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Br. Harry's 90th Birthday Celebration. "Br. Harry's birthday celebration last March 16 – worthy of a rock star – begun with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Two Hearts of Mary and Jesus Chapel at De La Salle Health Sciences Institute. After the Mass, the guests trooped over to the Animo Center where a special photo exhibit for Br. Harry was set up. Guests were serenaded by music from the DLSU Orchestra, piano performances from selected Brothers, and there was even a surprise piano performance by his Dermatologist.

"In his birthday speech, the birthday boy gave special mention to the Brothers: *"Through good times and bad times in the past seventy-two years, they, like Jesus, never gave up on me. Thank you dear Brothers."*

"His former students and close friends from Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, and Mexico came to give their personal tribute to a man whose deep sense of prayerfulness, warm personality, and boundless mirth has touched their lives in one way or another. Br. Harry's importance to the Brothers was emphasized by the special presence of Br. David Hawke (General Councilor for PARC), Br. Tom Lavin (LEAD Auxiliary Visitor), and Br. JJ Jimenez (Sector Leader, Philippines). All the cash gifts during this celebration were generously turned over for the funding of the charity wing of the De La Salle University Medical Center.

"The first reading during the Second Sunday of Lent was perfect for celebration of the 90th birthday of Br. Harry Reynolds FSC last March 16, 2014:

The LORD said to Abram:

*"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.*

*"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great...
All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."*

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

"Br. Harry volunteered for Missionary work in Malaysia in 1951 and since then he has been a missionary Brother, eventually setting down roots in Malaysia and the Philippines. He has taught minds, touched hearts, and transformed countless lives." (Br. Sockie dela Rosa)



“Lasallian Oasis”: Visit to the Lasallian Mission, Balgo Hills, Western Australia. “Nothing quite prepares one for a visit to Balgo Hills. After a two-and a half hour journey in a single engine 12-seater plane across the vast empty expanses of Western Australia we touched down at this small Aboriginal oasis where the Brothers run Luurnpa Catholic School. There are no ground personnel at the red-earth ‘airstrip’ but Brs. Rick and Marty were waiting outside the fence to welcome us. As we drove away we noted a signboard which warned that alcohol of any kind is banned in the community.

“Brs David Hawke and John Pill were making a return visit, but for Brs Craig Franz, Shahzad Gill, Denzil Pereira and myself, it was our first exposure to the Aboriginal culture and our mission in Balgo. The Community of Br Rick, Michael and Marty made us very welcome and had prepared an interesting and at times challenging program for us over the next two days. Our first contact with the people came quickly as we attended Saturday evening Mass in the parish Church. It was much less formal than we are used to and very inculturated with the “elder women” playing a significant role. At the end we were called up for a welcome blessing, not from the priest, but from these “elder women” who laid hands on our heads and literally ‘touched our hearts’ as part of the ritual.

“Next day, Sunday, was our adventure day. After morning prayer together and a visit to the only store in town, we travelled out to the site of the old Balgo Mission, now deserted, where the Pallotine Fathers set up the first mission in the early 1940’s. In the afternoon we trekked through a narrow valley to view aboriginal paintings on the walls of small caves and reached a hidden pool where Lasallian volunteer, Mitch, and the local kids went swimming. A tiring but exhilarating day was rounded off by Br Rick taking us to the edge of a plateau for a wonderful view of the setting of the sun on the distant horizon.



“Monday was our day in school: interacting with the students and teachers, joining in class activities, attending assembly. The school, which is the only one in the community, provides basic primary education on two sites for over 100 students. Those with ambition for secondary schooling are welcomed as boarders at La Salle College in Perth where we had held our PARC 37 meeting. The teaching staff, among whom are some married couples, come from various parts of Australia on contract. Young volunteer members of the District “Share-The-Mission Program” play an important support role. The school is very well equipped with lots of teaching aids including computers (yes, iPads!) and internet access which came as quite a surprise. The biggest challenge is of course attendance of students and a number of ‘officers’ work full-time promoting regular presence in school. Br Rick informed us that some were absent that day because a number of aboriginal families, as owners of the land, had travelled to collect royalties from mining companies.

