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JM]


The Kingdom of God is like a man scattering seed on the land. He would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. [Mark 4:26-34]

Gratitude is the foundation of the spiritual life. When we recognize that we have received a gift opens us to the gracious Giver. One of the moments that awakens gratitude in me is when I am attentive and close to nature. Walking through a forest or feeling the grains of sand on the beach – nature’s expanse leads me back to the One who set the story of every creature into motion. The man in the Gospel is awed by the potentialities for life that emerge before him – all from the small seeds he has scattered. And he is led, like us, to echo the psalmist’s sentiment : Lord, it is good to give you thanks. What or who are you grateful for? Take time to allow this sense of gratitude to settle in your heart and watch what emerges in you. In the middle of your busy day, take time to walk in the rhythm of natural things. Allow nature to lead you back to that place in God’s heart where we all began.



I had recently completed my visit to the Sector of Hong Kong. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit for the third time, the LEO project in St. Jude parish. The project involves some of our Old Boys and retired teachers and administrators. The LEO Project in St. Jude parish is one of three such projects in different parts of Hong Kong. Here, the volunteers provide academic support for young people living in challenging situations. Like seed, these efforts are small and scattered on the land. But the enthusiasm and commitment I saw among the volunteers there – the bonding and sense of community – I was grateful that day to be surrounded by so much goodness. In my heart I knew that this goodness will only bear more goodness in the future.

Fraternally,


Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC

NEW DISTRICT PERSONNEL

We are happy to announce the engagement of the following Brother and Partners as District personnel:



BR. ANGELO PAOLO MATA FSC as **District Formation Coordinator.**

Br. Paolo will be organizing and accompanying the network of Lasallian formators in LEAD, which will assist him in developing a District Formation Plan and Resource Platform. He will serve as the District's link to counterparts in the Pacific Asia Regional Conference (PARC) and the global Institute to build community, share resources, and leverage available formation programs. Br. Paolo will directly report to Br. Iñigo Riola FSC, Auxiliary Visitor for Formation, and LEAD's Formation for Shared Mission Committee.

MS. COREEN PAUL as **District Education Officer.**

Ms. Coreen will be responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of LEAD's Strategic Plan for the viability and vitality of the Lasallian Mission, overseeing the effectiveness of the structures for association and co-responsibility, developing viability plans, managing programs related to Lasallian identity criteria, and promoting collaboration among diverse ministries in the District and beyond. She will directly report to Br. Jorge Gallardo de Alba FSC, Auxiliary Visitor for Mission.



MR. RANDY CASAYURAN as **District Health & Wellness Officer.**

Mr. Randy will be tasked to facilitate the conduct of the regular and centralized health monitoring of the Brothers in LEAD. This includes, but is not limited to, developing and implementing wellness programs, conducting basic health assessment and screenings, informing Brothers of preventive care and healthy lifestyle choices, connecting Brothers with healthcare professionals, and responding to health emergencies in an effective manner. Mr. Randy will be directly reporting to Br. JJ Jimenez FSC, Visitor.



MR. PAOLO JOSEPH CAPULOY as **District Multimedia Designer.**

Mr. Paolo will be responsible for creating multimedia content for LEAD's various communications channels. He will also develop and maintain the District's brand identity, in keeping with the Institute's style guide across platforms. Mr. Paolo will work closely with LEAD's working committees to present design concepts and ensure that their design needs and objective are met. He will be directly report to Mr. Jose Boncodin, LEAD Secretary.



LEAD is still looking for a **District Communications Officer**. Interested Lasallians may contact sec_lead@lasalle.org for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BROTHERS!

We wish to congratulate the following Brothers for recently completing their academic programs:



Br. Miggy Crisostomo FSC
Postgraduate Certificate in Education
(International)
University of the West of England – Bristol



Br. Carlo Rementilla FSC
Postgraduate Certificate in Education
(International)
University of Sunderland



Br. Manny Sia FSC
Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
Skills Online Course
Behavioral Tech Institute



Br. Kelvin Tan FSC
Doctor of Philosophy
in Applied Theology
De La Salle University

MEET YOUR MISSION PARTNERS – PART 2

By Ms. Christine Soe Hlaing



Grown up, educated, and worked with La Salle schools, Mike has over 20 years of people management & development, team consulting, training experience with corporations, government agencies and organization. He has over 15 years of working with large private healthcare providers in Human Resources Management.

