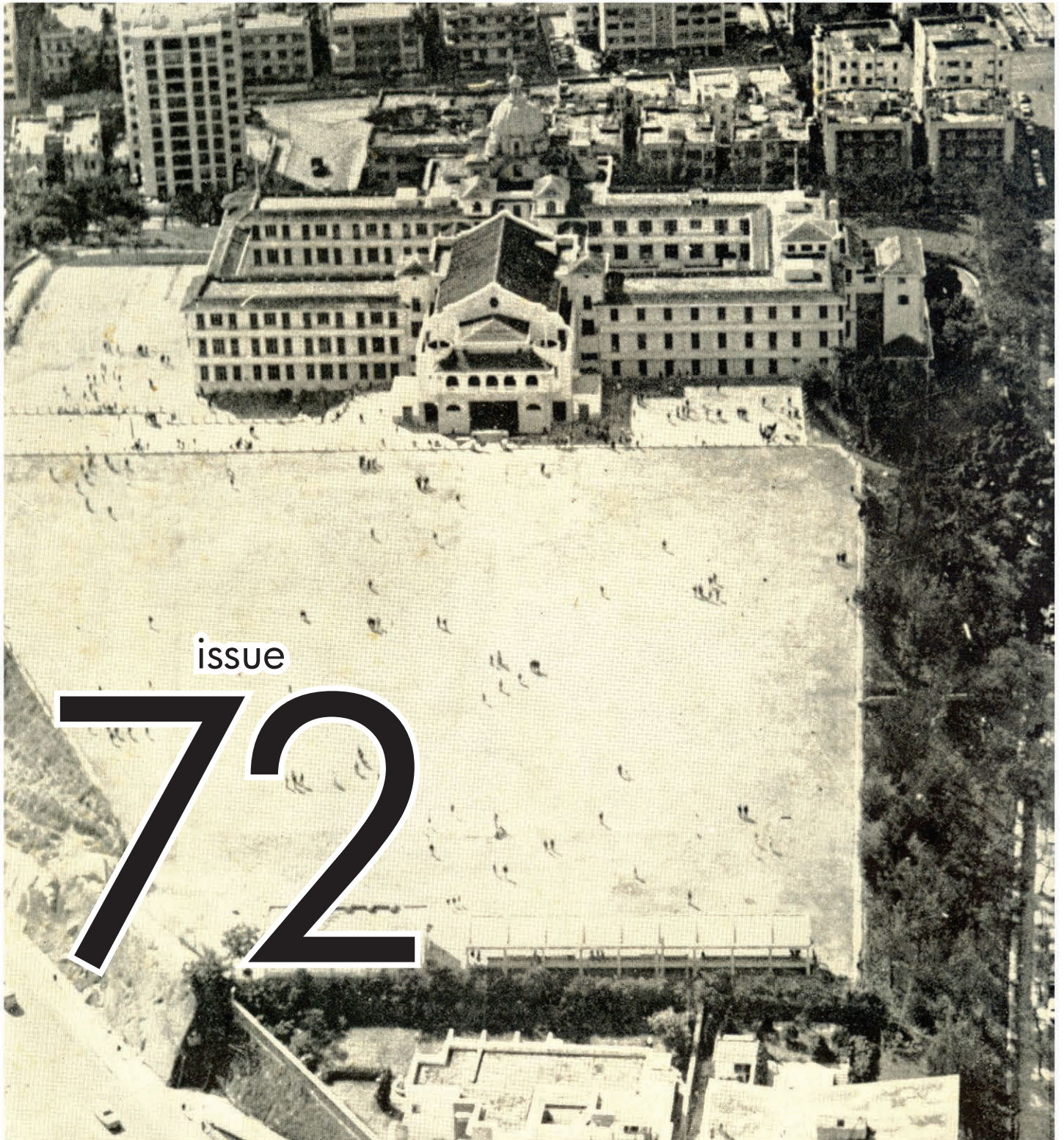


The gateway

LASALLIAN EAST ASIA DISTRICT

November 2017



issue

72

HONG KONG LASALLIAN FAMILY BULLETIN



(Cover) Aerial view of the old field of La Salle College

The gateway

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The Gateway
Hong Kong
Lasallian Family
Bulletin
November 2017
Seventy-Second Issue

Welcome

The first school term is regarded as the busiest. It is the longest, largely uninterrupted, academic stretch. It sees the start of numerous extra-curricular activities, especially in the fields of music and sport. And all leading up to Christmas celebrations.

