

A SHORT ACCOUNT

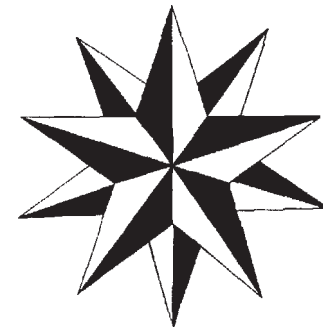
OF THE LIFE

OF

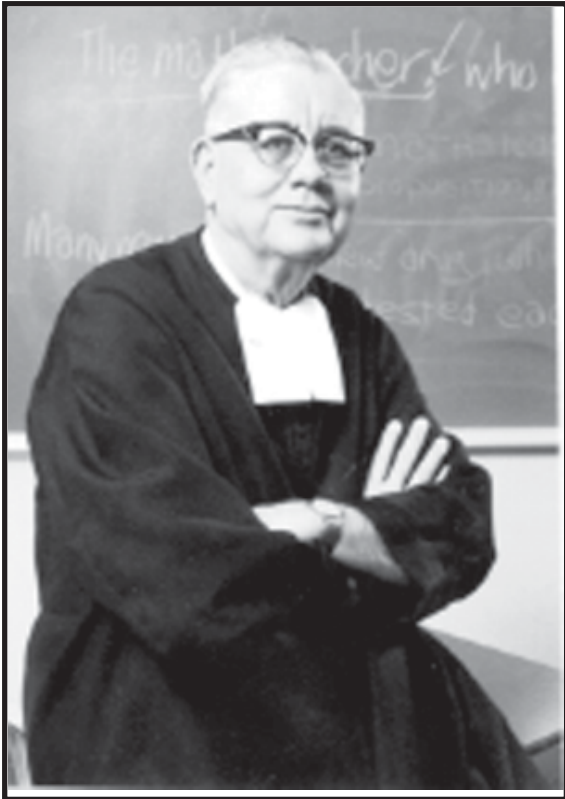
Brother August Regis, F.S.C.

(Andrew William White)

1920 - 2004



SIGNUM FIDEI



Tour of Duty

1941 - 1943	Landry Memorial High School, Lake Charles, LA
1943 - 1947	Cathedral High School, Lafayette, LA
1947 - 1949	St. Peter's College - Sub-Director, New Iberia, LA
1949 - 1950	Second Novitiate, Rome, Italy
1950 - 1951	St. Paul's School - Sub-Director, Covington, LA
1951 - 1954	St. Paul's School - Director, Covington, LA
1954 - 1956	St. Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM
1956 - 1959	St. Michael's College, Santa Fe, NM
1959 - 1962	Studies - University of Minnesota
1962 - 1964	St. Michael's College, Santa Fe, NM
1963 - 1964	St. Michael's College - Director, Santa Fe, NM
1964 - 1977	College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
1977 - 1982	St. Michael's High School, Santa Fe, NM
1982 - 2004	College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
2004	Died on March 14

NOTES ON THE LIFE OF BROTHER AUGUST REGIS
(Andrew William White)
1920 – 2004

A Brief Biography

Andrew William White, who would become Brother August Regis, was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on 30 June 1920 to Walker Gillespie White and Blanche Venus White. His boyhood years were spent in Las Cruces, in Nogal and in Silver City where he attended grade school. His mother was a teacher so he was early convinced of the importance and value of education. When the family moved to El Paso, TX, he attended Cathedral High School and met the Brothers. From there he went to the Juniorate in Las Vegas, NM, in 1935. He received the habit of the Brothers on 14 August 1937, made his Novitiate in Lafayette, LA, and received his Bachelor's degree from Sacred Heart Training College, the Brothers' Scholasticate in Las Vegas. He made final profession of vows 6 June 1945.

