



26th District Council and Chapter of Vows

The 26th meeting, since the founding of LEAD in 2011, of the District Councillors and Leadership Team took place in the former capital of Myanmar, Yangon (formerly Rangoon) on January 26 - 28. Most Councillors were present and received the reports of the Country Coordinators of the seven sectors or their representatives on the first day. In the evening of the first day, the Ady Road Brothers' Community hosted the council for dinner. Teachers from the La Salle English Centre were also present - hopefully they were edified by (the mostly on-tune) singing of the Brothers!

The second day was dedicated to the formal Council meeting where reports from the Auxiliaries and Bursar were delivered and important resolutions were passed. In the evening, Br. Noel, the Country Coordinator and our host, arranged for us to have Mass in the Brothers House and dinner at the Karaweik Floating Palace. The buffet was a feast for our bellies and the cultural performances were a feast for our eyes. It would be an understatement to say that we gained a deep appreciation of Myanmar's cultural legacy that night. (Continued)

LEAD STORY

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The third and last day was a solemn day where 38 Brothers in temporary vows were chaptered. Well written letters, curriculum vitae, and notes from the communities kept us on track and we finished by mid-afternoon. The Leadership Team could not rest though, as we decided to meet that day, rather than tomorrow, to find the best way to implement the decisions made the past days and drive the District forward. That evening, Br. Paul Ho, with usual his usual generosity treated us all to dinner at a quaint cafe that served excellent Italian food! Thanks Brother Paul!

I'd like to thank the Councillors and Country Coordinators for your participation. Special thanks to Br. Noel Lal FSC and the Brothers of Myanmar for the warm hospitality - be careful - this means we will be back more often!



Feeding the Homeless of Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

The Pit Stop Community Cafe is a soup kitchen in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, operating six days a week to address the need of the homeless (whom we refer to as our street friends). Every weekend, the SJIIM volunteering team serves as a recourse for Pit Stop by ensuring that there will always be at least 8 volunteers making dinner service for approximately 180-200 street friends for each day possible. (Continued)



On the day for volunteering, we usually begin with food preparation and counter set-up at 3.30pm; and from 5.30pm to 7.00pm, we will be ready to serve our street friends as they enter Pit Stop to not only stave off their hunger but to open themselves up to social reintegration opportunities that Pit Stop attempts to provide for them through a proper dining area, as well as the ever-readiness of each volunteer to form a community inclusive of each of them.



This project started with just two girls and later on, they invited their friends to join. Now the group is getting bigger with fresh recruits from the IB students of St. Joseph Institution International Malaysia (SJIIM) . This volunteer experience has opened our eyes to the realities of homelessness, allowed us to form heart-to-heart human connections with them, and made us realise that service for the last, the lost and the least is always necessary. (Br. Danai Kingkan FSC)

Sunday School: Volunteering to Teach to Inspire and to be Inspired (Iligan, Philippines)



“Goodbye Ate Cham!” The high pitched squeals of the little bundles of happiness soothed through my ears as we ended our twice a month schedule in SBMA. My shift for that day was over. I was done being a teacher, it was time for me to transform back to as a student and prepare for the Monday to come.

Sure it was a tiring routine to go over and over again but the feeling and the capability to nurture young minds, touch their hearts and transform their lives kept me dedicated to this program. (Continued)

Saint Brother Miguel Academy (SBMA) is a program that already exists in other La Salle schools in the Philippines before it started in La Salle Academy here in Iligan City in the year 2010. The program was introduced and spearheaded by Br. Dan Sanding FSC when he was still assigned here in Iligan. SBMA is an informal schooling program where teacher volunteers, themselves students in grades 9-12, give Catechism to young children, aged 6-12 years from its long time partner community, Purok (village) Ilang-Ilang and Purok (village) Rosal, Villa Verde, Iligan City. It is held twice a month; every other Sunday from 8 am to 11 am. The program also provides other activities like a Sports Day, Christmas Party and Family Fun Day, and at the end of the year we also have a Recognition day where the students are recognised for their different achievements within the academic year.



Over the years, the number of teacher volunteers and students continues to grow. Currently, there are 35 volunteers and 45 students. And it also evolved where the children are now taught Basic Literacy subjects (Math, Science and English). Two years ago, Br. Dan Sanding FSC was reassigned and transferred to De La Salle Dasmariñas, Br. Ranier Guillergan FSC took over the program and presently he is working with Br. Eugene De Luna FSC the current Local Vocations Coordinator of La Salle Academy. They are also being assisted by Sir Jay

Velez, the school principal and Sir Larry Estalane, the vice-principal for Student Management and other Teachers of La Salle Academy. Currently, the head of all volunteers is a Grade 12 student Hanima Ali who was appointed SBMA Principal 2 years ago.

SBMA was designed to move students and the community (school) to become deeply aware in appreciating value of Lasallian spirituality and charism and for them to become sensitive, open and docile to the movement of the Spirit in their lives in daily basis. We practice the value of Communion in Mission, Mission as Communion.

Despite the odds I have encountered and I will encounter, I must say that I am a proud volunteer of SBMA program of La Salle Academy. We volunteer to teach and I teach to inspire and to be inspired. (**Charleen Oledan and Vanessa Yap**, Grade 9 SBMA Volunteers)

Visitor's and Auxiliary Visitors' Calendar for February

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Visitor	Malaysia, Country Assembly LEAD PRV	Philippines, Initial Formation Board Canonical Visits, LFC Bacolod	Philippines, DLSL BOT Oversight Committee Affiliation rites for Dr. Bienvenido Eusebio LEAD PRV	Malaysia, Sabah
AVMA	Singapore	Singapore and Malaysia	Malaysia and Singapore	Singapore
AVSP	Philippines, LSGH Primus Golden Jubilee Mission Assembly Visit for Philippines	Philippines, Formation Session for DLSHSI Conferment of Honoris Causa to Mr. Titoy Pardo AFSC	Philippines, Affiliation rites for Dr. Bienvenido Eusebio	Philippines, OAV
AVVF	Pastoral Visit, Nakhonsawan	Pastoral Visit, Chantaburi Philippines, Pastoral Visit, LFC (Postulancy)	Pastoral Visit, Sampran	Philippines, Commitment Renewal Program

Happy Birthday!

Brother Eugene de Luna FSC	February 03, 1991
Brother Jorge Gallardo FSC	February 06, 1959
Brother Josaphat Ai Saw Hung Htoo FSC	February 06, 1991
Brother Abet Pia FSC	February 08, 1989
Brother Philip Thein Oo FSC	February 09, 1954
Brother Dodo Fernandez FSC	February 11, 1964
Brother Joe Dougherty FSC	February 14, 1953
Brother Peter Ng FSC	February 18, 1943
Brother Stephen Ooi FSC	February 18, 1946
Brother Rey Mejias FSC	February 19, 1974
Brother Larry Humphrey FSC	February 25, 1953
Brother Joseph Nguyen Hong Hung FSC	February 25, 1979

Culture

Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue (Hebrew: בית כנסת משמיע ישועה) is the last remaining Jewish house of worship in Downtown Yangon and Burma's only synagogue. The synagogue stands between Indian paint shops and Muslim traders on a small street near the city centre. A plaque at the entrance of the building states that the present stone building, which was built between 1893 – 1896, replaced an earlier, smaller wooden structure that was erected in 1854.

It is one of 188 sites on the Yangon City Development Council's list of Heritage Buildings. It serves the few remaining Jews of the country, mostly descendants of Baghdadi Jews from Iraq.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musmeah_Yeshua_Synagogue)

Photo: Br. Sockie



Fraternally,

Edmundo Fernandez FSC