This first term, too, witnessed the opening of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of La Salle Primary School. The school management has decided to celebrate in a big way. At least one major event will be held every month. The staff, students, parents and old boys are heavily involved. You can get a glimpse in the Gateway Updates.

Our Hong Kong Lasallian Family was asked to help the poor of Cameroon, Africa, by means of an old shoes collection. What started as a small Lasallian project took on a life of its own when the Hong Kong public was alerted and joined in. The result was that four containers are now on their way to Cameroon. There is much generosity hereabouts.

One sad event was the death of Brother Thomas Favier, who had spent nearly all his working life in St. Joseph’s College. His funeral Mass and burial took place on the 23rd of September and there was a very large turnout of mourners. The Gateway will feature Brother Thomas in a future issue.

Since our next issue will be after Christmas, we wish all our readers happiness and peace in the season of goodwill. God bless us all. O



History of La Salle College (Part 2)

This collection is from the hearsay stories shared among some Old Boys of La Salle College. The stories may not all be authentic and they are not meant for academic research. Instead, they are just meant to be some light-hearted comments and memories that the Old Boys treasure and a reflection of their happy days in the College.

POST WAR TIME EXOTIC MOOD

In 1946, when the school reopened, part of the school was a barracks for Indian soldiers. Some students would return early to school to watch the Indian soldiers preparing their meals. It was reported that the Indian soldiers liked to eat chicken. The way the chickens were slaughtered was an unforgettable scene for the students. The soldiers would cut off the heads of the chicken and threw them on the ground. Very often, there would be a number of headless chickens dashing around, seemingly chasing the



students. You can imagine how exciting the boys found this and they all had fun! Also, seeing the Indian soldiers eating with their hands and the way they sat for the prayers were things the students could not learn from their books.

DELICACY

Although there was a snack shop in the school, it was not very attractive to students. Perhaps the snacks they sold were too 'normal' or 'hygienic'. Most students preferred to buy their snacks from the illegal hawkers outside the old school gate entrance. Every day at lunch time and after school, the place would become a food carnival with all sorts of unhealthy classical Chinese delicacies, which the students were able to afford: fish balls, curry pig skin, chicken legs, cow's intestines, stomach and liver, Chinese style pizza, fake 'shark's fin soup' ... everyone could find something to enjoy and that made their school day



not so boring. Some of the students liked the taste of the fake 'shark's fin soup' so much that even after they graduated and became wealthy enough to try the expensive real shark's fin soup, they complained that the fake one tasted better! Perhaps this is because the taste of the cheaper one could bring back the good memories of their school days!

LUNCH BREAK SWIM

The lunch break was quite long in those days and there were always a lot of ways to enjoy the break. Some would go to have a swim in a water pond between what is now Oxford Road and Hereford

