





## SIGNUM FIDEI THE SIGN OF FAITH

When the De La Salle Christian Brothers accepted sponsorship of Lewis University in 1960, the University adopted the seal of the Christian Brothers. The Signum Fidei (the Sign of Faith) symbolically represents the integration of the distinctive values of knowledge, fidelity, wisdom, justice, and association. Each of these values is significant, but it is only in their union that the Mission is realized. The Signum Fidei is a symbol of the Lasallian spirit which unifies these distinctive values proclaimed by the University.

Faith may be understood as the search for truth that cannot be understood by reason alone. In this context, the University develops the relationship between faith and daily life in each individual and in the situations in which individuals live and act.

Just as the seal of the University provides a common symbol for identification, the Mission defines the values of the institution and inspires and unifies the work of its members.

## THE MISSION STATEMENT

Lewis University, guided by its catholic and lasallian heritage, provides to a diverse student population programs for a liberal and professional education grounded in the interaction of knowledge and fidelity in the search for truth. Lewis promotes the development of the complete person through the pursuit of wisdom and justice. Fundamental to its mission is a spirit of association which develops community in all teaching, learning and service.

## SANCTIFIED ZONE

Guided by its Catholic and Lasallian heritage, Lewis University is firmly committed to fostering a campus atmosphere that is permeated by its Mission-based values of Fidelity, Wisdom, Knowledge, Justice and Association. Accordingly, we have declared the University campus to be a Sanctified Zone, a place and a people United in Diversity. The active promotion of diversity and the opposition to all forms of prejudice and bias are a powerful and healing expression of our desire to be "Signs of Faith" (Signum Fidei) to our students and each other.

**S**  
**ONE** United in Diversity

## FAITHFUL TO THE LASALLIAN HERITAGE IN CATHOLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Lewis is a University dedicated to the sharing of knowledge, grounded in its Catholic character, and animated by the Lasallian heritage of the De La Salle Christian Brothers and their colleagues.

### EDUCATION

As a University, Lewis is committed to blending liberal and professional education effectively by engaging all dimensions of human experience. Such learning is freely pursued, value-centered, and disciplined. This process seeks to develop educated persons with the knowledge, critical judgment and wisdom required throughout their lives.

### CATHOLIC

As Catholic, Lewis University fosters the creative interaction of faith with all forms of knowledge, in an environment of open inquiry, in the belief that all of created reality is intelligible and coherent. The University seeks a world of justice, rooted in community.

### LASALLIAN

As Lasallian, Lewis University promotes a values-based education characterized by quality teaching, a supportive environment, personal interaction between students and faculty, a commitment to service and social justice, and a sensitivity to poverty and oppression.

## **KNO LEDGE**

**The result of a lifelong pursuit of learning fostered through creative and critical interaction in a community of learners.**

Knowledge is achieved through respectful and disciplined dialogue, the development of intellectual skills and methodologies, and the valuing of open inquiry and academic freedom.

Knowledge preserves what is of perennial value from the past, tests what is current and new, and seeks to discover the future in the secrets of the physical universe and the mysteries of the human spirit.

It evolves from the lifelong pursuit of intellectual, professional, cultural and religious learning. Knowledge allows one to experience autonomy of thought grounded in discipline and structure, which enhances personal growth, responsibility and leadership.

The University is dedicated to academic excellence, particularly in the promotion of a high quality of student-centered, interactive learning and instruction. To this end, the University places

# THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND THE LASALLIAN MOVEMENT : A WORLD IDEAL WORK

The De La Salle Christian Brothers today work in collaboration with thousands of Lasallian lay partners who together carry the vision of De La Salle to hundreds of education-related works in 79 countries throughout the world. This global community of Christian Brothers, numbering about 4,000 today works alongside more than 90,000 lay partners for the benefit of nearly one million students. Many of those students attend one of 64 Lasallian colleges and universities around the world. Here in the United States, there are approximately 100 Lasallian educational institutions. Lewis is one of six colleges and universities in this country sponsored by the Christian Brothers. The Brothers of the Christian Schools, by their own choice and vocation, are lay religious. They express commitment to their work through vows of association for the service of the poor through education, chastity, poverty, obedience, as well as stability of the Institute. The Brothers and the lay partners with whom they share their mission, approach their educational work as more than a job or a profession; it is the essence of their calling to "touch the hearts" of the students entrusted to their care and to "inspire them with the Christian spirit."

## JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE PARSONS AIN OF ED CA OR

John Baptist de La Salle was born into a world very different from our own. He was the first son of wealthy parents living in Reims, France more than 360 years ago. At the age of sixteen, De La Salle was named Canon of the Reims Cathedral, an honorary position that provided additional income to his family. Though he had to assume the administration of family affairs after his parents died, he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a doctorate in theology. Meanwhile, De La Salle recruited a group of teachers in order to help establish schools for poor boys.

At that time, few people lived in luxury but most were extremely poor: peasants in the country, and slum dwellers in the towns. Only a few could send their children to school. Moved by the plight of the poor, De La Salle determined to put his own talents and advanced education at the service of the children who had little hope for the future, those who were "often left to themselves and badly brought up." To be more effective, he abandoned his family home, moved in with the teachers, stepped aside from his prestigious role in the Church, gave up his wealth, and so formed the

## HOLY NAME BEGINNING

Founded in 1932 under the direction of the Chicago Archdiocese and Bishop Bernard J. Sheil, Lewis University began as the Holy Name Technical School for boys. Aviation technology was the special emphasis of instruction and the origin of today's highly regarded Department of Aviation and Transportation. In 1952, the school was renamed Lewis College of Science and Technology. In 1960, the De La Salle Christian Brothers assumed direction of the institution. Today, with growing enrollment, outstanding programs, experienced faculty and motivated students, Lewis University is fast becoming one of the finest, mid-sized, comprehensive Catholic universities in the Midwest.