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Fidelity and Gratitude: Br. Greg's 70th Jubilee. “Br. Gregory Lim, the oldest Singaporean Brother, celebrated 70 years of faithful service to the Lasallian mission last December 9 at St. Patrick's School. He was joined by Brothers, Partners, family, friends and many of his old boys.

“Archbishop William Goh of the Archdiocese of Singapore concelebrated the mass with several priests who have worked with Br. Greg over the years. Archbishop Goh, in his homily, thanked Br. Greg for his commitment to the consecrated life. He talked about the importance of religious and priests in the life of the Church -- they serve as visible signs of the life that all Christians should aspire for. Through his life, Br. Greg has shown that it is possible to persevere and grow in consecrated life despite the many challenges, temptations and mistakes that are part of human existence.



“After the mass, the celebration continued with a reception dinner held in the school's Heritage Room. Br. Edmundo Fernandez, LEAD Visitor, in his remarks, spoke about the place of jubilees in the life of the Lasallian family. He said, “We hold jubilees, we commemorate milestones, we remember anniversaries because it gives us the opportunity to have a grateful heart.” He also spoke of Br. Greg's openness to answer the needs of the Institute – serving as teacher, formator or volunteer in following countries: Malaysia, Singapore, Hong

Kong, Japan, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines. In many ways, Br. Dodo said, Br. Greg can be considered as the first LEAD Brother.

“After his remarks, Br. Dodo, along with Br. Paul Ho, Sector Leader of Singapore, presented Br. Greg with a commemorative plaque. Br. Greg responded with short, simple but inspiring prayer of gratitude and continued trust in God. It was the perfect conclusion to a celebration of a life lived in quiet and meaningful service to a faithful and ever loving God.” *(Br. Arian Lopez)*



23rd National Lasallian Leaders' Convention. “The National Lasallian Leaders' Convention was attended by 84 participants from 15 Lasallian schools from Malaysia and Singapore. The schools that were represented were St. Xavier's Institution, St. George's Institution, St. Anthony's Secondary School, St. Michael's Institution, St. John's Institution, La Salle Petaling Jaya, Secondary School, La Salle Klang Secondary School, St. Paul's Institution, St. Francis' Institution, St. Andrew's Secondary school, La Salle Secondary School, Sabah, St. Martin's Secondary School, Sabah, St. Joseph's Secondary School, Sarawak, St. Joseph's Institution, Singapore and St. Joseph's Institution International.

“The theme of this year's 23rd National Lasallian Leaders' Convention is “**IASAlliAns In Action**”. Guided by the Lasallian Spirituality of Faith, Service and Community, for this year's NLLC, we are putting in place a call for action in any way possible in being committed to responding to the needs around us as Lasallians.

“The convention was a platform for us to examine our level of awareness to what is happening in our society nowadays, not only in the nation, but also close to home; to examine and analyse WHY these situations are happening; and to take action that's within our capability to address these situations. The convention proper has always touched on five main pillars, and this year is no different. They are La Salle, I Realities, Social Realities, Spirituality, and Choices.

“We have both been in the Lasallian process for about a decade, and it was refreshing to be able to come into this process again as the Chairpersons, giving us a different perspective of running the convention, apart from just



being a part of the Organising Team. It was a platform for us to guide the younger team members, and also for us to get involved on a deeper level. Personally, this has been a very enriching experience for both of us, and this is just a stepping stone to something more inspiring, a firmly rooted belief that we are continually learning from the process.

“It has been a challenge putting everything together in just 6 months, but all the hard work has paid off. We hope that the delegates who came for this year’s Convention has gained something in return and most importantly, we hope this process had inspired the delegates to go back to their own respective communities and take action in improving their community.

“This was our 23rd NLLC and we were happy to have our very own Lasallians facilitating the sessions. Our thanks to Mr. Vinesh Naidu, Mr Jerald Joseph, Mr. Eric Bryan, Mr. Kenny Wong, Br. Arian Lopez, and workshop

facilitators Mr. Michael Voon and Ms. Doreen Da Costa. The Organising team comprising those working and students did a good job in making the convention a resounding success. Our heartfelt thanks to our benefactors and donors who have supported us in the current and past conventions for many years. Our thanks also to the Principals and teachers of our schools who have given us their continued support in all our Programmes. Terima Kasih! Thank you all.” *(Isaac Stephen Anthonysamy, Choulyin Tan and Kah hon)*

iMac 2.0 in OzC. “The 2nd Inter - Mindanao (Southern Philippines) ABCD (Aspirants, Brothers, Contacts and Discerners) Conference, iMac2 as we called it, gathered about 50 participants from three La Salle Schools in Mindanao namely DLS-John Bosco in Bislig, La Salle Academy in Iligan and the host, La Salle University, Ozamiz from 29 November to 1 December.