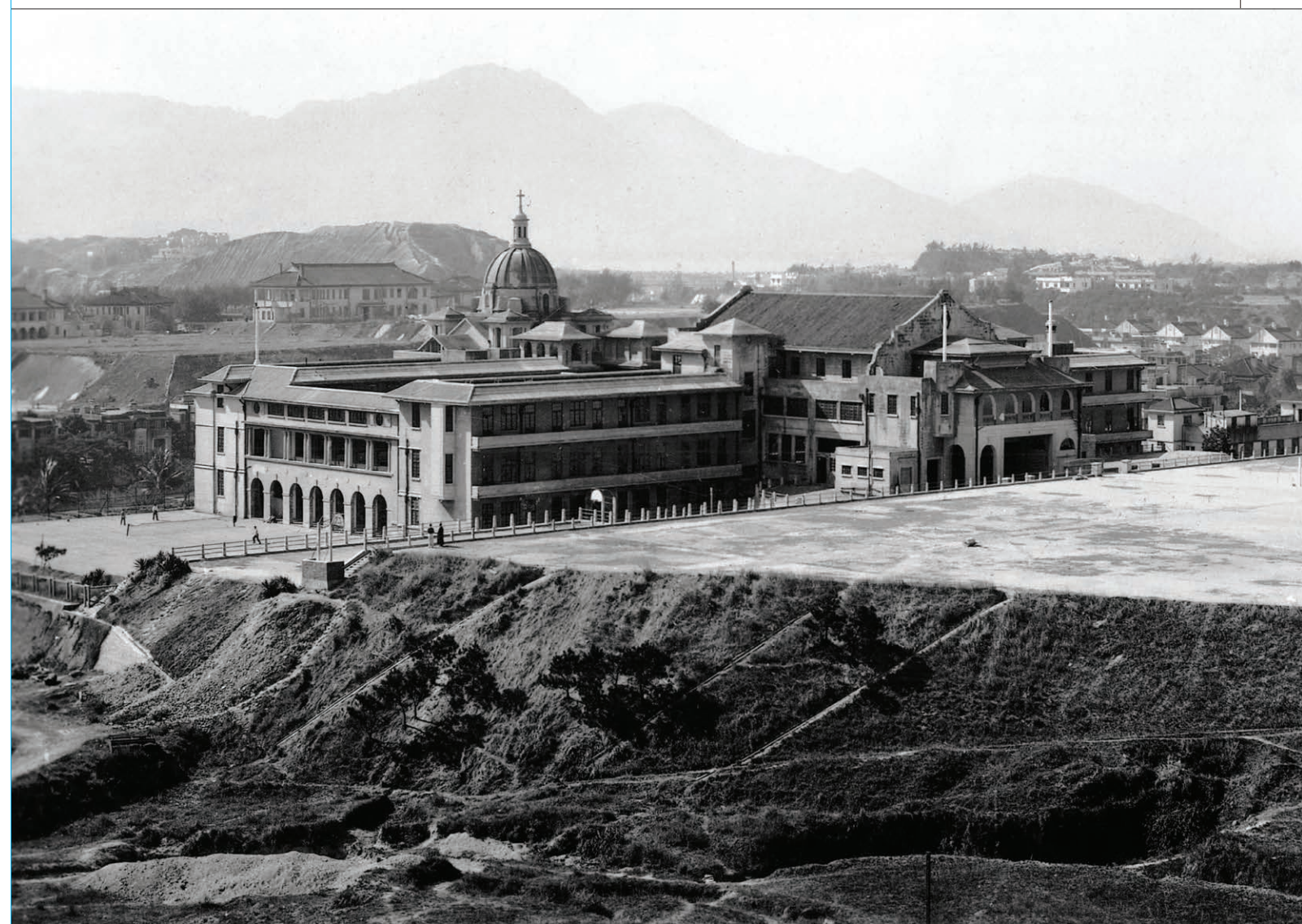


Road. There were a few farms there at the time. The farmers dug a pond for their ducks. Imagine, on a very hot summer day, how tempting it was to have a swim in the cool water with the ducks. The boys would usually hide their school uniform in the grass nearby and jump into the pond naked. When time was up, they would hurriedly put on their uniform and rush back to school, usually without making a sound in the whole process.

Just in case anyone would spot them swimming without swimming trunks!

