

7
W E L C O M E



THE UNIFICATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God. Come, Holy Spirit. It is to learn to know, to love, and to serve the Savior Jesus, that we come to school."

W E L C O M E

As a welcome to all those who come to the Unification Theological Seminary, which was founded by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, this booklet provides an introduction to the Seminary's history. We want to applaud and recognize the religious tradition of the "Brothers of the Christian Schools" (Fraters Scholarum Christianarum), which came before our own. We members of the Unification Seminary are proud of such a heritage. The Christian Brothers order was founded by St. John Baptist De La Salle. The prayer above was recited by the Christian Brothers' students at the beginning of each day. Prayers were offered every hour of their school day. The prayers included in this booklet were taken from their book, School Prayers and Hymns. St. John Baptist dared to make radical changes in the education system, which still affect us today. We hope to inherit the pioneering spirit of this holy man.

The idea for writing this tribute was inspired by our interest in the stained glass windows of the Seminary Chapel. We received the kind help of Brother Bernard Peter who shared his wit and wisdom with us as well as sent valuable information. Brother Peter Drake, Brother Thomas Scanlon, Brother Andrew Winka, and later Brother Augustine Loes visited Barrytown and also gave us encouragement and information. A warm thanks to Mr. Morrison, who taught at the Christian Brothers school here in Barrytown and who introduced us to Brother Bernard Peter.

We hope you enjoy reading our booklet as much as we enjoyed researching and writing it. God bless you today and always.

Chad Martin
Kasia Kopacz
Unification Seminarrians

"Blessed be the day and the hour of the birth, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. My God, I give Thee my heart; give me the grace to live this hour and the remainder of the day in Thy holy love and without offending Thee."

JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE -- HIS LIFE AND WORK

In 1651 John Baptist De La Salle was born in Rheims, France. He was a brilliant boy. He received both masters and doctorate degrees summa cum laude. Earlier, at age 16, he became canon of the church at Rheims. Four others who held the same position later became Pope.

In his home, De La Salle with Adrien Nyel started the first school for poor boys. Previously all education had been limited to tutoring for the very rich. He innovated teaching groups of students rather than just tutoring one to one. He envisioned trained and competent teachers who felt it their mission to spread the Kingdom of God on earth with faith and zeal.

When De La Salle began the first professional school for teachers, he elevated the whole profession. Until that time, teachers were neither highly educated nor respected. It was generally thought that if one could not get a reasonable job elsewhere, one could always become a teacher. He started a school for boys desiring to become Brothers and called it the Normal School, instilling in the boys deep religious motivation. They understood that they represented God and were called by Him to do His work.

No obstacle could stop De La Salle, and even at age 53, he began a school for the middle class and taught practical skills such as commerce and mathematics. French instead of Latin was used, which caused a stir in the society of the day. Today we take classroom education for granted, but De La Salle and the Christian Brothers suffered incredibly for their innovative work. In 1790 many monastic orders were eliminated when the French church separated from Rome, and during 1792 all teaching was stopped. Some Brothers were even killed, while others were tortured, humiliated, put into prison, and exiled. Voltaire, a writer of the time, said, "...stop the Brothers by getting them to plow on farms instead of cultivating minds of people who don't need an education." Opposition also came from within the profession and frequently De La Salle was taken to court by other teachers who were different from the Brothers because they charged fees for tutoring. Constantly he had to explain his practices to his superiors. "Good people" provided most of the opposition.

Yet, De La Salle's story is a victorious one. By the time of his death, there were 274 Brothers teaching 9,000 students in 26 houses throughout France. His dedication was phenomenal. He wrote over 18,000 letters to his Brothers as well as 12 books. After his death on Good Friday, 1719, at age 68, his schools survived and expanded. In 1843, the Christian Brothers schools came to the United States. De La Salle was canonized in 1900, and became the Patron Saint of Teachers in 1950. Events of his life are portrayed in the stained glass windows in the Seminary Chapel.

HISTORY OF THE UNIFICATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In 1796 Major John R. Livingston, a revolutionary war officer, built the Massena House, which stands across from the Seminary Chapel. Massena was one of Napoleon's marshals. In 1868, nine-year-old Theodore Roosevelt spent two months at the Massena House. But in 1885, a fire destroyed the main house. The present smaller and different style house was built in its place.

In the late 1880's the Christian Brothers acquired land at Pocantico Hills, New York. During 1905, a novitiate was established there. Four years later, sixteen stained glass windows were imported from France and put in the Chapel. In 1928, John D. Rockefeller decided he wanted the Christian Brothers' Pocantico Hills land, so he paid \$850,000 plus a million dollars as a gift for them to build and move to Barrytown, New York. In 1930, the present building was completed.

The Chapel was designed to accommodate the stained glass windows acquired in 1909, eight of which narrate De La Salle's life. Brother Joseph, who was in charge of the American Christian Brothers in 1900, is pictured in one window. Famous French cathedrals such as Notre Dame, St. Sulpice (where De La Salle was taught as a boy), as well as St. Peter's in Rome are also illustrated.

The school was renovated in 1965 with particular attention given to the Chapel, the spiritual life-line for the Christian Brothers, as it is today for Unification Seminarians. Chandeliers were replaced by inlaid lights. Also added was the stone altar which symbolizes the Old and New Testament eras. In the spirit of Romanesque architecture, the golden circle above the altar defines that sacred space, the 'Holiest of Holies,' as well as symbolizes the Ark of the Covenant. Stairs were also raised to the altar and renovations made which involved placing an extra steel girder across the kitchen ceiling to accommodate the weight of the new stone altar. The rock vessel at the chapel entrance was used for Holy Water.

Recently, visiting Brothers commented that the Unification Church has added some warm touches to the building, including brighter lighting and beautiful art work in the halls. The dorms are more pleasant and the eating arrangements more public. Silence and class separation had been the rule when Brothers were attending St. Joseph's Normal School. The high school students took their meals in the main dining room, while the novices ate in what is now the student lounge. The faculty and retired Brothers ate in the dining rooms off the kitchen area. Sleeping areas were also separate, and worship for faculty and students was at different times. The novices stayed in the northwest dorm, which now houses our female seminarians. High school students were in the east wings and the other Brothers stayed in the southwest wing which today houses our Seminary staff.

What is today Lecture Hall II was a common room for the novices' study and classes; the Do Jang (training room for martial arts) was originally a meeting room, barber shop, audiovisual room, and tailor shop. The game room was used for listening to classical music. Today, what was the Brothers' chemistry lab is now the typing room. Lecture Hall I was a common room for high school students' study and classes.

The Institute closed in 1970. During 1974, the Unification Church purchased the school, and a year later founded the Unification Theological Seminary, the first academic institution of the Unification Church in America.

We would like to close with the traditional prayer which ended each day for the Brothers: "Let us pray God for our teachers, for our parents, and our living benefactors in order that God will preserve them in faith of the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church, and in His holy love. Let us pray for our teachers, our parents, our benefactors who are dead, and let us say for the repose of their souls De Profundis."

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