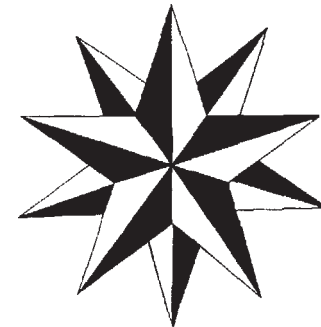


A SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE LIFE

OF

**Brother Alexander Gregory, F.S.C.
(Marshal Joseph Louvier)
1931 - 1999**



SIGNUM FIDEI

Tour of Duty

1950 - Santa Fe, New Mexico (St. Michael's High School)

1951 - Santa Fe, New Mexico (Scholasticate at St. Michael's College, now the College of Santa Fe)

1953 - Lake Charles, Louisiana (Landry Memorial High School)

1955 - New Orleans, Louisiana (De La Salle High School)

1957 - Covington, Louisiana (St. Paul's School)

1962 - New Orleans, Louisiana (Christian Brothers School)

1999 - June 24 - Died in New Orleans

Brother Gregory Louvier, FSC 1931 - 1999

The stories make us shake our heads in wonder. A fireman plucks a life from a burning roof. An assistant principal gently takes a gun from a school shooter. A woman gives half her liver to save a stranger. Often, a person who exhibits such selfless behavior is given the title "hero." While some heroes are larger than life, most are just ordinary people. One person is given the title "hero" in an instant. Another, may be called such only after many years of service for others. On June 24, 1999, Brother Gregory Louvier passed away after having suffered a massive heart attack. For the past 37 years he was on the faculty of Christian Brothers School in New Orleans, LA. To many of the young boys who had Brother Gregory as a teacher, he was a hero. He made a difference in their lives, and his influence will live on for many years. Brother Gregory was 67 years of age and had been a Christian Brother for 52 years.

Marshal Joseph Louvier was born in Galveston, Texas, on August 11, 1931. He was the son of Benjamin Forrest Louvier and the former Elizabeth Stella Foster, both deceased. He had two sisters, Mrs. Mary Simmons and Mrs. Catherine Settlemire. Marshal entered the Christian Brothers Juniorate in Lafayette, LA in 1945. He received the religious habit of the Christian Brothers on August 14, 1947, and was given the name Brother Alexander Gregory. He pronounced first vows on August 15, 1948. Upon completion of the Novitiate, he travelled to Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, NM, to begin preparations for teaching. In 1950, he was assigned to the faculty of St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, NM. In the spring of 1951, he returned to the new Scholasticate, at St. Michael's College, now the College of Santa Fe, in Santa Fe, NM, to finish his collegiate years. He graduated in 1953, with a B. A. degree in Social Studies. As a teacher, Brother Gregory taught in five Christian Brothers schools in the New Orleans - Santa Fe Province. He made final Profession of Vows on June 6, 1956. In 1968 he earned an M.A. in Theology from Catholic University.

In 1962, Brother Gregory joined the faculty of Christian Brothers School in New Orleans, LA. He was to spend the remainder of his religious life ministering to the young boys in that school. Brother Gregory described his teaching ministry in the following words:

"You start with the fear of the Lord. I wanted to work out my salvation. Then I figured If I take care of the children, the Good Lord will take care of me. I just want to make the cut."

During his 37 years at Christian Brothers School, Brother Gregory created a teaching legacy at the City Park Campus in New Orleans. In 1996, in a television interview called **FOCUS**, with Archbishop Philip Hannan and Mary Lou McCall, Brother Gregory explained in detail his philosophy of education. His remarks placed great emphasis on strong discipline, good work habits, strong motivation, great respect for the Brothers and love for the school. As a true son of St. John Baptist De La Salle, his philosophy of education was filled with the spirit of the Founder and the inspiration of many of the Brothers who had gone before him. Brother Gregory often bragged that it was: "Brother Joseph Valdez, 'T-Joe,' who taught me how to teach." In a document called: A Statement of Philosophy, Programs and Teaching Methods, Brother Gregory states:

"My philosophy of education has been inherited from my association with the Christian Brothers, especially those with whom I have worked at CBS for 20 years."



