



The Gateway

Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin

September 2010

Twenty-fifth Issue

Welcome

The Gateway is back after a summer break. We hope all our readers, especially in the northern hemisphere, enjoyed their days in the sun.

“September remember” we say of typhoons in these parts but often enough one or two hit us in September so we may not be out of the woods yet.

It's back to school for another year. The Primary 1 kids look lovely as they try to size up the situation, eyes full of wonder, under the watchful and caring eyes of their teachers.



Our Brother of the Month is Fridolin Gaughran, a small man with a big heart. Some readers will surely have fond memories of 'Frid'.

Oriental Flavour brings a little known Chinese school of thought to our attention. We hope you will find the content enlightening and interesting.

We end Gateway 25 with an account of a visit of some of our Lasallian Education Council members to our Lasallian Centre in China. As you will see, Brother David Liao keeps the dream alive in that country, ever ancient ever new.



Brother of the Month

Brother Fridolin Gaughran (1915 - 1988)



Francis Gaughran was born on the 15th of November 1915 in Trim, on the plains of County Meath, Ireland. He was always to hold a special affection for the County of his birth, the ancient seat of the high kings of Ireland. He was one of a family of seven children. They were brought up to love and serve God according to Catholic teaching. He received his early education at the local Primary school. In 1930, he joined the Juniorate of the De La Salle Brothers in Castletown, County Laois. He entered the Novitiate the following year and took the Holy Habit and was given the name Brother Fridolin of Jesus. A further year of studies followed the Novitiate before he was selected to complete his studies at Inglewood in England. A companion at the time records that Brother Fridolin was quiet, steady and sincere, and not given to fanfare.

It was in the lovely surrounds of Inglewood that he felt called to volunteer to serve in the East. Before departure, he was allowed a short holiday home which he much appreciated. As the holiday was nearing its end, however, and Brother Fridolin was visiting relatives and friends, tragedy struck. He saw a crowd on the banks of the River Boyne and went over to



see what was happening. Alas, the body of his younger sister was being taken from the river. She had fallen in accidentally. Brother Fridolin attended the Requiem Mass and burial service and had to leave for the East the next day. He carried this tragic loss in his memory all through his life, mentioning it only very occasionally.

He sailed for the East towards the end of 1934 and was not yet 19 years old when he began his missionary career in the classroom starting in St Patrick's School, Singapore and then in turn St John's Institution, Kuala Lumpur, St Xavier's Institution, Penang and St Joseph's Institution, Singapore. From the start he was a fine teacher,

capable and conscientious. Though short in stature, he never faced discipline problems, even with the oldest or slowest students. Indeed, he was quite opposed to any form of corporal punishment. A former student wrote:

“He always wore a smile on his face and had a quick wit and a pleasant sense of humour. He never failed to give a word of encouragement to the needy, irrespective of race or creed.”

One aspect of his personality soon became evident, a passion for cleanliness, neatness and order. As one Brother put it, he was “the trim wee Brother from Trim”. Everything had to be in its proper place. His bedroom was spick and span. He carried this passion for neatness and order into the classroom.



Br Fridolin, back row, extreme right

It was during these early years, while serving at St Xavier’s, Penang, that Brother Fridolin took his first lessons in playing the violin. With practice he became quite proficient and playing a few tunes became a regular part of his afternoon routine. He joined the school orchestra and had weekly orchestral practice.

Performances were given on Prize-giving and Speech days and Concert nights at which he played with great finesse and enjoyment. He also loved a singsong and particularly appreciated some of the old Irish rebel songs. His own favourite was “A Nation Once Again”.

Brothers, young and not so young, are not exempt from occasionally joking or teasing. Brother Fridolin’s 5’2” stature was the butt of many jokes which he took with good grace. Questions like “Do I hear a voice?” or “Where is he?” would be aimed in his general direction. Or when playing games he might be advised to keep a “low profile”. Whatever he lacked in height he more than made up for in spirit and determination and would fight his corner to the last.

