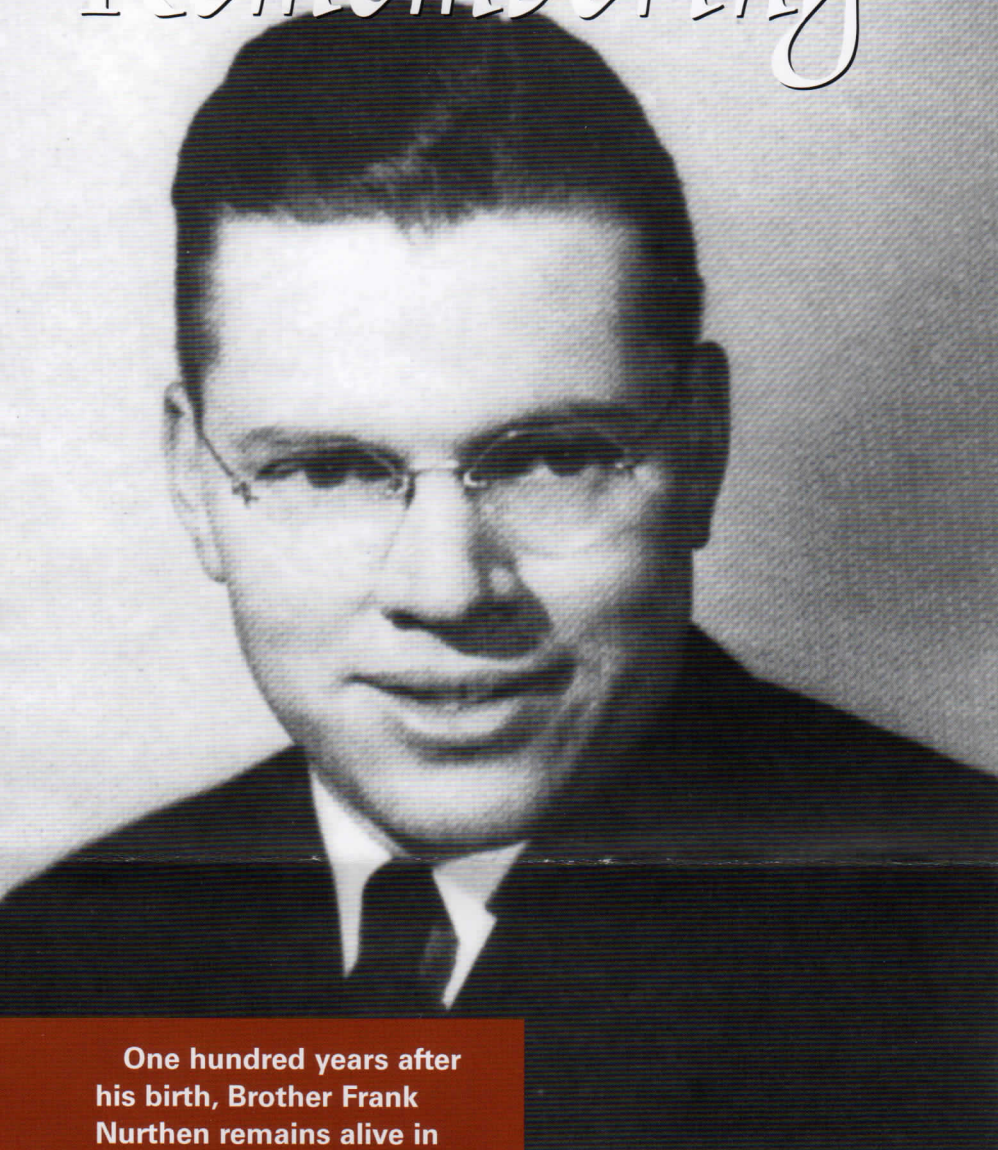


Remembering Brother Frank



One hundred years after his birth, Brother Frank Nurthen remains alive in the hearts of many Cathedral Latin alumni and friends today. The Marianist Brother served as a teacher, mentor, vice principal, alumni moderator, and vice president at Latin, and at age 83, actually assisted in the Alumni Office at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. August 26, 2008 marks what would have been Brother Frank Nurthen's centennial birthday. Wouldn't it be great if he were alive today to celebrate with us!

Francis "Frank" T. Nurthen, S.M. was born in 1908 in Philadelphia, PA to William H. and Anna O'Rourke Nurthen. He was one of six children. Young Frank graduated from West Philadelphia Catholic High School, a Marianist school, in 1927. He continued in his education earning a B.S. degree from the University of Dayton and a M.S. degree in Education from Western Reserve University. Bro. Frank professed his vows as a Brother in the Society of Mary Marianist Order in August of 1932 and accepted his first teaching position at Cathedral Latin School.

In 1938, Bro. Frank left Cathedral Latin to teach at Colegio San Jose, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico for one year, returning to Cathedral Latin in 1939.

He became Vice Principal at Latin in 1942. Loved by faculty and students alike, the Cathedral Latin Class of '46 dedicated their yearbook to Brother Frank. This same year, he left Latin to become the Director of Postulants at Mount St. John in Dayton, Ohio. He served in the same position when the Postulate was moved to the Marianist Preparatory in Beacon, New York.

