

## Strategic Planning Workshop of the Leadership Team and District Council



The Leadership Team (composed of the Visitor, three Auxiliary Visitors, Bursar, and Administrator) and the District Council (Composed of the Visitors, Auxiliaries, and six elected members of the Council) came together for five days (19th - 25th July) at the Hotel Rafael, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, for a strategic planning session. Br. Ricky Laguda FSC, General Councillor for PARC, was the Facilitator for all sessions.



We began the week with a whole day dedicated to prayer and reflection. Likewise, the rest of our work days began with morning prayers ably led by Br. Mandy Dujunco FSC and ended with an intimate celebration of the Holy Eucharist with University Chaplain, Fr. Mark Reyes.



Fraternal bonds were strengthened by post-dinner socials (which included games and singing). We were able to have special dinners on two consecutive nights; the first was with the retired Brothers at the Residencia De La Salle and Scholastics, the second was with the Postulants and Novices.



We focused our efforts in crafting a strategic plan and specific goals for the next four years that respond to the mandate of the 2nd LEAD Chapter and the 45th General Chapter. We also defined the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of the District Councillors and Country Coordinators. The strategic plan will be finalised when we meet in September and a “roadshow” is being planned so that this can be made known to the Brothers. The last day of the workshop was also the 17th Meeting of the District Council.



I am grateful to Br. Ricky for agreeing to facilitate our sessions, the members of Council for their generosity and time. Special thanks to the staff of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas and De La Salle Philippines Central House who were in the background, but because of their efficiency, made our work possible.



## Canonical Visit to Sampran



I went to visit the formation house in Thailand from 28th - 30th July, soon after the District Council planning in Dasmariñas, Cavite. I arrived on the 28th but stayed in Bangna on my first night and caught up with the Brothers of Bangna and the La Salle Sisters. I was driven to Sampran by Franciso Teerayut early in the morning of the 29th and spent the whole day interviewing the candidates.

There are 13 candidates four of whom are in their fourth year and preparing to go to Manila for the Novitiate next year. There are five 2nd year candidates and two freshmen. Br. Simon Phanom is the Director assisted by Br. Francisco Teerayut, who is also the Country Coordinator for Thailand.

The following are the names of the candidates. Front row, left to right: Cornelius Surasit (4th yr), Paul Cheerawat (2nd yr), Br. Francisco Teerayut, myself, Peter Thawatchai (4th yr), Thomas Worachit (2nd yr). Second Row: John Thawatchai (2nd yr), Matthew Dech (1st yr), Matthew Jirapon (2nd yr), Camilo Chetsada (2nd yr), Luke Thatsaworn (4th yr), Anthony Pisut (1st yr), and John Worawut (4th yr).

Thanks to Auxiliary Visitor, Br. Joseph Klong for arranging things, to Br. Francisco, and to Br. Simon Phanom and the candidates for the warm welcome and hospitality.

## Buddhist Festival in Nakhonsawan

During the month of July, two special days on the Buddhist calendar occur: Asarnha Bucha Day and Buddhist Lent. In this time, monks would cease their travelling and stay in the temple. Monks spend this time in more intensive meditation and lay supporters would sometimes renounce routine practices, such as eating meat, drinking or smoking.

To commemorate these special days, La Salle Choteravi Nakhonsawan School invited monks to perform a special Buddhist ceremony. La Salle Brothers, Teachers and Secondary students attended the ceremony which was held in the big hall where the students and teachers participated in Buddhist rituals. We presented offerings to the monks and received blessings from them.

Although, La Salle Choteravi Nakhonsawan School is a Catholic school, the majority of students and teachers are Buddhist. This special ceremony provided them with the chance to practice their religion at our school. The statue of the Lord Buddha below is produced by the art teachers of our school and got the second place of the competition of the Nakonsawan Province. (Br. John Niran FSC)



## St. Joseph's Institution Featured in Singapore's Straights Times



Br. Kelvin Tan shared an article from the Singapore Straights Times on the groundbreaking of planned upgrades to the school's facilities which will include a sports hall, a lecture theatre block, and two senior school blocks. VVIPs like like the President of Singapore, Tony Tan Keng Yam and the Deputy Prime Minister, Teo Chee Hean were present at the ceremony. Thanks for sharing the good news to us Kelvin!

# SJI upgrading expected to finish by early 2017

**\$40 million makeover will allow school to boost its student numbers by about 25%**

**Calvin Yang**

St Joseph's Institution (SJI) will complete its campus upgrading as early as the first quarter of 2017, enabling it to increase its student population by a quarter to 2,000.

The redevelopment project, which is expected to cost \$40 million, will feature four new facilities – an indoor sports hall, a lecture theatre block and two senior school blocks – as well as refurbishments to existing buildings.

A masterplan for the upgraded SJI campus in Malcolm Road was unveiled yesterday by President Tony Tan Keng Yam, an SJI alumnus. The makeover comes as the 163-year-old school, which moved to its present location in 1988,

looks to adapt to changing needs, and accommodate more students taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

At a ground-breaking ceremony yesterday, charity sector leader Gerard Ee, who is chairman of the SJI Board of Governors, said the school had to upgrade its facilities to ensure it is "designed for learning and interactions, now and for the future".

When ready, the gross floor area of the upgraded campus will increase by about 14,000 sq m. The new indoor sports hall will feature, among other things, student council rooms, plus basketball and badminton courts, while a lecture theatre block will offer a 600-seat lecture theatre, meeting rooms and a new staff room, which is connect-

ed to the existing one.

Two senior school blocks, to be built over existing buildings, will feature 32 classrooms with informal learning and interaction spaces, and connected to each other by a link bridge.

