



## Singapore Lasallian Retreat

Lasallian leaders, administrators and LYNKsters in Singapore came together on a Saturday morning on 23rd July for our Lasallian Retreat. The last time Singapore had something similar was in July 2011. This is a rare treat for everyone to come together and support one another in our Lasallian mission. It was not an easy retreat as we had to re-focus what really matters to us; our Lasallian priorities and where we see ourselves now in our mission in Singapore with seven schools ranging from primary, secondary to international. It was a treasured moment as we shared about our Lasallian Mission and how it applies to the schools. It is a blessing to see how we have come so far together ever growing since 1852. God continues to bless the Lasallian mission in Singapore.

Singapore would like to appreciate and bid farewell to Bros. Jason and Danai for their presence in Singapore. After concluding his sabbatical, Jason is heading to SJI International Malaysia. Danai will be joining him after achieving an impressive Second Upper Honours in his studies with La Salle College of the Arts. (Br. Kelvin Tan FSC)

Photo: Seated (left to right): Lucas Lak – Supervisor, Bradley Roberts – Principal of SJII High, Gerald Minjoot, Bro. Larry Humphrey, Stuart Palmer – CBS Chairman, Bro. Paul Ho, Fr. Adrian Danker SJ– Principal of SJI, Timothy Goh – Principal of SJI Junior, Christina Teo – Principal of SAPS, Thomas Koh – Principal of SSS, Daphne Poon – Principal of DLSS.

Standing (left to right): Matthew Guan – LYNKster, Perry Kwan – LYNKster, Westine Juay – LYNKster, Bryan Lee – LYNKster, Dr. Koh Thiam Seng – CEO of SJI International, Kuo Yew Ting – Chairman of DLSS School Council, Mark Chin – Chairman of SJI Junior School Council, Bro. Ignaci Heri, Geoffrey Da Silva – Chairman of SPS School Council, Bro. Michael Broughton, Bro. Kenneth Martinez, Kenny Rebeira – Chairman of SSS School Council, Dr Toh Keng Kiat – Chairman of SAPS School Council, Aloysius Yong – Vice-principal of SPS, Dominic Ang – Vice-principal of SJI, Bro. Nicholas Seet, Bro. Kelvin Tan, Ed-Linddi Ong – Lasallian Youth Coordinator, Darrick Leow – LYNKster.

## La Salle College Old Boys' Association Global Reunion

The La Salle College Old Boys' Association Global Reunion was held in Toronto from 28-31 July 2016. There were over 300 registered members attending the conference activities with over 500 attending the Gala Dinner. There are nine registered Chapters of the La Salle College Old Boys' Association. They are East Coast USA (New York), South Cal USA (Los Angeles), Bay Area USA (San Francisco), Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, London, Singapore, Shanghai. La Salle College alumni overseas are encouraged to join their closest Chapter and keep connected.

The College thanks Mr Phillip Wong, President of the Toronto Chapter, Mr Jimmy Chang Past President, and the Toronto Chapter executive and members for the wonderful hospitality, magnificent programme and venues, and hard work that went into the Global Reunion 2016. The next Global Reunion will be hosted by New York but will be on a cruise ship out of Miami. Keep in touch with the OBA and sign up – don't miss out.

<http://web.lasalle.edu.hk/eng/home.php>

Photo courtesy OBA-Toronto Chapter <https://goo.gl/photos/vURKSBjD3tHzsMVG6>



## LEAD Welcomes the Vicar General and General Councillors

Br. Jorge Gallardo FSC  
Br. Gustavo Ramirez FSC  
Br. Rafael Matas FSC  
Br. Paulo Petry FSC  
Br. Aidan Kilty FSC  
Br. Pierre Outtara

East Malaysia  
Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong  
Thailand  
Japan and Myanmar  
Philippines  
Philippines

August 8-13  
August 2-14  
August 2-6  
July 29 - August 14  
August 9-14  
August 8-14

### Vicar General



Br. Jorge Gallardo de Alba FSC

### General Councillors



Br. Gustavo Ramirez FSC



Br. Rafa Matas FSC

### General Councillors



Br. Paulo Petry FSC



Br. Pierre Ouattara FSC



Br. Aidan Kilty FSC

## Reflection: Have you ever bargained with God?

Br. Fermín Martínez (Hakodate La Salle – Japan)



## Have you ever bargained with God?

I would like to start this article with one of the most interesting stories about Abraham. Here in Japan the first reading for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of ordinary time was that part of the Old Testament where Abraham shows his the best moment as a bargainer but you might find my quotation as an anachronism. I checked in the net if the readings were identical for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> all over the world. I found out that was not the case. Here in this country we had the text where Abraham is bargaining with God how to save Sodom and Gomorrah. As you can well recall the passage, Abraham does not mind to make a deal with the Lord in favor of these two towns. From fifty just people, the “father of our faith” dares to lower the number to ten to save these two towns he loved from the divine ire. The result, as you know, Abraham witnessed the most amazing divine conversion.

