

The

March 2014

# gateway



issue

5★1

ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE 1651 1719



(Cover) This statue of St. John Baptist de La Salle stands in the foyer of St. Joseph's College. Everyday it sees the boys coming to school through **The Gateway** of SJC.

# The gateway

First published in 2008

**Published by**

The Lasallian Family Hong Kong

**Solely distributed by**

The Hong Kong Lasallian Resource Centre  
La Salle College, 18 La Salle Road  
Kowloon, Hong Kong

**Concept by**

Brother Patrick Tierney  
Mr. Paul K. K. Tam

issue

51

# Welcome

Now that we have celebrated our Golden Jubilee we are back to bread and butter with The Gateway 51. We continue with our overview of Hong Kong Lasallian history in 'Our Pathways'. We concentrate on the early days when the Lasallian mission took root.

And there is more history as we continue Brother James Dooley's account of experiences during World War II. There is a fair amount of text in all this which I hope will please at least some readers. Hopefully, the photos will provide balance.

If somebody notices any mistakes we would be delighted to have them pointed out to us for correction.

We are in the middle of the academic year and it is almost impossible to keep up with the sheer number of school activities. We have selected some and had to omit many. All these activities indicate that our schools are alive with the vitality of youth.

Here in Hong Kong, we have already celebrated the Chinese New Year. We are now into the Year of the Horse. Whether you are racing, galloping, trotting, jumping or simply resting, we wish all our readers a very happy Year of the Horse. ■

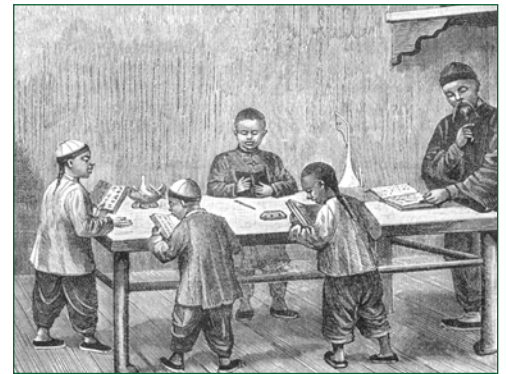
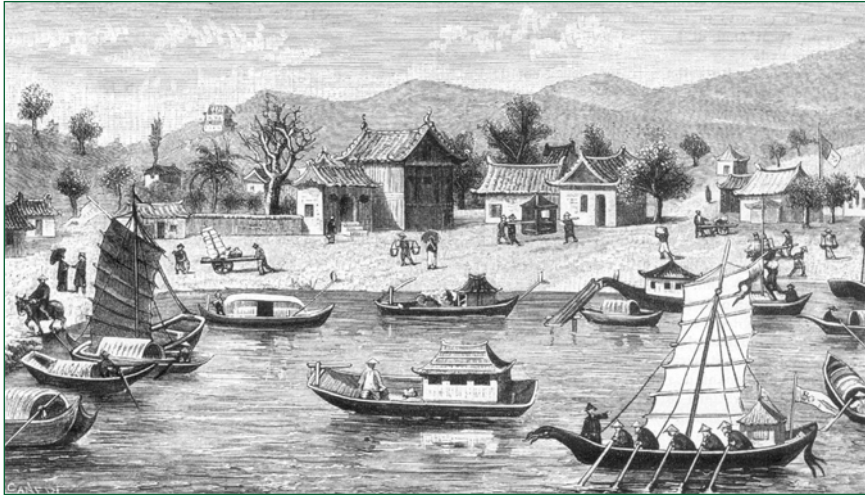


**The Gateway  
Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin  
March 2014  
Fifty First Issue**

# Our Pathways

## Hong Kong Calling

### The First Foothold



When China ceded Hong Kong to the British in 1841, there were only private village classes run in accordance with Confucian beliefs, without any help from the government. In these village schools, nearly always for boys only, the teachers were paid by the villagers. In the 1850s, however, many schools were established by Christian missionaries promoting their own brands of religious belief. These schools provided a relatively formal education for the expatriate children, mainly of European, Portuguese and Spanish descent. They did, however, enrol some local Chinese children. Without much help from the Colonial government, the development of these missionary schools was very slow.

#### The Catalyst - Bishop Raimondi



Bishop Raimondi

In 1858, a young priest from Milan came on the scene. Father Timoleone Raimondi, later to become Bishop in 1874, was deeply concerned about the quality of education for his mission schools. He had, in fact,

in 1864, established a commercial school for boys which he named St. Saviour's College. This school was located at the junction of Pottinger Street and Wellington Street, Central. The students by and large were of Portuguese descent. At the time, there were only 50 European students with a few boarders mostly from the Philippines.

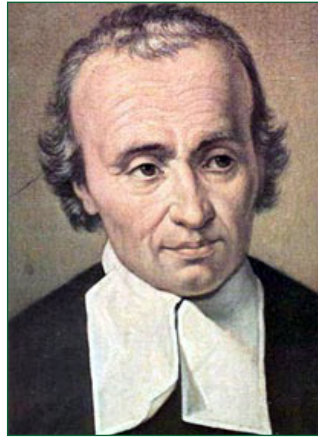
Father Raimondi also opened a Reformatory/Orphanage at West Point (on the site of the present St. Louis School) for Chinese boys. Although these two schools were running reasonably well, Father Raimondi was not content. He realized that his mission schools would never accomplish much unless he could guarantee a devoted and capable staff that would give his schools stability.