Existing buildings will also be refurbished. The canteen, for instance, will be renovated to cater to a larger student population.

Toilet facilities will also be upgraded, and music and arts rooms will be introduced to support IBDP classes. Slippery tiles around the school will be replaced, too.

Sheltered linkways to all buildings, as well as to the nearest bus stop in Whitley Road, will be installed, and there will be modification works on the field and track.

About \$12 million of the \$40 million for the project was raised by the school, and the rest is from the Ministry of Education.

Since last year, SJI students have been attending classes at a

temporary site at the former Institute of Technical Education campus in Bishan Street 14.

The school moved out of its Malcolm Road campus by the end of 2013 as construction was originally planned to begin last year. However, the upgrading was delayed because of site challenges.

Based on the initial plan, SJI was due to return to Malcolm Road by the middle of next year but has extended its stay at the temporary Bishan site till mid-2017.

SJI principal Koh Thiam Seng said: "Parents of the students would want them to move back as quickly as possible but there were constraints. We don't have a large amount of land for us to add new buildings so, we have to try to make sure whatever new buildings we have can be integrated with the old ones, and we have to do it under a certain budget."

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## Thailand Young Brothers Recollection

On July 30, 2015 the Thai Young Brothers met at La Salle College, Bangna, Thailand for a recollection. Fr. Chanchai a diocesan priest from Bangkok was the speaker. He led us to look back on the origins of the Brothers in Thailand as we recently celebrated the 60th year anniversary of the first group of missionaries who came to Thailand and started the mission of education for the poor. He emphasised the role of Christian School in the society. He helped us to understand more about our role as Brothers in the Church. He challenged the Brothers to look forward for the next fifty years and beyond. Special thanks for the presence of Brother Joseph Klong FSC, AVVF. (*Br. John Pongpat*)



Young Brothers of Thailand: Dominic, John Niran, Frank, Francisco, Pongpat, Benilde, Benedict, and Johnny Perapong

## [PARC] De La Salle College, Auckland, New Zealand in Energy Competition



*De La Salle College has a thriving Science Faculty fully involved as a budding Enviroschool and working hard at all issues dealing with 'Sustainability'. A Year 7 to 13 School, we have key topics purely focused on just Sustainability at Years 7 and 8, the Environment and Ecology at Years 9 and 10, and have introduced the full Earth and Space Science Programme at NCEA Levels 2 and 3. External results for these courses have been well above the National average and we are extremely proud of this. We currently have a large 'Sustainability' garden and have just started a school creek rejuvenation programme called "Our Stream, Our Taonga". 2016 will also see the creation of a Native Tree Arboretum. Our next logical step is energy management and sustainable energy practices.*

Supporting the efforts of these Lasallians from New Zealand to educate the young about caring for the Earth will take less than 5 minutes of your time. Please vote for them at <http://vectorfutureofenergy.co.nz/page/delasallecollege>

## August Birthdays

A very special Happy Birthday to our Birthday Bros this month!

John Fernando	05 August	Cliff Sy	20 August
Ambrose Loke	08 August	Joseph Scheiter	25 August
Justin Mobilik	10 August	Anselm Balthazar	28 August
Dindo Maralit	13 August	Martin Sellner	29 August
Edmon Viroomal	17 August	Francisco Teerayut Chadang	30 August

## Auxiliary Visitors' Schedule

### *AV for Vocation and Formation*

10 August - 15 August 2015, Myanmar (Pastoral Visit)

### *AV for Mission and Association*

29 August 2015, Malaysia (Convenors Assembly)

### *AV for Strategic Planning*

<b>1st Week of August</b> Sendai Japan, PARC Meeting	<b>3rd Week of August</b> Philippines, Central House Yangon, Myanmar Workshop
<b>2nd Week of August</b> Philippines, Central House	<b>4th Week of August</b> Philippines, Central House

## Visitor's Schedule

<b>1st Week of August</b> Japan	<b>3rd Week of August</b> Provincialate Malaysia, Sabah
<b>2nd Week of August</b> Provincialate Philippines	<b>4th Week of August</b> Provincialate

## LEAD Events and Assemblies Calendar

The District has an online Google calendar available at <https://goo.gl/1rDQgI>

If there are important events which you want to be included here, please email the LEAD Administrator at [sockie.delarosa@gmail.com](mailto:sockie.delarosa@gmail.com)

## Reminder

The registration for the **1st LEAD Young Brothers' Assembly** is on-going. This assembly will be held in Hong Kong on 16th - 20th December, 2015. Young Brothers (those who are in temporary vows, have finished their first year of Scholasticate, and/or have less than five years of perpetual vows) must register for the assembly at: <http://goo.gl/forms/grHvljWgyn> before August 15. The flight details can follow on a later date but the Preparatory Committee needs the rest of your information

## Health and Wellness

What do **alcohol** (wine), **almonds**, and **avocados** have in common? Aside from starting with the letter A, they are considered "super foods" that can **lower cholesterol**. Read Peter Jaret's *7 Super Foods to Improve Cholesterol* at [http://www.eatingwell.com/nutrition\\_health/cholesterol/7-super-foods-to-improve-cholesterol?page=4](http://www.eatingwell.com/nutrition_health/cholesterol/7-super-foods-to-improve-cholesterol?page=4)

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC  
Provincialate

### Errata

#### LEAD Story 176

Br. Joe Hung finished his **Master's** Degree in DLSU-Manila (not PhD as I had written). Thanks to Br. Mark Salvan for pointing this out.

#### LEAD Story 179

1. **Br. Edmon** (not Br. Edmund)
2. Br. Mandy will be taking his PhD at the **University of Divinity** in Australia (not Australian Catholic University)

My Apologies.