

The

LASALLIAN EAST ASIA DISTRICT



gateway

April 2018, 10th Anniversary

A zecea aniversare Ikanapulo nga Anibersaryo Decimo anniversario Tiende jubilæum

Tiende verjaardag Dekka Datreveno Kümnes aastapäev Ikasampu na Anibersaryo

Kymmenes vuosipäivä Dixième anniversaire Sannadka tobnaad Décimo aniversario

მეთათე სათუბილეო Zehnter Jahrestag Ka'umi o ka makahiki Peringatan Kespuluh

Десята річниця Goma na goma Deseta obletnica Kaum Ib Xyoo

Tizedik évforduló Afó Iri nke Anọ Tíunda afmæli Δέκατη Επέτειος

Deichiú Comóradh Wulan kapitu ಹತ್ತನೇ ವಾರಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವ

Соли дахум Tsien jierdei

दशौं सालगरिह દસમી વર્ષગાંઠ

Dešimtadalis Desáté výročí

Te tekau ma rima o nga tau പത്താം വാർഷികം

Оныншы мерейтойы Ulang Tahun Kespuluh

Sefulu Tausaga Tausaga Kỳ niệm lần thứ mười

I-Anniversary yeshumi Sehlooho sa Leshome

Арав дахь жилийн ой Salvegera sisiyan பத்தாம் ஆண்ட, Décimo Aniversário

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Desmitā gadadiena दहावा वर्षापनदनि Dënschdes Joresdag X Coetus Anniversary

Десетта годишнина Desiate výročie L-ghaxar Anniversarju ဆယ်တိုတိုနှစ်ပြောက်

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**The Gateway
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Seventy-Fourth Issue**

Welcome

Easter has come and we are still in the season. The Brothers, by tradition, went off to make their annual Retreats, almost a luxury in this day and age.



Believe it or not, this is the 10th anniversary of *The Gateway*. In this issue, our main feature is an article on a remarkable man called Paul Sun. He was a Brother but not a La Salle Brother. Yet he was the closest thing to that and of course was made an affiliated member of the Institute – AFSC. We hope you will feel part of his story interesting and inspiring.

Another article focuses on the homeless in Hong Kong. Perhaps most people regard Hong Kong as a highly developed first world city and in many ways it is. Yet it also contains a large number of homeless people who are sometimes referred to as ‘McRefugees.’ Much work needs to be done.

The lead up to the Easter holidays was a busy time for schools as some of the updates show. Two of our schools are especially busy. La Salle Primary School has been celebrating its Diamond Jubilee since last September while St. Joseph’s Primary School has commenced its Golden Jubilee celebrations.

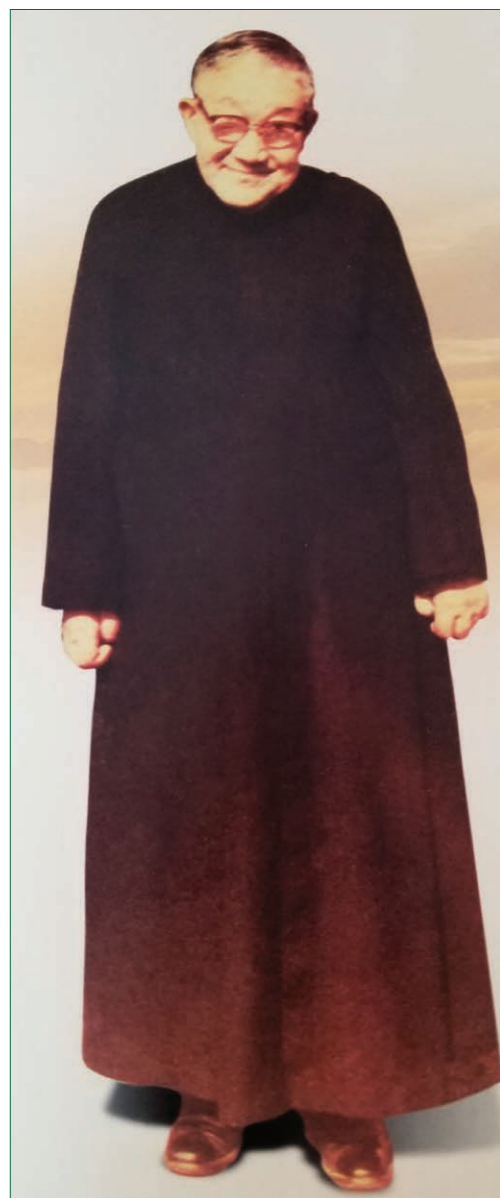
Spring has been in the air, with all its glorious blooms. Even though we are in a city of densely packed high-rise buildings, we do have parks and some of our streets are tree-lined. Thank God for that. ☺