His teaching career included elementary, secondary, and college levels. In 1941 he began teaching at Landry Memorial High School (Lake Charles, LA). In 1943 he was transferred to Cathedral High School (Lafayette, LA). In 1947 he became Sub-Director of St. Peter's College (now Catholic High School) in New Iberia, LA. After 2 years in that position, he was sent to Rome to make the Second Novitiate (1949). After the Second Novitiate, he was assigned to St. Paul's School in Covington, LA, as Sub-Director and the next year (1951) he was named Director. In 1954 he was transferred to St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, NM, and then to St. Michael's College in the same city in 1956. He began Doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, in 1959, returning to St. Michael's College in 1962. In 1964 he was named Director of the College Community. He remained at the College until 1977 serving in various capacities of increasing responsibility. He taught in the Education Department, served as its Chair, and served as Academic Dean. Disenchanted

with some decisions at the College, he resigned and went to St. Michael's High School in 1977 where he taught until he retired and returned to the College in 1982. There he served as a member of the Board of Trustees. After retirement, and wanting to continue to contribute to Christian education, he spent a number of years working in the shop at the San Miguel Mission, affectionately known as "the Old Church" to the Brothers. There he had the small flyer which summarized the history of the mission translated into several languages for the benefit of visitors who were more comfortable in their native tongues than in English. This small initiative was typical of his work. He always sought to improve the situation and make things better for others, wherever he was.

When his health began to fail, he left the Old Church but continued to provide the Community with service as Sub-Director, manager of the kitchen, and guest master while developing the Lasallian Heritage Fund as a source of scholarship aid for needy students. Through his contacts with alumni, he built the fund so that it enables the Community to offer several scholarships annually.

After coping with diabetes for a number of years, he developed congestive heart disease which was ultimately the cause of his death. Always prepared and always thinking of others, he had arranged for the transfer of his duties to others in timely fashion. He had also arranged for



Above - Brother August Regis earned his B.A. from Sacred Heart Training College in 1942 and his M.A. in education from St. Mary's, San



Above - This 1955 photo of Brother Regis was taken in the St. Michael's High School community room as he was grading papers.

hospice care to be provided during the last weeks of his life so the Brothers would not be burdened. Interestingly, the physician who had developed the hospice program and gave Brother care during this time was Dr. David Gonzales, one of Brother Regis' former students from St. Michael's High School. After only 3 days bedridden, Brother Regis died peacefully around 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening, 14 March 04. Brother Brian, Director, was watching with him at the last.

As he wished, his funeral Mass was in St. Michael's Chapel on the campus of the College of Santa Fe which had profited from his services for so many years. After the Mass, attended by his sister, 2 nieces, and a grand niece as well as numerous alumni, colleagues and friends, his ashes were brought to Rosario Cemetery where they were interred in the Brothers' plot.

At the Mass, Brother Brian Dybowski, Director, and Dr. Linda Hanson, President, gave eulogies which are included among

the following reminiscences of those whose lives he touched and enriched.

Eulogy of Brother Brian Dybowski, Director

A summary of Brother Regis' 83 years would leave out too much. Instead, I offer a few examples of his Lasallian service. His childhood experiences on ranches around Carrizozo proved that everyone must work hard to survive. The Great Depression taught him to do or to do without. He wanted to serve as Brothers do. That's why he joined the training program in 1935.

His service was calm, thoughtful, and practical. Others could emote; he would serve. In training he learned that prayer is the Lasallian way to develop the eye of faith that looks behind the surface to the real. The eye of faith sees as Christ sees. Jesus offers us the gift to see God's will. The Brothers' *Signum Fidei* combines this gift with the light of God's will in the sign of faith. It was the guiding star for Brother Regis. Teaching in grammar school, high school, and college, he did everything by his profound prayer to accomplish God's will.

When he came to the College of Santa Fe in 1956, he did God's will by teaching Education. On Saturdays he converted barracks to classrooms, labs, and dorms. He earned a Ph. D. in Education so that he could teach more effectively. It's easy to tell that this learning did not go to his head. His office was so shabby that we later remodeled it before we let students use it. Brothers serve the others. Lasallian service left him no time to waste on his office.

