

The

gateway

May 2016

LASALLIAN EAST ASIA DISTRICT



issue

65

HONG KONG LASALLIAN FAMILY BULLETIN

May 2016



(Cover) A picture of the school ties from the five secondary schools of the Christian Brothers Schools in Hong Kong.

Each of these five schools is a part of our Lasallian Family and through the CBS Exchange Programme (*Family Updates, page 10*) our schools came together as one.

The gateway

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Concept by

Brother Patrick Tierney
Mr. Paul K. K. Tam

issue
65

Welcome

April has come into full bloom as you can see from the image.

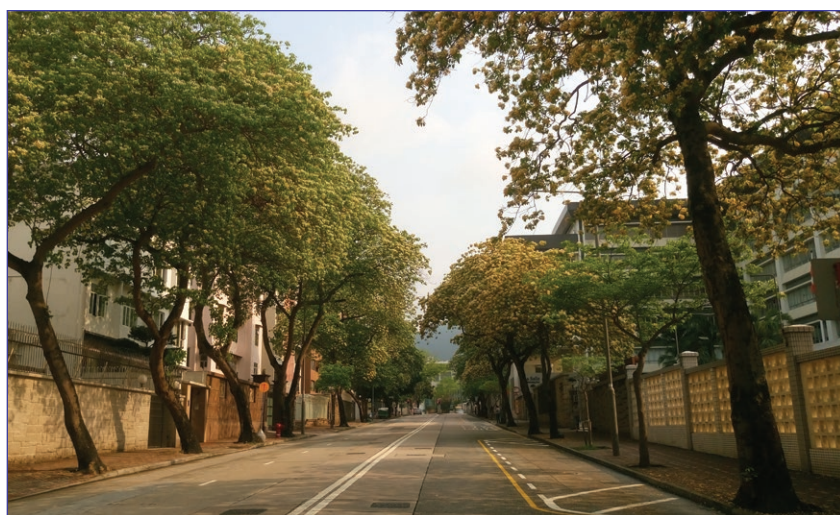
Our Brother of the Month will have been known to many of our readers. Brother Mark led a quiet but fruitful life as a religious and as a teacher. His elder brother, Brother Lawrence, is a member of the Community of La Salle College, Hong Kong. The two brothers were easily the tallest Brothers in Hong Kong.

This issue sees the concluding episode of the Lasallian Mission to North China, prior to the arrival of the Communist forces. It gives us a close-up insight into the realities of the times and the prevailing move of fearful anxiety. As with many crises, there were some positive outcomes. The flight of the Brothers from North China benefitted Hong Kong since some of the Brothers worked in the Mission there.

Some reflections by our students relating to their service projects make for interesting reading. Their openness in sharing about the joys and difficulties they experienced when visiting the elderlies is refreshing.

By now, the all-important Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (DSE) has been completed, apart from some orals. Students anxiously await their results later in the summer. Meanwhile, the rest of our students are busily preparing for school final examinations. ■

**The Gateway
Hong Kong
Lasallian Family
Bulletin
May 2016
Sixty-fifth Issue**



Brother of the Month

Brother Mark Blake

(16-03-1931 to 05-08-2015)



Brother Mark (back row, fourth from right)

Patrick Blake was born to Thomas and Mary Blake and was number ten in a mountain farming family of twelve (four girls and eight boys) in the townland of Glenkeen, high up on the Slieve Bloom mountains of County Laois, Ireland. Large families were the norm in those days and there were then over 20 families in the mountain area where there are now only a few.

Paddy, like the rest of the family, received his early education at Clonaslee National School, about three miles' walk from his home. At 14 he went to the De La Salle Juniorate in Castletown, probably, as he himself says, because his older brother Tom (Brother Lawrence) had already gone there. Moreover, a De La Salle Brother had gone to Clonaslee, recruiting

young boys to join his order, as the area had already proved to be a fertile land for vocations.

The Blake family was deeply religious. Tom and Paddy joined the Brothers while three of the girls entered the sisterhood. After two years in the Juniorate, Paddy proceeded to the Novitiate, a year of intensive spiritual formation, and was given the name Brother Fintan, later changed to Mark. At the end of the Novitiate he volunteered with five



or six others to serve on the missions, where British qualifications would be required to teach, so they travelled to England to continue their studies. After two years in Kintbury, Berkshire, he passed the Oxford School Certificate Examination and qualified to enter St. Mary's Teacher Training College at Strawberry Hill, London, from which he graduated as teacher in 1952.

Then, after a short holiday home Brother Mark set sail, with three other young Brothers, on the P&O liner the S.S. Corfu, for the three weeks voyage to the Far East. We can only imagine the novelty and excitement of that journey through Port Said, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, before crossing the Indian Ocean to Colombo in Ceylon and on to Singapore, their destination.

Next there was a train journey north through what was then Malaya to Penang, the headquarters of their new District ... an exotic journey that took them through miles of rubber and coconut plantations, tin mines and jungle-clad foothills, as well as exposing them to early encounters with tropical mosquitoes.



