

LA SALLE PREP REVIEW

LA SALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY

FALL 2020



Lasallian
Community

'A blessing
to La Salle'
Pg. 8

calendar

DECEMBER

5

Yulefest to You

11

La Posada

12

'The Giver' Drive-In

JANUARY

15

Admissions Applications
for 2021-22 Due

FEBRUARY

6

Steak & Seafood

17

Ash Wednesday Mass

MARCH

1

La Salle Unity Day

22-26

Spring Break

*Dates subject to change. All events listed are virtual formats or drive-thru pick-ups. Check lsprep.org for updates.

contents

4 Staying Connected While Apart

6 Building Community amid a Pandemic

8 Educator of the Year:
Tom McLaughlin

10 Supportive Community: Believe

12 Leaving a Legacy

14 Student Activities

16 Red & Blue Review

18 Falcons in Flight:
Following Faith to Priesthood

COVER PHOTO: *The 2020 Lasallian Educator of the Year, religious studies teacher Tom McLaughlin, always wants students to know they are loved and cared for. For drive-thru parades, he attaches rainbow heart artwork to a walking stick to wave at passing students. Photo by Lauren Craven '05.*

BELOW: *A few masked faces at La Salle.*

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A LASALLIAN EDUCATION, NOW MORE THAN EVER



*We live in interesting times, and the challenges of these times — a global pandemic, climate crisis, economic uncertainty, racial justice movements, record-breaking wildfires and social and media polarization — make education even more important. But it is a **Lasallian education** of the heart and the mind — teachings that emphasize serving others, realizing our gifts, critical thinking, and engaging in dialogue rooted in Catholicism — that can best prepare our children to overcome these trials.*

Young people need us, as adults, to help them understand what is going on. They need us to model respect, inclusion, and

dignity. They need us to provide opportunities for their creativity to manifest, their curiosity to explore, their assumptions to be challenged, their love for their neighbors to grow, their belief in God to be cemented, and their hope for the future to be renewed. They need us to accept their reality, to listen to their stories, and to challenge them to find the goodness and opportunity within. We can do this as long as we remain true to our mission.

As I begin my 25th year serving La Salle and this mission, I am inspired by this community's response to today's challenges. Our teachers have deftly adapted to remote teaching. Our students have grown academically, socially, and spiritually. Our community has provided resources that support the school today and tomorrow.

Interesting times? Yes, indeed. But these times are also sacred and invigorating — and an opportunity for all of us to embrace our shared Lasallian mission to serve the world.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts,

Andrew Kuffner
President



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staying *connected*

SCHOOL WORKS TO UNIFY STUDENTS WHILE THEY'RE APART

La Salle Prep teachers added something new to their classes this fall: Time to talk.

The first 15 minutes of every class started with a Zoom session during which students had the opportunity to see, chat, and pray with one another. Teachers built this routine into every period to help develop community among students having to study at home because of the restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Giving young people a chance to connect is crucial,” said Principal Alanna O’Brien. “We want to make sure they stay connected to each other and their teachers.”

The sanctioned socials are just one way La Salle is trying to bring its 661 students together in spirit while they study apart during the pandemic.

In September, the school hosted a drive-thru campaign to collect school supplies for neighborhood children, held a virtual club fair, hosted a car parade, and teamed with other Catholic high schools to support the Children’s Cancer Association.

Over the course of the first semester, the staff invited small groups of students to campus to connect with each other over games, crafts, and more.

To help him see students clearly during Zoom calls, math teacher Linus Oey '87 hauled a 45-inch screen from his home to the school, where he teaches remotely. Seeing a student's face, he said, helps him determine whether a student understands.

On Halloween, the Student Council hosted a carnival for the children of staff, alumni, and local schools.

And in November, Falcons played a month-long game of tag. Students and staff took turns planting yard signs saying “Tag, YOU’RE IT!” outside each other’s homes. With 30 signs in circulation, the signs popped up all over the Metro area.

“It’s a bummer that we all can’t be together,” said Dakota Canzano '21, this year’s Executive President of the Student Council. “But it’s even more important that we establish that sense of community in any way we can.”

In addition to the meet-and-greet sessions at the start of each class, La Salle’s teachers are taking extra steps to connect with students.

For example, math teacher Linus Oey '87 hauled a 45-inch monitor from his basement at home to his classroom at school so he can look into his Algebra students’ eyes for that “aha!” moment.

