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Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.
[Matthew 28:16-20]

We take much consolation in these words of Jesus to us : I am with you always. It is a reminder for us that God is not about being alone. In Jesus, we know that God wants to establish relationship with us. In Jesus, we know that God loves us. He sends us to do the same – to make him known in our reaching out to others and in the communities that we will build. Let us therefore be grateful for the places where community happens – places where we are welcomed and esteemed. Let us be grateful for the places where we are able to share our gifts and receive the gifts of others.

Our 46th General Chapter places before us this invitation to welcome Lasallians of diverse vocations to be leaven for a more fraternal world. We find here echoes of the Gospel to build relationships and community – to build association with fellow Lasallians from different cultures and of differing vocations. De La Salle, with some humor, reminds us however, that it is rare for such diversity not to cause difficulties. We are to each other, De La Salle says, a source of mutual suffering. These words remind me to be humble and not to take myself so seriously whenever I have anything to complain about those I am associated with. Our struggles to build community are invitations to be more immersed in our experience of God – because He alone can help us to be forbearing of each other. It is this valuable discipline we learn in community that the Gospel invites us to share with the world that remains fragile, broken and in need of our gift of fraternity.





I am most grateful for the Brothers of the Hakodate and Kagoshima communities for their fraternal welcome during my recent visits. During my visit, I found that there are many new opportunities for our Lasallian Family in Japan to diversify the ways we are in mission. Let us keep our Brothers and Partners in Japan in prayer as they take further steps along the way. Let us remember as well our Brothers and our Partners in the LEAD Mission Council [LMC] who gathered in Thailand over the weekend to bond, plan and reflect together. May their unique witness of association and mission continue to bless us.

Fraternally,


Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC

Superior General & PARC General Councilor's Pastoral Visit to the Sector of Malaysia

Superior General Br. Armin Luistro FSC and PARC General Councilor Br. Ricky Laguda FSC visited Penang, Taiping, Ipoh, and Kuala Lumpur during the first days of May. Thanks to Br. Andrew Loke FSC's well-planned calendar and thoughtful schedule, they had the opportunity to meet with the Brothers, members of the Sector Mission Council, other Lasallian partners and associates, young people, members of the School Boards, and friends. They also visited the Silent Teddies Bakery, where Lasallians work with children and young adults with special needs. Br. Armin and Br. Ricky's visit was an opportunity for the members of the Lasallian family in Malaysia to hear their commendations and recommendations on critical key issues.



While acknowledging the organized clustering of Lasallian schools in Malaysia, they emphasized the need to **Strengthen Communion and Discover a Shared Vision** beyond individual school loyalties. They encouraged the Alumni associations to actively support the vision of 'One La Salle' as mandated by the 46th General Chapter.

During the meeting with members of the Mission Council, Brother Superior acknowledged that the Sector's **Organizational and Sustainability Structures** have evolved since Malaysia's integration into LEAD. He invited all Malaysian Lasallians to revisit these structures to ensure greater efficiency, accountability, and alignment with the new governance proposal of the Sector's Mission Council. He praised the Council and underlined the meaningful position the Sector places on the promotion of initiatives directed to the educational service to the poor in the Sector's Mission Council Organizational Chart. This aligns with the mandate of the 46th General Chapter's **Leavening Project Initiatives**.





Brother Superior visited Brothers Lucian Ng and Michael Kum in their respective care institutions and Brother Ambrose Loke in the Petaling Jaya Community. Brother Ricky visited Brother Anthony Rogers in the Penang Community. While other Sector Brothers, such as Brothers Peter Foo, Justin Mobilik, and John d’Croos, are in the Philippines, he expressed his appreciation for the **Fraternal and Professional Care** provided to them in each of the communities and institutions where they are now.

Brother Armin called for **Collaboration Among Lasallian Communities** within the Sector, within LEAD, and beyond, with other Districts: mutual exchanges for studies, volunteer work, and sabbatical programs were highly encouraged. This is an appeal to creating **Vibrant Communities** and finding ways to consolidate active Brothers into fewer and more dynamic communities. Brother Superior praised the commitment of Partners to help the Brothers and the openness of all, Brothers and Lay, to welcoming the two young Brothers who, from August, will join the Sector.