He wanted to entrust his schools to a well-established missionary order dedicated to education. And so it was, that this man of ardent zeal and boundless energy determined to obtain the services of the Christian Brothers to look after the education of Catholic boys in Hong Kong.

All in all he made at least three major attempts to achieve his goal.

**First attempt: 1858**

He sent a petition to the Superior General of the Brothers through Cardinal Barnabo and the Archbishop of Dublin. The request for Brothers for Hong Kong could not be complied with but the goal would not be abandoned.



Brother Philippe  
Superior General, 1838-1874

**Second attempt: 1861**

Father Raimondi, on business in Europe, took the opportunity of visiting a well-known Lasallian school in order to put forward the case for Brothers in Hong Kong. He was armed with the best possible references but his efforts again proved abortive. The Brothers had simply too many commitments already in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia.

**Third attempt: 1873**

An application had been sent by Father Raimondi to the Superior General of the Brothers (in Rome) and now he went himself only to be told yet again that the calls for Brothers were too great from all parts of the world. In the Father's own words, "we had almost lost hope were it not that his Holiness the Pope came to our help."

The Pope spoke personally to the Superior General, Brother Philippe, asking him as a special favour to send Brothers to Hong Kong. Brother Philippe promised to do his utmost to send a few Brothers to Hong Kong. On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1874, Brother Patrick, Assistant Superior General of the Institute, assured Father Raimondi that Brothers would be sent to Hong Kong as soon as possible.

Father Raimondi had finally secured the services of a religious congregation for his schools in Hong Kong and thus began the Hong Kong Lasallian Story.

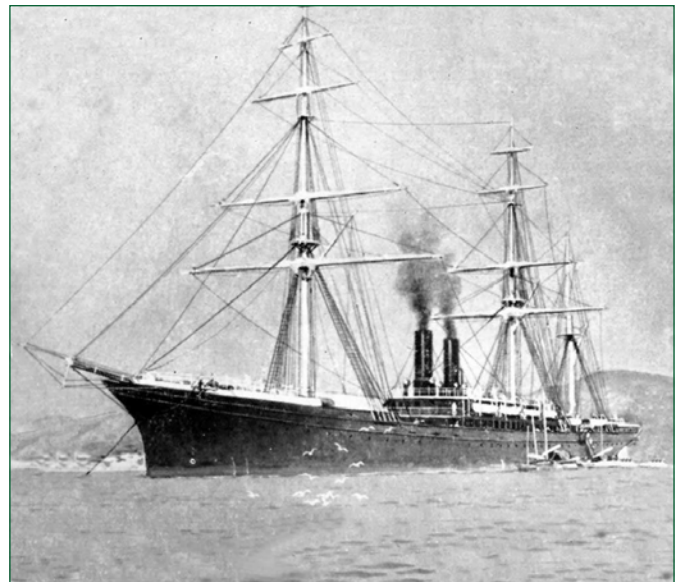
**Arrival in Hong Kong**

In January 1875, Bishop Raimondi went to Europe to make all arrangements with the new Brother Superior

General, Brother Irlide. It took about another ten more months for the first Brothers to arrive in Hong Kong.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1875, six Brothers — four French and two Irish, sailed from Marseilles on board the mail steamer 'Hoogly' of the *Messageries Maritimes*.

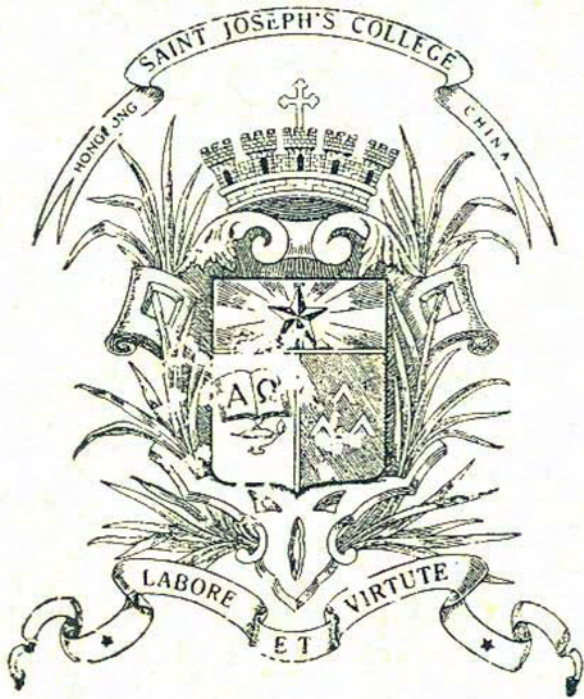
After a tedious voyage of 42 days, on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, the 'Hoogly' safely sailed into Victoria Harbour, bringing the six pioneers who formed the first community of the Christian Brothers in Hong Kong. To their joy they found two fellow Brothers among the people who greeted them: Brother Lothaire Marie, Visitor of the District and Brother Benilde Henri from Vietnam. Brother Benilde Henri later joined the first Hong Kong community, taking charge of the West Point Reformatory.



Hoogly

The members of the first Christian Brothers community were Brother Hidulphe Marie Nicolas, Director, Brother Hidulphe de Jesus Nicolas and Brother Herbertus Joseph Nicolas from the Brothers' Boarding school in Marseilles, Brother Adrian Edmund Canny and Brother Adolphus Doyle from the Novitiate of London, and Brother Isfrid from the Procure Générale of the Institute in Paris.