“When I teach it’s important to see the kids’ faces, to see if the wheels are turning,” he said. “The part I miss most is seeing their reactions to learning.”





EXPRESSING FAITH

Lasallians have found ways to pray and worship together during the pandemic. Every school day, a student leads a prayer that is posted online and on social media. Each month, a Mass in the campus chapel is livestreamed to the school community.

In September, the Class of 2021 prayed for their final year of high school during a sunrise ceremony held atop the stadium's press box.

"Partaking in Mass and prayer services allows us to unite as a community of faith," said Officer of Faith Anthony Nguyen '21. "We believe that no matter where we are, we are joined together in the Holy Presence of God."



PERFORMING SERVICE

Each month, Lasallians are donating about 50 boxes of food for families of nearby Lot Whitcomb Elementary School, where close to 80 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches. "Isn't it beautiful?" said Director of Service Sarah Maher. "I know they are grateful and said they'll always use extra food."

La Salle families have been faithful contributors to monthly service projects and recently participated in a Day of Giving on Nov. 19. This special project gathered needed items for Lot Whitcomb Elementary families, St. Rita's, Blanchet House, JOIN, Rahab's Sisters, St. Francis, and City Team Ministries.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Small groups of students recently visited campus — at a safe distance and not all at once — to re-connect over pumpkin-carving, tie-dying, pickleball, and a few good old-fashioned games such as hide-and-seek.

La Salle's Faith, Service, and Community team and Student Council organized these activities, called "Connect," to build community during the pandemic.

Students and teachers alike are eager to get back to school as soon as it is safe. They say they miss one another.

"Even the small things — like telling them to get off their cell phones," said chemistry teacher Matt Owen '10. "I'm looking forward to having kids in the building, I'm looking forward to being able to see them again."

building
community





let us remember

This fall, Falcons found ways to flock together while staying safely apart. They worked out in the new Saalfeld Athletic Center, worshipped online during a Mass livestreamed from the Brother Thomas Levi Chapel on campus, collected food for migrant workers, wrote cards for firefighters, carved pumpkins, held an outdoor Halloween carnival for grade-schoolers, and even played a long-distance game of Tag. Find more photos at [lsprep.org](https://www.lsprep.org)





Tom McLaughlin often takes his classes outside on nice days for discussion and contemplation. (Archive Photo Taken pre-COVID)

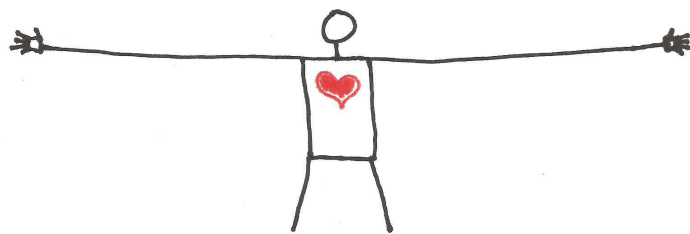
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR CALLED 'A BLESSING TO LA SALLE'

To help students understand Hinduism, religious studies teacher Tom McLaughlin has them make M&M cookies. Each cookie illustrates the Hindu belief that individuals (the M&Ms) can be seen even when in unity (the cookie).

To help students understand the Buddhist belief that nothing is permanent, he has students create — then destroy — sand mandalas. And to help students understand the Christian belief that God is always present, he has them play hide-and-seek. When we seek God, we find God everywhere.

McLaughlin “doesn't assign the most difficult homework assignments. No, that's not how he teaches,” said John Cipolla '21, one of McLaughlin's students. “He would rather have students go outside and listen to nature and relate it to religion.”

McLaughlin's faith, teaching style, care for students, and commitment to Lasallian values have earned him the 2020 Lasallian Educator of the Year award from fellow faculty and staff. He will receive the award during the school's Heroic Vow ceremony — delayed because of the pandemic — in 2021.



“Tom embodies a big brother to staff and students alike,” said health and physical education teacher and department chair Debbie Schuster. “He is honest, real, and a blessing to La Salle since he walked through that front door.”

Staffers also praised McLaughlin for his dedication to justice. After earning an Equity Certificate through the Center for Equity and Inclusion, he teamed with several others at the school to lead a staff discussion about equity and inclusion.

“Tom does not just address the needs of our students,” said religious studies teacher and department chair Ryan Darmody.

“He is committed to making our world better for all, especially any person or group pushed to the margins whether in the form of poverty, racial injustice, environmental injustice, or many other important issues confronting our world.”

