



Viatorian Community

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# Viatorian Youth Congress Reaches Milestone



From the very beginning of our community, Fr. Querbes had a vision of what he was called to do in service for the youth of France. He called men, lay and professed, to join him in making this vision a reality. Here we are, almost 200 years later, united with lay men and women, still working to help meet the needs of young people. I believe that this is one of the hallmarks of the Viatorian Community.

Parents have entrusted to us the most precious part of their lives, their children. We are privileged to be able to assist parents in molding young people to be model citizens who are instilled with a deep faith and a call to serve others.

As we approach youth, we try to aid them in their growth; physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and intellectually. Here in our province, we have always been educators whether it be in the classroom or from the pulpit.

We have served in many different schools over the years. Currently, we administer and staff Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois, Cristo Rey Saint Viator College Prep High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, which will open in August of this year, and Colegio San Viator in Bogotá and Colegio San Viator in Tunja, Colombia. We also either help staff and/or serve on boards at Alleman High School in Rock Island and Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, Illinois as well as Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Our professed and associates have served in many roles in these institutions. We have fulfilled almost every imaginable position from administration, teaching and counseling, to coaching and

maintenance. This does not even count the numerous parish schools we have directed.

Our parishes provide religious education, youth ministry programs, and service opportunities that help young people discover how God is touching their lives.

In this edition of *Viator*, you will be able to discover some of the many ways in which we are reaching out to the youth at our institutions and beyond.

I remind our young people all the time, that this is their church. We adults must do everything that we can to assist them in becoming active and involved members.

May God continue to bless you and may you pass that blessing on to others.



Fr. Daniel R. Hall, CSV  
Provincial  
Clerics of St. Viator, Chicago Province



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# The Countdown is on at Cristo Rey St. Viator in Las Vegas



*A rendering of Cristo Rey St. Viator College Preparatory High School, which opens in August.*

All signs are pointing up for the new Cristo Rey St. Viator College Preparatory High School in Las Vegas, as it begins to countdown the months until it opens in August.

Over the last few months, steel girders have gone up framing the new school, and administrators look forward to interior work beginning soon.



*An open house in late March gave prospective families their first look at the innovative school.*

partners for its inaugural year. More than two dozen companies have committed to hiring students to help them offset their tuition, while immersing these young people in professional environments.

And students are interested. School officials say they have 80 official commitments from accepted students, which is about 65 percent of their goal. The school threw its first “hard hat tour” in late March to give local families a sneak peak at the physical plant and introduce them to its unique opportunities, and they drew a good crowd.

“We’re pacing well toward our goal of 125 inaugural freshmen,” Mr. Schwarz says.

At the same time, school officials are drawing many inquiries for faculty and staff positions, and the hiring process has begun.

“It’s exciting, but a lot of work needs to be done,” says Associate Dan Schwarz, communications director. “We’re moving in the right direction, for sure.”

With the physical plant coming together, so are some of the rest of the pieces. For starters, the school has secured all its needed corporate partners

Even before the school opens its doors, its unique model is drawing attention in Southern Nevada. In December, Cristo Rey St. Viator was profiled as part of the “Raising the Bar” series produced by KNTV Channel 13 in Las Vegas. The station is partnering with parents, educators, business and community leaders to lead the discussion on improving education in Southern Nevada.



*Construction continues on the new Cristo Rey St. Viator College Preparatory High School.*

The TV segment commended the school for making Catholic education accessible to lower income students, and highlighted its hallmark: “What makes Cristo Rey different is the school puts students to work in real-life situations, with work-study partners paying a portion of students’ tuition,” reporter Bryan Callaghan said.

In March, Fr. Thomas von Behren, CSV, President of Cristo Rey St. Viator, was recognized by the Nevada Council of Independent and Religious Schools for “exemplary leadership in Nevada private education.”

Cristo Rey St. Viator is the latest in the 35-member Cristo Rey Network to prepare to open this year. Known for its innovative work-study program and college prep education, the school aims to educate young people of limited economic means to become men and women of faith, purpose and service.

“Through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, integrated with a relevant work-study experience,” Fr. von Behren says, “students graduate ready to succeed in college and in life.”

# Viatorian Youth Congress Reaches 10 Year Milestone

It all started on a bus ride back from the *One Bread, One Cup* youth conference in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

Youth ministers from Viatorian institutions — including Br. John Eustice, CSV, Fr. Jason Nesbit, CSV, Associates Rosy Hartz and Michelle Barrie, and Patty Bailey — started brainstorming about the possibility of organizing their own youth conference, with a distinctly Viatorian spin.

That was in 2008, and after drawing the interest of Fr. Corey Brost, CSV, who led the Office of Vocation Ministry at the time, the group began planning for what has become one of the Viatorians' signature events: the Viatorian Youth Congress.

This summer will be its 10th edition, once again drawing high schoolers and their college-age leaders from places where Viatorians minister; Arlington Heights, Bourbonnais, Chicago, Kankakee, the Las Vegas area and Bogotá, Colombia.

Initially, the congress was designed as a way to bring teens together from various Viatorian sites, but increasingly Viatorians have seen its leadership impact on young people, who take what they learn back to their schools and parishes.

During its sessions, teens work with nearly two dozen Viatorian associates, brothers and priests, a highlight that Associate Karen Cutler, who organized the congress, deliberately worked to further.

"It's a week spent in prayer and discussion about the Viatorian mission," says Fr. Brost. "The VYC helps our young faith leaders realize that they are part of a worldwide family — that is changing the world."

In light of its 10th anniversary, we offer a sampling of VYC graduates and just how they're changing their parish communities — and the world.