At Penang Brother Mark was appointed by his new Provincial, a cousin of his, Fintan Blake, to teach at St. Michael's Institution, Ipoh where the Principal and Director was another Clonaslee man, Brother Denis Hyland from Cush, whose nephews had gone to Clonaslee National School with Mark. In Ipoh he spent eight very happy years, before being transferred in 1960 to St. Joseph's School, Kuching, Sarawak, then part of British Borneo, where he was to spend the next 23 years.

Brother Columba Gleeson takes up the story: "For most of that period, of which I have very happy memories,

I had the privilege of being his community Director and school Principal. He was a very dedicated teacher, spent many hours marking students' exercise books and showed remarkable ability for teaching weaker students. Outside school hours he coached the school athletes and was largely responsible for the school being Inter-School Athletics Champions for 17 consecutive years. He also coached rugby with great success."



A school magazine of the time places Brother Mark's contribution as follows: "On 29-6-1983 one of St. Joseph's secondary school's longest serving teachers left the school quietly. This was Brother Mark. During his long association with the school he left his unmistakable mark here. His former students often enquire about him and hope he may pay a visit here soon.

Teaching English Language and Bible Knowledge in Forms 4 and 5 were Brother Mark's forte. He possessed remarkable ability for teaching these subjects to the weaker students. At this he was particularly successful. Besides the above, he also gave religious instruction to Catholic students.

Outside school hours he coached the school athletes. It was in no small measure due to his unflinching dedication to athletics, that St. Joseph's teams were the First Division Champions of the Inter-School Sports Meetings for 17 consecutive years. Brother Mark was on the field every day from 4.00pm until 6.00pm of the athletic season, carefully and patiently demonstrating the proper techniques for various track and field events.



Besides his involvement in athletics, he coached rugby in the 60's and 70's until the Inter-School Rugby Tournament was dissolved, before which St. Joseph's dominated the game in Kuching."

The "Borneo Post" newspaper carried an article which said in part:

It was Wednesday, 29th June 1983.

It seemed like any ordinary day at St. Joseph's School. Unknown to the staff and students, a man slipped away for the airport.

He had taught in the school where he lived in for the past 24 years. Of the 29 La Salle Brothers who taught and managed St. Joseph's from 1950 to 1987, he had served the longest.

His inconspicuous and final exit from the school was entirely characteristic of the man.

Like all the Irish La Salle Brothers, he immersed himself in nurturing, sustaining and celebrating sporting passion in the school.

In all his endeavours, Brother Mark stepped up when the occasion required it but he was happiest when he could be allowed to retreat to work behind the scenes, preparing, making certain that things were in order, that the welfare of others were taken care of, applauding in the background when success was finally achieved.

Brother Mark's signature contribution was in athletics, the biggest sport in the school, the one that involved the most students, hogged the limelight and scored the greatest success.

Old Josephians scouring old photographs would know that Brother Mark was seldom captured in them. He did appear in annual group photos of the staff and a few sports teams.

A photo of him even near the prize table or in the midst of another jubilant victory probably does not exist. Only many years later, the realisation dawned on those who knew him that Brother Mark would somehow fade into the background during those moments.

And finally, when the day's training is done, he would personally stack up or carry much of the equipment (starting blocks, hurdles, throwing implements, measuring tapes, high jump bars, sand racks, etc.) back to the storeroom.

Brother Mark will best be remembered for exemplifying the best qualities of the La Salle Brothers and their passionate belief in the many character-building virtues of playing sports such as integrity, discipline, hard work, courage, perseverance, resilience, team spirit, excellence ... and humility.

In 1983 Brother Mark transferred to La Salle College, Kowloon, Hong Kong because he had difficulty obtaining permanent residence in Sarawak, which was now part of an independent Malaysia.

In Hong Kong he was welcomed by another Laoisman, Brother Raphael Egan and again soon became fully involved in the academic and sports life of the school. Everyone was impressed with his love of sports and especially for rugby and athletics.

He was invariably present in the interschool competitions — rain or shine. When he retired from class teaching at the mandatory age of 65 but continued his involvement in the school's sports programme and in hiking or climbing the 'Lion Rock', an iconic Hong Kong mountain, which he had become a favourite hobby of his.

Brother Patrick Tierney, who became Mark's Community Director in Kowloon from 1990, recalls: "The arrival of Brother Mark was a breath of fresh air for the La Salle College school community. This was due to the fact that he was not only a strong and



effective teacher but also because he soon got involved with the school's sports teams.

He was put in charge of training the boys to throw the discus in inter-school sports, a very competitive business in Hong Kong. The boys watched him in amazement because

the discus would leave his hand and sail gracefully in the air, without a wobble, before plopping to the ground.

Rumour spread that he had competed at the Olympics! When asked, he replied "No. I could not even represent Kowloon!" When asked how long he could throw the discus he replied: "for two to three hours." I mean the distance, Brother. "I don't know. I never take any measurement."

I came up much more close and personal to Brother Mark when I was transferred to La Salle as Director in 1990. It was plain to see that he was a school-man through and through and was not slow to declare that it was in the classroom and in after-school activities that the real school life took place. He taught the public exam classes with distinction and while ensuring a tension-free classroom environment he would not take any nonsense.