‘We are seen’

McLaughlin — known as “Mr. Mac” around school — has earned the respect of students, too.

“He creates an environment where students feel loved, appreciated, and free to be themselves without judgments,” said Amanda Rivera '22. “He engages with us as people rather than students he's teaching, and takes more effort to make sure we are seen.”

McLaughlin sees students everywhere because he makes a point to be where they are. He leads Journey retreats, supporting teens as they take stock of their lives. He cheers for the football team while serving as its water boy and chaplain. He attends school plays, concerts, and shows, always offering congratulations and a smile.

McLaughlin's actions reflect his belief that “each of us has dignity simply because we exist,” he said. “Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Each person is essentially lovable, beautiful, and good because God who is Love chose to create us.”

‘Pope Tom’

Born to an attorney and homemaker in Baltimore, McLaughlin moved at age 6 with his family to Seattle. Raised Catholic, he attended O’Dea High, an all-boys school run by the Irish Christian Brothers. Classmates nicknamed him “Pope Tom” for his writings as the school newspaper's religion editor.

McLaughlin said he first heard a calling to teach while at the University of Notre Dame, which he attended on an ROTC scholarship. Renowned theology professor Father John S. Dunne led McLaughlin's classes in lively discussions referencing poetry, Tolkien, and other thinkers.

“I wanted to do what he was doing,” said McLaughlin. “It was the opportunity to explore and talk about what it means to be human,



to have a relationship with Earth and with God, and to hear gorgeous stories.”

The teaching and the stories had to wait until McLaughlin fulfilled his commitment to the U.S. military in exchange for his ROTC scholarship. But 14 months into his duty as an Air Force personnel officer, McLaughlin realized he couldn't reconcile his beliefs with his work. "Jesus would never point an M-15 at anyone," he thought. Two years and three months after serving in the military, McLaughlin got an honorable discharge, then paid back his scholarship.

By then, McLaughlin's path wasn't as clear. Until then, he had succeeded in nearly every one of his pursuits — finishing near the top of his high school class, earning all-conference honors as a prep defensive lineman, and graduating with a degree in English from the University of Notre Dame. But McLaughlin realized he couldn't step toward his future until he faced a nightmare in his past: A once-trusted priest abused McLaughlin when he was a boy.

From darkness to light

Over the next several years, McLaughlin talked to clergy, sought accountability from the church, and spent hours in therapy trying to answer the questions: Why? What next?

In the end, the only closure he got stemmed from seeing that the darkness of the trauma made him more committed to creating light.

"I wouldn't be this alive if it wasn't for the experience and having to grapple with it," he said. "To some degree, I owe a debt of gratitude to this suffering."

Eventually, after holding a series of retail and restaurant jobs, McLaughlin found his way back into the classroom. After earning a master's degree in Spiritual Traditions and Ethics from Marylhurst University, he landed a teaching position at Valley Catholic High in Beaverton, then at Portland Community College. In 2012, he arrived at La Salle, where he's been teaching ever since.

Teaching, challenging

In June, Portland's Urban Spirituality Center certified McLaughlin as a Spiritual Director. Yet in his classes, he challenges students to think for themselves. "It isn't just me dispensing ideas," he said, "I want the classroom to be a community where we are exploring meaningful, deep things."

In addition to his hands-on lessons, he tries to show students the big picture. He stresses that, though education is important, getting 100 percent on a test doesn't always reflect what one has learned.

Above all, McLaughlin tries to teach from the heart, using his scholarship, pain, and experience to help students find "their unique path to the light of love." Sometimes, he'll drop his doodle of a stick figure with a red heart and outstretched arms into one of his lessons, just to give the kids a reason to smile.

And at the start of every semester, he hands out a statement declaring his commitment to every student.

"I'm glad you're here," he tells them. "We walk this path together."

compassionate educators

traits of a lasallian educator

- Curiosity, passion and dedication to deliver a highly engaging educational experience.
- Understanding of one's own dignity as a citizen and a child of God. Passing that understanding on to students.
- Cherishing and caring for students like big brothers or sisters.
- Commitment to a life of faith and prayer. Ability to lead students in the spiritual life, inculcating living virtues.