“After school, we met with the staff and shared our ‘stories’. Then the whole school went to the Church for the blessing and distribution of the “Ashes” (Ash Monday!). It was no longer a surprise to find that the ceremony was conducted by ‘lay elders’ even though a priest was present. Later in the evening we reassembled with the staff for a most enjoyable potluck supper and bid our grateful farewells. We were all deeply impressed with the dedication of the Brothers and associates in this unique mission and with the warmth and dignity of the aboriginal community. Thank you Rick, Michael, Marty for taking such good care of us and may the good Lord bless and keep you always in the palm of his hand.” *(Br. Thomas Lavin)*

Short Film: La Salle English and Computer Center.

“College students Robert Boscacci and Joe Alexander Short have created a documentary explaining the work of the La Salle English and Computer Center in Yangon, Myanmar.



“The Center offers training to students for technology jobs that are projected to grow tremendously in their country in the next few years. The film was produced by Gery Short, Director of the Office of Education, and Brother Mark Murphy, who worked in India and Myanmar for 16 years and was closely involved in the establishment of the center.” (www.lasalle.org) You can view the video in YouTube: <http://youtu.be/aRDRHIYeKIE>

SJI Singapore Alumnus Appointed to New Council to Study Holy See

practices. “St. Joseph’s Institution alumnus George Yeo has been appointed to the Vatican’s new Council for the Economy together with eight cardinals and six other laypeople who are experts in the fields of business, management and finance. The new council was established on Feb 24 by Pope Francis to study the policies and practices of the Holy See and devise appropriate policies and best practices.



“The council is an independent authority for policy decisions to the new Secretariat for the Economy, which will have authority over all economic and administrative activities within the Holy See and Vatican City State, while the Secretariat implements the policies determined by the council and answers directly to the pope.

“Mr Yeo is among five of the seven lay members of the council who are also members of the Pontifical Commission for Reference on the Economic-Administrative Structure of the Holy See. This eight-person “commission was established by Pope Francis in July 2013 to study accounting practices among all Vatican offices and devise strategies for greater fiscal responsibility and transparency.” (<http://www.sji.edu.sg>)

Huether 2014 - Call for Presentations. I am attaching an invitation to submit a proposal for a 75-minute presentation during the 2014 Huether Lasallian Conference to be held on 20 - 22 November 2014 in Chicago, Illinois.



TV4 Sweden Airs Programme on Maths Teaching and Learning at La Salle College (Hong Kong), Finland, and Sweden. “Earlier this year Ms Sara Recabarren from TV4 Sweden was referred to La Salle College by the PISA Research Institute of the OECD and by Hong Kong University because of the students competency in mathematics recognized by these institutions. The programme was aired in Sweden on March 25th 2014. Congratulations to all students and also Ms Luk, Mr Mak, and the Mathematics teachers at La Salle College. (<http://web.lasalle.edu.hk>)



Here is the link to the documentary (*For English subtitles please open the text caption box in the footer*): <http://youtu.be/J2vPIMeZd6A>

Here is the link to the news report with Ms. Luk, Panel Head (*some of the report is unfortunately only in Swedish*): http://www.tv4play.se/program/nyheterna?video_id=2583892&utm_medium=sharing&utm_source=permalink&utm_campaign=tv4play.se

Parmenie Project 1714 - 2014. On April 1st, 1714 John Baptist de La Salle was in Parmenie (Grenoble). There he met Sister Louise Hours. It was there that he received a letter sent by the principal Brothers of Paris asking and ordaining him to come and take back the government of the Society founded by him. On its 300th Anniversary, the Institute devoted a webpage in order for every Lasallian to celebrate today that moment of our foundational story. <http://www.lasalle.org/en/6468-2/being-brothers-today/parmenia-project-1714-2014/>



Message of Young Lasallians. I am also attaching the “Message of Young Lasallians to the Institute and the Lasallian Family” which is one of the outcomes of the 3rd Symposium of Young Lasallians. Over 40 people, young Brothers, teachers, and volunteers hailed from more than 30 countries to meet at the Generalate of the De La Salle Brothers in Rome between 10th and 14th, February, 2014. You can read more about the symposium at <http://www.lasalle.org/en/2014/03/generalate-the-hope-generation-symposium-of-young-lasallians/>



Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Philippines

Visitor’s Calendar | APRIL

6 – 11	Singapore	Awarding of Benefaction Letters
12	Hong Kong	LEAD Council 13
13 - 15	Thailand	Sector Holy Week Retreat
16 - 20	Philippines	Sector Holy Week Retreat
21 Apr - 8 Jun	Rome, Italy	45th General Chapter