



31 July 2013 • 111



International Young Brothers Assembly. 39 Young Brothers from the five regions of the Institute are currently in De La Salle University - Dasmariñas for the International Young Brothers Assembly. Their website <http://iyba.lasalle.org> has daily updates on the events, documents, presentations, and photos. I enjoin all Lasallians to pray for the delegates. You may use their prayer found in this link: <http://iyba.lasalle.org/prayer-during-the-assembly>



Thailand Young Brothers'

Recollection and Gathering. “On July 22nd, 2013 we, all young Brothers of Sector of Thailand came to Lasalle House of Formation Sampran for our recollection and gathering. This was a part of our on-going formation as De La Salle Brothers.

“We had a day of recollection together on July 22, 2013 during our long public holiday. We listened to the talk by Sr. Marisa OP, a Dominican Sister from the Philippines on 'consecrated Brother and Psycho-spiritual'. She shared and led us to reflect on our own self through the image of the tree; root, trunk and branches. Healthy self acceptance was a part of her talk and sharing during our 2 sessions in the morning that will encourage us to continue and be faithful to our Lasallian charism and mission. She also encouraged us to pick up 1-2 points for our own reflection after this event that will help us to grow and become a better person and brother. She also reminded us to be a Brother- teacher, not only common teacher. This recollection and gathering also allowed us to spend some time with God and share with others the gift of our Lasallian vocation.



“During this gathering we also appreciated the presence of Br. Stephen Kan FSC, our Sector Leader, Br. Joseph Klong FSC who came down from his Bamboo School to join and support us and Br. Simon Phanom FSC, Director of Formation House who gave us a warm welcome, kindness and hospitality during our recollection. We are thankful for everything that we have received during this day of recollection and gathering.

“We prayed that our good Lord will continue watering the seeds of Lasallian vocation within us to grow and bear fruits for others by working with all Brothers in our Sector and District. We ended our day of recollection and gathering with mass in the afternoon then all went back to their own community in order to continue their work in the school after long public holiday. Live Jesus in our hearts...for ever!” (Br. Sebastian Sripuk)

Prayers Requested: Br. Albinus O’Flaherty is currently at the Prince Court Medical Centre in Jalan Kia Peng Kuala Lumpur. He was unwell in Kuching two weeks ago. He was to have a surgery on the 23rd of July but due to some complications related to his heart on Sunday 21st July, the doctors were unable to proceed with the surgery. He has been better for the past few days when Br. Ambrose and Andrew Loke were able to visit him two days ago. He is being looked after well by the doctors in the Prince Court Medical Centre and Ms. Angela from Kuching who accompanied him here. The doctors have been treating him and will fix the date of the surgery when his heart condition is better. We will keep you informed about his condition. (Br. Anthony Rogers)

Br. Armin Lauded by Philippine President. In his 2013 “State of the Nation Address”, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III highlighted the achievements of his Cabinet and other government officials. Br. Armin, the current Secretary for Education, received the most praise from the President. The following is an excerpt from the President’s report to the Filipino people:

“Let us move on to education. Our goal is to raise the quality of learning that our children undertake, so that once they finish their schooling, they can seize the opportunities now opening up in society: accomplished. We have finally erased the backlog we inherited in books and chairs, and if Secretary Armin Luistro continues to demonstrate true grit, even the backlog we inherited in classrooms will also be erased this year. And there is even more good news: Now, we also have the ability to prepare for the additional needs that the implementation of the K to 12 program will require.

“The problems that plagued Brother Armin in the DepEd are no laughing matter. Just think: one textbook used to be priced at 58 pesos; since he assumed office, the price of the exact same textbook has gone down to 30 pesos. What would have happened if we had been paying the proper price from the beginning? If we had saved the difference of 28 pesos for all the books bought, at five textbooks for each of the estimated 20.7 million students in our public school system, the equivalent would amount to almost 2.9 billion pesos. These savings alone could have funded our plans to repair and rehabilitate around 9,502 classrooms.