With gratitude to St. John Baptist De La Salle, the Brothers, La Salle Sisters, and La Salle Schools in Thailand, and in hope for La Salle schools' sustainability, Mike devotes time to work closely with the Brothers through "Teachers Management & Development Program.

Warin Chaiaphaibul (Mike) is working as "Schools Advisor" in enhancing Lasallian Spirituality among teachers, students, staff and alumni. He regards to expressing gratitude and contribution for the Brothers/Schools, hopes to reach out more in offering services/assistance for Sector/District in views of sharing mission, inspiring youth, and mobilizing resources.

"I have been joining the Hong Kong Lasallian Family since 1987 when I was a teacher and later the Principal of one of the Lasallian secondary schools in Hong Kong starting from year 2020. As a member of the HKLEC, I am delighted to help coordinate the Annual Raffle for the Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund and join the Review Coordination Team to provide support and advice on the long-term Viability and Vitality of all Lasallian schools in Hong Kong. Last year I was glad to take part in the 3rd LEAD Mission Assembly as an organizing committee member and a listening and writing committee member. Through this event, I not only had a better understanding of realities of the situations in each Sector of LEAD, but also made use of this opportunity to share ideas with committee members and participants from various sectors on the Lasallian mission in LEAD. Now as a LEAD Mission Council member, I earnestly hope that there can be more interflows among stakeholders in different Sectors through the mutual effort and collaboration of the Council members so as to generate sustainability and solidarity to accomplish our Lasallian educational vision to train mind, touch hearts and transform lives as we go about our daily tasks."



Alan Li is from Hong Kong. Now, he is retired from the post as a secondary school Principal and now serves as a member of Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council (HKLEC).



Prior to joining the Lasallian family in Malaysia, Coreen worked in Marketing & PR in various service led industries and got involved in corporate training. That involvement deepened her interest and passion for formation and personal development.

Coreen started working with La Salle Centre in Ipoh Malaysia in 2014 and has been involved in developing and facilitating programs for the Lasallian family in Malaysia with a focus on young Lasallians.

Coreen Paul was appointed to be a part of the LEAD Mission Council in July 2020. She is currently serving as its Chair.

Lim Hock Thiam is a 3rd generation Xaverian. He completed fifth form in St. Xavier's Institution, Penang, the oldest Lasallian school in Asia, in 1977. He is a Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, a Fellow of The Malaysian Institute Accountant and was a Certified Public Accountant, Australia. He started his professional career as an auditor in public practice in London and went on to hold Financial Controllership positions in Malaysian and Multinational conglomerates. His last position before retirement was as the Southeast Asian CFO of a Fortune 500 company. Hock Thiam remains very active in the Lasallian Family and is currently the Chairman of the Malaysian Lasallian Mission Council. He joined the LEAD Mission Council in July 2022.



"It has been an honor and a privilege to be in the LEAD Mission Council. It has given me the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow Lasallians from LEAD and to get to know the greater Lasallian World. I have learnt so much about the Lasallian Mission in the short time I have been in the LMC. I am further privileged as I joined during a period of exciting change, and I am very sanguine of the continued viability and the vitality of the Lasallian Mission."



"Being a member of the LEAD Mission Council gives me much joy and inspiration working with Lasallian Partners in Mission who are very zealous and faithful to the Lasallian charism."

Br. John David Ong FSC joined the Postulancy Program of the De La Salle Brothers in May 2012 after working for 12 years as a teacher and school administrator in Angeles City. He received the religious habit on June 7, 2013, professed the first vows on June 14, 2014, and professed his perpetual vows on February 2, 2022.

Currently, he serves as the Director of the Lasallian Formation Center and the La Salle College Antipolo Campus Minister for Grade 11 Student Formation and Adult Formation.

Br. Jorge Gallardo de Alba FSC was born in Mexico 65 years ago.