*Delegates interview Fr. Daniel Hall during one of the sessions.*



*Fr. Jason Nesbit distributes communion at one of the daily Masses.*



*Delegates pray the Our Father during Mass.*

# Viatorian Youth Congress Graduates Changing the World



**Jonathan Catalan** attended VYC in 2012, after his sophomore year at Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep in Waukegan. He graduated in 2014 and then attended Loras College. He now has returned to his community and works at *Mano y Mano*, a non-profit in Lake County, IL that supports immigrant families.



**Maureen Daday** attended VYC in 2011, and her classmate, **Sara Fecko**, attended in 2013. Both were delegates from Saint Viator High School, and as part of their participation they helped with music during the daily liturgies. Both would go on to major in music in college, and after graduation they spent a year of service in County Wexford, Ireland, as part of Notre Dame's House of Brigid program. Its goal is to revitalize the Catholic Church in Ireland through music. One of the programs they initiated was a Taizé Prayer service at Clonard Parish in Wexford.



**Susy Gonzalez** attended the first VYC in 2010, before graduating from Cristo Rey St. Martin in 2011. She then attended Georgetown University, earning her degree in Justice and Peace Studies in 2015. From there, she served in the Peace Corps for two years, leading community empowerment projects in Guatemala. Susy currently works at

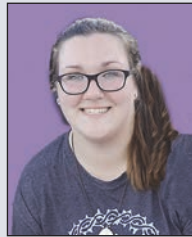
Heartland Alliance in Chicago, which works to fight poverty in communities.



**Ky Guerrero** attended VYC in 2015 and then as a leader in 2017 from St. Thomas More Catholic Community in Henderson, NV. She earned a degree in fine arts from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in film study, and she continues to stay actively involved with her parish. Ky is one of two coordinators of the parish's Young Disciples, which is a teen-based leadership group within its vibrant Life Teen program. She also is a Viatorian pre-associate.



**Brian Hansen**, a 2010 Saint Viator High School graduate, attended the first VYC, and he later returned as a leader in 2015. Brian is pursuing a master's degree in theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He has worked as a coordinator at the Viator House of Hospitality and will begin teaching religion at Saint Viator High School in the fall. He also is a Viatorian pre-associate.

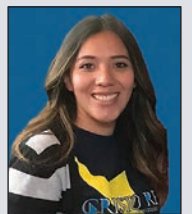


**Madison Harmon** attended VYC as a delegate in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, before returning as a leader in 2014. She is an active parishioner at St. Patrick Parish in Kankakee, where she also went on the Hearts of Hope mission trip each year and returned as an intern during college. After attending VYC for so many years,

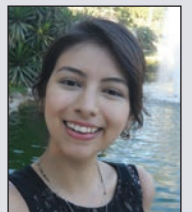
Madison knew she wanted to help those "accounted of little importance." Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in clinical social work at the University of Illinois, while working at a residential treatment facility for children who have suffered severe abuse and now struggle with mental illness and behavioral challenges.



**Brooke Major** attended VYC as a delegate in 2014 and a leader in 2015 and 2016 and is from St. George Parish in Bourbonnais. When she returned home, her experience made her realize she enjoyed working with youth in the church. Consequently, she currently teaches seventh graders in the religious education program at St. George. "VYC inspired me to try and help children ignite that fire to always strive to be active in the church and always want to grow in their faith."



**Daisy Morales** attended VYC three times with her delegation from Cristo Rey St. Martin. She came first a delegate, before returning as a young adult leader and ultimately as one of two young adult coordinators in 2014. In 2016, she was the first VYC graduate to accompany her own delegation of students to the congress. She works in Campus Ministry and teaches religion at Cristo Rey St. Martin, where she is passionate about helping young people explore their spirituality.



**Mayra Tenorio** attended VYC in 2010 before graduating from Cristo Rey St. Martin in 2011. She attended Swathmore College and earned degrees in sociology and anthropology, as well as a master's degree from Cambridge in 2018. Afterwards, Mayra was selected for a Watson fellowship to travel and do post-graduate research on women's issues in Argentina, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Spain and Canada. She now is doing research in Korea as a Luce Scholar.



**Jason Wilhite**, is a 2015 Saint Viator High School graduate and current senior at St. Louis University. He brought Pencils of Promise to campus, which works for quality education for children in Ghana, Guatemala and Laos. Jason attended VYC in 2013 and 2014 and returned in 2018 to describe his passion for advancing educational opportunities for children. He returns this year as one of two young adult leaders before starting as a Campus Minister at Saint Viator.

# Peace Camp: Needed Now More than Ever

A unique camp for middle school students drew young teens to make new friends, design art projects and take small group selfies. Yet it also included interfaith prayer — and lots of planning on how to stand up against hate when they see it.

Now in its second year, this Peace Camp — believed to be the only one of its kind in the Chicago area — was designed by the interfaith nonprofit, Children of Abraham Coalition, and this year it filled up quickly.

With a growing demand, and a majority of its campers and leaders returning again this year, its teenage board of directors believe their vision to promote interfaith literacy, relationships and reverence is growing.

Painfully, all of the optimism from the camp was shattered one month later, when 50 people were killed inside a pair of mosques in New Zealand. The very sectarian-based hatred that the camp addressed demonstrates that the need for interfaith understanding is greater than ever.



*The second annual Peace Camp drew a sold-out number of middle schoolers.*

Fr. Corey Brost, CSV, founded the Children of Abraham Coalition in 2010 to combat rising hate incidents in the wake of 9/11. Right from the start, the organization's mission was community based, aiming to hold events where interfaith "literacy, relationships and reverence" — among people of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith traditions — is advanced.

The peace camp for middle schoolers was conceived by the teen board members of the Children of Abraham Coalition, after experiencing faith-based bigotry themselves.

"This event is important because religious-based fear and hate start early," Fr. Brost says. "During the camp, even sixth graders can identify it and have experienced it.

