



# Application of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*







# MANHATTAN COLLEGE

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## Decennial Report of the Application to the United States of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

### Introduction

#### A Long Tradition

On May 3, 2001, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published “*Ex Corde Ecclesiae: The Application to the United States*” – the *General and Particular Norms for Ex Corde Ecclesiae* in the United States. The document affirmed the ongoing work of many Manhattan administrators, faculty, and staff, both lay and religious, over the previous three decades. They had committed themselves to preserving and enhancing the Catholic identity and culture of the institution (founded in 1853) as exemplified by and implemented through the religious heritage and presence of the founding congregation, the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (ECE) now serves as the Magna Carta of American Catholic higher education, setting a high bar of excellence across the Manhattan College campus and in its classrooms by calling for the ministry of higher education to be a “Christian inspiration.” Manhattan is to be this “inspiration” to the students, the local community, American society, and the nations of the world. This is so, because the charism of St. John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, gives particular attention to Catholic social teaching. Lasallian ministries must never neglect the children of the poor and the marginalized throughout the world, beginning with our own students, those of the United States, and especially those in the developing world.

ECE also affirms the importance of reflecting on knowledge in the light of faith, building on a hallowed and influential tradition of Catholic intellectual life, including a rich legacy of social justice teaching. This affirmation lends support to the ongoing work of faculty, who are charged with the continual assessment and improvement, in light of mission, of the curriculum, both in required religious studies programs and in a host of interdisciplinary courses that ground students in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, in the Catholic Studies cluster and minor, peace studies, urban affairs, the Interfaith Educational Center, and service learning as directed by Campus Ministry and Social Action.

Likewise, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* reiterated the importance of fidelity to the Christian message in teaching, research, and campus life, thereby ensuring its organic relationship to the Catholic Church. In this instance, academic freedom, as enshrined in American Association of University Professors’ documents, calls on each professor to be faithful to the actual content of what is taught and not to deliver ideological or personal interpretations of texts. Thus, in religious studies, for example, the faculty must be true to their calling and not distort the religious history and doctrine of each tradition. Furthermore, as a Catholic university, each school of the college must show evidence of how it embodies the mission and vision of Manhattan College. This directive is found in Middle States accreditation standards and those of the accrediting agencies certifying the three professional schools of business, education, and engineering.



Lastly, the document gave further impetus to the “institutional commitment to the service of the people of God and of the human family.” This had long been the case, manifesting itself in many ways, from the College’s admissions criteria (which result year in and year out in a large percentage of first-generation and financially disadvantaged students enrolling at the College), to the extensive work of the Department of Campus Ministry and Social Action, to curricular work in disciplines such as Peace Studies, which provide anchors for Catholic Action at the college.

While “The Application to the United States” provided greater clarity in understanding the relationship between the Catholic Church and Manhattan College, the process of reaffirming and deepening the foundational elements of the college in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and during the first eleven years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century had been a work in progress in other areas of the College, and was grounded firmly in the return, by the Brothers of the Christian Schools to the original inspiration of their charism and to the study of the life and work of their Founder. In this, the College benefited greatly from the work of Lasallian scholars—for example, Luke Salm, FSC—who brought to bear the tools of modern scholarship on the origins and charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the early Brothers. These researchers did so in response to the call of the Second Vatican Council that religious congregations should enliven their work by returning to their roots.

New insights into the life of the Founder and the Brothers, initiated in the 1960s, resulted in accurate and vibrant biographies, histories, theological investigations, and a deeper Lasallian spirituality. This scholarly research led the congregation to rewrite its Rule and Constitutions and to deepen the spiritual life and zeal for Catholic education and evangelization on the part of the Brothers.

For practical reasons, but more importantly for theological ones stemming from the Council’s universal call to holiness, the Brothers initiated programs of formation for Brothers together with lay partners throughout the world. Manhattan College has been a beneficiary of these programs. As a result, the proclamation of *Ex Corde* by Pope John Paul II in 1990 was well received by the Manhattan College community because of the revisioning accomplished by the Brothers and lay partners working “together and by association.”