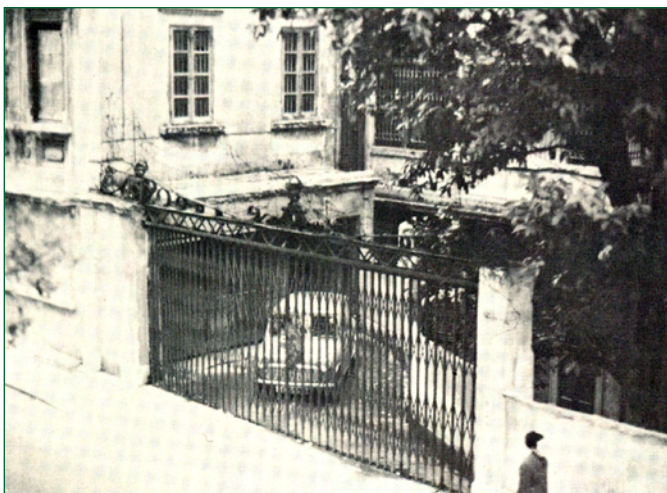
The Brothers found no time to relax because they were asked to take charge of the West Point Reformatory and the English section of St. Saviour's College on the very next day, the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1875.



## St. Joseph's College

On the day after their arrival, the Brothers were to take charge of the English classes of St. Saviour's College, while the Chinese boys remained in St. Saviour's premises. With Brother Hidulphe Marie Nicolas (1835-1886) as Director, three Brothers (Brothers Adrian Edmund, Adolphus and Hidulphe de Jesus) as teachers and 75 boys, the English section of St. Saviour's College was renamed St. Joseph's College, placing it under the protection of St. Joseph, Holy Patron of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Bishop Raimondi might have felt a little sad at the change of name but accepted it graciously.



Buxey Lodge

## The First Director Brother Hidulphe Marie Nicolas (1835-1886)

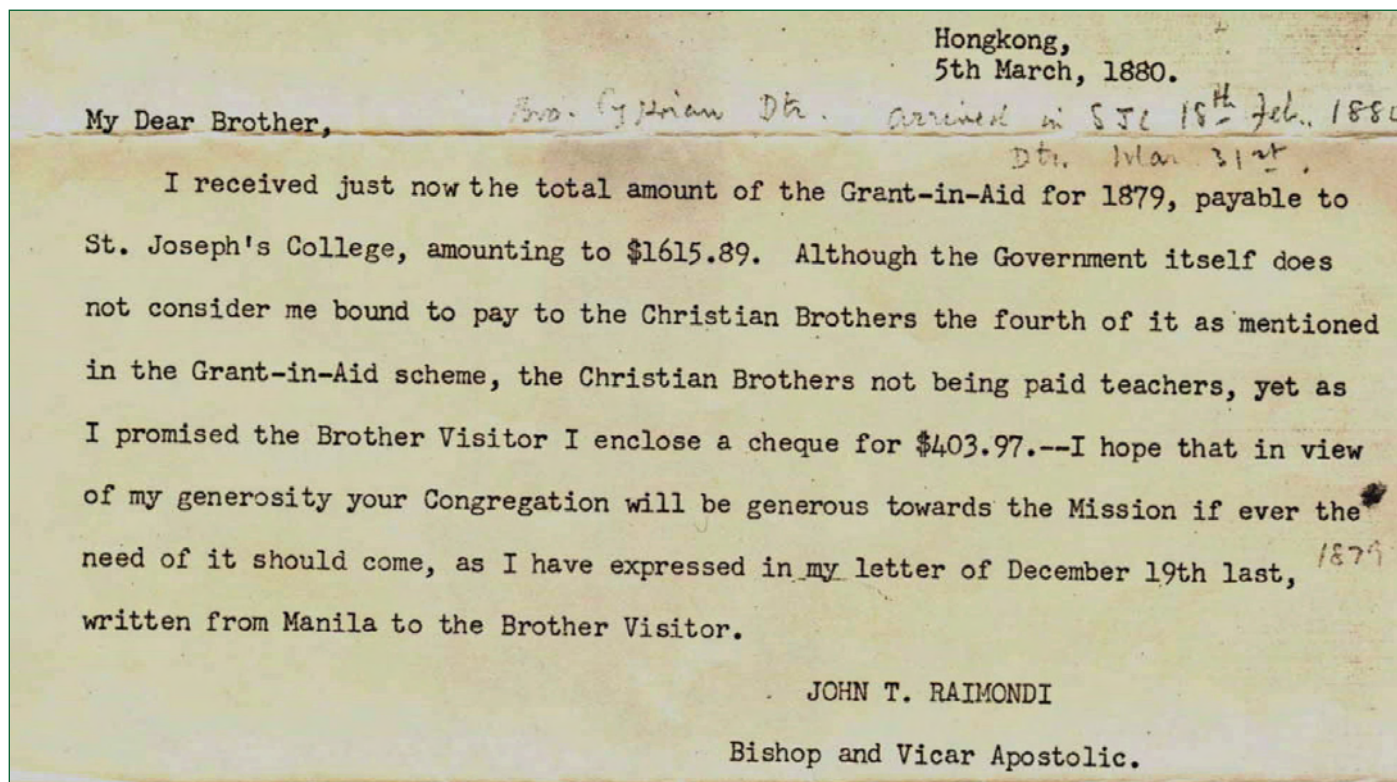
The new Director was a sturdy son of Auvergne in Central France and uncle of the twin Brothers, Brother Hidulphe de Jesus and Brother Herbertus Joseph, all of whom came to Hong Kong together. He had already governed with success the Brothers' schools in Agra and Colombo before he arrived Hong Kong. He took in the situation quickly: a new premises was of immediate necessity. In June 1876, Bishop Raimondi purchased for \$14,000 a fine house situated at No.9 Caine Road (present No. 99, Caine Road, at the junction with Aberdeen Street) called 'Buxey Lodge'.