For seven years as Academic Dean, Brother Regis served faculty, staff, and students by applying our resources for maximum results. That's how the College grew to 1400 students by 1970. Where others saw problems, Brother Regis saw solutions. Some faculty worried that he hired ambitious men who would cause strife. But Brother Regis saw their devotion to teaching. He actively

recruited Brothers and others who wanted to teach. They gradually caught the Lasallian spirit of our home-made college. Those Brothers he prepared who are still serving are Brother Donald Mouton, Brother George, Brother Arthur, and Brother Brian.

With the eye of faith, Brother Regis saw the cloud's silver lining, figured out practical ways to help, and built a program at the Penitentiary from scratch to 212 college students. No one else could have succeeded, against so many difficulties. His successors did not last long in the job, even though he had solved most of the problems.

When St. Michael's High School needed an assistant principal, he served there. Then he returned to the College to teach Education until he retired. Noticing that the oldest Church (*San Miguel Mission. Ed.*) needed help, he worked there part-time. In the Brothers' community he ran the kitchen, cared for visitors, and managed scholarships. He served to the end, retiring from these jobs only a week ago.

We thank God for Brother Regis. He forgot himself to do for others. He was always amazed that God had given him the gift of life, so he returned the gift by living to serve. This service touched us all. Encouraged by his good example, let's go forth to serve.

Eulogy of Dr. Linda Hanson, President

I'm honored to say a few words in recognition of the exemplary life of service and dedication of Brother Regis to the College of Santa Fe over 48 years.

When I think of Brother Regis, the first word that comes to my mind is "gentleman," and by that I mean in the classic sense of the word, he comported himself always in such a gentlemanly and respectful way toward those he encountered, and I mean gentle — man, someone who exuded a quiet warmth, a dignity, a selflessness that was immediately perceived.

A second quality that defined Brother Regis was his extraordinary commitment to serve others. He found the term "servant" honorable and through his many, many years at CSF as teacher, counselor, Academic Dean and mentor to so many other Brothers, he found his calling. In recent years, the term "servant" especially when connected with the term "leadership," has gained momentum in describing the essential element in making progress at organizations such as CSF. By leading quietly and steadily through years of strained resources and probably times when the future of the college was uncertain, Brother Regis' leadership and example encouraged others to keep moving forward.

As most of you know, the college's strategic plan is aptly called "Roots and Wings" in which we have identified our 6 core values. (*Creativity, character, culture, student centeredness, shared governance, and civic capacity. Ed.*) Well, to my mind, Brother Regis represented our roots – his student centeredness as a teacher, his creativity in converting many of the barracks into labs and classrooms, his character in the way he interacted with students, faculty and staff, his culture in reaching out to students of all ethnicities, and his civic capacity, so evident in his creative approaches to educating those confined in the state penitentiary, and as Dean, to share governance with his faculty in moving the college ahead.

Last Christmas, Richard Marshall (*Vice-President for Finance and Administration. Ed.*) and I played Santa Claus one Friday afternoon and brought over some new everyday dishes for the community – Brother Regis graciously greeted us and we stood around with a soda in our hands chatting about the upcoming holiday. But it became clear to me that in his own selfless way, Brother Regis was figuring out how to convey to me that such a gift would be best put aside for "company." That was Brother Regis, always thinking of others before himself.

And now, Brother Regis has “taken wings” and leaves us with sadness in our hearts but so much gratitude for having known him. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. And he will be missed.

Some Thoughts about Brother Regis White, FSC, by Brother Benedict Westrick, FSC

Let me first mention that I spent nearly two years with Brother Regis, when he was still Billy White, the tall slender young man from El Paso with the bright smile and the happy disposition. As a student in the Junior Novitiate in Las Vegas, he was smart, but very easy going except when playing football. He seemed to delight in the contact side of the sport, when he could block someone or push them around. With his relatively large size, he found that rather easy to do and enjoyable, though, I must add, not in a mean sense. He enjoyed it and was not really trying to hurt anyone, just move them around on the field. As far as running with, or catching or throwing the football, that simply was not part of his repertoire.

When it came to his studies, however, he was all business. He and Brother Joseph Walsh were the competitors there, and were always at the head of the class when the reports were given out on Sunday night.

