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JM]

*Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts.  
[Mark 6:7-13]*



I write you today from Rome where I am attending the Plenary Assembly – a gathering of the Visitors; Brothers and Lasallian Partners of the Councils, Commissions and Offices of the Institute. The last five days has been an experience of becoming One La Salle. In this space, I find the invitation to step back – for awhile – from the needs and projects of our own District and to consider how we might better witness to being a truly global Lasallian Family. I hope that as LEAD, we can create more connections with Lasallians from other Districts through sharing of our human, material and knowledge resources. Having had the opportunity to build community with the participants of the Plenary Assembly makes this call for solidarity more real. There

is now a face behind the emails I receive. At last, I can put a face, a story and a dream behind the messages and emails I receive. When I respond, I will be reminded that I am furthering my connection with another person.


In today's Gospel reading, Jesus seemingly confronts us, his disciples, with the question of what is essential in our life. It can happen that our lives can be filled with many concerns and we lose sight of what is essential. We can be overcome by so much busyness that we lose sight of what is at the heart of what we do or who we are. From time to time, we need to be in touch with what is essential about ourselves. I used to think prayer was a time to ask God to give me what I needed. I still do. But more and more, I find that in prayer, I am also invited to simply be in the presence of the One who loves me. More than the things I need to do or can accomplish, this is perhaps what is most essential about me – that I am first of all, loved by God. Everything else is detail. If being attentive to God's love is difficult – and many times it is – it is possible that it is because I have to still let go of the other things which I have allowed to define myself. And so, I ask for grace to also learn to let go of my food or sack or the money in my belt so that I can minister to others with only this singular awareness of being in God's loving presence.



As the Lasallian East Asia District, we can be engrossed about many things and projects. I am grateful that my participation in the Plenary Assembly has reminded me that what is essential are not so much the works we do, but that we are able in many ways to live our gift of brotherhood and build fraternity where it is most urgent and most needed.



Fraternally,

  
Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC



## PLENARY Assembly 2024



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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY BY VISITING ITS MICROSITE:

<https://www.lasalle.org/en/plenary-assembly/>

## BROTHERS FROM SFNO DISTRICT VISITS THE PHILIPPINES

By Br. Luis Angelo Enriquez FSC

Two Brothers from the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) spent a portion of their summer with us in the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD). Brother David Caretti FSC, and Brother Jonathan Cord FSC, visited the Philippines from 28 June 02 July 2024. This trip to LEAD is Br. David's third time in the Philippines, and the first time for Br. Jonathan.



On their first day, Brothers David and Jonathan were able to visit cultural and educational places. Br. iñigo Riola FSC, Auxiliary Visitor, brought them around with visits to the Manila Cathedral (made possible by Mr. Xavier Apostol), San Agustin Church, Ayala Museum, and other areas in Metro Manila.

Their main purpose was to join the celebration of the perpetual profession of vows of Brother Luis Angelo (Weegee) Enriquez FSC, which was held on 29 June 2024. While on studies in the SFNO District, Br. Weegee also helps out in the District's Office of Vocation Ministry, of which Br. David is Director, and resides in the Saint Mary's College High School Community, where Br. Jonathan is Community Director.



The Sunday after the vows, they joined Br. Weege's family for a celebratory fiesta at the Enriquez residence in San Juan City. The rest of the day was spent to rest. On Monday, 01 July, Brothers David, Jonathan, and Weege drove to De La Salle Lipa. Br. Vince Paildan FSC brought the Brothers around the school and the La Salle Novitiate. The Lipa Brothers' Community generously prepared lunch for the guests and even celebrated Br. Jonathan's birthday with an ube cake. In the afternoon of the same day, the Brothers went to visit Santuario De La Salle. Mr. Xavier Apostol, Ministry Coordinator of the Santuario met the Brothers and showed them around. They spent time venerating the relics of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, appreciating the Carillon bells, and the astounding architecture of the Santuario De La Salle and the rest of the Laguna Campus of De La Salle University.



