

After nearly three decades at the helm of Christian Brothers High School, Brother Chris Englert, FSC, is leaving Memphis. The 18th president of CBHS and the second longest tenured leader of the school since Brother Maurelian will begin a six-month sabbatical at the end of 2018. On July 1, 2019, Brother Chris will begin his tenure as Auxiliary Visitor (Auxiliary Provincial) of the Midwest District of the Christian Brothers.

In announcing the departure of Brother Chris, CBHS Board of Directors Chairman Gary Stavrum (CBHS '84) stated that under the leadership of Brother Chris "CBHS has been recognized as a national leader and example of quality Catholic education in the Lasallian tradition. We are deeply grateful to everything Brother Chris has given to this school community, and we are confident he leaves the school well-positioned for the next 150 years."

On October 25, Dr. Scott Kier, Superintendent of Lasallian Education for the Christian Brothers of the Midwest, and Stavrum, representing the CBHS Board of Directors, following a national search, announced the appointment of Brother David Poos, FSC, as the next President of Christian Brothers High School.

"This is an exciting opportunity to continue the tradition of Christian Brothers' leadership at the school," they said. "Brother David truly exemplifies the most important and desired characteristics identified by the stakeholders who participated in the search process and described in the position profile: 'An inspiring leader... a practicing Catholic who understands and embraces the Lasallian mission, spirituality, and pedagogy... an experienced administrator... a collaborative leader... an engaging communicator.'

Since Br. Chris' arrival at CBHS, I have gotten to know him well. This is in large part because of the various hats I have worn: alumnus, parent, member of the CBHS Board, and an attorney for the school. Very simply, Br. Chris has been a visionary and a leader. He not only anticipated what needed to be done, he saw to it that it got accomplished. The education and extracurriculars provided the students are top quality, alumni and community relations are excellent, the physical campus is well-maintained, and new buildings and facilities have been built in response to what the school needs. He has directly addressed, even raised, difficult issues including: the school being the first in this area to implement a fair and yet compassionate drug testing policy; he has protected the dignity of financial aid students in the face of unfair policies of the state's governing association for athletics; and he exhibited great support from the inception of the school's affiliation with the Jubilee schools to assure education for the poor. While the school has done well under Br. Chris' watch, most importantly, he has done all this while being a loyal trustee of the Lasallian traditions. It is true that Br. Chris does not snap his fingers as Br. Stephen did with his penetrating stare; nor does Br. Chris have Br. Adrian's no non-sense demeanor, but Br. Chris realized that changing times require a different approach. Br. Chris now takes his place among the CBHS legends. CBHS will be a better place for years to come because of Br. Chris.

- ART QUINN '70

This dear Brother Chris I've known since his Cincinnati days (riding his bike across my lawn). Then to see him as CBHS' principal a "few" years later. What joy he has brought to the Martini Family is immeasurable. Nothing is more fun than dinner with him. He is a treasure. When we met Brother Chris again in Memphis was at Jimmy & Mary White's annual Super Bowl Party. We found out he also taught other Martinis at LaSalle High School in Cincinnati. Mark and I became close friends with him during the auction years and serving on Parent Board. Our sons Nick and Matt are the good fathers and men due to the influence of this dear man. Later years he did the eulogy for Mark. With his special words he gave us the courage to start to heal. He always will have a special place with the Martinis. We simply love him and really, he will never be far away.

- Maureen Martini

From Briar Creek all the way west to I-240 one can see the imprint of Brother Chris' work at the CBHS campus from 1989 to 2018. And all of it done with his quiet touch and always giving the credit to others. And within the buildings themselves is the atmosphere of respect and fraternal love that he has encouraged all 30 of his years as head of CBHS. What a privilege, pleasure and honor it has been to be his Assistant these three decades!

- Brother Joel William McGraw '63, FSC

In so many ways, Brother Chris and CBHS are synonymous. As did Brother Adrian before him, Brother Chris has left his mark on CBHS, and it is a mark that will be remembered fondly for a long time and by so many alumni and supporters of CBHS. I'm so grateful for Bro. Chris's dedicated leadership and genuine love for the students entrusted to his care.

- Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, Provincial, Midwest District

















"Brother David brings a wealth of experience in enrollment management, fundraising, academic innovation, and campus management/expansion from his tenure at Bishop Kelley High School in Oklahoma and Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, Missouri. As a current member of the CBHS staff, he is keenly aware of, and greatly values, our unique tradition and role in the community."

Br. Chris was raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. A product of Catholic schools through college, he attended St. Catharine Grade School and La Salle High School. After high school graduation, Br. Chris joined the Christian Brothers and came to Memphis to attend Christian Brothers University. He graduated in 1977 with a degree in the humanities.

From Memphis, Br. Chris returned for four years to his alma mater, La Salle, to teach religion and English. In 1981 he moved just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati to Newport, Kentucky, where he taught religion and English until 1984. The next move took Br. Chris to Kansas City O'Hara High School, and the position of Dean of Students. Then in 1989 it was back to Memphis, where he was assistant principal of CBHS for one year. He has been principal and later president since the fall of 1990. Br. Chris spent most of his summers in the late 70's and 80's studying for master's degrees. He received a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from La Salle University in Philadelphia, and later a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

During his time in Memphis, Br. Chris served on numerous boards and committees including District Council of the Midwest District of the Christian Brothers, Lasallian Mission Council of the Midwest District, Christian Brothers College Our friendship with Chris started in Cincinnati where he was a freshman at LaSalle High School when Mike was a Senior. Mike was SGA President, a position that our son Bobby eventually held at CBHS. When I became President at SAA-SDS in 1994, Mike and I were immediately and happily reunited professionally and personally with Chris. We joined each other for dinner many times each year along with our friends MUS Headmaster Ellis Haguewood and his wife Peggy. Chris gave so much of his heart, mind and soul to advance the mission of the Christian Brothers at 5900 Walnut Grove Road and humbly wouldn't want anyone to write him a note of gratitude. But he deserves so much credit for the dynamic leadership that he so freely gave to the thousands of boys who have benefited from his guidance and charm. God bless you, Brother Chris, and thank you for the amazing impact you had on our sons Bobby and John. Live Jesus in our hearts!

- Mike And Barbara Daush

first got to know Br. Chris after he had been on board for several years. My initial response was "this is an administrator with a great sense of humor". As time moved on, I also realized that he was more than a manager/administrator but also a leader. He knew the direction that he wanted to move the school and had a plan for doing it (or if he didn't, he would act as if he did). While the ambitions for the school were big, they were achievable in numerous manageable steps. For example, after one year one would say that nothing much happened. But when you looked back over five years, you realized that a lot of things had actually occurred, and that the school did not look the same as it did five years earlier. When making changes, he would consult with his advisors for the best ideas, and he always surrounded himself with the best talent. He was also not afraid to delegate projects and then not micromanage after delegating responsibility. When one looks back on the last 25+ years, you will note many changes, both in the physical plant and in the classroom, which has kept CBHS competitive with or superior to our perceived peers.

- Tom Sullivan '72

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with Br. Chris. He has taught me so much and I am a better person for having worked with him over the past 15 years. His kind, gentle nature and sense of humor is a real gift. I wish him the very best as he moves along in his journey as a Brother of the Christian Schools and our loss is the gain of the Midwest District. Godspeed!

- CHRIS FAY

Brother Chris' retirement is a great loss for the school, for Memphis, and for me. For more than two decades he has been a trusted colleague, valued advisor, and good friend. I will always have the greatest respect and admiration for his leadership at CBHS, his integrity, his intelligence, his humility, and his kindness. He knows God, and he knows boys. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another," the proverb asserts. He sharpened me.

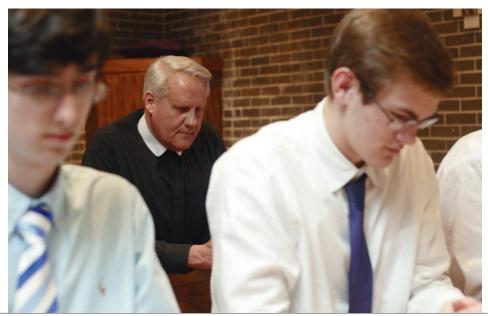
- ELLIS HAGUEWOOD, HEADMASTER EMERITUS, MUS











High School Board in St. Louis, MO, CBU Board in Memphis, Madonna Learning Center Board (a school for special needs children) in Memphis, and Baptist Hospital Community Relations Board in Memphis.

