

27 January 2013 • 83



Hong Kong Communities. I did my Canonical Visits to the two communities in Hong Kong 21 - 24 January. 21 and 22 were spent with the Brothers of St. Joseph College. Br. Alphonsus Breen is the Director of the community and supervisor of St. Joseph Primary. Br. Thomas Favier is the Supervisor of St. Joseph College and incoming Director of the community. Br. Jeff Chan, the youngest Brother in Hong Kong, is their newest member. He teaches at St. Joseph College but is also the Sector's Vocation Promoter. The fourth member is Br. David Liao who is stays in Chiangjiao, China and whose Learning Center has been getting a lot of regional and national exposure.

My interviews took the whole afternoon of the 21st and the community had dinner at The Chili Club in Wan Chai. I met the community on the morning of the 22nd after which I proceeded back to the Provincialate.

The 22nd and the 23rd were my interviews with Brothers of La Salle College. Br. Pat Tierney is the Sector Leader and Director of the community. He also supervises La Salle College and La Salle Primary. The hard working Br. Steve Hogan, on loan from ANZPPNG, is the Principal of La Salle College. Br. Richie Yap from the Sector of the Philippines is the newest addition. He is pursuing a Masters Degree in Education at Hong Kong University and is also LEAD Administrator. He is doing part time teaching at LSC. Br. Tom Lavin,

Auxiliary Visitor, is also part of the community though, like me, he is in and out. I was also able to interview Br. Larry Blake who continues his physical therapy sessions. There are two other Brothers in the community, namely: Br. Alphonsus Chee and Br. Hyacinth Fitzgerald. The community met in the evening of the 23rd and we capped it with a pizza dinner.

The two communities got together for dinner on the 24th hosted by the Brothers of St. Joseph College. Food was excellently prepared by their cook and it was a good interaction among the Brothers of the two communities and an excellent way to cap the visits. Let us keep the Brothers and Lasallian Partners of Hong Kong in our prayers.

Funeral of Br. David (Xavier) Jones. Br. David Jones returned to Miguel House, Castletown, from Tullamore Hospital in the week before Christmas. In spite of the realisation that an accident had caused him to lose all power in his legs, he was mentally and psychologically strong and, as he said, delighted to 'home among friends'. Though confined to a wheelchair, he had come to terms with the new reality and was regularly at Mass in the Community Oratory. On occasion, he would lapse into sleepy consciousness but, by and large, he was alert and chatty and interested in the affairs of Miguel House and the affairs of State. He treasured the cards and E-Mails received from his friends in Hong Kong and Borneo and the Carers displayed them in his room.



It did, therefore, come as a great shock to everyone when it was announced, early on Tuesday, 15 January, that Br. David had passed away, quietly and peacefully during the night. He had awakened around 1:45, enquired about the time and asked for a cup of tea. When the Carer returned a few minutes later with the tea, she discovered that he was dead. Quietly and peacefully, he had gone "gentle into that good night"; no "railing against the dying of the light". *(Dylan Thomas)*

All his relations and friends both at home and abroad were informed immediately and the arrangements for the funeral were agreed. There would be rosary on Wednesday evening at 8:00 PM and Requiem Mass on Thursday at 2:00 PM. Very large numbers came for the Rosary on Wednesday, among them many of his relations, friends and neighbours from his native village in Cork – some 120 km away. The funeral on Thursday was a truly genuine celebration of Br. David's life and death, a life devoted to the education of the young in Borneo and Hong Kong. The Oratory in Miguel House was full to overflowing for the



removal, with members of Br. David’s family, including his younger brother, Dermot, members of the De La Salle community in Ireland, Presentation Brothers, *(two of Br. David’s brothers were Presentation Brothers - both now deceased)*, Brothers, nurses, carers and staff from Miguel House Community, De La Salle Provincial, Br. Francis Manning. Br. David, Director, took the Rosary, Fr. Tom, Chaplain, recited the removal prayers and the many relations and friends said their ‘good-byes’.

