

24 November 2013 • 126



**Gathering of Brothers in Thailand.** Four groups of Brothers converged this month at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Pattaya, Thailand. The first group arrived early November for the PARC Commitment Renewal Program organised by Br. John Pill. Seven young Brothers participated in this three - week program for Brothers preparing for Final Vows or have recently made their Final Profession: Br. Sockie dela Rosa (LEAD), Br. Mandy Dujunco (LEAD), Br. Mervyn Lambert (Colombo), Br. Roshan Dias (Colombo), Br. Anton Gunathilaka (Colombo), Br. Brickston (India), and Br. Vincent Quan (Vietnam).

The next wave of arrivals were Brothers attending the Economic Council and District Council meetings as well as the participants for the LEAD Mid Life Workshop. On 20 November, the Economic Council, presided by our Bursar Br. Jose del Coss, met in the morning. At the end of the day, a total of 21 Brothers from Malaysia (2), Myanmar (2), Philippines (10), Singapore (4), and Thailand (3) arrived for the Mid Life Workshop.

The Mid Life Workshop commenced on 21 November with Br. Michael French of the Midwest District of RELAN as the resource speaker. Meanwhile, the District Council had a “Day of Reflection” facilitated by our Vicar General, Br. Thomas Johnson, and PARC General Councillor, Br. David Hawke. The day was capped with an after supper socials of all the Brothers in the Center. The evening was made extra special with the help of a karaoke and a number of talented Brothers across Sectors.

The 11th LEAD Council Meeting was convened the following day with Br. Thomas Johnson and Br. David Hawke attending and sharing their feedback. Meanwhile, both the PARC Commitment Renewal and the Mid Life Workshop continued with their programs for the day and that they will end on November 23 and 24, respectively. I would like to thank the following for their contribution to the success of these events:

- Br. Thomas Johnson, Vicar General, for facilitating the 3rd session of the PARC Commitment Renewal Program and the "Day of Reflection" of the LEAD Council, as well as for his feedback and active presence during the 11th LEAD Council Meeting;
- Br. David Hawke, PARC General Councillor, for facilitating the "Day of Reflection" of the LEAD Council and for his feedback arising from his pastoral visits in LEAD and his active presence during the 11th LEAD Council Meeting;
- Br. John Pill for organising the PARC Commitment Renewal Program and all the services he rendered to the District and Region;
- Br. Kenneth Martinez, Br. Jason Blaikie and Br. Joseph Klong for organising the Mid Life Workshop and the first gathering of the Middle Aged Brothers;
- Br. Michael French for being the resource speaker of the Mid Life Workshop;
- Br. Stephen Kan and the Sector of Thailand for hosting all these events and especially to Br. Sebastian Charoen, Br. Joseph Klong, Br. Peter Booncherd, Br. Dominic Chamlong, and Br. Eugene Prapas who all assisted in the airport pick - up and transportation;
- Br. Ruben Caluyong for the photographs; and
- The Pattaya Community of the Redemptorist Fathers for allowing us to use their facilities.

**PARC Renewal Commitment Program 2013.** "Br. Mandy Dujunco and Br. Sockie de la Rosa, both from the Philippine Sector, participated in the PARC Commitment Renewal Program at the Redemptorist Center in Pattaya, Thailand. The three-week program was designed for Young Brothers who have just made final vows or preparing to take their final vows. There were seven participants from different sectors in PARC. The Program Director of CRP2013 was Br. John Pill (PARC Lasallian Services) assisted in logistics by Br. Sebastian from Thailand.

"The first set of sessions, facilitated by Br. Christy Croos FSC (District of Colombo) focused on the Psycho-Spiritual Aspects of Young Religious. Br. Dodo Fernandez FSC (LEAD Visitor) facilitated the next set of sessions: Reflection on the Evangelical Counsels. The participants were refreshed and renewed with a "vacation with God" via an 8-day directed retreat.

"Vicar General, Br. Tom Johnson FSC was the facilitator of the third set of sessions. He focused on Association and helped the participants reflect on the



realities and questions of Association in the Institute. The last session, on Circular 466, Being Brothers, was facilitated by Br. John Pill FSC.

