

LEAD Leadership Team Meeting and Assembly with Singapore Brothers



I presided over the second meeting of the Leadership Team at Brothers' House in St. Joseph's Institution (SJI), Singapore last 4 - 5 September. The Leadership Team is composed of myself, the three Auxiliary Visitors (Mission and Association, Br. Paul; Vocation and Formation, Br. Joe; and Strategic Planning and District Development; Br. JJ), the District Bursar, Br. Jose and the LEAD Administrator, Br. Sockie who also serves as the Secretary for the Team.

It was a one-day meeting and I am happy that we were able to make refinements to the Strategic Plan of the District, which will be finalised in our October meeting. Auxiliary Visitors gave reports on their respective portfolios and geographical areas. Br. Jose gave a report on the proceedings of the Economic Council held in August and Br. Sockie gave an update on the First Young Brothers' Assembly which will be held in December.

On the last night, I was able to meet the Singapore Brothers in an informal assembly where we had a dialogue about the new structure of LEAD and other important changes in the District.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of the Team for their generosity in serving the District. Special thanks to the SJI Brothers' Community for their hospitality and warm welcome. (I think the entire District should know that our Auxiliary Visitor for Mission and Association can whip up excellent fish curry and wonderful roasted lamb. Don't take my word for it - you'll have to try it yourselves.)

Welcome to LEAD

I am very happy to welcome to our District two Brothers who have generously responded to the call to “leave their boats behind” and follow Jesus in unfamiliar shores.



Welcome, Br. Robertolino Vargas Guerrero FSC!

I became interested in the Brother’s life because the of community life and the work with the children specially with the poor. Since I joined the brothers I really enjoy my participation in a program that the Brothers have in District of Mexico-North, a place of mission in which the brothers show the face of Jesus especially to the poor kids. When I was working as a teacher in the elementary school, I began to be motivated by other cultures and became more interested in Japan and I began to think that I would want to help the Brothers there. Also, since I was child, I heard several stories about one Brother from the same hometown. (Br. Jose del Coss) I always said, “I want to go with him” and finally I am here.

In Mexico, I worked as a elementary school teacher on the 4th 5th and 6th grades. Before arrived Japan, I did my English studies in the United States at Saint Marys University, Minnesota”.

I am currently studying Japanese in Kagoshima in preparation for my ministry in LEAD.

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Welcome, Br. Chris Soosai FSC!

I have been a Brother for the past 29 years from the Delegation of India. Most of my assignments in the past was working among the poor kids in the field of education as well as looking after their welfare programs. After acquiring Masters in Computer Science I worked for about eight years at Lasalle School, Tuticorin teaching computer science, along with holding the responsibility of looking after about 300 residential poor kids. I have also worked in the field of rural development scheme which basically provided very basic educational facilities to the kids of the remotest villages.

I was in the field of formation as well by being in charge of the Postulants for four years. I had the opportunity of getting a Master of Arts degree from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota focussing Theology.

From 2010 to 2015 I held the responsibility of the President of the Delegation of India taking care of the pastoral administration of the Brothers and the Mission.

Now I am in Hong Kong Lasalle College to help in the area of IT as well as to teach Religious Sciences. I am also expected to work with the teams of Young Lasallian Movement and Lasallian Formation Committee which offers formation programs to the Students and Associates at Lasalle College, and later on may be to work with the other Hong Kong schools.

Brothers Chris and Robertolino, as you begin your new ministries in Hong Kong and Japan, respectively, I want you to know that your LEAD Brothers, despite our occasional quirks, are very warm, loving, and caring. You can put your worries aside and start you mission with enthusiasm.

La Salle College of the Arts Receives EduTrust Assessment Report

The good news from Singapore seems to keep on coming. I received from the President of the College, Steve Dixon, through Br. Paul Ho FSC this update:



We received today our full EduTrust Assessment Report from the Council for Private Education (CPE) following their recent visit and review of the College - attached.

I am delighted to say that it is a quite outstanding report – and even better than we had anticipated. It identifies 19 strengths as compared to only 5 weaknesses/areas for improvement, all of which are relatively minor and can be quickly and easily remedied.

It will still be a few weeks before CPE reveal whether or not we have been awarded a coveted EduTrust Star, and I will let you know as soon as we hear.

(Photo from: Mithril Cloud at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:City_Campus_of_LASALLE_College_of_the_Arts,_Singapore_-_20080620.jpg)

The EduTrust Certification Scheme (EduTrust) is a voluntary quality assurance scheme. The scheme assesses a PEI's academic and financial processes, school governance and administration, quality management, and the protection and welfare of students through fee protection, management of recruitment agents and provision of student support services. In order to be certified, a PEI needs to demonstrate it has achieved minimum level of performance in these areas.

There are currently three award types under EduTrust, namely EduTrust Star, EduTrust and EduTrust Provisional. EduTrust Star and EduTrust awards are valid for four years whereas EduTrust Provisional is valid for one year.