LIFE BEGAN AFTER SCHOOL

There was no such thing as 'closing time of school' in the old days. The school would remain open as long as you wanted to stay. Students could play all sorts of games after school, ball games, chess, collecting insects, bartering There was no need to book the court or field as all boys respected the virtue of sharing. Very often, you could see three goalkeepers guarding a single goal, 20 to 30 players chasing three or four footballs in the sandy field. It was amazing that all team members knew who they were playing against and which ball to chase after. There were very few conflicts and all enjoyed themselves ... in the Lasallian spirit of Community!



PROMOTION AND DEMOTION



Soon after the war, there was no strict criteria for promotion, retention and demotion, it was all up to the Brothers to make the decision. It was said that when Brother Cassian accepted a new boy, he would take him to the class that still had an empty seat. If there was no

seat in F.2, he might bring the boy to a F.1 class. If there was still no vacancy, the boy would then be brought to a F.3 class. This went on until Brother Cassian found an empty seat for that already frightened poor boy! At the end of the school term, Brother Cassian would go into every classroom and ask if anyone would like to have 'double promotion'. If someone was bold enough to stand up and there was no objection from the class teacher, this boy could get his promotion successfully. Those who got poor results in examinations of course would face retention or even demotion. However, if Brother Cassian found that there was no empty seat in the lower form, the boy would then be kicked back up to his original form. Usually those boys who had gone through such a humiliating experience would swear to study harder.

POST WAR TEACHERS FIRST LADY TEACHER

The early days of La Salle were like the Shaolin Temple. There were only old, middle age and young monks. Even all janitors were male! Perhaps the place was so masculine that the boys only learned to settle disputes through fighting. Within the school, the fights usually would be either racial or tribal or caused by school rivalry, like Chinese vs Portuguese, Cantonese vs Shanghainese, La Salle vs DBS or KGV.

For some unknown reason, Brother Patrick Toner employed a lady teacher to teach higher mathematics in 1953. All believed that the small lady teacher would not survive even a week among all these rude and restless monkeys. Yet it was she that led the young rascals to realize that indeed they could act like real gentlemen! The boys would rush to open doors for the 'lady'. Politeness and gentleness to teachers would be observed once the lady entered the classroom. (The poor male teachers were not so fortunate!)

Small presents and flowers could be found on the teacher's desk every day. This good tradition of being gentle to ladies has been passed on to all La Salle boys.

Since there was no female toilet in the Perth Street Campus, when the lady teacher knocked on the door of Brother Patrick's office, Brother would at once leave and let the lady use his private toilet.

COOLIE PE TEACHERS

Mr. Chuang Wen Chao was a former professor in the Amoy University in China. He took refuge in Hong Kong when the Communists took control of China in 1949. Even though he was not proficient either in English or the Cantonese dialect, he was employed as PE teacher in the school. Believe it or not, he prepared lesson plans for every single PE lesson and training inter-school players after school was part of his 'holy' duty. Since Mr. Chuang could only teach PE and he stayed outdoors nearly the whole day, he was nicknamed 'Coolie' by the students, as his skin was as dark as those coolies working in Western District Pier. But Mr. Chuang was very good at discovering the sports potential in his students and trained them accordingly. We believe he laid down a solid foundation for our school as the top school in sports. The tradition of calling P.E. teachers 'Coolie' died out gradually!



BROTHER FELIX SHEEHAN



Brother Felix was the 4th Principal of the College. He was a tall man and so was nicknamed as 'Go Lo' (tall man in Cantonese) or 'Tai Chai' (big rod). When he became Principal, he felt that the school needed much more discipline and structure. He established the student association, prefects, monitors and a common school uniform (white shirts and white trousers at first).

Teachers did not escape Brother Felix's eye and he complained once about the poor discipline during P.E. lessons. The sports-master, Mr. Chuang, told him that this was totally unfair and said something like "give me money, I go!" Brother Felix relented. Deep down, he was a very kind-hearted man.

Actually, Brother Felix was not as frightening as he appeared at times. He did not know how to say no to a request, especially if someone started crying and appearing helpless. When a teacher was short of money, he could usually ask for pre-paid salary from Brother Felix.

