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House of Studies. “All our scholastics have arrived safely here in the House of Studies (De La Salle University, Manila). We officially opened our formation community last June 1, 2014 in an evening prayer entitled “Home Is Where the Heart Is”.

“We have, all in all, 16 Scholastics from five Countries. They follow 4 tracks of studies in the university. Our Filipino and Indian scholastics are taking up MA in Applied Theology; Sri Lankan scholastics are enrolled in Certificate in Teaching Religion; our Thai brothers are taking units in Teachers' Certificate Program while our Burmese scholastics are taking up General Education units. Our Foreign scholastics are following a special English communication class to enhance their skills in public speaking.” (Br. Rey Mejias)

Br. Rey Mejias, who will profess his perpetual vows this June, will continue as Director of the House of Studies and is assisted by the Philippine Vocations Director, Br. Alex Diaz, who will be preparing for his final vows in the next few months. Br. Antonio Cubillas of the Sector of Japan joins the House of Studies this year as staff while taking a graduate course on Guidance and Counseling in the university.

Profession of Vows. LEAD congratulates Br. Benedict Panomworachal FSC and Br. John Pongpat Khasochan FSC of the Sector of Thailand for their first profession of religious vows held last 31 May 2014 at La Salle College, Bangkok. Brothers Benedict and John will be part of the House of Studies Community in Manila, Philippines this year as Scholastics.

On June 14, the Sectors of Myanmar and the Philippines will be celebrating at La Salle Green Hills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines for the Final Profession of Vows of Br. Rey Mejias FSC as well as the First Vows of 4 Filipinos and 4 Burmese Brothers.

Four Filipinos and two Burmese Novices will also receive their habit on the same day and 10 young men will also be accepted to the Postulancy program of the Philippine Sector. Br. Vincent Fernandez will continue accompanying our Postulants this year together with Br. Manny Hilado as staff. Let us remember these young men in our prayers.



PROFESSION OF
FINAL VOWS
BR. REY E. MEJIAS FSC



Profession of First Vows

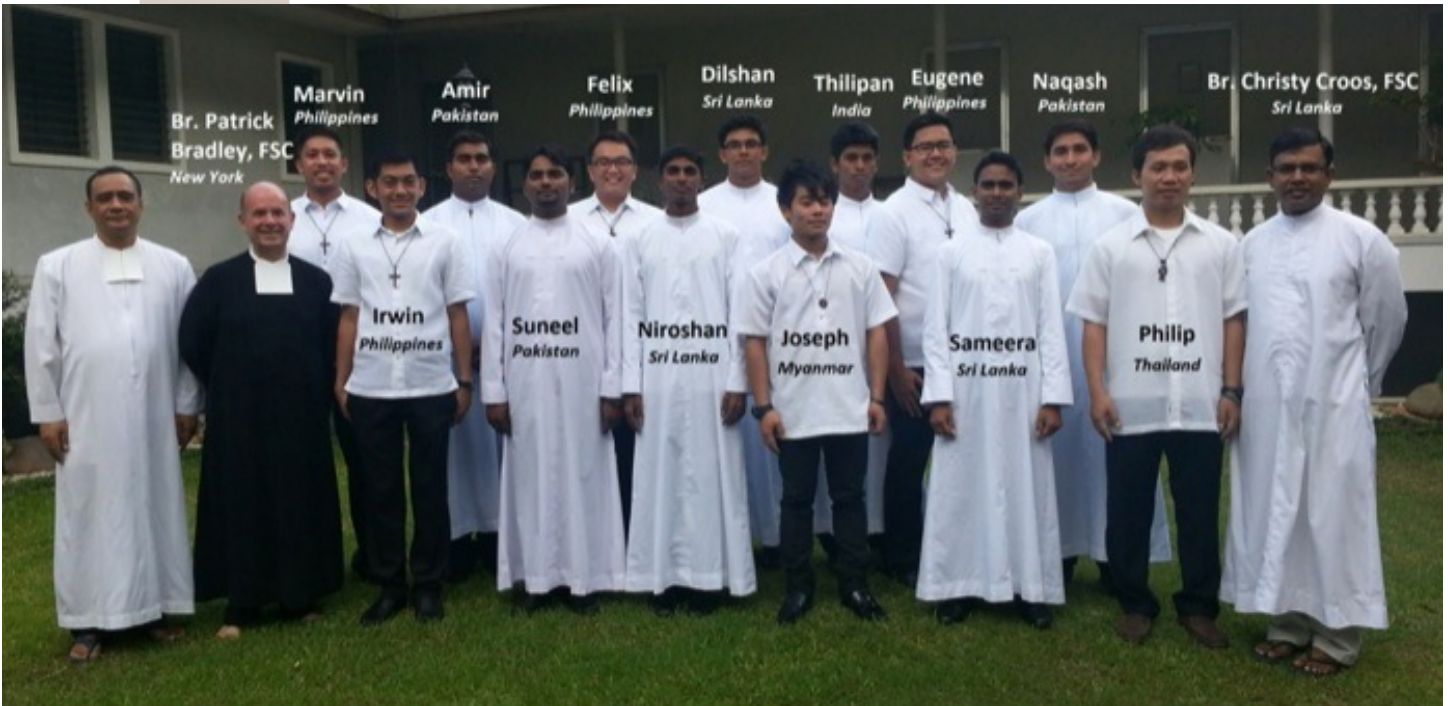
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Br. Ranier Guillergan FSC | Br. Stephen Zeim Thu FSC |
| Br. Rado Mercado FSC | Br. Quilino Quili FSC |
| Br. John David Ong FSC | Br. Josephat Ai Saw Hung Htoo FSC |
| Br. Edmon Viroomal FSC | Br. Thomas Kha Lee FSC |