Brother Hidulphe Marie

The College soon moved into it and the number of students increased to 165. There were only four classrooms: 40x22x13; 22x20x13; 22x16x13 and 27x13x8 (feet). Yet, to the Brothers, the acquisition of Buxley Lodge was already a great relief. A class was opened in January 1878 for Chinese boys who wanted to learn English conversation and correspondence. Brother Adolphus Doyle was entrusted with the class, which numbered 30 in July 1878. The Chinese class remained in Pottinger Street campus until the new school in Robinson Road could be used. From that time, the College had a Portuguese section and a Chinese section.

Brother Hidulphe Marie worked zealously and set St. Joseph's on a strong foundation. He himself, however, suffered from ill health and in October 1879, his health broke down altogether and the doctor ordered his immediate return to France. The departure date was All Saints Day (1<sup>st</sup> November) and many students, parents and friends accompanied him to the ship that was to take him away from the East forever. Brother Hidulphe Marie died in Marseilles on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1886.



## Grant-in-aid Scheme

Besides the problem of finding space to meet the ever-increasing number of applicants, the Brothers also had financial worries for further development of the school. The then Grant-in-aid scheme had set lots of restriction to the Catholic schools. In 1879, responding to the suggestions made by Bishop Raimondi, Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy agreed to make some minor alterations (e.g. the schools were left perfectly free to devote the school time to religious education after four hours of secular teaching) in the Grant Code and made it possible for Catholic schools to profit by it.

The Brothers had at once applied for the admittance of St. Joseph's College as a Grant-in-aid School when the conditions were amended. After an inspection by the Government with satisfactory result in 1879, the College was categorised as a Class IV grant school, that is, a school in which a European education is given in any European language. St. Joseph's became the first confessional school to receive government money.

Bishop Raimondi, acting as the manager of the school in the absence of Brother Hidulphe Marie, addressed the Governor, Sir John Pope Hennessy and the guests at the prize giving day on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1880 and he assured them:

*"On our own part, and on behalf of the Christian Brothers, I can assure your Excellency, and you, ladies and gentlemen, that, independently of any concessions, we shall continue to labour strenuously in the cause of education ... To the same work, we shall devote the rest of our life, and our motto shall always be 'Educate our youth.'"*

In 1881, the Inspector of Schools, Dr. John Ernest Eitel, wrote in his report to the Governor:

*"As regards those Roman Catholic Schools which teach English, I have to refer in the first instance to St. Joseph's College, under the charge of the Christian Brothers. This institution is divided into two schools, one being specially for Chinese boys who, however, are taught English exclusively, and the other for Portuguese boys. Neither the Chinese nor the Portuguese language is taught in this institution or even used by the way of explanation. The result of examination was, in both divisions, highly satisfactory, as, out of 140 boys examined, 11 failed in one subject, and only 4 failed to pass ..."*

In just five years, the number of students increased from 75 to 281. The premises on Caine Road was not large enough to satisfy the constant demands for admission. Bishop Raimondi again showed his inherent wisdom and vision in the process of finding a new campus for the College.

## St. Joseph's College at Glenealy, Robinson Road (1881-1918)

By 1881, there were more than 300 boys on the rolls and Buxley Lodge was found inadequate to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of boys. In March 1881, Bishop Raimondi bought a new property in Glenealy and the Brothers moved into it on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. In the address delivered at the College's Golden Jubilee Celebration on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1926, Mr. J.P. Braga, an old boy and member of the Legislative Council, stated:

*"With no material resources but an abundant confidence in an Almighty Providence Bishop Raimondi acquired the 'Glenealy' property with its extensive area stretching from Caine Road for its northern boundary to Robinson Road as the southern. Within the spacious grounds of 'Glenealy' the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was erected and plans laid for the new building of St. Joseph's College with the main entrance from Robinson Road. During the transition period the classrooms housed in mat sheds were scattered on various suitable positions in the garden attached to the palatial 'Glenealy' residence of a leading Hong merchant. In the meantime Bishop Raimondi, in spite of his advanced years and indifferent health, made a tour of Australia and other countries where his appeal for funds enabled him, in part, to pay for the cost of the College site and for the erection of the new College building that has since become a conspicuous landmark to all visitors entering the harbour of Hong Kong. Dr. Eitel wrote of this building in an official report as a 'very fine College.' The foundation stone of the new St. Joseph's College on this magnificent site was laid on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1881, by the Governor, the late Sir John Pope Hennessy ..."*



The Governor contributed \$6000 to the building expenses. The foundation stone and the silver trowel used by the Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy are still kept in the College at Kennedy Road. On the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1882, Brother Cyprian Gendreau, the Director, had the pleasure of inviting Mr. Marsh, the Officer Administering the Government and Dr. Eitel, Director of Education to inaugurate the new classrooms. 190 boys were admitted on the first day.



