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JM]

*Jesus took the child by the hand and said to her,  
“Talitha koun,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” [Mark5:21-43]*

I write to you today from the Bamboo School in Thailand where I had opportunity to meet the young girls living in the Blue Skies Home. The project started in 2011. In this special place, the desire and right of young women for education is supported. Thanks to our Brothers from the Sector of Thailand and the guidance of the Congregation of the La Salle Sisters, these young girls are enabled to complete basic education so that they can later on pursue their goals – beyond the usual roles of marriage and child-bearing that are often assigned to them. I read the Gospel for today for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time and I find much affirmation in this advocacy to transform the lives of young girls through education. Through this special ministry, Jesus continues to make this invitation to young women to rise and be leaven for their communities. Data have shown that when women are more educated, there is faster reduction of poverty, reduced violence and lower child mortality [United Nations, 2022].



Our Lasallian story reminds us that for the educational project to succeed, it is important as well to educate parents about the value of education [Meditations 194]. The Blue Skies Home in Thailand which ensures that no girl is left behind, is a reminder for us of the greater need to continually transform our educational project by forming also the perspectives of the communities we work with. Tucked in the forest near the border between Thailand and Myanmar, Blue Skies Home is a small seed that has been planted. We hope to nurture this seed so that one day, it will bear the life-giving fruits of justice and peace.



Fraternally,

  
Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC

## BROTHER VISITOR'S CANONICAL VISIT TO THE SECTOR OF THAILAND

By Br. Raphael Tanet Lertwaja FSC

From 17 to 26 June 2024, Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC—Brother Visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District—had his canonical visit to three communities in the Sector of Thailand: La Salle Bangkok, La Salle Sampran, and La Salle Sangkhlaburi.

Br. JJ met with Brohthers Joseph Klong, John Pongpat, Francis Suriya, and Stephen Kan of the La Salle Bangkok community from 17 to 19 June.



Next, on 20 and 21 June, he visited the La Salle House of Studies in Sampran, where he met with the formation staff Brothers Philip Bancha, Luke Chaiporn, and Raphael Tanet as well as four candidates: Romeo, Simon, Peter, and Nicholas. They discussed the possibility of strengthening vocations promotion in the Sector.





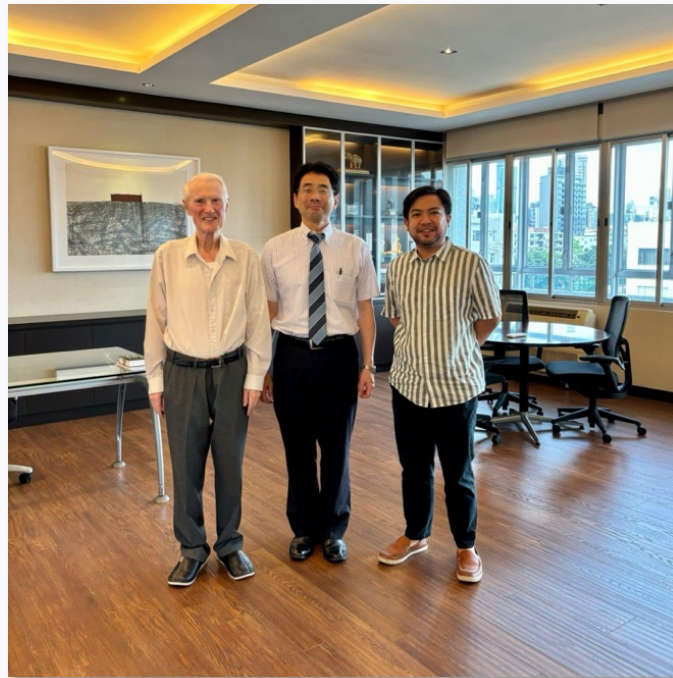
The last leg of Br. JJ's visit was on 22 to 26 June, when he visited La Salle Sangkhlaburi, a school in the peripheries. There he met with the three members of the community Brothers Benilde Preecha, Stephen Pichit, and Lucas Thein—from Myanmar—along with the La Salle Sisters in Vietnam: Sr. Maria Võ Thị Kim Hoa, Sr. Maria Trần Thị Bích Ngọc, Sr. Theresa Phạm Thị Hồng. The three Sisters assist the brothers in teaching and managing the school. The LSSK school community organized a warm welcome ceremony and prepared a traditional performance that combined Thai, Burmese, Mon, and Karens cultures. Br. JJ planted a durian tree to symbolize his visit.



## VICE PRINCIPAL OF LA SALLE HAKODATE VISITS LA SALLE COLLEGE

From the La Salle Japan Facebook page

**HONG KONG** - Last 20 June 2024, Mr. Ogawa—Vice Principal of La Salle Hakodate—visited the LEAD Provincialate and La Salle College in Kowloon, Hong Kong. During his brief visit, he was welcomed by the Brothers and Lasallian Partners from the community. An initial sharing and exchange of ideas on partnerships in the near future were the fruits of his visit. We look forward to making these dreams a reality!