prior educators of the year

1989	Fr. Francis Chun
1990	Bob Schuster
1991	Tim Joy '75
1992	Ernie Casciato '72
1993	Annette Hallaux
1994	Greg Stiff
1995	Loreva Bromley, Jackie Sweet, Greg VanderZanden
1996	Jim Rupp
1997	Lew Schoenberg
1998	Sue White
1999	Gary Barnes
2000	Alanna Freeman O'Brien
2001	Georgia Bartel
2002	Christina Erickson, Marie Delgado
2003	Dave Sugar
2004	Marilyn Milani
2005	Bruce Michieli
2006	Victoria McDonald
2007	Nancy Orr
2008	Cheryl Healy
2009	Brian Devine
2010	Tom Dudley
2011	Theresa Stuhrman
2012	Andrew Kuffner
2013	Otto Wild
2014	Lisa Moran
2015	Carie Coleman
2016	Mike Doran
2017	Denise Jones
2018	Gary Hortsch
2019	Larry Swanson

supportive *community*



A VIRTUALLY UNBELIEVE-ABLE EVENT

Like a lot of annual events worldwide, La Salle's annual Believe benefit looked different because of the pandemic this year.

Instead of hosting a festive dinner-dance and auction in the gym, La Salle brought lights and video cameras into the school to capture the images and stories of students, alumni, teachers, and La Salle leaders. Through a 90-minute livestream of these videos — as well as a broadcast of live speeches given under the bright new lights of the school theater — La Salle reached hundreds of Falcons across the country.

The virtual setting offered unique benefits: Supporters didn't have to dress up, drive to campus, or find a parking space. They could watch for free from anywhere they could connect to Facebook or YouTube. Because Believe was virtual, there was no limit to how many could "attend." Viewers shared the event's link with family, friends, cousins, and coworkers so all of them had the chance to watch — or give — from hundreds, if not thousands of miles away.

While many Falcon fans enjoyed the proceedings while wearing something comfy others pulled on their best to host "watch parties" with friends and family they had already been socializing with during the pandemic. By the end of the evening, an estimated 660 had watched the fundraiser — a good 200 or so more than can even fit in Believe's usual setting in the gym.

The pivot paid off; donors pledged \$317,000 — more than last year — with gifts coming from viewers watching from as far away as California, Montana, and Idaho.

Nearly \$177,000 of those funds are earmarked for La Salle's Dollars for Scholars tuition program that helps make a Lasallian education more accessible to families. In addition, more than \$54,000 was raised to outfit the new Saalfeld Athletic Center with furnishings, acoustic graphic panels, and a cross made from the wood of the original gym floor.

"Once again," said Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer Matthew Winningham, "our community stepped up in support of our shared Lasallian mission."

In a letter to donors, Director of Giving & Donor Relations Julie Dowhaniuk expressed gratitude to everyone who attended Believe. "Thank you for your participation and generosity, especially during these difficult times," she said. "The La Salle community is exceptional."

"Many families sacrificed to build and open the school more than 50 years ago," she said. "Now we dedicate ourselves to making sure that all students can complete their high school career at La Salle."

To see a recording of Believe, visit lsprep.org/believe/



thank you, sponsors

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leaving a *legacy*

THE BIRTHDAY GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

About a dozen years ago, Thomas Joseph told his friends and family he didn't want gifts for his birthday.

If they wanted to celebrate his 60 years, he told them, they could donate to the Clackamas Rotary Foundation he helped establish or to the Thekkedom Family Fund he was starting at La Salle Prep, where his three children had attended.

"This is an education that is everything I believe in," said Joseph, who dropped everyday use of his surname, Thekkedom, when he emigrated from India to the United States in the 1970s. "The value, the religious environment, and small community."

'You won't be accepted'

La Salle is a long way from Joseph's roots in India, where he grew up on a farm that raised tropical crops such as tapioca, plantains, and bananas. The son of a newspaper compositor and a housewife, Joseph woke early every day to clean the barn and deliver milk to neighbors. After his deliveries, he washed up — sometimes in a stream if he didn't have time to go home — before going to school.

Joseph found friends, hard work, and discipline at his Catholic school. Though his father wanted him to become a doctor, and his mother wanted him to become a priest, Joseph took neither path.

After attending Kuriakose Elias College, Mannanam, in India's state of Kerala, he joined the Indian Air Force, where he served for 12 years.

In the late 1970s, Joseph and his wife, Liz, moved to Oregon, where she had been offered a job as a nurse. He found work at a Plaid Pantry, and quickly climbed the corporate ladder into management. Eager to run his own business, he left Plaid Pantry to buy a dry-cleaning business in Clackamas County.