Making use of his 'generosity', the school recruited more staff than it actually needed. Many janitors would ask Brother Felix to let their relatives, friends

move in. The janitors' quarters soon became the 'La Salle Village' with over a hundred residents. Some even had their own cars, pets ... making the place very dirty and noisy. Some people believe that that is one of the main reasons the Brothers determined to demolish the old grand dome after Brother Felix left.

Brother Felix was the one who successfully got back the original campus from the British army. It was during his reign that La Salle Primary School was founded. He helped Brother Paul Sun to open the St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School in Ngau Chi Wan.

Brother Felix was also the founder of the the De La Salle Secondary School in Sheung Shui, N.T. After retirement in Hong Kong, he continued to help the Vietnamese refugees in England until he passed away in Ireland, at the age of 74.

BROTHER CASIMIR HUSARIK

Brother Casimir was the 5th Principal of the school. He was from Czechoslovakia and arrived in Hong Kong in 1933. Since he looked like a movie star, he was nicknamed 'Brother Handsome'. He put on some weight after the war and his nickname changed to 'Brother Cashmere'. Brother Casimir served the school for 44 years.



He loved with a passion the old school building with its glorious Dome. During rainy days, students could see him climbing up to the Dome, clearing anything that might block the drains. He seemed to lose a lot of weight after he learned that the "Dome" was to be demolished. Students seldom saw him in a good mood after that and he passed away in 1977.

BROTHER RAPHAEL EGAN



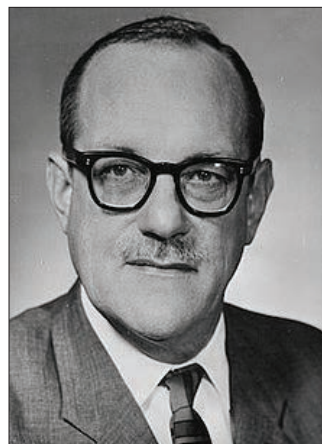
Brother Raphael with Li Ka Shing

Brother Raphael succeeded Brother Casimir as Principal. Brother Raphael became Principal of St. Joseph's College in his early 30s. He was a decisive man. During his time as Principal, he fired dozens of lazy teachers, inefficient janitors ... no one could escape his sharp observation. Only he dared to demolish the old grand building. People believe that if Brother Raphael were still alive, he would not even blink an eye to move La Salle to Sha Tau Kok (a rural village near the border of China).

He looked like the then Governor Sir David Trench and students believed Brother Raphael could also



Brother Raphael Egan



Sir David Trench

have been a politician if he wanted. He was well respected by all students.

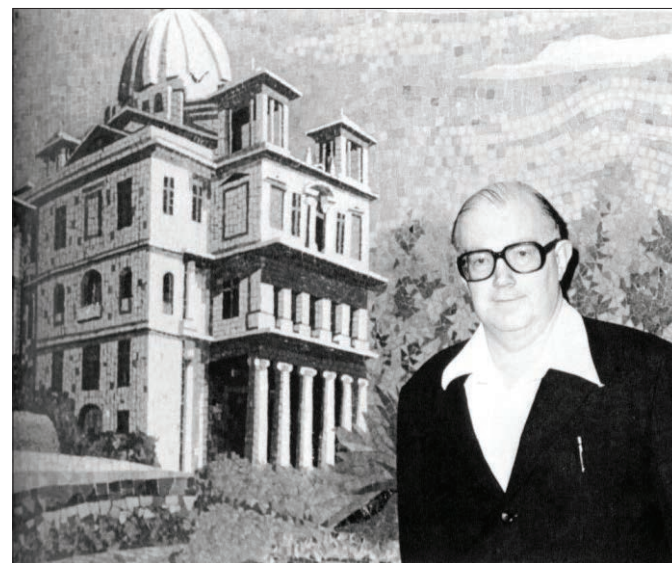
As Brother Raphael's face was always red, students gave him the nickname 'Kwan Kung', the famous general in the Chinese classic story of 'Romance of the Three Kingdoms'.

