



Country Assemblies in Myanmar and Hong Kong

As part of its ongoing objective to understand the needs and concerns of each country in LEAD, the Leadership Team had a Country Assembly with the Brothers of Myanmar (October 21) and the Brothers of Hong Kong (November 5). Both country assemblies took place in the morning and was capped by lunch. The Leadership Team took the opportunity to share some District directions. So far, the LT has had country assemblies for the Philippines (August 13) and Thailand (September 4). Thanks to Br. Noel Hrang Lal and Br. JJ for the arrangements in Myanmar and to Br. Chris Soosai, Br. Pat Tierney, Br. Joe Klong for the arrangements in Hong Kong.



Step Up, Step Out

Secondary School students from the Philippines (De La Salle Lipa, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, De La Salle University – Integrated School, La Salle College Antipolo and La Salle Green Hills) and Singapore (St. Joseph’s Institution and St. Joseph’s Institution International) came together as a community during the Lasallian Leadership Training Camp 2016 last 07 OCT – 10 OCT at St. Joseph’s Institution. The bi-annual program aims to inculcate the Lasallian brand of leadership in student leaders and provide them a framework to guide their actions in their respective co-curricular activities. In addition, the camp exposed participants to the social realities which the last, lost and least face in Singapore and the Philippines. (Continued)



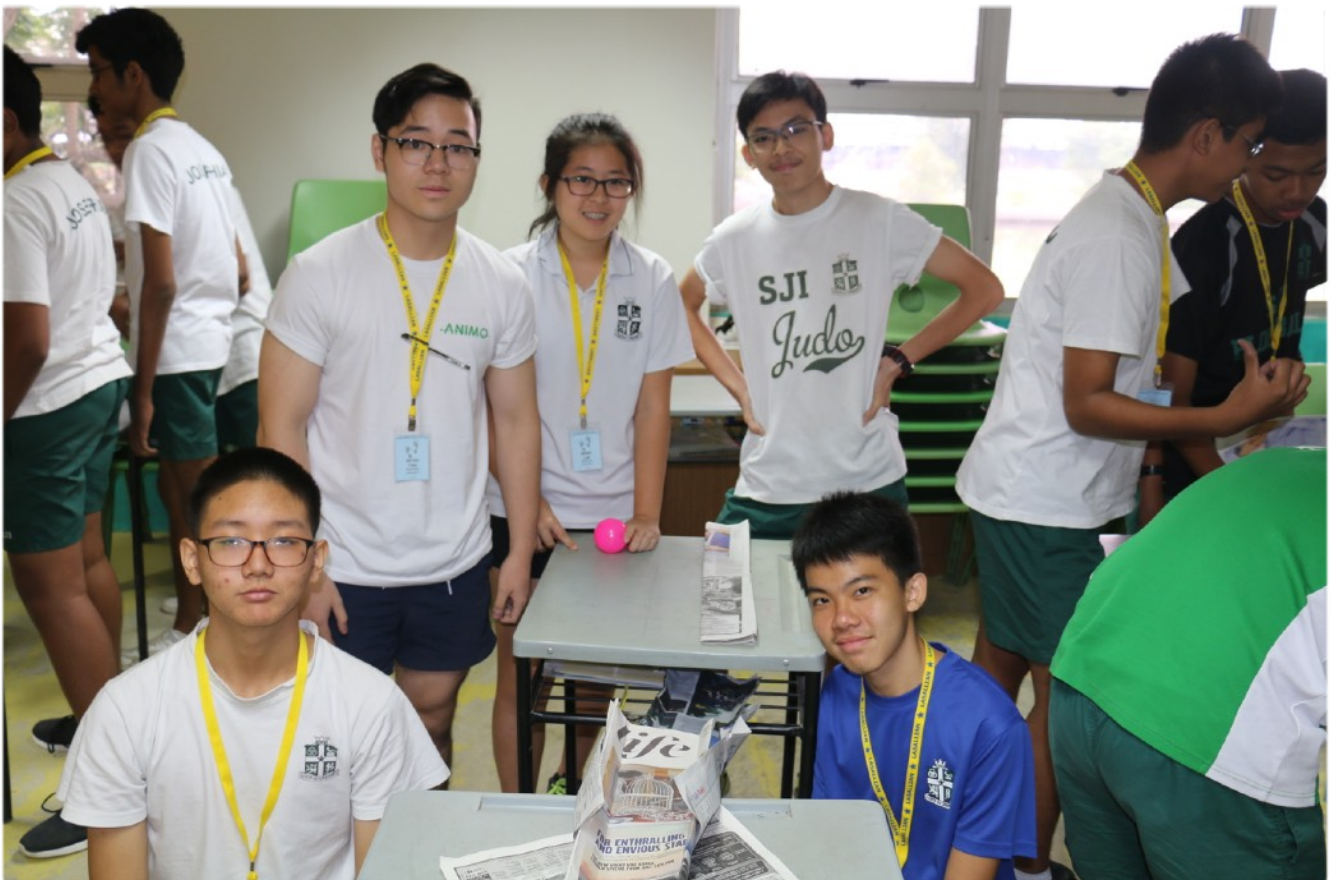
Centred on the theme “Step Up, Step Out”, the camp introduced a total of 118 students (101 from Singapore, 17 from the Philippines) to the Leadership Challenge Framework by Kouzes and Posner consisting of the five practices of exemplary leadership. In this context, the different sessions and activities shed light on the life of St John Baptist De La Salle and how he stepped out of his comfort zones to confront the realities of his time. While the Organising Team was mostly in-charge of running these activities and group discussions, the participants also had the opportunity to serve one another through their designated roles. For example, as a Scribe who notes down relevant points during group discussions. Staff members and LYNKsters also played an integral role by facilitating sessions and ensuring that logistical requirements were met.

