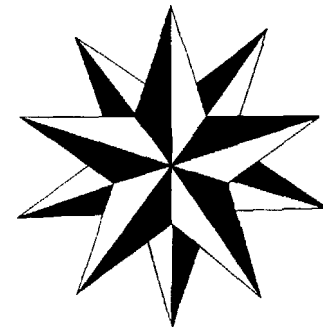


**A SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF THE LIFE  
OF**

**Brother Daniel Ortiz, F.S.C.  
(Constantine Julius)  
1918 - 2000**



**SIGNUM FIDEI**

## TOUR OF DUTY

- 
- 1937 - St. Peter's College (New Iberia, LA)
  - 1939 - Hanson Memorial High School (Franklin, LA)
  - 1940 - Cathedral High School (Lafayette, LA)
  - 1942 - (Jan.) St. Paul's College (Covington, LA)
  - 1942 - (Aug.) De La Salle Christian Brothers  
(Lafayette, LA)
  - 1943 - Monterrey, Mexico (Regiomontañó)
  - 1951 - Junior Novitiate, Lafayette, LA
  - 1952 - Hanson Memorial High School - Principal  
(Franklin, LA)
  - 1954 - Cathedral High School (El Paso, TX)
  - 1957 - La Salle High School - Principal  
(San Antonio, TX)
  - 1962 - Christian Brothers School - Principal  
(New Orleans, LA)
  - 1963 - Mullen High School (Denver, CO)
  - 1964 - St. Michael's High School (Santa Fe, NM)
  - 1966 - Missions - Philippines
  - 1984 - Sabbatical - (Dec.) Philippines
  - 1988 - Marian Christian High School (Houston, TX)
  - 1989 - College of Santa Fe (Hilary House)  
(Santa Fe, NM)
  - 2000 - Died on January 26, 2000

**Brother Daniel Ortiz  
1918 - 2000**

In the Webster's, New World Dictionary, the word "**Enthusiasm**" is defined as "to be unoccupied, be possessed by a **god**." This is the first definition of enthusiasm, but the second best serves the man to whom this short biography is dedicated. In the second definition one reads: "intense or eager interest; zeal; fervor." These words appropriately describe the life of **Brother Daniel Ortiz**. The rule of the **Brothers** of the Christian Schools reads: "The spirit of the Institute implies that all of its members are penetrated with the *spirit of zeal* - thus the **Brother** is enabled to go out to others with the heart of a poor person."

**Brother Daniel's** sixty-six years as a Christian Brother were filled with a great enthusiasm which was always directed toward helping others. This true son of **St. John Baptist De La Salle** passed from this life after a short illness on January 26, 2000 at 4:30 a.m.

**Brother Daniel** was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on June 6, 1918, the son of **Daniel Ortiz, Sr.** and **Eslinda Ortiz**, both deceased. He was also preceded in death by his sisters, **Enlinda Ortiz** and **Natalie Pacheco** and his brother, **Ralph Ortiz** and his brother-in-law, **Cleofas Garcia**. He is survived by his sister, **Beatrice Garcia**, two great aunts, nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

**Ana Pacheco, Brother Daniel's** niece gives the following account of **Brother Daniel's** early years in Santa Fe:

**He grew up on Agua Fria Street within earshot of the bells of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Church.**

**Uncle Danny was named after his father, Daniel Ortiz Sr., a writer and editor for The New Mexi-**

(1)

can. Both father and son had a great enthusiasm for sports. It was on the pages of La Herencia (Summer 1994) that my Uncle Danny shared with readers their experiences in "Baseball of Yesteryear." He wrote about Santa Fe in the 1920's, when he saw the Santa Fe Cubs play ball in a field that is now a parking lot at the state capitol on Old Santa Fe Trail, formerly known as College Street. He explained that in those days there were no Little League teams, so youngsters from the different *barrios* of Santa Fe organized their own teams and played against each other. Since his father was not only the sports editor for the local paper, but also the manager of the Santa Fe Cubs, Uncle Danny had the privilege to sit in the scorer's box behind home plate. According to my uncle, it was there that he was indoctrinated into the lore of baseball. During this time he became familiar with many of the sports personalities of his time. After each game he would accompany his father to the newspaper. While he waited for his dad to write his weekly column, he would occupy himself by reading the funny papers.