After retirement, Brother Raphael returned to Ireland and he passed away in 1990.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

In La Salle, the school chaplain, besides saying Mass, also taught religious education and so the students got to know them well. Father Orlando always had a cloak with him. He walked very fast and he looked like a flying fairy. Father Brazzoni was remembered as a Father who loved to bring the students to hunt, with his rifle, in the New Territories.

Then came Father Lea. Father Lea was also the chaplain at the then Kai Tak Airport. He liked to play 'mahjong', even with the air hostesses. He was so good at the game that the air hostesses usually could not compete with him!



Since 'Lea' has the same pronunciation as 'you' in Cantonese, so Father Lea's nickname was 'your father'. 'Where is Father Lea?' would sound like 'where is your father?' ○

Old Shoes Collection

What started as a simple desire to help a priest from the Cameroons blossomed into a mighty endeavour. Father Paul Fru approached the Hong Kong Lasallian Family about the possibility of collecting some old shoes for the poor in his country. He let us know how going barefoot there caused all kinds of misery. Cuts become infected, the skin becomes poisoned and there is infection from flea bites, diseases and infections. All our eight schools were willing to help and began the process.

Suddenly, a poster appeared on social media and the whole of Hong Kong got involved! Thousands upon thousands of old shoes were brought not just to our schools but to various Caritas centres. While some shoes were indeed 'old', the majority were in good shape and almost new.

A number of Lasallian teachers and student helpers went to work, especially in sorting, packing and transporting the shoes. Our De La Salle Secondary School was a main collection centre, thanks to the cooperation of the school authorities. In the end, enough shoes were collected to fill four containers, altogether, about 87,000 pairs of shoes were collected. And some are on their way already. The generosity of the Hong Kong Lasallian Family and of the general public is amazing.

While the shoes will hopefully be a pleasant and practical Christmas present for the poor of the Cameroons, Father Cru long-term aim is to instill the spirit of mutual help into local business people that he has witnessed in Hong Kong. ○

