



The Gateway

Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin

February 2010

Twenty First Issue

Welcome

The tiger reigns supreme. We have just bade farewell to the solid, dependable ox and are running with the awesome power and might of the tiger.



Hong Kong goes relatively quiet for a while during Chinese New Year. Letting off firecrackers is not allowed, apart from the official government sponsored extravaganza on the third day of the New Year. The workers, especially those in the construction industry, get a well deserved break. Schools are out and crowds head for mainland China or elsewhere. I'm sure this relative peace and quiet is appreciated by many.

The featured Brother of the Month had the habit of collecting used stamps, selling them and using the proceeds for charity. With the season of Lent upon us we might think of taking a leaf out of his book in showing practical concern for our neighbour.

The visit of Old Boy Patrick Fallon brought back interesting memories of the past. His life spanned East and West, Pre-war and Post-war and school life in the 30s.

Oriental Flavour gives a taste of the role of the tiger in Chinese traditional medicine. In the eyes of the Chinese, every part of this mighty animal has its medicinal value.



We have just celebrated Valentine's Day. It so happens that this year Valentine's Day coincides with the first day of the Lunar New Year.

We wish all our readers a Happy Year of the Tiger.

Brother of the Month **Brother Anthony Cheung 1922-1999**

Brother Anthony is sometimes referred to as a Hong Kong product, not in the commercial sense but because he was born and bred there and all his life he was conscious of his roots.



His ancestral roots, however, was the village of Hing Ling in the northeastern part of the Kwangtung province of China. His Catholic grandfather sent Anthony's father, Benedict, to study in Hong Kong at St Joseph's College. Benedict later joined the staff of St Joseph's, and married in Hong Kong. Cantonese became the spoken language of the family. Brother Anthony was born on the 10th May 1922, the first of a family of six: three boys and three girls.



Mr Benedict Cheung

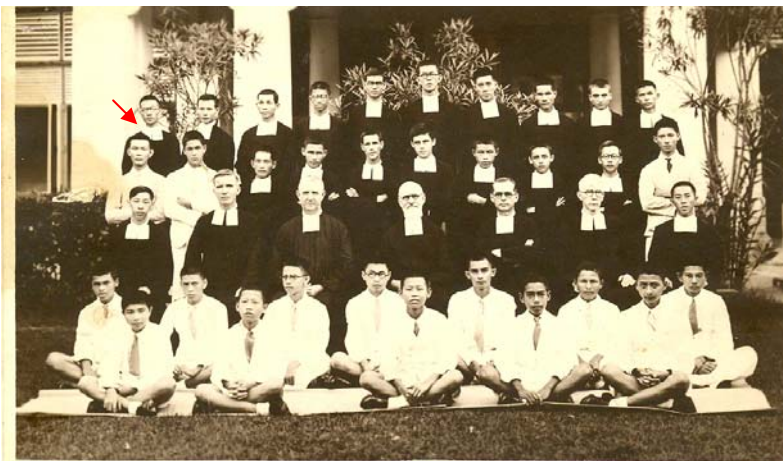
Since the family lived in Holy Infant Lane in Wanchai, Anthony attended the local primary school of the same name which was run by the Canossian sisters. His father, a devout Catholic, had the habit of attending daily Mass and communion and from early years would wake Anthony at 5.30am to accompany him to church. It was a habit he was to keep for a lifetime.

At the age of eleven he transferred to St Joseph's College where he was admitted to Class 8, Primary 5. After three months he was promoted to class 7, Primary 6, where he came under the tutelage of Mr Francis Boey Kah Sing who took no nonsense. Brother Cronan Curran was his teacher when he entered Form 1. The Director was Brother Matthias and at the end of Form 1 Anthony had made such progress that he was given a double promotion to Form 3 where he had Brother Brendan Dunne as form teacher.

All was going predictably until one day Brother Hubert Pilz went from class to class inviting those interested in the religious life to a meeting the following day. Anthony went home and talked it over with his father who gave him every encouragement. He turned up at the meeting with a number of other boys including Henry Pang. Henry and the Pang family were close friends. Anthony had in fact been thinking of becoming a Brother when he was in Form 1.

At the end of the meeting Brother Hubert invited those interested to see him later. Anthony went home and discussed matters at length with his father. His father went to consult Henry Pang's father and together they agreed to send their sons to the Brothers' training centre, called the Juniorate, recently set up in La Salle College, Kowloon. So began their life-long faith and friendship journey as Lasallians in September 1935.

