

# Embassadors' Club Dinner

The Twenty-Second of January  
Two Thousand Twenty-Six

# Ambassadors' Club Dinner

## Program

6:00 p.m. ..... Reception

6:50 p.m. ..... Welcome

*Steve McLaughlin, Director of Philanthropy*

Invocation

*Yaretzi Garcia '27*

**Performance from the students of Honors Chorale and Honors American Sign Language IV**

*Under the direction of Leah Heine '96, Chorale Director, and Jessica Fitzgerald, ASL Educator*

7:05 p.m. .....

**President's Address**

*Dr. Dave Perry, President*

7:15 p.m. .....

**Dinner**

*Prepared by Epicurean Group*

8:05 p.m. .....

**Ambassadors of the Year Award**

*Cindy McBride, James Pierson '02 & Sandra Whaley*

8:20 p.m. .....

**Closing Remarks**

*Steve McLaughlin, Director of Philanthropy*



January 22, 2026

Dear Ambassadors,

Welcome, and thank you for joining us this evening. It is a joy and an honor to gather with you, our most devoted friends and supporters. This year holds profound significance for our community as we celebrate 150 years of Christian Brothers High School. Since our founding in 1876, CBHS has remained steadfast in its mission to educate the whole person, mind, heart, and spirit, guided by faith, service, and a commitment to social justice. Across generations, our school has been a place where young people are challenged to grow into compassionate leaders, prepared to serve a world in need.

This remarkable milestone would not be possible without the enduring generosity of donors and volunteers like you. From our earliest days to the present moment, Christian Brothers High School has relied on the partnership of those who believe deeply in the transformative power of a Lasallian Catholic education. Your support allows us to lead the region in need-based tuition assistance, strengthens academic and co-curricular programs, enhances campus facilities, and, most importantly, opens doors of opportunity for countless students.

We are especially thrilled this evening to honor Cindy McBride, Jimmy Pierson '02, and Sandra Whaley, whose enduring commitment to Christian Brothers High School reflects the very spirit of generosity, loyalty, and family that has sustained our community for 150 years. Their shared dedication and lasting impact beautifully exemplify the power of philanthropy and the difference it makes in the lives of our students—today and for generations to come.

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the Brothers who laid the foundation for this great institution, thank you for your generosity, your faith in our mission, and your partnership in shaping the future of Christian Brothers High School.

Live Jesus in our hearts!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Perry".

Dave Perry, Ed.D.  
President

## 2026 Ambassadors of the Year



### *Sandy Whaley, Cindy McBride, Jimmy Pierson '02*

Talking with Jimmy Pierson '02, Cindy McBride, and Sandy Whaley about supporting Christian Brothers High School feels a bit like pulling up a chair at a Sunday family dinner—full of laughter, shared stories, and the easy warmth that comes from growing up as the children of beloved parents, Bill '73† and Helen Pierson.

For the three of them, Christian Brothers is far more than the school their dad, uncles, and Jimmy attended. It's a place that shaped their family's story—where friendships were forged, values took root, and opportunities opened doors their family has never forgotten. Supporting the school isn't just a tradition they inherited; it's a legacy they're proud to carry forward.



“A lot of my upbringing centered around CB,” offers Jimmy. “My dad is one of eight brothers, and many of his closest friends were his high school friends. My closest friends are my CB friends. Looking back, in my freshman year, I did not take advantage of the opportunities available to me at CB. My grades were terrible. Principal Rutten and the community believed in me and gave me an opportunity to go to summer school and turn things around. Without that support, push, and tough love, I don’t know where I would be. That is what CB does, it gives kids opportunities.”



"CB is an important part of our lives," says Cindy. "My father and brother attended. My daughter is there now, and I have two more boys coming up. I've seen firsthand the impact that CB has on its students, and I want that for my kids and their kids one day. Everything that Lasallian education is about benefits kids in such positive ways. It is important that we invest in continuing this legacy and giving this opportunity to others."

"While my sister and I graduated from St. Francis, I have so many great memories of time spent at CB and friends who attended the school," says Sandy. "I loved the atmosphere and all of time I spent on campus. My niece is graduating in the 150<sup>th</sup> class and it's been so sweet seeing her blossom. My own daughter will be attending Justin-Siena High School (the Christian Brothers school in Napa) in the fall. We want as many kids as possible to have this Lasallian legacy."



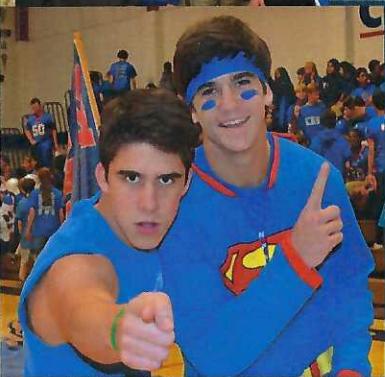
"For decades, Helen and Bill supported Christian Brothers, joyfully and quietly, never seeking recognition, always guided by a desire to lift others," enthuses CB President Dave Perry, Ed.D. "Helen continues that mission today with grace, faith, and an unwavering belief in what this school makes possible. Even more beautifully, the Pierson legacy has taken root in their children, Jimmy, Cindy, and Sandy. They give not because they must, but because, like their parents, they understand the impact that generosity can have on young lives."



