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LEAD Brothers in Ireland. "During my recent visit to Ireland (*following the International Mission Assembly*) I called to the Brothers retirement home in Castletown and took the opportunity to have a photo with six Brothers who served in the legacy District of Penang. These are, from left, Br. John Gaule, Br. Kevin Byrne, Br. Senan Bergin, Br. Mark Blake, Br. Adrian Gaule, Br. Oliver Rogers. All are now eighty or above and are keeping in reasonably good health. They send warmest greetings to all and appreciate Brothers keeping in contact. A seventh, Br Columba Gleeson, was away at the time of my visit." (*Br. Tom Lavin*)

Of Formation Houses, Vows, Jubilees and the Habit Taking. I summarize my visits of the last two weeks. I visited the formation houses of Thailand and Myanmar, attended the First Vows and Jubilees in Thailand and was present at the Habit Taking of the new novices.

Thailand Formation House, Sampran. I was in Sampran for three days at the end of May (29 – 31) and was able to interview the candidates. I arrived on the 29th and was able to interview all of them on the 30th. On the

31st I had some time with the Director, Br. Simon and his assistant, Br. Sebastian. There are nine (9) young men undergoing formation in Sampran two of whom are preparing to enter the novitiate in 2014. The rest are in different levels at the seminary.



First Vows and Jubilees. On the morning of the 31st, Simon, Sebastian and I proceeded to Bangna to prepare for the big ceremonies the next day. The Thai novice, John Baptist (Johnny) Perapong pronounced his First Vows and three Brothers celebrated their jubilees namely: Simon Phanom, Eugene Prapas (Silver) and Stephen Kan (Ruby). The Chapel of St. John Baptist De La Salle was packed with friends, family, members of the Lasallian Family and Religious from all over Thailand. The main Celebrant was Bishop Silvio Siripong, Bishop of Chantaburi. He was assisted by four other Bishops and 48 priests. The reception was held in the gymnasium of La Salle College. Congratulations and more power to Johnny, Simon, Eugene and Stephen.





Myanmar Formation Houses. On the 2nd I flew into Myanmar, landing in Yangon but flying the next day to Maymyo where the Aspirancy and the Postulancy are located. The other formation house, the Come and See Program, is in Kalaw but they came down to Maymyo during this visit. I spent three full days in Maymyo (3 – 5) and was able to interview 3 postulants, 8 aspirants and 12 Come and See candidates. I was also able to interview the formators.

Habit Taking. On the 6th I flew to Manila in time for the Habit Taking of the novices on the 7th. There were 14 novices who took the Holy Habit: Ten from LEAD (four from Myanmar, four from the Philippines and two from Thailand), one from Papua New Guinea, two from Sri Lanka and one from India. The ceremony was moving in its simplicity. Aside from myself, on hand to witness and present the Holy Habit were the Visitors from ANZPPNG, Br. Mark



McKeon and the Visitor from the District of Colombo, Br. Denzil Perera. Br. Vincent Keating, Novice Master, mentioned in his brief reflection to the novices that only the first habit is blessed, the rest that Brothers take on in their religious life journey are “blessed by their witnessing and holiness”.

Thanks to all who helped organize my visits: to Br. Simon and Stephen Kan in Thailand and Br. Lawrence, Ling John and Joseph A in Myanmar. Thanks to Br. Vincent for the warm welcome in the novitiate.

Fullerton-SJI Leadership Lecture: Br. Armin A. Luistro FSC.

“Br. Armin A. Luistro, Secretary of the Department of Education of the Philippines gave an inspiring lecture about his life story to more than 100 guests at the Fullerton Hotel on 31 May. Sharing his journey from the time he was a student, to being the President at De La Salle University managing 100,000 Lasallian students, and his current portfolio as Secretary of Department of Education of Philippines where he oversees 21 million students across the nation, Br. Armin recalled the tough times and issues he had to face, including shortage of textbooks and teachers, and dealing with corruption



when he took over the Office. The event was also graced by the Philippine Ambassador to Singapore, Her Excellency Minda Calaguian Cruz and members from the Filipino community. (<http://www.sji.edu.sg>)

Let’s reCAP. “Last June 1-3, 2013, the House of Studies or Manila Scholasticate community went to La Salle Villa, Tagaytay, to have its Community Annual Planning. The objectives of our CAP was simple, to “Fill, Select and Commit”. The CAP was divided into three parts with the aim of meeting our objectives.



“In order for us to fill and select our identity as a community, we spent the first day in prayerful and reflective silence. Individually, we filled up our questionnaires. We would then meet as a big group and share our answers and ideas. From there, we started to select and define our community; who we are, where we want to go and how we plan to go there. It was a day spent well and everyone contributed to the discussions. After a productive and fruitful day, we concluded it by having our first community gathering; an event filled with much laughter and camaraderie.

“From the output that we had the previous day, the community made its commitment to be faithful to the plan that we were able to come up with. Br. Rey Mejias, the director, then presented to the community the yearlong schedule. It was a busy one, but he assured each and every one of the accompaniment and support that he, along with Br. Alex Diaz, the sub-director, will provide. Around 6pm, the community left the villa with high hopes and aspirations for the year ahead of us.

“Personally, I find the CAP inspiring for it was truly a community effort and it covered much of our identity as Brothers in our various stages. I continue to hope and pray that we, the members of our community, will be able to live by the plan we have made “Faithfull, Selflessly and Continually”.” *(Br. Mark Salván)*

INSTITUTE SNIPPETS

LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA (RELAN)

Four Brothers to Enter Novitiate in August. “I am happy to introduce to you our four young men from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) who will enter the Regional novitiate at Napa, California. Brothers David Deradoorian (DENA), Anthony Elfering (Midwest), Patrick Martin (San Francisco), and Roberto Martinez (San Francisco) will begin the one-year program August 12, 2013.

“We are grateful to the initial formation teams of the Districts that accompanied David, Anthony, Patrick and Roberto providing them an excellent postulancy program. These are good young men blessed with gifts and abilities that have already served them well in their respective apostolates.

“The novitiate program is under the leadership of Brother Kevin Slate, Director, and Brother Philip Johnson, Sub-Director. Br. Kevin, a member of the San Francisco District, served as Director to the 2010-2011 novitiate class. Br. Philip, a member of the Midwest District, is currently Coordinator of Ministry/Identity at Lewis University.

“Please remember in your prayers these four young men committing themselves to live as De La Salle Christian Brothers. Please share this announcement with members of your community.” *(Brother Robert Schieler, FSC General Councillor for RELAN | 6 June 2013)*

Faternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Hong Kong



Digital Journal of Lasallian
Research Number 6 – May 2013

The Challenge of Building Up
Lasallian Memory

available at: [http://
revista_roma.delasalle.edu.mx/
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