

# CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA  
RÉGION LASALLIENNE DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **De La Salle Christian Brothers Elect American Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, is Third American to Serve in Role**

*Washington, DC, (May 22, 2014)* – Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, a native of Philadelphia, PA, was elected as Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers) on May 20, 2014, at the 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter in Rome. He is the 27<sup>th</sup> successor of St. John Baptist de La Salle, the Institute's founder, and only the third American to hold this position. Brother Robert succeeds Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, who served as Superior General for 14 years.

Effective immediately, Brother Robert, who is a member of the District of Eastern North America, is now leading the largest order of religious Brothers in the Church dedicated to education. St. John Baptist de La Salle, the patron saint of teachers, founded the Institute in 17<sup>th</sup> century France with the mission of providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor. Today, approximately 4,500 Brothers and 80,000 Partners serve nearly 900,000 students in about 1,000 educational ministries in 80 countries.

Prior to being elected to this top leadership post based at the Brothers' Generalate in Rome, Brother Robert served for seven years as General Councilor for the Lasallian Region that includes the United States and Canada, now called the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN). RELAN was formed in 2012 when the former United States-Toronto Region, for which Brother Robert was General Councilor, united with the Francophone Canada Region. RELAN is one of five Regions in the worldwide Institute.

Brother Robert was elected as General Councilor in 2007 after serving as Provincial of the former Baltimore Province from 2001-2007. Before becoming Provincial, Brother Robert was the Director of Education for the United States-Toronto Region. He also served as Executive Secretary for the former Regional Education Board and College Presidents Association. Prior to these roles, Brother Robert served for seven years as Assistant Provincial and Director of Education for the Baltimore Province.

A missionary to the Philippines for 11 years, he has served in a variety of administrative positions from Assistant Principal to Superintendent of Schools. He was a delegate to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter in 2007, 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter in 2000, and the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter in 1993. He sits on several boards, including Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and Bethlehem University, both of which are Lasallian institutions. He is a graduate of La Salle College (now University) in Philadelphia, PA, where he has also served on the Board of Trustees.

Brother Robert is the son of late Warren and Eileen (Story) Schieler and proud sibling of his four living brothers, two sisters, and their families. A Brother for 46 years, Brother Robert took the habit on September 1, 1968, in Ammendale, MD. He was first introduced to the

Christian Brothers as a student at West Catholic Boys High School (now West Catholic Preparatory High School) in Philadelphia, PA. The Philadelphia native holds masters' degrees in European History (University of Notre Dame) and Asian Studies (University of Philippines), as well as a doctorate in Educational Administration (University of Pennsylvania).

Brother Robert is the third American Brother to serve as Superior General. Brother Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, was the first American Superior General (1966-1976). Brother John Johnston, FSC, was second (1986-2000).

The General Chapter opened April 22, 2014, and will close June 8, 2014. It includes 88 delegates from around the world who are tasked with responsibilities to evaluate the life of the Institute, provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal, and set out the main guidelines for the future of the Lasallian mission (*Rule*, 103).

More information is available online at [www.lasallian.info/45th-general-chapter/](http://www.lasallian.info/45th-general-chapter/).

*Christian Brothers Conference is the Regional office for the Lasallian Region of North America, part of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers). The Institute is a Catholic religious order of laymen whose mission is to provide spiritual and human education to youth, especially those who are poor and disadvantaged. Founded by St. John Baptist de La Salle in 17<sup>th</sup> century France, today approximately 4,500 Brothers and 80,000 Partners serve nearly 900,000 students in about 1,000 educational ministries in 80 countries. For more information, email [communications@lasallian.info](mailto:communications@lasallian.info), call 202.529.0047, or visit [www.lasallian.info](http://www.lasallian.info).*

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