Uncle Danny's classmates always wondered how he knew about the next week's adventures of the "*Katzenjammer Kids*", or "*Jigs and Maggie*". With the exception of these sport-filled moments, my uncle led the life of any boy his age. (LA Herencia, Volume XXV, Spring 2000)

**Brother Daniel's** early education was under the direction of the **Brothers** at **St. Michael's High School** in Santa Fe. At the age of 12 he decided to enter the **Junior Novitiate** of the **Christian Brothers** in Lafayette, LA. **Brother Luke Roney** gives the following remembrances of **Brother Daniel** as a **Junior Novice**:

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I asked **Brother Daniel** what he remembered of those years in our distant past. "**I was having a ball; I was happy.**" From my own experience I can presume to paraphrase **Dan's** happy answer: "**In the Juniorate I learned to like the routine that balanced a daily round of study, prayer, and play; little by little I began to know I wanted to be a Christian Brother.**"

On August 14, 1934, **Brother Dan** received the *Religious Habit* and was given the name **Brother Constantine Julius**. After *First Vows* in August of 1935, he spent his collegiate years at **Sacred Heart Training College** in Las Vegas, NM. At the end of the summer of 1937, he was assigned to **St. Peter's College** in New Iberia, LA. for his first teaching experience. During his long educational career, **Brother Dan** ministered as a teacher, Brother Director, Principal,



*Director/Principal of La Salle High School , San Antonio, TX, 1957*

Dean, Vice-President, and the Founder of **La Salle High School** in San Antonio, Texas. In all, **Brother Dan** served

in ***Eight Christian Brothers Schools*** in the New Orleans - Santa Fe Province, ***Regiomontaño*** in Monterrey, Mexico and two colleges in the Phillipine Islands. During his professional career he spent thirty years outside of the United States. He made final *Profession of Vows* on June 8, 1943. **Brother Dan** earned a B.A. in English in 1941 and a B.A. in Business in 1944, both from **St. Mary's University** in San Antonio, TX. In 1956 he was awarded an M.A. in Education from **Louisiana State University** in Baton Rouge, LA.

**Brother Dan** lived his vocation with great enthusiasm. He has a very engaging personality, loved to carry on a long conversation and never trampled on another person's dream. His own enthusiasm for life would not permit him to trample on another person's dream. **Brother Dan** always encouraged others to work to make their dream or vision come to fruition. **Mr. Michael King**, Curator of Education at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, commented:

"**Brother Dan** was connected to humanity. His worldly experiences gave him an empathy for all."

It was stated that **Brother Dan** spent thirty years of his professional career outside of the United States. **Brother Luke Roney** gives the following account as to why **Brother Dan** spent eight years of his life in Monterrey, Mexico:

"In 1943 the **Brother Provincial** of the New Orleans - Santa Fe Province accepted the invitation of the Brothers in Mexico to reopen the Brothers' school in Monterrey which had been closed during the Mexican Revolution: the agreement was to be a temporary one which would allow the Brothers of Mexico to recover from the confiscation and expulsions suffered during the **Revolution**. Because **Brother Dan** knew Span-

ish he was one of the Americans assigned to re-establish Instituto Regiomontaño, which today is a renowned Monterrey institution.

Fifty years later, in 1993, the Monterrey alumni invited all the original Americans to come back for a great *golden celebration*. Upon his return to Santa Fe, Dan made a precious comment: "Every Brother, at least once in a lifetime, should have the experience which we American Brothers experienced in Monterrey: an overwhelming, emotional outpouring of gratitude from Brothers and alumni for what we Americans had done for them in 1943!"

