



Glencoe Gleanings

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Summer Projects Finished



Along with the hot weather, this summer brought along a flurry of maintenance projects at La Salle Retreat Center. Some had been planned for a while and others came somewhat unexpectedly. As with any facility the age of La Salle, there are ongoing maintenance needs, along with the few major issues that you hope hold off until time and money are available. And of course, there is also the need to renovate as the buildings wear out over time. La Salle tackled all three kinds of projects recently.

With June came the installation of a new roof on the West Wing (dorm). This was one of those “expected” projects, because the aging roof had been patched multiple times—yet continued to leak during hard rains. We had lost the use of several sleeping rooms and moisture was taking its toll on the walls. Mike Sawicki, the director of La Salle Retreat Center, said, “We explored several possibilities with different companies.” After receiving their bids, Stewart & Company offered the best solution: A 20-year guarantee with a light-weight white roof to reflect the sun, augmented by a TPO membrane system, and a layer of insulation to help keep the building airtight.

In the “maintenance” category, the grounds around La Salle require upkeep on a regular basis. But recently, lightning strikes precipitated the removal of several trees. In addition to their removal, Sawicki stated, “we had two large dead trees cut down and pruned and removed the dead wood from the trees along the path up the hill.” The elements had also had an adverse effect on the stones around the Founder’s Grotto. The stones of the steps leading to the statue of St. John Baptist de La Salle

crumbled enough to become a safety issue. So Niko’s Stoneworks, who had done work on the Lourdes grotto, relayed the lower steps this summer—making the grotto safe and more pleasing to all who visit.

A project that was expected, even though the timing came as a bit of surprise, involved the two air-conditioning units in the Center Building that broke down without warning this August. “The good news is that we had some bids in the works before the units went out, so we didn’t have to scramble to get bids,” according to Sawicki. Each of the old units had given La Salle over 35 years of service in the Center Building, making their replacement somewhat inevitable. Unfortunately, they failed during a retreat—but luckily the weather wasn’t too hot. Matheny Heating and Cooling Co. was selected to handle the project. “They did a great job in getting the units replaced as soon as possible, and so any inconvenience to our guests was kept to a minimum,” Sawicki said.

And in the “long-planned” category, La Salle also took on a project that started with input from focus groups (made up of representatives of all our groups booked here), who came together several years ago to contribute their thoughts about the operations of La Salle. One of the suggestions they mentioned repeatedly was renovating the bathrooms/shower rooms in the West Wing. This became the 2010 summer project at La Salle. But it proved to be a challenge on several levels. “Along with a design improvement, and good quality workmanship, we also needed an affordable bid, and a good fit in the time frame available between retreats this summer,” Sawicki said. After talking with a number of contractors, it proved too cost-prohibitive to do all three floors at once—so it



Renovated Restroom
1st Floor-West Wing

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was decided to attempt to only do one floor at a time, starting with the first floor restroom. (It's actually the newest of the three restrooms—added when what had been a floor of classrooms was changed to bedrooms.)

With the assistance of architects Dennis Tacchi and John Guenther, an attractive plan to renovate the first floor restroom was put in place. And as Providence would have it, one reasonable bid came in from BBI Constructors—a firm who was already working at on a project at St. Albans at the time, and was eager to get the project completed in August. Randy Bueckendorf of BBI promised an “on-time” project—and he and his crew succeeded, completing the work on the very day we had a retreat group coming in. It was a “full” retreat—with nearly every room assigned, so all breathed sigh of relief when the additional bathrooms became available in the nick of time.

“We think you’ll like the look of the renovated first floor bathroom/shower room,” Sawicki said. “It is now a bright room with a raised ceiling, new showers, modernized vanity and mirror, and a new exhaust system. Facilities on the other floors will prove to be more of a challenge to replace, because they are original to the building and therefore more expensive to remove. But for now, it is exciting to have a good start on this much-needed project.”

So with all these projects coming together in one summer, how is La Salle managing financially? Sawicki said that with the Board’s support, “La Salle continues to be fiscally responsible and sets aside capital just for these sorts of improvements. This is only possible because of the strong support from our regular groups who come year after year, allowing La Salle to book solid almost now through 2012 at this point.” But as with any nonprofit organization, expenses are not usually completely covered by ongoing operations. “It takes a commitment on the part of the benefactors and friends of La Salle also,” Sawicki said. “Their generous contributions make all the difference.”

Sawicki expressed deep appreciation for the consistent giving of many benefactors over the years, and of many new contributors who are giving for the first time. In addition, the annual Links to La Salle Golf tournament has been a great addition to La Salle’s fundraising, he noted. “The dedicated organizers and golfers have charitably supported La Salle by being a part of a fun day of golf. And of course, there are many volunteers who give of their time...an immeasurable donation.”

When all their efforts come together, it makes it possible for La Salle to continue its ministry of hospitality—where visitors and guests continue to come to find a place of peace.

