

HONG KONG NEW ROUND UP *(Text & Photos provided by Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC)*

LA SALLE GREEN HILLS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS VISIT TO HONG KONG



In a memorable visit, administrators from La Salle Green Hills, a renowned Lasallian basic education school in Metro Manila, Philippines, came to St. Joseph's College on 02 June 2023. Led by Mrs. Suzette Dahilan, the delegation explored the school campus with the help of Br. Jeffrey Chan FSC. The visit culminated in a delectable afternoon tea, where the administrators savored a variety of dim sum and then some (pun intended). This enriching experience fostered lasting connections of the Filipino Lasallian partners with the Hong Kong Mission, leaving the visitors with cherished memories and a deepened understanding of work in the Lasallian East Asia District.

LA SALLE COLLEGE SERVICE LEARNING TEAM VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

In a quest for educational inspiration, Mr. Steve Leung, Vice Principal of La Salle College, spearheaded a team of eight dedicated LSC teachers on a benchmarking mission to Manila, Philippines last 9-12 June 2023. Their destination: De La Salle College of Saint Benilde and De La Salle University Laguna, renowned institutions recognized for their exemplary Service Learning Programs. With a thirst for knowledge, the team immersed themselves in the intricacies of these programs, eager to bring back invaluable insights to their home institution in Hong Kong. However, their journey did not end there. Driven by their unwavering commitment to innovative education, the La Salle College team also paid a visit to the two campuses of De La Salle Santiago Zobel School. Their objective was to witness firsthand the school's seamless integration of technology into the very fabric of its physical facilities. This transformative journey symbolized La Salle College's unwavering commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for their students, guided by the innovative practices witnessed during the team's benchmarking adventure.



BR. THOMAS LAVIN FSC'S 80TH BIRTHDAY



In a joyous celebration of a remarkable milestone, organized masterfully by Br. Nicholas NG AFSC, a simple yet meaning-filled birthday party was held for Br. Thomas Lavin FSC as he commemorated his 80th birthday on 16 June 2023. The presence of every Brother in Hong Kong, alongside Lasallian administrators and school managers from La Salle College, transformed the event into a grand affair brimming with nostalgia, brotherhood and shared memories. Br. Patrick Tierney FSC eloquently recounted his experiences with Br. Thomas as both arrived in Hong Kong only one year apart, while Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC delivered a heartfelt message on behalf of the entire Lasallian Family. Br. Thomas, in his poignant speech, expressed his profound gratitude for the care and support he has received, weaving a tapestry of appreciation and heartfelt connection that resonated with everyone present.

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE BROTHERS COMMUNITY HOSTS THE HK BROTHERS GET-TOGETHER

In a momentous display of solidarity and shared purpose, the Brothers Commission of the Association of Major Religious Superiors Men (HK) organized an unprecedented get-together for Hong Kong's Religious Brothers on Sunday, 18 June 2023. Set within St. Joseph's College, this extraordinary event marked a new chapter in the Brothers' collective journey, guided by the members of the Brothers Commission whose members are Brothers Dennis Magbanua FSC, William Ng OFM, John Chin FMS, and Francis Lam SDB. Commencing with the resounding echoes of Sunday prayers led by the Franciscan monks, the afternoon transformed into a joyous celebration of camaraderie and shared mission. The De La Salle Brothers treated attendees to a delectable afternoon tea where the 18 Brothers present shared about their congregations' work in Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, and Mainland China. Energized by this newfound unity, the Brothers engaged in a spirited brainstorming session, envisioning future activities that would nurture their bonds, including annual gatherings, opportunities to visit and learn from each other's ministries, and collaborative vocation promotion efforts.