One activity in particular, called “Journey with a Dream”, gave participants a first-hand experience of serving with the poor. They were dispersed to different locations to complete tasks such as distributing food, painting and cleaning houses for elderly who lived in one-room flats. Though some were anxious as it was their first time doing such an activity, their hearts of service and spirit of community ultimately empowered them to embark on this journey. Many participants reflected that this was an eye-opening experience that allowed them to understand the plight of the poor and the varied responses that the elderly had towards their situations. Through their heartfelt sharing, participants came to realize that by serving the poor, they also learned valuable lessons such as being more grateful for what they have. Some were amazed at how the elderly were generally happy despite their simple lives. Indeed, the young Lasallian leaders recognized that they had been in service with the poor rather than merely serving the poor, an elevated form of service that focuses on building and growing through relationships rather than a one-off act of kindness. (Continued)



We also had the commemoration of International Lasallian Days for Peace (ILDPA) on the first evening as a way to challenge those present to keep peace at the back of our minds throughout the camp. Everyone came with a picture depicting violence and returned with someone else's inspiration to mercy and peace.

During the Commissioning ceremony, participants were invested by LYNKsters who were present as mentors throughout the camp and presented the Lasallian Leader collar pin, one that symbolises their commitment to serving the last, lost and the least. These students were encouraged to apply the skills and values they have acquired and forward the Lasallian Mission through the spirit of Faith, Service and Community. While LLTC B 2016 may have come to an end, it is only the beginning of their journeys to realizing their potential as leaders who will change the world they live in by stepping up and stepping out. **(Ed-Linddi Ong)**



CIL - Lasallian Formation for Mission

We started off CIL by being blessed to have witnessed the canonization of St. Solomon Leclercq and six other Saints in St. Peter's square. The first few days of CIL consisted of reports of current formation programs of the various Districts within the Institute. The following days typically began with a sharing session followed by discussion in language groups, integration and concluding with the celebration of the Eucharist. Sessions included talks by Brs. Andre-Pierre Gauthier and Alain Houry and our own LEAD presenter, Dr. Carmelita Quebengco. This CIL included a day of rest and relax either in Assisi or Florence and a Roman holiday if time permits for the CIL-ist. **(Dr. Maria Luisa De La Cruz)**

Photo: Keane Palatino, Gerson Garcia, Carmelita Quebengco, Bernard Teo, Maria Luisa Dela Cruz and Br. Kelvin Tan.





The Young Brothers coming from various communities in the Philippines gathered at Dauin, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, Philippines for a conference from October 27 until October 30, 2016.

The first day of the conference started with a session on "The Politics of Power" given by Br. Manuel Pajarillo FSC, STD. This session reminded the young Brothers of their own vocation story. This is a story which started with an invitation to a relationship, and such relationship calls for a response. It is this response that led the Young Brother to where he is right now. It was mentioned that as a young Brother grows in the ministry/mission, he is most likely to experience a certain privilege or entitlement in his dealings. This session helped us realize that these privileges must be used appropriately to serve the people entrusted to our care. Br. Mawel, as he is fondly called, also talked about the history of the Sector of the Philippines to help us understand fully the context of where the Young Brothers are situated today. Late in the afternoon of the same day, we also had a faith sharing of our experiences in the various ministries that we are involved with. There is this realization that in doing the ministry one is invited to be in the grace of the Lord every day. (Continued)

On the following days, we had our rest and recreation as we visited nearby islands: namely Siquijor and Apo Islands. Br. Dante Amisola FSC, the moderator of the young Brothers, Br. Manny Hilado FSC, Director of the Bacolod Community and Br. Joseph Aung FSC from Myanmar were also present during the gathering.