“Aside from daily conferences and the directed retreat, the participants were able to have a whole day of shopping and sightseeing in Bangkok. Also, they were able to have a one-day exposure with the apostolate of the Redemptorists in Pattaya for the differently abled. The three-week program, true to its name, renewed the commitment of the Young Brothers who will return to their Sectors full of hope and energy for the mission.” *(Br. Sockie dela Rosa)*

### Br. Collin Welcomed in Sampran.

“It was such a great opportunity for our Postulants in the La Salle Formation House Sampran in Thailand to welcome Br. Collin Wee from St. Patrick’s community, Sector of Singapore. He came to stay with us for a short time before proceeding to Pattaya to participate in the Mid Life Workshop. He took this opportunity



to visit the Postulants especially those who went to Singapore for studies and exposure. Like all the Brothers of St. Patrick’s community, he has shown his kindness, care, help and hospitality towards all our Postulants during their stay in Singapore. Our Postulants experienced a lot and improved in their English with help from all Brothers there.

“During his visit in Sampran, Br. Collin cooked two meals for all of us. Our Postulants learned and understood the meaning of Lasallian brotherhood from his generosity and kindness. He also took some time to chat with our Postulants during meals and free times. We appreciate his presence and kindness while staying with us. We hope to get a chance to welcome him and other Brothers from St. Patrick’s community again.” *(Br. Sebastian Charoen)*

**CIL 2014 Delegates of LEAD.** CIL 2014: “Animating Lasallian Communities” will be held on 7 - 31 January 2014 at the Generalate, Rome, Italy. LEAD will be sending six (6) delegates:



Br. De La Salle Sayam Ngamdee FSC  
Mr. Dominic Ang  
Mr. Emmanuel Dorai  
Ms. Nikki Chan  
Mr. Keane Palatino  
Ms. Vangie de Peralta

Thailand  
Singapore  
Malaysia  
Hong Kong  
Philippines  
Philippines

We pray for the success of our delegates in their current ministries and all their future endeavours.

**CIL 2013 Update (Week 3).** “The second part of the workshop started off with a very practical and down-to-earth speaker, Brother Sean Dammon, a former Superior General of the Marist Brothers. He gave us a theological contextualization of the vocation of the Brothers in today’s world and some tips on how a healthy community life should be. We were enlightened especially by his view on what is real celibate chastity. On the whole, he gave us hope that though “religious life may be diminished but it’s surely not dying”. Instead, “religious life is the Church’s living memory of what it can be, longs to be, must be.”

“Br. Dammon was followed by a Brother from Argentina, Br. Santiago Rodriguez FSC, who facilitated the discussion on the identity of the Brother from a narrative focus. Br. Santiago Rodriguez began by making the reference to the philosophers in different theory of narrative identity and the tools for synthesizing the person’s story in different approaches. Each day there were 2 sessions for input and the other 2 sessions were for reading and practice to synthesize the story of a person and the output was shared in a small group.

“There were good dialogue points from reading the history of Pastoral Ministry of Vocations in different Districts, from the new questions of young people today, and from our questions as religious and our joint work with lay people. We have been rediscovering and describing new ways, and pastoral concepts particular to this ministry. Today, we can say that we have been able to move from a framework that saw vocation and our religious life more as (static) objects, to a more narrative one. Br. Rodriguez’s presentation makes us become more aware with the process in pastoral care within the school, a process that is primarily about learning to discern, using freedom as self-transcendence and afterwards, making subsequent decisions on specific forms of one’s incorporation into ecclesial, work, social, and political life.

“The pastoral ministry of vocations is the planned attention to process the human maturation of a young man, in the faith, by which he becomes sensitive to the needs of serving others through religious life. And in that awareness of the relationship with the poor, he encounters a Christian community that has become a possible sign of the young man’s response to these needs. In our case, this community is the Lasallian community, a community of brothers, communities or faith groups of lay people, or the proximity of other religious communities or in the parish. This Lasallian community banks on evangelising education as a sign of the Kingdom, because it understands the needs of the poor. A community that bears witness to having encountered God in the culture of the school for the poor is a community in which men have opted for a type of life that involves fidelity.

