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**LEAD Council 7 and Economic Council Meetings.** The LEAD Council and the LEAD Economic Council gathered at Yangon, Myanmar, last 14 November 2012. The members from the seven Sectors arrived in Yangon and was billeted at the Shwe Taung Hotel which is a 15 minutes walk or 5 minutes drive from the De La Salle Provincialate. Br. Dominic Chong and Br. Gregory Lim from Singapore also visited Myanmar.

The Economic Council, composed of Sector Bursars Br. Dante (Philippines), Br. Peter Booncherd (Thailand), Mr. Philip Tay (Singapore), Mr. Michael Lau (Malaysia), and Br. Philip Thein Oo (Myanmar), together with Br. Edmundo Fernandez (Visitor), Br. Tom Lavin (Auxiliary Visitor), Jose Del Coss (LEAD Bursar), Br. Mark Murphy (Investment and Development Committee Consultant) and some Sector Leaders, met last 15th November at the Kone Myint Thar Restaurant Meeting Hall.

Both the LEAD Council and Economic Council members went for an





exposure tour on 16 November. They visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, Lasallian Learning Center and had their lunch at St. Paul's Community in downtown Yangon. The students from the Lasallian Learning Center - Yangon gave them a short

presentation and refreshments. After that they toured the classrooms. The group was impressed with the educational work of the Sector. They participated in the Eucharistic celebration in the evening at the Provincialate and continued with presentations on the Ministries and Vocation/Formation Programs of Myanmar Sector, followed by dinner.

On 17 November, the LEAD Council held their meeting their 7th Meeting. In attendance were Br. Edmundo Fernandez, Br. Thomas Lavin, Br. Jose del Coss, Br. Ray Suplido (District Councillor), the Sector Leaders, Br. Paul Ho (Singapore), Br. Jose Mari Jimenez (Philippines), Br. Anthony Rogers (Malaysia), Br. Stephen Kan (Thailand), Br. Rodrigo Trevino (Japan), Br. Lawrence Goh (Myanmar), and Br. Patrick Tierney (Hong Kong), and Br. Mark Murphy.



## **Preparatory Commission for the International Young Brothers Assembly.**

The Preparatory Commission of the International Young Brothers Assembly 2013 composed of Br. Christopher Patiño (*RELAN*), Br. Jose Andres Sanchez (*RELEM*), Br. Michel Tolojanahary (*RELAF*), and Br. Richie Yap (*PARC*), together with the Secretaries of Formation, Br. Jesús Rubio and Br. Joseph Fernando, are currently having their on - site meeting at the Retreat and Conference Center of De La Salle University -



Dasmariñas from 19 - 23 November. The Commission initially met in the Generalate in Rome last year and are now finalizing the details for the Assembly. The International Young Brothers Assembly, which will be held on 29 July - 7 August 2013, will be co - hosted by De La Salle University - Dasmariñas and De La Salle Health Sciences Institute with the assistance of the Philippine Sector.



Aside from their daily meetings conducted in English and Spanish, the Commission will also visit the exposure sites for the participants since the program requires a “Service Day” in apostolates with direct service to the poor. An American “Thanksgiving” meal is being prepared on 22 November for American Br. Chris with the “Residencia La Salle” Brothers Community.

During the actual Assembly in 2013, 40 Young Brothers from all over the world will represent the five (5) regions of the Institute to collegially discern their personal and



communal commitments and propositions to the 45th General Chapter in 2014. To accompany them in their discernment and discussions are Brother Superior General, Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, General Councillors Br. David Hawke (PARC) and Br. Alberto Gomez (Being Brothers Today), the Secretaries of Formation, Br. Jesús Rubio and Br. Joseph Fernando, Br. Michael French, Dr. Carmelita Quebengco AFSC, and the Preparatory

Commission.