Brother Cyprian





The school soon became a landmark on Hong Kong Island. The Brothers finally had a campus where the Portuguese classes and Chinese classes were under the same roof. There were eight levels: Standard 8 (equivalent to present Primary 5) to Standard 1 (equivalent to Form 6). As there was no local public examinations, the Brothers designed their own curriculum and prepared the students for the Oxford Local Examination.

According to the Brothers' report to Rome:

*"The school as it stands at present is one of the most up-to-date educational establishments in the Far East. It combines the attraction of a unique position with every facility for the imparting of a thorough education. The building is situated on a height which commands an extensive view of the city and the Harbour of Victoria. It is surrounded with trees and patches of green which render it one of the most delightful spots of the Colony."*

In a magazine called *Who's Who in the Far East*, the following advertisement about the College appeared:

*"The aim of the institution is to give Catholic youths and others, without distinction of creed or persuasion a thorough moral, intellectual, and physical education. The staff consisted of thoroughly trained European teachers, who have devoted their life to this work."*

*The course of studies, instruction in the English language, comprises the following branches: Religious Instruction, Reading, Writing, Grammar, Composition, Geography, History, Geometry, Algebra, Arithmetic, Mensuration, Book-keeping, Geometric and Architectural Drawing, Hygiene, Chinese, French, Music, Shorthand and Typewriting.*

*The boys are prepared for the Oxford Local Examinations, and the College record is an honourable and a successful one."*

Between 1898 and 1911 expansion was very fast. A third storey, a boarding department and additional wings were added. But staff additions and greater accommodation still could not meet the demand for admission.

In 1911, Brother Christian Lennon could say in the prize-giving day that "the big pile of buildings on Robinson Road, Glenealy, stands today as a veritable monument to the educational enterprise of the Catholic mission authorities in Hong Kong."



Brother Christian

The Brothers all worked relentlessly to make the College one of the most popular schools in Hong Kong. Their collective effort was soon recognized by the Government and the public.

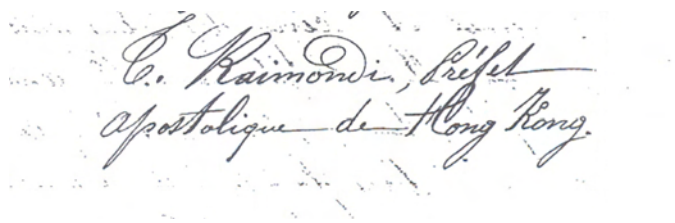
However, not everything was rosy in the garden, and there were times of trouble and difficulty. In the 1905 report, the Inspector found that he was unable to report the College as 'thoroughly efficient' because he found that Chinese was not sufficiently taught to Chinese boys.

That was not the only problem the Brothers had to address. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the students of the College were not only Portuguese and Chinese boys, but Indians, Filipinos, Spanish and other European boys were also admitted. It was always a matter of great difficulty for the Brothers to draw up a satisfactory syllabus, especially as English was not a native tongue of most of the boys.

The Great Plague (1894–1905) and the outbreak of the First World War (1914), when some Brothers and students were recalled to fight for their countries in Europe, had also added a burden to the Brothers in running the school. The number of serving Brothers kept decreasing. Despite all these adverse conditions, the Brothers in Hong Kong devoted their utmost effort to provide quality education to the students confided to their care, sometimes at the expense of their own health. Some of these early labourers collapsed under the heavy burden and had to return home.

## Death of Bishop Raimondi (1827-1894)

In the meantime the venerated Bishop Raimondi also went to his eternal reward. He passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1894, after serving the mission for 42 years.



The Brothers owe a big debt of gratitude to Bishop Raimondi not only as the catalyst for their presence in Hong Kong but also for his continuous care and concern for their educational mission. It was the Bishop who bought the various school properties and that at least for a time, paid a stipend to the Brothers. He was closely involved with the management of the school and would attend major school functions.

St. Joseph's College at this period in history was the main Catholic school for boys. Both staff and students directly helped the Church in its rites and ceremonies. Despite some initial setbacks, the School was progressing well. On the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1918, however, an earthquake caused serious damage to the school building. After inspection, the Government declared that the building was not safe and the College had to move out. That is another story. ■

... ONE FAMILY



# In Our Hearts Forever We Stand Behind

— by Brother James Dooley

The school year ended on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, with final examinations, promotions and our much publicized annual exhibition of handwork. So it was with a sense of great relief and with light hearts that we prepared to spend the long holidays in a government bungalow on Maxwell Hill, three thousand feet above sea level, away from the steamy, enervating tropical heat of the plain.

Brothers had no access to 'secular' news in those days, but enough had filtered through, as it always does, to make us aware that war in the Far East was now a distinct possibility. We had already received our 'Call-up Papers' being classified as 'Ministers of Religion' and so exempt from actual military service, but not from First Aid and Air Raid Precaution (A.R.P.) duties.

All the Brothers qualified in first-aid as members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. We attended meetings with practical demonstrations. We were adept at racing up and down streets with buckets of water and containers of sand, extinguishing non-existent fires and bandaging imaginary casualties. We regarded the entire exercises with a certain amount of amusement and a welcome break from our normal routine.