“The challenge now in the pastoral ministry of vocations is allowing the young candidate to encounter God in their personal prayer life, the demands of the poor, the possibilities of serving in the school, the company of a community, and the love for young people, – men or women. Those involved in the ministry must be first convinced that God calls them to consecrate to the ecclesial community that wishes to be a sign of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom in a particular society, be it as married persons, priests, consecrated religious, missionaries.”

*(Br. Jeffrey Chan and Br. Simon Phanom Wittayanukorn)*





## **PACIFIC-ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

General Councillor for PARC Region  
St. Patrick's School, 490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058

### **ANNOUNCEMENT BRO JOHN PILL DIRECTOR LASALLIAN SERVICES PARC**

Bro Mark McKeon, Visitor of the District of ANZPPNG has requested that Bro John Pill takes up an appointment as Director of a Brothers' community in Australia and other District duties, to commence in January, 2014.

Bro Mark has indicated that Bro John may fulfil "essential commitments" he has made in the Region for 2014. This will include his participation in PARC 37. Bro John will be in contact with Visitors and others confirming or rescheduling commitments and the passing on of responsibility for the continuation of projects already undertaken.

In consultation with Brothers Mark and John, it has been decided that Bro John will terminate his work visa in Singapore on 30 April 2014. However he will spend some weeks, equivalent to his annual leave, during the period January to February in his community in Australia.

PARC 37 will provide the forum in the light of this situation for the Visitors' Conference to discuss the Region's relationship with the Districts/Delegation and theirs with the Region. It is timely also that this discussion takes place within the framework of the major restructuring of Districts that has occurred in the Region in recent years. There will be a temptation to say to "leave this until after the General Chapter." However the Region as a "means of coordination and collaboration" (Rule 127) needs to continue to function and to put all this on hold for many months would not be in the best interests of the stakeholders. During Bro John's tenure in the Region some important directions have been initiated, particularly in the area of "Association" and they are too important to be held in obeisance and therefore require a smooth transfer whatever the outcomes maybe of the 45th General Chapter.

Bro David Hawke FSC  
General Councillor PARC  
18 November 2014



**UPDATES: One La Salle Relief Drive: Yolanda (Haiyan).** Many students, staff, alumni, schools and Sectors all over LEAD have expressed their solidarity with Lasallians in the Philippines by initiating fundraising activities and generously contributing to the relief drive of the Sector. Below are updates from Mr. Keane Palatino on the On La Salle Relief Drive to areas devastated by the typhoon but not as well publicised in media:

#### Operasyon Yolanda - USLS Bacolod

“Our fellow Lasallians in Bacolod have distributed more the 12,000 relief packs over the past days to Sagay, Cadiz and Manapla in Negros Occidental, Bantayan Island in Cebu and in Panay Island -- Roxas, Iloilo to name a few. They continue to collect and pack relief goods for distribution in Northern Negros.”

#### Guiuan, Eastern Samar

“We have already dispatched more than 6,000 family relief packs for Guiuan, Eastern Samar. Once it reaches the Port of Borongan, the Diocese will be handling its distribution to the affected families. The donations (in kind) of this batch of relief goods sent to Guiuan was collected from our La Salle schools in Luzon and through De La Salle Zobel's partnership with our friends and alumni from St. James Parish, Brgy. Ayala Alabang, AAVA and the Diocese of Parañaque.”

#### Coron, Palawan

“After the Guiuan dispatch, our focus is now on Coron Palawan. We were able to speak to Fr. Eddie Penafiel (*Relief Coordinator in the 5 Parishes in Coron and Busuanga*), and he says they are badly in need of relief goods for 20,000 families. We are currently mapping out a dispatch plan from Manila to Coron Palawan.”

#### One La Salle Medical Mission

“Our friends from De La Salle Health Sciences Institute are now in contact with communities where a Medical Mission can be done, an isolated area somewhere in the Antique province is being considered.”

Fraternally,

**Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC**  
Hong Kong