“If Brother Armin didn’t have strength of will, he could have just left this culture of negligence in his agency for his successor to deal with. He could have also left the backlog, as well as the growing gap of needs because of the rising number of enrollees each year. But instead of being content, instead of saying, “This will do. My job is done,” Brother Armin will build even more chairs and classrooms, and will buy even more books, to ensure that even the needs in future years will also be met.” Congratulations to Br. Armin!



Visit to Br. Kelvin Tan FSC. I visited Kelvin Tan at Kensington in Sydney where he is currently taking up a double major in Psychology and Linguistics at Sydney University. I arrived on the morning of the 23rd of July and flew out on the 25th spending two wonderful days with him and his community. His degree at Sydney U will give him the license to teach in Singapore as his current undergrad degree does not qualify him to be a teacher. While there I had a chance to catch up with their Visitor, Br. Mark McKeon as well as their former Visitor, Br. Ambrose Payne. I also met with Miranda Chow of Lasallian Foundation. I wish to thank Kelvin for looking

after me the short time I was there and to the Brothers of Kensington for the warm welcome and hospitality. Special thanks to Br. Cletus Story who picked me up and brought me to the airport.

Br. Danai Arrives in Singapore. Br. Danai Kingkarn of the Sector of Thailand arrived in Singapore to embark on his studies at La Salle Art School. His program will be on Film Animation and will most likely take three years to complete. While on Studies he will help out in LEAD in various capacities in the area of communications. I wish to thank the Sector of Singapore for providing him with scholarship, support and encouragement. His community will be St. Patrick's.

INSTITUTE SNIPPETS

PACIFIC ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Director of Lasallian Services Reflects on Visit to the District of Vietnam. Br John Pill recently returned from two weeks in Vietnam. It was his first visit to this District and his remarks upon his return left no doubt that whatever benefit his visit has been to the Brothers and Lasallian Sisters was far outweighed by what he received from them. The purpose of John's visit was to conduct a three- day workshop on Association at the Brothers' formation house at Mai Thon in Ho Chi Minh City. He then took the opportunity to visit some of the communities and works of the District in the city itself, Pleiku and Nah Tran. Along with the other congregations working in Vietnam, the District "offered" the schools of its flourishing District to the government after the war in 1975. Religious were no longer permitted to work in education. A small percentage of the three hundred Brothers became refugees, many left the Institute; some were "re-educated". Today there are approximately ninety Brothers in the District. Rather than looking back at the great schools and works that were, the Brothers now are re-building very much in the manner of the early days of the Institute, living with insecurity and fragility. The aspirancy, postulancy, novitiate and scholasticate has healthy numbers. There is an energy amongst the Brothers of all ages. The workshop raised the possibility that the Lasallian mission and the Church in Vietnam can be strengthened even further by the sharing of the charism with Lay Partners – albeit they are still small in number. *(PARCVIEW | 25 July 2013)*

Old Boy SJI Singapore Vatican Appointment. Mt George Yeo, former Foreign Minister of Singapore and an SJI Old Boy has been appointed by Pope Francis to a special Vatican Commission. The Commission consists of seven international lay experts and one cleric. *(PARCVIEW | 25 July 2013)*

APLYC 10. The Sector Council of Malaysia has approved the request of the PARC Office to hold APLYC 10 in Malaysia in 2014. James Camden of the LSC and PARC's representative on ILYC will liaise with the Lasallian Youth Team in Malaysia to determine a date and venue. APLYC 10 will be a PARC programme conducted in Malaysia and a collaborative effort between PARC and the Sector of Malaysia. *(PARCVIEW | 25 July 2013)*

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Philippines

Visitor's Calendar

Date	Event	Venue
August		
01 – 09	8 Day Retreat	<i>Philippines</i>
18 – 20	Canonical Visit to St. Joseph Community	<i>Kuching</i>
22 – 26	LEAD Council Evaluation and Meeting	<i>Thailand</i>