

La Salle Retreat Center

ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011



Letter from the President

Dear Friends of La Salle,

It's a remarkable blessing for any organization to be able to celebrate its 125th anniversary, as we had the opportunity to do in 2011. Of course, in some respects our ministry here in Glencoe is not nearly that old. We have been a retreat center for only about an eighth of our history—a fact that not only makes our story unique, but also creates some fascinating challenges.

La Salle is alive with activity today, thanks to a variety of retreat bookings: parish- and adult-renewal weekends, college and high school retreats, Lasallian gatherings and more. Still, we depend on additional sources of income—such as charitable donations and facility rentals—to help make ends meet (particularly since we receive no subsidy from the Christian Brothers). For the most part, our challenges involve facilities planning (both deferred maintenance projects and a wish-list of upgrades such as improvements to the West Wing). While our accommodations are comfortable, they also unmistakably reflect the age of the facility.

In recent years, we have been working to solidify finances at the retreat center through occasional appeals and additional fund raising activities (e.g., the Links to La Salle golf tournament). And in fact, we have come a long way thanks to our benefactors' generosity.

Now, we'd like to take the next purposeful step forward in our ministry of hospitality and peace, by making an annual appeal to those who have already demonstrated their love for La Salle. Toward that end, we are enclosing an envelope that we ask you to use in making a tax-deductible gift for 2011. In addition, we are excited to announce a challenge grant that can double the impact of any contributions—up to a total of \$7,500—received by January.

We certainly have much to celebrate—and be grateful for—as we look back on our anniversary year of “service inspired by faith.” Through your continued support, we hope to make La Salle's abundant blessings available to many more generations of visitors and guests!

Mike Sawicki

Mike Sawicki
President

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

We acknowledge with gratitude all who have contributed to the financial well-being of
La Salle Retreat Center in this fiscal year (Sept. 1, 2010- Aug. 31, 2011).

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WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR 2010 RAFFLE SUPPORTERS

We also acknowledge with gratitude all who have contributed to the Christian Brothers Benefit Raffle in 2010.

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While we have made every possible effort to ensure the accuracy of this report, we apologize for any misspellings or omissions. Please inform us of any errors by calling (636) 938-5374 so that we may correct our records.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS MARK 125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

La Salle's 125th anniversary year provided many opportunities for guests to experience the retreat center's mission as place of hospitality and peace.

Along with a nearly-full schedule of weekend and day retreats, we hosted several special celebrations to commemorate our landmark anniversary.

In April, La Salle welcomed Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria FSC, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, from his offices in Rome. Bro. Alvaro's visit was part of his official pastoral tour of the many different Christian Brother ministries throughout the Midwest District.

While at La Salle, Bro. Alvaro and his companions had an opportunity to join the participants of an ACTS retreat for the celebration of daily Mass. He referred to that brief encounter in remarks at the luncheon given in his honor later that day, drawing a direct link between the center's current work and other, more traditional Lasallian ministries. "How wondrous to know that adults and high school students come here to find God," he said. "In the past, the Brothers would work the lands. Now, we see Brothers and lay people working together... (and) Lasallian spirit is rooted in this cooperation."

La Salle's annual Founder's Day celebration featured an anniversary flair, as well. During an afternoon prayer service on May 15, President Mike Sawicki thanked the many benefactors in attendance with a commemorative gift—and



Superior General Brother Alvaro speaks to guests -April 9

invited them to view the colorful new history exhibit installed in the display case across the hall from the chapel.

The year's festivities culminated on the evening of July 8, when more than 125 guests joined Archbishop Robert Carlson for La Salle's official 125th anniversary celebration. The event began with a concelebrated Mass in the chapel.

During his homily, the archbishop praised the center for its role in helping area Catholics and Christians deepen their relationships with God. Following Mass, Archbishop Carlson led the guests in procession to the front door of the center, where he conducted a prayer service to rededicate the facility. Afterwards, Bro. Marvin Becker took the archbishop on a tour of the facility, while guests enjoyed a buffet dinner on the center's front lawn.

Continued on next page.



Archbishop Carlson Rededicates La Salle-July 8



Rededication Lawn Party

Along with festive anniversary events, we were blessed in many other ways throughout the year.

Several teams of adult and student volunteers helped spruce up the grounds and complete numerous fix-up projects during volunteer work days. Thanks to the participants from Sacred Heart Men's Team; Bishop Kelley High School (Tulsa); St. Joe's-Dolan Work Day; the Goldkamp, Grant, and Vilmain Volunteer Day; CBC and LTIP students. We're also grateful to Datafax for mailing services, and to the "regular" volunteers who work on the grounds, and in the kitchen and dining room throughout the year!