Faculty, Christian Brothers School, 1964-1965

Brother Gregory's fifth grade class was called 5 - G. Each class at CBS is impartially named after the teacher to minimize academic level consciousness. His programs included Religion, Arithmetic, Reading, English, Social Studies, Art and Physical Education. In order to challenge the spirit and the mind, Brother Gregory employed motivational competition in his teaching techniques, e.g., Jeopardy, Bible Bingo, Class Plays and Frizbee Olympics.

In the **FOCUS** TV interview, Brother Gregory mentioned that one of the parents had described him as: "a cross between mother Theresa of Calcutta and Adolph Hitler." Brother Gregory was very strict, but referred to himself as "a benevolent dictator." He was very interested in his students, but said: "I don't want to be your buddy." He showed his interest in the many extra things he did for them, e.g. the Friday candy store and extra recesses.

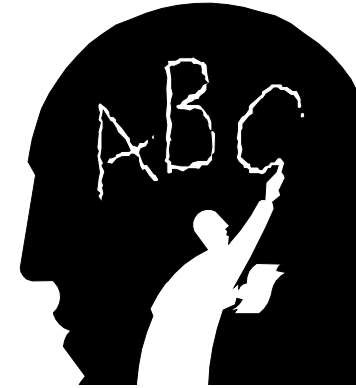
Although heroes are unique, there is a common denominator: A hero makes a difference in the lives of others, often without fanfare. According to a teen survey, a hero is someone: "who uses his or her gifts to the fullest to help others in need." For Brother Gregory, like many teachers, recognized that those in need are the boys and girls who daily sit in from of them.



In 1996 the boys of 5-G unanimously proclaimed, "He's the best teacher I've ever had!"

Brother Gregory was a very gifted individual and he used his talents for the good of his students. The 1995 5 - G reinvented the

ABC's as a means of expressing the many gifts that Brother Gregory had given to them:



Dear Brother Gregory,

As this school year draws to a close, we are reminded of all that you have taught us. In an effort for each of us to personalize a letter of the alphabet, we have reinvented the ABC's of 5-G:

- A is for Abbott and Costello. (Alpaugh)**
- B is for the Best Brother. (Bacigalupi)**
- C is for Cross Court, a game that Brother Gregory taught us. (Bumgarner)**
- D is the Disc Golf....Who knew? (Carbine)**
- E is the Elocution. (Charbonnet)**
- F is for the Funny little red hat you wear. (Chatelain)**
- G is the Good Marks, Good movies and Great memories. (Duvernay)**
- H is for Helpful. (Guilbault)**
- I is for the Incredible year I had with you. (Gunulfsen)**
- J is for a Jolly golfer. (Heigle)**

K is for Knowledge. (Jones)

L is for Lines. (Keller)

**M is for the Millions of ways you've helped us.
(Loughry)**

**N stands for Nucleus. Brother Gregory is the
nucleus of 5 - G. (Manger)**

**O is for Outrageous monopoly games.
(McCourtney)**

**P is for the Perfect Person that you are.
(McElrath)**

Q is for all the Questions you ask. (Mueller)

**R is for the Respect, Righteousness and Re-
wards which you've given us throughout the
year. (Nodurft)**

S is for the Stooges. (Robichaux)

**T is for the Teacher who Taught us so much.
(Robinson)**

V is for a Very fun Brother. (Ryan)

**W Wishing you a lucky and prosperous golf
summer. (Soniati)**

**X is for Excellent adventure - did I spell that right?
(St. Onge)**

**Y is for Yorktown, Saratoga, Lexington and En-
terprise. (Stanton)**

**Z is for Zero out of 20 in elocution the first day
of**

**school; 20 out of 20 the last day of school.
(Torres)**

**If you noticed that a letter is missing, you are
correct. It's the most important letter in our
alphabet.....U!!!**

**Thank you, Brother Gregory, from all of the boys
and their parents of your 1994-95 5th grade class.**

We hope you have a great summer!