Numbers rose and in August 1936 Anthony was ready for further training in the Juniorate in Penang and Henry Pang in the following year. Anthony was fourteen when he arrived in Penang and joined a cosmopolitan group of aspirants. Besides preparing to become Brothers, they were being prepared for the matriculation examination. Anthony fitted in well from the start and profited from the facilities and opportunities available to him. For example he took up music, largely on his own, and spent spare time learning how to play the organ. Brother Michael Jacques remembers those times:



“I have known Brother Anthony since 1936 when first he arrived on our shores, fresh and enthusiastic and determined to embark on the first steps towards becoming a De La Salle Brother. From the start, little Anthony impressed me as a boy of exceptional talent”.

On the 1st July 1938 he received the habit of the Brothers and began his Novitiate, a year of spiritual formation.

The Sino-Japanese war had begun in 1937 and by late 1938 Guangzhou had fallen to the Japanese. Anthony's family in Hong Kong were affected especially since links with their ancestral village were broken. The Novitiate year, however, went off smoothly for Anthony, followed by further studies in the scholasticate next door. He did well in his studies and had a taste of teaching in the nearby St Xavier's Branch School. All seemed set fair for his vocation as a Brother and teacher.

The war clouds burst on the 8th December with the Japanese invasion. Brother Anthony himself writes: “We were celebrating the feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in the chapel when we were informed that war had started.

After Mass we could see the Japanese planes flying overhead on their way to bomb the town. We camouflaged the wide drain running between our property and the seminary next door, and it was here we took refuge from the bombing and machine gunning, often remaining there for several hours. It was here in this drain that I got hooked on chess, playing game after game with another Brother.”

A limited amount of teaching was permitted, but in Japanese. Brother Anthony qualified. Otherwise, for the best part of four years, it was hand to mouth existence and virtual house arrest. The planting and harvesting of vegetable crops became a priority as well as fishing. Food was generally scarce and luxuries unknown until after the war. And that war lasted for the best part of four long years.

When peace finally came the Brothers reopened the schools with minimum delay and Brother Anthony was posted to St Xavier’s Institution, Penang. The school had been bombed by both the Japanese and the Americans so makeshift sheds had been constructed around the playing field. It was here that classes were conducted. It was in these less than comfortable circumstances that Brother Anthony honed his teaching skills and exercised his passion for music. He joined the school orchestra, playing in both the woodwind and strings sections. His ambition seemed to be to play all instruments! In his spare time he taught Catechism in the parish and saw to the material purchases for the Brothers.

In 1948 he received the sad news that his father, aged 63, had passed away in Hong Kong. In those days it was not customary for the Brothers to go home. He was allowed home the following year after making his final profession. He had left home at the age of fourteen and was now returning at the age of twenty five. After his home

leave he returned to his teaching and other duties in St Xavier’s.



St George's Institution, Taiping

St George’s Institution in Taiping was the next school to benefit from Brother Anthony’s dynamic style. He was transferred in 1954 and was to spend six happy and eventful years there. Although the pace of life was not as hectic as in Penang, he found scope for his energies in school events like

concerts, sports days and the annual funfair. Above all, he set his sights on forming a school orchestra, starting with a violin class. Before long he was conducting an orchestra composed of students, Brothers, teachers and old boys. He spent many hours coaching the orchestra, his pride and joy.



In 1954 he was appointed Sub-Director which added to his many responsibilities. Besides running the orchestra, he was in charge of the school bookshop, weekly cinema shows and duplicating material for class use. When people needed something Brother Anthony would be called upon and he was always obliging.

The happy years in Taiping came to an end in October 1960 when he was transferred to his 'home city', Hong Kong. Part of the reason was a plan to set up a Juniorate for boys who showed an interest in the Brother's vocation. He was posted to La Salle College, Kowloon, under the directorship of Brother Felix Sheehan. His long-time friend, Brother Henry Pang, was Headmaster in the Primary School. Anthony was first assigned to teach in Form 1 and later in Form 3. He had developed the habit of telling jokes and performing magic tricks at the start of every class and if the class was especially attentive there might be bonus magic at the end as well.

In La Salle his days were as full as usual. He was given 30 teaching periods a week, was in charge of the bookshop, coached the boys in both primary and secondary in the violin and other instruments. In addition he was asked to pay special attention to the children of the families of the school domestic staff. He would pray the rosary with them and then give a cinema show. During the long summer holidays he took these children for boating and swimming outings.