"Our goal is to help these kids grow in interfaith literacy," he adds, "while also learning skills to speak out against faith-based bigotry and bullying."

The Children of Abraham Coalition works through community-based events, and last month's middle school camp aimed to start the conversation. It drew more than 40 middle school students to enroll. A team of 23 Muslim, Jewish and Christian high school leaders — from the North and Northwest suburbs — planned extensively for their experience.



*Students learned to write messages of peace in all three faith traditions.*

One of those leaders was Abbey Finn, a junior at Buffalo Grove High School, who was among the original team members who helped to create the camp.

"As someone who hears anti-Semitic comments on a regular basis at school," she said, "it makes me feel hopeful and excited to see the differences these kids will make."

Another leader who felt empowered after the camp was Rebecca Drexler, who is a junior at Rochelle Zell Jewish High School in Deerfield.

"With so much hate in the world, it feels good to create a place of love, respect and education," Rebecca said.

Over the course of the two days, students visited Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook, Turkish American Society of Chicago in Mount Prospect and St. Simon's Episcopal Church in Arlington Heights.

At each stop, they received a tour as well as a presentation from young people about each faith tradition and important artifacts from their religion.

Fr. Brost sees the interfaith movement growing, but he credits his young teenage board of directors with being the ambassadors driving the change.

"Studies show that anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and hate groups are on the rise," Fr. Brost said. "People just don't become like this. They are raised in fear and prejudice from an early age."

# Colegio San Viator in Tunja, Colombia, Drawing a Crowd

School opened in February at Colegio San Viator in Tunja, Colombia, for its third year as a Viatorian school — and all signs point to excitement.

A visit in April from officials with the International Baccalaureate Program was tops on the list. The IB Program is recognized worldwide because of its high quality programs and rigorous assessment methods. Viatorians share the IB mission of aiming to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.



*Fr. Pedro Herrera, CSV, President of Colegio San Viator, visits with some of its youngest students.*

Colegio San Viator in Tunja is the second Viatorian school in Colombia to apply for this distinction. Colegio San Viator in Bogotá received its accreditation in 2016 for its primary program, middle school and diploma programs. It is one of only 12 IB schools in Colombia certified to teach this con-

tinuum of international education at every level.



*Numbers of students are growing ever since the Viatorians took over the school in 2017.*

At the start of the new school year, Colegio San Viator in Tunja has built its enrollment to 650 students, which is more than double the number when Viatorians took over the school in 2017.

“This kind of reception reflects the Viatorians and the college prep education we have established in Bogotá,” says Fr. Daniel Hall, CSV. “We have an excellent reputation in Colombia.”

Set amid the Eastern ranges of the Colombian Andes, the school features all the qualities of a Viatorian education, namely one that is faith-based, co-educational, bilingual and pastoral, with professed Viatorians on its faculty and a lay staff that numbers more than 90.



*This image, captured by a drone, shows the expansiveness of the campus in Tunja.*

Fr. Pedro Herrera, CSV, serves as president. He attended Colegio San Viator in Bogotá and was the first religious vocation to come out of the school. Now he is paying his Viatorian education forward. Br. Fredy Contreras, CSV, serves as vice president of the school, while Br. Juan Carlos Ubaque, CSV, works in Campus Ministry and Br. Juan David Ramirez, CSV, teaches mathematics.

**Associate Anthony Gugino** has attended every Viatorian Youth Congress since it began in 2010 and he says it helped shape his life. He and his twin brother, Pre-Associate Tommy Gugino, grew up attending St. Viator Parish School in Las Vegas, and they were active in its youth ministry program. Anthony now works full time for the Clark County Public School District, managing its before and after school programs, but he remains involved in music ministry at both St. Viator and St. Thomas More Catholic Communities. He also remains involved in VYC. Anthony returns this summer as its music coordinator.

**Q.** How did you find out about the Viatorian Youth Congress, and what prompted you to attend that first one?

**A.** I was invited by Associate Rosy Hartz, my youth minister. She wanted as many of her youth leaders to go on this trip to experience VYC. I was excited to get the opportunity to discover what exactly made Viatorians different from other communities.

**Q.** I know that you've attended every year. What is it about the four-day event that was so meaningful for you — and keeps you coming back?

**A.** VYC is a big Viatorian family reunion, but the most meaningful part of VYC is the liturgies because so much planning takes place. Throughout the week, the delegates are invited to help prepare the homily for Mass, assist in writing the prayers of the faithful and select the music. Just hearing them engage in full, conscious and active participation is rewarding. The delegates take so much more away because they were directly involved in planning the liturgy.

**Q.** Did your experience at VYC play a role in your decision to become a Viatorian associate?

**A.** Yes. I was asked to consider becoming a Viatorian associate by Associates Rosy and Paul Hartz.

**Q.** You made your commitment as an associate in 2017. Does being a Viatorian impact your day job?

**A.** My job challenges me daily to find the good in every situation and to do my best for the kids at the 25 school sites I coordinate. It is a joy to work with my staff and the participants in my program, and working with the youth encompasses the Viatorian charism. More than that, I try to extend the love of Christ through all that I do in my day job.

**Q.** What are some of the other ways you serve as an associate in parish life?

**A.** I serve at St. Viator on the liturgy committee and as the music coordinator for the 5 p.m. Sunday night liturgy. Additionally, I help out in youth ministry as an adult confirmation facilitator. At St. Thomas More, I serve as a cantor.

**Q.** Finally, it seems like that chance decision to attend that first Viatorian Youth Congress was a turning point for you. How do you see it?

**A.** VYC definitely helped shape who I am today. Those experiences continue to strengthen my faith and help me carry out the Viatorian charism in my life.