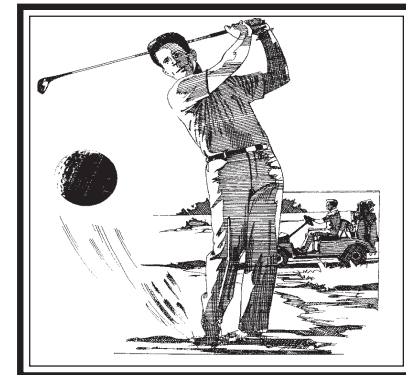
One statement that Brother Gregory would make to his classes
over the years was: "I don't want you to be smart. The world has

enough smart people. I want you to be good." This statement was
brought to life in his daily teaching of Religion. The Religion pro-
gram was mainly a study of the Old Testament. He presented the
stories in considerable detail. His main emphasis was the applica-
tion of the Bible characters and incidents to Christian living, and
he constantly tied these in with the teaching of Christ. He worked
to inspire in his students a genuine compassion for others. He
used the Good Behavior Slip as a means of teaching about the
Communion of Saints. A student in possession of such a slip could
redeem a classmate, i.e., save him from writing lines. It was Brother
Gregory's way of teaching his students to have compassion for
others. In a way, he was teaching his students to be heroic; a hero
is willing to give up something for another.

Brother Gregory loved golf! Often, almost daily, he could be seen
on the golf course puttering around. He could have been retired,
but his great sense of dedication kept him in the classroom. In the
FOCUS interview he said:

**"My nerves aren't what they used to be. When
the students get on my nerves, I tell them that I
should be out on the golf course. I should re-
tire."**

Brother Gregory never retired; a hero never gives up no matter
what!



*A bad day of golf is better
than a good day at work!"*

At the end of the 1998-99 school year, Brother Gregory suffered a minor heart attack. After many tests, he was released from the hospital, after a five day rest. About one month later the sad news came from Brother Edward Scanlan, President of Christian Brothers School:

"Brother Gregory, our beloved confrere and teacher, died Thursday, June 24. He died of a heart attack in Mercy Hospital. Brother Gregory had been sick for at least a month, but he was convalescing very well. Thursday morning he went to the hospital emergency room, and he was admitted to the hospital for observation. At 1:00 p.m. he died."

A wake was held on Monday, June 28, 1999 at McMahan - Coburn - Briede Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Rosary Church in New Orleans, LA. The rites of Final Commendation, farewell, and burial were held at De La Salle-Christian Brothers in Lafayette, LA.

Jesus of Nazareth is certainly the ultimate hero. His blueprint for Christian living urges us to use our gifts for the good of others: "You are the light of the world." Brother Gregory was a light to the students and graduates of Christian Brothers School. The title "hero" implies the good that a person has done, the values he or she stands for. Most certainly, no one can dispute the values Brother Gregory stood for. He never gave up no matter what; persevering to the end. To many, he was a hero.

By: Brother Louis Welker, FSC
Director, De La Salle - Christian Brothers
Lafayette, LA

Eulogy for Brother Gregory June 29, 1999

When Brother Edward first asked me to prepare a few words for today, I agreed. Like many in this room, I'd do most anything for the Brothers. But, admittedly, I had reservations. Although honored, I questioned whether I would be able to appropriately pay tribute to a man I've only known for thirteen months. Then, as I thought more, many people only knew him intimately for only one year - those who were his students for the year they were in his class. Whether that one year was in 1962 or 1998-1999 (and I have heard many Brother Gregory stories from members of both of those classes who are here today), any one of those individuals could be standing in my place this morning. Our accounts may differ slightly but our message would be the same. Brother Gregory was an outstanding educator and fine man.

As an educator, he was the epitome of organization. As Principal, I asked that teachers submit lesson plans to me on Monday of each week in the school year. On the first Monday of the school year, Brother Gregory handed me a notebook marked 1993 on the front cover. It was his lesson plan book for that school year. He handed it to me informing me that these were his lesson plans for the year. In fact, in referring to it periodically, I found that he had been following those plans throughout the current school year.

Brother Gregory was the example of respect. He gave witness to spirituality by virtue of living a vowed life. In the rapport he had with his students, he not only demanded respect but quickly earned it because he respected his students so. His colleagues admired him as well.