*Photo from the Santuario De La Salle Facebook page*

The final day of their LEAD visit was held in Taft Avenue. In the morning, Brothers David and Jonathan visited the College of Saint Benilde, where Mr. Xavier Apostol generously showed them around the different campuses of the school. They were able to visit the Chancellor's office where they met Mr. Benhur Ong, the Campus Ministry Office which gave them memorabilia of Saint Benilde and Our Lady of the Star, and the Benilde Deaf School which shared their programs in service to our young Lasallians. The rest of the morning was spent to go around the other DLS-CSB campuses in Manila. The 1911 Brothers' Community hosted them for lunch. In the afternoon, they spent time walking around the Manila Campus of De La Salle University — seeing the La Salle Hall, the Vocation Ministry Office, the new Marian Quadrangle, the Lasalliana section of the Library, the Henry Sy Sr. Hall Penthouse, the Teresa Yuchengco Auditorium, and the Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel. On the evening of the same day was their flight back to San Francisco.

Thank you for visiting our District, Brothers!

## COMING HOME

By Br. Edgar Esparagoza FSC; Photos from Br. Dan Fenton FSC

From 12 June 18 July 2024, Br. Dan Fenton FSC, together with Br. Halen Gamino FSC, Ms. Gloria Galaz, and Mr. David Galaz from the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) visited the University of St. La Salle Bahay Pag-Asa Youth Center, a rehabilitation center for children in conflict with the law.

Br. Dan, who served the Center for more than nine valuable years as Brother Animator, had a chance to be with the Residents again. Together with his team, they took the Residents out for recreational activities, taught them science classes, and fixed the Center's library. The team also joined the daily activities of the Residents.

In addition to their volunteer work, they also donated microscopes and other materials needed at the Center. Truly, this engagement allowed the Residents to appreciate kindness, generosity, and love.



Get in touch with USLS Bahay Pag-asa Youth Center:

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- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/bahaypagasa>

## SALVATION FOR THE YOUNG IS TANGIBLE

The De La Salle Bahay Pag-asa Dasmariñas Success Stories of Empowerment Through Education: The CICL Passers and Graduates in the Alternative Learning System and Senior High School Programs  
By Ms. Rosario Pareja

For more than ten years now, De La Salle University – Dasmariñas in Cavite, Philippines has been providing a safe space for *children-in-conflict-with-the-law* (CICL) through the De La Salle Bahay Pag-asa Dasmariñas (DLSBPD). In this ministry to CICL’s, education is an essential part of the overall formative and transformational intervention programs it has been offering. It is vital as it will be a blessing that will serve its purpose later on in their young lives.

Recently, in a heartwarming display of resilience and determination, ten among the Residents (the boys at DLSBPD) have overcome adversity to achieve academic success by passing the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and graduated the Senior High School (SHS).

Their inspiring journey serves as a testament to the transformative power of education and the unwavering support provided by the Lasallian family as well as those whom we consider as friends of the mission, in nurturing the potential of every student, regardless of their background. Amidst the challenges and obstacles they faced, these boys have demonstrated remarkable courage, perseverance, and dedication to their studies, embodying the Lasallian values of Faith, Service, and Communion in their pursuit of academic excellence. Through the guidance and mentorship provided by DLSBPD and its Lasallian volunteers and partners, these young individuals were able to access quality education, support services, and personalized attention that enabled them to thrive academically and get a glimpse of what it means for them to realize their full potentials.

The successful completion of the Alternative Learning System is a significant milestone for the seven passers, offering them a second chance at formal education and a pathway to further educational and career opportunities. By engaging in flexible and accessible learning modalities, these individuals were able to acquire essential knowledge, skills, and competencies that have equipped them for success in their academic journey and beyond. After a year of patiently going through all the needed lessons with their teacher volunteers, the boys had their REVALIDA (*is a comprehensive examination or evaluation that is typically conducted at the end of the program*) last 13 May 2024, where they all passed and had their graduation last 05 July 2024, at the Arena of the City of Dasmariñas together with the rest of the ALS graduates in the City.