Their visit has brought to the Malaysian Sector a renewed perception of communion and hope, together with a sense of urgency to align its organizational structures to ensure the vitality of Lasallian communities to walk steadily toward a more authentic and audacious Lasallian journey.

Superior General’s Visit to the Sector of Myanmar

By Br. Moris Tang FSC

It was a great privilege and honor for the Sector of Myanmar to welcome the Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, Br. Armin Luistro FSC this month. During his pastoral visit, Br. Armin was able to see the Myanmar Brothers in all three communities as well meet the Lasallians in the educational ministries in Myanmar. Both the young and senior Brothers found the conversations with the Superior General encouraging.



The La Salle Centre prepared an engaging and memorable encounter with Br. Armin. In the welcoming ceremony, students from the Centre performed a traditional Myanmar dance. The Superior General gave an inspirational talk to the students and teachers of the Centre. His sharing of life stories and experiences inspired and encouraged the school community. Apart from the dialogue with the young Lasallians, Br. Armin was also given a tour of the La Salle Centre—key campus facilities and classrooms, student projects and achievements, and traditional crafts were highlighted.



The Superior General was also present during the blessing of De La Salle Academy on 16 May. The event was filled with gratitude for the Senior Brothers of Myanmar. These individuals have faced significant challenges and obstacles with steadfast determination, embodying the true spirit of resilience and courage. In the face of adversity, the Senior Brothers of Myanmar demonstrated commitment to upholding the legacy of St. John Baptist De La Salle. Despite the nationalization of the Lasallian schools in Myanmar, they persevered, ensuring that the values of education, service, and compassion continue to shine brightly in our communities. It is through this dedication that we are here today and able to continue the mission started by the Founder.

On 17 May, Br. Armin travelled to Maymyo and was welcomed by the Brothers in the Community and Formation House. It was there that the hybrid Sector Meeting with the Superior General took place, with the two communities in Yangon joining via Zoom.



First Face to Face Meeting of the LEAD Youth and Vocations Committee

Along with the Founder's Day celebration across different Sectors, Districts, and Communities across the Global Lasallian Family, the District Youth and Vocations Committee (LYVC) met at the La Salle Provincialate in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia for their first face to face meeting.



The Committee is composed of Br. Jeano Endaya FSC (Committee Chair and Leadership Team Representative), Ms. Nikki Chan (LMC Representative), Br. John Niran FSC (outgoing LMC Representative), Br. John Win Kyaw FSC (District Council Representative) and Br. Mico de Leon FSC, Br. Carlo Rementilla FSC, and Ms. Chelsea Catli as representatives of their respective sectors. As observers, the LYVC was joined by two Vietnamese Brothers assigned in Cambodia Br. JB FSC and Br. Anthony FSC.

Setting the course for collaboration, identifying themes and deepening the vision for the Young Lasallians of the District, initial planning for committee-led initiatives until 2027, and strengthening the ties of the Team were the main agenda for the four-day meeting.



Aside from meeting and working sessions, the LYVC also joined both St. John's Institution and St. Joseph's Institution International Malaysia during their Founder's Day Celebrations and initiated formation sessions with Students, Parents, and Partners and Staff. They were also able to have a Founder's Day celebration with the Lasallian Youth Network of Malaysia– Young Lasallians who attended different District and Sector Formation programs who now volunteer at the La Salle Center in Ipoh.



The LYVC is committed to facilitating meaningful interactions and opportunities for the Young to be involved and discover their vocation. Much is to look forward to in the efforts of empowering the Young Lasallians to take the LEAD!

