



**IAAS Walks of Life 2008**  
**Brother Robert E. Lavelle, CSC**

Brother Robert E. Lavelle has been Headmaster of Gilmour Academy for more than twenty-seven years—one of the longest tenures of any independent school headmaster in this country. Under his leadership, student enrollment (preschool through 12) has increased from 323 to 738, the school's endowment has climbed to almost \$40 million, and Gilmour has completed a \$20 million capital campaign; cutting-edge technologies have been incorporated into a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum, and the school has opened its doors to girls as well as boys.

Admirers describe Brother Robert as one who preserves the best of the past while being a catalyst for initiating changes needed for the future. Under his skillful and far-sighted guidance, Gilmour Academy, a private Catholic college-preparatory school situated on 144 acres in rural Gates Mills, has developed a challenging curriculum that includes Socratic Seminars and 90-minute classes designed to help students learn to think critically and solve problems in a project-oriented world.

Born in Cleveland, Robert Lavelle graduated from St. Edward's University (B.S. in Bus.Ed.) and Kent State University (M.A. Ed.), pursuing additional studies in business management, theology and counseling at the University of Akron, the University of Notre Dame, Boston College and Marquette University. Before coming to Gilmour Academy, as Assistant Headmaster in 1976, Brother Lavelle had held various positions at other institutions associated with his congregation, the Holy Cross Brothers, from teaching and counseling to administration, development and public relations.

The Gilmour campus now boasts a new \$6.2 Middle School and a new chapel, as well as expanded and renovated Upper School, Lower School, athletic and residential facilities. Brother Lavelle also serves as Independent School Representative for United Way.

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