“I had this impression of a boring and tiring weekend on my mind especially because we were the hosts. But things changed after knowing some people who share the same questions I have regarding the Brothers’ vocation and community life. My senses were awakened when our





simple get-to-know chitchats during dinner grew into critical questions during the 'Brew with Bros', the first night's session. It all went well and some really important questions were answered by the Brothers.

"The 2nd day of the conference started with a Morning Prayer led by LSA-Iligan ABCDs with some stretching and jogging afterwards. Three main activities were planned for the day. The first was an unusual team

building activity that truly fostered strong bonds between participants from the different schools. The second was visiting an orphanage and a retirement home. During these visits, it felt like we 'expanded our families' as we became brothers to the children in the orphanage and sons to the elderly residents. It was heartwarming to have shared a portion of our lives with them and this helped us realize the value of our families and how blessed we are with what we have. The third and my most memorable event that day was my acceptance to the Aspirancy Program of the De La Salle Brothers. It might have been a really short ceremony, but it was soul-lifting.

"On the 3rd day of the conference a Pilgrimage to different churches and religious monasteries within Misamis Occidental was featured. I found the experience meaningful since it was the first time for a number of us (even those from Ozamiz) to visit these historic and religious sites. The third day of the conference ended with this comment from the participants: "*Bitin kaayo, puede extend?*" (If we can only extend our conference and our stay.)" (Aspirant Jade Bamba)

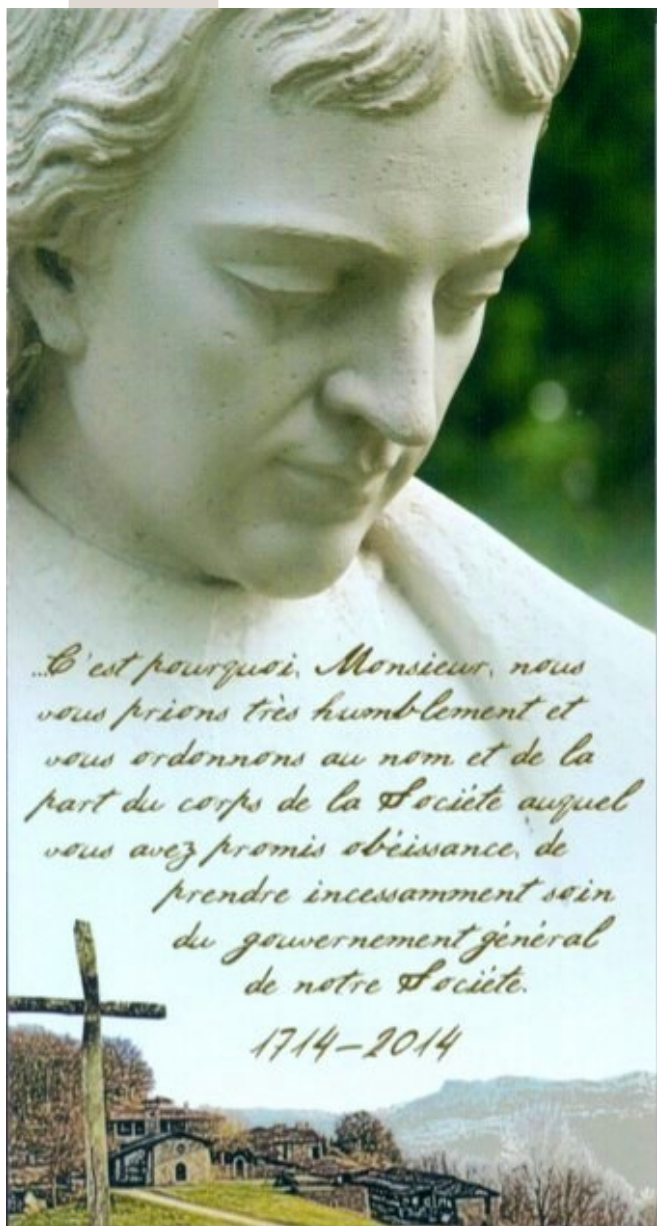
Birthday of the King of Thailand. Last 5 December, Lasallians all over Thailand joined the rest of the Kingdom in celebrating the birthday of His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving current head of state and the longest-reigning monarch in Thai history. They also took this opportunity to honor their own fathers as this day is also celebrated as Father's Day in Thailand. Our schools held ceremonies and activities with the families of the students to mark this occasion.



Website of the Institute's Solidarity and Development Foundation. <http://www.children-atrisk.org> is the official website of the Fondazione De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS. It provides relevant and up-to-date projects of the Institute and I encourage everyone to visit the site and promote it among your friends.



Prayer for the 45th General Chapter. The Institute has sent copies of the “Prayer for the 45th General Chapter”. All Brothers will be receiving a copy and these will be sent by mail to all communities.