It was difficult to imagine war coming to quiet, sleepy Malaya, a pleasant country where peoples of different races

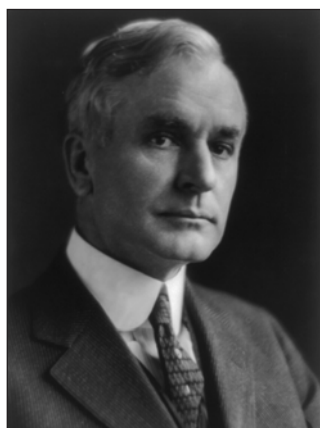
## *From the editor's desk*

*During World War II, along with other schools in Taiping, St. George's Institution was closed down. It was converted into the headquarters for the Japanese Military Police, the Kempetai, that the Lasallian Brothers were placed under house detention. Many old boys of the school risked their lives to assist the Brothers during this time.*



and religions had lived in great harmony for many, many years. To buoy us up, there were hopes that the parleying in Washington between Admiral Nomura and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, would result in 'peace in our time'. Troop movement became more frequent, R.A.F. and Dutch aircraft – the few they had – screamed comfortingly over our heads, British propaganda lauded the impregnable fortress of Singapore, and as in all wartime wickedness, boasted that the 'small bandy-legged, four eyed monkeys would never dare twitch the British lion's tail.'

They were soon to learn, at dreadful cost, that they were meeting a superbly trained, completely dedicated war machine for which victory or death for Emperor and homeland was the greatest glory to which they could aspire.



Cordell Hull



Kichisaburo Nomura

And so, at the very time we were preparing to leave for the Hill Station, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, Hong Kong and Singapore and made successful, hard-fought landings in North Malaya. The War in South East Asia had commenced.

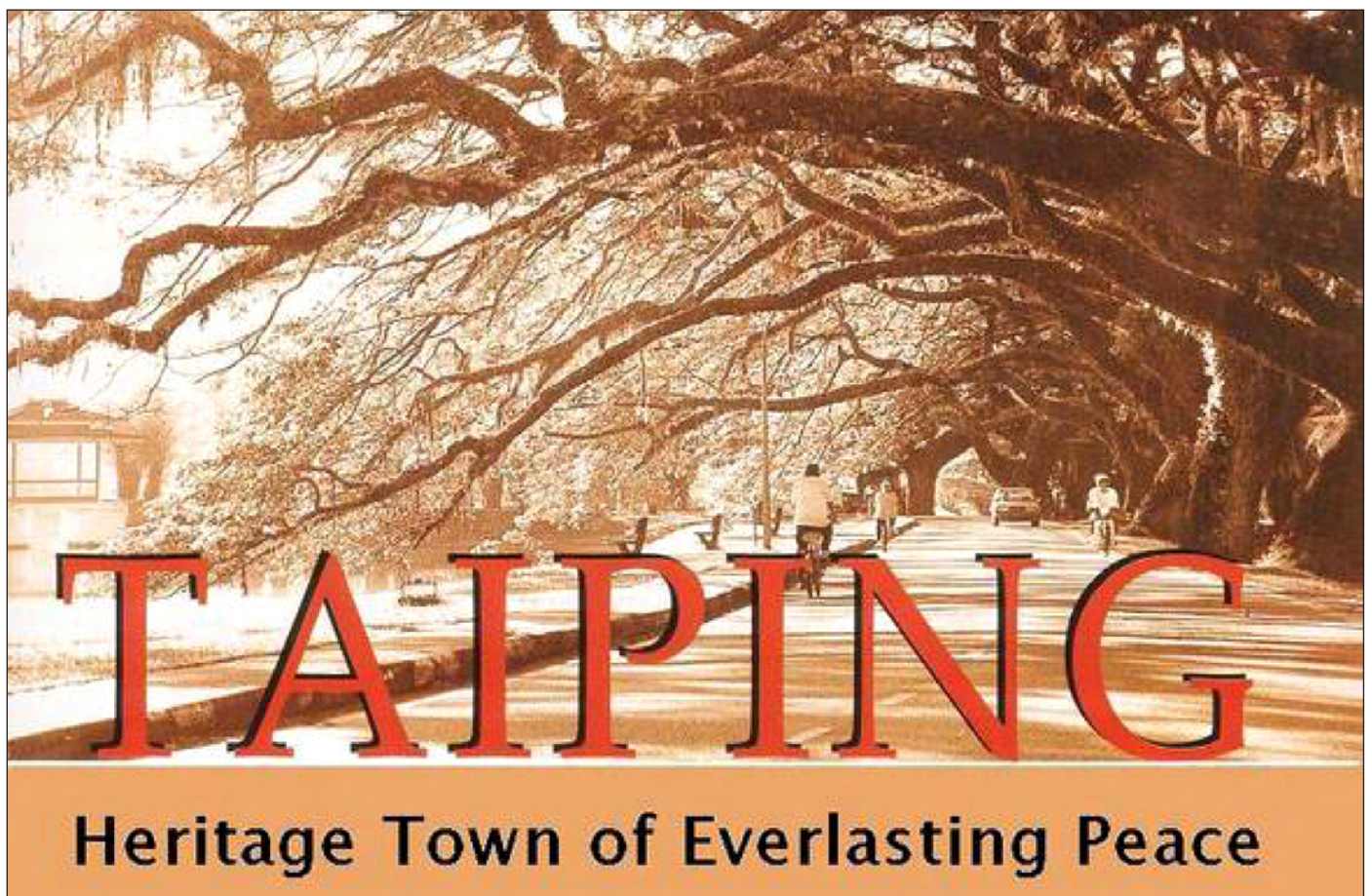
Personally, I must admit, I had swallowed much of the British war propaganda, and even at this late hour and in spite of bombings and landings, it was only a matter of time, we were told, when the enemy would be pushed back into the sea and blown out of the sky.