### *Ex Corde: Bringing a Fresh Perspective to Catholic Culture and the Religious Heritage of the De La Salle Christian Brothers at Manhattan*

There is no question that the years since the publication of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* in 1990 have been years of tremendous activity in the area of Mission and Identity of the College, and that that activity has taken place against the background of greater sensitivity to the mission of the Catholic Church. This robust Catholic culture is due in no small part to *Ex Corde*, from its publication in 1990 through and beyond its application to the United States by the American Bishops in 2001.

#### Featured Program: Peace Studies

Manhattan College was among the first Colleges in the country to establish a program in Peace Studies. Inspired by the Pope John XXIII’s encyclical *Pacem in Terris* [April 1963], the College founded the *Pacem in Terris* Institute in 1966. That year also saw the first course offering in Peace Studies, the first of what would become a formal undergraduate major in 1971. As an academic major, Peace Studies has had a long history of preparing students to be peacemakers in the world. It also has a significant tradition of activism in support of Catholic social teaching. Manhattan’s Peace Studies program was one of the first academic/hands-on fields of study in American Catholic colleges and universities, offering a bachelor’s degree and entrée into the world of nongovernmental organizations in the nonprofit sector, community organizing, fair trade programs, refugee awareness campaigns, and lobbying for the domestic and global poor, as well as the rights of children around the world. The College’s new Strategic Plan, *Renewing the Promise*, aims to strengthen and expand such interdisciplinary and hands-on work throughout the curriculum as part of the strengthening of Manhattan College’s heritage as a Lasallian Catholic college.



Given the culture of concern for Catholic social teaching inspired by De La Salle himself and embodied in the work of the *Pacem in Terris* Institute, Peace Studies, it is not surprising that a major outgrowth of this new attention to identity was an expansion of the presence and work of the Department of Campus Ministry and Social Action (CMSA). Over the past twenty years, CMSA has committed itself to a college-wide campaign involving students, faculty, administrators, and staff in service-learning programs locally in the Bronx, the New York metropolitan area, the United States, and now in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, and Africa (including the L.O.V.E. program). Work in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services has also increased the college's outreach and has raised the consciousness level of many students concerning economic, social, and religious conflict among peoples in developing countries. In emphasizing this dimension of Campus Ministry and Social Action, it is important to note that without a strong spiritual foundation, social action would be altruism or philanthropy. Daily and Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, daily prayer by the community, student retreats, and meditation groups provide the personal and communal grounding for Catholic social teaching.

Manhattan's commitment to fostering its Catholic identity, however, has by no means been limited to increased work in service and social action.

In response to *Ex Corde Ecclesiae's* call for a pervasive Catholic spirit, and in recognition that the work of the faculty is at the heart of the College's mission, then provost Weldon Jackson convened a seminar on Catholic identity at the college during the fall semester of 1997. Eighteen persons representing faculty, administrators, and staff responded to his invitation and joined the seminar which met twice a month from September 1997 through January 1998. The seminar participants issued a report that then provided a text for the board of trustees retreat in March of 1998. As a result of the retreat, the trustees issued a clear reaffirmation of its ongoing fidelity to the Catholicity of the college and the religious heritage of Lasallian education. The board committed itself to preserve and enhance the Catholic identity of Manhattan College and recognized this commitment as a fiduciary responsibility.

The enthusiasm of the board and the foresight of the then president, Thomas Scanlan, FSC, and the trustees of the college led to the signing of a formal **Sponsorship Covenant** between the Manhattan College Board of Trustees and the New York district of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, in December 2002. (See enclosure.) The Covenant commits the College and the Brothers to a course of mutual support for the continuance of Manhattan College as a Catholic institution founded in the heritage of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the Christian Brothers.

