

St. John Baptist de La Salle



Chief Financial Officer Search



CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS
SERVICES

Romeoville, Illinois

Understanding • Protecting • Guiding

About Christian Brothers Services

Christian Brothers Services “CBS” is a nonprofit organization that administers cooperative programs in the areas of health, retirement, property/casualty, technology, school management and consulting services to church organizations.

Founded in 1960 by Brother Joel Damian, FSC, CBS began as a mutual cooperative purchasing group for Chicago-area high schools conducted by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Under Brother Damian’s leadership, the Brothers realized that pooling the financial resources and risk exposure of the schools would allow both the congregation and the individual institutions greater financial strength and leverage to purchase better coverage, with higher limits, at significantly reduced costs – benefits that commercial insurance carriers could not offer nonprofit organizations. Over time, CBS has grown to administer and serve seven Trusts, which provide a variety of programs to 3,577 congregations, organizations, religious orders and dioceses both in the United States and Canada.

CBS strives to continue the educational mission set forth by St. John Baptist de La Salle, a 17th century French cleric and the patron saint of teachers. While CBS may not have students in classrooms, their work in understanding, protecting and guiding members and providing plans and programs that help them complete their distinct missions, is a legitimate expression of St. De La Salle’s vision.

Christian Brothers Services and these Trusts are not insurance companies but are plans in which member organizations pool their financial contributions to realize greater financial strength and increased purchasing power, which translates to better coverage at significantly reduced rates. The approach of pooling risk and participating in self-funded plans for health, retirement and property/casualty helps to protect member organizations from the large premium fluctuation which can often be experienced when purchasing traditional insurance. In addition, there is more flexibility within a Trust plan, from greater choices of coverage and benefits to a vast array of risk management services and health benefit programs. CBS is the administrator for the trust plans; however, each trust is governed by its own Board of Trustees elected from participating member organizations.

Christian Brothers Services interacts with its clients with procedures and processes tailored to deal with their client target market, and provides unique products and services designed and delivered to meet the specific needs of its clients.

Health Benefit Services works with Catholic organizations and dioceses to design and administer comprehensive, cost-effective programs and services for both employers and religious including medical, prescription drug, dental, vision, life/disability and health and wellness programs.

Retirement Planning Services administers several different Retirement Plans that cover the lay employees who work for Catholic organizations, schools or dioceses.

Risk Management Services serves the Catholic community with the development and administration of property/casualty programs designed exclusively for the unique and changing exposure of Catholic organizations, offering broad and comprehensive coverages and limits, as well as a variety of risk control services tailored to meet the needs of each ministry.

IT & Website Services is a full-service provider offering a wide range of products and services to assist any size organization in improving its utilization of information technology to achieve its strategic and tactical goals and objectives.

Catholic School Management provides the highest level of professional and personalized consulting supporting the educational ministry of the Catholic Church with research, consultative guidance, training and publications.

BMT Consulting & Financial Services serves 280 religious institutes and their sponsored ministries requiring assistance with the management of daily operations including accounting and financial management, benefit eligibility management, human resources, investment consulting and planning.

Mission Advancement provides a wide array of advancement offerings, coupled with creative techniques and applications, so that the mission and ministry of those CBS serves can flourish. This program assists churches, parishes, dioceses, religious orders, sponsored ministries, educational, social service and environmental organizations in the areas of fundraising, communications, organizational development and stewardship.

The CBS Mission

CBS’ mission to serve the Catholic Church community and other faith-based organizations by responding to their managerial needs provides funding for the Lasallian mission in North America. By supporting the LaSallian mission, CBS contributes to providing a human and Christian education to more than 70,000 students in the United States and Canada, and hundreds of thousands more students throughout the world.

About the Role of the Chief Financial Officer

Mike Lesiak, CPA joined CBS in February 2009 as Chief Financial Officer, bringing with him more than 40 years of experience in the financial and executive fields. In his almost 14 years at CBS, Mike has supported the growth of the company in its mission to provide outstanding services to Catholic institutes, dioceses, religious orders and employees in their insurance, retirement benefits and other financial consulting needs. Mike will retire from CBS in September.