And then there was the hiking. He simply loved it. He would like to hike every day of the week if



sports training did not interfere. As it was, he managed three or four days a week and always looked for me to accompany him. The usual trail was to set out from the school and head for Lion Rock. We would then climb and, depending on time available, would reach

as far as the shoulder or the head of the lion. Mark would always lead the way.

I can picture him now, his long legs striding out. We would often actually jog down the mountain, jumping from rock to rock. I always considered him to be like a mountain goat. I think the hiking had a therapeutic effect on him. He never seemed to think the day was right unless he had had a good hike. And after a good hike, he would enjoy a cigarette or two and a bottle of beer.

Sometimes we would visit our country house in the New Territories and stay overnight. On one famous occasion, four of us managed to climb five steep mountains in a row. Brother Mark was glowing that evening.

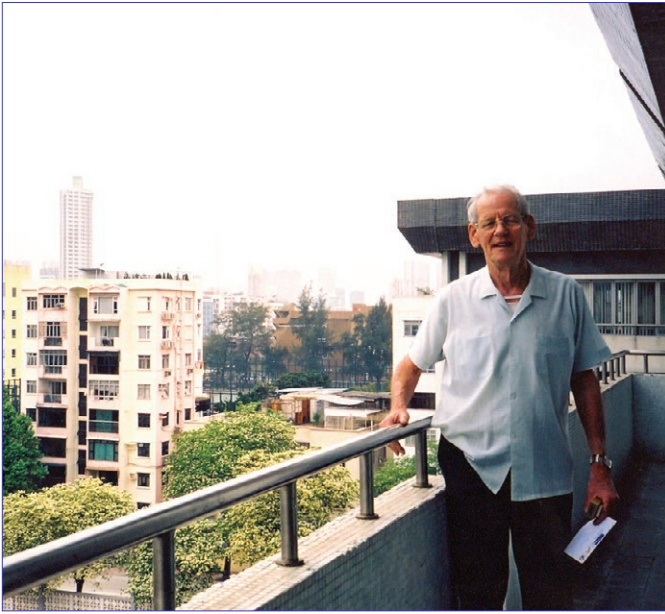
He retired from class teaching at the mandatory age of 65. In some ways he was a little lost without classes to teach but he continued to coach the discus boys after school and of course continued with his hiking.

Brother Mark never made any big show of religion. His was the traditional menu of daily Mass and regular spiritual exercises. He did not like any form of ostentation or triumphalism when it came to religion. He kept it simple, straight down the middle.

He was a good community man, partly because you knew he would be there. One of his hobbies during the day was doing crosswords. He would quiz us sometimes when a word or two was not coming to him. For some years, he and his blood-brother, Brother Lawrence, lived together in community. They were like the twin towers."

If things were not to his liking he would generally tell it straight out, no beating about the bush. But usually he was of even temperament and entertained guests hospitably.

He could be described as a school-man through and through. He was not slow to declare that it was in the classroom and in after-school activities that the real school life took place. He taught the public exam classes with distinction and while ensuring a tension-free classroom environment he would not take any nonsense.



In Ipoh and Hong Kong the vast majority of his students would have been Chinese whom he described as “very easy to teach as they studied very hard so as to get good results and then good jobs”. Back in Kuching where he had taught English language and Bible Knowledge with much success at Fourth and Fifth form levels his classes would have been much more cosmopolitan, with students from different racial and religious backgrounds, including a sizable Muslim population. Brother Mark was highly respected by all and earlier this week I received an email from over 20 of his former students, many of them Muslims, whom he taught over 30 years ago, expressing their sorrow of news of his declining health and promising prayers.

Brother Mark was by nature a somewhat shy, private and unassuming person, who shunned the limelight and never aspired to position of authority. He had a very strong sense of justice and resented any form of favouritism and unfairness. He was very much a community man, would always be present for community gatherings, enjoyed a game of cards and a ‘night cap’.

As Brother Patrick Tierney says “he never made a big show of religion. His was the traditional menu of daily Mass and community prayers, without any form of ostentation or exhibitionism”. His religion was never sectarian or exclusive and he had a deep respect for other beliefs and practices.

He always had a great love for his family, his country and his native place. He really looked forward to home leave and never tired of staying in his old home at Glenkeen, which became something of a monastery in the summer, with three nuns and two Brothers in residence, and their bachelor brother Jack ruling as the abbot from his armchair! Brother Mark even had his own private residence. A former hen house was renovated and upgraded into a small but comfortable living quarters, complete with TV and basic modern amenities, and the title “Paddy’s Shack” proudly displayed over the door!

Declining health and the need for care caused Mark to return to Ireland in August 2008. The wheel of life had gone full circle. He was admitted to Miguel House Nursing Home here where he received excellent care

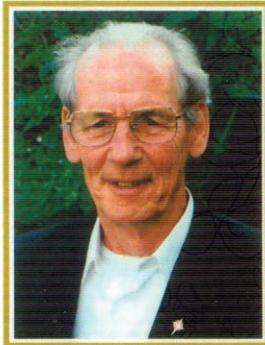



throughout, but his mobility continued to deteriorate and he had difficulty adjusting to the cold, wet Irish climate. Increasingly he tended to withdraw into himself and become confined to his room. He had never been technically-minded, had no mobile phone or laptop and never drove a car. The nearest he came to independent transport was a small Honda scooter which he used in Kuching.