The Mass was celebrated in the old Novitiate chapel. The chief celebrant was Fr. Tom Hubbard, Chaplain, assisted by Fathers Willie Hennessy, Parish Priest of Castletown, Fr. David Herlihy, Parish Priest of Br. David’s native parish and Fr. Walter Cooke, a returned missionary from New Zealand. It was a solemn occasion with organ accompaniment and harmonious hymn-singing led by Br. John Connaughton. The Readings were taken by members of Br. David’s extended family; the intercessory prayers were recited by family representatives and others and Br. Columba Gleeson delivered a very beautiful and very appropriate homily, dwelling especially on Br. David’s early life and educational formation and his very significant contribution to the Lasallian education mission in several centres in Borneo and Hong Kong. He emphasised aspects of Br. David’s character and personality, listing his patience, his gentleness and his wry humour and courage in the face of a spinal disability which stayed with him throughout his life. He emphasised Br. David’s joy great love and admiration for the families and students he had educated and his own personal satisfaction in spending himself in “educating at the coal-face”. He mentioned his great ability to influence his students and others by touching their hearts, quoting from adulatory E-Mails from former students which had arrived in the days after his death. He quoted too, from the Nurses and Carers in Miguel House who referred to Br. David as “a lovely gentleman and a great patient”.



After Mass, Br. David was buried in the

Brothers cemetery in Castletown. There followed a cup of tea and a sandwich for the very large attendance. Everyone agreed that the ceremony was a truly fitting tribute to a truly great Lasallian. The conversation stretched well into the darkness of the January, Winter evening. *(Br. Stephen Deignan)*

LEAD Directors Workshop 2013. Current and prospective Community Directors will be gathering on 01 - 03 February 2013 at the Shah Village Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia for a Workshop on the theme: "Leadership in a Religious Community." Sr. Miriam D. Ukeritis, CSJ will be our main resource person.

"Sister Miriam leads the Southdown Institute, a residential treatment center for clergy and religious near Toronto, Canada. She previously served as the Director of Research at Southdown from 2003 to 2008 and as a consultant to the Carter Centre, an educational conference center on the grounds of the Southdown Institute, since it was founded in 2001. As Director of Research, Sister Miriam was responsible for coordinating efforts to translate the extensive clinical experience of the Southdown Institute into knowledge informing both clinical practice and Church life.

<http://www.southdown.on.ca>



"Sister Miriam has worked extensively with religious and clergy in both therapeutic and educational settings for more than three decades. Since 2000 she has also served as principal in Carondelet Consultants, a group that offers consultation services for religious communities. From 1991 to 1996, Sister Miriam served as Director of the Institute for Leadership of Religious Organizations and as Research Associate and Acting Director for the Center for Applied Social Research at DePaul University. While at DePaul, she was co-researcher for the Religious Life Futures Project, funded by the Lilly Endowment. With Fr. David Nygren, CM, Sister Miriam is perhaps best known for the FORUS (*Future of Religious Orders in the United States*) study that resulted from the project.

"Sister Miriam is a member of the Albany Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and has served two terms on the Province Leadership Team. She earned a B.A. in mathematics from The College of Saint Rose and an M.S. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She was also a post-doctoral fellow in clinical psychology with the Harvard Community Health Plan and a participant in The Leadership Institute in the School of Management at Boston University."

LEAD STORY

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

The following Brothers are attending the Workshop:

Hong Kong:

Dodo Fernandez
Patrick Tierney
Thomas Favier
Thomas Lavin
Richie Yap

Japan:

André Labelle
Antonio Cubillas
Jose del Coss
Rodrigo Trevino

Malaysia:

Ambrose Loke
Andrew Loke
Anthony Rogers

Augustine Julian
Egbertus Joikul
Matthew Bay
Peter Foo

Myanmar:

Joseph Than Htaik Aung
Lawrence Goh

Philippines:

Antonio Servando
Augustine Boquer
Dennis Magbanua
Dindo Maralit
Jaime Dalumpines
JJ Jimenez
Rafael Reyes

Raymundo Suplido
Rey Mejias
Victor Franco
Vincent Fernandez

Singapore:

Jason Blaikie
Kelvin Tan
Nicholas Seet
Paul Ho

Thailand:

Eugene Prapas
Joseph Klong
Peter Booncherd
Sayam Ngamdee
Stephen Kan

On the last day, the morning will be dedicated to practical matters in the District including the presentation and distribution of three (3) new District documents: 1) *Community Annual Planning Guide*; 2) *Guidelines on Appropriate Behavior with Minors*; and 3) *Web Safety Guidelines*. The afternoon will be devoted for sharing, discernment and planning of Directors by Sector and on a District level.

The LEAD Council 8 Meeting will follow on 4 February 2013 in a joint meeting with the LEAD Formation Committee.

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Hong Kong



UNITING PEOPLE TO PROTECT THE PLANET
EARTH HOUR 2013: SATURDAY 23RD MARCH, 8:30PM

