make this extraordinary achievement possible. This Christmas, please consider donating to De La Salle. In the words of Sir Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Stay Tuned.

2019 De La Salle Christmas Concert



On Wednesday, December 11, the Del community packed the school auditorium and attended our annual Christmas Concert. This year's event featured a new student-led format that included back-to-back concerts, showcasing the musical and dramatic talents of students from Grades 5 - 12.

The first half of the evening saw our Junior School take to the stage and warm the hearts of the audience with

their choral and instrumental performances. Each carol aroused thunderous applause from proud parents, who were delighted to see their children's musical talents on full display. Senior drama students also joined our juniors and performed a series of comical Christmas shorts that spoke to the true meaning of Christmas.

The second half of the evening featured the Senior School and an array of instrumental performances. A

steady flow of student bands took to the stage and indulged the audience in Christmas favourites, sharing their well trained musical talents with a room full of family and friends. They, too, were treated to the dramatical skills of our senior drama students, who reprised their roles once more.

Thank you to all of the students, staff and parents who helped make this magical event a reality!

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SCHOOL EDITION

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Reception begins at 5:00 p.m. at the Heritage House

To register and reserve your space, please click [here](#).



2019 Brother Arthur Hockey Tournaments



This month saw the genesis of a new sports tradition here at Del, with the first-ever Brother Arthur Girls Hockey Tournament. On Wednesday, December 4, six teams, including De La Salle, took part in the daylong event, which featured ceremonial puck drops by celebrated local women's hockey players. Students and parents came out in great numbers to support the girls as they proudly represented the College. The inaugural title went to Crestwood Prep, who went undefeated throughout the tournament.



The 40th annual Brother Arthur Boys Hockey Tournament took place over the two following days and featured eight teams from across the GTA. It was a hard-fought tournament that ultimately saw De La Salle capture its second title in three years. The home team also produced tournament MVP, Nicolas Giannone, as well as goalies of the tournament Theo Karanikas and Joseph Giordano. Congratulations to our boys on bringing home another banner!

Many thanks to Athletic Director Stephen Mason, to staff and to all our student volunteers who helped make this great Del tradition a resounding success.



DEL Alumni Hockey Tournament

February 21 - 22, 2020

Start scouting your roster today!

Tournament information and
registration will be sent out in
January 2020.

Surprises

Some people astonish the world by being outstanding in their chosen field. By doing so, many have become household names for their inventions or technical innovations. We thank them for practical reasons such as conveniently saving us time and money, as well as making life more enjoyable. Ben Franklin's stove comes to mind, as do the tinkering of the Wright Brothers in their barn.

Another type of citizen astonishes us in a different way by having been blest by Heaven with a multiplicity of golden abilities, which usually elicit our admiration.

A brilliant example of this type would be Voltaire, often reputed to be the most civilized person who ever lived, at least if measured by output. He was all things to all people: humorist, philosopher, essayist, dramatist, scientist, historian, prisoner (Bastille), revolutionary, entrepreneur and a casanova.

Everything he touched, he turned into a profit. He calculated how to beat the Paris lottery (and did so). They refused to pay, so he sued and won. He bought the best of everything, so he needed vast sums of money and inevitably acquired more than enough. His father wanted him to be a lawyer, but he stubbornly refused, choosing the life of a writer instead. As the godfather of the French Revolution, his great enemies were the Church and the State.

The Paris hangman burnt all his books as the authorities forced him to publish outside of France. He chose exile in England rather than a second term in the Bastille. In England, he used the time to write a blistering criticism of French institutions, making them look backward and silly compared to their

modern English counterparts. This criticism earned him more censures, which only provoked him to further inflections. How could this end? It seems he surprised everyone, when after this whirlwind of a life, at the end of his most famous book *Candide*, he advised his readers to abandon the hectic nonsense of cosmopolitan life and instead to "cultivate their garden." What a turnabout! But no surprise. A constant feature of his character was his ability to ride off in multiple directions, never failing to surprise all of Europe. This capacity to generate surprises is not only the province of the one and only Voltaire. There are people in many walks of life who are capable of causing us to turn our heads in response to their capricious acts.

