



The Gateway

Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin

December 2008

Ninth Issue

Welcome

This ninth issue of The Gateway is dominated by a pictorial record of the 7th Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress which we hosted from the 7th to the 12th of December 2008. It was a time of grace and blessings for all involved. We believe many hearts were touched and the commitment to our Lasallian vision and mission deepened.



We have not forgotten our Oriental Flavour and, for a change, feature a Japanese musician. His story is inspiring.

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat;
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you!



From Mama Lisa 's
World Home

God bless all our readers. May you have a happy Christmas and a New Year of Peace and Joy.

The 7th Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress 2008

Joyful Joyful



The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony consisted of a flag entry procession, a candle lighting ceremony and a prayer service.



Sustain us, Lord, on our Journey

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

千里之行，始於足下



The Opening Address

This was delivered by Mr. John Tsang, an old boy of La Salle College. He is currently the Financial Secretary of Hong Kong.

He noted that 'the core values of a Lasallian school include Faith in the Presence of God, Respect for All Persons, Inclusive Community, Quality Education, Concern for the Poor and Social Justice. These values help to prepare students for higher education and a desirable occupation, as well as for the challenges they will face throughout their lives.'



Mr. John Tsang

The Keynote Speech

Professor Richard Ho Man Wui, an old boy of St. Joseph's College, was the speaker. Professor Ho was the Registrar of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and has a long history of community service. He brought his vast knowledge of Chinese philosophy and culture to bear in his presentation which he entitled Moral Education: Creating Ownership.

Of all the plagues besetting the modern mindset, greed is paramount. Thus the traditional Chinese values of benevolence, tolerance and forgiveness are more needed than ever.

Perhaps young people can be made to see that it will 'do you good to be good'. In this way they may 'own' the values we want to promote.



Professor Richard Ho

First and Second Presentations

Brother Armin Luistro, assisted by Mr. Marlo Castillo, were the presenters. Brother Armin is currently the President and Chancellor of De La Salle University, Manila.

Brother Armin started with an analysis of the Youth of Today, the impact of the mass media and new IT technology which tend to create virtual communities. In such a virtual world, there are no rules, no prying eyes of parents, no dire consequences of one's actions.

In the words of a student, "We are the high-tech generation, adept at computers and cellphones, but unable to communicate well without a keypad or a clicking mouse... We have a hard time deciding whether something is right or wrong, dangerous or not; worse, we are unable to discern just what role technology is playing in our lives, or why it has become so important to us."

In the midst of all this, we, as Lasallian educators, are to engage our students at head, heart and hand levels, that is, by teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives.



Brother Armin Luistro



Mr. Marlo Castillo



Third Presentation

Brother Thomas Lavin, Visitor of the Penang District, was the presenter. He introduced us to the characteristics of Lasallian schools drawn from a variety of sources, emphasizing that our overall Lasallian touchstone is 'touching hearts'. He also showed how teachers can view their work as a job, a profession or a vocation.

A number of good Lasallian practices were shared including those based on prayer, reflection and discipline.

Brother Michael Broughton of Singapore assisted in the presentation, showing how the core values of Faith, Service and Community can be implemented in the school context.



Brother Thomas Lavin



Brother Michael Broughton

Mission Outing

This was to Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School where the delegates had a delightful time with the staff and students.



Group Sharing and Reporting

These threw up a number of meaningful and interesting insights, such as:

- Students see a big gap between the values taught at school and those they perceive in society at large.
- Although our Lasallian mission is to touch the hearts of the children confided to our care, the hearts of teachers need to be touched first.
- Teachers need to take ownership of the values they wish to impart to their pupils.
- I have never felt more Lasallian in all my life.
- Because Brothers are now so few and far between, they are like flickering candles in the wind.
- Faith that educators are planting the seed and that it will bear fruit in the future.
- Students need faith in themselves (self-esteem), faith in others as well as faith in the future.
- Teachers need time to reflect and to rekindle their passion for teaching.
- I feel empowered as a Lasallian to continue the mission following our Founder's footsteps.



Closing Address

Brother Claude Reinhardt, General Councillor, delivered the closing address. He drew all the strands together. In our Lasallian world there is balance and unity of mission.

The Lasallian identity of individuals cannot be 'measured' but we can observe and appreciate their quality of commitment. Ours is a living tradition where teachers hold the key.



He reminded us that, as Lasallian educators, we have a cultural, social and spiritual mission.

Philosophers, pedagogues and sociologists today draw our attention to the fact that young people are cut off from their intellectual and spiritual roots and heritage. And one of the problems is, they say, that the adult world (the school, the media, the arts) do not teach them or convey to them the rich wisdom heritage of the past.

To educate the children of the artisans and of the poor was clearly the intention of our origins. De La Salle did not create a school for the rich where it would be difficult for the poor to enter. He created a school for the poor where others, less poor, could enter if they so wished... Thus his school was not a ghetto school for the poor. The Lasallian school today should be a school that receives and welcomes "the young in their poverty"

If we wish to respond to the challenges in education today, we must denounce whatever dehumanises such as chasing after money, greed, jealousy, hatred and injustice. Instead we are to educate in respect, justice and community building.

Moreover, to paraphrase Dr Ho, we can say that: the major component parts of our Lasallian mission, while inspired by the Christian faith, are also in tune with or often similar to the good moral principles we find in other texts of wisdom.

We Lasallians have learned from our Founder that the key-person in the educational process is the teacher and we have discovered in our own experience that teaching is more than teaching - it is a vocation. It is a vocation lived in a human community that shares values and commits itself.

Cultural Evening

In good APLEC tradition, the Congress came to an end with all delegations putting up cultural performances, both colourful and rich in diversity, which characterize our Asia Pacific region.