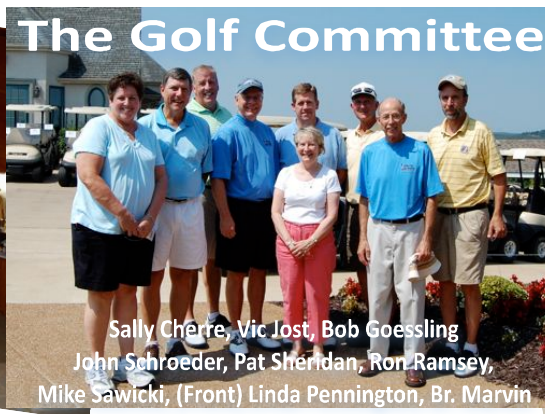


Golf Classic Another Success

The 2nd Annual Links to La Salle Golf Classic drew a record-setting number of players on August 13, as 128 golfers stepped to the tee box at Pevly Farms Golf Club. This year attracted many new golfers—and of course, many who played last year came back again for another round of great golf.

The day proved to be one of the warmest of the summer, but it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm for a great cause: Thanks to the generosity of the players, auction participants and sponsors, the event raised approximately \$14,500 for La Salle Retreat Center.

Next year the Links to La Salle Golf Classic will be held on August 12. This will be an event you won’t want to miss. For more photos of this year’s golf tournament, go to La Salle’s website: lasalleretreat.org.



Sally Chérre, Vic Jost, Bob Goessling
John Schröder, Pat Sheridan, Ron Ramsey,
Mike Sawicki, (Front) Linda Pennington, Br. Marvin





Bonds of Brotherhood



Class of '59 Reunion

The bonds of brotherhood brought 33 people together for the Class of 1959 Reunion at La Salle Retreat Center. The 25 alumni of La Salle Institute, along with some brave wives, gathered on the weekend of June 25th, 2010, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their graduation. They came from as far as Muscat, Oman, a country in the Middle East; from the states of Washington, Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, and as close as Illinois and Missouri.

The gathering began on Friday afternoon with lively greetings and time to get reacquainted. Jerry LaBonte, one of the organizers, included times reminiscent of their school days into their reunion schedule: Recreation of Rule, the Redition (a review of your life—which, in their school days, involved a one-on-one conversation with their Director), and choir practice.

The weekend also included free time, a Mass followed by a social, and a Remembrance Celebration on Sunday. According to the Mass program, the gathering was a time “to remember and celebrate the beauty and grace of our common lives, of our uncommon present, and the bonds that still unite us.” Those in attendance would say they did just that.

There were 43 young men who took the Christian Brothers' habit in August of 1959. Nine have passed away

since then...five of those died as Brothers...and there are still three who are serving as Brothers today (including Brother Bernard who resides at La Salle and teaches at CBC High School).

Reflecting on the reunion, Jerry LaBonte said, “From the beginning of the Novitiate class of '59 & '60...while there are only three that remain Brothers out of our entire class...to a man, whether we are Brothers or not, we value our religious education and the years in formation that we spent here. We value not only the education that we received in formation, but the spirit of brotherhood. The bonds of brotherhood that were created in those years...even though we have gone our separate ways, the bonds are still there.”

All agreed that the years spent at La Salle Institute and other Lasallian schools were influential in shaping their lives. Many continue to work in ministries in the church today as deacons and lay ministers, and in service to others in so many other ways. But most importantly, they continue to be brothers...linked by the common bond of Lasallian education and having lived in community in their younger days. La Salle Retreat Center was happy to host their reunion, providing a chance for them to relive their time at La Salle and come together with a common bond.



You May Be A Winner!

But you have to turn in your raffle tickets! Please consider supporting La Salle Retreat Center by participating in the Christian Brothers Benefit Raffle. You could win up to \$5,000! La Salle receives 95% of all the raffle tickets we sell. The raffle will take place on November 5. So fill out the stubs...and send in \$5 for each ticket or a book for \$25. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. If you need more tickets, we can send them to you or we can fill out the tickets for you. We thank you for your continued support...you are making a difference! Good luck to all!

**Don't Miss Out! Send your raffle tickets in today!
Please return them by October 29. Thank you!**

From the President...

As you can tell by reading the newsletter there has been a good amount of activity at La Salle Retreat Center over the summer. In addition to the heat, which provided its own set of challenges, and the construction projects, which never quite go as planned, we are happy with all that was accomplished.

The Brothers' Jubilee celebrations provided us with moments of joy and time to reflect on their many years of service with expressions of gratitude. We are also thankful for our many benefactors whose continued generosity over the years has enabled us to improve our ministry here at La Salle. Our sincere thanks also goes out to all those who played or worked behind the scenes especially the golf committee to make this year's golf tournament a winner. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout, and it looked like everyone had an enjoyable time, despite the heat. Mark your calendar for next August 12, 2011 and pray for perfect weather. I hear the third time is a charm.

Just a reminder: Along with your newsletter are the raffle tickets for the Christian Brothers Benefit Raffle. There are great prizes and La Salle benefits directly from each ticket we sell. This is our oldest fundraiser and has been a stable source of income for us over the years. We hope you will participate.

As busy as the center has been, there is so much to look forward to: A full fall schedule of retreats and celebrating our 125th Anniversary of La Salle Institute/Retreat Center in 2011. Please look for details of the anniversary celebrations we have planned in the next Glencoe Gleanings.

Continued Blessings, Mike Sawicki