On the other hand, in addition to the ALS accomplishments of the seven Residents, the graduation from Senior High School of the other three Residents represent a significant achievement for them, symbolizing their readiness for higher education, vocation training, or employment. Through their dedication to their studies, participation in extracurricular activities, and engagement with the wider school community, these individuals have not only excelled academically but also demonstrated their capacity for leadership, responsibility, and personal growth. They had their graduation last 05 July 2024.



*Left: Graduation of 7 ALS Students. With them are Sr. Sonia Delima, Kerry Jed Bernido, Ms. Nida Cruzada  
Right: Graduation on 3 SHS Residents of DLSBPD*

The Residents' achievements serve as inspiration and hope for all members of the Lasallian family and partners, illustrating the transformative impact of education in breaking barriers, fostering resilience, and empowering individuals to reach their full potentials. By providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment that values diversity, equity, and inclusion, Lasallian institutions have created a supportive and empowering space for all students to thrive and succeed, regardless of their background and circumstances.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we are also constantly invited to reaffirm our commitment to creating a culture of educational excellence, inclusion, and social justice that enables every student to achieve their dreams and aspirations. Through our collective efforts and unwavering belief in the potential of every individual, we can continue to empower and uplift the lives of those in need, inspiring a brighter and more hopeful future to all.

In the spirit of the Lasallian mission, let us extend our heartfelt congratulations to these remarkable CICL passers and graduates on their academic achievements and future endeavors. May their success serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration to all of us, inspiring us to continue our shared mission of transforming lives through the power of education, service, and community.

We are also thrilled with gratitude to share the incredible stories of two former CICL who defied all odds, overcame challenges, and graduated from the Night College Program of De La Salle University – Dasmariñas under the College of Business Administration and Accountancy, to achieve remarkable success in their professional career. Both of them finished college and are now successful in their own careers. Armed with new skills, confidence and a renewed sense of purpose, they embraced to start afresh and redefine their futures. Former CICL 1, is connected with a BPO industry here in the Philippines and Former CICL 2, is a graduate of BS in Human Resources Development is now working in DLSU-D Human Resource Management Office. He is able to support his family's need and able to send his siblings to school.

In the end, their stories remind us of the determination, support from others and commitment to personal growth and development is possible and achievable.

*De La Salle Bahay Pag-asa Dasmaringas is the second Lasallian facility/center in the Philippines catering to children-in-conflict-with-the-law, our response to R.A. 9344.*

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## SACRED HEART TEACHERS' COLLEGE BENCHMARKS WITH PHILIPPINE LASALLIAN HEIs

Photos from DLSU LSPO and DLSU-D OVPIEA Facebook pages

Administrators from the Sacred Heart Teachers' College Bomana, Papua New Guinea—led by Ms. Rose Polume and accompanied by Br. Rafael Reyes FSC—recently visited the Philippines to benchmark and institutionalize collaborations with Lasallian higher educational institutions.

On 08 July 2024, the De La Salle University Lasallian Pastoral Office (DLSU LSPO) hosted the team of education administrators from Papua New Guinea. The SHTC team conducted a benchmarking visit on faith formation programs and operational services, which included a tour of the DLSU Academic Support for Instructional Services and Technology (ASIST) facilities as well as the Learning Commons—the main library of DLSU.



The De La Salle University–Dasmariñas Office of the Vice President for Internationalization and External Affairs (DLSU-D OVPIEA) hosted the administrators from SHTC next on 10 July 2024. During this visit, the two educational institutions signed a memorandum of understanding for institutional partnerships and collaboration, highlighted by exchange programs, resource information sharing, research activities, and mission-based engagements in the future.