Sri Lanka



Singapore and Pakistan



Papua New Guinea



Malaysia



Japan



Hong Kong

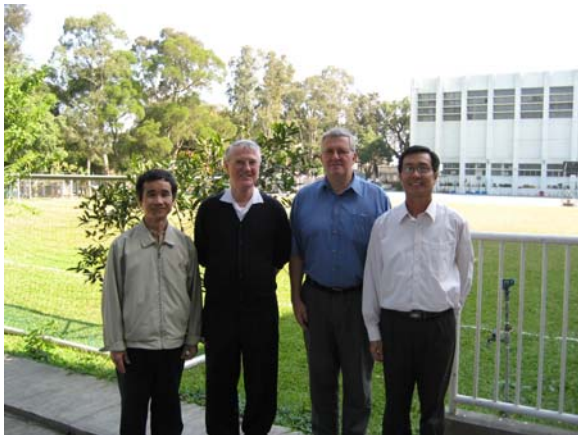
Family News

Legionaries of Christ

Rev. Joseph Tham, an old boy of St. Joseph's College and Rev Alex Yeung, son of an old boy of La Salle College, visited on the 2nd of December 2008. Father Tham is Professor in the School of Bioethics, Regina Apostolorum University in Rome while Father Yeung is a member of the Sacerdos Institute in New York.



Fr Joseph Tham, Br Patrick and Fr Alex Yeung



Visit to De La Salle Secondary School

Brothers Claude Reinhardt, Peter Phat, Michael Phong and Patrick Tierney paid a visit to De La Salle on the 4th of December 2008. This is the only Lasallian school in Hong Kong with a real grass field!

Brothers Michael, Patrick, Claude and Peter

David Jordan returns

Former Brother, David Jordan, accompanied by his wife Pam, renewed acquaintance with his old school, La Salle College, on the 13th December 2008. He taught in La Salle College in the early 60s and was a keen sportsman. Since then he has taught in both Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and South Africa. He was en route to visit one of his sons in New Zealand.



Br Lawrence, David Jordan and Br Patrick

Oriental Flavour **Oe Hikari's(大江 光) Music**

When Oe Hikari was born in 1963, his parents were told that their child had a herniated brain. They were told that surgery could be done but that if the child survived he would be severely disabled. Doctors tried to convince the parents that they should let their son die saying the most they could hope for "was a kind of vegetable existence."



Oe Kenzaburo, Nobel Prize winner in literature 1994 and Hikari's father, already depressed about his stagnating career as an author, struggled with the decision, thinking he and his wife must escape from the "monster baby." While considering their options they visited Doctors at Hiroshima who were working with atomic blast victims; some of these physicians suffered themselves from the effects of radiation. They told him about their process of growing from despair to hope. They decided to get the operation for their son. Hikari survived, he was epileptic, developmentally delayed, visually impaired, with limited physical coordination.

At the age of six, Oe Hikari spoke his first word, identifying the call of a bird. At 32, he still speaks only a few words, and still is severely disabled. Hikari, however, has learned to express himself through music. In 1992, the first CD of music composed by Hikari Oe won Japan's top prize for Classical Japanese music. His music touches the hearts of his audience who appreciate the way he communicates his feelings.



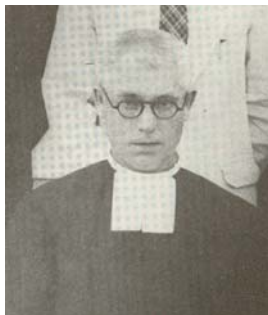
Sleeve notes from Oe Hikari 's CD **Music of Hikari Oe** by Oe Kenzaburo

It was after several performances of his music by gifted friends that we began to understand exactly what musical composition meant to Hikari. Had he not composed, he would surely never have been able at any time in his life to convey the rich, profound, crystalline and radiant message contained in this music. For our part, had Hikari not composed, we would have never realized, nor would we have been able even to imagine, that he possessed this sensibility. The scope of what we might have gained from this world and understood of it would have been significantly narrowed. I feel we would have missed gaining an insight into some of the most important and humble aspects of the meaning of human life.

In Remembrance

We pray for the repose of the souls of our departed Brothers.

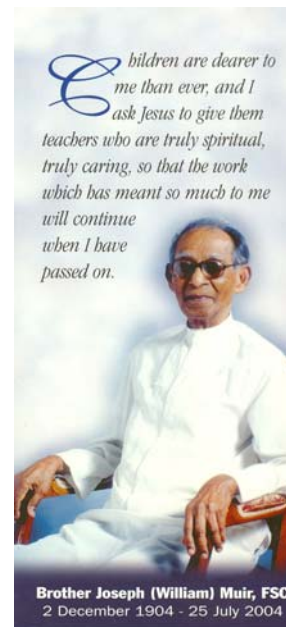
Our Brothers	Service in HK	Date of Death	Place of Burial
Austin de Lemos	1977-1995	14-12-1995	Hong Kong
Casimir L'Angellier	1969-1975	18-12-1975	Hong Kong
Claude Deruaz	1928-1941	12-12-1941	Hong Kong
Hugh Lynch	1928-	27-12-1928	Ireland
Joseph Wilkinson	1935-1937	Dec 1941 (killed in the war)	Hong Kong
Louis Blanchet	1938-	08-12-1969	France
Peter Damian Whealan	1941	23-12-1941 (killed in the war)	Hong Kong
Stephen Buckley	1936-1937	13-12-1941	Ireland
William Muir	1931-1940	02-12-2004	Singapore



Brother Stephen Buckley



Brother Casimir L'Angellier



Brother William Muir



Brother Austin de Lemos



Brother Peter Damian
Whealan

Blessed Are They
That Die in the Lord