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Christian Brothers Schools Leadership Programme. “On Saturday 4th October La Salle College hosted the Opening Ceremony of the Christian Brother’s Schools (Lasallian Schools) Leadership Programme organized by Mr Peter LEUNG and the Hong Kong Lasallian Volunteers – a Hong Kong Lasallian Schools alumni group. The Principals from the five Lasallian Schools were present (St. Joseph’s College, Chan Siu Ki La Salle College, De La Salle Secondary School, Chong Gene Hang College, and La Salle College) along with Br Patrick, Supervisor and Sector Leader of Hong Kong, and Br Jeffrey, Supervisor of St. Joseph’s College.

“Ten students from each of the five schools were nominated by their respective school. The Leadership Programme involves 4 Stages: (1) Opening Ceremony and Induction; (2) Leadership Training and an overnight camp; (3) a service activity; (3) A de-briefing and Closing Ceremony.

“The Leadership training provides participants with skills around the 3 Lasallian concepts of Faith, Service, and Community, that is that we are people for others, using our gifts and talents for others not solely our own gain, but seeking always to make the world a better place and provide opportunity for those less fortunate than ourselves.” (www.lasalle.edu.hk)





Br. Dennis' Silver Jubilee. Brothers, friends, and Lasallians from all over the Philippines gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Reception of the Holy Habit of Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC last 4 October on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The celebrations began with a Holy Eucharist at the Our Lady of the Star Chapel in De La Salle Santiago Zobel School. In lieu of the homily, LEAD Visitor Br. Edmundo Fernandez shared his reflections on the life and example of Br. Dennis as a tech - savvy and innovative Brother using a well produced hilarious and creative video on Br. Dennis with the title, "Den and Now." Before the accolade, Br. Dennis received a plaque of appreciation from the District and the Sector of the Philippines with a unique citation: a list of hashtags describing the silver jubilarian such as #youngatheart #creativeenergy #lovedeverywherehegoes #frisbeemaster #dontgrowoldplease #truelasallian #andbenildean! to name a few.

During the reception dinner, Br. Dennis surprised his guests with a dance party with performers and dancers from De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde and De La Salle Zobel. Scholastics from the House of Studies joined the dance floor with their community Director, Br. Rey Mejias, leading them. Br. Dennis gave his speech and expressed his gratitude to everyone before introducing his souvenir gift for all guests: an upgraded Brother doll



that has its own set of earphones compatible to all devices. Dubbed as "EARBRODS", this new model of Brother dolls will help raise awareness on the vocation of Brothers as users of the earphones will need to attach these lightweight dolls on their shirts or on their ID lace. #Congratulations #BroDen #cool2bbro #AppleEducator #AnimoLaSalle #AndBenilde

Two Filipinos to Be Assigned to Malaysia. Br. Anthony Rogers, FSC, Sector Leader of Malaysia, met with Br. Butch Alcudia and Br. Raffy Reyes September 28 in Manila to start discussing possible ministries in preparation for their assignment to Malaysia starting May 2015. As part of their "exploration", Brs. Butch and Raffy will be visiting Sabah and Sarawak from November 6 to 11 spending four full days looking at the Brothers ministries. They will also be attending the meeting of the Brothers from the two areas on November 8. They will be accompanied by Br. Anthony the whole time they are there.



Br. Butch Alcudia and Br. Raffy Reyes

La Salle College Hosts HK Homeless World Cup Flag-raising Ceremony.

“On Sunday 5th October, the Hong Kong Lasallian Volunteers (HKLTV), an organization of alumni from the five Lasallian schools in Hong Kong, and La Salle College hosted the Flagraising Ceremony and games for the Hong Kong Homeless World Cup football Team.

“The 12th Homeless World Cup takes place from 19-26 October 2014 at Plaza de la Constitución, Santiago, Chile. Homeless and socially disadvantaged men and women from across the world will unite to represent their countries in this unique football tournament. It

is expected that over 100,000 spectators will watch the action live with millions more following online. The idea of the Homeless World Cup started at a conference on homelessness in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2001. Mel Young and Harold Schmied believed that it was possible to change the lives of homeless people through football, and two years later, the first tournament was held in Graz in Austria. This is the 10th year that Hong Kong has participated.” (www.lasalle.edu.hk)

Australians? Filipinos?