Noting the "intertwined history" and the "mutually beneficial collaboration that has characterized our relationship for this century and a half," the Covenant expresses the "strong desire of both parties to continue and to enhance this relationship . . . as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

**Featured Program: Lasallian Outreach Volunteer Experience (L.O.V.E.)**

*"Faith in action is love and love in action is service."*  
— Mother Theresa

The Lasallian Outreach Volunteer Experience (L.O.V.E.) is a program that provides service and social-justice travel experiences for Manhattan College students, and the wider Manhattan College community, during academic breaks. Each L.O.V.E. trip is unique. Some offer immersion experiences: the chance to live in solidarity with the poor, experience an unfamiliar culture and learn about issues of social justice. Others involve more hands-on service work, such as helping rebuild in New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina. Each trip takes place during school breaks and is based on the four pillars of L.O.V.E., which are community, service and social justice, spirituality and cultural immersion.

The program sponsors 8 – 10 trips per year, involving about 100 students and a dozen faculty; recent destinations have included Africa (Kenya and Rwanda), Central America (Guatemala), South America (Ecuador), as well as locations in the United States (New Orleans, post Katrina; West Virginia, New Mexico, and Texas).



The document acknowledges that the role of the Brothers at Manhattan College in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be very different from their role in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is the case not only because there are fewer Brothers available to serve in the College, but also because of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, which called for a new spirit of ecumenism as well as a new role for the laity in all of the ministries of the Church. The *Sponsorship Covenant* thus sees that different role of the Brothers not as a diminishment of the spirit of De La Salle, but as a new and powerful expression of that spirit, as Brothers and a diverse community of laypersons work, “together and by association” to fulfill the mission of the College and to further the work of the Institute.

In 2002, the president and the board created the **Office of Mission** with a **Vice President** of cabinet rank, and, looking forward to a time when it would be likely that the president of the College would not be a Brother, stipulated that, at times in the College’s history when the president is not an FSC, that the institution would do everything in its means to employ a qualified Brother as Vice President for Mission. In 2009 the Center for Lasallian Studies was established as a means for promoting and preserving the Lasallian heritage in concert with the offices of Campus Ministry and of Mission.

The Office of Mission also assists in the promotion of a host of **formation programs**. Manhattan College was engaged in such programs as early as 1985, when it founded the Buttimer Institute. Since 1990, the number and quality of these programs has continued to grow, and the College today participates in a variety of programs that seek to give lay faculty, administrators, and staff direction in how they can incorporate Catholic principles and Catholic teaching into their lives as educational professionals.

Of special note is the fact that one of the most extensive and most successful of these new programs, the **International Lasallian University Leadership Program** (see below) was founded by Manhattan’s first Vice President for Mission, Dr. John Wilcox, in 2007.

#### Featured Program: The Formation Programs

##### The Buttimer Institute

Named for class of 1933 Manhattan College graduate Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, the Buttimer Institute is an intensive Lasallian formation and education program based on the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian educational Mission. Through an examination of the writings of De La Salle and an analysis of some modern educators, the participants develop a deeper understanding of the Lasallian heritage and its influence on contemporary education.

The program is designed to inspire participants to delve more thoroughly into the Lasallian founding story and discover the basis of their Vocation as educators. It also seeks to deepen the participants' Association for Lasallian Mission and provide them with skills to become catalysts in their own ministries.

##### Lasallian Leadership Institute (LLI)

This program integrates and promotes the Lasallian heritage in the personal and professional lives of ministry leaders as future catalysts of the Lasallian Mission. The three-year program consists of a one-week session during the summer and a weekend session in the fall and in the spring. Each year focuses on a particular theme: Year 1 – Creative Fidelity to the Founding Story; Year 2 - Spiritual Leadership in Lasallian Ministries; Year 3 - Lasallian Leadership in the Educational Community.