At weekends he would visit his mother, but in 1960 she fell critically ill. Evening after evening Anthony would leave the school at 4pm and take a bus and ferry to Hong

Kong island to St Paul's Hospital to visit her. He would stay there for several hours, returning at 11pm. Then a short sleep to be up at 5am to join the community at morning prayer and Mass. Such a hectic pace could not last. He himself recalls:

“One morning I fell down in the bathroom. Luckily Brother Eugene was up early and found me on the floor. He picked me up and put me in bed. I felt very sick and had to be taken to the nearby hospital. It was there that they found I had an ulcer attack and I had lost a lot of blood.

It was during this time that my younger sister, Agnes Seck, came from Singapore to visit mother. She was in time to see mother before she died. The whole family came to see me after the burial. Brother Henry, who walked with my brother Dominic, was mistaken by many for me. He became our brother after that”.

That was in January 1961. His mother was sixty-six. Anthony made a good recovery and resumed his busy routine. Although he tried hard to interest young men in the religious life and had established a Juniorate programme, the results were meagre. Nevertheless his experience in this area was soon to be utilised in Malaysia.



He bade farewell to his beloved Hong Kong in October 1966 and was shortly appointed Director of the Juniorate in Ipoh which at the time had an enrolment of forty one. Every Saturday he would take them to follow the Novena prayers. Although not a sportsman, he would join them in games. To

nobody's surprise he managed to form a small band and orchestrated a few musical shows.

It was at this time, 1966, that he also took over as Editor of the very popular magazine called the “Crusader”, later called the “Young Lasallian”, which made its way into classrooms in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. The magazine was full of interesting stories, jokes, advice and useful hints, magic tricks, quizzes, cartoons, news from around the Lasallian schools and a pen pals corner. He featured many articles on



astronomy, one of his passions. These magazines opened up a vast network of friends all over the world and his pen pals pages became popular with many a teenager. The last issue of the “Young Lasallian” was that of April 1988.

Meanwhile, Brother Anthony’s term as head of the Juniorate came to an end in 1971 when he was posted as Director to La Salle University Hall, Petaling Jaya where there were both Brothers and lay students in residence. He became the District recruiter, public relations officer, editor of the District Newsletter and later, in 1979, District Bursar. He took this variety of responsible positions in his stride, doing everything with speed and efficiency according to his catchword: Fast or not? As always he became fully involved with the local church.

As he mellowed with age he looked forward more and more to his regular home visit to Hong Kong where he enjoyed the company of his family and of the Brothers, as



With old friends, Brothers Henry, Bernard and Mark

well as to the Cantonese cuisine. He had been gradually slowing down, partly because of the onset of Parkinsons illness and a history of diabetes. He spent time playing mahjong and chess on the computer. In December 1998 he paid a final visit to Hong Kong. Since he could not move about freely, he stayed most of the time with the Brothers.

In April 1999 his foot developed a stubborn infection. The condition was exacerbated by his diabetic history and one of his small toes had to be amputated. Despite some pain, he remained a good patient, until the Lord called him on Tuesday 25th May 1999. The funeral Mass at St Francis Xavier’s Church was celebrated by the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur and there was a large attendance. In the eulogy, an old friend, Brother Michael Jacques had this to say:

“Dear Brother Anthony, we are gathered here to bid you a fond but temporary goodbye, till we shall meet again and be with the Lord. You have done us proud by making use of your God-given talents to the full in the service of the Lord in his Church and in our Order, to which you dedicated your whole life so generously. We can thank you best by trying to emulate your good example”.

Brother Anthony himself can have the last word:

“I enjoy being a De La Salle Brother during all these many years. I’m happy in my vocation and in my various assignments. My days are filled with meaningful and



challenging activities and really I have not yet encountered a dull day. Someone once told me that if I were not a Brother, I might have become a good banker! But I do think I am that and more! I used to enjoy teaching Mathematics and Scripture in school, and teaching music and conducting

orchestras outside school hours. Then I enjoyed my work in the training of future Brothers and now, for the last fourteen years, I think I am doing much good editing the magazine, the Crusader. Thanks be to God!"

Brother Anthony' Postings:

Juniorate, Penang, Malaysia	1936-1938
Novitiate, Penang, Malaysia	1938-1939
Studies, Penang, Malaysia	1939-1941
World War II	1941-1945
St. Xavier's Penang, Malaysia	1945-1953
St. George's Institution, Taiping, Malaysia	1954-1960
La Salle College, Kowloon, Hong Kong	1960 -1966
Director, La Salle Training Centre, Ipoh, Malaysia	1967-1971
Director, La Salle University Hall, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia	1971-1981
District Secretary, Public Relations Officer, District Bursar	Since 1971

Family Updates

St Joseph's Primary School Management Committee 27th January

What we call School Management Committees are sometimes called Boards of Governors in other countries. Here are some of the 'Governors' of St. Joseph's Primary School with Joyce Leung, YC Yung and Millie Tam at the back and Brothers Patrick Tierney and Alphonsus Breen in front. St Joseph's is in the process of moving from a bi-sessional to a whole day school.