Prayer for the 45th General Chapter

Loving God, you guide our Institute in ways of faith, fraternity, and service.

Shine forth your wisdom and love on our Forty-fifth General Chapter.

Mindful of the future we are called to create, help us to look with eyes of faith and hearts filled with your Spirit, and to realize that “This work of God is also our work.”

In solidarity with the Church and the Institute, we long to hear where the Spirit calls us as we respond to the educational and evangelical needs of our countries and the many and varied missions entrusted to us.

We ask this through the intercession of all the Lasallian Saints and Blessed, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Mary, Our Lady of the Star, and Saint Joseph, Patron of our Institute.

Amen.

LEAD STORY

HONG KONG • JAPAN • MALAYSIA • MYANMAR
PHILIPPINES • SINGAPORE • THAILAND

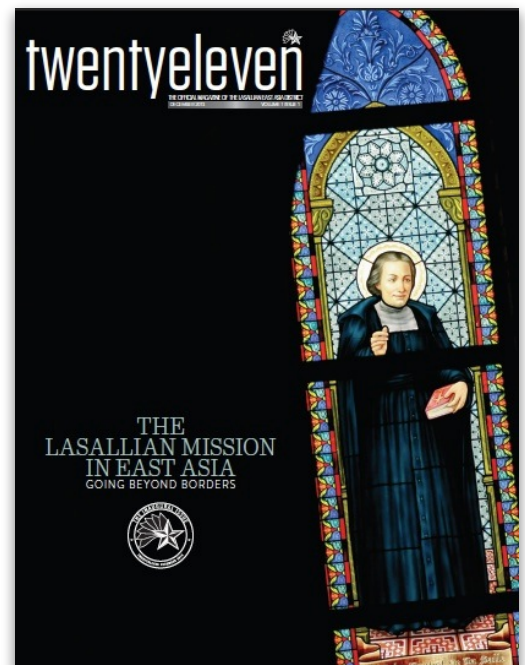
LEAD Publications. This December, all Brothers of LEAD will be receiving a package containing the following:

Guide for Personal and Communal Prayer 2014. Aside from the liturgical calendar of the Church for 2014, this booklet also has the daily scripture readings, Lasallian calendar of feasts and historical events, significant Church and world events for 2014, birthdays and death anniversaries. It also includes 10 Prayers for Vocations for the monthly Vocations Novena.

LEAD Study on Mission and Association. Our 1st District Chapter mandated the Leadership Team to commission a team to conduct a study on the current state of the District's Mission and Association. Brother Tom Lavin, Brother John Pill, Brother Ricky Laguda, Brother Steve Hogan and Mr. Ronnie Holmes were appointed to the task and this document presents the results of their findings.

LEAD Magazine. The inaugural issue of the official magazine of LEAD is devoted to the Lasallian Mission in East Asia. This will be widely circulated in order to introduce LEAD to the worldwide Lasallian Family. All Lasallian institutions in LEAD will be receiving copies as well.

Name Plate. Each Brother will also receive a personalised name plate that also indicates their country of birth. This can be displayed on your desk, door, or on any personal property.



Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Malaysia



The Gift of Christmas

Br. George Van Grieken FSC

Let Advent seek, let mists descend,
Let all creation stare;
Let humble eyes a sight behold
That stirs a soul laid bare.

While shoppers run and sales abound,
While children's eyes are wide;
While money flows and gifts are wrapped,
Let stand the greedy tide.

Take care to keep from letting go,
From turning with the rest.
Take time to wait and time to know
The better from the best.

Look back and see through fog and veil
The site of love's release;
A land, a star, a shepherd's cave,
A blessed place of peace.

Inside, the dust and dirt fly all about;
The hay lies old and spent.
Yet rests the babe, with mother near,
In every way content.

The beasts are still, the light is faint,
The rags are small and worn.
And all can sense with quiet ease
The Savior who is born.

Now does he raise his tiny hand
And smile with simple joy;
Love's gaze in faces all around
Supply his only toy.

No trains, no cars, no fancy games
Are given here this night.
But human comfort, care, and love
Provide his true delight.

For shepherd, sheep, and kings alike
'Tis plenty to behold;
This vision of our God enfleshed
In greater good than gold.

Creation's best, and some besides,
Dwells there for all to see.
The simple truths are quite at hand,
Just waiting to go free.

A gift of self, a gift of time,
A love spread out as leaven,
Share in this truth, this mystery lived,
Of earth enjoined with heaven.

If Christ was borne that night to us,
And we as much do say,
Then should we not with eager heart
Bear him in mind today?

For this I know, a simple fact,
Yet charged with certainty:
That what we do with Christ this day
Does change eternity.

The gifts we have, the gifts we share,
Have never been our own.
They have been borne by God for us;
They are the royal throne.

Stand still, dear friend, and look about,
While stars and night do sing
With brilliant light and mystic sound:
"All glory to the King!"