Br. Chris looks back fondly at his years serving in Memphis. Last month, he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by CBU, his alma mater. Earlier this year, he was chosen by his colleagues as the outstanding school leader in receiving the Christ the Teacher Award in October by the Catholic Diocese of Memphis.

"I have been blessed to have worked at a school which is one of the crown jewels of the Lasallian network," said Br. Chris. "There are hundreds, if not thousands of individuals who have and continue to make Christian Brothers High School the fine institution it is today. The leadership of the administration, the passion of the faculty members, the dedication of the staff, the commitment of the Board of Directors, and most importantly, the pride and success of our students make CBHS a truly unique school.

"Families, graduates, and friends have all given of their time, talent, and treasure to ensure a quality experience for young men. I'm simply the face of the school---much like Br. Ignatius, Br. Adrian, Br. Lambert, Br. Terence---each of the 17 Brothers who have preceded me as the chief administrator. And I know that my successor, Br. David, will do a fine job as the 19th President of CBHS.

He thanks the Board Chairs for their service during his time at CBHS for the past 30 years.

consider Brother Chris to be one of the best friends I have ever had. His friendship is one of the special gifts I have received in my lifetime. He has always been there for me. His personal and professional support have been a source of encouragement. He brings a smile to my face each time I see him. Though our visits are less frequent today, getting together again is like picking up where we left off yesterday. As a teacher and administrator, his commitment to the mission of the Christian Brothers is quickly evident whether he is meeting with a parent, cheering at a football game, or greeting students as they arrive at school in the morning. His positive leadership style has impacted the CBHS community in a dramatic way. Under his watch the curriculum and campus have grown by leaps and bounds. He has touched the hearts of many. His vision, leadership, service and his "can do" spirit have moved the CBHS community forward. His spirit will be a light that will help to guide the school into the future. I am thankful for his loyal friendship and his sincerity of heart through all these years. I wish him much satisfaction as he explores this new chapter of his life.

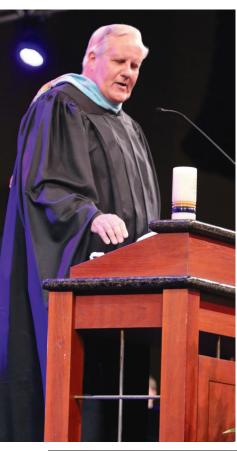
- RICHARD KOHRS

Brother Chris is a truly gifted and remarkable leader whom I have had the pleasure to know since he came to the school in the late 1980's. Private high schools do not have the financial resources to employ the business, legal, and strategic skill sets to efficiently manage an academic institution. Brother Chris used the large talent pool of successful parents, alumni and friends of the school to create a collaborative support system to assist in the management process. The success of this effort is very apparent in the new academic and athletic facilities added over the past 28 years as well as the considerable renovations of existing facilities. All of this was accomplished while greatly improving the school's financial condition and keeping the tuition below other private schools in our area. He has steadily improved the diversity and content of the course curriculum and the technology employed to instruct and communicate to the various stakeholders. He has helped start functioning alumni organizations in cities outside of Memphis to improve the involvement of this important resource. A key leadership trait is the understanding that a successful organization is only achieved by building a very talented team devoted to the mission and strategic goals of the school. Brother Chris' legacy defines that trait. Finally, he is a great friend (and chef) and Susan and I will miss him tremendously when he departs for the next chapter of his life.

- RON REDDIN '65

The legacy that Br. Chris will leave is woven into the fabric of what makes CBHS, well, CBHS. His steady and calm demeanor, his warm and gentle spirit, his sincere interest in what happens to the graduates after life at CBHS will be missed but not forgotten. Just like the leaders before him he made his mark. He embodies the Lasallian Mission that was established by the Founder. He has made an impact on literally thousands of men who have been part of the CBHS family for the past 30 years. Thank you, Brother Chris! You are leaving the school better and stronger than when you arrived. You have been a great steward and a humble leader. You made a difference!