Lasallians! “Jaime Hilario Integrated School – La Salle (JHIS-LS) warmly welcomed visits from two Lasallian schools in Australia. From September 20-24, 21 students and 4 teachers from Oakhill College, Sydney spent their break repainting a school building, teaching English, history, cooking and sports classes and interacting with the local





community. Two weeks later, 17 students and 3 teachers from De La Salle College Malvern in Melbourne shared and experienced as well our mission in Bataan. A highlight of both visits was the prayer with the Brothers in the evening where they prayed and reflected together as young Lasallians. JHIS-LS is sincerely grateful for the constant support and involvement of our Australian partners.” (Br. Aikee Esmell)

Untranslatable Thoughts. Below is a reflection of Br. Jose del Coss on the challenges of the Church in Asia:

“In Japan, there’s a joke among some old foreign missionaries about St. Francis Xavier after his arrival in Japan. When Francis tried to learn some Japanese, it is said he commented that this particular language was so difficult that the devil might have invented it so that the country would never be evangelized.

“When learning a foreign language, there’s a tendency to translate word by word in order to fully understand what it is said or read. Once the person becomes fluent in that foreign language, there is no more need to focus on single words because the mind switches according to the language being used.

“Our District is involved in seven countries where English is used as a vehicular language among us; but each country has a different official language or a language spoken by the majority. For many of us in LEAD, English is not our mother tongue but a second or even a third language. Considering this peculiar international combination in our District, we are very used to translation. However, sometimes we find words or expressions that do not exist in our own languages or vice versa and we interpret those untranslatable words according to our experience in order to be understood in our context.

“Our District is also immersed in a multi-religious enclave. Just as the linguistic translation, when we sometimes find something in the foreign language that has never been said in our own language, so too in inter-confessional





translation we may discover in another faith something not even dreamed of in our own.

“Most religions share a set of ethical teachings as: “Do not kill,” “Tell the truth,” “Be just,” “Help one another...” But beyond the indispensable provisions of juridical, ethical and political principles, there are deep spiritual resources which can bring an extra dimension to ourselves. When we translate “inter-religiously,” we export ourselves into strangers and import strangers into ourselves. Though doing this it may seem risky, it is a “win-win” situation for both parts.

“Asia is the origin of almost all the world major religions. This proves that there is a pursuit for the divine in the hearts of

many Asians. However, pluralism, also brings problems like intolerance and hatred for those perceived different, or as “others,” which, in turn, could lead to violence.

“The Catholic Church, in many Asian countries is still perceived as a “foreign religion” brought by westerners. It is a Church small in numbers and consequently also weak in influence. This situation motivates Christian churches to emphasize maintenance and survival, thus developing an inward-looking attitude. As the churches go about their survival of recruiting new members, and explaining Christianity to them, they sometimes do that without rooting the faith in the new converts’ local culture.

“The Asian Catholic Bishops’ Conference, several times has encouraged a triple dialogue, first, with the culture of Asia, second, with the many religions found in this continent and third, with the poor, who make up a majority in the Asian Countries.

“Let’s continue looking for ways in how to become more immersed in our particular cultures and how to become more “translatable La Salle Brothers” in our District’s different Countries.”



Memorial Day. Lasallians in the Philippines held their annual pilgrimage to Lipa City for the Memorial Day last October 5. During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a period of silence was observed while the names of all Lasallians who died this year were projected on a screen. In his message, Philippine Sector Leader Br. Jose Mari Jimenez emphasised the vital role of the lay Partners in the





success of the Lasallian Mission in the country and that those who have gone before us, both Brothers and lay, are all remembered with gratitude. The Lipa community took this opportunity to introduce six new Aspirants during a simple ritual of Aspirancy Contract Signing. After the Mass, everyone joined the solemn procession to the Memorial Cloister in the Novitiate grounds where deceased Brothers are interred. A short prayer service was held before the Fr. Nonie Dolor blessed the Memorial Cloister.

Visit to Three Communities in the Philippines. I was in the Philippines from September 21 to October 05 visiting three communities and attending several meetings including a National Mission Council meeting and the meeting of Br. Anthony Rogers with Brs. Butch and Raffy in preparation for their assignment to Malaysia.