# Saint Viator High School: Immersing Students in Service

This summer, Saint Viator High School will host more than 60 camps for incoming and current students, from a variety of sports camps, to ones in art, music and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). But only one immerses students in daily acts of Christian service, its *Service & Song Camp*.



Fr. Corey Brost, CSV, center, started Saint Viator High School's Service & Song Camp in 2013, and Br. Peter Lamick, CSV, now co-directs it. Anne Haubenreiser '18, leads campers and their counselors in an opening prayer.

It turns out that a 2007 graduate of the school attended that first camp and this year he returns to co-direct it: Br. Peter Lamick, CSV.

"I participated in Service & Song 2013 when I was discerning a call to Viatorian religious life," Br. Lamick says. "My experience at the camp allowed me to see the Viatorian charism is active and alive.

"This experience affirmed the yearnings of my heart," he added, "for a way of life totally focused on the gospel."

The camp has two tracks. While most of the students participate in service, another group develops their experience in liturgical music. Working with Saint Viator's choral director, they learn liturgical music that opens and closes each day's sessions.

Typical service destinations include a local food pantry, hospice center, program for victims of domestic violence, resource center for the homeless, military service organization, senior center and Catholic Charities, to name a few.

"The camp provides Saint Viator High School students an opportunity to mature as Viatorian servant leaders," Br. Lamick says, "to accompany and collaborate with young people, who are rising sixth through ninth graders, in service or liturgical music ministry.

"Our students live out the Viatorian charism while teaching other young people how to live out their faith," he adds, "becoming Jesus' hands, feet and mouth in the world."

Each year, the camp draws Viatorian associates and professed, as well as faculty from the high school to serve as small group leaders.

Recent participants have included Fr. Daniel Hall, CSV, and Associate Randy Baker and John Paulik.

"For all the people served during the week, it provides a week-long experience of living out the Viatorian way of life," Br. Lamick says. "I hope to continue to be a part of this camp because it embodies who we are as a community at Saint Viator High School."

The camp fulfills 20 hours of service per student. A requirement of the school is for each student to complete 25 hours of service per year, as part of a goal of building lifelong spiritual growth — in a community inspired to serve.

"As we go about this, there are people in the world who are hungry, lonely, and sick and alone," Fr. Brost said. "This week we're going to feed the hungry and visit the lonely. We'll be changing the lives of people by the work you do. You'll be changing the world because you had the guts to come this week."

*One of the service opportunities was to help out in the Viatorian Community garden, which grows fresh produce for the local food pantry.*



Campers reflect on a gospel passage before they head out for their service project that day.



# Terry Granger: Focused on Catholic Education

Terry Granger has partnered with Viatorians for the last 17 years, serving in the administration of Maternity BVM School in Bourbonnais and Bishop McNamara Catholic School in Kankakee, where they have been both innovative and award winning.



*Mr. Terry Granger loves to visit with students when he can.*

Three years ago, he was tapped to lead the newly organized Bishop McNamara Catholic School, which brought together the resources of seven parishes in the in Bourbonnais, Bradley and Kankakee region to establish a central elementary and junior high school.

Mr. Granger now serves as president of Bishop McNamara Catholic School, and he is drawing national attention.

Earlier this spring, it was announced that Mr. Granger would receive the *2019 Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award* from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) for dedication and commitment to excellence in Catholic education. He was recognized during the NCEA 2019 Convention & Expo in April in Chicago.

Mr. Granger was chosen from more than 150,000 teachers and administrators, as well as diocesan leaders and organizations, dedicated to the nation's Catholic schools. The annual award honors those whose ministry is Catholic school education and who have demonstrated a strong Catholic educational philosophy as well as exceptional efforts, dedication and achievements.

"The LLP award is a celebration of all that is good in Catholic schools," said Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson, NCEA Chief Leadership and Program Officer.

"I am extremely humbled to be selected," Mr. Granger said, "but it is the culmination of an extreme amount of hard work that was put in by many people."

He credited Fr. John Belmonte, SJ, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Joliet, as well as his board of directors, which include many religious, including Fr. John Peeters CSV, Fr. Dan Lydon CSV, Fr. Tony Nugent, Fr. Richard Pighini, CSV, among others.

"We still have much work to do," Mr. Granger added, "but it is through the prayers, guidance, sacrifice and financial support of all these people that make Bishop McNamara Catholic School a special place."