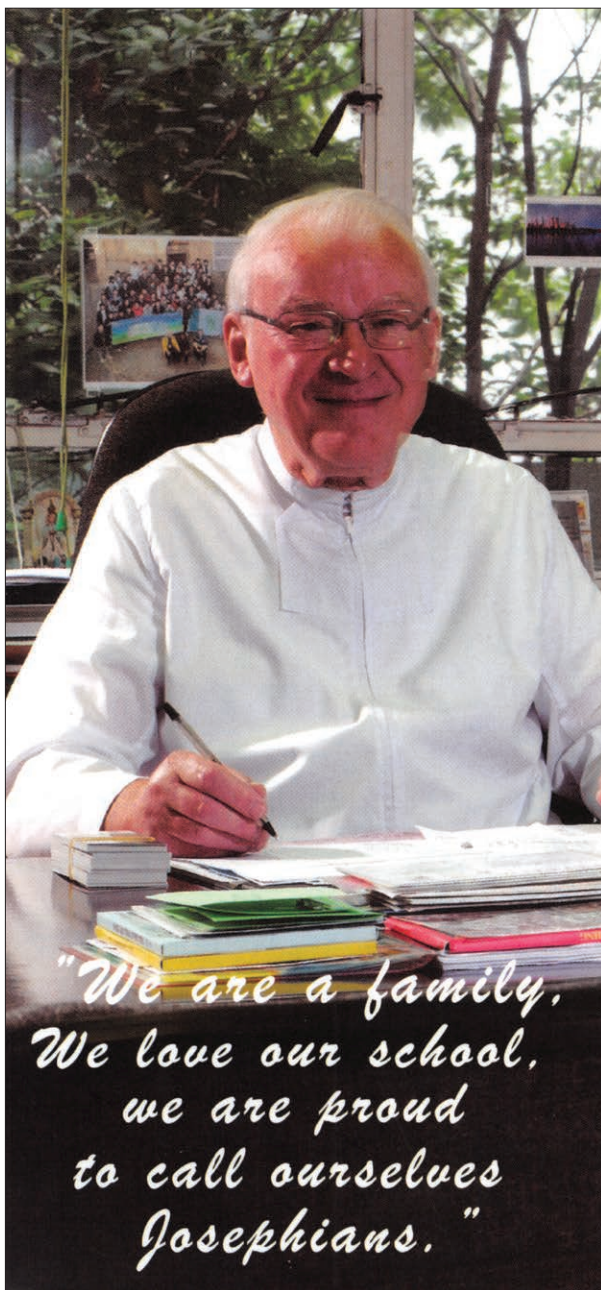


Family Updates

Born to Eternal Life

The Hong Kong Lasallian Family has recently mourned the death of Brother Thomas Favier. He passed gently into God's love on the 7th of September 2017. Although we knew that he had not been well for quite some time, the end came more quickly than expected. He was in hospital at the time. The wake and funeral Mass were held at his beloved St. Joseph's College on the 22nd and 23rd of September respectively. There was a huge turnout, as was expected for someone who had devoted his whole life to one school. Among them was a brother and two sisters of the deceased. Bishop Joseph Ha said the Mass and Father Thomas Law presided over the burial.

May Brother Thomas rest in God's peace and love.



*"We are a family.
We love our school,
we are proud
to call ourselves
Josephians."*



In loving memory of

**Reverend Brother
Thomas Favier, FSC
1942 – 2017**



*"By the care
you take
of your
students
show that
you have a
real love for them."*

St John Baptist de La Salle

Diamond Jubilee

La Salle Primary School is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee in the academic year 2017–2018. The Organising Committee has arranged for one major event per month.

The first was the official opening together with a Thanksgiving Mass. The school was delighted to welcome Cardinal John Tong as the Mass Celebrant as well as many former staff and old boys. After the Mass, there was an opening ceremony presided over by Brother David Liao. All in all, it was a very auspicious start to the celebrations.



The Diamond Jubilee Speech Day was the major event for the month of October. Proceedings opened with outstanding renditions by the school's Drum Team and String Orchestra. The Guest of Honour was Brother Paul Ho, Auxiliary Visitor of the LEAD District. He spoke from the heart, praised the commitment of the parents and strongly advised the Primary school boys never to forget their teachers and to thank them when the occasion arises. A large audience witnessed the presentation of major trophies for academic, cultural and sporting excellence. One genius garnered a haul of over 30 awards!



As part of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations, La Salle Primary School decided to attempt a Guinness World Record on the occasion of the school's Family Sports Day. The record was to take the form of the "Largest Human Image of a Diamond." The stage was set in Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground on Hong Kong Island. The participants included the students, parents, old boy representatives, teachers and school managers, all wearing caps with school colours. The old record stood at 250. We believe the new one is 1,898. Prominent old boy, Jack So, was the Guest of Honour for the Sports Day while Michael Chan and Wilfred Ng kindly acted as official witnesses to the Guinness Book world record. The Sports Day began and ended under blue skies.



CBS Alumni Basketball

Four Hong Kong Lasallian Alumni secondary school teams played a round-robin of basketball games culminating in the finals on Sunday the 23rd of October played at the Gym of La Salle College. The alumni of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College and Chong Gene Hang College played for the third and fourth places while those of St. Joseph's College and La Salle College battled it out in the final. The games were very exciting and it was good to see the alumni still passionate about the game and still fit. A big surprise was also in store for the spectators. Just before the prize presentation, one of the La Salle College players made a marriage proposal to his girlfriend! The bringing together of our alumni for sports tournaments is a step forward and all credit to the organisers.