Despite failing health, his ready wit never deserted him. He used a wheelchair more as a walking stick or support. If anyone suggested wheeling him, he had witty replies such as: “I don’t like to be pushed around!” In his final weeks he became very weak, as his energy levels faded, until he passed away gently and peacefully on Wednesday morning, the 5th of August 2015, for Brother Mark indeed a happy release and a welcome home.

Brother Mark's funeral Mass, concelebrated by eight priests, was on the 7th of August and there was a large attendance. A nephew, Jimmy Blake, gave a short reflection in the form of a poem recitation entitled "Padraic O'Conaire, Gaelic Storyteller" which captured Brother Mark's love of hiking, raconteurs and company generally.

On the same day, a requiem Mass, organised by his past pupils, was also being celebrated for the repose of his soul at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Kuching, with his former student Bishop Simon Poh as celebrant. ■

<p>Remember Br. Mark</p>  <p>Br. Mark Blake De La Salle Brothers, Miguel House, Castletown, Portlaoise, Co Laois.</p> <p>Died on 5th August 2015 Aged 84 years</p> <p>Rest in Peace.</p> <p><i>Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.</i></p>	 <p><i>Will those who think of me today, A little prayer to Jesus say.</i></p> <p><small>© Albion Print</small></p>
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Postings of Brother Mark

Castletown	Juniorate	1945 - 1947
Castletown	Novitiate	1947 - 1948
Kintbury, England	Scholasticate	1948 - 1950
Strawberry Hill, England	Teaching Training	1950 - 1952
St. Michael's Institution, Ipoh	Teaching	1952 - 1960
St. Joseph's School, Kuching	Teaching	1960 - 1983
La Salle College, Hong Kong	Teaching	1983 - 1994

Family Updates

Unveiling and Blessing

The 7th of April 2016 was a red-letter day in the history of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School. For the first time in the history of our Hong Kong Lasallian mission, a larger than life size bronze statue of our Founder was unveiled and blessed.

The artist, Armando Benato, hails from Italy but works mainly in Thailand where his foundry employs over 60 workers. Armando has showcased his work in many different countries. He and his wife, Wipha, took the trouble to come all the way for the ceremony and their presence added much to the occasion.



The blessing was performed by Father Giovanni Gianpietro, a long-time missionary in Hong Kong and whose zeal for the spreading of God's word is strong and vibrant. Father Giovanni speaks Cantonese fluently and was able to address the gathering about the Catholic meaning of respecting holy statues.

The Guest of Honour for the unveiling was Brother Edmundo Fernandez, Visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District. By a fortunate coincidence, Brother Edmundo is himself an artist and could appreciate the occasion. The principal, staff and students of the school deserve much credit for their meticulous preparation. Everything proceeded like clockwork and the student choir sang beautifully. The large attendance of the Hong Kong Lasallian Family was well pleased.

St. John Baptist de La Salle
Pray for us.



Community Get-together

On the 14th of April the Brothers at La Salle College went to join the Brothers at St. Joseph's College for dinner. It was a pleasant occasion and our two elder statesmen, Brothers Lawrence Blake and Alphonsus Breen, were well able to reminisce on the days of yore. Brother Jeffrey has made a number of improvements to the Community including a redesigning of the Brother's Chapel. The evening was rounded off with picture-taking.



Family Fun Day

Rainy weather did not dampen enthusiasm at the St. Joseph's Primary School Family Fun Day on the 22nd of April. The organisers put plan B into action so that the Opening Ceremony and performances took place in the school hall. A special performing guest was the well-known singer, Maria Cordero. The Cordero family has long-time links with St. Joseph's. Another innovation was an African Drum performance by some Primary 1 boys, clearly enjoyed by both the performers and the audience. Prize booths at the playground and games in the classrooms ensured all went away happily.



CBS Student Exchange Programme



Every year, the Student Associations of our Lasallian secondary schools organize a student exchange programme. About 60 students, ten from each school, take part. This year, the opening ceremony was held at Chong Gene Hang College on the 23rd of April and was attended by Brothers, school Supervisors and Principals. Students introduced their own schools and Brothers Steve and Chris placed the programme in our Lasallian tradition. This kind of exchange programme can surely enhance the brotherhood and bonding among our five secondary schools and helps to broaden horizons.

C Grade Champs



The C Grade sports boys of La Salle College have been on a roll recently. C Grade in Hong Kong refers to the under 14 age group, consisting of students mainly from Forms 1 and 2. Besides achieving Runners-up spots in both Handball and Table Tennis the La Salle boys became Champions in Football, Basketball and Badminton. A rather pleasing outcome was in Badminton where the overall championship in A, B and C Grades was attained after a lapse of some years. The future looks bright.