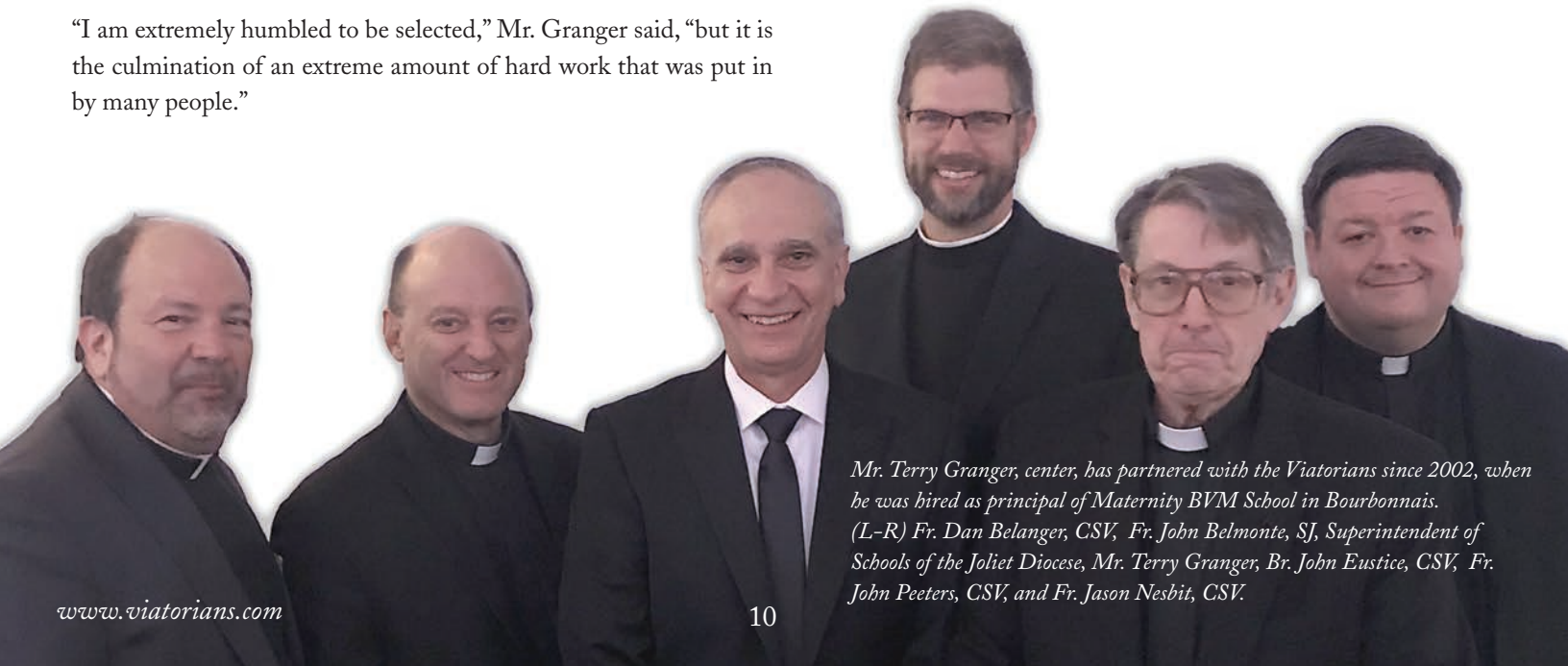
This is not the first time Mr. Granger has been honored. Back in 2006, he worked with Viatorians to create a 1:1 laptop program that put a laptop in the hands of every junior high school student at Maternity BVM Parish School in Bourbonnais. The groundbreaking program served as a prototype for schools in the Bourbonnais/Kankakee region as well as the Joliet Diocese.

In 2016, Mr. Granger was named Principal of the Year by officials with Lewis University, a Catholic university located in Romeoville, IL, which is part of the Joliet Diocese.

Mr. Granger has spent the majority of his administrative career partnering with the Viatorians. Fr. John Linnan, CSV, hired him in 2002 as principal of Maternity BVM. When Fr. Linnan retired in 2004, Mr. Granger worked closely with Fr. James Michaletz, CSV, a former high school principal and assistant superintendent of schools with the Chicago Archdiocese.

Fr. Belmonte, SJ, Superintendent of Catholic schools for the Joliet Diocese, added that the award was richly deserved.

"His sustained focus on our Catholic faith, clear vision and high standards has resulted in a stable K-12 system in the Kankakee area," Fr. Belmonte said, "as well as highly effective schools, excellent teaching and strong Catholic school culture."



*Mr. Terry Granger, center, has partnered with the Viatorians since 2002, when he was hired as principal of Maternity BVM School in Bourbonnais. (L-R) Fr. Dan Belanger, CSV, Fr. John Belmonte, SJ, Superintendent of Schools of the Joliet Diocese, Mr. Terry Granger, Fr. John Eustice, CSV, Fr. John Peeters, CSV, and Fr. Jason Nesbit, CSV.*

## From the Archives: Feel the Joy!

Now that spring is here, are you getting into the ‘tidying up’ craze that has become so popular due to Marie Kondo’s book and Netflix series? Kondo recommends that when you clean out, keep only what gives you the feeling of joy.

Rose Mary Sullivan from Cicero did just that! She was cleaning out her deceased father’s old paperwork. She came across a 1938 souvenir booklet of St. Viator College and the obituary cards of 3 Viatorian priests. Rather than throwing them away, she mailed them to the Viatorian Community Archives.

Rose Mary explained in her letter that her father, William Sullivan, attended St. Viator College in Bourbonnais and became a Viatorian seminarian there too, but didn’t have many other details. In return for her thoughtfulness, a little research in the archives was done for her. The dates of her father’s attendance were found in the college collection along with a few photos of her father as a young Viatorian brother.

It turns out, her father, William, attended St. Viator Academy from 1927-1931. Upon graduation he entered Fournier Institute, the Viatorian Novitiate in Lemont and professed his first vows in 1933. He attended St. Viator College from 1933 through 1934, until he withdrew from the community.

Rose Mary was glad to receive these details about her father and she in turn, was able to provide the names of the family members in a photo that was in the archives.

She also provided the fact that William worked together with young Br. Edward Haungs at a summer camp on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in LaGrange. William and his brother Thomas had attended St. Joseph Academy for grade school. Thomas also attended St. Viator Academy from 1924-28 and a photo of this young man (Rose Mary’s uncle) was also in the archives.

Archivists connecting with donors is valuable for both parties. The give and take allows for opportunities of learning — sharing details and personal stories of people’s lives — stories that may have never come to light! That’s the true feeling of joy!

If you get the ‘tidying up’ bug, remember to pass those ‘joyless’ items along. You never know where they may lead you and what you will uncover.