The sudden onset of the War brought an end to those happy and relatively carefree days. Brother Fridolin was in St Joseph’s, Singapore, at the time. He survived the initial deadly Japanese bombardments and, when things settled down somewhat, was allowed to teach in a government school but the learning and teaching had to be in Japanese. His main task was teaching Japanese songs to the accompaniment of his

violin. When the chance of escaping the watchful eyes of the Japanese came, Brother Fridolin, together with a large number of other Brothers, the Bishop and some Catholics, headed for the jungles of Malaya. The Japanese authorities had led them to believe that everything was in order for occupation and settlement. The reverse was the case.

In a place called Bahau, some miles from the town of Seremban, the settlers had to start their jungle occupation almost from scratch. Duties were assigned and Brother Fridolin was first assigned to kitchen work, washing and drying dishes. Later he was to take charge of livestock but only managed to purchase a few skinny goats from the local farmers. The worst scourge of jungle life was contracting the dreaded malaria disease. Brother Fridolin succumbed to a serious attack but fortunately recovered before the War ended in September 1945.

As soon as peace was declared the Brothers returned to Singapore and home leave was arranged in turn. Brother Fridolin's turn came towards the end of 1946 when he was told to take a holiday home followed by a degree course in University College Dublin. It had been 12 years since he last saw his family and there was



much rejoicing. His degree course finished in 1950 and in November he was setting sail once again for the East. He was posted to St Xavier's, Penang.



Just over three years later he was given a much tougher assignment. He was to be Director and Principal of a school called Sacred Heart in Sibul, Sarawak, East Malaysia. He had to start a new Community of Brothers, take over the running of both the primary and secondary school and find

means of paying the staff, a daunting task. He set to work assisted by Brothers Austin Moylan and Justin Phelan and later Brother Columba Gleeson. Conditions were pretty primitive, the school consisting of three wooden shacks and the Brother's house a

wooden hut. Yet when Brother Fridolin left Sibu ten years later, the old wooden shacks had given way to a sturdy two-storey concrete school, complete with large hall and modern science laboratories and the Brothers were housed in a fine new community building. The secret of this success was Brother Fridolin himself. The people grew to love him and his straightforward and gentle ways. They were happy to help him in every possible way. Brother Columba Gleeson, who lived with him at the time, says it well:

“He was a great religious, strict, almost scrupulous, in ways; a man of simple faith and deep commitment. But he was also deeply human, a man of great kindness and gentleness. I never remember him punishing a pupil physically; it wasn’t necessary and he would not have had the heart to do it”.

Sacred Heart school built up a reputation for strong academic performance, for good discipline and for extra- curricular achievement. As Brother Fridolin himself wrote: “The boys are good, hardworking, intelligent and generous. They are anxious to succeed”.

More pioneering work beckoned in January 1963 when he was sent as Director and Principal to set up a new Community and take over the running of St Mary’s School, Sandakan, Sabah. This time he was assisted by Brothers Frederick Lynch and Xavier Jones. The school was in poor condition and consisted of a two storey structure with eight classrooms. It was on the edge of a swamp and mosquitoes and rats abounded. When school opened in January there were several teachers short and there were no books for the students. It was a constant draining battle



THE 1st 3 DE LA SALLE BROTHERS IN SANDAKAN
Seated : BRO. FRIDOLIN GAUGHAN
Standing (L.R): BRO. FREDERICK LYNCH & BRO. XAVIER JONES

to find and keep qualified teachers on the meagre salaries available, as well as to raise money to improve the school. But once again Brother Fridolin attracted widespread public support and within a few years a transformation had taken place as Brother Xavier recalls:

“Brother Fridolin built a fine three storey block, comprising office, library, classrooms and two science laboratories. He also recruited teachers so that Sixth Form classes were started. He himself taught English, English Literature and Scripture in Forms 4 and 5, something that could be said of few Principals, then or now”.