In the Scholasticate, the story was much the same. In our physical exercises, Bill, now Brother August Regis, was not a star, though always a very enthusiastic participant. On the other hand, in the intellectual department, he, Joe Walsh and here, Brother James Kinneavy were vying for the lead. All of them were “A” students, but not with the dog-eat-dog attitude found too frequently in intellectuals today. All three worked hard, and all succeeded very well.

Then came community. Providence and Brother Ernest, Visitor, decreed the Brother Regis and I should be together for four years at Cathedral in Lafayette under Brother A. Daniel, Principal/Director. It was the second year of teaching for both of

us. He had spent one year at Lake Charles, and I, one at Franklin. Here in Cathedral he was the Sophomore sponsor, and I started off as fourth grade teacher.

It was here in Lafayette, in the heart of Cajun country, that Brother Regis, I think, came into his own as an educator. He worked four years there as sophomore teacher, as athletic director and as bus driver for the various athletic teams, and was always happy, hard-working and very successful. During the years we spent together here at the College of Santa Fe, he often asked me if I remembered so-and-so from Cathedral, and then might comment that he had received a letter or note from that former student. Undoubtedly, many of those boys remembered him from those years of 1943-1947.

For a number of years Brother Regis went his way and I mine. He made the second novitiate, then was appointed principal of St. Paul’s in Covington, then went off to get his doctorate in Education, and became dean of the College of Santa Fe.

But we were thrown together in 1977 when I was appointed principal of St. Michael’s High for the second time, and he, after



Above - In a lighter moment Brother Regis poses as a mariachi guitarist.

resigning his position as dean of CSF, was appointed assistant principal. We spent three years together there and again I had many reasons to admire and appreciate his educational expertise and his zeal as a Christian Brother. In addition to his work as assistant principal in charge of the curriculum, Brother insisted on teaching. His classes were models of classroom activity and learning. I could not but notice the work turned out by his sophomores in their English studies. He had a plan, a goal, and a process for achieving that goal; the students knew what was expected of them, and were put to work to achieve that goal. Success for them and contentment for both them and their parents seemed to be a foregone result of such a regimen, and it was evident.

Here at CSF, when both he and I were retired from teaching, Brother was still eager to do what he could for the school and his Brothers in community. I don't know when he learned to cook, but his years here proved that he knew not only how but how to cook well. Complete meals, pastries, delicacies, all seemed equally in his cookbook. But, what I, and, I believe most of the community wondered at most and admired greatly, was the frequent times he would bake some delicious cakes, pies or cookies, and then because of his diabetes, would have to ask someone if they were good. During the last 20 years or so of his life, he had been diagnosed with diabetes, and was most careful not to do anything which might cause a flare up of that terrible disease. So, when he baked, he never ate any of the good things he made. They were for the Community, not for him personally. That's the kind of selflessness which, I believe, everyone can and should admire. But that was Brother Regis!

During those last years another ministry which he undertook, and I use the term deliberately, was working for and with the CSF Alumni. He went to most of their meetings, worked with their officers at Bingo, and generally did whatever he could to help them in their work for the school. He knew these were older men, men who had had mostly Brothers in their classes when they were studying, and who admired and loved the Brothers for their

efforts on behalf of the people of Northern New Mexico. Brother Regis, having spent so many years at the College, was one of those remembered by those older alumni.

But that was not all of Brother's efforts for the school. When he could do very little else, he decided that working on the computer and sending out mail would be something he could do. So he began begging money for the Ce Be Cor Lasallian Heritage Scholarship fund, a fund he envisioned as providing substantial scholarship aid to students of Northern New Mexico to attend the College. He studied "grantsmanship" in order to be able to solicit funds more effectively from various foundations, and sent out many letters to anyone he could think of who might be willing to aid in the work. Before his death, his efforts showed results of some \$92,000.00 in various scholarship funds in the Lasallian Heritage account. Not all of that was brought in by his begging, but much of it was the result of his efforts and the entire organization of the fund drive for these scholarships was his work. In future years, many of the students at the College of Santa Fe, totally unknown to them, will still have reason to be grateful for the Apostolic efforts of Brother Regis White, FSC.