"This award means so much to my sisters and me," says Jimmy. "It's humbling and a bit overwhelming to even be mentioned in the same sentence as past winners like the Burfords, the Ingoliases, our parents, and the many other past honorees. We still have a lot to give, and we don't take this lightly."

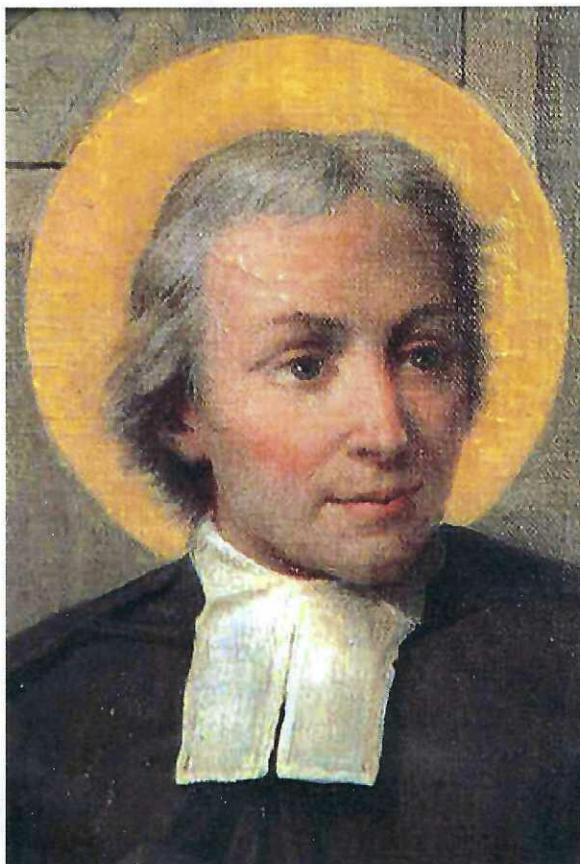
## Ambassador of the Year Recipients

1988 Richard Carlson '47 †  
1989 John Jackson, Jr. '68, Leo "Butch" Schuering, Jr. '60  
Charles Sylva '65  
1990 Ron Carissimi '51 †, Msgr. Richard Dwyer '32 †,  
James Mulhern †, Manuel Perry, Jr., Frank Ramos  
1991 Br. Bertram Coleman, FSC †, Jean Lahey †,  
Norm Montgomery †, Dwight "Dinty" Moore †,  
Robert Roche '44 †, Steve Scully '66 †  
1992 James Dunphy, Jr. '41 †  
1993 Robert Massa  
1994 Kassis Brothers (Frank †, Lewis †, Edward †, Walter †, Dr. John †)  
1995 Msgr. Edward Kavanaugh †  
1996 Dr. Donald Gillott †  
1997 Frank '71 † and Carrie Vellutini  
1998 John, Sr. and Claudine † Jackson  
1999 Bob '48 † and Mercedes † Slakey  
2000 Sisters of Mercy, Auburn Regional Community  
2001 Bishop William K. Weigand, D.D.  
2002 The Brothers of the Christian Schools  
2003 C. Stanley Gilliam '41 †  
2004 Sal "Chado" Vasquez '52  
2005 Thea Stidum  
2006 Lon '73 and Mary Ann Burford  
2007 Bill '68 and Elaine '68 Schaedler  
2008 Al '39 † and Denise † Franzoia  
2009 Asa Whetstone '51 †  
2010 George Cunningham '40 †  
2011 Richard † and Connie Koppes  
2012 Bill '73 † and Helen Pierson  
2013 The La Salle Club  
2014 Leo '55 and Gayle Granucci, Bob '55 and Carolyn '57 Granucci,  
Ken '54 and Marolyn '57 † Harris  
2015 Dr. Francis J. Silvey, III '54 †  
2016 Willie '69 and Sheila Nolan  
2017 Steve '69 and Kathleen Mahaney  
2018 The Carrera-Joffe Foundation  
2019 Jerry '53 † and Rosemary Kirrene  
2023 John and Susan Nunan  
2024 Ravinder and Kamal Khaira  
2025 Mike '65 & Kate Ingoglia



Celebrating 150 Years  
of Lasallian Catholic  
Education!

Thank you for being with us as we joyfully celebrate 150 years of Lasallian Catholic education in Sacramento— honoring our past, celebrating the present, and boldly transforming the future.



“You are Ambassadors and Ministers of Jesus Christ”  
-St. John Baptist de La Salle