Many thanks, too, to The Lawhorn Project—a talented group of musicians and singers who staged a benefit concert that raised over \$2,500 in April; and to the more than 120 golfers who made the 3rd Annual Links to LaSalle Golf Classic a big success, raising \$14,100 in August.

La Salle is blessed to have so many generous friends and benefactors. You're the cornerstone for our success, as we begin our next 125 years!



Links to La Salle Golf Classic Aug. 12



Students from Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma on a service trip to La Salle in March

La Salle by the Numbers

Last fiscal year...

- 3,555 people attended day or overnight programs
- 37 weekends were booked
- 50 Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays were booked
- 9 middle schools or high schools held 29 student retreats
- 1 university conducted a weekend retreat for undergrads
- 11 parishes sponsored 33 ACTS retreats



ACTS Community Mass & Picnic Sept. 25

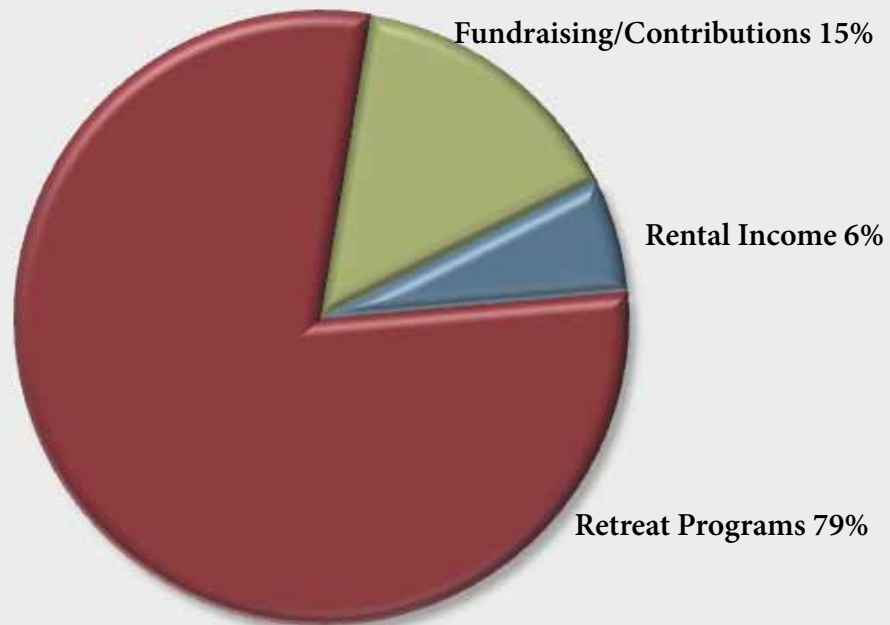


St. Francis Borgia High School Kairos Retreat March 19

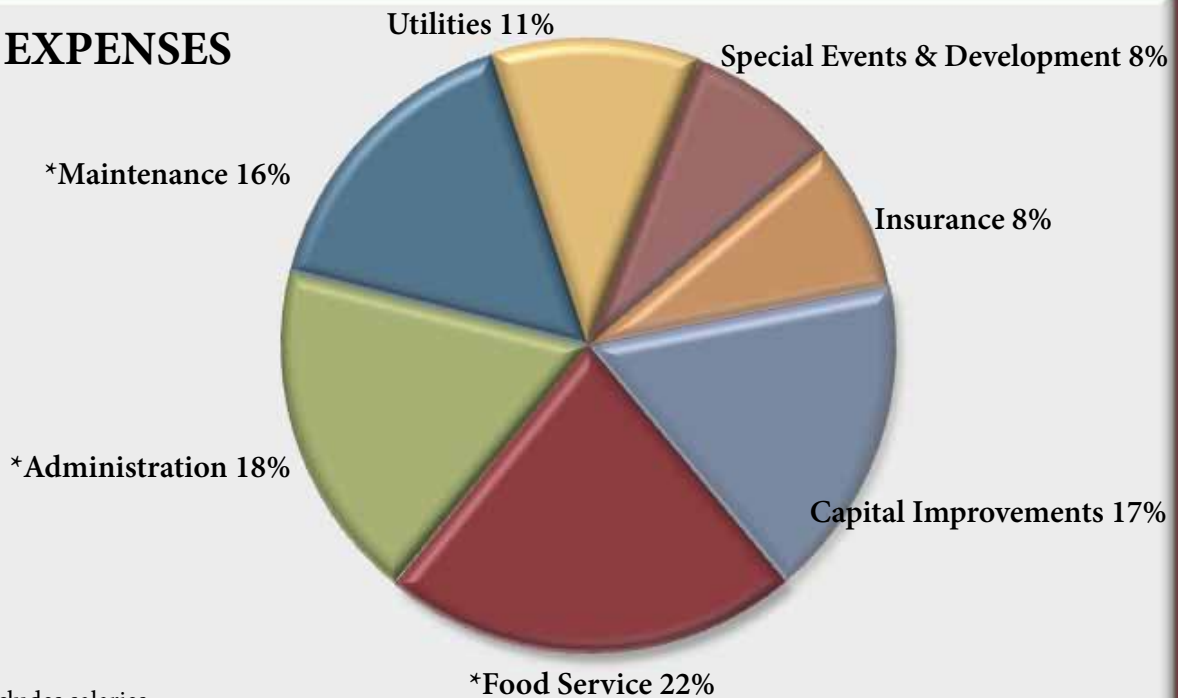
FINANCES AT A GLANCE

One of six retreat centers in the greater St. Louis area to accommodate outside-sponsored groups of up to 65 guests for overnight stays, La Salle Retreat Center strives to offer affordable rates while also meeting expectations for hospitality, comfort and safety. Charitable contributions help bridge the gap between retreat fees collected and actual operating expenses, as well as provide for capital improvements. In short, your generosity allows La Salle to extend a welcome to many who might not otherwise have an opportunity to walk its holy grounds.

REVENUES



EXPENSES



*Includes salaries



Enhancing Hospitality Through Facility Improvements

Examine the keystone date (“1886”) above the front entrance to the retreat center, and you quickly get a sense for the facility’s charm—and for the operational challenges it presents. Much of the center building has, in fact, been in place for 125 years and counting. Other structures date to the first half of the 20th century.

As retreat bookings have grown in recent years, increased revenues and contributions have allowed us to make improvements that enhance our ability to provide a place of hospitality and peace. Some are obvious: A remodeled shower room on the first floor of the West Wing (dormitory); and the installation of a phone system that offers modern features such as voice mail and high-speed internet access.

