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La Salle Bangkok Turns 50. Our warmest congratulations to the Sector of Thailand, the La Salle Sisters (Vietnam) and La Salle College Bangkok as the school celebrates its 50th Foundation Anniversary! The Sector of Thailand and the La Salle Sisters (Vietnam) are strong partners in the management and ministry of the school. The jubilee celebrations were held last 8 November attended by Brothers, La Salle Sisters, the Catholic clergy and religious, alumni, teachers and students. His Eminence Michael Michai Cardinal Kitbunchu was the guest of honour and presided the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Notable alumni and teachers were honoured during the program with the Archbishop Emeritus of Bangkok presenting the tokens. The celebrations was capped with dinner program showcasing the different talents and achievements of the students.





Preparations for the 45th General Chapter. I am attaching a document prepared by RELAN General Councillor Br. Robert Schieler. It is a narrative summary of the revisions to the Rule based on the September 2012 Draft of the Commission for the Revision of the Rule. According to the Rule: “All the Brothers of the Institute are invited to participate in the work of preparing for an ordinary General Chapter. Each Brother has the right to send to the Brother Superior or the Secretary General whatever notes or position papers, duly signed, he may judge useful” (Rule 110). Circular 468 advised that “all personal notes as well as community notes should be sent to the Secretary General, Brother Jose Antolinez by email 45capgen@lasalle.org or by FAX (+39 06 663 8821) no later than January 1, 2014.

New District of Central Africa. “On 26 October, 2013, an Extraordinary Chapter of the District of Douala was held in Ebolowa (Cameroon), and its aim was to give final approval to the joining of the Lasallian sector of Equatorial Guinea with the District of Douala. Twenty-two Brothers took part, representing the Communities of Cameroon, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. Brother Gabriel Somé, Councillor General for the Region of Africa was also in attendance.

“The Chapter began by evaluating the process of unification that had taken place so far in terms of economic administration, pastoral work, initial formation (postulancy) and the participation of the Brothers of Guinea in the life of the District. All these aspects were given a positive evaluation, and it was resolved to continue along the path that had been initiated. A vote was taken on the proposal to unite the Communities and establishments of Equatorial Guinea with the District of Douala. It was approved unanimously.

“In addition, the capitulants discussed a new name for the District since the change in geographic composition required one. The proposal to call it the “District of Central Africa” was also given majority approval, and this was submitted for ratification by Brother Superior General and his Council. From now on, there is a new District in the Institute.

“The new District Council was constituted by the appointment of Brother Juan Pablo Martín Dueñas, from the sector of Guinea, as a member. Similarly, Brothers from Guinea will be members of the new District committees for education, pastoral work and communication. We congratulate all the Brothers of the New District and we rejoice in the step forward that has been taken. We hope that, in the day to day activity, all those aspects will be developed which can contribute to the strengthening of the new District.” *(Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echevarría)*





CIL 2013 Update | Week 1: “A Journey of Becoming....A Call to Life”. “Vocation is not about having more but it’s about living more the authentic vocation”. These were part of what Brother Alvaro said when he welcomed the delegates to this CIL Program on “Formation for the Pastoral Ministry of Vocations”. It was a message that recognised the importance of living more not only the Brothers vocation but also all other levels of awareness and commitment within the Lasallian Family as he spoke not just of “vocation but vocations”.... reflective of the reality that in the Lasallian Family, the pastoral ministry of vocations is not only about the Brothers vocation but also about the partners who have become essential to the carrying out of the Lasallian mission.

Week 1 provided very important learnings that are foundational for us to appreciate all the more our involvement in ensuring that Lasallian vocations must be nurtured. There were opportunities to reflect in smaller groups experiences that made us aware of how important it is to recognise that indeed vocation is a journey of becoming and its promotion and nurturance is part of the process of living out the Lasallian Mission.

On the sharing of Sr. Enrica Rosanna, FMA – a sociologist – what sums her input would be that vocation is truly a gratuitous act of God, citing that “the call, coming from God must always find its way to the heart of man”. She ushered us to reflect on realities and trends in our world today that have somehow challenged many – especially young people – to appreciate one’s mission through his/her vocation. This underscores the fact the indeed vocation is not an invitation in isolation but a call that involves all as she pointed out three elements of vocation, namely:

(1) dialogue and a relationship in which God and the human being come together from two starting points;



(2) growth and development, particularly for young people who for the first time, raise the question of meaning and a plan for life; and
(3) history and culture, in so far as vocation takes place within a concrete historical context, with a given time and place.

Br. Robert Comte FSC, the French Brother – theologian journeyed with us for two days and brought us to reflect on the importance of understanding’s one’s journey as a vocation promoter and persons living the vocation. He used the story of Abram (Abraham) – and his conversion – as our reflection story that brought us to appreciate all the more vocation as a journey with high’s and low’s yet attuned to the One who initiates the invitation.

In the end and as the week ended, we were made to realise that just like Abraham’s, vocation is truly a journey of becoming more aware of oneself (towards oneself) and of a bigger reality (towards God) that calls on the person to transcend beyond personal longings and dreams towards a communal and more inclusive aspirations. *(Mr. Ritche Bongcaron)*



Philippines’ Inter - Luzon Aspirants’ Workshop. “Inter Luzon Aspirants Workshop (ILAW) is an annual event of Aspirants of the De La Salle Brothers from the three communities in Luzon namely the 1911 Community composed of De La Salle University, De La Salle – College of St. Benilde, and De La Salle Araneta University; ‘Brader’ Community of the De La Salle Lipa; and Residencia Community composed of De La Salle University – Dasmariñas and De La Salle Health Sciences Institute.