Remarks from Brother Martin Fenerty

Brother Regis was the first Christian Brother to teach me. When my family moved to Lake Charles, LA, in the summer of 1942, we learned that there was a Catholic school for boys there. Brother Regis taught me at "Landry Memorial" in the 6th grade that school year: 1942-43, and I was very impressed with his kindness and competence.

When I contemplated entering the Lafayette Juniorate at the end of the following school year, one of the main factors that helped me decide to join the Brothers was the memory of the dedication and encouragement of the Brothers there, especially the good example of Brother Regis White.

Later, in the Fall of 1966, when I began teaching at St. Michael's College/College of Santa Fe, Brother Regis, as Dean of the College, was most helpful to me in my adjusting to the life of a new "college instructor". His kindness and professionalism will never be forgotten.

Letter to Brother Daniel Duplantis from Dr. Robert Hesse

I was very saddened to read about the death of Brother August Regis White in the latest issue of THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS NEWSLETTER. Over the past several years in his annual Christmas note to me he would mention that he was having problems with arthritis, but I found it very difficult to picture him in failing health, as he was always such a specimen of good health.

He was a great teacher and just a wonderful person. He guided me to a first place in English at the District Rally, and a second place at State Rally. He did such a good job with me in English that I, as a college freshman, found myself tutoring other students.

I know that the Christian Brothers look after "their own" very well, both physically and spiritually, so I really do not know exactly how to seek additional spiritual benefits for him. That is why I am turning to you to do this for me, and please use this check for \$100.00 in the way you know best for him and the Christian Brothers. (*Dr. Hesse is a dentist practicing in Lafayette, LA. Ed.*)

Input from Brother Paul Walsh

Although I have had the privilege of living in community with Brother Regis for only one year, nevertheless, I have always admired him as a true religious Brother and serious educator.

He was one of the stalwarts in our District, one you could always depend on to be faithful to his religious and educational

duties. He was always very accommodating if one had to turn to him for assistance or advice. It was my experience that he would adjust his schedule to give assistance at the time one turned to him for help.

Those of you in his community, I am sure, can attest to much more than I am able to convey in this brief testimonial. Nevertheless, it was most inspiring to realize that he never stopped working after retirement from college teaching. I have encountered him in your community preparing food to put aside in the freezer, assisting in the preparation of meals, particularly with the annual gumbo meal for alumni workers, being part of the purchasing team at Sam's, etc. I would be remiss not to mention the twofold time he put in at the San Miguel Mission by assisting in the gift shop as well as manufacturing (is this the right word?) rosaries for sale therein. For others, locked into privilege and "propriety", all this might seem to be below the dignity of a Ph.D.

When I was Auxiliary Visitor, Brother Regis was very helpful to me in preparing a survey instrument to assess the quality of our instructional efforts in our various educational institutions. His advice as to the propriety of such an instrument as well as to the selection and wording of specific objective and subjective statements/questions was most helpful. I was happy to find that, in all of our educational ministries except one, the administration and results of the survey were well received.

I believe it is appropriate to suggest that you attempt to incorporate in Brother Regis' biography, a copy of the address given by Dr. Linda Hanson on the occasion of his funeral Mass. I was most impressed by her remarks on that occasion.

A Pleasant Memory of Brother Regis from Brother Luke Olivas

On early mornings when we are set to drive over to the College for the early morning Masses, we are treated to the soft

cooling breezes coming off the close eastern mountains. A wonderful day seems to be spelled out for us that will be just right.



Above - Brother Regis relaxes in the community room of the Brothers' residence at the College of Santa Fe.

We feel thankful that things seem so promising for whatever is in store for us.

Somehow I felt this pleasing assurance whenever I chatted with Brother Regis. We exchanged pleasantries or brought in the latest news on what's with our District policies – a fertile ground, no doubt, of interest at any time. The present state of things certainly confirms much of what he affirmed. He was optimistic about things but not blind to the radical changes that must be looked into.

Our days of teaching at Lafayette, LA, were certainly of the best of my teaching career. Brother Regis was noted for his ability to handle things. He was liked and praised for his ability in the classroom. Two of his student admirers attained Doctor's

degrees. Our community life in Lafayette was great. With Brother Director, Dan Simar's wit and Brother Regis' outlook on things, we had wonderful days in Lafayette.