*Joan Sweeney  
Viatorian Community Archivist and Associate*



*L-R: Thomas Sullivan, Helen Sullivan, their father William F. Sullivan, Sr., Catherine Sullivan and young William Sullivan (Rose Mary’s father)*



*Photo of Thomas Sullivan found in the Viatorian Archives.*



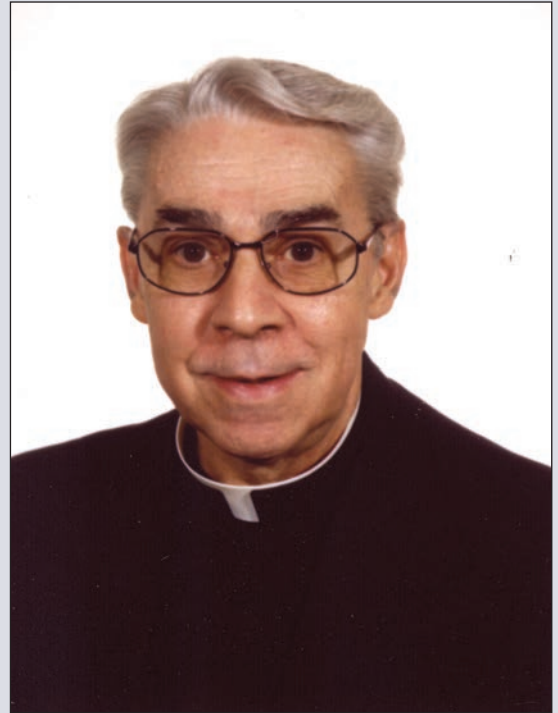
*Br. William Sullivan (right) and Br. Edward Haungs in LaGrange, Summer of 1933*



*Br. William Sullivan (right) at the Viatorian Novitiate in Lemont in 1931 with Br. James Toolan*

## *Celebrating our Jubilarians*

**Fr. George Auger, CSV**, celebrates a rare milestone this year: 70 years of religious life. Like many Viatorians he came to know the community as a student, when he attended a boarding school in Canada taught by the French-speaking Viatorians. He first entered the novitiate of the Viatorian Province of Joliette in Canada, and in the mid-1950s transferred to the Province of Chicago. Fr. Auger was ordained to the priesthood in 1961, and he later earned masters degrees in English literature and religious education. He went on to earn another graduate degree at Lumen Vitae in Brussels, which further enabled him to enhance the religion curriculum in Viatorian schools. Fr. Auger was on the founding staff of Saint Viator High School, teaching English, French and religion, and he later taught at Spalding Institute in Peoria. Fr. Auger then spent the next 30 years in pastoral ministry, serving as associate pastor of Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais and of St. Joseph Parish in Springfield. He served as pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Kankakee, from 1983-1988 and again from 2004-2007. Fr. Auger lived in Rome from 1988-1994, when he served as a councilor at the General Direction. Beyond his wide-ranging assignments, Fr. Auger has served the community in many other ways, including as master of novices, spiritual director at the formation house, director of archives and director of the retirement wing at the Province Center, where he now resides. Prior to his retirement in 2016, he served alongside of the Little Sisters of the Poor, as their chaplain at St. Joseph Home for the Elderly in Palatine, IL.



*Fr. George Auger, CSV*



*Br. Michael Rice, CSV*

**Br. Michael Rice, CSV**, celebrates 25 years as a Viatorian this year. He entered the community several years ago as a religious brother and taught religion and Latin at the former Griffin High School in Springfield before working at Colegio San Viator in Bogotá, in the mid-1970s until 1983. Br. Rice left the community for several years, during which he served as principal of St. Francis High School in Wheaton. He celebrates 25 years of vows since returning to the Viatorians in 1994. He professed his vows in Saint Viator High School chapel, where he had begun his first year as principal of the school, working hand in hand with Fr. Charles Bolser, CSV, President. Br. Rice remained at Saint Viator for five years before heading to Las Vegas, serving first as a school counselor at Saint Viator Catholic Community, and then assuming the role of plant manager of the church and school campus, a role he continues to hold today. Back in 2012, Br. Rice helped the parish become a statewide leader in conservation and renewable energy with its installation of solar panels on its school's campus. Br. Rice called it a "win-win" for the church community, but Viatorians see it as an extension of their charism of being good stewards of the earth, ever mindful of ways to conserve energy.

## *In Memoriam: Brother Dale Barth, CSV*

### **Br. Dale Barth, CSV**

1943-2019

A light has gone out in the Viatorian Community. Br. Dale Barth, CSV, who lived in the retirement wing at the Province Center for the last 11 years and served as a Viatorian religious brother for 55 years, has died.

Br. Barth was 75.

“Just hearing the name, Br. Dale Barth, conjures up a smile,” said Br. Don Houde, CSV, who worked with Br. Barth at Saint Viator High School.

Fr. Robert Egan, CSV, Superior General, shared some thoughts about his late confrere, whose friendship dated back more than 50 years, during his homily at his funeral Mass on Feb. 27 at Our Lady of the Wayside Church in Arlington Heights.

“He had an open-door policy in his office at Saint Viator High School,” Fr. Egan said. “Kids would come and go, sit and talk and gossip. Everyone was welcome. Occasionally, Dale would bark out commands or simply just listen.

“He had a sixth sense about when things were not going well in a kid’s life,” Fr. Egan added, “at home, at school, with friends — and he would offer a safe and non-judgmental ear.”

Jim Maffia, Jr. '81, fondly remembers hanging out in Br. Barth’s office. “I spent many days between classes in Dale’s office listening to Johnny Cash in the background,” Maffia said.

Br. Barth grew up in Peoria and attended Spalding Institute, where he first met the Viatorians. He professed his first vows as a religious brother in 1963. His years in ministry would take him to nearly all of the places where Viatorians serve, but his longest assignment was at Saint Viator High School, where he directed the maintenance staff from 1967 to 1990.

“He was immersed in student life,” says Br. Houde, who served as principal from 1972-1979. “The many, many



*Br. Dale Barth, CSV*

young men who had after school jobs came to associate Br. Barth was an important part of their Saint Viator memories.”