“This year, there’s a new twist as Br. Alex Diaz, FSC, as the National Vocation Promoter, named it as Inter Luzon Aspirants Workshop and Reflection (ILAW - R) 2013 with the theme “*Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God*” hosted by the Residencia Community at the Retreat and Conference Center in De La Salle University – Dasmariñas last October 26 – 27, 2013. The program aims to provide contacts and discerners of each community an experience God through encounters with fellow aspirants from other communities.

“The event was organized and facilitated by 10 Young Brothers of the Philippines, namely, Br. Alex Diaz, Br. Normandy Dujungco, Br. Sockie dela Rosa, Br. Mikey Cua, Br. Iñigo Riola, Br. Angelo Paragas, Br. Toby Dela Cruz, Br. Butch Alcludia, Br. Dan Sanding, and Br. Joseph Daluz, and Philippine Sector Leader Br. Jose Mari Jimenez. A total of 51 aspirants, contacts, and discerners made it as this year’s most number of participants of ILAW.



“The two days and one night event started with an evening prayer facilitated by Br. Toby followed by an evening get together party organised by Br. Butch. The next day, Br. Dan facilitated the Morning Prayer. The workshop proper was facilitated by Br. Sockie and Br. Mikey, who gave the participants a nerve - racking dramatic

opening called the Transactional Analysis which focus on the different ego states of every human being. The workshop became more interesting by having a Film Fest as the participants were grouped into four and were given different situations that they should act out after the morning workshop. The Brothers chose the best actors and best film among the four short film. Br. Gelo and Br. Joseph facilitated the afternoon session entitled ‘A journey towards self-awareness’ in which participants were able to know their different heroic archetypes developed by Carl Jung. The morning and afternoon session was followed by a short group discussion in order for each participant to share their insights. Br. Gelo synthesised the whole workshop and recollection by sharing that “Life is a journey. It is a journey of discovering ourselves and others, accepting and respecting the reality of life with others and try to work it out in order to have a peaceful life, and lastly, to continue to love ourselves, others and God because He first loved us”. It ended with a Sunday Mass officiated by Fr. Lenjenie Arcan followed by the Aspirancy contract signing of 13 new aspirants.” (Aspirant Ed Mark Pagdato | De La Salle Health Sciences Institute)



La Salle Centre Ipoh. I am attaching Volume 1, Issue 1 of the Newsletter of La Salle Center Ipoh. It highlights the current state, events and programmes of the La Salle Centre. It also features two outstanding Lasallians recognised in Malaysia, namely, Br. Vincent Corkery FSC and Dr. Anthony Ernest Sibert. You will also find details on upcoming events in the Sector of Malaysia. Congratulations to Br. Vincent Corkery and Br. Matthew Bay for the the Newsletter of La Salle Center Ipoh!

Welcome Br. Thomas Johnson. We wish to welcome our Vicar General, Br. Thomas Johnson FSC, to the Lasallian East Asia District! Br. Thomas will be in Thailand to give presentations to the “PARC Commitment Renewal Programme”, which is a programme for Brothers preparing for Perpetual Profession or those recently professed. Br. Thomas will also be attending the LEAD Council Day of Reflection and 11th Meeting to be held on 21 - 22 November 2013.



Br. Vincent Corkery FSC

LEAD STORY

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Typhoon Haiyan. We would like to thank all those who sent their messages of concern and prayers for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan (*locally named in the Philippines as typhoon “Yolanda”*). This Category 5 Typhoon is already dubbed as one of the strongest storms observed in world history and has killed more than a hundred. As of 9 November, the Philippine Red Cross estimates that about 1,200 died in just two provinces. Affecting 40 provinces in several islands of central Philippines, the preventive evacuation of 800,000 residents was supposed to diminish the number of casualties in a country that is all too familiar with typhoons.

Since power and communication lines are down in the affected areas, we have yet to grasp the full extent of the damage and casualties brought about by Typhoon “Haiyan”. None of our schools were in the direct path of the typhoon, although some schools have reported minor damages to their infrastructure. According to the Philippine’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, a total of 944,597 families or 4,282,636 individuals in 40 provinces were affected by Super Typhoon “Haiyan”.

The Sector of the Philippines has organised a disaster response and relief operations called “**One La Salle Relief Drive: Yolanda**”. We will provide further updates as we receive news from the different islands of the Philippines. Let us also keep Vietnam in prayers as they prepare for Typhoon Haiyan. Information on the relief efforts can be found in the De La Salle Philippines website: <http://delasalle.ph/news/2013/11/10/one-la-salle-relief-drive-yolanda>

Faternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Thailand



Lasallian Teacher. Watch this inspiring short film produced by students of De La Salle College in Mangere East, Auckland, New Zealand. It features their science teacher, Mr. Kane Raukura, encouraging his students to become teachers and models for the young. You can view the film through this YouTube link: <http://youtu.be/PSFmRpTuu6o>