APLEC Meeting



A plenary meeting of the Asian Pacific Lasallian Educators' Conference (APLEC) Hong Kong was held on the 23rd of April. Discussion centred on topics such as possible future outreach to the poor and needy and on improving or Lasallian Family website. In addition, Brother Chris Soosai gave a formation presentation

while Paul Tam updated members on the general situation in the Asia Pacific region. Two members, Mrs. Betty Ho and Mr. Eric Ku, will be retiring in August and a suitable souvenir was presented. They were heartily thanked for their dedication and commitment over the years.

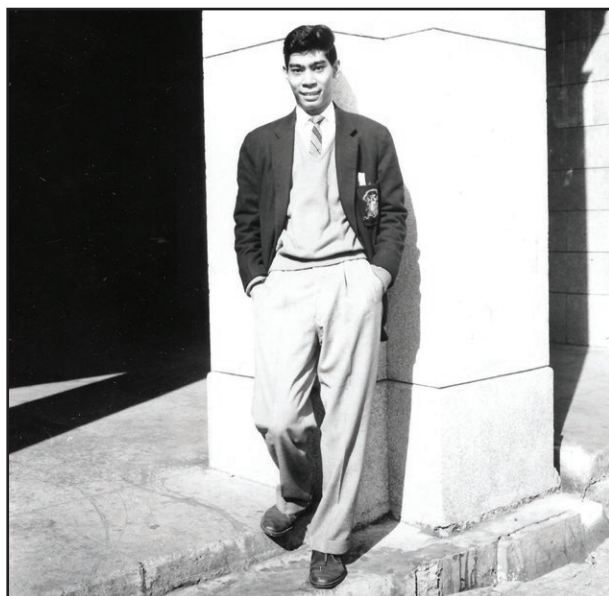
School Daze



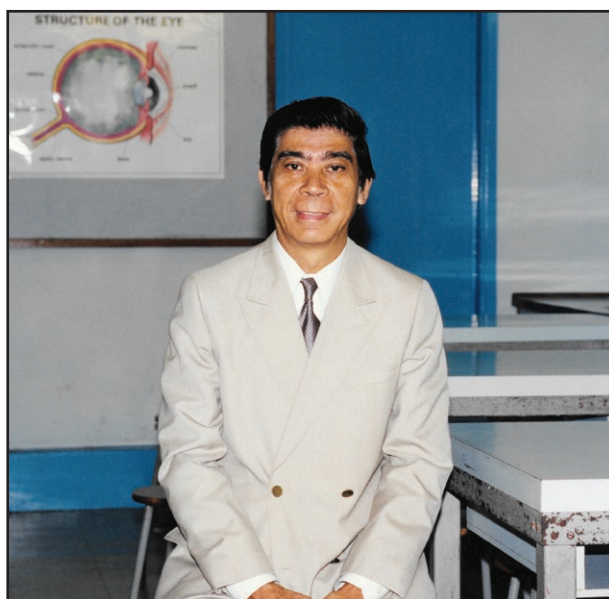
Chong Gene Hang College, a Lasallian school, is situated in the East of Hong Kong Island. Every year, by tradition, the school produces a musical drama, usually in the form of a comedy. For the last seven years, the school's Native English Teacher, Stuart Mead, has been the script writer, producer and director. This year the drama was entitled 'School Daze.' The audience, composed of school administrators, teachers and students from a number of schools, really enjoyed the show, the characters, jokes, action, music and dancing. Well done Mr. Mead and Chong Gene Hang College.

Mr. Felix Chun RIP

The Hong Kong Lasallian Family mourns the passing of Mr. Felix Chun on the 2nd of May 2016. Felix was a long serving teacher at St. Joseph's College. In fact, he started as a student there in 1951 and was attached to the school for the best part of 50 years. He was a dedicated teacher and got along very well both with his colleagues and his students.



A student and a teacher



We extend our sympathy to his wife, son and daughter and to the extended family.

May Felix rest in loving peace!

A Lasallian Mission in a Forgotten Land

The Story of the First Foundation of De La Salle Brothers in China 1936-1948

The Final Episode: Farewell to China

For China, the Japanese surrender in August 1945 did not bring peace but marked the resumption of the civil war between Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Party (Kuomintang, or KMT) and Mao Zedong's Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The conflict began with deployments and military clashes as each side tried to position itself to control North China and Northeast China (Manchuria). In January 1947, full-scale civil war broke out, first in China south of the Great Wall, and then with a resumption of hostilities in the Northeast. The military conflict was accompanied by severe economic problems and by intense internal social and political struggles, both in the rural areas and in the cities. The military situation developed rapidly. In the autumn and winter of 1948-1949, the Communists, no longer simple guerrilla forces, defeated Chiang's armies and by the end of 1949, Chiang was forced to withdraw to Taiwan. In Beijing, Mao Zedong declared the birth of the People's Republic of China on the 1st of October, 1949.

On the other side of the world, a group of young Brothers in Montreal held a grand farewell party in October 1947. They bid farewell to their parents and friends and were happy to be sent to the Missions in Japan and China.