Br. Barth spent the next six years in the Provincial Treasurer’s office before heading to Las Vegas, where he served as business manager at St. Viator Catholic Community. From 2000-2003, he was asked by Fr. Charles Bolser, CSV, who was pastor of Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais, to serve as a pastoral associate. His role working with parish families eventually led to his ordination as a permanent deacon. His last assignments included working as assistant novice master, while based at St. Patrick’s Parish in Kankakee, and ultimately at St. Viator Parish in Chicago before his retirement in 2008. Fr. Egan said it was hard to watch Br. Barth’s health decline in recent years.

“The words of Paul to Timothy frequently came to mind: ‘I have fought the good fight, I have run the race, I have kept the faith,’” Fr. Egan said. “Today we come together



*Br. Barth distributes communion during a Mass at Saint Viator High School.*

to celebrate his life and to give thanks for his 55 years of religious life as a Viatorian.”

# *In Memoriam: Fr. Robert Bolser, CSV*

## **Fr. Robert Bolser, CSV**

1943-2019

Fr. Robert Bolser, CSV, spent more than 30 years of his religious life as a brother — more than half of his ministry — before he was ordained into the priesthood in 1990. From all accounts, he touched many lives during his years as a priest, but it was his many years as a religious brother that seem to have laid the foundation for his ministry.

Fr. Bolser passed away April 28 at Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas. He was 74.

“He was born on Easter Sunday and died on Easter Sunday, the Greek Easter,” said his older brother, Fr. Charles Bolser, CSV. “I think there is some significance in that.”

Fr. Robert Bolser was born April 1, 1943, the fourth of eight children of George and Catherine Bolser. Growing up in central Illinois, neither Bolser knew of the Viatorians and only learned of the community through a cousin in Springfield. Fr. Charles Bolser entered the community in 1963 and Fr. Robert Bolser followed one year later.

Though they would serve as Viatorians for more than 50 years together, they rarely were in the same place, and Fr. Charles Bolser suspects that was by design.

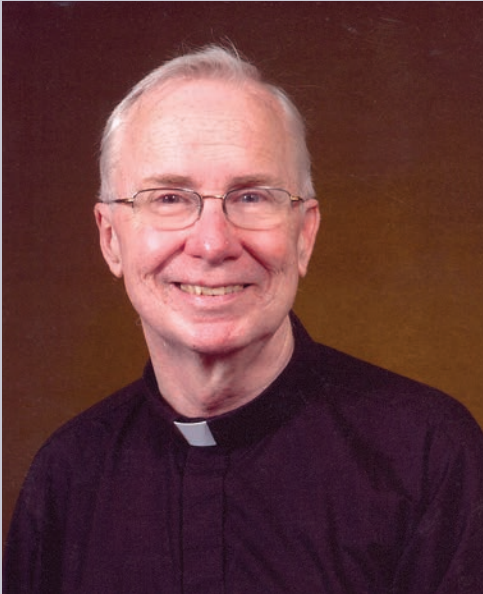
“Bob wanted to move in a different direction and establish his own identity,” Fr. Bolser says.

Within three years of his perpetual vows and knowing little Spanish, Fr. Robert Bolser accepted an assignment to go to the Viatorian mission in Bogotá, Colombia. There, he helped to start Gimnasio Central del Valle Buga, an elementary school before moving to Colegio San Viator, also in Bogotá.

“Those were some of the defining years of his ministry,” Fr. Bolser says. “He loved learning the Spanish language and culture, and he brought that back to the parishes he served.”

Fr. Robert Bolser returned from Colombia in 1976 and spent the next six years as a teacher at Alleman High School in Rock Island, IL. He then returned to Arlington Heights and worked in Saint Viator High School’s Campus Ministry office immediately after it went co-ed.

Mrs. Rita King worked with then Br. Bolser. She describes them as some of her best years of ministry at the high school — and most productive. They had a four-year retreat program where every student attended retreat each year, they



*Fr. Robert T. Bolser, CSV*

taught a service class that turned out to be a springboard for the required service in years to come. They also sponsored school wide experiences of justice during Advent and Lent, and even coordinated family events.

It was after his years at Saint Viator that Fr. Bolser attended Catholic Theological Union to prepare for the priesthood. His first assignment after ordination was to St. Viator Parish in Chicago, where he is credited with building the Hispanic community there.

“He was the first to celebrate a Sunday liturgy in Spanish,” says Fr. Patrick Render, CSV, pastor, “and is still

held in deep appreciation by the Hispanic members of our community.

“He is also remembered with affection by many parishioners for his simple and gentle manner,” Fr. Render added, “and his sincere and thoughtful spirituality.”



*Fr. Bolser, shown here on a trip to LA Youth Day with young people from St. Thomas More Catholic Community in Henderson, NV.*

Fr. Bolser and Fr. Render would spend more years together at St. Thomas More Catholic Community, which Fr. Render led as pastor from 2001-2015. Fr. Bolser served as associate pastor from 2007-2015.

During those years, Fr. Bolser worked with young people in the parish as well as with married couples through the Marriage Encounter program.

“He listened to people, heard their pain and was able to help them move on,” Fr. Charles Bolser says. “He was able to do a lot of healing.”

A funeral Mass took place May 4 at St. Thomas More Catholic Community and a memorial Mass took place May 11 at St. Viator Parish in Chicago, that was celebrated by Fr. Charles Bolser.

# *In Memoriam: Fr. James Michaletz, CSV*

## **Fr. James Michaletz, CSV**

1932-2019

Fr. James Michaletz, CSV, was among a special group within the Viatorians. He was in the first novitiate class to profess their vows at the current Province Center in Arlington Heights, back in 1952. It was a proud day and one that changed his life forever.

Fr. Michaletz died April 10. He was 87.

"I first met him when we arrived here on Aug. 1, 1951," says Fr. John Milton, CSV. "We go that far back."