YOUNG LASALLIANS FROM JAPAN HOLD “THAI CHARITY GOODS”

JAPAN - Led by the Hakodate La Salle Mission Department, a fund raising activity for stateless children in Thailand was held from 15-23 June 2023. The efforts of these young Lasallians even reached the morning edition of the Hokkaido Shimbun on 21 June. *(Text & Photos from the La Salle Japan Facebook Page)*



LASALLIAN FORMATION SESSION AT THE LA SALLE CENTRE

MYANMAR - The second Lasallian Formation Session was held at the La Salle Centre in Yangon last 02 June 2023. Br. Justine Nge Bo FSC facilitated the session with the theme “Deepening Our Identity.” *(Photos from the De La Salle Brothers - Myanmar Facebook Page)*



A HUMBLE OFFERING OF THE DE LA SALLE BROTHERS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE ANGOYAO MOTHERS ASSOCIATION FOR LIVELIHOOD (AMAL)



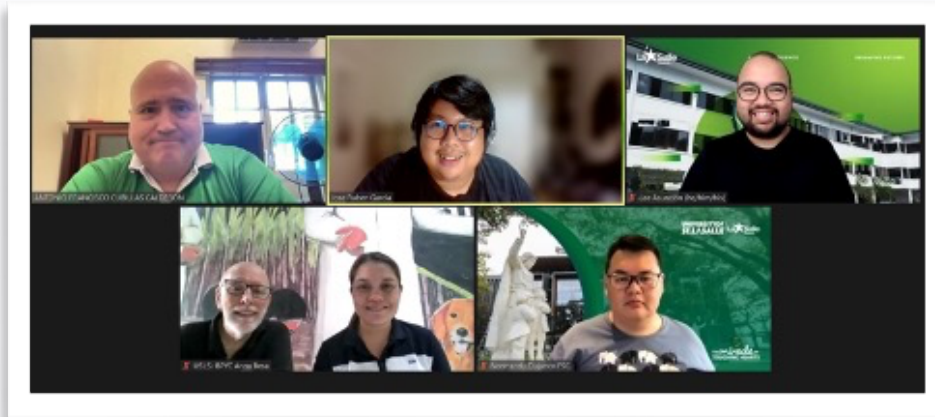
PHILIPPINES - On 23 May 2023, the De La Salle Brothers of the Philippines handed over the Sewing Center to the Angoyao Mothers Association for Livelihood (AMAL) in Brgy. Paridi, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). This marked the 6th anniversary of the 2017 Marawi Siege, which caused the displacement of 369,196 individuals and led to numerous casualties. The turnover commemorates the hardships endured by the affected population and symbolizes the commitment of the Lasallian community and its partners to uplift the lives of those displaced by the siege.

The De La Salle Brothers' involvement in the Marawi Mission began in 2018 with the establishment and institutionalization of Education In Emergencies (EIE). Through EIE, emergency packs, school kits, and sustainability training were provided to displaced individuals and their families in partnership with the Prelature of Marawi - Duyog Marawi.

Thus, our primary focus remains on prioritizing the rights, welfare, and protection of children within the displaced families. The success of this project can be attributed to the unwavering partnership among the Church, civil society, people's organizations, and the local government unit (LGU). It represents a journey of collaboration and hope. *(Text & Photos provided by Ms. Vangie De Peralta)*



RISING FROM THE EXPERIENCE



Screenshot of our post-exposure evaluation with USLS-BPYC.

PHILIPPINES - I recently came from a 3-week exposure at USLS Bahay Pag-Asa Youth Center (USLS-BPYC) in Bacolod (Philippines), a transformational facility for children in conflict with the law (CICL). The engagement is aimed at exposing us to a unique ministry of the Brothers in the Philippines and engendering the culture of Brothers Without Borders as part of our Postulancy Program. I was quite looking forward to this exposure because of my prior experience of engaging with CICLs as an Aspirant and as a health professional. To prepare for our engagement, I listed activities I planned to do and prayed for the grace of openness and flexibility to face challenges such as the language and cultural barrier and possible lack of resources.

The three weeks went so fast! I am thankful to have engaged in a multitude of activities with these boys. Living with them meant experiencing everything they did every day: prayers, meals, manual labor, sports, and pastimes. Doing these things together provided opportunities to have deeper conversations about their lives. I enjoyed the spontaneous small talks with many of the residents who generously shared their stories with me. I realized how the dynamics can be so different when you dwell with them, compared to doing regular visits. I found out that many of them like music and are interested in learning an instrument. I offered to teach piano, originally intending to equip them with skills to play in their panimbahon. I had to adjust the lessons of course since several of them attend school during the day, and they have varying levels of comprehension, skill, and motivation. Toward the end of our stay, I also decided to offer a workshop on conflict management, since heated arguments and fights typically happen among their age group. I was happy with how it turned out. My theology subjects helped me to have an added perspective that complements what I know from my profession.