In 1951, **Brother Dan** returned to the United States and was assigned as a teacher in the **Junior Novitiate** in Lafayette, LA., After serving as *Director Principal* in three schools, he became a *Missionary* to the Philippines in 1966. He spent twenty-two years ministering in the Philippines. Brother George Dartez gives the following remembrance:

"I lived with Dan from 1933 - 1934, 1966 - 1986 and 1987 - 1988, perhaps longer than anybody else. I always thought very highly of him. He was a shrewd diplomat, ahead of his time in things educational, adaptable in the most difficult circumstances, sociable, generous to a fault, loyal to the Brothers, the schools, the Church and to his friends. I was close to him as a teacher and confidant. We lived together throughout the martial law period in the Philippines. He cleverly avoided many difficulties with the authorities who were constantly checking on us.

Brother Dan took over as *Dean* of a small (less

(5)

than 300 students) college in Bacolod and built it up to 1400 by the time he left in 1987. He introduced many programs: agri-business, nursing, engineering, education and a graduate degree in business. He brought in a number of very competent teachers, established a board, straightened out the finances and built new buildings. No one who has lived through twenty years of martial law can appreciate the difficulties we went through. Even tuition was strictly controlled by the department of education. There were student demonstrations, troubles with the *hacenderos* and *Marcos cronies*.

Dan strove to be as inculturated as he could. He often sought advice from Filipinos."



*Vice President of De La Salle University, Manila Phillipines, 1970*

**Brother Dan** spent 14 years as *Dean* at **La Salle College** in Bacolod City and 8 years as *Vice President* at **De La Salle University** in Manila. At both places, his **Brothers** and lay companions remember him for his constant enthusiasm; it was infectious. Another of his colleagues, **Carmen Benares** of the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod, remembers **Brother Dan** for his kindness toward the faculty:

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"I have been with La Salle since 1978 and I remember how generous and prompt you were with your apples. For us who had dealings with you, it was a lift to find an apple on top of our desk."

Concerning the overthrow of the Regime of **President Ferdinand Marcos** of the Philippines, in a letter to the **Brothers** in February of 1986, **Brother Dan** wrote:

"Things are very tense here. Just had to call off classes here - the teachers are too tense. Cory really won the election but the massive cheating cheated her. The people are not taking it and the massive demonstrations and boycotts are impressive. Do remember us in your prayers. I am optimistic that the people will prevail."

In March of 1986, the Marcos government fell. **Brother Dan** remained in the Philippines for a little over a year. He returned to the U.S.A. and was assigned to **Marian Christian High School** in Houston, Texas, as *supervisor of teachers*. With the closure of **Marian Christian**, he returned to Santa Fe, NM. For most of the remainder of his life he was a member of the **Hilary House Community**. **Brother Dan** remained quite active during those years. For several years he served as *Director of Alumni* for the **College of Santa Fe**. In addition, he served as a *Docent* at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Palace of the Governors and the Museum of International Folk Art and the Elder Hostel Program at the **College of Santa Fe**.

In late December of 1999, it was noticed that **Brother Dan** was losing weight. A series of tests revealed that he had cancer. On January 10, 2000, **Brother James Brown** was with **Brother Dan** when he received the news concerning the severity of his cancer:

"He asked me to come with him to the doctor. While he was a bit surprised at the severity of the cancer and lack of possible treatment, he certainly took it well. As we got in my truck to go home he said, 'Well, it wasn't what I expected but *'Cest la vie'*."

It was decided that **Brother Daniel** should move to **St. Michael's Community** in Santa Fe for medical care. **Brother Samuel Martinez**, *Director* of the community, cared for **Brother Daniel** during the last fifteen days of his life. His attitude approaching death was verbalized to his doctor: "I have lived a good life, thanks be to God. Now I can pray for a good death." Until the end **Brother Daniel** remained upbeat. **Brother Samuel Martinez** remembers that his nurses were inspired by his attitude and good spirit. **Brother Daniel** spoke daily to them about his caretakers, relatives, **Brothers** and friends. He was always full of thanksgiving for them.