Surely the memories of wonderful confreres will be recalled in those cooling breezes from our eastern mountains.

Brother Regis, we miss you and pray for you and your loved ones and ask your intercession with the Lord for our struggling RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES.

Notes for the Necrology of Brother August Regis from Brother G.R. Titus

While Brother Regis was working at the College of Santa Fe, he promoted the ministry of educating inmates at the New Mexico State Penitentiary. By working as the superintendent of the education program and securing easier use of a prison library he organized a system by which the prisoners were given the opportunity to acquire education from elementary through four years of university-level training.

The time came when Brother Regis realized that the "academic needs of the college" could be more fully implemented if he were on campus. He looked for someone to replace him and, when I expressed an interest, immediately asked me to take on the program.

To keep him in place to be my mentor in this ministry, I took on the title Assistant Superintendent for Education, to which he gladly acceded. At the penitentiary he was known as Doctor White by staff and inmates, a testimony to his knowledge and profound interest in the success of the enterprise. He set up the program to serve the needs of this special type of student: elementary studies toward passing of the GED program with the awarding of diplomas on completion, to the college program leading to the earning of an Associate's and Bachelor's degree. The

secondary level was already being administered by the Newgate Project.

His zeal pushed him to service for the inmates in the solitary unit. His encouragement led to extending the program to the adjacent Women's Division, though it was a hard sell to persuade the prison administration to allow female students to attend classes in the men's classrooms. Another hard sell was getting administration to approve of inmates at the college level to help with instruction of those working toward their GED's. His vision saw the eventual inclusion of inmate graduates in the on-campus graduation ceremonies.

Brother Regis was always spoken of very highly by inmates for his forward-looking program and his great compassion for the less fortunate. Years later, some of the most "hardened" parolees and those who had served their "time" would come to visit the college community to renew old friendships and to receive further encouragement and help in "making it" on the outside.

Remarks from Brother Roy Rivas, O.F.M.

I would suppose that every profession has them. I surely hope so. I know that, every now and then in religious life, you come across an exemplary person and, if you're lucky, that person is also a gentleman (or gentlewoman).

I don't mean that Brother Regis was "perfect," but I do say that one could see that here was a man who strove each day to be the very best religious that he had vowed to be. Beginning over each day to be the best religious he could be.

Add to that, Brother Regis was a gentleman. He was courteous and interested in the other person. Here are a couple of examples. When I began to work at the Old Church several years ago, I had received phone calls and written notes about what to expect, what my responsibilities would be. I didn't feel confident

on that first day. But about an hour after opening our gift shop, here came Brother Regis walking in on his metal support and, for the next couple of hours, he stood there leaning on his crutch next to me at the register until he saw that I was comfortable with my responsibilities – that I knew where things, that is, merchandise, could be found – and how to respond to our visitors' questions and needs. Brother was there to give me support for the next two mornings. I was very grateful for this help.

Brother Regis and I shared a health condition. We both are/were diabetics. There wasn't a morning that Brother Regis didn't ask how I was feeling. Did I have a good evening? Did I have a good glucose reading? Had I read the latest findings about our condition? Brother Regis made sure that I/we had some sugar-free treats for dessert – a reward for behaving ourselves! I will miss him every day of my life! He gave me courage to persevere.

Letter from Ron Ortiz Dinkel

Director of Human Resources

My CSF colleagues,

Brother Regis has inspired me by his death to pay tribute to his life by reminding all of my peers and colleagues about what it means to be Lasallian.

We speak so casually about the "Lasallian Tradition," but to really understand its meaning we need to look closely at the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the years they have dedicated to this institution. Without them none of us would be part of the College of Santa Fe community today.

Their names are in our memories, in our yearbooks, and in our hearts, and left for generations to see on some of our buildings and on their tombstones in their plots at Rosario Cemetery and in Lafayette; among them Brother Benildus, Brother Bob, Brother Patrick, ... and now Brother Regis. These men, these Religious

who dedicated their lives, their every waking moment to the education of young people, are aging and dying. So few are left.