- Kevin Kane '74











"Lance Forsdick guided a young, inexperienced administrator in his first years. Bob Orians saw the direction of athletics in the state of Tennessee and spearheaded the building of Tom Nix Stadium and Giacosa Field in 1996. Ron Reddin and Tom Sullivan solidified the financial stability of the school, especially appreciated during the recession. And Gary Stavrum has led the much needed expansion and renovations of the facilities of the 53 year old Walnut Grove Campus."

Br. Chris thanked the Christian Brothers, too.

"I have had many titles over the years....teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Principal, President, Director, and a soon to be named Auxiliary Provincial starting July 1. But the most meaningful title is that of Brother. In my 30 years in Memphis, I have been surrounded by Brothers who have supported me, guided me, humored me, and have never let me be on a pedestal."

"Together we have gone to weddings, funerals, banquets, celebrations, meetings, athletic events, theater and chorus performances, Eagle Scout ceremonies, anniversaries, hospitals, and...more meetings. By honoring me you are honoring all these Brothers who share the same Lasallian commitment to youth, a love of Memphis and these fine schools, and who have occupied a small but significant part of our 147-year history in this city... each of us has made an annual or perpetual commitment to the De La Salle Christian Brothers—a vocation that has taken us on a journey we could never have imagined when we first entered the order. As diverse as we are, each Brother is an inspiration to me."

Give everyone the chance to do the right thing. Under the leadership of Br. Chris, this simple yet far-reaching idea has animated the CBHS campus and culture for thirty years. With love, a wry sense of humor, and boundless patience, Br. Chris has inspired students and teachers alike to be better than they might otherwise be. Br. Chris' tenure at CBHS has seen dramatic improvements to the brick-and-mortar campus, yet granting each individual this profound respect, and then modeling day in and day out what it means to strive for this ideal – this may be Br. Chris' richest and most transformative legacy. Every year at graduation Br. Chris closes by encouraging the students to do what he has done every day for thirty years: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

- Dr. Jamie Brummer

Brother Chris is one of those unique individuals whom I have always admired as a leader. Over the years, we have had many conversations about plans and opportunities for CBHS. In every conversation, Br. Chris would consider thoughtfully the proposal at hand, and always respond with "what's best for the boys?" or "How will this affect all of our students?" Every decision made, large or small, was framed with the student's best interest at heart. Br. Chris is gifted with a sharp intellect, a huge heart, a quick wit, and a deep passion for the Lasallian mission. Though students, faculty, and staff will miss seeing him daily, we are so grateful that his association and support of CBHS will continue through the Midwest District initiatives.

- Nancy Lanigan

First off, I consider Brother Chris my friend. He is one of the most compassionate, friendly and thoughtful people I know. I'm going to miss the conversations we've had over the years talking about family, friends and, of course, CBHS. His influence on my sons have no doubt helped them in their chosen careers. What he has accomplished at the school is truly remarkable. CBHS has continued to be a power player in Memphis under his leadership. Br. Chris has left his mark in Memphis and we are all better off because of him.

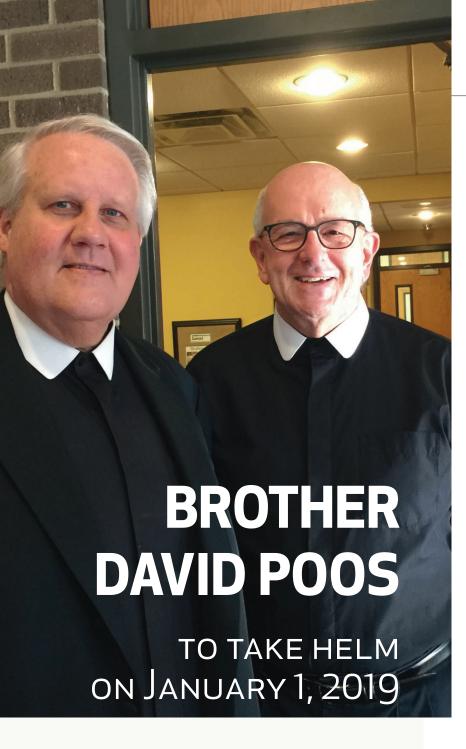
- Kenny Myers '80

T here are not enough words to describe the man who has helped so many young men to become the leaders of today and tomorrow. He is a visionary who is dedicated to God and His service. He is a strong leader who is stern, but fair. He is a true friend and beloved member of all the Pratt family. But, most importantly, he is a real Christian Brother!