"I have been in contact with our District since the year 2000, many years before LEAD was officially established. During the first years of this century, I was the President of the Delegation of Japan, a country in which I had arrived 10 years before. As such, I became Member of the Executive Council of the Pacific-Asia Regional Conference (PARC) and had the opportunity to start the process of rearrangement of the PARC Districts and Delegations which eventually evolved in the formation of the Districts of LEAD and ANZPPNG. In 2007, I was appointed General Councilor and in 2014, Vicar General. During 16 years I was based in Rome serving closely with Brothers Alvaro Rodriguez and Robert Schieler. At the end of my mandate, I was happy to be back in my, now enlarged, Lasallian East Asia District and honored to be appointed as its Auxiliary Visitor for Mission, collaborating closely with Brother JJ, Visitor, and the Leadership Team."



The quality, diversity and inclusiveness of our District's Lasallian educational ministries in a multicultural and interreligious context gives LEAD a unique character within the global Institute. This is a blessing but, it carries within it a challenge for us, members of the LEAD Mission Council. In this diversity, how can Lasallian identity be enhanced? My hope is that through our work we make Lasallian identity grow in all stakeholders, above all among educators, in order to deepen and share it with the young people, especially those in the peripheries, and make a difference in their lives.

SBMA 2023-2024: Creating Extraordinary Experiences

By Br. Zennel Sy FSC



Last 02 June 2024, on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the St. Brother Miguel Academy (SBMA) in La Salle Green Hills (LSGH), Mandaluyong City, Philippines held its First Holy Communion ceremony and 2023-2024 Culminating Program for the young people of Barangay St. Joseph, San Juan City. The event was spearheaded by the Lasallian Formation Center and the St. Benilde Brothers' Community in collaboration with the Grade 12 Senior High School House of Miguel. About 150 people attended the event including students, parents and volunteers.

The special day opened with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the reception by 12 SBMA participants of their First Holy Communion at the Chapel of the Divine Child. These young people diligently attended their catechism classes in order to prepare themselves to properly receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. What graces these young people have received to have their First Holy Communion on the Solemnity of the Body of Christ! Br. Irwin Climaco FSC gave the parents of the First Holy Communicants a short recollection the previous day to help them understand the importance of what their children are receiving and to encourage them to support the faith life of their children.



After Mass, the SBMA participants headed to St. Benilde's Cafeteria where they were treated to every Filipino child's favorite Jollibee meal, courtesy of an LSGH alumni and the Grade 12 House of Miguel. This also became an opportunity for the Grade 12 Senior High School students to personally meet and interact with the SBMA participants.

The morning continued at the Brother Donato Center with the Culminating Program. Br. John David Ong FSC gave the opening remarks encouraging the SBMA students to practice what they have learned throughout the six month program.



Afterwards, the crowd was entertained by a rousing song from the songbirds of the House of Miguel and the energetic dance performances from both the SBMA participants and the entire House of Miguel Grade 12 students. Both SBMA and Grade 12 students gamely joined each other's performances on stage.

The awarding ceremonies followed recognizing SBMA students who attended the sessions most faithfully, those who displayed exemplary conduct and those who participated regularly. They received certificates and gift packages courtesy of the Lasallian Formation Center and the House of Migs. The contributions of the SBMA volunteers were also acknowledged and honored. SBMA ran effectively throughout the past 6 months because of their commitment and generosity.



Br. Zennel Sy FSC, SBMA principal, closed the program by thanking once again all those God has sent to accompany the young people of Barangay St. Joseph through the SBMA program, especially Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC, president of LSGH, and the administration, faculty, Grade 12 students, staff and volunteers. He encouraged the SBMA participants to always remember how much they are loved by a very good God and that they are precious and valuable in God's eyes. Br. Zennel then presented a short video montage of the highlights of the season.

As SBMA 2023-2024 draws to a close, we gratefully remember how the joy that was shared during this day and throughout its run was such a testament to the transformative power of fraternity and community in diversity rooted in faith and service. SBMA became the "burning bush" moment not only for the young of Barangay St. Joseph but also for the Grade 12 students who shared their time, talent and treasure, the volunteers who sacrificed their Sundays, and the De La Salle Brothers. SBMA became a place to encounter Christ and to experience His love and goodness. With our founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle, we can truly say "wherever I go, I will find you, my God" and "perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to [our] care" (Med 180.3).

Live Jesus in our hearts!