This position reports to the President/CEO, Patrick Lynch. Patrick joined CBS in July of 2022 upon the retirement of Brother Michael Quirk, FSC. Patrick is the fourth President/CEO in the company's 62-year history. With three decades in the financial services and banking industries, he brings an impressive professional background to the position, including serving 21 years as Founder, President, & CEO of Chicago Equity Partners. That company, formerly a division of Bank of America, became a fully independent boutique investment advisory firm in 2000. Patrick led the firm's executive team, which included the CFO, Chief Investment Officers, General Counsel/CCO, and the heads of technology, sales, marketing, and client services, as well as a staff of 40. Before taking on that role, for 10 years he was a Senior Vice President with Bank of America.

The CFO leads a team of 10 professionals within the Finance area. This position collaborates with the CBS Board of Directors, Trustees, vendors, Members, senior management and other levels of management.

Christian Brothers Services exemplifies the Lasallian tradition by *understanding* the needs of their members, *protecting* the human and financial resources of institutions and *guiding* member organizations in finding practical solutions to business needs.

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) will direct and oversee the financial activities of the company including all divisions and a wholly owned subsidiary as well as all the Plans/Trusts administered by the company.

Key responsibilities include:

- *Plans, organizes and controls all the financial affairs of Christian Brothers Services (CBS) and a wholly owned subsidiary and all Plans/Trusts administered by CBS: preparation of financial statements, responsible for relationships with financial institutions, investment team members, critical vendors and other outside professionals.*
- *Acts as liaison between CBS and each of the various Plans and Trusts, including but not limited to oversight and guidance in accounting and auditing of each entity.*
- *Institutes with the Finance staff, Senior Managers of all divisions and other personnel sound internal control policies and procedures. In addition provides oversight and guidance of each audit and cooperates and guides each Audit Committee of the company and all Plans/Trusts administered by CBS.*
- *Assures that Christian Brothers Services operates in accordance with all service fee agreements, plan documents and procedures established by each Plan/Trust.*
- *Provides leadership and direction to managerial and professional staff, with responsibility to clearly communicate performance output expectations.*
- *Conducts performance appraisals of direct reports, with responsibility to determine appropriate actions for continuous improvement including, but not limited to, adjustments in annual salary.*
- *Oversees the preparation of the annual budget for Christian Brothers Services with Senior Management and Finance Staff being an integral part of the process. Responsible to achieve the company's yearly financial objectives through planning, controlling, implementing, evaluating, monitoring, and forecasting as needed.*
- *Represents the Company to various individuals, groups, and/or organizations, both internal and external.*
- *Oversees the collection, evaluation, and utilization of data necessary to ensure quality services, providing reports to the President/CEO, CBS Board of Directors, and Trustees of the all Plans and Trusts.*
- *Keeps abreast of AICPA standards and trends, with responsibility to respond effectively to any issues from the CEO, Board and/or auditors.*



Qualifications / Skills

- BA in Accounting or Finance; master's degree is a plus.
- Certified Public Accountant designation preferred with several years of public accounting experience.
- Fifteen to 20 years of experience in financial management and senior leadership role is required.
- Excellent management and supervisory skills.
- Excellent analytical and organizational skills.
- Proficient in database and accounting computer application systems.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- To be knowledgeable of your role and responsibilities in responding to any event or planned testing that necessitates CBS to enact its Business Continuity Plan. This position may be called upon to provide assistance, in any capacity deemed necessary, by the President, CBS Board of Directors or Trustees of the Plans/Trusts.

Salary / Benefits

This is a full-time position. Salary and benefits are highly competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Application Procedure

Interested and qualified candidates should submit, electronically, a letter of introduction and resume to;

**Christian Brothers Services
CFO Search**

Attn: Buffy Blanton at
buffy.blanton@cbservices.org

CBS is an equal opportunity employer.

This job description is not intended to be all inclusive of the duties and responsibilities of the position.



**CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS**
SERVICES

cbservices.org

Social Media

Connecting with the Christian Brothers Services Community

We invite you to join us on one or all of our social media outlets. Visit our website at cbservices.org and click on the social media icons for instant access.