#BLIPHK: Brothers Live-In Programme Hong Kong

This may have been a first for our Lasallian Family in Hong Kong! On 15-18 May 2024, 3 young professionals spent time in the LSC Brothers Community. Eric Wong, John Yim and Dustin Li are Old Boys of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College. Eric is currently a Teaching Assistant in a primary school, John works as an Application Specialist for a biomedical company and Dustin is in Air Export Coordinator in a cargo company. The Brothers Live-In Programme allowed Eric, John and Dustin to have an experience of what it is like to live as a Brother.

Their BLIP experience began with them supporting and helping out in Tagpuan – one of our projects that caters to Migrant Workers in HK. During the week, they had time for dialogue and interaction with the Brothers. A bonus was for them to be joined by Br Ricky Laguda FSC, our General Councilor, for a meal during their first evening in the community. Upon learning that the Brothers Community in Bacolod, Philippines was also hosting a BLIP, arrangements were made to meet via Zoom.



BLIP participants from both HK and Bacolod listened to the sharing of Brothers serving in LEAD – Brothers Peter, Henry, Abet and Emile, who spoke about their ministry and mission. On the last day of the programme our Dustin, Eric and John enjoyed bowling and a meal with the Brothers.



We are sharing with you the reflections of our BLIP Participants:



Eric: As an alumnus of CSK Boy, it is so delightful and grateful to experience the first live-in program arranged by the Hong Kong Lasallian family. Here, I would like to express great gratitude, especially to Br. Baolo and Br. Edmon for organizing this unforgettable experience for me that enrich my understanding of Brothers' life and Lasallian spirit through education and service. During the second night of the program, it is a gift to have interaction with two Irish brothers, Br. Patrick and Br. Thomas. They both shared their vocation and journey to be a Lasallian Brother. The community life and prayer life are the important elements that persist in their vows towards the Almighty God. I can feel the heart of accompanying the youth when Br. Patrick was expressing his life-long story in La Salle. At last, Br. Thomas also reminds us to listen and trust the Lord at all times as He will give us the best choice and guide us in his way. His words encourage me to follow God's will in discerning my vocation.

May the seed sent to our heart will grow one day. I will light up the candle of others and integrate the Lasallian education spirit into my occupation. Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us. Live Jesus in our hearts forever.

John: It is an honour to be one of the participants of the very first BLIP in Hong Kong. This Live-In, I experienced what the Brother's spiritual life is like, had chats with Senior Brothers and met with a Lasallian community in Philippines. All the moments get me to be more understanding of the Brother's life. Surprisingly, I think the interaction with Brothers is bidirectional. Instead of only we as participants acquiring spiritual consultation from Brothers, the Brothers are also curious on how we thought a good Brother is, how a Brother's role and responsibility within a community should be. I am also impressed by the Brothers' passion and faith for their mission, even in encountering obstacles from family, friends or external factors. From this Live-In, I am more eager to be engaged in the Lasallian community.



Dustin: When Br Paolo and Br Dennis invited me and my former schoolmates to join the BLIP, I did not know what to expect as it was my first and their first in Hong Kong. As a Catholic young adult, I believed it was an opportunity to experience the glance of living a religious life. I therefore accepted the invitation and gave it a go. Despite working my full-time job in between, I felt I was at peace. Throughout this programme, I had experienced the everyday life of the De La Salle brothers in Hong Kong, the evangelization of migrant workers, and their sources of joy to become Lasallian Brothers. Witnessing the fraternity among the Brothers also reminded me of the significance of brotherhood in answering vocations. I encourage the graduated Lasallians to consider participating in this BLIP. Open your hearts and let this experience speak to you. By asking questions, I have a deeper understanding and impression of DLS mission. Thank you for having me.



Tagpuan 5.0

Tagpuan 5.0 (a Filipino term meaning encounter) is the fifth iteration of a whole day event that promotes the emotional, physical, and spiritual health of Filipino domestic workers. The organizers were the La Salle Brothers and the One La Salle Hong Kong Alumni Association. It was recently held at the Lasallian Youth Centre in Sheung Shui on 15 May 2024. The programme began with a mass officiated by Fr. Fabio Favata PIME which included the symbolic renewal of vows of the Brothers and the commitment signing of the Lasallian partners, an introduction to church music given by Mr. Mark Huang, an Old Boy of La Salle College, a sumptuous lunch provided by the alumni of One La Salle Hong Kong, a watercolor painting class led by Ms. Sala Sihombing, and entertaining indoor games organized by Br. Emong, with prizes like tickets to Hong Kong Disneyland, to top it all off.