Other improvements are less easy to detect, but no less essential: Four new air conditioning units

(serving the dining room, museum room, team room and conference room in the center building); and a new roof, upgraded wiring and a new fire alarm system for the West Wing.

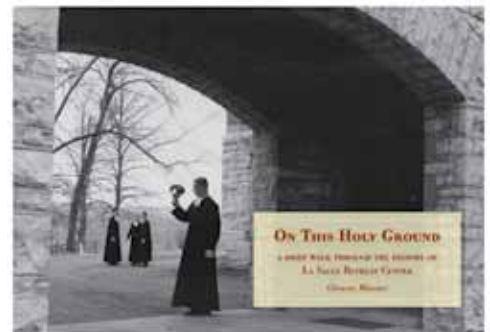
Even with these recent upgrades, our “wish-list” of potential capital improvements remains long. Here are some projects we would be eager to pursue, pending the availability of funds:

- Dining Room renovation (\$65,000)
- Shower/bath remodeling on West Wing’s 2nd & 3rd floors (\$55,000 per floor)
- Roof replacement – East Wing (\$35,000)
- Fire alarm system – Center Building / East Wing (\$11,000 – equipment only)

A FRESH LOOK AT LA SALLE’S FORMATIVE HISTORY

One thing is abundantly clear to guests who have made retreats at La Salle over the past 20 years: The center has a little history to it. But to learn the particulars of its venerable past as a house of formation for the Christian Brothers, visitors often had to rely on the stories told by the brothers who serve on staff.

In 2011, the retreat center published “On This Holy Ground,” a 44-page pictorial history of the facility’s 125-year presence in Glencoe. Supported by generous contributions from Carl Abbate (printing); Stephens Creative LLC (graphic design); and CorpWrite Ltd. (writing), the book has proven to be a popular fund-raiser, with more than 235 copies sold. Orders have been received from more than 10 states to date, including requests from California, Washington and Florida—and even as far away as Bulgaria.



For more information about the book, please see the retreat center’s web site: <http://www.lasalleretreat.org/lasallehistorybook.html>



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La Salle Retreat Center Board of Directors

Formed in 2004, La Salle’s Board of Directors provides oversight for the activities that allow the retreat center to carry out its mission, including strategic planning, development/fund-raising, and facilities/plant. We are sincerely grateful to these individuals for generously sharing their time and talents with La Salle!

- | | |
|--|--|
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Our Mission

La Salle Retreat Center is a non-profit ministry—rooted in the Lasallian (Christian Brother) tradition—that provides a place of hospitality and peace for communities of faith and service. Its venerable history, structures and landscape provide a uniquely positive environment for a reflective experience to restore the spirit and soul.

