
CONFERRAL OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, *honoris causa*

Brother William Mann, FSC

Brother William Mann, FSC, who will retire in June as the 13th President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, has served the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in truly generative ways—integrated, expansive, and lasting—by connecting and strengthening the global Lasallian family of educators, and creating formation initiatives and educational programs for the continued flourishing of Lasallian education all around the world.

Before serving for ten years as the president of Saint Mary's University, Brother William served in Rome, Italy from 2000 to 2007 as Vicar General, the second highest role within the international Lasallian network, with 4,000 Christian Brothers and 100,000 lay educators serving more than 900,000 students in over 1,000 educational institutions in 79 countries.

Brother William's influential global presence also includes serving as President of the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) and as a member of the International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission. He has also served as Delegate to the International Symposium of Young Lasallians, as a Delegate in Rome, Italy, to four General Chapters of the Brothers, and as a member of the International Commission for the Revision of the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Brother William's lasting impact is also evident through his commitment to formation education for both the Brothers and Lasallian partners. Inspired early on by a transformative experience in a renewal program in Rome focusing on Lasallian education and spirituality, Brother William has devoted his life's work to, as he writes, "the possibility of helping the mystery of God be present in and through the world of education"—by creating, implementing, and overseeing numerous formation initiatives and educational programs.

Brother William directed Christian Brother formation programs for both the Long Island-New England Province and USA/Toronto Region, and served as International Secretary of Formation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He also chaired the Advisory Board of the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, served as both a presenter and program director at the Institute of Lasallian Formation in Asia, and as a member of the International Formation Commission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. And for more than fifteen years, Brother William has taught on Lasallian spirituality, mission, and

leadership at Centro Internazionale Lasalliano (CIL), a Lasallian formation program in Rome, Italy.

A noted scholar and author, Brother William has also published extensively on Lasallian vocation, formation, spirituality, and the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and patron saint of educators—publications which serve to ground and expand formation programs in numerous Lasallian educational contexts around the world.

Raised in Brooklyn, New York, by hardworking, civic-minded parents—his mother worked as a nurse and his father as a firefighter—Brother William began his vocation with the Christian Brothers in 1965, and initially served as a teacher of English and Religion at Christian Brothers high schools in New York and Rhode Island. He received a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, in English Literature from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies/Literature, from State University of New York at Stony Brook, and in Spirituality from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI; and a Doctor of Ministry from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, NY.

Brother William currently serves on numerous boards, including the Boards of Trustees of Manhattan College, Saint Mary's College of California, and the Minnesota Private College Council. He has also been honored with a Doctor of Humanities from De La Salle University in both Manila and Dasmariñas, Philippines, as well as the Brother John Johnston Award from the Lasallian Region of North American.

His dedication to enhancing the global family of Lasallian institutions and deepening the formation and education of the Brothers and their lay partners in the Lasallian mission—his being, "at heart a teacher," as he writes, partnering with others and "helping to awaken, nurture, and empower young people to be all that they can be, to reach out to help heal a sometimes too fragile world, and to be open to the possibility of a relationship with the living God"—Brother William's life's work reflects well the Mission values of Lewis University.

For these and other pertinent reasons, we are most pleased and privileged to confer on Brother William Mann, FSC, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, with all rights and privileges thereof. Done at Romeoville, Illinois, this 20th day of May, 2018.