I personally revere those men who have passed, and those few who remain, because in my youth I aspired to be one of them, but found myself unable or unwilling to sacrifice all that such a life demands. Yet their Lasallian Philosophy, their teaching, their Rule and their discipline have sculpted my life.

They answered a call from God to live a life of service to youth, to live in community with their brothers, requiring only the basic necessities of Food, Shelter, and Clothing (often jokingly used to define the FSC of *Fratres Scholarum Christianarum*). They live well in the comfort of their faith and in the recognition paid to them by students whose lives were shaped by their teaching, their devotion, and their unconditional commitment to others.

Now it is left to us – the few Brothers who remain active in our community, and those of us employed by the College of Santa Fe – to honor our founders and their Order by conducting ourselves in a manner reflecting the teaching of St. John Baptist De la Salle: *“It is the Holy Spirit who unites you, one to the other, not only that a new kind of school may be created out of your association together, but also that this brotherhood that is rooted in the Gospel may spread far and wide. Such a school is a place for mutual evangelization, for sharing and support, for reconciliation and forgiveness.*

No one has asked us to take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience like the Brothers have, but when we feel like we’re under-paid for the work we do and need more money, think of the Brothers. When we take for granted the love and affection we share with our spouses and partners, think of the Brothers. When we question the authority and requests of our administrators and supervisors, think of the Brothers. Be receptive to their example and learn to follow their tradition.

I received it from every Brother who taught me from first grade at St. Michael’s through graduation from De La Salle Normal: Brothers Alexander, Howard, Gabriel, Brendan, Austin, Christopher, Abdon, Peter (Andre), Abdon again, Peter again, John, and Cornelius. I received it from Brother Regis and Brother Luke and others as an undergrad at St. Michael’s College. Thank you, and God bless you all.

Memorial of Brother Regis from Dr. Sandra Rodriguez
Director of Education

I would like to add the willingness of Brother Regis to share of himself and of his time. As I was gathering data on the history of early education in New Mexico (*For her dissertation. Ed.*), Brother provided me with some of his own personal research, much of which was not published in the wider educational community. Brother always found the time to share his vast knowledge and experience with all.

**Some Thoughts about Brother Regis from
Brother Nick Gonzalez**

Principal
San Miguel High School, Tucson, AZ

I moved into the college community after Brother Regis had developed diabetes. He was very thin and somewhat frail at the time. My experience of him was always very positive. Being a fellow El Pasoan, Regis was always welcoming. He was a gentleman, kind, and gracious. Despite his ill health, Regis never complained. He was always busy and forever of service to others.

I was shocked to hear that his nickname in youth had been “Horse” because of his rough and tumble nature. Brother Joe Walsh, who attended Cathedral High with Regis, once described his first encounter with Horse to me. “I was standing around when suddenly this big fellow comes running behind me, jumps up and crashes down on my back. I also punched him since I was so mad!”

When his sister in El Paso died, I was very honored that he asked me to represent him as pall bearer. Again, he was very kind and asked many questions about what I was doing. Regis was fond of his grandnephew, Sol Jerome, whom I taught at Cathedral High. He always asked about him and mentioned that he was in his prayers.

During his last summer of life on earth, I happened to be studying at the college for a few weeks. In retrospect, I think he knew his end was coming. There was a peace about him and he made it a point to visit with me during those days. He showed me his grandnephew's graduation photo and the beautiful letter Sol had written to his mom. Regis was very proud of Sol. I knew that Regis did not completely agree with starting San Miguel High School but, he was very supportive of me personally. He went out of his way to gently give suggestions about being an administrator and told me that he had faith in me. It meant the world to me to have this educational giant believe in me.

Input from Brother George Hetzel

Brother Regis was my mentor, personally, educationally, and as a religious. When I arrived in Santa Fe for my Scholasticate, he was the professor I had for Education courses. And his were the only Education courses I found worthwhile. They had substance and were backed by his own experience and knowledge of theory. While we used to say that he had the talent to make the transparent opaque, we soon learned that the difficulty arose because he had done so extensive and intensive preparation of his classes that connections among points he made were obvious to him. We, however, had to ask for the intervening steps. Still, that example of thorough preparation of lessons is one I cherish, and try to emulate, to this day.