One of our graduates, Wayne Weatherhead (DEL72), surprised us all by a dramatic turn later in life. He began his competitive athletic career at Del in Grade 9 on the football field by breaking his leg. After recovering, Wayne played a year of Junior Hockey and then three years of Senior Hockey on teams that were always in the race to the finish line. He then went off to York University to study economics, followed by 23 years at Bell Canada. After Bell, Wayne ran his own tech company for nine years until IBM recruited him, which is where he worked until his retirement. So far, no surprises. Wayne's adventures in the corporate world were successful and prosaic.

An important twist in his intriguing tale has to do with the game of squash. Back in 1979, he moved to London, Ontario, while working for Bell Canada. He took up squash for some recreation there for two years. Back in Toronto, he joined the Mayfair Club, where

there was plenty of squash. He started at the bottom, playing all and sundry to improve. Twenty years into his foray into the sport, he was playing in the GTA "pro" league against all the best players in Southern Ontario. By the late 90's he was playing all over Ontario and in the Canadian Championships.

Wayne was built for squash, being tall and slim, agile with quick reflexes and a sharp mind. In 2000 he won the Toronto District Open, a significant victory, but considering his ability, relentless training and iron will – no surprise; he trained rigorously to keep fit. Along the way he is a three time Canadian National Masters Champion and three time runner up. He has competed in 2 World Championships, one in Hong Kong and another in Charlottesville, with 5th and 4th place finishes, respectively. Presently, Wayne is training for the World Championships in Poland in August 2020 to play against competitors from all over the world. He expects to do well, but he knows that you win some and you lose some.

Only now does the story take on the features of the unexpected. At age 63, Wayne returned to York University as a first-year music student. Before applying, he took guitar lessons for a year as a beginner so that he could demonstrate sufficient musical ability to audition to get into the music program. One of his second-year courses required him to play in a Celtic Band in which he had to perform publicly ten times that year. He also had to learn to "play by ear" in a course called "ear training." In his third year, he had to learn to play the piano and to sing. He performed "Agnes Dei" in four parts, all voices. Now studying in his fourth

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Welcome!



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year, he must master five more music courses for an honours specialty degree in music.

Wayne has had an unusual path, springing from the squash court to the music hall. Yet many people return to university in retirement for various aesthetic or practical reasons. Now comes the great surprise. As a freshman in the York Music Program, he is eligible to play on the York University squash team. Picture this, an elderly gentleman, lean and hungry, joins the varsity squash team made up of young adults in a very competitive league. He is 64, while his teammates and competitors are, on average, 19 - 20 years of age. Few, if any, senior citizens would go on a squash court to play against youngsters in competitive matches that count and that matter. Wayne's matches resemble battles, the competition on the squad is fierce. If you can't run at top speed for the duration of the match, you will lose, so fitness is paramount. Wayne stays fit. Without a doubt, genuine surprises still happen.

As an interesting postscript to all humanity, we should note the play of fate or chance in our lives. Why squash? And later, why music, with no prior exposure? And no surface skimming either, but *Agnus Dei* in four parts, all voices. "Is it the roads we take," or what is inside that counts? Such is the larger mystery for all of us. What a challenge!

Stay tuned.

We are delighted to welcome Stefan Slovak to De La Salle as the College's new Communications Officer. He comes to us with years of experience in Catholic communications, having worked extensively in both television and education. In joining us, he will provide strategic support for communications initiatives at all levels of the school. His efforts will also focus on using numerous platforms to broadcast news of all the tremendous work being done here at De La Salle with our stakeholders.

Speaking to us about taking up his duties, Stefan said, "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to join such a renowned institution as De La Salle. For nearly 170 years, it has provided an authentic Catholic education to generations of young men and women here in Toronto. I look forward to joining the staff and continuing the good work of the Christian Brothers here in the community."

Please join us in wishing Stefan a warm welcome!

Giving Tuesday

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