About a week before **Brother Daniel's** death, **Brother Brendan Hayden**, had the opportunity to visit with him. **Brother Brendan** asked him if there was anything that he wanted. **Brother Daniel** replied: "I would like to see one more Superbowl." A few days before he died, his niece, **Ana Pacheco**, asked him: "Uncle Danny do you believe in God?" He responded: "If I didn't, I picked the wrong profession."

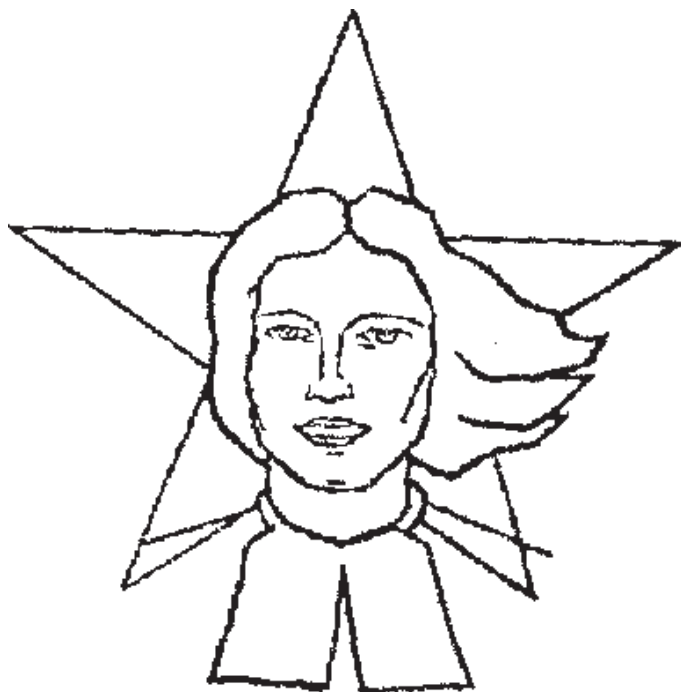
On the morning of January 26, at 4:20 a.m., **Brother Daniel** gave his *spirit* back to **God**. This man was a **Religious Brother**, who studied so intensely, took such a great interest in others, was filled with zeal and served his **God** fervently, will be greatly missed. May the **Lord** of the harvest send more like **Brother Daniel** to labor among his people; our world will always need someone with an "Enthusiasm" which is infectious.

**Brother Daniel** donated his body to the **University of New Mexico School of Medicine** for the purpose of medical research.

A simple **Memorial Mass** was held on February 19, 2000, at the **College of Santa Fe Chapel** at **10:00 a.m.** with final commendation taking place when **Brother Daniel's** remains are returned and interred in the **Brothers' Plot** at **Rosario Cemetery** in *Santa Fe, NM.*

### **MAY HE REST IN PEACE!**

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



### **Eulogy for Brother Daniel Ortiz** **January 26, 2000**

It is a pleasure for me to be asked to pay a brief tribute in memory of Brother Dan Ortiz. Anyone among us could happily accept the assignment, each, perhaps varying the details, but all agreeing on the substance: Brother Dan was a wonderful person, content to being himself, contagiously enthusiastic doing the things he chose to do. Dan was a person whose life was **focused**.

Personally I had never lived with him during his long professional career of some fifty years, extending from 1937 to 1988, but during his last years in Santa Fe I came to know him and admire him.

However, the Saturday before he died, in a long and pleasant conversation with him, Dan reminded me that in the early 1930's when we both were young teenagers we lived together in Lafayette, LA., in the Juniorate, the Brothers' preparatory high school. I asked Dan what he remembered of those early years in our distant past. "**IT WAS A FUN TIME,**" he said, "**I WAS HAVING A BALL; I WAS HAPPY.**" From my own experience I can presume to paraphrase Dan's happy answer: "In the Juniorate I learned to like the routine that balanced a daily round of study, prayer, and play; little by little I began to know I wanted to be a Christian Brother."