A Happy Easter to all our readers.



The Lasallian Connection

Brother Paul Sun



Brother Paul Sun was a remarkable man by any standards. In this article we concentrate mainly on his Lasallian connections but, in truth, his whole life was interesting and inspiring.

Born in 1907 in the province of Jehol (熱河省), in modern-day Inner Mongolia, Brother Paul attended a school run by a Society called the Disciples of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This Society was founded in 1911 by a Belgian Bishop, Louis Janssens. He dedicated the Society to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and made St. Teresa of Lisieux and St. John Baptist de La Salle its patrons. After each religious exercise the invocation "St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us," was said.

The Society was unusual in that it had as its mission the education of young Chinese in Jehol and nearby provinces and its members were all to be Brothers. Bishop Janssens had taken his inspiration in this regard from the educational mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (La Salle Brothers).

The future Brother Paul must have been impressed by those teaching Brothers when he attended one of their schools, so much so that he made up his mind to join them and professed his first vows, at the age of 18 on the 22th of August, 1926. He was first sent for study at Fu Jen university in Beijing followed by a three-year study course in Japan from 1933 to 1936.

Brother Paul must also have been impressed by a group of La Salle Brothers who, by coincidence, happened to be sent on a mission to north-east China in 1936. Here is an excerpt from a letter written by their Director, Brother Marie-Liguori in 1939 which shows how the two Brothers congregations were drawing closer:



"We happen to know and in fact have the most cordial relation with a group of local Brothers with a rule very similar to ours. The congregation has 36 professed members and they run a middle school as well as a number of elementary schools. I knew their Superior in Tokyo where we followed the same Japanese classes. Every time they come to Moukden, they never fail to come by to

visit us. It seems there is a move among some of these local Brothers for a merger with our congregation. The Superior has given us some hints about this."

The Moukden mentioned by Brother Marie-Liguori is present day Shenyang (沈陽), capital of the province of Liaoning.

Shortly afterwards, in 1940, Brother Paul Sun was elected Superior General of the Disciples of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in China. Soon afterwards, some of his Brothers were kindly sent to help with the La Salle Brothers' work in Szuping kai (Siping 四平市) in the early 1940s. They also helped to teach Chinese to the La Salle Brothers.

This was the period of Japanese occupation of north-east China and so the times were fraught with danger, Japanese on one side, Nationalists and Communists on the other, on top of which were many warring factions. Events took their course, the Second World War played itself out to its bloody end, civil war in China ensued and the Communists emerged victorious.

The victory of the Communists spelt the death-knell for Christian missionaries and particularly for those involved in education. Education in future would only be in Communist hands. Most missionaries were advised to get out while there was still time. The Brothers, both those of La Salle and those of Brother Paul, began to head for Hong Kong and elsewhere in 1948/1949.

Brother Paul sought refuge with the La Salle Brothers in Kowloon but soon set out to Indonesia with a few of his Brothers where they established a secondary school in 1950.

Brother Paul himself returned to Hong Kong in 1952 and again stayed with the La Salle Brothers taking care of the boarders in the La Salle College, Perth Street campus. He had not given up the idea of recruiting young men to join his congregation and in 1956 he wrote to Bishop Bianchi requesting that such recruits, if any, be sent to the La Salle Brothers' Novitiate in Penang Malaysia. He believed that this would



Staff photo of La Salle College in early 50s. Brothers Cyprien Lebel (front, first left) and Paquet Odilo (front, second right) were two of the Canadian Brothers who were forced to leave China and came to Hong Kong in 1948. Together with Brother Paul, they taught in La Salle College in the Perth Street campus.