It is a fascinating to imagine this man “bargaining” with the Supreme. His guts are worth imitating or at least imagining if you or I would dare to speak the same way with God. Not to save a sinful nation, or a wicked community but to save some communities where we have been for decades or even more than 100 years. I will try to put into words a way to bargain for new vocations to rejuvenate regions of our District from extinction of rabat’s men. A good start line could be something like: God this work is yours; it is in your hands. Look, for so many years, you have not sent new blood to enable your work to continue serving the youth in this Lasallian region. Of course we know that our way of living our journey as Brothers, and our prayer life should be the best way to make a deep impact on young men who could have joined us, but sad to say we have not succeeded.

Can we make a deal with you? What about if you will find 50 very wonderful inspiring Brothers in the District? Would you give vocations to countries where the last local novice is already history? Yes, I know that you can easily find 50 great Brothers in the District. If you don’t find 50 but 45, would these deal still valid? Yes, as you have seen, in our large extended District there are countries where the communities are extremely fragile. Please, look around! Your work is worth of your passion for humankind, especially for the young.



God of our fathers, 45 passionate Brothers might be an ideal number but what about if you find only 40!!!! Yes, don't push off the bottom of your smartphone! Eh, you don't know what a smartphone is? I see. Oh you don't even use telephones! Well, let be honest with you. If you find Only 30 men, yes, 30 model and faithful Brothers in this part of the Institute would you send new local vocations? We urgently new replacements because in each school there are many youngsters at risk, they need big Brothers. They need mentors. Your work has done wonders, has made miracles in the lives of those you have entrusted to us.

You better than me know the reality of our District. Can you see my face, it is turning red! Looking at your face I can see a skeptical face which makes me tremble. Allow me to say this: maybe will find only 20 super Brothers, the kind of brotherly religious you really love. Yes, I am certain that there are 20 extraordinary Bros. Look around, it is a fact that some are already out of daily school work but they were great on their peak days. Don't you remember how hard they serve your kids? They are still waiting for the vocations they have been praying to you for years. God of mercy, send new laborers to your vineyard.



I see again that same perplexed face. Do you mean that nowadays there are less than 20? Okay, the way I see my dear Brothers is not the same way you see us. You see the depths of our hearts more than faces or human performances. Do you remember how Abraham, the one we call "father of our faith"? Sorry to say, but let me mimic our "faith icon" and utter the same magic "ten". Please, don't be angry at me. To bargain the future of several communities in our District from fifty to ten is unthinkable! Yes, it is too daring but we have no other choice.

We are all aware that instead of the ideal number of La Salle Men in Black, or in hot countries, La Salle Men in White robes you have sent new extraordinary lay people as irreplaceable collaborators in your schools. These new zealous bearers of the Lasallian Charism also see us as the memory, inspiration and anchors of your work.

God: forgive my boldness, have mercy on us. Your ways are not our ways but your audacity to perform miracles is endless. I beg my readers for understanding. As I seat in front of this machine typing these lines I wish God could have access to this LEAD STORY issue.

## Visitor's and Auxiliary Visitors' Calendar

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Visitor	LEAD Provincialate	Philippines, Installation Br. Dante Amisola FSC  PHL Country Assembly  Vows Ceremony	Vietnam, PARC 42  Philippines, IFB	Myanmar	Myanmar
AVMA	Singapore	Singapore  Philippines,  PHL Country Assembly  Vows Ceremony	Vietnam, PARC 42	Singapore  Malaysia	Singapore  Thailand
AVSP	Philippines, De La Salle Manila, Lasallian Justice and Peace Commission, Reflection & Levelling-off on the Pastoral Letter  Myanmar, Pastoral Visit	Philippines, PHL Country Assembly  Vows Ceremony	Vietnam, PARC 42  Philippines, FSC Formators' Education Day and One La Salle: Stand Up Against Culture of Death	Philippines, Basic Education Commission Principals' Forum and Kuya Center BOT Meeting	Thailand, LEAD Child Protection Policy Revision
AVSP	Thailand, Visit of Bro. Rafael Matas, General Councilor	Thailand, Visit to Chanthaburi community  Philippines,  PHL Country Assembly  Vows Ceremony	Vietnam, PARC 42  Thailand, Visit to Nakhonsawan community and Juniorate	Thailand, Visit to La Salle House of Studies, Sampran	Thailand

## Newsbits

- Congratulations to the La Salle Sisters of Vietnam and Thailand! They are celebrating their 50th Foundation Anniversary this year.
- Br. Aikee Esmeli FSC will be making his Final Vows on August 13, let's keep him in our prayers.

### Happy Birthday to our Birthday Boys!

Brother Ambrose Loke FSC	August 08, 1944
Brother Matthew Thawatchai Chumkhamta FSC	August 08, 1991
Brother Justin Mobilik FSC	August 10, 1944
Brother Dindo Maralit FSC	August 13, 1964
Brother Chuck Magno FSC	August 14, 1988
Brother Emong Viroomal FSC	August 17, 1982
Brother Cliff Sy FSC	August 20, 1985

## Health and Wellness

### 7 Weight-Loss Snacks That Will Actually Keep You Full Until Your Next Meal

1. IN-SHELL PISTACHIOS
2. AVOCADO WITH SALSA
3. LOW FAT COTTAGE CHEESE WITH CINNAMON
4. OLIVES
5. ROASTED CHICKPEAS
6. OAT BRAN
7. DARK CHOCOLATE



Read why and more at : <http://www.menshealth.com/weight-loss/7-best-weight-loss-snacks/slide/6>

Fraternally,

Edmundo Fernandez FSC