If someone would have asked Dan to mention some of the **HIGHLIGHTS** of his career as a Christian Brother, he certainly would have mentioned these three: **EIGHT YEARS** in **Monterrey, Mexico**; **TWENTY-TWO** years in the **Philippines**; and the last **TEN** years in **retirement** in Santa Fe. Yet as I looked over the official report on his Tour of Duty I was struck by the information that between his years in Monterrey and his assignment to the Philippines, Brother Dan was the Principal and Director of two Christian Brothers

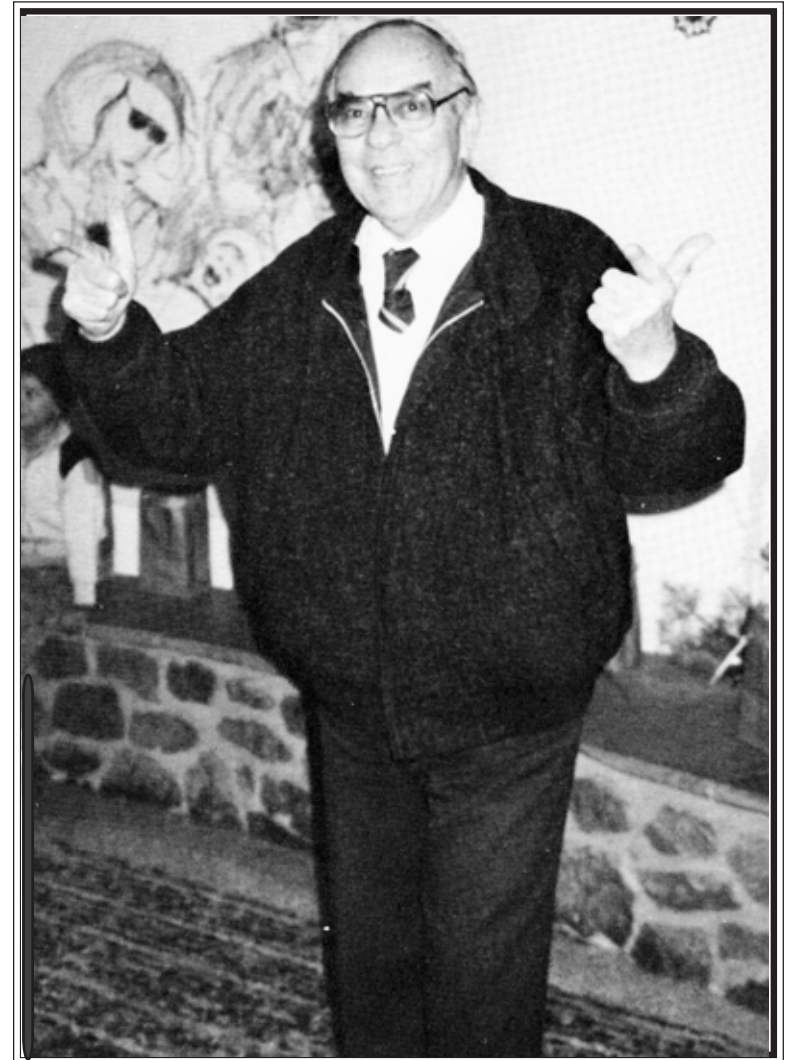
Schools in Louisiana and was the Founder and first Principal of La Salle High School in San Antonio, Texas. Just recently Brother Nick Grahmann who was a teacher under Dan in Lafayette, told me: "Dan was a Christian Brother ahead of his times; if anything he was super organized."

So it is remarkable that Brother Dan still spent some thirty years of his active professional career outside of the USA - a career about which most of us Brothers know very little.