Brothers Isidore, Gilbert, Adrien and Cyprien were to go to China and join the Brothers there, not a simple matter. Using a variety of disguises, manoeuvring between Russian soldiers and the communist guerrillas and helped by the British Consul at Moukden, they were able eventually to reach Beijing, on the 16th of November 1947. Once they arrived in Beijing, the Brothers purchased a house and property suited to the needs of a community and placed it under the patronage of St. Benildus.

The newly-arrived Brothers saw the importance of learning the local language and got down at once to an intensive study of Chinese at the Franciscan School and at Benildus House.



Soon afterwards, Brother Leopold, who was still at Moukden, received a telegram on the 13th of March 1948 telling him to join the Brothers at Beijing without delay. Thus all the Brothers working in China were now all together at Benildus House. Gregory Pai King, a postulant from Moukden, stayed with them as well and attended courses at the Fujen Catholic University 天主教輔仁大學.

Brother Isidore's Letter on the 16th of March 1948:

16th March 1948

*Brother Nivard-Anselme
Assistant Superior General, Rome*

Dear Brother Assistant,

Perhaps it is not quite proper to be asking you to do us some favours, but in the circumstances I seem to have no choice.

Brothers Leopold, Odilo and Guy have taken refuge in Beijing, at least for the moment. We are quite uneasy about developments here in China. As for Brother Barthelemy, he has left for Canada ...

Despite the unfortunate turn of events, we continue with our studies and hope that things will somehow work out such that we don't have to move elsewhere. At all events if it becomes necessary, this will be only if we are faced with real danger and have to move to a designated location ...

*Your devotedly,
Brother Isidore*

Life at Benildus House was peaceful and pleasant with a general atmosphere of study, but the advance of the Communists became more menacing. The fall of Hsinking, the old capital of Manchoukou, on the 18th of October 1948 showed how imminent the danger was. There was one remaining hope: Moukden, they felt, would block their advance. However, the town gave up without firing a shot. There being now no security left for Beijing, there was a mass exodus to flee the communist oppression.

Clearly the end was coming. At all costs, it was important to leave the city. Brother Guy managed to get on a plane that was leaving for Shanghai. There was no question of luggage, the plane was already overloaded and barely managed to take off. In Shanghai he again resorted to a ruse to get a lift on a truck to the city centre. He went to the American Consulate and explained his situation and that of the Brothers in Beijing. Shortly afterwards, he succeeded in getting a place on a plane taking refugees to Canada.

The Bishops' Council for China issued instructions to both clergy and religious to preserve the integrity of their established works. This directive did not apply to the Brothers as they had no works of their own. But the risks were far from being imaginary. When the Communists took power they interrogated those who remained at their posts and large numbers were interned. The new government confiscated their properties. In the circumstances it seemed wise for the Brothers to withdraw discreetly. On the 5th of November, they attended their lessons for the last time at the Franciscan School which was already being abandoned by a large number of the students, and made preparations to get away one by one.

On the 19th of November 1948, exactly one year and three days after their arrival in Beijing, the four last to join as well as those there from the 'first hour' left Communist China for Shanghai. In Shanghai, the Marist Brothers welcomed them and gave them accommodation. From there, the Brothers were told to hurry on to Hong Kong where they planned to take refuge with whatever belongings they could bring along. Brother Isidore, Director, had asked the Brothers to travel as a group by a boat sent by the



Americans to the port of Tiensin. But as the Communists had blown up the railway, they had to make their own way to the airport and each left whatever way he could. When they finally made it to Hong Kong, Brother Director Patrick Toner and Brother Sub-Director Cassian Brigant and the whole community in Hong Kong received them with open arms.

18th December 1948

Dear Brother Assistant,

You will be greatly troubled by the news that our Brothers have left Beijing, fleeing ahead of the Communist forces. But don't worry, the Canadian Brothers are all very well, and we are delighted here that Providence has brought them to our community. The wonderful spirit of faith that sustained them through this latest trial which has destroyed their works of evangelisation is indeed a lesson for us all. The future belongs to God alone, but be assured they are most welcome here. For the rest, they will give superb service to our two houses in the colony, which since the war have been much reduced as regards effective religious, and that for a student population of close to two thousand.

*With profound respect,
Brother Cassian Brigant, sub-director,
La Salle College Kowloon*

18th December 1948

Brother Nivard-Anselme
Assistant to Brother Superior

Dear Brother Assistant,

As you already know, we were obliged to leave Beijing at the approach of the Red Army which has begun hostilities and threatens to engulf the whole country. It was heartbreaking to quit our lovely Benildus House in Beijing, but we are greatly consoled by the fraternal welcome we have received from Brother Patrick Toner and Brother John Lynam, respectively Directors of La Salle College and St. Joseph's College, as well as from all the Brothers in these two houses, in particular the ever sympathetic Brother Cassian; then Brother Assistant Lawrence O'Toole and Brother Barnitus, visitor of the District of Penang.

From evil comes good, as the proverb says. Providence has actually brought us to a place where we can perfect our knowledge of English, as well as Chinese, as we still hope to return to China one day as the Lord may determine in His hidden designs.

For this purpose, as well as to make some return to the warm welcome we have received, we are available for any assignments the superiors may entrust us here at La Salle College or at St. Joseph's College. That will allow us to undertake an apostolate in an environment that is new to us. Thus we will be the first beneficiaries of the services we are so happy to render.