First community I went to was the Residencia Community in Dasmariñas (23, 24 and 25). The Residencia is actually a complex with two communities: the regular community assigned to the University and to the Health Science Institute, and the retirement home of the Brothers. Br. Gus Boquer is Director of the community and the President of both Institutions. Teaching full time are Br. Manny Sia, Br. Sockie De La Rosa and Br. Gelo Paragas. Br. Manny is a guidance counsellor and a teacher in the newly opened high school while the Br. Sockie and Br. Gelo (in his first year in this community) divide their time in both institutions. Rounding off the regular



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community is Br. Solofo from Madagascar who is finishing his Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. In the retirement home are four Brothers, namely: Br. Benildo Feliciano, Br. Gene Tianco, Br. Harry Reynolds and Br. Crisanto Moreno. The retirement home is also a place where Brothers from LEAD go to for medical check ups.

Next up is St. Benilde Community, formerly the La Salle Green Hills community (26, 27 and 28). The Brothers here are assigned to three institutions: La Salle Green Hills, La Salle College in Antipolo, and De La Salle Araneta University. Br. Victor Franco is President of the LSGH and LSCA and Director of the community. Br. Bobby Casingal supports Br. Vic in LSGH in various capacities looking after sports, security, safety and other key areas. Br. Mikey Cua, is the first young Brother (who is not a postulant or a scholastic) to be assigned at LSGH in a long time and he handles the seniors teaching Christian Living and looking after vocation promotion. Br. Ruben Caluyong works in both LSGH and De La Salle Araneta in various capacities but mostly in formation of staff. Br. Jun Erguiza is President of DLS Araneta and was recently re elected as President of the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines. This is also Br. JJ's community and he moves in and out because of the demands of his responsibility as President of De La Salle Philippines and Sector Leader.



Third community I visited was the House of Studies at Taft. Director of the formation house is Br. Rey Mejias supported by Br. Alex Diaz, National Vocation Promoter and by Br. Antonio Cubillas who is also taking his Masters Degree in Guidance and Counselling. There are 13 scholastics including three from outside of LEAD: Four from Myanmar (Quilino, Thomas, Stephen and Josaphat); four from the Philippines (Edmond, John O., Rainier, Rado);

two from Thailand (John P. and Benedict); two from Sri Lanka (Roshan and Sathiya); one from India (Antony). The scholastics have different "tracts" depending on the need of their Sectors. The LEAD scholastics always end their program with a 30-day Ignatian retreat.





Just before I flew out I attended Br. Dennis Magbanua's Silver Jubilee held at De La Salle Zobel's Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel. It was a lovely gathering of Brothers, family and friends of Dennis and those he has closely worked with in the different institutions he has been assigned. He is currently President of College of St. Benilde and Officer in Charge of De La Salle University. Instead of the usual shared reflection, we showed a "movie" on the life of Br. Dennis put together by the Communications office of the Central House. My thanks to Marc Gepaya, to Migs Ortega, to Pau, Anton, Demy and Kinny Boy.

I wish to thank the Directors for organizing the visits; to the Brothers for their warmth and hospitality and to the staff of the Central House.

Notice from the Office of the Postulator General. "All Lasallians are reminded that since the year 2013 all the Blessed Martyrs of Spain, from ALL congregations and dioceses, are celebrated all together on November 6. The precise name of this liturgical celebration is: **FEAST OF THE BLESSED MARTYRS OF SPAIN OF THE 20TH CENTURY.**

"The celebration of the Saint Martyrs from the town of Turón, Spain, is still observed on October 9." *(Brother Rodolfo Meoli | Postulator General)*

Dates to Remember.

6 – 31 October	LEAD Evaluation (Online)
3 – 7 November	1 st Sondage for the LEAD Brother Visitor (Online)
10 – 14 November	2 nd Sondage for the LEAD Brother Visitor (Online)
16 – 22 November	Formation for Formators (Institute Program)
29 – 30 November	1 st LEAD Mission Assembly
3 – 6 December	2 nd District Assembly and Chapter (Part 1)
15 – 18 December	10th Asia Pacific Lasallian Youth Congress

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Sri Lanka



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