

## First Singapore-Malaysia Vocation Camp

I thought it would be nice to start the new year with stories of new life in LEAD. Here's an article from Br. Kelvin on the 1st Singapore-Malaysia Vocation Camp. Congratulations, Kelvin! Keep up the good work! I will not be surprised in Singapore and Malaysia become vocation "hotspots" in the next few years. Kelvin wrote:



Vocation Camp 2015 was not only a collaborative effort between the countries of Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines but also the promotion of encountering God through our vocation for these young men.

What Singapore and Malaysia lacked was a catalyst; compensated by the assistance of the wonderful Bro. Butch and the two animated aspirants from Philippines; Mico and Kino. What Singapore lacked was the expansive and idyllic surroundings; provided by the Brothers' community in Malacca for the use of the Brothers' bungalow in Pantai Kundur. This place provided a solitude and contemplative atmosphere that promoted and hopefully instil in the young men the encountering of God. (Continued on next page)

These young men aged fifteen and above experienced their first joined explicit vocation camp between Singapore and Malaysia. The presence and witness of so many Brothers helped tremendously; Bros. Paul, Andrew, Ambrose, Michael, Nicholas, Larry, Butch and myself, who tried our subtle best to inspire them through prayer, community life and mission as inspired by our Founder. It was indeed a grace-filled camp when these twenty young men from both countries experienced the sense of what it still means to be called to make a lifelong commitment to God; to provide a human and Christian education to the young entrusted to their care. Let us pray and labour explicitly for vocations. (Br. Kelvin Tan FSC)



Click to watch the video: 1st SG-MY VOCATION CAMP 2015 of the De La Salle Brothers  
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCeddfJq4zc>

## 1st LEAD Young Brothers Assembly

A Second story of new life for LEAD: On 11th - 16th December, 2015, all the young Brothers of the District gathered together at the YMCA Wu Kai Sha for the 1st LEAD Young Brothers Assembly. On those days, 45 LEAD Young Brothers and 3 Young Brothers from India shared a life of community, fraternity, and prayer. (Other invited Brothers from Vietnam and Sri Lanka could not make it at the last minute due to Visa problems). The facilitators of the program were Brs. Chuy Rubio and Joseph Felix, Secretaries for Formation. The young Brothers were able to meet the Superior General, as the assembly coincided with his visit to Hong Kong. Special thanks to the Brothers in Hong Kong for being gracious hosts, the Hong Kong Lasallian Family Office headed by Ms. Nikki Chan and the HK Lasallian Youth Volunteers for arranging the logistics of the assembly, the Facilitators for coming all the way from Rome, and the Steering Committee for the well organised program.



(Thanks to Winston Ho Yin Tam, who volunteered to help the program for the Photographs)



The LEAD Young Brothers Gathering and the MYS-SGP Vocation Camp will be featured in the 2nd Issue of *twenty eleven*, the official magazine of LEAD, coming out mid-year. Hope these short teasers got you excited!



## Called to Evangelize a New World

Our third story of new life comes from someone turning 86 soon. It amazes me how graceful ageing can still bring new life to a city and District. Thanks for sharing your reflections to us, Brother Labelle!



Our diocesan region of Hakodate city has presently five parishes. Up till now, we had three priests but since last year, we have only two. Lack of personnel. Among the five official Christian communities, two parishes with a small number of Christians are situated one hour and a half or two hours by car, from Hakodate itself. So, from last year, it is impossible to have mass every Sunday for every parish. Every community has now once a month, a Sunday without mass but only with a prayer service, liturgy of the Word and holy communion.

Teams of lay animators, women and men have been formed and appointed for these services. But despite that effort of adaptation, by special request, a Trappist monk, from the not too far Tobetsu Trappist monastery, comes in Hakodate itself once a month, to celebrate the Eucharist for one parish.

In our parish church, four lay persons, all men, have been chosen and appointed for presiding, taking turn, these new official gatherings in absence of the priest. Since I am a lay religious and because I was involved in religious teaching in our school, I was asked to help.

I accepted, having time available being retreated at my age. I was 85 years old when asked. So, last year, I could help at the parish in three services, the last one being this December 2015. Of course, the four helpers have been renewed for 2016, for the same number of services.

THEN, another call! This time for a Home for the Aged. The founder of this thirty year old Catholic institution, a priest, died last year and no replacement now. About multi-religious 120 residents live in that home, aged people in various states of health, from an independent state, to asking complete care because they cannot do anything. (Continued on next page)

Thanks to the founder, the few Catholics could have mass every day. Now, no priestly replacement has been found. So the two parish priests are also responsible for this special service to the three small groups of Catholic people of the three sections of that big institution and also for the Christian animation of that important place.

They again asked for volunteers till they could find a priest coming as full time chaplain. There would be two masses a month on weekdays, one mass offered by each of the two parish priests. And if possible, another priest would come from outside the Hakodate parishes to that Home, for the first Sunday of each month. And a team of four lay volunteers, one woman and three men, would take care of the Sunday and weekday services.

I was again called to help regularly for the Sunday services, each Sunday I would be in Hakodate and

available. It would be quite another experience and responsibility for me, a call for another world! Mission of presiding the prayer with “kind of homily” every Sunday...



I was used to teach young people in the classroom, or to give talks or sessions to adults, staff or parents, healthy adults. This time, I am speaking to aged and sick people being accompanied by nurses, not being able of moving by themselves, of hearing, or speaking well, thinking with difficulty, getting easily tired and also having to receive communion with jelly to be able to swallow the host... For me, a new world with completely new needs. I needed and I still need a kind of “conversion”

My vocabulary should use new and much simpler words, offering short sets of clear thoughts understandable to them, instilling their hearts with hope, consolation, tenderness. And...how should I and could I present the beautiful message of God’s plan, his infinite love, his constant and tender forgiveness and presence to each one of them?

This new task is a new world for me and at the same time, a new and wonderful grace of God. I will be 86 soon, but being in good health, I strongly feel that God calls me and expects of me to do something for his Kingdom. This Home for the Aged is a “periphery” for me. My community also is very supportive. Beautiful task for this special HOLY YEAR OF MERCY ! I consider myself a lucky La Salle Brother. (Brother Andre Labelle FSC, Hakodate, Japan)

## Announcements

- On-line Registration for the LEAD Directors Workshop (8-11 April 2015) is on-going. I'd like to remind participants, organizers, and resource persons to register for this as soon as possible. Emails have been sent to you.
- PARC 41 is on-going in Colombo. Keep us all in your prayers.



Br. Larry Schatz FSC, Visitor of the Midwest District, USA, will come to visit Br. Martin Sellner in the Philippines (Jan 21-26) and Br. Larry Humphrey in Singapore (Jan 26-30). **Welcome to LEAD!**

Now we know why Larry and Marty have been so well behaved. :-)

## Health and Wellness

I am a runner and love the high that comes from a good run. What about those who don't run? Did you know that **Burpees** and **Kettle Ball Swings** burn more calories than running? For other cardio workouts that burn more calories than running, check out: <http://www.menshealth.com/fitness/10-exercises-that-burn-more-calories-than-running/kettlebell-swing>

Keep on burning those holiday calories, Brothers!

In St. La Salle,

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Colombo, Sri Lanka