At first, friends warned him to stay in the back of the shop so he wouldn't be seen. As a man with dark skin, they said, "you won't be accepted."

But he was. Joseph greeted every customer, then promised and delivered quality work. Within a few weeks, he was invited to join two business groups. Since then, he's served on several nonprofit boards, including the board of the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce, the Providence Milwaukie Hospital Foundation, the Rotary Club of Clackamas, and the La Salle Board of Trustees. He currently serves on the board of Clackamas Fire District #1.

Joseph said he wanted to serve the community where he lived and worked "because I was embraced."

Below: Thomas Joseph and his wife Liz Thekkedom. **Page 13:** Left to right: The Thekkedom family, which includes Victor '00, Liz, Nisha '98, Vince '91, and Thomas Joseph, started a scholarship at La Salle.



leaving a *Legacy*

Finding La Salle

Joseph and his wife had not even heard of La Salle before their oldest son, Vince Thekkedom '91, mentioned he wanted to attend it with friends from grade school. He enrolled; years later, younger siblings Nisha Thekkedom Hall '98, and Victor Thekkedom '00 did, too.

The three thrived at La Salle, each getting involved in a range of activities. Vince played football and participated in track, Nisha sang in the choir and a musical, Victor played soccer and served on student council.

"I feel fortunate to have had La Salle in my life as a guide to who I am as a husband, father, and neighbor in the community," said Vince, whose son, Alex '23, now attends La Salle.

With the support of Joseph's family and friends, the Thekkedom Family Fund has grown large enough to award a scholarship every year since 2017. The awards go to families who qualify for financial assistance; those who live in the North Clackamas School District, where Joseph built his business, get preferred consideration.

"My dad has always supported causes he loves," said Nisha. "He has always shown us the importance of giving back to the community."

Joseph encourages others who support La Salle to consider creating their own legacy fund. "I am appealing to anyone who believes in the Catholic education system," he said. "I am not a wealthy man to start something like this, but it doesn't take a huge amount of money...anybody can start one."

And, if anybody else is inspired to build such a fund, Joseph has an idea on how to help it grow.

"From now on, for my birthday, Christmas, Father's Day, any celebration day, I don't want any gifts," he said. "I want money to go to La Salle or Rotary."

Vince Thekkedom '91 passed away on Nov. 17, just days after being interviewed for this article. We hold up the Thekkedom family in love and prayer during this time of tremendous loss.



The La Salle Educational Foundation

The La Salle Educational Foundation was established to ensure the financial sustainability of La Salle Prep and support its mission to provide a Catholic college preparatory education to the young, especially the poor.

Most contributions to the La Salle Foundation are directed to named endowed funds, planned gifts, and scholarship support. Rather than spent immediately, gifts to the La Salle Foundation are professionally invested. Earnings on these investment provide a renewable source of funding for a range of needs.

Planned Giving

The La Salle Legacy Society honors the vision and generosity of alumni and friends who wish to leave a legacy for future generations of La Salle students through provisions in their estate plans either by will, trust, or other planned giving arrangements.

Planned gifts can take many forms. A few common options:

- **Bequest** – A simple, flexible, and versatile way to ensure we can continue our work for years to come through gifts made as part of a will or trust.
- **Beneficiary Designation** – Make La Salle a beneficiary of:
 - IRAs and retirement plan
 - Life insurance policy
 - Commercial annuity

Named Endowed Funds

Establishing a named endowed fund creates a source of ongoing support for La Salle while honoring/remembersomeone special. A named endowed fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding in which endowment assets are invested. Each year, some of the earnings of the fund are distributed to support the fund's purpose, while excess earnings are reinvested to build the fund's market value. This way, the fund grows in perpetuity.

If you would like to learn more about the La Salle Educational Foundation, establishing a named endowed fund, or making a gift through your estate that complements your financial or charitable goals, contact Andrea Burns '97 at 503.353.1424.



Students host online benefit to support budding artists

This fall, a group of La Salle students produced “Artists Aiding Artists,” an online show featuring student performances and artwork.

The show was released in October — and is still available — on YouTube. It is the first in a series of events a group called Artists Aiding is creating to raise money for people in need by showcasing La Salle students' artistic talent.

Artists Aiding was launched this summer by Brooklyn Chillemi '22, Emma Olson '22, and Hannah Reddick '22. In a video introducing the project, the three founders said they wanted to stage the shows “to make a difference in our community.”

Donations raised as a result of “Artists Aiding Artists” will benefit p:ear, a nonprofit that mentors homeless youth while helping them discover and nurture their talents.