##### Lasallian Social Justice Institute

The Lasallian Social Justice Institute grounds partners experientially, practically, and spiritually in the Catholic Church's teachings on social justice and in the Lasallian mission of serving the poor. The week-long immersion program consists of three integrated components: a relational encounter with persons living in poverty; a place to study and examine the Lasallian tradition and Church teachings on poverty, justice, and peace; and a community of Lasallians with whom to prayerfully integrate experiences and discern the path of our Lasallian vocation. The program complements the Buttimer Institute and the Lasallian Leadership Institute.



#### Featured Program: The Formation Programs (cont'd.)

##### The International Lasallian University Leadership Program

The International Lasallian University Leadership Program, which occurs every summer at Casa La Salle in Rome, is an intensive two-week immersion program for faculty leaders from around the globe concentrating on Lasallian history and Catholic spirituality. International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) institutions are invited to send teams of three faculty members who, after completing the program, will serve as on-campus catalysts to foster Lasallian charism and Catholic identity within our institutions. Participants form a dynamic community of learners who will receive instruction in the Lasallian heritage, visit significant historic sites, examine core Institute documents, and commit to a project which advances their school's Lasallian mission.

The program has been developed in response to the needs of higher education faculty and to the call from the International Institute for tertiary education to become involved in researching the effects of new forms of poverty - poverty resulting from global emigration, immigration, war, disease, and family disintegration - on the students we teach and the implications for Lasallian educators. With simultaneous bilingual translations in English and Spanish, multi-national participants will hail from many different Lasallian institutions around the globe. The rich international nature of its formation program will strengthen the quality of exchange among participants.

##### VEGA Workshop (Young Lasallians)

The District of Eastern North America (DENA) hosted its first VEGA Workshop July 24-28, 2011 with some 39 young Lasallians in attendance. The workshop's goal was to foster association for mission and give younger Lasallian educators an idea of what it will take to keep Lasallian education strong in the future. VEGA, one of the brightest stars in the night sky, is an Italian acronym for the words Vedere, Giudicare, Agire: see, judge, act. The workshop is a continuing response to the call of the Institute to provide a particular space for educative and formative experiences for Lasallians between 22-35 years of age. The gathering included engaging presentations on Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the Institute's origins, Lasallian Association, spirituality and mission, service learning; prayer and reflection; and social opportunities.

##### Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life

Collegium comprises 65 member Catholic colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Each June it sponsors a summer colloquy-part workshop, part retreat- for a group of faculty from its member institutions. The colloquies provide a collegial environment where participants from diverse backgrounds, faiths, and disciplines can discuss the sources and implications of their own academic vocation.

The colloquies invite scholars to explore compelling aspects of the Catholic intellectual tradition and to develop their own sense of vocation as intellectuals in a contemporary context. Participants usually include new faculty from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds curious about what role they have in the mission of their Catholic institution; tenured faculty looking for collaborative, integrative models for their institutions; graduate students hoping to discern where they might best develop their own spiritual and intellectual vocation.

## The Continuing Story

The good work that has characterized Manhattan College's faithful pursuit of its mission as a Catholic institution from its beginning, reinvigorated and redirected in the exciting years since the promulgation of *ECE*, continues in many ways on the campus. As the College is pervaded by its Catholic, Lasallian spirit, no listing of activities can do justice to the lived reality of a Manhattan education, nor exhaust the rich varieties of activities that exist to promote our Catholic identity. What follows, then, is an exemplary gathering of activities, programs, events, and characteristics of the institution.

- With the retirement of Br. Thomas Scanlan in 2009, leadership passed smoothly into the hands of Manhattan College's first lay president, Brennan O'Donnell, Ph.D. It is testimony to the hard work and many initiatives ensuring continuity that this transition went smoothly. At his inauguration in October 2009, the new president took for his theme a favorite phrase from the prayer life of St. John Baptist de La Salle, "*Domine, Opus Tuum*; Lord, the Work Is Yours," and marked the transition with a week-long celebration of the College's Lasallian heritage, including an exhibition dedicated to the work of Luke Salm, FSC, and the blessing and dedication of a Founders Bridge, which displays on banners portraits of many of the FSC "heroes" of the College's founding and history. (The president's inaugural address is included as an enclosure.)



