

## News From Far Away Japan Br. Andre Labelle FSC

### ROME AND PARMENIE



Brother Jorge Gallardo, of the Japan Sector, was elected General Councillor in 2007, and reelected in 2014 as Vicar General.

Among some Old Boys of the Japan Alumni Federation, we could hear of talks with some plans to visit him in Rome in 2016, and some dates began to be suggested and studied. And then, the big news of the canonization of Blessed Brother Solomon reached JAPAN! Could we combine then, during that period, the two goals together, attendance to the Roman ceremonies with lasallian graduates of other countries, and also enjoy a few moments with Brother Jorge?

A trip was then organized. Unfortunately, very few graduates could get holidays from their work around October 16 and 17. At the end, only four persons, the Presidents of the Alumni Association of our two schools of Japan, one more graduate and the Brother Adviser, would be the participants. (Continued)



But they went! People from Kagoshima arriving in Rome just in the evening, on October 15, and those from Hakodate, on October 14, after a one day trip to the French very fraternal community of Parmenie. Having to go back to Japan on October 18, it would be a very short and busy trip for all. But their dream became a reality. Among or between the intense lasallian moments of October 16 at the St. Peter's ceremony, and of the Mother House, on October 17, they were able to enjoy special and good moments with Brother Robert, Superior General and Brother Jorge, and even having meals with them.

These two days, a very important experience that will be shared next year at all the ten Chapters of the Federation spread over the whole country of Japan. (Continued)

## THINKING TOGETHER: OUR LASALLIAN FUTURE

November 12 will become an important date in the history of the Japanese Sector. On that day, we were able to hold in Sendai a meeting with representatives of our three Lasallian institutions: those of the school of Kagoshima, in the south of the southern island of Kyushu, those of the school of Hakodate, in the south of the northern big island of Hokkaido, and those of our institution, for boys and girls needing help, from 2 to 18 years old, taken care of in our institution of Sendai, important city, north of Tokyo, in the Honshu Island.

That meeting was a meeting like that of a "Mission Council", held in some other countries, meetings looking at the future of our institutions **together with our lay collaborators**. We had that kind of meeting seven years ago, part of the Chapter of our Japan Sector, but for various reasons, that kind of meeting could not be continued. Distances between institutions were an important obstacle.

This new November meeting was meant to be a first contact among eleven participants of Japan, six lay teachers (one could not attend) and five Brothers (one Brother could not come), with the presence of Brother Edmundo, Visitor of the LEAD district and of Brother Joseph Klong, Auxiliary Visitor for Japan. The sharing about the life of each institutions, with the personal impressions of the participants were very rich.

The meeting went on very smoothly and was a good preparation for the next meeting to be held in a few months. We will then go deeper in the search of the best means to answer the new needs and challenges that our institutions are facing in the ever and fast changing Japanese society.

We hope you can pray with us dear Brothers and friends in LEAD:

LIVE SAINT JOHN-BAPTIST DE LA SALLE IN OUR INSTITUTIONS ! MORE AND MORE !



## Singapore Country Assembly

The first Country Assembly for Singapore was held on 3rd December 2016. The Brothers working in Singapore together with the Visitor and Auxiliary Visitors gathered on a Saturday morning and started off the assembly with a reflection on the Gospel of the 2nd Sunday of Advent followed by the report on the proposed strategic plan that the Singaporean Lasallians and the Brothers shared earlier on 7th and 8th November.

We ended the assembly aptly with the celebration of the Eucharist in which we too like the prophet Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist, prepare Christ's coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives through our mission and vocation as Brothers. **(Br. Kelvin Tan FSC)**



## Never Again, Never Forget



Change will not come only from one person alone, but with each one of us. With this call, the contingent of De La Salle Philippines, composed of representatives from our various schools in Luzon, Brothers and Lasallian partners marched last Nov. 30, 2016 to the EDSA People Power Monument to express their sentiments thru a peaceful demonstration with other institutions and organizations towards the issue of Extra Judicial Killings, Human Rights Violation and to oppose the burial of Former president Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) [National Heroes Cemetery].

At the same time our partner schools in Bacolod also organized a peaceful demonstration to air their sentiments to the same issues surrounding the country. In these trying times, we are all called to be heroes of a generation where human rights are being violated and trampled on. For the Lasallian Family in the Philippines, our aim is to educate the next generation of the painful lessons of a dictatorship through a balanced study of history, citizenship, accountability, and good governance. (Mr. John Galang; Photo: Br. Mike Valenzuela)

## Health and Wellness (Internet Security)

Continuing our series on online well-being, I wonder if you've heard of and use **Two-Factor Authentication**? This is something to consider, now that most of us live active online lives. Even those without social media and simply use email - using two-factor authentication is still an important extra layer of security that protects you from hackers and identity theft.

How does it work?

*Two Factor Authentication, also known as 2FA, two step verification or TFA (as an acronym), is an extra layer of security that is known as "multi factor authentication" that requires not only a password and username but also something that only, and only, that user has on them, i.e. a piece of information only they should know or have immediately to hand - such as a physical token.*

*Using a username and password together with a piece of information that only the user knows makes it harder for potential intruders to gain access and steal that person's personal data or identity. (<https://www.securevoy.com/two-factor-authentication/what-is-2fa.shtm>)*

For Apple: <https://support.apple.com/en-hk/HT204915>

For Google: <https://www.google.com/landing/2step/>

For Yahoo: <https://help.yahoo.com/kb/SLN5013.html>

For Facebook: <https://www.authy.com/tutorials/add-2-factor-authentication-facebook/>

Fraternally,

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