Ls Salle Primary School Talent Showcase, January 2010

For three days, La Salle Primary pulled out all the stops in showcasing their students' talents in musical dramas, solo instrumentals, dance, gymnastics and public speaking. The performers ranged from primary one to six and showcased to packed houses. The enthusiastic audience reception made all the effort worthwhile. Although an all boys school, the 'girls' looked beautiful!



APLEC Plenary Meeting 30th January 2010

The Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress is largely composed of teachers who have already followed formation programmes either at home and/or overseas. The Plenary body meets at least three times a year to renew their commitment to the Lasallian Mission and to discuss and share matters of the day.



St. Joseph's College Open Day

The name of Charles Kao, Nobel Laureate, still causes ripples of excitement in Hong Kong and not least in his alma mater, St Joseph's College. On 7th of February Charles, together with his wife, graced the Open Day marking the 135th anniversary of the College.

He was greeted with warm applause when he stepped into the college auditorium, and he waved back with a big smile.

The Supervisor, Brother Thomas Favier, and Principal Mr. Leung, showed him around to his obvious delight and to that of the pupils.



La Salle College Family Fun Day

The 7th of February was a popular day for school functions. Though the rain poured down, it did not detract from the festive atmosphere and a good time was had by all. The school took the occasion to officially open the recently resurfaced track and field with Old Boy Wilfred Ng as Guest of Honour. A dragon and lion dance added much colour and excitement.



Christian Brothers' Schools Sports Association

This annual athletic meet was held on the 8th of February in Wanchai Stadium. Fortunately the rain held off until the last event or two. The Guest of Honour was John Kwan Kee, an Old Boy of St. Joseph's College, former teacher in Chong Gene Hang College and currently Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association (HKAAA).



Oriental Flavour

The Tiger in the eyes of the Chinese

The Tiger is a natural born leader and symbolizes power, strength and even beauty. We think of it as courageous, self-assured, rebellious, dynamic, fearless, unpredictable. This animal has been, in the last two thousand years, developed into a unique symbol in China. 'Tiger culture' can be found in areas of religion, politics, military, as well as people's social life.



Children born in the Year of the Tiger are believed to be intelligent, far-sighted and lucky. The positive character traits of a Tiger person are bravery, honesty, self-reliance and friendliness. They are natural leaders. Their negative traits include a tendency to depression when criticized, unpredictability, vanity and stubbornness.

During the Cultural Revolution in China (1966-1976), some foreign governments were referred to as 'paper tigers', all bark but no bite.

For centuries, the authoritative and powerful image of the tiger was well employed by emperors, warlords and people in high position. Most Chinese respect this perception of the Tiger and they would use every means to stay away from the tiger's ass (that is, the emperors, warlords, government officials ...).

Once away from the political world, however, Chinese people have successfully branded the 'Tiger' as less fearful, indeed as an approachable and caring figure which fits in very well into their daily lives. Villagers believe that the tiger can frighten away demons and diseases so they dress their children with 'tiger head' hats and tiger shoes.



While the tigers may like this new role and image, they may not be so happy to learn that, to the Chinese, they are much more valuable in another way, that is in traditional medicine.

For more than 1,000 years the use of tiger parts has been included in the traditional Chinese medicine regimen. Because of the tiger's strength and mythical power, Chinese culture has it that nearly all parts of the tiger can be used to derive some medicinal cure for any number of ailments. Tigers were hunted and killed to such an extent that they have become a critically endangered species. They are no longer "burning bright, in the forests of the night." Here are some examples of how tiger parts and their derivatives are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Tiger claws: used as a sedative for insomnia

Fat: used to treat leprosy and rheumatism

Eyeballs: used to treat epilepsy and malaria

Tail: used to treat skin diseases

Bile: used to treat convulsions in children associated with meningitis

Whiskers: used to treat toothaches

Brain: used to treat laziness and pimples

Penis: used to cure impotence

Dung: used to treat boils, hemorrhoids and cure alcoholism

Tiger bone: used as an anti-inflammatory drug to treat rheumatism and arthritis, general weakness, headaches, stiffness or paralysis in the lower back and legs and dysentery

Tiger bone wine, made from the carcass of a tiger soaked in rice wine, can still be bought in China, Hong Kong and South East Asia, though it is now illegal in China. Old Chinese still believe that by absorbing nutrients from the bones, the wine will pass on the poor cat's strength and vitality to the drinker. However, a recent study indicates that tiger bones do not contain anything special and that its elements are not any different from that of dog bones, lamb bones, pig bones and other mammal bones. The only difference is that they are from the 'Tiger'.