<https://www.cpe.gov.sg/for-peis/edutrust-certification-scheme/edutrust-certification-scheme>

St. George's Institution Leadership Camp

Br. Matthew Bay FSC shared news of this exciting camp held by 27 participants from St. George's Institution last August 7 - 9 in Taiping, Perawak:

L.E.A.D (Lasallian Expedition and Development Camp) is an outdoor-based camp that is fun-filled, with lots of learning and focuses on team and character building. It is for 14-year old boys who have not been given the opportunity to attend any camps. These boys are mainly boys who face challenges in school, at home and in society.

This is a La Salle Centre programme that is offered to our various Lasallian secondary schools. The first L.E.A.D programme was in 2002. On average three schools each year accepted the invitation to participate in this programme.



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The volunteers help with the organising of the camp as well as journey with the boys throughout the camp. Our volunteers are youths between the ages of 18 and 30.

This year the St. George's participants stayed at a forest reserve for two nights and three days. The first activity was a 4-km hike where their stamina and their endurance, were truly tested. There were mixed reactions to being bitten by leeches ranging from amusement to fright.

The boys were also given a team task to build rafts and they had the chance to test it out in the stream.

A treasure hunt gave them a chance to put on their thinking caps and work together to solve clues that came in the form of questions and tasks at various stations that eventually led to the treasure.

There were also indoor sessions on discovering themselves and how they related to the people around them. The boys acted out their school realities which gave them an opportunity to bring out what took place in their school setting and

how they had been dealing with it, e.g. bullying.

A session on the importance of education was included at the tail end of the camp to give participants a greater awareness of how their education and learning experiences would affect their lives.

(Report by Corinne , Assistant Programmes Director, La Salle Centre)

Sports Day in La Salle Chotiravi Nakhonsawan

Sports day is a something every student in Thailand looks forward to. Every school year, all schools in Thailand organize sports day for all students because it is very vital for the holistic education of young people.

La Salle Chotiravi Nakhonsawan School has organized a sports day for all students last 31 August. The objectives of these activities are the following 1) To create unity and solidarity among students and teachers 2) To promote awareness of good health 3) To encourage sports and physical exercise in order to avoid the use of drugs and other unhealthy vices and 4) To campaign to students and to teachers to be strong both mentally and physically.



For this semester the school organised ten different types of sports for students: 1) Football 2) Volleyball 3) Futsal 4) Badminton 5) Sepak Takraw 6) Athletics 7) Table Tennis 9. Petong and 10) Thai traditional games. On this occasion we also had a special Sepak Takraw match between the Brothers and the teachers. It was so fun and all students were very enjoy playing and participating in all the sports and games.

Photo: Back row from right to left Br. Steven Pichit, Br. John Niran, Bro. Director Eugene Prapas, Br. Frank Suriya and aspirant Wutthikrai. Front row from left to right teacher Sompong, teacher Saichon, teacher Sathapawn and teacher Pechet.

(Br. John Niran FSC)



Brother Anthony Rogers Granted the Title of Datuk

Congratulations, Br. Anthony! Br. Anthony Rogers FSC from Malaysia was conferred Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (DSPN), which carries the title 'Datuk'.

Know that your Brothers in LEAD are proud of your achievements and hold you in the highest esteem.

Read the rest of the article here at: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2015/09/05/ambrin-among-82-new-datuks-in-penang-honours/>

Photo from: <https://paitanmission.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/broroger.jpg>

New Visitors Program, Rome

Br. JJ Jimenez FSC, Auxiliary Visitor for Strategic Planning and District Development and Br. Paul Ho FSC, Auxiliary Visitor for Mission and Association are in the Generalate, Rome until the end of September for a "New Visitors Program". This program is a "rite of passage" for all new Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors of the Institute and aims at helping them hone their leadership skills in the service of the Institute. Let's keep Brs. JJ and Paul in our prayers in the next few weeks.

Health and Wellness

In the few days that I am here in the Philippines, I heard that in some schools “sore eyes” is on the rise (also known as “pink eye” or conjunctivitis). Symptoms include: Redness in the white of the eye, swelling of the eyelids, itching or burning feeling of the eyelids, swollen and tender areas in front of the ears, a lot of tearing and clear or slightly thick, whitish drainage.

This could be caused by bacteria or viruses. Therefore it is important to constantly wash one’s hands and avoid rubbing one’s eyes. **Of course Brothers, it is also important to keep our offices, rooms and houses clean and tidy as dust can trigger conjunctivitis and other diseases.**

Read more at: <http://www.webmd.com/eye-health/tc/pinkeye-topic-overview>

Reminders

- The meetings of the **Consultative Teams, District Council, and Leadership Team** will be in La Salle Bangkok on **8-10 October**. Brothers involved in this meeting: Please pass your flight details to the LEAD Administrator and relevant reports so he will have enough time to make arrangements and collate the materials.
- Planning for the **1st LEAD Young Brothers’ Assembly on 11-16 December** in Hong Kong is going well. I’d like to remind the participants to begin making arrangements for the classes/work they will miss and make sure their travel documents are in order. There will also be young Brothers from PARC (India and Vietnam) who will be participating. The Preparatory Committee will be releasing an official communication to all participants soon.
- Brother Directors are encouraged to share to the their Communities **official District communications and news**, especially to Brothers who are prone to “electronic information overload” or simply do not have access to online information. The **LEAD Calendar** can be viewed online, printed and/or exported to your mobile devices: <https://goo.gl/YN0sd8>

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC
Iligan