View the show at lsprep.org/artists/

Six Lasallians earn National Merit honors

Otso Barron '21, Tim Crimmins '21, and Charles Metzler-Gilbertz '21 have been named semifinalists in the 66th

annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The three are in an elite group. Fewer than 1 percent of the more than 1.5 million juniors who entered the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test earned scores high enough in their respective states to be named semifinalists.

The seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million.

Meanwhile, Elliot Hansen '21, David Jensen '21, and Benjamin Scott-Lewis '21 have been named National Merit Commended Scholars in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The honor goes to students who score in the approximately top 3 percent of the 1.5 million students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors in the fall of 2019. According to the National Merit program, Letters of Commendation go to students in recognition of their outstanding ability and potential for academic success in college.

Although commended students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, many become candidates for scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Pictured left to right: Otso Barron, Tim Crimmins, Charles Metzler-Gilbertz, Elliot Hansen, David Jensen, and Benjamin Scott-Lewis.





Senior raises funds for wildfire survivors

Like many Oregonians, Mackenzie Greenslade '21 was devastated when wildfires destroyed several communities and ravaged more than a million acres in Oregon this summer.

"It's pretty disheartening to see it being burned to the ground," she said.

After seeing how hard firefighters worked to save lives, homes, and trees, the senior decided she wanted to show her support for them.

"The firefighters are working endlessly to put the fires out and all I wanted to do was help," said Mackenzie. "Making a shirt was the first thing that came to mind."

She pulled out her iPad and sketched a few drawings to put on the shirts. One features green trees under a sky red with fire and the words "KEEP OREGON GREEN!"

Another features yellow flames scattered on a green drawing of Oregon and the words "PREVENT WILDFIRES!"

The art, says Mackenzie, "symbolizes the beauty of our state on fire."

With the help of one of her parents' contacts, Mackenzie had 350 shirts made.

Proceeds will go to Colton Rural Fire Protection District #70, a volunteer fire department that protects 46 square miles between Molalla and Estacada.

"I wanted to do my part," said Mackenzie, "and I need you to help me do it!"

you can help

Mackenzie's shirts are \$25 each. To purchase, contact [@mackenziegreenlade](https://www.instagram.com/mackenziegreenlade) on Instagram.

student activities

Students stage play online

La Salle students will be the first group to perform a digital adaptation of Lois Lowry's dystopian "The Giver."

Rehearsals for the show are done via Zoom, and socially distant on-campus, in-person acting. Once the images from the different platforms are edited together, the result will be a show that "feels like a short film rather than a live-streamed theatrical event," said theater teacher Michael Shelton.

The production, said Shelton, reflects another way that Lasallians are finding new ways to do things within health restrictions established as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This keeps us, even as adults, stretching as life-long learners who have learned to adapt to the needs of our students in this new world."

"The Giver" will be screened for drive-in audiences at 7 pm Dec. 12 in La Salle's main parking lot if permitted by health regulations at that time. Audience members must watch the show from their vehicles. After the drive-in run, a link to access the show for free will be posted for a limited time at [lsprep.org](https://www.lsprep.org). Plans are subject to change; check [lsprep.org](https://www.lsprep.org) for updates.

Photo courtesy Brooklyn Chillemi '22



BASEBALL SCORES AN EXTRA SEASON

At first glance, the Saturday afternoon baseball game looked like any other La Salle competition.

The home team sat in the dugout, a batter warmed up on deck, and coaches paced just outside the third baseline.

But the La Salle players were playing for a club, not the school. Their coaches had started a club team of La Salle students so the athletes could play together while still following state health regulations imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“I was glad just to play some ball — to come and do something outside with friends,” said David Jensen '21, one of the Falcon team captains. “It’s a break, a breath of fresh air.”

In an effort to give as many Oregon high schoolers a chance to play sports during the pandemic, the Oregon School Activities Association created a special season for high school athletes this fall. Season 1, which runs from late August to late December, is governed by each school or district, provided they follow directives from the Governor’s Office, Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Department of Education.

Play ball!

As soon as they heard of the chance to play, La Salle’s baseball coaches — head coach Nate Fogle, and assistant coaches Trey Norton '13 and Michael O’Keefe '15 — sprang into action. Though high schools could field competitive teams, few planned to compete this fall. But several club teams, which had fewer restrictions, were still game. Because high school teams can’t play

clubs, why not build a club team made up of La Salle players?

