



165th Year of the Presence of La Salle in Malaysia

The story of the Brothers in Malaysia is an interesting one and like most beginnings of Lasallian Presence around the Institute, it starts with a request from an Archbishop or a Priest who knew the quality of education the Brothers provided. In the case of Malaysia it was the request of Fr. Jean – Marie Beurel, a Frenchman from Brittany who knew and respected the Brothers work in France.

He wrote the Superior General in 1844, but it took eight years before the first Brothers to arrive. And so in 1852 six Brothers: 3 French, 2 Americans and an Irishman, set sail from Antwerp in December 8 and after nearly four months in sea, landed in Singapore. A few days later Brothers Venere, Lothaire and Jerome King proceeded to the island of Penang. From this humble beginning of six Brothers in two communities, Lasallian presence spread across Asia and the Pacific to 472 Brothers, 90 communities and about 200 ministries today. And you can rightly be proud that the seed of Lasallian Presence in Asia was planted here in Malaysia and in Singapore.

The District of Penang, was at one point, the Crown Jewel of the region and included not just Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong but also Burma, Thailand and the Philippines. From a point of view of number of Brothers, the high point was in the 60s. In one community alone, in St. Xavier's there were nearly 30 Brothers living together. Today, that is the same number of Brothers in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia put together. (Continued)

I just wish to point out, if you look at the history of the De La Salle Brothers in Asia you will note that most of the missionaries came from English speaking countries, particularly Ireland but also America. We owe a debt of gratitude to these Missionaries, they on whose shoulders we stand on today. To live in hot and humid climate, faced with many challenges, governed by total obedience to our Rule in a life that was, even in the best of times, austere, is to me, nothing short of heroic.



And so we come to today, 165 years after the first Brothers landed in our shores. The context is radically different and the needs have changed. Allow me to raise 3 points

- This is stating the obvious, but the number of Brothers will continue to contract. The last Brother who was active in our traditional schools, Michael Kum, retired two years ago. I wish I could bring in Brothers on a longer term basis, but even if I am able to do that, at best it would be 2,3 maybe 4 Brothers. We will no longer have the numbers we had 10 or even 5 years ago. While the Brothers will continue to be the heart and memory of the Lasallian Mission, any conversation on the future of the La Salle in Malaysia should consider this reality. (Continued)

- I've always said this since the inception of LEAD - one of gifts Malaysia brings into the table of LEAD is it's Lasallian Family. By this I mean mostly the Alumni but I also mean teachers, parents and students. In my years of going to Malaysia your deep sense of loyalty to your school stands out. However, if the Lasallian Education in Malaysia is to continue to develop and flourish beyond what we have now, each of you must commit yourself not just to your own school but to the larger Lasallian Mission which animates all our schools in Malaysia.
- I am glad that the Federation is spearheading discussions and talks about Revitalization. The Brothers are fully supportive of Project Revival and hope that the alumni can throw their support behind this important undertaking. There will be a lot of challenges ahead, it will require commitment, maybe even capital. But most of all it will require imagination and creativity. I understand you have looked at many options - trust schools, private schools, international schools, etc. But whatever options you decide I pray you do not forget that Lasallian Education has preferential option for the poor and that our schools are always open to the Last, the Lost and the Least.

To conclude. Given the dwindling number of Brothers and the challenges that beset our schools, it is easy to speak about Death and Diminishment. But I see the current situation as the beginnings of a New Phase of Lasallian Education in Malaysia - where the Old Boys walk hand in hand with the Brothers to bring new life and new energy and to find new ways of being Lasallian in the Malaysia today.

All the Brothers in LEAD join me in Congratulating the Brothers and all the Malaysian Lasallians as you celebrate 165 years of La Salle in Malaysia

*Address given in in the Gala Dinner, Tropicana PJ 16 September 2017 (Photos: Mr. Henry Goh in Mr. Goh Bong Hiang's Face Book Album)



Singapore Country Gathering



As a follow up to the recently held LEAD Mission Assembly Orientation on 2nd and 3rd September, some of the Singapore delegates comprised of Timothy Goh and Bernard Teo decided to gather fellow Lasallians to come together and form a community to pray for and support the Lasallian Mission in Singapore. For a start, they met up last Friday – 15th September at SJI community for a sharing on how to move the Mission forward and fellowship follows. It was a lovely evening of Lasallians gathering with the Brothers. **(Br. Kelvin Tan FSC)**

Visitor's and Auxiliary Visitors' Calendar for October 2017

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4/5
Visitor	LEAD PRV Thailand, Final Vows of Br. Francisco Teerayut Canonical Visit, Nakhonsawan	LEAD PRV	Japan, Canonical Visit Hakodate	Malaysia, Canonical Visits
AVMA	Malaysia Singapore Thailand, Final Vows of Br. Francisco Teerayut	Singapore Hong Kong	Singapore Malaysia	Singapore
AVVF	Thailand, Final Vows of Br. Francisco Teerayut	Thailand OAV	Thailand OAV	Thailand OAV
AVSP	Philippines, Memorial Day Joint Presidents' Council and NMC Thailand, Final Vows of Br. Francisco Teerayut	Philippines, Pastoral Visit LSGH School and Brothers	Philippines OAV	Philippines, Finance and Investments Board, DLSBI BOT, LSGH ANHS Recollection

Happy Birthday!

Brother Marvin Sipin FSC	October 04, 1988
Brother Peter Foo FSC	October 10, 1943
Brother John Hla Maung FSC	October 11, 1961
Brother Vic Franco FSC	October 15, 1944
Brother Frank Suriya Toisroi FSC	October 15, 1978
Brother Manny Sia FSC	October 16, 1968
Brother Luke Chaiporn Kitmongol FSC	October 17, 1959
Brother Raffy Reyes FSC	October 18, 1951
Brother Vince Fernandez FSC	October 19, 1963
Brother Joseph Aung FSC	October 21, 1977
Brother Benedict Chaiwat Phanomworachai FSC	October 23, 1990
Brother Nico Mariano FSC	October 28, 1991
Brother William Soe Thaung FSC	October 29, 1956
Brother John Win Kyaw FSC	October 30, 1991

Health and Wellness

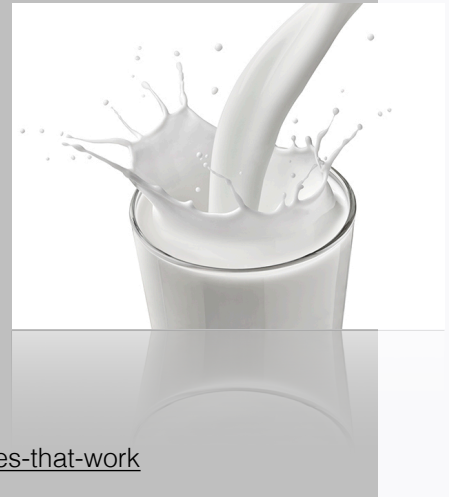
Weight Loss Rules That Work

7. Count on calcium

Recently, nutrition researchers discovered that dairy and other calcium-rich foods help you stay lean, prevent osteoporosis, and possibly prevent colon cancer. The recommendation is to take in 1000 to 1200 milligrams (mg) of calcium a day. (A cup of milk contains 300.)

Unfortunately, too much calcium may increase the risk of prostate cancer. The tragic number seems to be 600 mg a day from dairy products. And what's the point of having a V-shaped torso if your prostate has a spare tire?

Read more: <http://www.menshealth.co.uk/lose-weight/9-weight-loss-rules-that-work>



Faternally,

Edmundo Fernandez FSC