He was the model for motivation. He subscribed to the motto: **"A little fear can be a good thing."** And, he made sure that students enjoyed the time they spent in his classroom through the use of **"good marks,"** the **"hall of fame,"** the Jeopardy game and an occasional root beer at the end of class, to name a few.

Brother was a leader regarding learning. He challenged even the brightest students. He created his own materials and employed his methods which worked so well for fifth grade boys. Emphasis was on reading and oral presentations as evidenced in the effort he put into organizing the annual Speech Night competitions which will continue in his memory. Brother Gregory was personally involved in all aspects of the development of his students. He is the only teacher I have known throughout my career who has chosen not to have a planning period in order to be with his students for all subjects - even P.E. Finally, he was direct in communicating with parents telling them at times what they needed to hear and not necessarily what they wanted to hear.

And, Brother Gregory was an efficient educator evidenced annually by the numerous requests from parents for placement of their sons in his classroom. The students of 5G were always well prepared for the 6th and 7th grade and the growth experienced from a student during his fifth grade year seemed to be more apparent than in any other year of education.

As a fine person, Brother preferred to work hard yet not be in the spotlight. In fact, I suggest that he might think we were going to too much trouble even with these most appropriate services this morning! His last note to me still sits on my desk requesting that his most recent hospital stay not be publicized among the parents. I gave him my word that I would honor that request. Yet, Brother Gregory secretly enjoyed positive feedback. He received a letter from Mayor Marc Morial during the past year thanking him for the influence that Brother had on the mayor. The letter was sent when Mayor Morial thought Brother Gregory was going to retire. Brother showed me that letter with pride and granted permission for me to read it to the student body.

While the social party was not a comfortable setting for Brother Gregory, the golf course was. How I will miss seeing him practicing his chip shots and putting as I leave school each afternoon.

Brother Gregory was a friend. In thirteen months, our friendship has evolved. Last June, our relationship began with a meeting where he questioned several revisions I made to the school calendar. After explaining the rationale for my decisions, he accepted them. Later in the year, I knew he was warming up to me when he informed me that he would attend my boring faculty meetings as a sign of support for me among teachers. By Christmas, he was participating in a silly game that I created for the faculty party. He knew I played much volleyball and asked me one spring afternoon if I would teach him the real way to play volleyball. At Easter time, my daughter was visiting me during the school day. Brother Gregory snatched her up and included her in the class Easter Egg hunt. In fact, when I told my daughter of Brother Gregory's death, she responded that he was that nice man who helped me to find some Easter Eggs. He had impressed even her! Finally, it is my understanding that Brother Gregory never attended a graduation Mass. When invited this year, he declined as well. However, just before graduation he told me that he would attend the graduation for me but that he would sit in the back and did not want to be called upon for anything. I granted that wish and thanked him for attending. It is unfortunate that he is now gone. Those of us who were just getting to know him and those who were to be in his classes feel somehow shortchanged by his sudden death. We have only known him for a short time. How lucky are those of you who knew him longer!

The obvious question now is with the future of Christian Brothers School. In the spirit of Brother Gregory, he has left us with a challenge. In order to meet this challenge, we shall all be called upon to work hard to continue the excellent program which Brother Gregory was such an integral part of. In the process, we are sure to grow from the experience.

Brother Gregory has influenced the lives of public officials, lawyers, doctors, educators... With that in mind, I pay him tribute with this modification of a tribute to teachers which sits on my desk:

**A little of you lives in every child with whom you
came in contact**

**Great is your influence for you have contributed
to the development of medicine and science**

You speak in the courtroom and from the pulpit

**Your voice is heard in songs and your influence
felt in paintings**

**You exist in the pages of books, ride into space
with the astronauts**

And will live on whenever the words

"I remember when Brother Gregory..." are spoken.

Some people pass in and out of our lives with little or no lasting impression while others leave footprints on our hearts, I am sure that Brother Gregory's footprints will always be felt in our hearts.

St. John Baptist de la Salle, Pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

Respectfully and humbly delivered by:

Joey M. Scaffidi

Principal of Christian Brothers School