In 1943 the Brother Provincial of the New Orleans - Santa Fe Province accepted the invitation of the Brothers in Mexico to reopen the Brothers' school in Monterrey which had been closed during the Mexican Revolution; the arrangement was to be a temporary one which would allow the Brothers of Mexico to recover from the confiscations and expulsions suffered during the Revolution. Because Dan knew Spanish he was one of the Americans assigned to re-establish Instituto Regiomontaño, which today is a renowned Monterrey Institution.

Fifty years later, in 1993, the Monterrey alumni invited all the original Americans to come back for a great golden celebration. Upon his return to Santa Fe, Dan made a precious comment: "Every Brother, at least once in a life time, should have the experience which we American Brothers experienced in Monterrey: an overwhelming, emotional outpouring of gratitude from the Brothers and alumni for what we Americans had done for them in 1943." Some years later, at another golden anniversary, Dan had a similar experience in the Philippines where he had worked for twenty-two years. Dan had been inspired to volunteer for the Philippines by Brother Richard Burwitz at St. Michael's who had enthusiastically described to Dan his own tireless twelve years there from 1952 through 1964 as teacher, principal and founder of two schools which are now universities.

From 1966 through 1988, Brother Dan spent fourteen years at the University of St. La Salle at Bacolod and eight years at De La Salle University in Manila; at both universities he was Vice-President. Of those years one of his contemporaries writes: "Mostly I just remember Dan's constant **enthusiasm**; it was infectious; he was an efficient guy." Another writes, "I found Dan to be a pleasant and brotherly companion. As a College Administrator he was dedicated,



*College of Santa Fe*

professional, with great practical organizational abilities." The same writer reveals that Dan had an interesting hobby: to sit in the lobbies of the many fine hotels built in Manila during Imelda Marcos' "reign" and watch the "rich and famous go by.

"In 1988, at the age of seventy, Brother Dan decided it was time to come home to Santa Fe and to his family; both of which were always very dear to him. He spent several years as Alumni Director at the College of Santa Fe. He also felt compelled as an Hispanic, to make his personal contribution to the understanding and preservation of Santa Fe's centuries-old traditions: religious, ethnic, civic. He studied it all, assiduously and constantly, so he could be an effective Docent at the Palace of the Governors and at Las Golondrinas. He prepared his lectures carefully and thoroughly, enjoying his audience's questions and reactions to his humor and stories. The work was dear to him because it vitalized him in his retirement. Dan never grew old. During my fifty years in Santa Fe, I know of no other Christian Brother with Dan's commitment to the Santa Fe cultural mystique.

I visited Dan in his apartment the day after he learned that he had terminal cancer, hoping that I could offer some words of encouragement. What I learned was that Dan had already set his course. "Yes," he said, "the doctors have given me the bad news; I'm 81 years old, and the years have been full; God has been good to me. Now, que sera,sera." And a little later, pointing to some travel books on his couch, "Now I will not have to plan my next trip to Europe, but unfortunately I will have to cancel the lecture I was to give next week."

As I left Dan's apartment, like a thunder clap out of the clear blue, the words of the Consecration at Mass, came to mind:

**"Christ, the night before his death, a death he freely accepted, took bread and blessed it.' I realized that Dan had set his course: a death he freely accepted. Que sera, sera; Thy will be done."**

I will bring my remarks to a conclusion with an interesting and very thoughtful quotation sent in from Manila by a professor at De La Salle University: "I am very sorry to hear about Brother Dan; he was a good man; better than he knew."

The Christian Brothers conduct a thousand schools around the world whose successes depend in part, on all the thousand Brother Dans in them: "great men, greater than they know," that is to say, educators who not only have a profession, but whose profession is a ministry, a vocation.

Brother Dan had a vocation; a true Christian Brother, a disciple of John Baptist de la Salle.

By: Brother Luke Roney  
Hiliary House  
Santa Fe, NM

