

2016

Guide to the Brother Daniel Bernian papers

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Brother Daniel Bernian papers

UA.01.024

**Finding aid prepared by Catherine Carey,
Rebecca Goldman, and Bro. Joseph Grabenstein**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 30, 2016

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Summary Information

Repository	La Salle University Archives
Creator	Bernian, Daniel Brother (James N. Kelly), 1916-1994
Title	Brother Daniel Bernian papers
Date [inclusive]	1934-1990
Extent	5.0 Linear feet
Language	English

Preferred Citation

Brother Daniel Bernian Papers (UA.01.024), La Salle University Archives, Connelly Library.

Biographical Note

Born in Baltimore on September 10, 1916, James N. Kelly entered the novitiate of the Christian Brothers in 1934 and became known as Brother Daniel Bernian. His teaching assignments were West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys, 1938-1940 and 1941-1947; College St. Patrice, Riviere du Loup (Quebec), 1940-1941; La Salle College High School in Philadelphia, 1947-1949; Ammendale (MD), 1949-1950; and La Salle College/University (1951-1952; 1953-1958; and 1970-1990).

A scholar of both the French and Spanish languages, Brother Bernian studied at Laval University in Quebec (1950-1951) and received a doctorate from Laval in 1952. He attended at the Christian Brothers' Second Novitiate in Rome (1952-1953), was an exchange professor in Spain in 1953, and had a sabbatical in Barcelona (1969-1970).

Upon returning to La Salle in 1953, he was designated the first Director of Housing and—simultaneously—Dean of Men. The next year he left these posts and became the Vice President. As Vice President (1954-1958) he oversaw Student Affairs; some sources refer to him during these years as Dean of Students. In 1958 he was appointed La Salle's 24th president. Milestones during his eleven year presidency included the new Student Union (opened in 1959); the founding of La Salle-in-Europe (1960), the opening of the Summer Music Theatre (1962), the creation of the Faculty Senate (1966); and the opening of evening classes to female students (1967). He also served as the director of the Christian Brothers' community at La Salle (1961-1969 and 1971-1973). After serving as president, Brother Bernian continued to teach French and Spanish at La Salle until his retirement in 1987.

Brother Bernian was visible on the civic level as well. He was a highly respected member of the educational community of Greater Philadelphia and was one of the founders of the Community College of Philadelphia. He received honorary degrees from Villanova (1959), St. Joseph's (1961), Temple (1963), and La Salle (1969).

Scope and Content

These records reflect the work of Brother Daniel Bernian (Kelly) who held several major positions at La Salle (1951-1990), most notably the presidency (1958-1969). Materials consist of speeches and writings; correspondence with university personnel, colleagues, and other Christian Brothers; notebooks from his second novitiate; awards and honors; plaques, appointment books; grade books; and photographs.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

La Salle University Archives

Restrictions on Access

Materials containing student academic information are restricted.

Processing Information

This collection has been reconstructed after being separated and rearranged by subject. Some original order has been lost.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- La Salle University--History.

Collection Inventory

Public speeches and writings

Scope and Content

This series consists of public speeches and writings from Brother Daniel Bernian's professional career, especially his presidency at La Salle. The majority of the speeches involve campus events, such as commencements, convocations, and the Collegian awards. Other speeches were given for schools and organizations in the Philadelphia area. Still others relate to his work on behalf of the Christian Brothers. Some speeches are accompanied by research from various sources, and others have flyers or brochures corresponding to the event which framed the speech. Public writings include his column in many La Salle magazines ("The President's Page.") Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Character

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Christian Brothers

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Personal writings and drafts

Scope and Content

This series consists mainly of notebooks (written in English and in French). Most of them are likely from Brother Bernian's year in Rome for his second novitiate.

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Untitled	7
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Correspondence

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Diary

Correspondence**Scope and Content**

This series consists of two main groupings. The first is letters and cards received by Brother Bernian, especially during his La Salle presidency. The second is a collection of memoranda which he sent to various persons and offices in his presidential role at La Salle.

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Personal Correspondence (2 folders)

Subject files**Scope and Content**

Brother Bernian maintained files covering various subject titles. The biggest of these was his binder regarding the College Council. Other significant topics include alumni and athletics.

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Academic records Conditions Governing Access note Materials containing information about individual students are restricted.	

Academic records

Scope and Content

This series contains records related to Brother Bernian's teaching activity and the students whom he taught. Included in this series are evaluations of Brother Bernian's teaching by various students, his letters of evaluation for particular students, and his grade books.

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Biographical Information

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Student Records (2 of 2)

Biographical Information**Scope and Content**

This series has files containing biographical sketches of Brother Daniel Bernian, feature articles about him; retirement information (which contains his birth certificate); the testimonial dinner which was given in honor at his completion of the La Salle presidency, and a file containing business cards and registration cards. Some information regarding awards and citations are included in this series.

Related Material

Three-dimensional objects related to Brother Bernian are located in the Archives' object collection, and oversized items are in the Oversized section of the Archives.

Related Materials

Another rich source of biographical information about Brother Daniel Bernian is the Christian Brothers Archives at La Salle University.

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Biographical Information (1 of 2)

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Biographical Information (2 of 2)

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Business and Registration Cards

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Testimonial

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Honors and awards

Honors and awards

Scope and Content

This series contains certificates and awards which Brother Bernian received from La Salle and from other Philadelphia area institutions. Correspondence regarding these and other awards is also included in these files.

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