Even as we rejoice in our security in this British territory, we do not forget China where the Church is undergoing a terrible trial. We pray for her, we pray also for the missionaries, priests heroically committed to their works of apostolate, education, charity, despite the difficulties and dangers ... they may even face death for their faith. We pray for them, asking God that they remain courageous under threat, and keep aloft the honour and prestige of our Holy Catholic Church, which they represent so heroically.

In our case not having works of our own, we were obliged on the advice of prudent people to withdraw quietly and not to expose ourselves to needless danger.

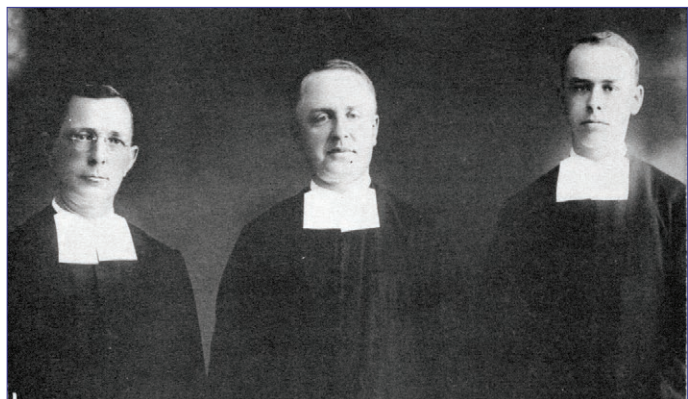
*We remain with deepest respect your obedient inferiors,
Brothers Leopold, Isidore, Cyprien, Gilbert, Adrien, Odilo
and Pai King (Postulant)*

In remembrance:

We remember these Brothers in our prayers, recalling their dedication and courage in carrying out the Lasallian mission in China, that immense country, so ancient and so new. May their souls rest in the Lord's peace! ■

**The first batch of Brothers,
arriving China in October 1936**

Brothers Leopold, Liguori, and Barthelemy



**The Second Batch of Brothers,
arriving China in October 1940**

(Back row) Brothers Jules, Odilo, Hippolyte, and Guy
(Front Row) Brothers Marie Marcel, and Mederic



**The third batch of Brothers,
arriving China in October 1947**

Brothers Gilbert, Cyprien, Adrien, and Isidore



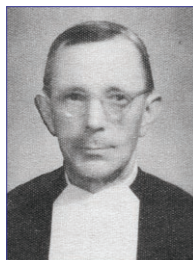
Brother Marie Liguori



Moukden

Passed away in the camp at Siping on 28th October 1943

Brother Modestus Leopold



Moukden

Hong Kong (1948)
Passed away in Canada on 3rd May 1972

Brother Melchiade Barthelemy



Moukden,
Kirin

Returned to Canada after the war

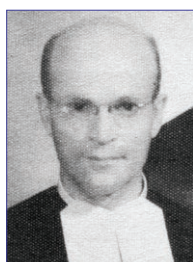
Brother Marien Guy



Kirin

Returned to Canada in 1948

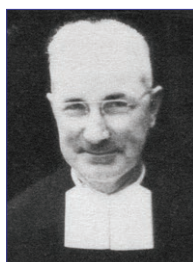
Brother Paquet Odilo



Kirin,
Beijing

Hong Kong (1948)
Taught in La Salle College for a few years and returned to Canada
Passed away in Quebec on 2nd March 1988

Brother Marie-Marcel



Kirin

Transferred to internment camps in Japan in 1942
Passed away in Sendai on 24th March 1964

Brother Belanger Jules



Kirin

Transferred to internment camps in Japan in 1942
Served in Japan after the war
Passed away in Montreal on 20th March 1980

Brother Lemire Hippolyte



Kirin

Transferred to internment camps in Japan in 1942
Served in Japan after the war
Passed away in Montreal on 31st January 1999

Brother Douville Mederic



Moukden

Transferred to internment camps in Japan in 1942
Returned to Canada after the war
Passed away in Montreal on 1st January 1982

Brother Savaria Isidore



Beijing

Hong Kong (1948)
Taught in St. Joseph's College for a few years and returned to Canada
Passed away in Montreal on 20th December 1989

Brother Cyprien Lebel



Beijing

Hong Kong (1948) and taught in La Salle College for a few years before returning to Canada
Passed away in Montreal on 16th December 2014

