

Christian Brothers Services began as an answer to the problem of expensive, and in some cases unattainable, insurance coverage for Catholic organizations. In October of 1960, Brother Joel Damian, FSC, sitting in the Brother's room at Saint Patrick High School in Chicago, developed a plan for the De La Salle Christian Brothers high schools in the Chicago area. Under Brother Damian's leadership, the Brothers realized that pooling the financial resources and risk exposures of the schools would allow both the congregation and the individual institutions greater financial strength



Brother Joel Damian, FSC

and leverage to purchase better coverage, with higher limits, at significantly reduced costs; benefits commercial insurance carriers could not offer non-profit organizations. Originally called NOSC for National Office Service Company, the office was located on the campus of Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois.

Over time, the company has grown to administer and serve 11 Trusts, including health benefits for employers, health benefits for religious organizations, retirement plans and several technology and consulting services. Eventually, NOSC opened its doors to other Catholic Orders and organizations.

In 1985, NOSC became Christian Brothers Services. Having grown to almost 125 staff members, CBS moved from its headquarters on the Lewis University campus in 1993, to its current location in Romeoville.

Over the years, many changes have occurred, CBS launched its website, established online services for administrators to do everything from adding or deleting vehicles, changing employee information to accessing claims data and managing defined benefit plans. In 2009, the organization updated its logo and created a fresh new look.

The one thing that has not changed in 50 years is Christian Brothers Services commitment to its members. It is the goal of every employee at CBS to exemplify

our Lasallian mission by understanding the needs of our members, protecting the human and financial resources of our member's institutions, and guiding member organizations in finding practical solutions to business needs. This has always been what we do best. It's fundamental to our charism.



What will the next 50 years hold? No one knows, but at Christian Brothers Services we can guarantee our focus will remain on serving our members - it has, is, and always will be our number one priority. ☀

Christian Brothers Services is celebrating 50 years of service to Catholic organizations

# Happy Anniversaries

Saint Patrick High School in Chicago is celebrating 150 years of Catholic education

Christian Brothers Services was created from one man's vision. That man was Brother Joel Damian, FSC. In the 1960's, Damian occupied an office in what is now the development area of Saint Patrick High School in Chicago. It was here that Damian first conceived the concept of pooling insurance needs and requirements, making the Christian Brothers one of the first religious Orders to do so. "In many ways his concept has done much to advance society and is huge in the sense of social justice," commented Brother Konrad Diebold, FSC, president of Saint Patrick High School in Chicago. Diebold goes on to describe Damian as "an entrepreneurial kind of thinking guy, a marvelous man. He was a visionary who recognized that as time went on schools would consist mostly of lay teachers and administrators and they needed to be taken care of if the mission was to continue. He believed

that task could be accomplished by paying the employees a livable salary and to offer benefits in the form of health care and retirement." Saint Patrick High School has the distinction of being the first member of Christian Brothers Services precisely because it was here that the company had its genesis.

As Christian Brothers Services celebrates 50 years of service, Saint Patrick High School celebrates 150 years of educational excellence. In 1861, the St. Louis-based Christian Brothers answered the call and arrived in Chicago establishing an all boys high school at Des Plaines and Adams Streets. Ten years later when the Great Chicago Fire burned most of the buildings in the city, the school was spared. However, the school was closed to students for 2-3 months while it was used as a shelter and food dispensary for victims of the fire.

Initially, the school began as a two-year academy, transitioned to a three-year commercial academy and eventually became a four-year institution in the early 1900's. As the surrounding area grew and became more industrial, the decision was made in September of 1953 to move the school to its current location on Belmont Avenue, to better serve the north-side community.



Left: The employees of Christian Brothers Services. Center: Original Saint Patrick Academy building (right) at Adams and DesPlaines in Chicago. Old St. Pat's Church is pictured on the left. Right: Members of the De La Salle Christian Brothers were honored by the presence of Francis Cardinal George, OMI (Center) at Saint Patrick High School's 150th Anniversary Mass of the Archangels on September 29. From left: Br. Michael Flaherty (Saint Patrick), Br. Charles Kelly (De La Salle), Br. David Galinski (Saint Patrick), Cardinal George, Br. Konrad Diebold (President, Saint Patrick), Br. Kevin Fitzgerald (De La Salle) and Br. Martin Spellman (Saint Patrick).

Diebold has been a Christian Brother for 53 years. He began teaching at Saint Patrick High School in 1961, leaving after five years and then returning in 1983 as principal. He foresees a positive future for Saint Patrick's, "There is education and there is formation. I think our schools do both. We provide students with the academics; but, we also form them into solid, good, young men of integrity, principal, and hopefully values that will help them live their lives as good adult men who can also give back to the community." As the only male high school left on Chicago's North Side, Saint Patrick High School is no ordinary school, what sets it apart from other private and public schools is answered quite simply and without hesitation by Diebold, "We are Lasallian. That sets us apart in itself."

When you step on campus, you feel the energy and enthusiasm; reminders of this important anniversary

are everywhere. The yearlong celebration officially began in September with a Mass at the school, attended by approximately 1,200 people. The prestigious guest list included Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago, as well as Brothers and representatives from other Lasallian schools, 24 priests, parents, students and local representatives of the community. One cannot celebrate this sesquicentennial milestone with a single event; therefore, other exciting events planned to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary include a golf outing, a concert series and an alumni reunion weekend, and of course, the corned beef and cabbage dinner in March. This yearlong celebration concludes June 18 with an anniversary mass at old St. Pat's Church followed by a street reception sesquicentennial gala. It should be a great year for Saint Patrick High School, after all it has been 150 years in the making. ☀

