

19 June 2014 • 144



Myanmar and the Philippines: Celebrating the Gift of Vocations. The Sectors of Myanmar and the Philippines celebrated the milestones in the faith journey of 15 young Brothers and 10 new Postulants last 14 June at La Salle Green Hills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines together with over 600 guests — Brothers, families, friends and Lasallians. LEAD Visitor, Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC, was present to accept the applications of the 25 young men. Br. Joseph Than Htaik Aung FSC represented the Sector of Myanmar.

At the beginning of ceremony, six Novices — Philip Bancho and Joseph Pi (Myanmar), Eugene de Luna, Jr., Irwin Anthony Climaco, Felix Joseph Murillo and Marvin Sipin (Philippines), received their Holy Habit and was assisted by their religious sponsors in donning the robe. They joined the rest of the young men in the entrance procession of the Eucharist presided by Lasallian Alumnus, Fr. Dennis Meim SDB.

After the shared reflection of the Brother Visitor, 10 new Postulants were welcomed from different parts of the Philippines — Domingo Copeng III, Patrick Dalmacio, Paulo Ferrer, Maurice Gravidez, Christian Gregory Magno, Enrico Anthony Mariano, Aljay Martinez, Nico Rafael Ordoñez, Michael Niño Ramirez, and Raymond Verana. This



was followed by the first profession of religious vows by four young Brothers from Myanmar — Br. Stephen Zeim Thu, Br. Quilino Quili, Br. Josaphat Ai Saw Hung Htoo, and Br. Thomas Kha Lee; and four from the Philippines — Br. Ranier Guillergan, Br. Rado Mercado, Br. John David Ong, and Br. Edmon Viroomal.

The whole assembly then joined Br. Rey E. Mejias FSC as he invoked the aid of all the holy saints in a moving litany. Br. Rey made his perpetual profession of vows in the presence of his religious sponsor, Br. Ricardo Laguda. As it was a Trinity Sunday liturgy, all Brothers were then enjoined to renew their profession of vows before the 15 young Brothers received the traditional accolade. A special banquet capped the celebrations with all guests receiving a specially made wooden crucifix as a souvenir for the event.



“Hair for Hope” in Singapore.

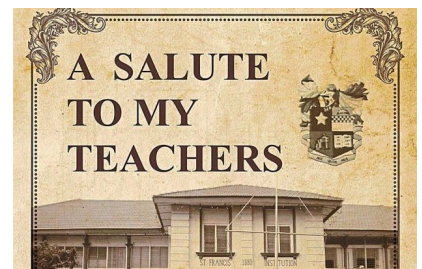
Students and staff of St Joseph’s Institution International had their heads shaved last 11 June in “Hair for Hope”, an event where individuals shave their heads in a stand of solidarity and support for cancer patients worldwide by going bald to raise awareness for children’s cancer. All proceeds from the fundraising for “Hair for Hope” will go to the Children’s Cancer Foundation. For the sixth year in a row, St Joseph’s Institution International School has been participating in this cancer awareness fundraising event organised by SJII’s senior school student council. About one in five students as well as parents and teachers including Brother Arian Lopez FSC and SJII Director of Development and Communications Mr Vincent Anandraj

had their heads shaved to raise funds from pledges and their hair made into a wig for cancer patients. The event was featured in Channel News Asia: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/video/sji-international/1146248.html>

Links to other publications featuring this story can be found in SJII’s website: <http://www.sji-international.com.sg/page.cfm?p=688>

Malaysia: “A Salute To My Teachers”. The following are excerpts from the Malaysia Star Online article, “Pages of Pride and Gratitude” by Rebecca Rajaendram:

“A TEACHER takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart — sometimes right up to that person’s last breath, as was the case for Ignatius Loyola Pereira





who penned A Salute To My Teachers just before he passed away in February last year.

