

Today I will be presenting about Brother Bassett, whom many of you might not know the true story behind.

Who is Br. Bassett?

Brother Bassett became a Christian Brother in 1955, and has been making STMC a most wonderful school ever since. Not only did he help with the setting up of our school, but he has also been a past track and field coach. Also, he was among the staff members who initiated technology here, a story which we will dive into details later. Currently, he is the groundskeeper and a retired teacher of STM.

Why Br. Bassett is a Disciple of Christ

Bro Bassett is one of the best role models for all of us because he fulfills ALL 10 requirements of being a disciple of Christ. However, there are 3 essentials that I have chosen, which I think are the most inspiring. The first is that he spreads God's love among us. By having been a teacher for many years, Bro Bassett has taught many students and loved each and every single one of them like all teachers should. He has had lots of experience of sharing God's love with others using his own good humor. The second is that Brother Bassett serves one another humbly. By being a Christian Brother, Bro Bassett is certainly very humble, for he had made an eternal Vow of Poverty that guides him to living a simple life. And lastly, he continues to live a faithful as well as prayerful life. Maybe sometimes, when you walk along the hallway, especially after school in front of Mr. Garland's office, you see Br. Bassett quietly standing at one side, looking through all the pictures on the walls. Also, during the day, Brother prays and meditates by himself. He is therefore the perfect example to living a faithful, peaceful, and prayerful life.

Accomplishments

Apart from helping with the start-up of STM, Brother Bassett also established a figure of Blessed Edmund Rice at our school. From 1980 to 2002, Bro lead an amazing track and field program that involved great dedication, as exemplified by a training routines and techniques booklet that he kept the whole time. Also, he is the current groundskeeper at our school, and you can often see him mowing the lawn, cutting away unwanted plants, along with tidying up our courtyard, especially during the warmer Spring and Summer months.

The following is going to be a very interesting story of how Bro Bassett assisted with the technology initiation at STM. In the school year of 1979 - 1980,

the school hired a recent graduate from Simon Fraser University to teach a computer class. By the way, there were only 1 computer in the entire school at this time. But after working for one year, he moved away to teach at another school (Due to this other school having an entire lab of computers...). So Br. Bassett, who happened to be the only one among the whole staff to have taken a computer course, took over as the IT teacher and taught it for many years until the school year of 2016 - 2017.

Speak of which, Br. Bassett had been a classroom teacher from 1959 - 2017, which is a total of 58 years. This, he told me, is what he considers to be his greatest achievement of all time.

How Br. Bassett Accomplished These

So, how did Br. Bassett accomplish all he has done? Well, apart from constant prayers, meditation, and having a strong basis of faith, the most important step to Brother's success is becoming a Christian Brother. Same as all of us sitting here right now, Brother also went to a Christian Brother high school called St. Louis College, where many Christian Brothers taught as regular teachers. Seeing how great these people were and being inspired by them, Bro. Bassett was determined to become one just like them. After he graduated from this school, he went to a novitiate to study for 1 year and then went to Iowa College to study for 3 years, where he not only learned to become an official Brother, but also got his bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biology. Then, he was sent to, yes, Vancouver College, to teach. During this time, STM is just being built, and Bro. Bassett, who had a friend that was in charge of the construction, sometimes came to look over the process. Two years later, our school got built and Bro. Bassett came here to become a classroom teacher. After teaching here from 1961 to 1966, he was redirected to go to Dominica to teach from 1967 to 1972, and at the end of this 5 year period, Bro was asked where he wanted to go next. Without a doubt, he replied STM and this is where he stayed until now.

Another factor to his accomplishments is the simple Vow of Poverty that he took annual starting from the beginning of his journey for approximately 8 years before he took the eternal one that renounced all of his personal property. For example, the car that Bro. Bassett drives does not belong to himself but to the Congregation of Christian Brother.

Hall of Fame

Brother Bassett was inducted in 2006 to become one of the members on the STM Hall of Fame. The two pictures to the right can be found behind the large trophy case near the multi-purpose room, and these are real life symbols of Brother's amazing dedication to our school. He was recognized for his hard work as a STM faculty member since 1961, which is 58 years of service! He has been a dedicated teacher, administrator, and groundskeeper at our school. Furthermore, in 2015, Brother Bassett celebrated his 60th year as a devoted Christian Brother.

How Br. Bassett Inspires Us to be Christian Witnesses

Now, how does Br. Bassett inspire all of us to be Christian witnesses? His simply being among us inspires and encourages us to not only help others but strive to be the best of ourselves. Also, as students of STMC, we should all remember his dedication to the school. Everything you see around here would not be here if not for Bro Bassett's devotion to making our school the best it can possibly be and providing the best experiences for students who attend STM. In addition, Brother Bassett is a very relatable role model who is, similar to each and every one of us, a STM knight. How a figure so close to us can be so life-changing and legendary will inspire us to be humble members of society as well.

Quotes

There are two quotes that I have found that resemble Brother Bassett's life experiences very well. The first is, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms", from 1 Peter Chapter 4 Verse 10. The second is from Mahatma Gandhi, stating, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." These two quotes all discuss service, which is a huge component of Bro Bassett's life.

The End

Now, I have a few final words to say. Brother Bassett has been, currently is, and will always be a fundamental part of our school's identity. Without him, STM would definitely not be the same as it is today. As students and staff members of STMC, it is almost our duty to recognize and remember all the efforts Bro Bassett has dedicated to our learning environment, which has made it beyond incredible. Therefore, if you see Bro Bassett in the hallway or on the grass field, say "hello" to him or just wave goodbye. Even a simply act as that will show that you truly understand the love and care Brother Bassett has for the school. Thank you