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Visit to La Salle Chantaburi. After the visit to Sampran, Br. Simon kindly drove me to Chantaburi, a leisurely four – hour drive. Since it was a long Buddhist holiday two of the Brothers were visiting the Bamboo school. However, I did get to meet everyone the next day, the 4th after they had all returned. They had a number of Brothers visiting from Bangna and Nakhonsawan as well so it was a bit of a full house in the community.

In terms of student population, La Salle Chantaburi is the smallest of the three Lasallian educational institutions in Thailand with about 1,200 students. The community of Brothers is relatively young with Br. Sayam Ngamdee as Director of the school and the community. He is ably assisted by Br. Joseph Dat from the District of California and by two Brothers who are in temporary vows: Br. Patrick Chaiyot and Br. John Niran. All Brothers teach English, with Br. Dat and Br. Patrick in high school and Br. John looking after the English classes in one or two primary school levels. Being a young community there is a lot of fun and fraternal banter that takes place. They usually have long evening meals as they try to catch up with each other after a day in school.

During the monsoon season the school has to regularly prepare for flooding as the rains from the mountains flow down into the river in Chantaburi. The Brothers' house is on "stilts" and the statue of St. Joseph in front of the house is on a pedestal a few meters high.

Many thanks to Sayam, Dat, Patrick and John.

Flooding in the Philippines. The past week has seen extreme weather in the Philippines as the monsoon dumped heavy rains in Luzon. Manila has been particularly hard hit with many parts of the metropolis under water for a number of days now. Classes have been called off for a whole week and work has been suspended for 2 – 3 days now. The Brothers are safe with minimal damage to our properties. The Lasallian Family has embarked on relief operations to help victims of the flood. A number of schools have become centers for relief operations. Some Brothers in other sectors of LEAD have inquired about donating. If you have any queries kindly direct to Br. JJ Jimenez at jjfsc1971@yahoo.com. Let us keep them in our prayer intentions.

Eight Day Ignatian Retreat. I will go on an 8-day Ignatian directed retreat in Baguio, Philippines starting on the 11th of August. The venue will be the ICM House of Spirituality and my spiritual director will be Sr. Emma Paloma ICM. This is my first directed retreat in 20 years and I am looking forward to it. I will remember you all in my prayers.

If there are any pressing matters or emergencies, kindly get in touch with Br. Tom Lavin FSC.

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC

Hong Kong