In fact, the two walked the familiar grounds of the Province Center every day in retirement. They were among the first novices to come to Arlington Heights after Viatorians had purchased farmland with the intention of setting up their Province Center and novitiate.

At first, they lived in the original farmhouse on the property before moving into the Province Center and taking their vows, once the building was completed, in 1952.

Fr. Michaletz had been studying chemical engineering at Northwestern University when he discerned his calling to religious life.

"I wanted to be a teacher," he said in a video. "That was most important to me." Fr. Michaletz chose the Viatorians for their commitment to educating young people, and he never looked back. He went on to complete his chemistry degree at St. Ambrose College, before earning a master's degree in organic chemistry from Loyola University.

His first assignment as a Viatorian was to teach math and chemistry at the new Saint Viator High School, which opened in 1961. Consequently, Fr. Michaletz was among its founding faculty, and within three years he was tapped to be assistant principal and ultimately principal, from 1968-1972.

Along the way, Fr. Michaletz had earned a doctorate in education, administration and curriculum supervision at Loyola, and the bulk of his ministry would be spent in education administration.

It was in 1972 that Fr. Michaletz left Saint Viator at the urging of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He was asked to serve as superintendent of Sacred Heart of Mary High School in neighboring Rolling Meadows, overseeing its transition from a school run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart to a diocesan school.



*Fr. James Michaletz, CSV*

After three years, Fr. Michaletz was called by the Archdiocese to serve as its co-director, and then director of school planning, something which he was an expert at, his confreres say.

"He excelled in long range development and strategic planning," said Br. Houde. "He was very interested in planning projects and setting up a process for school evaluations."

Fr. Robert M. Egan, CSV, Superior General, recalls that Fr. Michaletz was an administrator at Saint Viator during his days there as a student, and he was on its board of trustees when Fr. Egan served as president.

"Jim was always looking to the future," Fr. Egan said. "He enjoyed celebrating accomplishments, but he always looked for ways to

make Saint Viator better — and prepared for the future of Catholic schools."

Word of Fr. Michaletz's expertise in school planning, spread. In 1985, the Diocese of Springfield asked him to serve as director of education, a role he filled until 1991. It



*Fr. James Michaletz, CSV, offers the homily during his jubilee Mass in 2012, when he celebrated 60 years of religious life.*

was then that Fr. Michaletz was able to return to the classroom, serving as an assistant professor of education at Dominican University in River Forest, until 1998.

"He started the Catholic leadership program at Dominican," says Fr. Daniel Lydon, CSV, who completed the program. "As a result, he impacted hundreds of educators from Catholic schools."

Fr. Michaletz's final assignment took him to Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais, where he lived in residence and served as liaison to the school and its principal, Mr. Terry Granger. Together, they would launch the school's groundbreaking 1:1 iPad program in 2006.

Fr. Michaletz retired in 2011, however he continued to help with school planning, serving on the Saint Viator High School board of trustees, from 2011-2017.



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## Around the Province...

After spending more than 40 years in education, **Fr. John Van Wiel, CSV**, is enjoying his retirement. While he occasionally helps out with Masses at Viatorian parishes in Las Vegas and he directs the retirement wing of the Province Center, he still finds time to pursue his love of fly fishing and painting water colors. In fact, a new “welcoming room” opened last winter that features many of Fr. Van Wiel’s paintings. Check them out the next time you visit your favorite Viatorian. They add warmth to the room, and serve as a fitting gallery to showcase Fr. Van Wiel’s work.



*Fr. John Van Wiel, CSV, describes one of his water color paintings that now hangs in a welcoming room at the Province Center.*



*Br. John Eustice, CSV, was named Vice President of Viatorian Identity and Mission at Saint Viator High School.*

This semester, **Br. John Eustice, CSV**, returned to Saint Viator High School to join the administration. He now serves as Vice President of Viatorian Identity and Mission. While he clearly loves working with young people and will return to help with this summer’s Viatorian Youth Congress, he is helping to advance the Viatorian charism in all that goes on at the busy high school. Welcome back, Br. Eustice!



*Bishop Christopher Glancy, CSV, offers the homily during the 125th anniversary Mass at St. Patrick Church in Kankakee.*

A trio of Viatorians celebrated the closing Mass of the 125th anniversary year of St. Patrick Church in Kankakee. They included **Bishop Christopher Glancy, CSV**, who was the main presider, with **Fr. John Peeters, CSV, pastor**, and **Fr. Donald Wehnert, CSV**.

For Bishop Glancy, the celebration brought him back to the parish where he was ordained, in 1993, which he described as a “grace-filled moment.” Parish members reflected on its long history — including the 88 years that Viatorians have ministered to them — and looked ahead, faithfully, to its future.

Oh, the places you’ll go! **Br. Rob Robertson, CSV**, spent more than 20 years as a counselor and in Campus Ministry at Saint Viator High School, as well as at Saint Viator Parish School in Las Vegas. Most recently he has served in Campus Ministry at Bishop Gorman High school, but now he moves across town to serve as a counselor at Cristo Rey St. Viator College Preparatory High School in Las Vegas. He joins **Fr. Thomas von Behren, CSV**, president, and **Br. Carlos Florez, CSV**, student admissions officer.



*Br. Rob Robertson, CSV*

**Fr. Arnold Perham, CSV**, continues to mentor young mathematicians. Since the fall, he has worked with the Saint Viator High School’s math team, and in particular its two students who competed in the challenging oral competition. Fr. Perham met with them or emailed them problems nearly every day to help prepare them for the state tournament, hosted by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics. They ultimately placed fourth out of more than 50 teams.



*Fr. Arnold Perham, CSV, works with senior Marcus Lannie, one of two mathletes who competed in the oral competition at the state math contest. Missing is junior Daniel Fecko.*