This conference became an opportunity for young Brothers to reconnect with each other. This encounter served as a source of inspiration as we returned to our respective communities to do the mission entrusted to our care. **(Br. Edgar Esparagoza FSC; 1st Photo: Br. Irwin Climaco FSC)**



Visitor's and Auxiliaries' Calendar

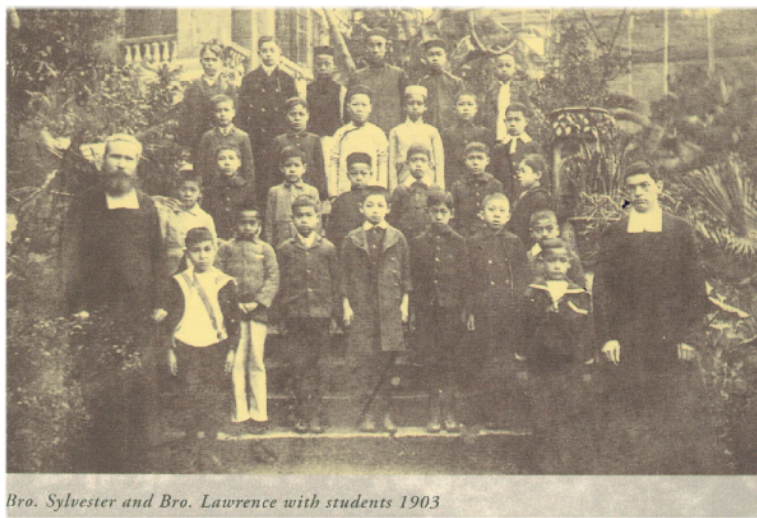
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Visitor	LEAD PRV, Leadership Team	Thailand, Canonical Visit Japan, Coordinating Team Meeting	Japan, Canonical visit	Philippines, Final Vows of Br. Mikey Cua FSC IFB Meeting
AVMA	LEAD PRV, Leadership Team	Singapore, Vitality and Viability Study	Singapore	Philippines, Final Vows of Br. Mikey Cua FSC Pastoral Visit to Lipa and 1911
AVVF	LEAD PRV, Leadership Team	Japan, Coordinating Team Meeting	Thailand, Pastoral Visit to Sampran	Philippines, Final Vows of Br. Mikey Cua FSC Thailand, Pastoral Visit to Chantaburi
AVSP	LEAD PRV, Leadership Team and Middle Aged Brothers Assembly Steering Committee	Singapore, Vitality and Viability Study. Pastoral Visit	Rome, Solidarity Secretariat	Philippines, Final Vows of Br. Mikey Cua FSC Lasallian Partners Council and IFB Meeting

Happy Birthday to our November Birthday Bros!

Brother Dan Sanding FSC	November 11, 1985
Brother Gus Boquer FSC	November 13, 1943
Brother Gene Tianco FSC	November 17, 1947
Brother Hans Moran FSC	November 18, 1966
Brother Stephen Mark FSC	November 19, 1948
Brother Mikey Cua FSC	November 21, 1984
Brother Edgar Esparagoza FSC	November 22, 1988
Brother Iñigo Riola FSC	November 24, 1984
Brother John D'Cruz FSC	November 26, 1941
Brother Paul Mata FSC	November 26, 1980

History

November 7 - Anniversary of the Brothers' Arrival in Hong Kong



Bro. Sylvester and Bro. Lawrence with students 1903

On the 26th September 1875, six Brothers, four French and two Irish, sailed from Marseilles on board the mail steamer "Hougli" of the Messageries Maritimes. After a tedious voyage of 42 days, on the 7th November, the "Hougli" safely sailed in Victoria Harbour, bringing the six pioneers who formed the first community of the Christian Brothers in Hong Kong. To their joy they found two fellow Brothers among the people who greeted them: Brother Lothaire-Marie, Visitor of the District and Brother Benilde-Henri from Vietnam. Brother Benilde-Henri later joined the first Hong Kong community, taking charge of the West Point Reformatory.

The members of the first Christian Brothers community were Brother Hidulphe-Marie Nicolas, Director, Brother Hidulphe-de-Jesus Nicolas and Brother Herbertus Joseph Nicolas, from the Brothers' Boarding school in Marseilles; Brother Adrian Edmund Canny and Brother Adolphus Doyle

from the Novitiate of London; and Brother Isfrid from the Procure Générale of the Institute in Paris.

The Brothers found no time to relax because they were asked to take charge of the West Point Reformatory and the English section of St. Saviour's College on the very next day, 8th November 1875. (Br. Patrick Tierney FSC and Mr. Paul Tam's *A Brief History of the Lasallian Mission in Hong Kong*; Photo from Mr. Paul Tam)

Fraternally,

Edmundo Fernandez FSC