



Christian Brothers Academy Purple and Gold Award

April 15, 2023

Brother Joseph Jozwiak, FSC was a true icon at CBA, leaving an indelible mark on the school's history and community. As the school's longest-serving Head of School in its 123-year history, Brother Joe was instrumental in driving forward CBA's mission and Lasallian identity, making it a model for our district and beyond.

It was July of 1965 that Brother Joe began his postulancy to become a Brother of the Christian Schools, fresh off his graduation from De La Salle Collegiate in Detroit where he grew up. He then went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Catholic University in DC before completing his graduate studies at California Lutheran University where he served in the Diocese of Orange, CA as a counselor and consultant for the Catholic Schools. Brother Joe took on a variety of roles – from counselor to fundraiser to vocation director to administrator – in a variety of locations – from Detroit to Lincroft to California to New York City.

Brother Joe had an extensive, well-travelled career as a Brother of the Christian Schools when he arrived at the CBA campus in late summer 2009 to become Principal - replacing Brother Thomas Zoppo. At that time, the school was nearing the end of its **To Be The Best** Campaign, one of its most successful fundraising campaigns to date. With his leadership, CBA was put on a path for future success and growth.

During his twelve years as Principal and President, Brother Joe initiated a Mission & Ministry team and increased output from faculty and staff formation programs while leading two successful capital campaigns. His leadership helped to grow and nurture relationships with CBA alumni and friends all over the country, resulting in strong enrollment and retention despite demographic and economic challenges facing private education in Central New York.

Under Brother Joe's leadership, Alumni regional events flourished across the country, from Rochester to New York City and Boston to Washington, DC, Houston and Florida. This year marks the 13th year that CBA has visited Florida, specifically Naples – one of the first stops on our journey.

In 2014, Brother Joe directed the Board of Trustees to review our strategic plan in preparation for a comprehensive campaign. After gaining approval, he implemented a master facilities plan that incorporated feedback from nearly 100 people associated with CBA - from trustees and alumni, to parents and staff, students and faculty.

Under Brother Joe's initiative, the school's needs were put front and center in the form of a feasibility study, which led to the launch of **Our Mission Their Future** – a \$9 million, then \$11 million, then \$13 million-plus effort! As a result of this monumental effort, CBA's endowment saw a growth of over \$5 million and there were major renovations to our campus buildings, setting CBA up for success in the years to come.

In 2015, the CBA community gathered to celebrate Brother Joe's Jubilee year as a Christian Brother. That same year, after thoughtful and strategic planning, Brother Joe implemented the President/Principal model to aid in achieving greater success for his school. This innovative model was designed to create a unified leadership team that promoted efficiency in decision making while also removing any barriers of communication between administration and staff. Brother Joe was named as president and Matthew Keough as principal. Under the President/Principal model, Brother Joe provided strong guidance and direction while also encouraging collaboration among staff members. In addition, he took the time to ensure that everyone understood the vision for the school and how each person could contribute to its success.

The results were remarkable – through Brother Joe's leadership, he had been able to implement a model that truly made a positive impact on both students and faculty alike. The resulting partnership has brought even more prestige and accomplishments to Christian Brothers Academy, a testament to both men, their leadership, their collaboration, and their fondness for one another.

Brother Joe's unwavering commitment to CBA's mission was evident in every aspect of his work. His dedication to creating a supportive environment for students, faculty, staff, and families alike was unparalleled. Under his leadership, CBA received national recognition as a Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence in November 2019.

Brother Joe is well-known for his jovial personality and kind nature, making him a favorite among students, parents, faculty and staff. He is an attentive listener who always has time to offer spiritual guidance when needed. His thoughtful counsel has brought comfort to many as he helps them work through difficult decisions.

As we honor Brother Joe as this year's Purple & Gold recipient, we recognize that his legacy will continue to inspire generations of CBA students to come. He will always be remembered for his selflessness, kindness, and unwavering dedication to the Lasallian mission. Thank you for everything you have done for our community, Brother Joe.

Brother Joseph Jozwiak, FSC