Whatever the conditions, Brother Fridolin would remain upbeat and was averse to negative comments about people or about the school.



In 1967 he was transferred to La Salle School, Kota Kinabalu, the capital of the state of Sabah. He taught for a year in the secondary school before being appointed Headmaster of the primary school some distance away. He was much relieved to be saved from the burden of high office. It was in Kota Kinabalu that he graduated from the push bike to a motor cycle and it was a sight to behold the small

headmaster whizzing up to school at some speed. Brother Charles O’Leary sums up his memories of Brother Fridolin at the time:

“He was a born community man. He loved companionship, a joke, a song. He loved a party and would contribute his share. He was a true Lasallian. I doubt he ever missed a chapel exercise. He was a man of simple tastes and simple lifestyle”.

Completely new pastures called in August 1971 when Brother Fridolin was transferred to Hong Kong. He taught English and Bible first at La Salle College and then in the summer of 1973 was transferred to St Joseph’s College where he continued to teach



until retirement in 1976. Even in retirement he continued to do some teaching and could be seen, book in hand, heading for the classroom well in advance of the bell. He taught the English Readers ‘across the two’s’. In addition he was a much loved Spiritual Director of Our Lady of

the Star Praesidium of the Legion of Mary.

A strong interest was supporting the school sports teams. He would regularly go to the large sports-ground in Happy Valley to watch the football teams in action against other schools, a custom he observed throughout his life. He thought all games should open with a



'blitzkrieg', to pulverize the opponents from the start as it were, and was frustrated unless or until his team scored when he would dance with joy.

Another hobby was hiking and he was a familiar figure among the Kowloon hills and walkways of Hong Kong. He would usually head for the countryside every Saturday, always without headwear and often in the broiling sun. As a consequence his face became as red as a beetroot. A favourite walk was through the 14 villages in the New Territories. He would invariably end up in a shebeen and enjoy a cool beer and the company of the local people, the salt of the earth, as he would call them.

He did not neglect his old friend, the violin. Every so often, we would hear the strains of the violin from his room. In his younger days he had been among the first violinists in the school orchestra of St. Xavier's Penang. And for a while during the War, as we have seen, he used the violin to teach Japanese songs. We knew that the day he hung up his violin would be a personal milestone.

Brother Fridolin had enjoyed excellent health throughout his life, apart from a malaria attack in the jungle camp at Bahau towards the end of the War. Now however the years began to take their toll, a stroke affecting his mobility. He could only walk the corridors in St. Joseph's College and even that with difficulty. His decline in health resulted in hospitalization a number of times. He hated putting people out. In these circumstances he requested a transfer to Castletown, Ireland, where elderly Brothers are cared for. This was in 1986.



In the Holy Family community at Castletown he had the company of many Brothers including Meldan Treanor and Lawrence Kelly who had been out East. They were known as the three wise men. Fridolin liked the lovely countryside around Castletown but could not roam freely because of his stroke. He accepted his limitations realistically and never complained. He also appreciated any little kindness done for him. Some of the time was spent watching television, especially programmes on Irish dancing, music and folklore.

His Director at the time in Castletown was Brother Albert Tierney who had this to say about the end days:

“In his final illness he must have suffered a lot before he complained. When the pain did intensify he had to be rushed to Portlaoise Hospital and from there to Beaumont Hospital in Dublin. He lingered for a week but we felt the end was near. He had no illusions himself about impending death and endured his final sufferings with great Christian fortitude. He just asked us to keep praying for him, that all would come well in the end”.

Family members and Brothers came to visit him in hospital. The end came suddenly enough and Brother Fridolin died peacefully in Beaumont Hospital Dublin on 6th August, 1988. Brother Columba Gleeson delivered a touching homily at the Requiem Mass. Brother Fridolin was buried in the Brothers’ cemetery in Castletown in the presence of a large number of family friends and confreres, including many who had worked with him on the missions.