*Br. Patrick Tierny FSC, Mr. Ogawa, and Br. Iñigo Riola FSC at the LEAD Provincialate*



*Mr. Paul Tam, Mr. Ogawa, Mr. Steve Leung, and Br. Iñigo at LSC Kowloon*

## LASALLIAN FORMATION SESSION AT LA SALLE CENTRE YANGON

From Youth For Future, La Salle Myanmar Facebook page

**MYANMAR** – A Lasallian Formation Session for students was hosted at La Salle Centre Yangon last 21 June 2024. The session was organized by the faculty of La Salle Centre with Br. Justine Nge Bo FSC as the facilitator. Br. Henry Gyi, who was on home visit, also showed strong support to the La Salle Centre.

The La Salle Centre expresses its gratitude to the Brothers, partners, and students for the fruitful session.



## BROTHERS VOCATION SUMMER CAMP [BVSC] 2024: BECOMING A BROTHER TO ONE ANOTHER

By John Phillip Talaba, Aspirant from Ozamiz

**PHILIPPINES** – Weeks after my BVSC experience, I am still profoundly awed by all that has transpired. The theme of this year's VSC, "Becoming Brothers," has led me to ponder its deeper significance. What's so meaningful about "Becoming Brothers?" Isn't this already the whole point of our being as contacts and aspirants? That we "become" Brothers? That we be invited and eventually be part of a religious congregation? However, reflecting on my BVSC experience, I realized it goes beyond merely joining a community.



During our visit to the Medium Security Compound of the National Bilibid Prison as part of our apostolic activity, I encountered Romy, a PDL, for over five years. Romy has taken on the role of a disciplinarian, "welcoming" new PDLs to the institution. He is responsible for ensuring that they understand their situation's gravity and the severity of their choices. Romy emphasized the importance of sensitivity within the prison environment to prevent chaos and maintain order, thus protecting their community from disorder. His next few days were extra special as he was just days away from reuniting with his daughter.

Romy's story was particularly striking as I believed it resonated with this year's BVSC theme. It became clear to me that Romy was an active contributor to the reformation program within the prison, which is the same reformation program that he is in. He helped new PDLs grasp their reality and adapt to their new reality. They have developed skills and practices that mark their role in the institution. Some were tasked with gardening, farming, construction, manufacturing, etc. These new roles not only dictated their routines but also gave them a purpose as part of a bigger community.



Reflecting on Romy's experience, I realized that the BVSC functioned similarly. The camp, facilitated by dedicated Lasallian partners driven by their own vocations, created a nurturing and transformative environment for our contacts and aspirants. This comparison made me understand that "Becoming Brothers" extends beyond simply joining a religious congregation. It involves actively supporting the formation of each other, fostering a spirit of brotherhood. In this way, we may say that we have become co-owners of the mission.

This made me ponder once again: Have we been Brothers to one another? Like Romy, have I helped my brother survive his present challenges? Have I helped my brother realize the chains that enslave him? Have I helped my brother face the habits that have restrained him?



"Becoming Brothers" is more than just being invited to witness or join a religious order. It is about embodying the spirit of brotherhood through actions, support, community building, and co-ownership. I believe that it is in Romy's story that our lives are reflected. A chained life that yearns to be free and be part of something meaningful, a life that challenges us to become brothers to one another. As we take part in the Lasallian mission, we realize that this mission validates our humanity - our thirst to be part of something greater than us. This realization has deepened my appreciation for the journey of becoming a brother and the profound impact it can have on our lives and those we become brothers to.



## REFLECTION OF BR. VAN DUC “JB” BUI FSC ON HIS VISIT TO MALAYSIA

In May, I had the opportunity to visit Malaysia with the Brothers and Vocation committee to celebrate Founder's Day. This trip provided invaluable experiences that have given me new perspectives on the Brothers' mission and way of life. In this reflection, I will analyze how the trip strengthened my understanding of two key aspects: the Brothers' association with partners, and their deep commitment to serving God's call.

First, Association with Partners. While in Malaysia, I witnessed firsthand how the Brothers in Part District work closely with lay partners to continue St. John Baptist de La Salle's mission of providing a Christian education. Rather than implementing the mission alone, the Brothers involve dedicated partners who share in educating students through both spiritual and academic elements. This partnership model has allowed the Brothers' vision to be expanded globally beyond just the order itself. The inclusive approach also makes the work more sustainable long-term. The experience reinforced for me how collaboration, not isolation, is vital to effectively carrying out God's work in today's world.

And, Commitment to Service. What struck me most about the Brothers was their constant enthusiasm and dedication to answering God's call, despite potential challenges. Even over just a short visit, I sensed their deep desire to serve—whether through fostering more vocations or finding new ways to spread the mission. Their passion inspired me to reflect on fully committing myself to serving wherever God leads. No matter the assignment, the Brothers demonstrate carrying out their ministry with hope, joy and perseverance. This is a model I aim to emulate in my own spiritual journey and vocation discernment.

In conclusion, The trip to Malaysia provided invaluable lessons that will stay with me. Through observing the Brothers' partnerships and commitment, I gained new perspectives on continuing Christ's work today. Moving forward, I am called to nurture collaboration, answer God's call with optimism, and find purpose in service however it may come. This experience has motivated me to walk more closely with God and strengthen my own vocation and mission.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BROTHERS!

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



**Br. Antonio Cubillas FSC**  
Master in Education, major in  
Educational Leadership and Management  
De La Salle University



**Br. Eugene de Luna FSC**  
Master of Arts in  
Applied Linguistics  
Mahidol University