“The former boarder and student of St. Francis’ Institution (SFI) in Malacca was one of the few to have had a true mission school experience, pre- and post-World War II. He called the school home between 1935 until 1947. The school was shut down during the three-and-a-half year Japanese Occupation and resumed operations after, with Ignatius back in it. Much later on in life, the avid sportsman took great pleasure in entertaining people, especially the younger generation, with stories of his schooling life. Encouraged by another old boy, Tan Chin Shu, Pereira felt the need to preserve the memories of his schooling life for the benefit of

future Franciscans so that they would know the contributions of the early teachers who had helped in shaping the school into the fine institution it is today.”

“**Dedication.** His book clearly shows the boundless dedication of these mission school teachers, comprising mostly La Salle Brothers and some lay teachers, that left lasting impressions on the students, especially the boarders who were in constant contact with them outside schooling hours. Not only did these teachers take their teaching vocation very seriously, they took a deep interest in moulding well-rounded Franciscans by holding extra lessons for subjects like Latin and Greek (for the Senior Cambridge examination) and were actively involved in the school’s sporting activities and enforcing discipline when it was needed. It was clear these teachers had such a strong commitment to the school and to teaching itself, one of whom actively organised fund-raisers to rebuild SFI’s finances and for other schools under the La Salle Brothers, once the Japanese left.

“The book priced at RM20 was recently launched at SFI as a testament to the school’s rich historical tapestry. Those who wish to buy the book can e-mail: asalutetomyteachers@gmail.com. All proceeds will be donated to the St Anne’s Haemodialysis Centre in Bukit Mertajam, Penang and SFI.” (<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Education/2014/05/18/Pages-of-pride-and-gratitude/>)

Formation of New Teachers in Thailand. New teachers from our schools in Bangkok, Chanthaburi, Nakhonsawan and Sangklaburi were inducted into the Lasallian charism and spirituality during a weekend formation program conducted by the Brothers and Sisters of the Sector of Thailand last 14 - 15 June. Sessions on prayer and meditation, input on Lasallian themes and team - building games were among the many activities prepared by the Sector. One of the highlights of this weeknd program was the renewal of vows by the Brothers during a Trinity Sunday Eucharist witnessed by all the participants. Congratulations to the Sector of Thailand for this initiative! (<http://www.lasalleschool.ac.th/home/gallery2557/2557-06-14-15/album/index.html>)





House of Studies Community Annual Planning and Desert Day. “On June 12th and 13th, the House of Studies (HOST) community had our Desert Day and Community Annual Plan (CAP) sessions in the Light of the World Retreat Center, Silang, Cavite. It was a wonderful and enlightening experience for all of us, as almost all of us were getting ready for a new chapter in our lives. It was also a meeting place for many inspiring ideas and reflections from the brothers of different parts of the world. The theme of the program was “Living the Vows in the Post-Novitiate Context.” Brother Antonio Cubillas guided the community in prayer, and Brother Alex Diaz helped the scholastics to reflect on the core Lasallian Values (Faith, Service, Communion) as we prepare ourselves for a new journey. Brother Rey Mejias, Director of the Scholastics, guided us in the procedure of CAP focusing on the beginnings, challenges and responses. In building our community, we shared our reflections and ideas in order to prepare ourselves for the new realities as young brothers who will someday become the future of the Institute. We concluded our program with lunch in Tagaytay City, with the view of Taal volcano. It was a new experience for some of the foreign Brothers in the community.” (Br. Roshan Waruna FSC | Sri Lanka)

Welcome to LEAD. We welcome **Brother Lawrence Humphrey FSC** to LEAD as he takes on the leadership of St. Joseph’s Institution International in Singapore. Br Lawrence was former Associate Vice President for Mission of Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota since 2007 and prior to that was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, Missouri. He has held various leadership roles in schools and in the legacy District of St. Louis of the now Midwest District in the United States of America. He has earned graduate degrees on education from the Catholic University of America and the University of San Francisco.

We thank **Br George Van Grieken FSC** of the District of San Francisco and New Orleans for his excellent service of leading and animating SJII for the last three years and we wish him all the best in his new ministry!

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Hong Kong