The Preparatory Commission is grateful for the gracious hospitality of De La Salle University - Dasmariñas and De La Salle Health Sciences Institute, Br. Augustine

Boquer, Br. Dennis Magbanua and the Residencia La Salle Community, Mr. Ritche Bongcaron, the College of International Hospitality Management of DLSU-D and all those involved in the preparations of the meeting and the Assembly, the Philippine Sector, De La Salle Philippines and Ms. Aimee Patiño, and the Lasallian East Asia District. *(IYBA Preparatory Commission)*



**Prayers Requested for the Holy Land.** “Reportedly, as per the news reports and an email warning I just received from the US Consulate in Jerusalem, there was one rocket from Gaza that landed someplace south of Jerusalem or Bethlehem -- or Beit Jala -- or Beit Sahour. I'm not sure where, exactly, but it was reportedly someplace south of Bethlehem University -- and it was reportedly one rocket.



“I certainly do not want to down play the seriousness of this situation. It is serious, and unfortunately, it is deadly serious. Too many lives have been lost and too much trauma has been experienced and endured among all people here in this Holy Land. Right now, for sure people are understandably a bit on edge. When mothers and fathers put their children to sleep tonight, their night prayers and kisses for pleasant dreams will for sure be more meaningful.

# LEAD STORY

HONG KONG • JAPAN • MALAYSIA • MYANMAR  
PHILIPPINES • SINGAPORE • THAILAND

"Here at Bethlehem University today, on campus we held classes, but there was a somber sort of mood. When I asked some faculty and staff "how are you doing" the reply was most of the time something like: "Not so good, really" ... "I hope this doesn't mean a war is upon us" ... "Brother, it's so sad" ... "Kids are being killed, it's terrible" ... things like this.



"Tomorrow, Saturday, 2 representatives from USAID were scheduled to come to campus to see the new education building to which they contributed and which we are dedicating on Wednesday, 28 November 2012. They came from the States and have been in Tel Aviv for a few days now. They were scheduled to come to campus here in Bethlehem tomorrow, Saturday, but I just got word this evening (Friday) around 8:20 p.m. that they are not coming tomorrow. It really is not a surprise that they cancelled, given what is going on and the uncertainty of things, etc. I really thought they would have cancelled much earlier in the day.

"However, tomorrow, Saturday, here at Bethlehem University we will have a "make-up" day of classes. This has been planned before the Israeli-Gaza violence escalated a few days ago. This is to make up some class time for some class time that was lost earlier in the semester for various reasons. Even though it is Saturday, for academic purposes it will be a "Tuesday class schedule." This is good that we are having a "make up" day tomorrow, on Saturday. It keeps us focused on what we can do and what we can "control" -- and what we are all about -- not politics, but education and working for a better tomorrow through the education of the minds and hearts of the students entrusted to our care today! Having classes tomorrow, Saturday, will keep the students and faculty away from the TV and the constant barrage of "news" -- and that can be a good thing too.



"Let's continue praying for restraint among all involved in the violence. The violence does not lead anyone to a better place today or tomorrow. Thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. Your notes of concern and support are well-received and appreciated. THANKS -- and God bless us all!" (Br. Jack Curran FSC, PhD, Vice President for Development, Bethlehem University | Friday, 16 November 2012 | 10:25 p.m., Bethlehem, Palestine)

**SIEL Update 3.** During the third week of SIEL, we had Br. Alain Houry as our resource speaker. He talked about the life of St. La Salle and the most special moments of his life. Listening to him, one cannot help but be carried along his passion for studying the life of the founder. I was especially moved with the accounts of how St. La Salle lived his last years; his obedience, his faith and his sincere desire to discern and follow God's will to the end.



Our final week was equally busy. We were instructed to prepare a presentation to give the group an over view of the projects which we plan to do. The range of topics spanned from practical to philosophical. It was truly inspiring especially when we heard the stories that motivated such research projects. To be able to work with such a passionate and committed group of people was very humbling. *(Br. Normandy Dujunco FSC)*

**Vocations Promotion in the Philippines.** I am attaching the Vocations Promotion Report of the Sector of the Philippines. Br. Alex Diaz, the current full - time Vocations Coordinator, reported the following figures:

Total Number of Aspirants in different Communities:	72
Total Discerners ( <i>Eligible Postulants</i> ):	26
Target Quota ( <i>Given by the Brother Visitor</i> ):	15
Possible Candidates for Postulancy ( <i>Realistic Count of the Promoter</i> ):	11
Discerners who expressed their desire to apply to the Postulancy ( <i>As of September</i> ):	04

Let us continue to pray for more good and generous vocations!

Fraternally,

**Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC**  
Myanmar