- Anne Pratt, Widow Of The Late George Pratt '65

Brother Chris has been a towering presence for 30 years at CBHS. He is a bright and strong leader. To just look at the campus makes you realize the development and progress of the school under his guidance for these years. To me, he is a man of faith, a true Brother, a man of great wit and humor and especially a friend. You will be missed but there are multiple signs of your presence. You have made your mark and left an awesome legacy.

- Msgr. John McArthur '66, AFSC



BROTHER
CHRIS ENGLERT
LEAVING CBHS AFTER 30 YEARS

Brother David Poos, who will take over leadership of CBHS on January 1, 2019, praised his predecessor, especially for his focus on the nearly 6,000 students who have graduated under his leadership.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank Brother Chris for the outstanding job he has done leading Christian Brothers High School for these last 30 years," said Br. David. "His dedication and commitment to the Christian Brothers High School community is unparalleled. Everything he did, he did for the good of the students. It was never about him. It was always about the young men entrusted to his care. He will definitely be missed."

"I am well aware of the fact that I have some big shoes to fill. Fortunately, Brother Chris is a very good friend of mine and I know that he is only a phone call away. I hope that he is able to enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation during this second semester before he assumes his new role as Auxiliary Provincial for the Midwest District of the Christian Brothers. God bless you, Brother Chris, and know that you are always welcome at Christian Brothers High School."

Brother David, currently an English teacher at CBHS, will assume the role of President with vast teaching experience, as well as serving in many leadership positions as principal, development director, and president.

He graduated from Newport Catholic High School (Kentucky) in 1972. He received his BA in Humanities from CBU in 1976, Masters in Reading from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1982, and Masters in Secondary School Administration from St. Louis University in 1991.

From 1976 to 1989, Br. David taught at Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis,

Newport Catholic High School, St. Mary High School in Paducah, Kentucky, and LaSalle High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served as President of Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma from 1989-2002. Br. David worked in Development at De La Salle Middle School at St. Matthew's in St. Louis before returning to CBC-St. Louis in 2004 where he was Principal until 2015. He then came to teach at CBHS in Memphis.

He currently serves on the Board of Trustees, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, Minnesota. His past affiliations include: Board of Directors, CBHS, Memphis; Board of Directors, La Salle Retreat Center, Wildwood, Missouri; Board of Directors, De La Salle Middle School at St. Matthew's, St. Louis; Catholic High School Principals Association, Tulsa; Board of Directors, CBC High School, St. Louis; and Provincial Council for the Saint Louis District of the Christian Brothers.

Br. David has received numerous awards and recognitions including: Guiding Star Award, presented by De La Salle Middle School, St. Louis; Honorary Alumnus of Christian Brothers College High School; Induction into the Bishop Kelley Hall of Fame, Tulsa; 2004 – 2005 Sophomore Teacher of the Year, CBC High School, St. Louis; De La Salle Award, presented by Bishop Kelley High School, Tulsa; Dedication of the Brother David Poos, FSC, Science and Technology Center, by the Bishop Kelley School Board, Most Reverend Edward J. Slattery, Bishop of Tulsa, and Mrs. Arden Glenn, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Tulsa; Eagle Award, presented by Bishop Kelley High School students, Tulsa; and De La Salle Award, presented by CBC High School, St. Louis.

Br. David is very excited to assume the role of the 19th President of Christian Brothers High School.

"I am following in the footsteps of some extraordinary Brothers who have done an outstanding job of leading this fine institution for the last 147 plus years," said Br. David. "I am humbled and honored to be able to follow in their footsteps. God truly has blessed me in my life as a Christian Brother. I have been provided many opportunities and challenges during my 46 years as a Brother. I have learned from these experiences and have grown tremendously because of them. There is still so much for me to learn."

"I look forward to what lies ahead for me and for Christian Brothers High School," he said. "I also look forward to meeting many of you in the days and weeks ahead. Please pray for me, and be assured of my daily prayers for you and your families, as I assume this awesome responsibility of leading Christian Brothers High School."



