

Student Lasallian Commencement Address

May 1994

Presented by: Frederick E. Bryant

Members of the Board of Trustees, Distinguished Honorees, President Brother James Gaffney, Members of the Faculty, Administrators, Parents, Friends, and my Fellow Graduates:

John Baptist de la Salle created the Lasallian schools for the purpose of educating the average student and instilling within them important values for life. His goal in education was not only to turn out scholars, but more importantly, to assist people with their everyday lives.

So, I have come here to put a face on that term: "the average student". Who is the average student anyway? Is the average student, the person of 22 who has gone four years of college and is now going out into the real world? If that's the case, I am not average. This is my fifth year and I have spent a lot of time working in the real world. Many of you today don't match that description. Some of you are mothers and fathers. Many of you have one career and are now looking to another. Others are returning to school to [miss] a degree or gain a new credential. Many of the graduates who will get their diplomas today have spent a lot of years in the real world.

Who is **average**? In one way, we all are -having to work hard to obtain our degrees.

As I share with you how people have brought the Lasallian mission to me, take time to reflect on your own experiences -someone at Lewis who has touched you and made a difference.

I, like most of you, probably have learned to live my life according to a path set by my family. I come from a wonderful extended family, but I look to my mom first. I hope to be like her: strong but gentle; committed, dedicated and willing to tell you what you need to hear.

There are others 'who have taught me in my years at Lewis. I remember Br. James who, from the first