

15 March 2012 • 36

Canonical Visit to the Sector of Japan | 7 – 14 March 2012. I flew in to Narita airport on the 7th after a flying time of nearly four hours. My plane arrived earlier than scheduled. Br. Rodrigo, Sector Leader, met me and we traveled together to Haneda airport, a one-hour bus ride. We stayed overnight at Haneda and flew to Hakodate at 7:45am of the 8th. In Hakodate Br. Andre, Director of the community, and Br. Mark Maheu, met us and drove us back to the community. I began my interviews soon after and stretched all the way to after lunch. The afternoon was free for me to write my report to the community and I met with them at 5:00pm. We had a special supper prepared in the community and we had key Lasallians in the school present --- Mr. Inoue, Mr. Otokoyama and Mr. Shimizu.

The next day, the 9th, was the last day of school for Hakodate La Salle. There was an assembly in the hall where Br. Principal, Br. Fermin Martinez, gave an encouraging talk on the remembrance of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami. I was also requested to say few words. After a night in Hakodate, I flew to Kagoshima (via Tokyo) after lunch and was met in the airport by Br. Jose del Coss. We drove to La Salle Kagoshima (an hour's drive from the airport) and had dinner in the community with Br. Fujita. Next day, the 10th, I met them individually with Br. Jose translating for me in my interview with Br. Fujita. The community meeting was in the evening and I accompanied Br. Jose to a dinner with members of the school's Sports Club after. The other member of the community, Br. Fujukami, is in a retirement home.

The 11th was the anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami (now known as the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake or The Great East Japan Earthquake) and I flew to Tokyo and then took the train to Sendai. Br. Jose and I traveled together as there was going to be a Sector Council meeting. At 2:46 pm, the exact time of the earthquake, we were in Haneda and a minute of silence was observed. We arrived in Sendai in time for dinner and then I started my interviews. Before retiring, I was "exploring" my room and managed to push an alarm button at 11 in the evening! Good thing I did not wake up all the Brothers (just some)!

The community at Sendai has five Brothers, namely: Br. Antonio (Director), Br. Rodrigo, Br. Ohtomo and two Brothers preparing to move into active ministry, Br. Domingo Villamil and Br. Victor Gutierrez.

The council meeting took the whole morning of the 12th. In the afternoon I continued my interviews, prepared my report and then met with the community. We ended with dinner of pizza and pasta. To cap my visit, I met with Br. Rodrigo on the morning of the 13th and flew to Tokyo. I met with Mr. Ronald Holmes, our facilitator for the chapter, in Tokyo and he showed me around Shinjuku and Omotesando. I flew back to Hong Kong on the morning of the 14th.

I wish to thank Br. Rodrigo Trevino, Sector Leader, for a well organized visit. To all the Directors of the communities --- Br. Andre, Br. Jose and Br. Antonio. My gratitude to all the Brothers for the warmth and hospitality they accorded me. To all of you: arigatou goizamashita!

Faternally,

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