Founder's Day Celebrations in Hakodate

By Br. Nico Mariano FSC; Photos by Mr. Bosco Han Deok



The Founder's Day Celebration in Hakodate was extra special this year since it coincided with a visit from the Brother Visitor. In his sharing, he encouraged and challenged the entire school community to build the Lasallian family not only in Japan but also with the Lasallian communities in the six other LEAD countries. The Brother Visitor's presentation included a video of an alumni from La Salle Gakuen in Kagoshima who shared his dreams and hopes for the Lasallian Family in Japan.

Also, in line with commemorating St. John Baptist De La Salle as "Patron of Educators", the school recognized the faculty and staff members who have dedicated 20, 30 and 40 years of service. The simple yet inspiring celebration is an important reminder for us here in Hakodate La Salle to continue discovering opportunities and pathways to be part of the Lasallian Family in East Asia.

In Solidarity with the Marist Congregation

By Ms. Coreen Paul



On the 9 April 2024, I left the PARC49 gathering in Tagaytay and headed to Madrid to participate in the Marists' 3rd International Mission Assembly! The one-week assembly was themed, "We Are a Global Family." The invitation to participate in this assembly was extended to CIAMEL by Brother Superior and the Brothers of the General Council.

Being present at a mission assembly for another congregation was an honour and an enriching experience. Being invited to say something to everyone on the second to last day of the assembly was an even greater honour and certainly humbling. There were 120 Marists, brothers and lay people, from all over the world. If you are wondering what I was doing there, well that was my question too when I was first asked to consider participating in this assembly. Inspired by De La Salle who said "yes" without knowing where it would lead him, I too said yes, not knowing where this encounter will lead me.

All I can say is that I was there in solidarity with each person present and everyone who shares in the love for a mission which reaches out to those in need through education. The mission of the De La Salle brothers and partners, rooted in faith, service and community is the foundation of this love. Being a part of many conversations, I could not help but feel even more in solidarity with the Marist mission. I could not help but feel a deep sense of gratitude and hope for the mission of both our communities.

I was at the Marist International Mission Assembly as a representative of the International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission (CIAMEL). A council which has now been positioned within a new governance structure to express shared responsibility for the mission. Our biggest challenge is to think globally and find ways to facilitate local accompaniment and I could see that was a challenge facing the Marists as well.

Our statistics are also similar in a way that shows a fewer number of brothers alongside a growth in the number of associates and of ministries and there are structures that encourage lay leadership to deepen association for the mission and to encourage co-responsibility.

The reflection message I shared with the assembly was mainly composed of expressions of gratitude for all that we experience as a global educational community. The challenges we face. The needs we meet. The paths we cross. The fraternity we build. The love we share.

As the days passed and the more I engaged in conversation, discussion, prayer, reflection, socials, I felt we were kindred spirits. Two communities caring for the young and those in the margins. Two communities formed by religious and now growing in number of partners and associates. Two communities with an international presence and a life-giving charism expressed in various ways across the globe. What a gift!

A greater gift to those of us who are part of these two global families.

I pray that we all continue serving and responding to God's call, in ways that are unique to each one of us. I hope that we strive to deepen our connection to the mission. May we encounter others who share the same passion and may we continue trusting in God's providence and remain open to being leaven for a fraternal world.

As one family, Lasallians and Marists, let us work towards caring for the earth, our home. As one family let us move together with bold audacity and radical availability to respond to God's call to take care of those entrusted to our care.

Some examples of cooperation between Lasallians and Marists: <https://www.lasalle.org/en/fratelli-project-in-macao-a-synodal-initiative-of-the-marists-and-the-lasallians/>