Cross-Country



The annual inter-school Division 1 cross-country races were held in the pleasant surroundings of the Hong Kong Golf Club on the 6th of November 2018. Conditions were ideal for running, warm but not too hot and not too sunny. Three of our Lasallian secondary schools took part, St. Joseph's College, La Salle College and Chong Gene Hang College. La Salle College did well to secure runner-up spots in both A and C Grades and came in 2nd overall.

The Masters

No, this has nothing to do with heads of schools who, in days of yore, were called 'Masters.' Rather, it refers to the annual athletic meet for folks 35 years of age and older. Members of the La Salle College Athletic Club (LSCAC) take part and this year fielded a goodly number, between 130 and 140 participants. Among them was the College's former Sports-master, Mr. T.P. Cheung and the current Supervisor, Brother Patrick. They tackled the 100m race in the 70 to 75 year-old category and were happy to complete the race. They gave the spectators something to cheer about, not for the speed of their flight, but by just taking part. The spectators had much to cheer about when the doyen of Hong Kong women's racing took part, at the age of 94! The LSCAC participants performed mightily and are growing from strength to strength.



Bazaars

Around the month of November, the Catholic Church holds a number of Bazaars both in public and in church grounds. The proceeds go to charities. All our Hong Kong Lasallian secondary schools take part and did their bit for the cause. Months beforehand, goods of all kinds are collected and stored, to be brought out on the day. Toys tend to predominate. The large-scale public bazaars are organised by Caritas, the social welfare arm of the church. Awards are given for best overall stalls, best games design, best slogan etcetera. The Bazaars attract large crowds and they have become family occasions.



Going Strong

The Scout Troop of La Salle College is called the 17th Kowloon, familiarly called the "seventeeners." A large gathering of the Troop took place on the 18th of November to celebrate its 80th Anniversary. Investiture took up the first part of the afternoon and then there was a Gala Dinner in the school hall in the evening. "Grasshopper" scouts, as young as seven or eight, Cub scouts, Rover scouts, Group Committee members, Old Boy scouts as well as families and guests filled the hall. Some even flew back from overseas to be part of the proceedings. The special scout family atmosphere prevailed at the dinner making for a pleasant and relaxing evening all round. Happy Anniversary 17K!





School Visits

Brothers Dennis Magbanua and Francisco Teerayut came to visit at the end of October and we were able to show them around some of our schools including Chong Gene Hang College, St. Joseph's Primary School, St. Joseph's College, La Salle College and La Salle Primary School. We are sure they will get a chance to visit our other Lasallian schools later on. The Brothers wish to thank the school supervisors, principals and staff who made the visits so worthwhile.

Educational Outreach Project

This year the Hong Kong Lasallian Family continues with its educational outreach to the disadvantaged. The programme is specifically geared to newly arrived students from China whose standard of English is well below par. The opening session was held on the 10th of November 2017 in Ngau Tau Kok Caritas Centre. About 20 students have been selected for enhanced English exposure.

We were fortunate that a young old boy of St. Joseph's College readily consented to share with the group. He himself had arrived from China at primary school age. After knocking on the door of many schools, one accepted him. He shared his struggle as well as his methods of becoming proficient in English.



Peace – Shalom – 平安

Every year the centre of our Institute issues a call for world peace under the banner of 'The International Lasallian Days of Peace'. Our Hong Kong Lasallian Family suggests and organises a number of events in our schools to emphasise the theme. They take such forms as art colouring, bookmarks and poster design, composition and video shooting. On top of that, prayers and prayer services for peace are held. The call for peace finds a response in every heart.



Art on the Road

For the past 16 years, students of Chong Gene Hang College mount an art exhibition in the public domain. This year, the exhibition was held from the 11th to 16th of November in an art gallery in Wanchai. The school invited back its former students, especially those who are active in fine arts, media, design and architecture. One of them, currently at university, shared his experiences and feelings with the audience. Staff, parents, old boys and members of the public enjoyed the exhibition.





www.lasalle.org.hk