Most of the demand for tiger parts comes from China. Unless this attitude changes, the tigers' days are numbered. Perhaps the biggest threat to the survival of the tiger is the appetite of the Chinese!



Blast from the Past Visit of Patrick Fallon



Patrick holds the distinction of being in the first batch of students at the opening of La Salle College 1931/32. The family then transferred him to St. Joseph's College where he graduated in July 1939.

On the 24th January, Patrick, together with his son, paid a visit to his hometown and dropped in to La Salle. A few years ago he had agreed to write some recollections of his school days and life thereafter some of which we record here.

Patrick and his brother John were enrolled in La Salle a couple of days after its opening in December 1931. He says the College was then about 95% completed. Workmen were still working on the large sports-field and finishing some odds and ends. Brother Aimar was the Director, Brother Cassian his right hand man and Brother Paul the Prefect of Boarders. His father, a policeman, was transferred to Hong Kong island and the family moved there and the boys secured admission to St Joseph's College.



“When I left La Salle for St Joseph's I was in Class 8 (Primary 5) and my teacher was Mr Benedict Lim.

I joined St Joseph's in March 1933 and studied there until 1939. The Directors were Brothers Matthias, Stephen and John and I was taught by Brothers Paul, Xavier, Cronan, Martin and William as well as by Mr Vincent Chan, Mr Lim and Mr Percy Felix. Brother Cronan was gentle and kind to all the boys in his class. Mr Vincent Chan was always nicely dressed, a nice, kind person”.

It is worth recalling that both Mr Lim and Mr Percy Felix gave their lives at Wongneichong Gap in the defence of Hong Kong.

Football was the game of the day and Patrick was good enough to make the school team, playing at right wing. In his final year at St Joseph's (1939) he joined the Hong

Kong Volunteer Defence Corps which contributed so much and so gallantly to the defence of Hong Kong. Patrick puts a little of his role in perspective.

“During the fighting in Hong Kong I was at Wanchai Gap for the first four days, then I was transferred to Mount Davis. On Christmas Eve 1941, while walking towards Tai Hang Road, I was captured by the Japanese outside of the main entrance of the French Hospital Another dozen had already been captured before me. I spent a year in the prisoners of war camp in Shamshuipo and the rest of the war on a small island called Innoshima in the inland sea of Japan. This small island was only about 40 miles from the city of Hiroshima where the first atom bomb was dropped. The bomb was relatively small at 20,000 tons and the wind must have blown the fall-out away from our camp. Otherwise I would not be alive today to type all this”.

Life in Hong Kong in the 30's was of course a far cry from that of today. Patrick has an excellent memory for prices in those days.



- The monthly school fee was \$5
- Third Grade Government Clerk monthly salary was \$30
- Bus and Tram drivers monthly salary was \$28
- Bus and Tram conductors monthly salary was \$18
- The Tram fare upper deck was 6 cents
- The Tram fare lower deck was 3 cents.

Patrick, together with his family, left Hong Kong for London, in December 1961 and has lived there since. We wish him and his family the very best in the Year of the Tiger.



Class 5A,
St. Joseph's College,
1936

CLASS 5-A

From Left to Right.

Sitting: Vincent Tavares, Rennie Ribeiro, C. Foster, Chia Sau San, Rev. Bro. Paul (*Form Master*), Rev. Bro. Matthias (*Director*), Fung Ping Kan, Woon Kok Foon, Meno Rozario, Antonio Souza.

Middle Row: Edmund Gander, Chiu Chu Chi, John Lennenen, Kenneth Andrew, Woo Chiu Hui, Rennie Vas, A. Harteam, Toshio Shitasaki, Joseph Tong, Patrick Fallon, Philip Tavares, Chow Chun Kau, John Fallon, Tam Kam Shung, Wong Chak Wang, Reggie Andrew.

Back Row: Luk Fook Kui, Tam Kai Cheong, Wong Sui Sing, Chak Sui Ki, Wong Yuk Lam, William Koo, Zamora Noel, Kiu Long Xuynh, Francis Neves, Shing Kam Wah, Archie Gardner, Yu Sai Kit, Manuel Lee.