I also had a lot of quality time with the staff. These social workers, prefects, driver, cook, and security guards were very warm and gracious. I got to know them more personally and learn about their challenges at work. I spent a great deal of time observing Br. Dan in his day-to-day mission. I was amazed at how he approached CICLs, even those who we met for the first time, being assessed prior to entering USLS-BPYC. I learned that in this setting, a Brother Animator not only fosters spiritual growth among the residents but also provides the 360-degree care that the boys needed. Reflecting on Br. Dan's engagement with and concern for the residents expanded my concepts of advocacy and compassion. It's just amazing how God works His grace in contexts like USLS-BPYC. He puts the right people in the right places and at the right time.

The past several months gave me opportunities to clarify the identity I want to build as a future Brother. It was challenging at the beginning, having to shift between being a health professional, an educator, and a postulant. The experience in USLS-BPYC allowed me to integrate the three more easily, especially in encountering situations wherein skills and attributes from all these roles were needed. As I mentioned earlier, I was excited to go to USLS-BPYC thinking that I already knew what I can give and what needs to be done. The experience however taught me that the real journey begins in discovering what you still don't know. This led me to dig deeper into my values, strengths, and weaknesses, and to discern what really matters. The Holy Spirit indeed brings out unimaginable gifts when these are needed most. In the end, it turned out that the residents and staff have helped me learn more about myself probably more than I've helped them. After the exposure, I realized something really important: While I came to the center thinking that I was the leaven, I left having learned that I was also the dough. *(Text & Photo provided by Postulant Lemuel Ascunción)*

“HOW IT ALL STARTED” BOOK LAUNCH



PHILIPPINES - The Residencia De La Salle Brothers Community, in coordination with De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, launched the new book authored by Br. Jun Estrellas FSC, entitled HOW IT ALL STARTED The Beginning of the Involvement of St. John Baptist De La Salle in the Mission on 07 July 2023, at the Br. Andrew Gonzalez Reception Hall, DLSU-D.

According to Br. Jun, the book, which has been designed to be a workbook, is intended primarily for Lasallian students especially for Grade 11 students which explains the appropriateness of the “content, language and presentation”. This, he added, is the first of a series that will trace De La Salle’s journey and how the Lasallian mission has expanded.

For his part, Br. Sockie de la Rosa FSC, DLSU-D President, and Director of the Residencia community, said that the book is an important “resource for members of the Lasallian family who wish to deepen his or her journey towards fully embracing the Lasallian mission, in the context of today’s realities”. He also thanked the community for the support given to Br. Jun and the Brothers for this event.

In attendance during the launch were the Brothers of Residencia De La Salle as well as members of both the DLSU-D and DLSMHSI communities together with the staff from De La Salle Philippines.

According to Br. Jun, proceeds of the book will start a fund under DLSBI - “The Brothers Book Publication Fund” – to be used by a Brother who wants to publish a book. *(Text & Photos provided by Mr. Ritche Bongcaron)*



PERPETUAL VOWS OF BR. PHILIP BANCHA FSC



THAILAND - Br. Philip Bancha Pichitpraipana FSC made a solemn profession of perpetual vows in front of the Lasallian family in Thailand on 10 June 2023. His close family members and friends from Chiang Mai, instructors and staff from the several La Salle schools, acquaintances, and colleagues from other religious congregations in Thailand were also present at the event. Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC, the Brother Visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District, is also present to accept Br. Philip's vows. After the Eucharistic Mass, the guests continue the celebration at the JVK Hall with a simple meal and performances from La Salle Bangkok's teachers, staff, and students. *(Text by Br. Eugene de Luna FSC; Photo from De La Salle Brothers - Thailand Facebook Page)*

LEAD ONLINE COMMUNITY 11 (LOC 11) WALKING TOGETHER SERIES: PASSIONATE WITNESSES OF FRATERNITY

With representatives for the International Young Brothers Assembly (IYBA) and the International Symposium of Young Lasallians (ISYL)

18 August 2023, 4:30-5:30 PM (Hong Kong time)

Join us here: <https://tinyurl.com/joinLOC>