So they did, becoming part of Mount Hood Select. The new team then rented a La Salle field, ordered blue and gray club uniforms, and purchased hand sanitizer and face masks for all.

Students jumped at the chance to play. A typical off-season practice draws about 20 players; Season 1 attracted more than 30. “There’s been incredible buy-in,” said assistant coach Norton. “A lot of kids are realizing how much they enjoy baseball and how much they enjoy being with other kids, having fun and being out of the house.”

Season 1 has been popular with many La Salle athletes; before it ends in December, hundreds will have participated in it, including those who play baseball, basketball, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Cross-country runners and dancers also have participated, as have students on the speech and debate team.

The additional season returns to the baseball players some of the field time they lost when the spring season was cancelled. It also gives them a chance to develop as a team and practice plays in competitive situations.

The season also shows them that they can adapt to most anything life throws at them, said O’Keefe.

“That’s a good lesson,” he said, “It’s not always going to be the best situation, but that doesn’t mean you can’t work hard and come in every day and be a great leader and stay positive.”



PLAYING AMID A PANDEMIC

By Chris George '97, Director of Athletics

Adolescents, according to a National Research Council report, have four primary developmental tasks they need to fulfill: They need to stand out, fit in, measure up, and take hold. They also need to exercise and play sports for fun.

Designing opportunities for students to play sports safely during a pandemic is challenging. However, we took advantage of the season the Oregon School Activities Association created this fall because we know some of children's needs can be met by participating in sports with their peers. We knew it was important; families told us their kids' physical and mental health had declined since the start of the pandemic shutdown; I attributed the decline to the fact the children weren't meeting developmental milestones.

Although sports “look different” this fall, and we can't do everything we'd like, there is a silver lining. All La Salle students can play sports during the OSAA's Season 1 because no one is cut from the teams. Except for a few sport programs that aren't active now, every student is welcome to train, socialize, enjoy a release from their studies, and have fun a few days a week.

At the height of popularity this fall, our turnstiles were registering 350 students for practices and training sessions a week. It is impressive to see so many athletes take advantage of these opportunities. It is even more impressive to see them do it safely.

La Salle is following health and safety protocols that allow us to keep going. We are not certain of the future, but we will continue to do what is safe and healthy for our students and community.

Below: Students work out — with masks — in the newly completed fitness center. **Top Right:** The new main entrance to the Saalfeld Athletic Center. **Bottom Right:** The new gym floor, the Cleghorn Court, named for legendary La Salle coach, Jack Cleghorn.



PROJECT COMPLETE!

Despite the pandemic, wildfires, and supply delays triggered by both, La Salle's Saalfeld Athletic Center is complete.

The \$6 million project — designed by Studio Petretti Architecture and built by Todd Construction — features a new fitness center, training room, storage facilities, and boys and girls locker rooms.

The center also features a new 3,200-square-foot commons that includes a concession stand, classroom, and public restrooms.

Meanwhile, the Brick Oven had its own makeover, getting a new maple floor that's been dubbed "Cleghorn Court" in honor of former coach Jack Cleghorn.

Named for the late Father Lawrence Saalfeld — who was a pastor, La Salle trustee, and loyal Falcon fan — the Saalfeld Athletic Center will enrich generations to come by giving students a place to grow, the Falcon family a place to call home, and the greater community a place to gather.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it a reality.



falcons in *flight*



FOLLOWING FAITH TO PRIESTHOOD

After graduating from La Salle in 2003, Charleton Trumpower '03 began studying at the University of Portland. A semester later, he transferred to Portland State University, where he earned a degree in English literature in 2007.

Trumpower then spent two years teaching elementary school through the Federal AmeriCorps program.

“Not only was I able to teach and serve in schools without a teaching license, I was able to gain valuable experience,” he said. After completing a teaching education program and teaching for a couple of years, he decided to study at Holy Cross Theological Seminary in Boston.

He is now an ordained Greek Orthodox Christian priest known as Father Constantine. He serves as the assistant priest at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim, Calif., and lives in Cypress, Calif., with his wife and three sons.

When did you feel called to the priesthood, and what did that look like?

I felt called to the priesthood since age 10. People had always given their opinion on what they thought I'd be good at. One day, my 10-year-old self sat down and tried to write out what I thought I would do with the rest of my life. At one point, my mother walked by my bedroom door. “What are you doing?” she asked. After I explained, she responded with, “Why don't you become a priest?” and casually walked away. I sincerely believe God worked through my mother at that moment, as I quickly came to realize there was nothing I would rather do more than dedicate my life to ministering to His flock. The next 22 years would test that calling.