In 1960 Bro. Frank returned to his beloved Cathedral Latin, serving as Vice Principal as well as Alumni Advisor until 1965. The next five years, Brother Frank was transferred across town as Business Manager of St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Despite his absence, Brother Frank was named Cathedral Latin's Man of the Year in 1966. This same year (Latin's 50th Anniversary), he was named to the Diocesan School Board of Greater Cleveland by Bishop Clarence Issenmann.

The road continued to lead back to Latin for Bro. Frank. In 1970, he was named Vice President in charge of Finances and Development. His responsibilities included Alumni Moderator, which became his full-time position.

In spite of valiant efforts by many, including Brother Frank, Cathedral Latin School closed its doors in 1979. The determined Brother Frank worked tirelessly along with many former students to keep the Cathedral Latin Alumni Association alive. Active members today can attest to his success! He worked shoulder-to-shoulder with other Alumni Association members forging an agreement with the Sisters of Notre Dame to create Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School in 1988.

Not surprising, Bro. Frank was there on August 20, 1988, holding the NDCL sign with other notables as local newspapers and camera crews reported on the merging of two great traditions — Notre Dame Academy and Cathedral Latin School.

“Bro. Frank was a credit to the Marianist Society in fostering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He lived a moral life that inspired many Cathedral Latin students, family members and others,” says Pete Pucher '55.

“Brother Frank truly embodied the Latin values of spirituality, scholastics, athletics and social; he was a role model to many. He showed us by his life how to be devoted, loyal, prayerful, loving, forgiving, and charitable — he lived a life of Jesus Christ.”

Mike Lavelle, '66, remembers, “I lost my father between my freshman and sophomore years at Latin. Bro. Frank supported me and got me through those tough years. His strong religious beliefs were an example to me. He was a strong administrator, and he served an ambassador role. Bro. Frank was friendly to everyone.”

“I viewed Bro. Frank as Cathedral Latin. He embodied everything that the Marianists as a religious order were trying to instill in young men,” Lavelle continues. “He had a tremendous impact — not just on me, but on many students.”

Thanks in part to Bro. Frank's steady guidance, Lavelle today serves as president of Doosan Infracore America's Lift Truck Division, based in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. As with so many Latin alumni, Bro. Frank took a personal interest in making sure Mike would make it through Latin and beyond.

Lavelle chuckles as he explains that he saw Brother Frank almost every day — because he was always tardy due to hitchhiking his way to school. “He had my tardy slip ready for me when I arrived at his office each morning.”

Bro. Victor Forlani, '61, recalls with fondness working together with Bro. Frank from 1970 to 1975 on the Cathedral Latin telethons. “A lot of people thought we would never make that kind of money, but we did every year. Bro. Frank gave credibility toward the effort. He would say, ‘Let's get going



and give it a shot.’ Bro. Frank was wonderful to work with. He was dedicated, had a great sense of humor, and enjoyed playing tricks on us to make us laugh.”

“He showed me by word and example that it is possible and it is wonderful to mature in the Society of Mary in a way that it is productive, joyful and inspiring to others,” adds Bro. Victor. “God bless him.”

Jack Hannan, '46, says, “There are many sentimental things I could tell you about Bro. Nurthen, but what he meant to me, my class and all of Cathedral Latin is he is a man's man. He is the real (“Opere et Veritate”) spirit of Cathedral Latin. He is the Father Flanigan of the Brothers of Mary/Cathedral Latin.”

Hannan says it is Bro. Nurthen's philosophy that there were no bad boys. “He wasn't a man who would criticize or lecture you, but rather cause you to think in so many ways...like calculating the number 237 to the 17th power. He only saw the best in everyone.”

Brother Frank Nurthen died at the age of 86 on Oct. 18, 1994.

Years ago, the Brother Frank Nurthen Endowed Scholarship was established by the Cathedral Latin Alumni Association in his memory. A major contributor was the Dzurec family, founders and former owners of Oberlin Dairy Farms (now known as Dairymen's). The family gifted \$50,000 to the Bro. Frank Nurthen Endowed Scholarship in 1998. Rick Dzurec '68 recalls, “Our family made the contribution after my father (Richard Dzurec '46) passed away. According to my mother, Bro. Frank actually altered his class schedule so Dad could work back in the '40s at the dairy farm.”

Dzurec continues, “Bro. Frank was Vice-Principal when I attended Latin. He had a great memory. Twenty-two years later, Bro. Frank approached me while I was a student at Latin saying, ‘I remember your father,’ and he told me stories about my dad as

a student. He was an endless reservoir of memories about fathers, siblings and other family members. We decided as a company to establish a scholarship fund with half going to the Brother Frank Nurthen Scholarship and the other half for the Urban Community Center. My dad valued Catholic education, and our gift was made in the spirit of that!”

The Brother Frank Nurthen Endowed Scholarship continues to impact the lives of current NDCL students — making Catholic education available to those who otherwise could not afford to attend the school. Each year eight students receive \$1,000 toward tuition, which is renewable. To qualify, students must be a direct descendant of a Latin alumnus with demonstrated financial need.

“Bro. Frank would have enjoyed the scholarship, but he would have shied away from it being named in his honor,” explains Pucher. “He was very modest. He would have been excited about helping students to attend NDCL, but play down its' name.”

“I would encourage others to remember Bro. Frank by making a donation to this scholarship today in honor of his 100th birthday. Give \$100 for 100 years or whatever amount you can give.”

Opere et Veritate [NOL](#)