To all who knew him he was a blessing, a gift from God. We can leave the last word to Brother Albert: “Brother Fridolin was a beautiful person. I felt he had a ‘presence’ of some kind. When he left us so did the ‘presence’, and no one else can fill it”.

Brother Fridolin’s Postings:

St. Patrick’s School, Singapore	1934-35
St. John’s School, KL, Malaysia	1936-37
St. Xavier’s Institution, Penang	1938-39
St. Joseph’s Institution, Singapore	1939-43
Jungle Camp in Bahau, Malaysia	1943-45
Home Leave and Degree	1946-50
St. Xavier’s Institution, Penang,	1951-54
Sacred Heart School, Sibul, Sarawak	1954-63
St. Mary’s School, Sandakan, Sabah	1963-67
La Salle School, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	1967-71
La Salle College, Kowloon, Hong Kong	1971-73
St. Joseph’s College, Hong Kong	1973-86
De La Salle Monastery, Castletown Ireland	1986-88

MY LORD AND MY GOD.



In Loving Memory of
Brother Fridolin Gaughran

De La Salle Monastery,
Castletown, Co. Laois.

who died on

5th AUGUST 1988

Aged 73 years

Rest in Peace.

— † —

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy
peace; where there is hatred, let
me sow love; where there is injury,
pardon, where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope, where
there is darkness, light; and where
there is sadness, joy.

Family Updates

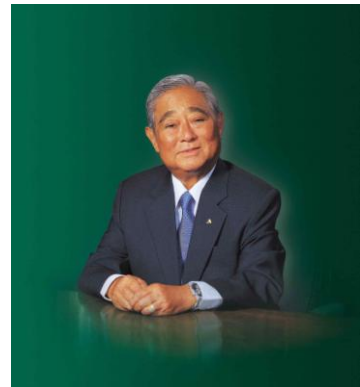
Archie Chan Tai Wing and William Mong Man Wai RIP

The Hong Kong Lasallian Family bade farewell to two of its sons during the Summer.



Archie Chan was a former student and teacher of science in St Joseph's College. He went on to become the regional director of Caltex and also Director of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police. He was married to Anson Chan, former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong. Their son, Andrew, also attended St Joseph's. Archie passed away on the 31st May, 2010.

William Mong was a former student of La Salle College and one of its major benefactors. He was the founder of Shun Hing Group which is the distributor for Panasonic goods. William was a philanthropist and helped numerous worthy causes. His sons also attended La Salle and his grandson is in the Primary school. William passed away on the 21st July, 2010.



May Archie and William rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

Birthday Boys

Brothers Alphonsus Chee and Jeffrey Chan have celebrated their birthdays, Jeffrey in July and Alphonsus in August. Between them, they have notched up 125 years. We wish them many happy returns of the day.



Brothers Alphonsus, Jeffrey, Joseph and Dymrna, our cook



The Brothers Four: Steve, Patrick, Alphonsus and Lawrence

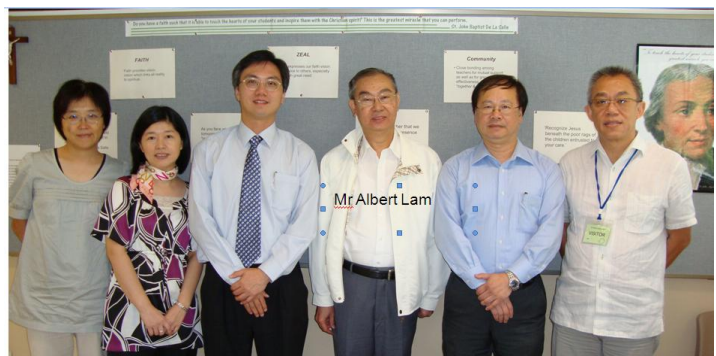
Public Exam Success

The Hong Kong School Certificate Examination (HKCEE) was held for the last time this year as Hong Kong is in the process of introducing a new public exam system. The highest possible attainment in the HKCEE is 10 A's and this year sixteen students achieved that feat. Congratulations to St Joseph's College who had four boys in this category and to La Salle College who had two.