Brother Adrien Boyer



Beijing

Hong Kong (1948) and returned to Canada
Passed away in Canada on 10th June 2007

Brother Gilbert Perrier



Beijing

Hong Kong (1948) and asked to stay there

Served in Hong Kong until he passed away on 3rd September 1977

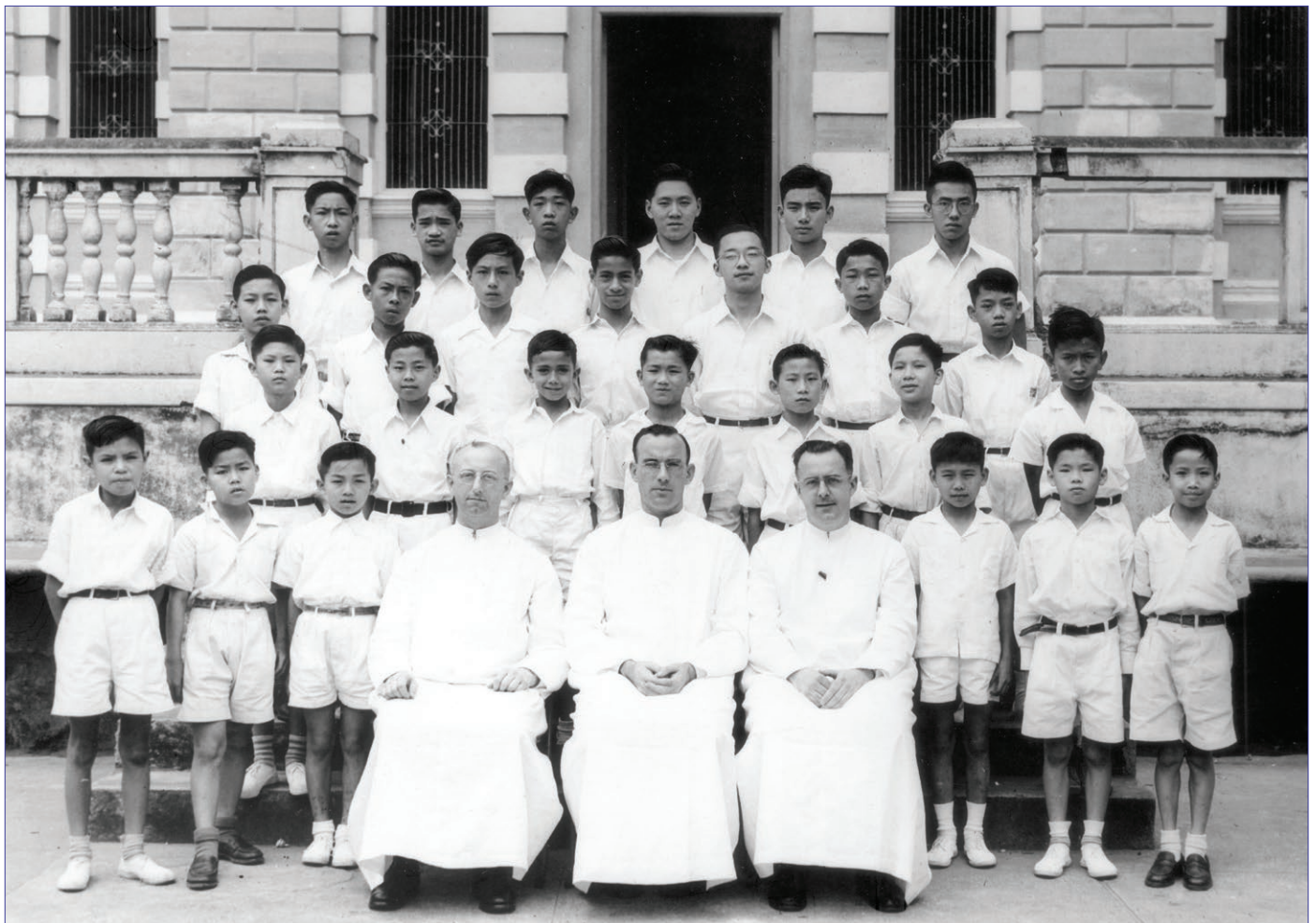
Brother Salvator Pai



Thailand

After finishing his Novitiate in Nhatrang, Vietnam, Brother Salvator taught in Thailand until he passed away in 1990, aged 70.

The only locally born Brother of the north China Mission



Brothers Isidore, Raphael and Gilbert with converts of St. Joseph's College, 1949

Reflection

Visiting the Elderly

Some of our Form 3 students recently went on a service project, in this instance, visiting the elderly. Here are two of their reflections.

I visited the elderly and their ages ranged from 70 to 89. Some had physical disabilities while others were able to engage in conversation and activities. They also shared their experiences of the past. I gave them small gifts before I left.

I learnt to improve my social skills, to show enthusiasm and attentiveness. I also learnt to be empathetic, considering how I would feel in their condition. For example, some complained that they felt neglected and I understood by trying to step into their shoes.

I also encountered difficulties. Some of the elderly had trouble understanding or even hearing what I said. I had to be patient and humble when talking with them. I also found that some were unwilling to talk. Patience is very important in these circumstances. ■

Jolly Place is a Home for senior citizens. I went and had a great day there. I tried to entertain them, I talked to them, played games with them. I tried to make them happy by being a sunshine guy.

I learnt much. I learnt to be cheerful and helpful. I need to be cheerful in order to make others happy. Being happy is important, nobody can live without being happy. It is a feeling of sharing pleasure or contentment.

I also experienced difficulties. I found out that some of the elderly did not speak Cantonese

well. I tried to use my hands to describe the things I wanted to say. This worked out well.

I will be more caring towards the elderly, show full respect and listen to them patiently, even if they speak a different language. ■



... ONE FAMILY





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