All was quiet in Taiping for the next few days until we had our first air-raid warning. No planes came, but the wailing of the sirens and the grotesque rumours circulating, started the exodus. The more well-to-do in cars and hired buses towards Singapore, the unconquerable fortress, the remainder, loaded down with essential survival items, to the countryside.

One evening two British officers came in and asked if they might billet some troops in our school. Under cover of night, lorry after lorry load drove in until we had some three hundred British and Indian soldiers quartered with us.



They were a pitiful sight in their tattered uniforms, broken feet and bandaged heads and arms. It was now that the Brothers' knowledge of first-aid came in so useful. We peeled off filthy uniforms, cut away broken boots and dressed open, running sores. There was a long narrow water tank in the school yard. Those who were able, queued up at one end, and 'swam' to the other end, over and over again. More lorries appeared, with supplies of medicine, food and uniforms. Soon field kitchens were roaring and a hot meal of soup, tinned meat, bread and chapatties and scalding tea was ready.





The first-aid work, the bath in the tank and the hot meal worked wonders for the soldiers. They told us of the jungle nightmare they had endured ... slushing waist-deep in monsoon rains with the Japanese sniping at them from tree tops ... cut off by flank attacks ... blasted by enemy artillery and tanks, devastated by the Zero fighters, betrayed by certain local people ... and hardest to bear, no friendly planes in the sky.

There were two chaplains with the retreating forces. Father Timothy Ward from Waterford, said Mass for his men in our chapel and Rev. Babbs, Church of England, who conducted Service, also in our chapel, for his. The Officer Commanding was an Irish International rugby player, his name, Captain Wallace.

The presence of troops in our school invited Japanese air raids. Several planes flew over, wheeled back and dropped their bombs. I was sure our school had been hit but when we crawled out of our makeshift shelters, it was the nearby railway station that was bombed. More raids followed with severe damage and many casualties.

The British and Indian soldiers stole quietly away after dark one night, but not before thanking us warmly for our help and hospitality. They urged us to leave Taiping and offered us safe conduct to Singapore. All next day, cars, carts and bicycles streamed past our school loaded down with every conceivable object

looted from the more expensive shops. Rumours circulated that Taiping had been declared an open town and that its fall was imminent.

It was time to decide what we should do. Brother Leo, our Indian confrere, and I was detailed to go to the local police station after dark to contact our Brothers in Penang to the north or Ipoh to the South. The telephone operator from the Army Signals, did his very best for us but could not get through to either place. We learned later that Penang was already in Japanese hands and that there was fierce fighting in the Ipoh area.

Anyway, we had already decided we should stay. We had received no instructions from our Superiors, we just could not abandon our students and our school, our Community had no 'enemy nationals', we were religious teaching Brothers with no military connections so we saw no cause to be afraid of the Japanese.

*(To be continued)*

Brother James Dooley was Principal of St. Joseph's College, Hong Kong, from 1964 to 1970 after which he taught in La Salle College until called to Rome in 1977. For more about Brother James, please read our Issue 6 at <http://www.lasalle.org.hk/pages/docs/TheGateway06.pdf>

# Family Updates

## The Hong Kong Connection



Not too many can enjoy the distinction of celebrating 70 years in the religious life, but Brother Gregory Lim is an exception. He reached that milestone before Christmas 2013 and celebrated the event on the 9<sup>th</sup> December in Singapore, the place of his birth. The Hong Kong connection is that Brother Gregory taught in both St Joseph's and La Salle from 1961 to 1969. He was in fact headmaster for a time of La Salle Primary School in the mid-sixties. His old friends in Hong Kong did not forget him. Former La Salle Primary School Principals, Mr. Francis Fung and Mrs. Emily Leung travelled all the way to the celebration, a gesture much appreciated by Brother Gregory.

## Christian Union Pilgrimage to Macau

Twenty six students, old boys and teachers, associated with the Christian Union of St. Joseph's College, headed off to Macau on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2013. No, it was not to head for the famous casinos but rather on a pilgrimage. They visited some of the historical churches which included a visit to the Museum of Our Lady of Rosary Church. The pilgrims were blessed to have school chaplain, Father Joey, to accompany and give details of historical and religious interest.



# Heritage Visit to St. Joseph's College



On the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 51 teaching and supporting staff from De La Salle went on a heritage visit to St. Joseph's College. They received a warm welcome from Brother Thomas Favier, Brother Alphonsus Breen, Brother Jeffrey Chan and Ms. Caroline Chan, the Principal. Besides a short introduction on the Lasallian education and history of SJC, the student leaders from the Value Education and Academic Promotion Team of the college offered

a guided tour around the campus. The staff of DLS had an opportunity to visit the facilities in both the 'old building' and 'new building', as well as the Brothers' Quarter on the fourth floor. They were deeply impressed by the simple lifestyle and the spirit of service of the Brothers. The visit has cultivated more in-depth understanding of the development of Lasallian education in Hong Kong and the staff of DLS had a meaningful and enjoyable afternoon at SJC.

