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## **Lasallian Educator Named President of NCEA**

*March 11, 2013 – Washington, DC* – Robert R. Bimonte, FSC, Executive Vice President of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), has been appointed to be the next president of the largest private professional education organization in the world. The announcement was made today by The Most Reverend Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Atlanta and recently retired NCEA board chairman, on behalf of the association's Executive Committee.

"I am honored and humbled to serve as President of NCEA," said Bimonte who was selected by the Board of Directors at its March 4 meeting. He reiterated NCEA's commitment to providing its members with "outstanding professional development to strengthen and enhance their great work and to equip them to face the challenges ahead."

"Teachers and administrators in Catholic schools and religious education programs throughout this country are doing amazing work," continued Bimonte. "They provide students with an academically excellent education steeped in Catholic values."

The selection of Bimonte for the leadership position in the association is an acknowledgement of his commitment to education. Brother Robert Bimonte is a member of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, which focuses solely on the mission of providing transformative and holistic education as it has for nearly 350 years.

"As a Brother of the Christian Schools, Brother Robert brings the spiritual vision of Saint John Baptist de La Salle to his new position," stated Brother Robert Schieler, General Councilor of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, "a vision that places primacy on the creation of a community of educators, educators who touch the hearts of their students, stimulate minds and prepare students for a life of service to society and the Church." Today, the Institute consists of 5,000 Brothers and 80,000 lay Partners, serving nearly 900,000 students in about 1,000 educational ministries in 80 countries.

Brother Bimonte's experience includes 35 years of working with both students and educators as an elementary/middle school teacher, parish director of religious education, associate principal, Assistant Superintendent for the Diocese of Syracuse, NY, and Superintendent of Catholic Education for the Buffalo Diocese. As Secretary of Education of the Lasallian Region of North America in the early nineties, he coordinated the educational activities of a network of more than 100 schools and ministries of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Since 2001, he has been a regular presenter at the Lasallian Leadership Institute, a Regional mission formation program for Brothers and Partners.

Bimonte began his career with NCEA in 2002 as Executive Director of the Elementary Schools Department, providing leadership and advocacy for more than 6,800 Catholic elementary schools. He has served as NCEA Executive Vice President since July 2012 and is responsible for the Events Office, Technology Department and Office of Membership Services, along with coordinating department programs, projects and publishing efforts, and professional development for NCEA staff.

“Brother Robert’s lifetime of commitment to the field of Catholic education, coupled with his visionary role at NCEA over the past decade make him uniquely positioned to assume the mantle of leadership at NCEA,” said Dr. Margaret McCarty, Executive Director of the Office of Lasallian Education. “We are so proud of his accomplishments!”

The Executive Committee will formally introduce Bimonte as the new president at the NCEA Convention in Houston, Texas in April. He succeeds Dr. Karen Ristau, who announced her retirement plans last year, and will assume his new position on July 1, 2013.

*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. 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 5,000 Brothers and 80,000 Partners serve nearly 900,000 students in about 1,000 educational ministries in 80 countries. For more information, please contact Christian Brothers Conference, Communications Office, 3025 Fourth Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20017, 202.529.0047 or visit our website at [www.lasallian.info](http://www.lasallian.info).*

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