- The College's new Strategic Plan, "Renewing the Promise: Manhattan College 2025" has as one of its three chief goals the grounding of an integrated view of learning and living firmly in the College's identity as Catholic and Lasallian. (The Strategic Plan is included as an enclosure.) Examples of initiatives grounded in our mission are as follows:
  - As part of our new Learning and Living initiatives, the Office of Student Life recently instituted a new College-wide Code of Conduct, which emphasizes a view of civility grounded in the writings of De La Salle and which begins with a quotation from De La Salle on civility, as "the wise and well regulated conduct that governs what we say and do [and which] arises from sentiments of modesty, respect, union, and charity toward our neighbor."
  - A renewed emphasis on the centrality of the dialogue of faith and reason has led to expansion of the department of Philosophy and to a new commitment to ethics education and to philosophy across the curriculum.
  - A new, interdisciplinary concentration in Catholic Studies is being launched.
  - Expanding on the College's longstanding tradition, inspired by *Nostra Aetate*, of interfaith dialogue, the College has significantly increased support for the Manhattan College Holocaust Resource Center, expanding and renaming it the "Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education," and hiring a new full-time director.
- The director of the Center for Lasallian Studies, John Wilcox, Ph.D., will implement a greatly expanded, in-house formation program for new faculty hires beginning in the coming academic year, 2012-2013. The program, *Retaining for Mission*, will use the soon-to-be-published text, *Revisioning Mission: The Future of Catholic Higher Education*, written by the director. The formation program allows for broad adaptability across the divisions of the College.
- Faculty in a wide variety of departments have begun a grass-roots seminar/reading group, the **Faculty Colloquium on Catholicism**. The group meets once per semester, sometimes with an external speaker to spark dialogue, and promotes "regular structured conversations about Catholic Identity on campus, intellectually, inclusively and with integrity." Last spring semester, the group invited the College's president, who spoke with faculty about the role of Catholic identity in the hiring process.
- In early 2010, the College established an annual lecture series in honor of Blessed John Henry, Cardinal Newman. The **Newman Lecture** each features a leading thinker who addressed the college community on the topic of the centrality of the liberal arts for undergraduate education and their continuing importance in the Catholic intellectual tradition.
- Lasallian programs have been expanded under the direction of the Office of Mission and in collaboration with the **Lasallian Education Committee**:
  - **Lasallian Convocation** is a highlight of the year. Students, faculty, and staff attend a late afternoon audio-visual presentation on a topic such as our Lasallian University in Bethlehem, Palestine, or Lasallian ministries for adjudicated youth. The presenters are faculty members or administrators from the ministry being presented. Questions and discussion follow. A buffet dinner concludes the evening.



- Three times per semester, a **Lasallian Conversation** is held for faculty and staff. The presenter is either a special guest such as Br. Gerard Rummery, an expert on our Founder Saint John Baptist De La Salle, or a Manhattan College faculty or staff member who has participated in a Lasallian Formation Program. In his presentation last February, Br. Gerard spoke of the life and work of De La Salle, the Lasallian Heritage, and a Circular prepared by our General Council in Rome. A discussion follows; a buffet supper concludes the evening.
- **Lasallian Luncheons** occur twice per semester. Similar to the Lasallian Conversation, the Luncheon begins with a presentation by one or more faculty or staff members or possibly by two or three students. Generally the students present on a topic dealing with a service learning experience either locally or abroad. A buffet lunch is served during which those present are invited to ask questions and discuss. Recent Luncheon presentations included one by a staff member on the Buttimer Institute he attended which dealt with the life and writings of De La Salle. Four Lasallian staff members presented on their experience at the Lasallian Leadership Program. Two students presented on a conference they attended pertaining to hunger and homelessness.
- **Saint La Salle Day:** Each year around the time the Church celebrates the feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle (April 7), our Lasallian Education Committee plans a week-long schedule of activities in commemoration. The purpose is to develop and enhance among all members of the College community an understanding and appreciation of the educational vision of De La Salle, the worldwide educational apostolate of the Institute, and the history of the Lasallian tradition at Manhattan College. At 4:00 PM on the second day, our chaplain celebrates Mass and then all walk from the chapel outside to the statue of Saint La Salle which is then blessed. The day and the commemoration end with a barbecue for the entire College community on the quad.
- Campus Ministry and Social Action regularly promotes “Continuing reflection upon the growing treasury of human knowledge,” sponsoring for example faculty development infusion workshops, informed with resources from the Global Solidarity Network sponsored by Catholic Relief Services.
- Campus Ministry and Social Action supports “service to the people of God” through attention to five main areas of work:

### Spiritual Life

- Celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday evenings as well as at noon on four other days each week. Guided Meditation available once a week, Confessions available regularly. Students are encouraged to make one of several Retreats offered at various times during the year. Students are also encouraged to participate in Christmas drives and service trips to Africa, Asia, or Latin America. They are also encouraged to participate in World Youth Day.

As a Lasallian College founded by De La Salle Christian Brothers nearly 160 years ago, our spirituality differs somewhat from that of Franciscan, Carmelite, or Jesuit spirituality. It brings a particular emphasis because it is inseparably linked to the life-story of St. John



Baptist de La Salle and the worldwide educational movement of which he was the largely unwitting founder. It is from De La Salle's deeds and writings that we can garner the distinctive characteristics of Lasallian spirituality. When he formulated his original Rule some 330 years ago, De La Salle saw that faithful membership of this Community depended first of all on what he called a "spirit of faith." By this he meant that the Brothers and teachers would not look upon anything but with the eyes of faith, not do anything but in view of God, and to attribute all to God. This conviction led De La Salle to remind the Brothers and teachers that they should see Christ in ALL their students, not simply in the wealthier or the more intelligent. Again and again he reminded the Brothers and teachers to pray for those students with whom they were having the most difficulty.

The spirit of faith or "seeing as God sees" presupposes that this is not a remote God but someone with whom we form a relationship. The Lasallian Brothers and teachers try to be aware of God's loving presence in the course of the day. They often begin class by praying aloud "Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God" followed by a short period of private prayer.

The Lasallian focus on awareness of God's presence should overflow and show itself through a spirit of zeal. This spirit consists in an ardent enthusiasm for the instruction of students and attempts to "touch the hearts" of those with whom we live and work, in other words influence them for good. For De La Salle, the essential relationship between faith and zeal is brought out clearly in his Meditation #87 where he says: "This is how faith should make you act and how you should make known by your conduct that you are true disciples of Jesus Christ, having only God in view in all your actions and announcing with as much boldness and courage as he did the maxims of the holy Gospel. In all this what should strengthen your zeal as well as your faith is the fact that you announce these truths in your position as ministers of God."

- Last year, Campus Ministry
  - a. had 11 participants in RCIA;
  - b. held a very successful Seder with 65 participants;
  - c. supported the Muslim Student Association with Jummah (Friday) prayers all semester;
  - d. provided information to students who may want to attend Shabbat at the Riverdale Temple.

### Community Service

- Manhattan College was named to the 2011 Honor Roll of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which recognized the College as a leader in support of volunteer work, service learning, and civic engagement;
- Last year, 31 Lasallian Leaders performed 1806 hours of service;
- CMSA organized 4 blood drives – 468 pints collected;



- 24 volunteers gave 241 hours service with a free tax prep program for Bronx neighbors;
- Students, staff, and faculty routinely held food runs; God's Love We Deliver; worked at the Methodist Home; local shelters and soup kitchens.