Habit-Taking

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Eugene De Luna Jr. | Marvin Sipin |
| Irwin Anthony Climaco | Philip Bancha |
| Felix Joseph Murillo | Joseph Pi |

Acceptance to the Postulancy

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Domingo Copeng III | Enrico Anthony Mariano |
| Patrick Dalmacio | Aljay Martinez |
| Paulo Ferrer | Nico Rafael Ordoñez |
| Maurice Gravidez | Michael Niño Ramirez |
| Christian Gregory Magno | Raymond Verana |



PARC Novitiate. The PARC Novitiate in Lipa City, Batangas, Philippines has 13 Novices this year. Br. Christy Croos of the District of Colombo (Sri Lanka) serves as the new Director of Novices with Br. Jun Estrellas (Philippines) and Br. Patrick Bradley of the District of Eastern North America (U.S.A.) as staff members. Br. Christy recently finished his graduate studies at the St. Mary's University in Minnesota, U.S.A. while Br. Patrick was in the District of Vietnam for the last few years. LEAD has 6 novices while the District of Colombo has 3, Pakistan of ANZPPNG has 3, and the Delegation of India has one. We welcome Brothers Christy, Patrick and the seven novices from south Asia!

Japan | Good Soil Grows Vocations.

“Symposium for vocations in Japan. A national symposium for vocations was held in Tokyo, April 28-29, focused on bringing together people who are interested in promoting vocation in the life of the Church. During the two days priests, brothers, sisters and lay people reflected on the challenge that we are facing: the promotion of vocation is an urgent responsibility of every catholic community. The symposium proved to be a great opportunity for people involved in every aspect of vocations to meet together.



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“Panel discussions and conferences were held by the vocation team. The purpose of this national team is to revitalize and encourage the people interested in promoting vocations inside of the Church in Japan. During the two day meeting, we shared in small groups the challenges, hopes and possibilities that we are living. Br. Rodrigo, Br. Fujita and Br. Victor took part in these sessions.

“**Let us prepare a land fertile for vocations.** In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus explain to his disciples how difficult it is to find the good soil: “These are the ones who when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.” Like many countries in LEAD, we share the reality of being a religious minority in Japan. Nevertheless, it is important that we brothers try to promote lasallian vocations among the Japanese people. In this multi-religious place, there are many kinds of soil: soil that is good for planting, and soil that needs work. Sometimes there is a great deal of work to be done before

planting can happen. Good soil does not just “happen”. There is preparation and proper nurturing, even times of rest so that the soil can renew itself.

“Our hope is that the Charism of La Salle continues in Japan for a long time. The Brothers’ Vocation is an admired model within our educational circles. What makes a community to be fertile is when the people who surround us are respectful of our life style. More importantly, the community needs to provide ' good ground' for vocations. Lasallian vocations can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated.

“For this reason it is necessary to create a 'culture of vocations' first among us brothers, and then in our institutions where permanent formation, especially spiritual formation, is understood. We know that this work takes a long time to permeate, but we believe that we must make the effort and the investment in the hope that the Lord will bless and make holy our effort.

“**Exploring new ways.** A path that we have not explored in terms of vocation promotion is working with volunteers. It could be a new way to reach students and teachers who share the desire to provide service within the Church. Exploring the role of volunteer programs in order to promote the diversity of lasallian vocations is homework that we have not done.

“It is also an opportunity to revitalize ourselves. We cannot be isolated. The Church as well our Institute is moving in a certain direction, and we have to move with it. It is time to be more proactive. It is not enough to open our communities: we need to invite people to share our charism and talk about our vocation in the places that we are.

This is the work of every Brother whether as a principal of the school or teacher, as young brother in full time work or as a senior brother retired from work but full of experience, and convinced that we have a great treasure to share.

“Brothers, there is no way to attract people if we are scattered; pray to the Lord to send out laborers into his harvest, but first of all work together at local level to be more creative in approaching people for vocation promotion. In this moment of transition, we need to see the reality of our Institute in Japan not with a defeated look, on the contrary, we are confident in God’s will and we believed that He is doing a new thing.”

(Br. Victor Gutierrez)

Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC appointed as OIC for De La Salle University.

“In view of Br. Ricky’s recent election to the General Council of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for a 7-year term and the consequent planning that will happen in the last week of August 2014 in Rome, the DLSU Board of Trustees appointed Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC, President and Chancellor of De La Salle College of St. Benilde to be concurrent OIC (Officer In Charge) for the De La Salle University from August 25, 2014 - April 30, 2015.” (alumni@affairs@dlsu.edu.ph)

A consultative process for the nomination and selection of University’s new President-Chancellor will take effect from 09 Jul to 09 Dec 2014 following the guidelines of the University. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a new President and Chancellor on or before their December 2014 meeting. We wish Brother Dennis all the best for this academic year!

Closing of the 45th General Chapter. This weekend, we will formally close the General Chapter with a final Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday. On behalf of all the LEAD Brothers present, I wish to thank all the Brothers and staff of the Generalate for their warm and gracious hospitality for the last seven weeks. Likewise, we are grateful to the preparatory committee, the central committee and all those involved in the General Chapter!

After Rome, I will be visiting our Brothers who were missionaries in LEAD and now residing in Ireland. I will be back in Hong Kong on the 12th and will be attending the profession of vows in Manila next weekend.

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Rome, Italy

