For All That Has Been…Thank You! For All That Will Be…Yes!

The District of San Francisco New Orleans

(July 1, 2014)

The story of a new District is the story of our many foundations, the story of Lasallians addressing the need for the salvation of the young through education. Where we find ourselves today as the new District of San Francisco New Orleans has its heart not in geography, but in pioneering: risk taking, determination, encounter the other, collaboration. Our founding story continues to be the story of today.

In 1851, three Brothers open a free school for boys in New Orleans at St. Patrick Parish. Despite yellow fever threatening the school's existence in 1853, the school lived on.

In 1859, at the invitation of Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy, the Christian Brothers open Saint Michael's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Collaboration with the church enhances Catholic education in the pioneering Southwest.

In 1868, nine Brothers leave New York. Arriving in the port of San Francisco, they get off the boat, pick up the keys, and start classes to rebuild the struggling five-year-old Saint Mary's College.

In 1900, economic depression ends the Brothers presence in New Orleans and Gulf Coast region. But the hand of God works in setbacks.

After exile from France in 1904 and from Mexico in 1914, the Brothers return to Louisiana in 1918 determined to establish once again a Lasallian foothold.

In 1921, the District of New Orleans-Santa Fe is formed from Brothers from the District of Mexico and the District of St. Louis. Once again, Brothers of different cultures and Districts come together for the sake of the salvation of the young.

In the 1920's, the San Francisco District withdraws from a number of elementary schools and opens its first school in Southern California, Cathedral High School.

In 1932, the San Francisco District moves its formation programs and cemetery to Mont La Salle in Napa. The risk of wine making, taken up in earnest, helps the schools remain affordable to more people.

In 1949, the Brothers return to New Orleans with the opening of De La Salle High School, re-founding and rejuvenating the Lasallian presence in the South.

In 2001, Lasallian Brothers and Partners from the Districts of San Francisco and New Orleans-Santa Fe collaborate in the Lasallian Leadership Institute. Students join in Lasallian Youth Assemblies and the Lasallian Student Leader Program.

In 2005, the meeting of District Leadership teams moves schools forward together but the Brothers joining is put on hold.

In 2010, District Leadership Teams sign a pact to form one District, determined to face the fears and challenges set before them.

In 2013, the Brothers ratify statutes that formally move them toward the union we mark today.

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