### Social Justice

- Lasallian Outreach Volunteer Experience (L.O.V.E.) is a major initiative (see Featured Program, Page 3). Last year there were eight L.O.V.E. trips with 88 students and 12 trip advisors. The cost was approximately \$95,000.00 with \$22,000 in support from Student Activity fees. This year there will be nine trips. The organizing principles of L.O.V.E. include Service, Social Justice, Spirituality, Community and Cultural Immersion.
- Manhattan is considered a collaborating school by Catholic Relief Services, the official International Relief and Development Agency of the US Catholic Church. Our becoming a Fair Trade University is a manifestation of our commitment to social justice and Catholic Social Thought; CRS has worked with faculty and the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching to bring resources to campus.

### Promoting Our Catholic Lasallian Identity

- In cooperation with the Office of Mission, CMSA provides **Lasallian Presentations** to all new students and parents at Orientations in June and August. We provide information and resources to students and colleagues, Lasallian Leaders, and all L.O.V.E. trip participants; we facilitate post L.O.V.E. Trip Reflections
- CMSA designs, prints, and distributes "Core Principles" cards, brochures and *Signum Fidei* pins to the community.
- Working with the Lasallian Education Committee, CMSA is promoting and supporting ongoing formation for colleagues. CMSA students presented at a Lasallian luncheon about a recent conference on Hunger and Homelessness.
- The CMSA Director has served as a delegate at the DENA Mission Assembly; presented at the Brothers retreat in August and served on the planning committee of the 2011 Huether Lasallian Conference.



## Academic Partnerships

- The Strategic Plan calls for Student Life, Academic Affairs and Mission to take the lead on the integration of learning and living across the campus community. CMSA staff have provided resources, presented at meetings, assisted with CRS resources, and supported the new, Integrated Learning and Living Community (The Arches) with community contacts for service-learning projects.
- The College has just published a book, *Manhattan College and Its Lasallian Catholic Mission*. Written by the Dean of the College of Arts in response to his experience at the International Lasallian University Leadership Program, the 120 page book will be provided free of charge to all members of the community as of Fall 2012. It will be presented to each incoming student as part of that student's experience of the Academic Convocation that begins each school year, and faculty will be encouraged to use the book in engaging students in discovering and understanding the living heritage of the College as Lasallian and Catholic. The Preface to the book describes its aims:

When you come to Manhattan College, whether to enroll as a student, work as a member of the faculty or staff, visit as a parent or friend, or return as a graduate, you enter a community that makes a promise about the future that is buttressed by the accomplishments of the past. The college community is not only shepherded by its mission, commitments, and curriculum, but also formed by its heritage, traditions, and values.

This book introduces Manhattan College's Lasallian Catholic mission and heritage by focusing on St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Christian Brothers. It explains how their mission continues to inspire the college's person-centered educational philosophy, its insistence on academic excellence and exemplary teaching, and its emphasis on social justice and community service. The book also shows how the Catholic intellectual tradition has shaped Manhattan's identity even as the college welcomes students, faculty, and staff of all faiths and backgrounds.

On a more local level, this guidebook helps contextualize places and events at Manhattan. It explicates the mural in the Chapel of St. John Baptist de La Salle and His Brothers, for example, and identifies banners, sculptures, and stained glass enhancing the campus. The Lasallian Catholic heritage is all around you, represented by individuals depicted in paintings, honored by lectures, and memorialized by buildings.

As a *vade mecum* ("go with me"), the book should accompany your explorations of the campus and its events. Its narration of history and discussion of the Brothers who have contributed to the College is complemented by pictures and quotations that will enrich your stay at Manhattan. It encourages you now to build on the foundation of the past as you prepare for the future.



Enclosures:

Sponsorship Covenant between the Board of Trustees of Manhattan College and the New York Province of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. December 17, 2002.

Brennan O'Donnell, "The Work Is Yours," Inaugural Address, October 28, 2009.

"Renewing the Promise: Manhattan College 2025." A Strategic Plan. Approved by the Manhattan College Board of Trustees, June 2011.





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