Which La Salle experiences stand out to you?

I can't say enough about how positive an experience I had at La Salle. For one thing, I enjoyed being able to come around to each of my teachers after school was over, with all their doors open, and each teacher having a sort of informal drop in hour after school. I would visit my favorite teachers and get help with homework, shoot the breeze, and check in with friends. The quality of my education was phenomenal. I was the recipient of passionate educators, such as Mr. Otto Wild, Mr. Chris McClean, Mr. Mike Doran.

“I believe [those educators] wanted to be there because they loved the manner of life and teaching that occurred (and occurs) at La Salle. They wanted to be in that environment and effect positive change in the lives of their students. For this one — they certainly did.”

-Charleton Trumpower '03

I also greatly benefitted from Mr. Linus Oey '87. I wasn't a stellar math student (starting in Pre-Algebra), but I ended up receiving a special commendation award for Algebra 2, thanks to Mr. Oey's tutelage, and what must have been a lot of exasperating hours helping me after school.

I attempted to play football, though I didn't seem to have the knack for it (college rugby was much more my style, I'd later find out). And, of course, who could forget the indefatigable enthusiasm and boisterous joy of Mr. Ernie Casciato '72. Being a fellow Italian, and becoming fast friends with my mother, he always wanted to attend my ordination some day in the future. He always reminded her of it.

Did La Salle help shape who you are today? If so, how?

My high school years were not easy. My parents ended up divorcing during that time, and I felt empty often. Yes, I had faith in God, but to have a father leave your home is painful, no matter how strong one's faith. The Lasallian spirit and encouragement I received from both friends and teachers would forever leave a positive mark on my heart.

I believe a lot of those educators could have gotten higher-paying jobs at public schools, or other institutions. I believe they wanted to be there because they loved the manner of life and teaching that occurred (and occurs) at La Salle. They wanted to be in that environment, and effect positive change in the lives of their students. For this one — they certainly did.

What advice do you have for current La Salle students?

For those who believe in God, I encourage you to cultivate your relationship with Him daily.

We don't have to be monks or nuns, Christian Brothers, or desert-dwelling ascetics (or priests or deacons) to read the Holy Scriptures, consider the lives of Christians from the early years of the Church, and thirst for a deeper relationship with our Creator. Our day and age has an unprecedented amount of depression and anxiety, particularly among younger people.

While impossible to describe in two or three sentences, many believe that a fundamental reason for this sense of emptiness and meaninglessness in life is due to a lack of the grace of God permeating our lives (Simply put: We don't expect a cell phone to work if we never plug it in — why do we expect people to “work well” if we never “plug in” to His Grace?).

For those who do not believe in God, I encourage you to seek Absolute Truth. Our world has a strong relativistic outlook; that whatever brings happiness for one person must be good for him/her, and whatever we individually seek must be good for us personally. In this line of thinking, it is supposed that "never the two shall meet." In other words, a live and let live outlook presupposes that one person's search for personal fulfillment and happiness will never affect or impinge upon another person's happiness. If this is true, then we may all do what we wish, without thought for another's well being, unless we wish to.

The alternative view would be that relative truth is a false, and, if so, there must be an absolute unchanging truth out there that is worth seeking out. I encourage anyone struggling with belief in God to seek what the ancient Greek philosophers sought: Wisdom, Truth and Beauty. And let us see where the road will lead you...

Anything else you'd like to share?

If anyone ever has curiosities about what ordained clergy life is like, please drop me a line at charleton.trumpower@gmail.com. I'm more than happy to be as transparent as I can with its joys, challenges, and everything in between.

Recommend an alumni to be profiled: Send details to info@lsprep.org



thank you

Thanks to all of you who supported our Believe Benefit!

We extend special gratitude to our Annual Business Sponsors and our Lead Sponsor:



in memoriam

Please remember in your prayers the families and loved ones of these La Salle community members who have passed away.

James Cameron
Kristi Epling Miller '78
Annette Fagan '80
Jeanette Greenstreet-Crawford '85
Megan Haney '07
Willa Hilton-Walker
John Leahy
Phillip Lisac
Stella Mullany
Rachel Siri
Vince Thekkedom '91

Thank you for sharing news of community members who have passed away. Please send information to alumni@lsprep.org

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