## Principals' Conference



The most recent Lasallian Principal's Conference, composed of Principals of our eight schools, was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Members welcomed Ms. Brenda Wu, the recently appointed Principal of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School. They also welcomed Brother Thomas Lavin who gave an enlightening presentation on the LEAD District. Other topics on the agenda included the Incorporated Management Committee issues, the Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund and the question of our Catholic School identity. Individual school highlights rounded off the sharing.

# Ninety Four Today



On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, one of the affiliated members of the Brother's Institute, The Hon. A. de O. Sales, celebrated his ninety fourth birthday. Mr. Sales is familiarly called, Sonny. To mark the occasion there was a lunch party in Sonny's beloved Club Lusitano. It was organized by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee

of Hong Kong, China. Since Sonny had been the President of this body for thirty years, he was among many friends. Brothers Thomas Lavin and Patrick Tierney represented the Brothers and the attendees counted quite a number of Hong Kong Lasallians. A short photo video of Sonny's life was well received. Ad multos annos.

## Dance Champs



Congratulations to La Salle College Dance Team on achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Hong Kong Schools Dance Festival on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The Jazz Trio was awarded the Honours Award (1<sup>st</sup> Place) for their dance 'Stand Up', as well as the Choreography Prize. The judges commended the boys for their choice of music and their theme and how they effectively used music and dance to communicate the theme. Nearly all of the competitors from 30 schools were girls which makes the boys' achievement even more remarkable.



# Christian Brothers Schools Sports Association

The annual inter-collegiate athletics meet was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 in Wanchai Stadium close to the heart of Hong Kong Island. The morning temperature dipped to as low as 10°C which, by Hong Kong standards, is cold, at least for senior citizens. Fortunately the sun shone and the coolness did not bother the athletes who gave of their best and set three new records.

Our Guest of Honour, Dr. Raymond So, suggested that some athletes might consider aiming for the Asian Games or even the Olympics. An innovation this year was the introduction of a 'Charity

Race' the proceeds from which will go to help the homeless through service projects of our Lasallian Youth Movement.



**RUN For All  
All For ONE** CBSSA Charity Race

**Event Details**

Date: 22nd January, 2014 (Wednesday)  
Time: 3:00 – 3:15  
Venue: Wan Chai Sports Ground  
Event: 4x400m relay

4 athletes from each school plus one substitute

Donation: Not less than \$400 for each team

Organized by:  Hong Kong Lasallian Youth Movement

## Polaris at SJC

Polaris, that constant and bright star over the north-pole, was the theme chosen for this year's Green and White Open Day of St. Joseph's College. This year the College is celebrating its 139<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The theme was well chosen because the event drew many back to their alma mater, back home.

The College was in festive garb and mood and there was a variety of events on offer to cater to all tastes. The Guest of Honour, the Hon. Abraham Razak, GBS, JP, reminded all Josephians to follow in the path of their Patron Saint and in the footsteps of their predecessors as they pursued their ideals. The weather was cool but sunny and dry, ideal for the occasion.



# La Salle Primary Sports Day



The La Salle Primary Sports Day was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Normally, it is held at the La Salle College grounds but this year, as an experiment, it was held at a public sports-ground nearby. The main advantages are that there is generally more space and the spectators have individual seats. They can sit back and relax.

Anyway, there will be a more full-scale evaluation. The sun shone splendidly on an otherwise cool day, ideal for sports. The Guest of Honour, Brother Thomas Lavin, reminded both parents and students that they should try to live healthy lifestyles and be active in life rather than sitting too long in front of computers.

## Maximo Cheng R.I.P.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014, a special old boy of La Salle College called Maximo Cheng was called to God at the ripe old age of ninety two. Maxi, as he was called, had joined the school in its early years, endured the hardships of war and returned to take an active part in all things Lasallian. He also became President of the Old Boys' Association for a term, from 1965 to 1968. Maxi had a smile and a kind word for everybody. Some years ago he had suffered a stroke but fought it valiantly and only took to a wheelchair recently. In fact he looked quite bright at the school's Christmas Eve Mass last December. May God receive his gentle soul and comfort his wife and family



# Holocaust Survivor

Mrs. Olga Horak, a holocaust survivor, visited La Salle College on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 and spoke to a packed lunchtime audience of over 400 students and staff.

Mrs. Horak was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, and was 15 years old in 1938 when Germany annexed the country. In 1939, she, her sister and parents were collected and taken to Auschwitz, the notorious concentration camp. Mrs. Horak shared her personal experiences in Auschwitz, Kurzbach and Bergen-Belsen camps as well as the 375 kilometres Death March where her cousins fell by the wayside.

The day of liberation came in April 1945. By a cruel irony of fate, her mother, who had survived the worst atrocities, died one day after liberation.

While not forgetting the terrible past, Mrs. Horak encouraged the boys to learn to forgive, to see life as precious, and to live a full life.

She also warned them not to just follow protesting crowds because mass hysteria can so easily take over and take control. Rather, they should learn about what causes are really worth following, causes that are for the good of all.



Mrs. Horak, and her daughter Suzie with some of the students from the lunchtime lecture



[www.lasalle.org.hk](http://www.lasalle.org.hk)