

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

August 2019

Dear Fellow Lasallians, Class of 2020:

It's been a good summer. I hope your summertime has been good as well.

As social media have amply documented, our students and faculty have joined groups from California to Montana to West Virginia to Memphis to New York to Puerto Rico to Bolivia and to Scampia (Naples) Italy and, of course, back to Philadelphia to perform service and learn about other cultures in so doing.

Going away for me always combines the strange and the familiar. During our service time in Scampia, (Naples, Italy), we encountered some of the most desolate slums that you will find anywhere: trash-strewn streets, abandoned housing more closely resembling concrete bunkers, and stares of fear from young and old alike. Our early encounters with these neighborhoods were tough. As we got to know the local folks, we also began to see hard-won signs of hope in and around Casarcobaleno La Salle Scampia. Guided by the legendary Brother Enrico Mueller, FSC, we began—really, just began—to discover and share the small joys and triumphs of local middle school students piecing together a math project or mastering global geography. We always hope to make a difference. We invariably discover a difference in ourselves, inspired by a common Lasallian mission.

A good number of you were able to join these service trips. As we get into the new school year, there will be time to look back and share these memories. As well as all of the other memories you have of summer. And your own new perspectives on your future as you look forward to senior year.

Yes, I did just write two sentence fragments. Purposeful fragments--I would add. Something to think about twice if you dare to imitate in your college essays!

Your summer reading, *The Water Will Come*, asks you to consider a further global challenge. This coming year is your time to take care of the small details but also to think big, to enjoy how far you've come, to enjoy your family which made this possible, and to get ready to look ahead.

All of us in the La Salle Administration have proudly watched your growth as a class since August of 2016. Be ready to join us in leadership of this very special place.

You and I are joined by the special bond of being La Salle alums, past and future, I look forward to hearing your stories, sharing opinions, and joining to make this an even better La Salle. With the grace of God and in fellowship with Lasallians around the world, there is a bright future ahead for the Class of 2020—the Class we all know that promises a special vision.

See you all soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MAO '68". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael A. O'Toole '68
Principal