

Appendix B

Christopher A. Thompson
Questions for April 14, 2007 interview with Bro. Daniel
Burke.
Dr. Allen
Oral History

Background

Can you state your birthday and the place where you were born?

Can you state your father and mothers names?

Where were they from?

How has your father influenced your life?

How has your mother influenced your life?

Did your father's experience in World War I influence your outlook on life?

How did you feel about aviation?

How did your fathers work as a car salesman influence you?

How do you feel about the subject of war?

Can you describe Pittsburgh where you grew up? The look of the town, the smells

Did you understand, as a child, the impact of the steel industry on the town?

Do you recall the importance of, and general feeling of Homestead, PA

What was it like being an Irish American growing to an Italian grade school?

What was the impact of the Great Depression on you and your family?

The Pittsburgh area?

The Country?

What is your take on FDR's New Deal policies... A success? Failure? Both?

I understand that you first took drawing classes in the eighth grade, did you become enamored with art right away?; or was it something gradual?

I understand that you went to grade school in an Italian school, did that have anything to do with your love of art?

Have you always been religious?

Your family?

At what -point in your life were you called to your vocation?

What influenced you to become a Christian brother?

What are the vows of a Christian Brothers?

What was life like for a typical Christian Brother in the 1950's?

What is the significance of the name Fidelian of Mary?

Middle Years

I understand that you were in High School (La Salle Hall, Ammendale, MD,) during most of World War II, Can you remember the impact of World War of the fascist regimes on your little corner of the world, the country as a whole? Europe?
 What did the Christian Brothers say about fighting a war? This particular war?
 Was there discussion on the legitimacy of violence?
 The effects of war on the man? On society?

I understand that you began teaching English at West Philadelphia Catholic (High School) in 1949; What was West Catholic like during your time there? (I am a West Catholic legacy; my uncle graduated in '44, my father in '58, I in '92)

La Salle years 1957-1969

You started teaching at LaSalle in 1957, You've stated that when you came to LaSalle there were 34 Christian brothers teaching at the College, can you describe the social life a typical Christian brother at LaSalle in 1957?

Where did they live?

Can you remember how many persons of the Dominican Order taught and worked here?
 What happened to them?

What were the differences between the Dominicans and the Christian Brothers, besides the differing orders?

Can you describe the culture of LaSalle in the 50's and early sixties?
 The culture of men?
 Commuters vs. residents?

What, in your opinion would the effect of the G.I. Bill be on LaSalle College?

As stated by you in summer, 1993 edition of *LaSalle* “When I came to LaSalle in 1957, the campus occupied 28 acres at 20th and Olney... There were six dormitories that accommodated 270 residents.” What other memories of the campus do you have, (physically speaking, that is...?)

What did the area of North Philadelphia look like in 1957?

Racial makeup?

Economic background?

Physical environment?

You are an English teacher, what did you teach while a professor?

After your time as president?

What are your favorite memories of teaching English at LaSalle?

How did you work in art into your English curriculum?

When were you first approached to take the position of Vice President?

How did you start the Christmas Poetry books?

As the sixties progress, did you notice a tangible change in attitude and outlook of incoming students?

Is there a particular year or events that said to you personally, “these times, they are a’ changin’”?

What about the “new”

Music?

“counter”Culture?

Drug Use?

What was your role, if any, in the Civil Rights Movement?

Were you conscious, as a Christian Brother, to the plight of blacks?

What was your experience of the Vietnam War era?

Could you, as best possibly, illuminate me as to what went on at your protest in Washington?

The LaSalle *sit ins*?

What was your take on the student uprising on colleges across America?

President 1969-1976

What was the impact of Vatican II?

What was LaSalle like in 1969?

Culture of men

Commuters vs. residents

The make-up of Religious vs. lay teachers

At what time were you first approached to take the position of President?

What went through your mind when you decided to go through with the appointment?

Did you see it as a continuation or a culmination of your career?

Did this appointment conflict or correspond with your mission as a Christian Brother?

What was your role, as President, in the curriculum?

What influenced the decision to allow women into LaSalle?

What was the selection process?

What was your relationship with the female faculty?

Was it any different than any other instructor relationship?

How did that relationship change over time?

Was there conflict with the decision to make LaSalle a coeducational college?
(exempting the nursing program, of course.)

At the instructor level?

At the student level?

Could you describe, if you can, the culture of women at LaSalle in those early coeducational years?

How did you personally handle the transition?

How did the staff handle the transition?

The students?

What influenced you to hire African American instructors at LaSalle?

What was the selection process?

How did you personally handle the transition?

How did the staff handle the transition?

The students?

What was your relationship with the African American instructors?

Was it any different than any other instructor relationship?

As stated by you in *LaSalle*, Summer, 1993, “When I came to LaSalle in 1957, the campus occupied 28 acres at 20th and Olney... There were six dormitories that accommodated 270 residents.”

While you were president, many significant projects came to fruition, Can you describe the building programs during your time as president?

How did you get the funding?

What is your favorite project?

1976-present

What influenced you to step down as President?

What is your take on the graduate program at LaSalle?

How did the Art museum project come about?

Was it a struggle to get the museum off the ground?

How did you get the funding?

How has the Art Gallery changed?

Where do you see the Art museum, as opposed to:

Other small galleries?

Regional art museums?

What is your favorite piece?

Can you expound on the *Mater Dolorosa* imagery in H.O. Tanner “La Sainte Marie”?

Can you elaborate this quote from Luke? Simeon prophecy is that Mary’s heart would be pieced with a sword. (Luke 2:34-35.) Mary “kept in mind all these things, pondering them in her heart and kept all these things carefully in her heart.” (Luke 1:19, 1:51)

What is the significance of Mary sitting on the floor, as opposed to Tanner’s “Annunciation,” where she is sitting on a bed?

What do you see as the future of the museum?

What is your proudest moment during the time of your presidency?

The worst?

What do think is your legacy as president of LaSalle?

WRAP UP

Briefly, could you discuss the impact of computers?

What is the role of the Christian brothers in 2007?

What is the role of the Catholic Church in 2007?

What do you think of the role Muslims have in the eyes of many Americans?

How has that changed since you first became a brother?

How has LaSalle changed?

When did you retire?

What was your official position at LaSalle after retiring?

Of your 23 and articles, which is your favorite?

The critics?

Which is your favorite poem (not yours)

yours?

What have you learned as a Christian Brother?

What is your prayer life?

Has that changed since you first became a brother?

What is your take on the debate of evolution vs. scientific design in some American Schools?

What is your take on the Catholic Church's stance on gays?

What is your proudest moment during your entire time at LaSalle?
The worst?

What is your legacy to LaSalle?

To Philadelphia ?
To the Art World?

What is your favorite memory of being a Christian brother?
What are your greatest achievements?

Can you impart some wisdom onto the future generations of LaSalle Students?