40th Anniversary of Chong Gene Hang College

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Chong Gene Hang College, Chaiwan. The school is currently preparing for celebration and is also researching its origins. Mr. Paul Woo, President of St. Joseph's College Old Boys Association, arranged a meeting with fellow Josephian, Mr. Albert Lam, who, at the time, was the Government liaison official responsible for this matter. At the meeting, Mr. Lam was able to brief the Principal of Chong Gene Hang College, Mr. Lee Siu Wah, and his senior staff, on the role played by Mr. Chong as well as his relationship with both the Government and the Brothers. The photo on the left shows Mr. Lam at the Signing Ceremony in 1970 and the one on the right at the recent meeting. Mr. Albert Lam is one of the original links with the establishment of the School.



La Salle Winds Concert

La Salle Primary School Symphonic Band and La Salle College Wind Orchestra are to be congratulated on bringing their talents into the public domain for the first time. This is a sign of their growing maturity and of the confidence of their conductor,



Mr. Kelvin Ngai. Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium was the setting for the concert which took place on the 5th August 2010. The concert patrons were not disappointed as the budding musicians played up a storm.

Lasalian East Asia District (LEAD)

As part of the restructuring process, we are about to form a new Lasallian District in this part of the world. The new District will be called the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD) and will comprise our Lasallian Family in Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Japan and Thailand. Many meetings have been held to prepare for this new birth, most recently in La Salle High School, Kagoshima, Japan. The new District will be inaugurated on the 15th of May 2011 in the original St. Joseph's Institution building in Singapore where the Brothers first established a school in Asia in 1852.



The Seven Samurai!

Oriental Flavour

Ancient Chinese Philosophy: Mohism

“Thus we are certain that Heaven desires to have men love and benefit one another and abominates to have them hate and harm one another.”

是以知天欲人相愛相利，而不欲人相惡相賊也

(Mozi, 470BC-391BC, founder of Mohism)



The classic period of Chinese philosophy happens to coincide with the first emergence of the great Greek philosophers ([Socrates 469-399 BC](#) and [Plato 428-348 BC](#)). During the Spring and Autumn Period (from 770 BC to 480 BC) and the Warring States Period (from 479 BC to 221 BC), hundreds of schools of philosophy evolved. Their creative and ambitious founders and followers travelled relentlessly among the feudal states promoting and defending their beliefs. This period is considered the golden age of Chinese philosophy. Of the many schools founded at this time, the four most influential ones were Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism and Mohism.

Legalism has gradually deviated from philosophy and become a political tool. The Han dynasty adopted Confucianism as the official state philosophy, as did most other successive Chinese dynasties. Taoism developed into a kind of religion with teachings quite controversial to its original thought and Mohism, though winning a considerable following at the beginning, died out after the 2nd century BC.

Mohism was founded by Mozi, who once was a follower of Confucius. Mozi evolved a doctrine of universal love that gave rise to a religious movement called Mohism. He condemned offensive war and urged people to lead a simple life. His teachings, found in *The Mo Tzu*, emphasize universal love, that people should love all others unselfishly, as they love their own families and countries. He also advocated moderation in social affairs, including funeral rites and music. But what made Mohism unpopular among rulers at the time is that Mozi did not accept the tradition that emperors derive their mandate from heaven; instead the position of the emperor should be based solely on merit. While the emperor should be obeyed, people have the right to criticise the emperor if his actions are not in accord with the will of heaven. Mozi and his followers lived in communities and lived out the principles of their philosophy. They led simple lives, served the poor and asked for no rewards.

Under the suppression of feudal rulers as well as the attack of prominent Confucians, the movement went into decline, all but disappearing by the time of the unification of China in 221 BCE. Little interest was paid to Mohism until the arrival of Christianity in China, when scholars explored the similarities between Mohist and Christian teaching on universal love. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen used the concept of "universal love" as one of the foundations for his idea of Chinese democracy. Later, during the communist period Mohism received some official sympathy because of its opposition to aristocratic privilege.

