

**17 August 2011 • 13**

**Malaysia Pastoral Visit (10 – 29 July).** The Pastoral Visit to the Lasallian Family in Malaysia was divided into three phases. First phase consisted of visiting the Brothers and some of the schools in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Seremban, Malacca and Muar. Our base was the old provincialate of the District of Penang in Petaling Jaya and travelled from there. The first Brothers I interviewed were the Brothers of St. John's at KL namely: Andrew Loke, Matthew Liew and Lucian Ng (11<sup>th</sup>). On the same day I had dinner with members of the Lasallian Family of Klang Valley at a restaurant named after Br. Cassian Papu (Cassian's Kitchen). In Petaling Jaya, I met with Felix Donahue and Augustine Julian and in Malacca with Ambrose Loke and Michael Kum. The latter is one of only two Brothers currently working directly in the school.

Br. Anthony Rogers, Sector Leader of Malaysia, accompanied Br. Tom and I throughout the visit. We were presented to the student body of some of the schools we visited like St. Paul's (Seremban) and St. Francis (Malacca). In the short morning assemblies I would talk about LEAD and situate the LS Family of Malaysia in the whole picture.

At the end of phase 1 of the visit (16<sup>th</sup>) we returned to PJ where we had a seminar with members of the Lasallian Family on "New Lasallian Educational Initiatives in Malaysia". The next day, Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, was the assembly of the Brothers of Malaysia. I presented a profile of LEAD as well as the strategic directions as crafted by the LEAD council. A portion of the assembly was devoted to sharing on the pressing issues of the sector. We ended with a simple lunch.

Phase two consisted of visits to Ipoh, Taiping and Penang from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. I met with members of the Lasallian Family in Ipoh and interviewed the two Brothers, Vincent Corkery and Matthew Bay. I was also able to chat with Isaac Stephen who joins the Ipoh Brothers for meals and prayers. We spent four days in Penang, the site of the first school of the Brothers in Malaysia and the novitiate and the Provincialate as well. I had interviews with Brothers Karl Wolff and Stephen Ooi. I found out later on that the crucifix in the chapel comes from the old novitiate and statue of the Founder sited in the garden facing the street from the original school. There is much of the Old World charm that remains in Taiping as well as in Penang with many colonial structures still standing.

Phase three was devoted to visiting the communities in East Malaysia namely: Nabawan, Tambunan, Kota Kinabalu (Sabah) and then Kuching (Sarawak). The three of us flew to Sabah and were met by Egbertus Joikul. We traveled 3 ½ hours to Asrama Butitin in Nabawan, a boarding department run by the Brothers in the interior of Sabah. I interviewed the two Brothers in the community, Egbertus and Herbertus, and interacted with the boarders and joined them for evening prayers. We all traveled together the next day to Kota Kinabalu but passed through St. Martin's in Tambunan where we were given a tour of the campus and an orientation of the school's programs. St. Martin's is where Peter Ng stays. Later that day at KK we had the assembly of the Sabah Brothers followed by a dinner lovingly prepared by Charlie O'Leary. We flew to Kuching on the 27<sup>th</sup> where we have a school and a Brothers' community. I was able to interview Albinus O'Flaherty and Justin Mobilik. Kuching was our last stop in Malaysia and we flew out on the 29<sup>th</sup> for Singapore. (continued in LS 14)

Fraternally,



LEAD Provincialate, Hong Kong