



Philippines - Crisis in Marawi

Last May 23, 2017, early in the afternoon, an armed group of men called the Maute Group attacked Marawi, a city in Mindanao, south of the Philippines. The group was founded by two Muslim brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute, and claim that they are part of the ISIS. The attack resulted in the destruction and burning of homes, churches, hospital and schools. Several civilians were also killed and even beheaded by the rebels during the attack. The President has declared Martial Law for the entire Island of Mindano. The Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police have taken over some parts of Marawi which were occupied by the Maute Group but the shooting and airstrikes went on. An estimated number of around 100 people have been confirmed dead. Among the fatalities were the members of the rebel groups, civilians and government troops. The city has an estimated population of around 200,000 people, most of the people from Marawi have already left their homes and evacuated to nearby cities and towns like Balo-I, Saguiaran, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro City. There are still around 2,000 civilians who are still trapped in the besieged communities of Marawi City. Thousands of families are now in the evacuation centers and are now dependent on relief goods and humanitarian aid. (Continued)

With the ongoing crisis in Marawi City, De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) launched a relief operation for the Marawi evacuees in coordination with **La Salle Academy (LSA) in Iligan City, one of our schools in Mindanao. Iligan City is estimated to be 30 kilometers (19 miles) away from Marawi City.** DLSP has been calling other school communities in the Philippines to support the relief operations. Currently, LSA has



been receiving donations, most of which are cash donations from different school communities and lay partners. The school has been working closely with the Roman Catholic Church through the Diocese of Iligan and the local government in transporting the relief goods to the evacuation centers.

LSA has sent relief goods (which include mats, blankets, towels, water etc.) to 2 evacuation centers in Iligan City. Spearheaded by the Social Action Office of LSA, students and alumni of the school gathered as volunteers for the repacking of goods from May 31-June 2. On June 3 (Saturday), 3,040 food packs and toiletries were delivered to the town of Saguiaran, which is 5 kilometers (3 miles) away from Marawi City. A total of 5,000 families who

evacuated Marawi are currently in the town of Saguiaran.

De La Salle Philippines together with La Salle Academy are still in need of cash and kind donations in sustaining the relief operations. Cash donations could be sent through the following account:

**Account Name: La Salle Academy Inc.
Account Number: BPI-Iligan 009353-0377-62**

We would like to thank all La Salle Schools and Lasallian Partners who quickly responded with their donations and support during the relief operations. We would also like to acknowledge the local government of the Municipality of Saguiaran and the Young Moro Professional Network in coordinating with us in safely delivering the goods to the evacuation centers. Meanwhile, we continue to ask for your personal prayers for the victims of the crisis especially for those who passed away during the conflict. We also pray for a peaceful resolution of the Marawi crisis and for a lasting peace in Mindanao. **(Br. Ranier Guillergan FSC; Photos: Andrew Pamorada)**

Lasallian School Leaders Conference - Malaysia

The inaugural Lasallian School Leaders Conference that was held on 20th and 21st May 2017 was also the first conference organised in collaboration between the School of Education, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, the Malaysian Federation of Lasallian Alumni Associations and the La Salle Brothers, Malaysia.

The conference aimed at sharing best practices and strategies, addressing common challenges and building a network of Lasallian school leaders. The overall agenda is to develop a clear sense of what it means to be a Lasallian institution and impress upon school leaders of the need to develop and sustain a Lasallian ethos in all Lasallian schools.

The conference brought over 47 Lasallian school leaders, teachers and members of the school board and parent-teacher association from different parts of Malaysia to share their experiences, knowledge and know-how, learn from each other and discuss future developments and directions in Lasallian education. The conference was structured around facilitated workshops and presentations to allow all participants to enter into practical discussions and be engaged throughout the event. The programme also incorporated differentiated and interesting learning and reflection opportunities using varied methodologies including a movie review session and school showcases. The event targeted network and fellowship development by engaging participants in cross school group collaborative activities and an adventure trip to Broga with a bit of sightseeing thrown in. (Continued)





The conference concluded with an interactive panel session called “**School Leadership Challenges: Way Forward.**” The panel was made of Br. Andrew Loke, Dr. Ashley Ng (University of Nottingham) and Mr. Vellan Raman, an outstanding school principal currently charged with the responsibility to transform SMK Dato’ Shamsuddin Nain, Rantau, N. Sembilan. The panel was chaired by Philip Whitehead, Coordinator of the Education Leadership and Management programme at the School of Education, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

The conference Chair was Prof. Dr. Ganakumaran Subramaniam, Head, School of Education, University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus. Feedback from the conference participants is very positive – participants greatly enjoyed and valued the chance to meet like-minded Lasallians from different institutions, the opportunity to network and to learn from each other, and the chance to explore ideas and solutions for improvements of Lasallian schools.

In conjunction with the conference, **Yayasan De La Salle** also had its Board meeting at the University of Nottingham. Board members also joined the participants in one of the conference sessions and engaged in fellowship building during coffee break and lunch. **(Prof. Dr Ganakumaran Subramaniam)**

News Notes

Appointment. Br. Mandy Dujunco FSC was appointed by the Visitor of ANZPPNG, Br. David Hawke, as Vocations Coordinator for the Sector of Australia. Mandy is also in the process of writing his PhD Dissertation. Keep up the good work Mandy!

Prayers. Let's continue to pray for Br. Felix Donohue FSC who has been ill and in and out of hospital.

Health and Wellness



Running and Your Knees

Running will wreck your knees. But how true is it, really? In fact, recreational runners were 14 percent less likely to develop hip or knee arthritis than sedentary people were. On the flip side, competitive runners were 34 percent more likely to get an arthritis diagnosis than those who stayed parked on their behinds...

Read more: http://www.menshealth.com/health/running-protects-knees?internal_recirc=hpblock3

Fraternally,

Edmundo Fernandez FSC