The teaching of Mohism reflects, in some ways, our Lasallian spirit of 'Zeal', the spirit of 'Service' to others. Their living in community, their teaching about older brothers taking care of younger brothers and how all classes of society should respect one another also strike a chord.

Here is an extract from Mozi's book about 'Universal Love':

“Mozi said: It is to regard the state of others as one's own, the houses of others as one's own, the persons of others as one's self. When feudal lords love one another there will be no more war; when heads of houses love one another there will be no more mutual usurpation; when individuals love one another there will be no more mutual injury. When ruler and ruled love each other they will be gracious and loyal; when father and son love each other they will be affectionate and filial; when older and younger brothers love each other

易之子墨子言曰以兼相愛交相利之法易
之然則兼相愛交相利之法將奈何哉子墨
子言視人之國若視其國視人之家若視其
家視人之身若視其身是故諸侯相愛則不
野戰家主相愛則不相篡人與人相愛則不
相賊貴不教賤詐不欺愚凡天下禍篡怨恨
可使毋起者以仁者譽之然而今天下之士
君臣相愛則惠忠父子相愛則慈孝兄弟相
愛則和調天下之人皆相愛強不執弱衆不
劫寡富不侮貧子墨子曰然乃若兼則善矣

<http://chinese.dsturgeon.net>

Chinese Text Project

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they will be harmonious. When all the people in the world love one another, then the strong will not overpower the weak, the many will not oppress the few, the wealthy will not mock the poor, the honoured will not disdain the humble, and the cunning will not deceive the simple. And it is all due to mutual love that calamities, strife, complaints, and hatred are prevented from arising. Therefore the benevolent exalt it.”

Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Visit to La Salle Centre. Changjiao, China

Four Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council (LEC) members, Measure Hung, Victor Ling, Michael Tse and Nicholas Ng visited La Salle Study Centre in Changjiao, Dabu, Meizhou, China, in early August during the first half of the Centre's Summer English Programme. The Centre is run by Brother David Liao.



This year's Programme attracted almost 300 students, from Secondary 1 to University level. It is a 4 week intensive English programme divided into four levels. A lot of the senior level students are doing the programme for the third or fourth year and they all show greater confidence in learning and using the language.



The first class, for Level 1, starts at 7 am with Brother David doing the teaching. The class then breaks into small groups of 5 or 6 students with a senior volunteer leading and drilling the students in practising what they have learned. The whole process repeats itself for each level until about 11.30 am when the Centre breaks for lunch. Students of the lower levels return home for the day. The senior level

students return to do more study in the afternoon. Indeed as they have to help in the tutoring of the younger students as volunteers, they are provided with board and lodging (rather basic) in the Centre if they do not live in the village. There are occasional evening activities (games and drama), in English, in the Centre to build up an English learning environment for the students. Apart from the senior students, there are also external volunteers from Brother David's Lasallian connections. This year there are 3 teachers and five Form-6 students from Hong Kong helping out with the programme.



It was quite an eye-opener to see the LSSC in operation. The students come from villages and cities in the vicinity. They do not need to pay any fee (so Brother David is not beholden to the parents if the children misbehave or do not study hard and have to be expelled). The students on the whole are serious about learning. Brother David does most of the teaching with occasional support from

volunteer teachers. Seeing him in action reminds us of the La Salle Brothers who taught us before - typical Lasallian commitment and dedication to the interests of their students. The senior students are eager and confident to share their knowledge of English with the junior students. As for the volunteers from Hong Kong, the experience of living in a village environment devoid of modern urban amenities and with children of a totally different background is a rewarding experience. We witnessed some tearful farewells between the Hong Kong volunteers and the local students. The whole programme is infused with the Lasallian spirit of faith (not in the religious sense, but in the belief of what one is doing), service and community.



**St. John Baptist de La Salle, Pray for us.
Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever.**