For several summers during the first six years of my teaching, I returned to the College for additional coursework and

was able to observe Brother Regis "taking care of business" both academic and in the community. During that time we were "tested" one summer and he helped explain some of the purposes of that so that we realized why we were being "guinea pigs."

At some point while he was studying at the University of Minnesota, he seems to have thought that I would be an appropriate candidate to study there also. Once he became Academic Dean, he contacted me to see if I were interested and willing and, when I was, he was instrumental in obtaining for me a three-year fellowship to the University of Minnesota to study educational psychology. Thus, it was his mentorship and encouragement which led me to complete Doctoral coursework and return, unfortunately ABD, to the College to teach.

When I began teaching at the College and tried to uphold high standards, some complained my requirements were too great. As Academic Dean he supported me and helped me to learn to modify my teaching style so students were not only held to high standards but were enabled to reach them. Later, I received the Manuel Lujan, Sr. Award, an award from students for excellent teaching, and the Fairfax Award for Excellence in Teaching based on nominations from colleagues. In both cases, I knew that it was Brother Regis who deserved the awards because he was the one who had taught and enabled me to make whatever progress I had made as an educator.

Even after his retirement, Brother Regis continued his interest in the College and in the Education Department and programs. He questioned frequently about both these areas and offered suggestions and counsel from his depth of knowledge and experience. As a member of the Board of Trustees, he brought educational expertise to a group which typically knew much about business but little about academics. In this he continued to contribute to the education of the College's students, though indirectly.

Service was his typical behavior pattern. He once said that his mother, a teacher, had told him when he was a child that he wasn't very smart and so would have to work hard to learn and succeed. He must have internalized that advice to an extreme degree, because he always worked hard to serve whoever needed serving. His Doctoral work demonstrated his mother was wrong about his intelligence, as did his work as Academic Dean and as coordinator of the Penitentiary program. Indeed, he was held in such high esteem by the residents who were taking courses on campus that, when he forgot that he was supposed to drive them back to the Penitentiary until about 7:30 one evening, he found that none had de-camped in the two and a half hours since their final class but all were waiting for him at the car when he finally remembered. Indeed, it was largely due to his efforts that so many of the residents were able to complete Bachelor's degrees and return to society as productive citizens. Several of these alumni have taken responsible positions in the area of corrections, at least one has earned her Ph. D, and one went to Europe and obtained his M.D. Only one of the residents ever "escaped" during the whole program; he walked away from graduation. Despite such success, Brother Regis always gave greatest credit to Warden Felix Rodriguez. He, however, was happy to reflect the credit right back to Brother.

Brother Regis cared about people and, unlike so many, he showed this caring in action. He was devoted in writing letters to his sisters, relatives, Brothers, and former students. He was always interested in the progress of each of these groups and congratulated them for every success he heard about. His work in assuming care of the soft drink machines was another example of caring in action. Brother Emil (Guyot) had begun stocking soft drinks in Alumni Hall and the Greer Garson Theater using the profits to develop a scholarship fund for needy students. Brother Emil also worked with the alumni at bingo on Thursdays. When Brother Emil died, Brother Regis stepped in smoothly to continue these projects assisted by Brother Vincent (Thompson). Even expanding the idea, Brother Regis instituted the Lasallian Heritage Endowment

Fund by contacting alumni nationally seeking their financial assistance. That continues to provide funds for scholarships.

The phrase "we stand on the shoulders of giants" certainly applies to this educational giant. The extent to which the Education Department of the College of Santa Fe has been successful is due, in large part, to the farsighted leadership which Brother Regis provided and the sound, stable foundation he laid. Though, as was typical of him, he tended to credit Brother Andrew Gonzales, Mrs. Ellen Digneo, and others for the success. St. La Salle says that, if the Brothers educate their students well, in heaven, those students will praise them before God. That certainly applies to Brother Regis! *Requiescat in pace!*