Staff photo of La Salle Primary School in the 50s

cause no problems since the rules governing his congregation were very similar to those of the La Salle Brothers.

Brother Paul was not a man to let the grass grow under his feet. He began to teach Religion and Mandarin in the Primary classes of La Salle College, where he soon came under the influence of Brothers Felix Sheehan and Henry Pang, learning the ropes in the context of Hong Kong as it were. He was strict enough but the boys soon saw through to the heart.

At the same time, and again with the help of Brothers Felix and Henry, he began to explore the possibility of establishing a school to be run by his own Brothers. With the help of the Brothers as well as of a lady called Madam Lily La Fleur who provided a large house, his dream began to take shape and in 1958, the foundation stone was laid for a new school.

Next came discussion of the name. Brother Paul knew both La Salle College and St. Joseph's College well. He knew that St. La Salle had chosen St. Joseph as the Patron of the Brothers Institute. St. Joseph had taken the utmost care of the infant and the boy Jesus. That would be the spirit of the new venture. St. Joseph's would be the name of Brother Paul's new school. But how to distinguish it from the existing St. Joseph's College. The answer was to call it St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese Primary and Secondary School which opened its doors in 1958.

The new school was located in the district called Ngau Chi Wan, about two miles from La Salle



Bishop Bianchi and Br Felix witnessing the Foundation Ceremony of the new secondary school on 7th February 1967.



First staff photo of St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School, 1958 at 57, Kwun Tong Road

College. While all the La Salle Brothers liked Brother Paul a lot, he had three special friends among them, Brothers Felix Sheehan, Anthony Knoll and Henry Pang. They were towers of strength to Brother Paul in the early days.

Brother Felix actually became one of the school managers right from the beginning. He also allowed their F.4 science class boys to use the La Salle College laboratories for their lessons. Meanwhile, Brother Henry helped with some administrative matters.



Staff of 1958 - 1959

Later on, Brother Anthony went so far as to become a full-time teacher in the new school and indeed became the Vice Principal in 1973. Brother Anthony and Brother Paul were like soul-mates. Brother Paul was also helped by a Brother from his own Society who had managed to escape from China.

With Brother Paul at the helm, instilling his own spirit of love and care, the school began to prosper. It used to be said that Brother Paul was so kind-hearted that he could never say no to a request for a place in the school. Of course that led to large classes! But the students, parents, and even staff, were not complaining. They were part of a happy school.

As Brother Paul himself put it, "from the spiritual side, we start by laying foundations for good habits, for good conduct and for good academic results. It is the most important work. It is also the most difficult to achieve. Consequently, I have tried to turn St. Joseph's into a big family to achieve this spiritual aim."

Partly to achieve this aim and right from the beginning of the new school, Brother Paul made a point of greeting the students and teachers as they entered the school. Every morning, rain or shine, Paul would be at the school entrance.

In this way he got to know the names of the students and of many parents as well. He was the visible physical icon of the school a benign, fatherly figure.



Another method of bonding that Brother Paul favoured was, together with Brother Anthony, to go on long hikes mainly with members of staff. They ranged up and around the mountains of Hong Kong before descending for dinner and drinks, invariably paid for by Brother Paul. Generosity was one of his strong virtues. His staff, students and parents did not forget it.

Neither did the La Salle Brothers forget Brother Paul who visited them regularly, prayed with them



and made Retreats with them. The relationship was so close that they decided to make Brother Paul an Affiliated member of their Institute.

The conferring ceremony was held on the 5th of March, 1972, when Brother Paul officially received the title of AFSC from the hands of the then Superior General, Brother Charles Henry Buttmer. This title is the highest honour that the La Salle Brothers bestow, a sign of the closest connection between them and the recipient. Brother Paul received the honour with his usual modesty and he was delighted.

All this time a disease affecting the joints was afflicting Brother Paul. Ankylosing spondylitis began to cripple him. Curvature of the spine and body resulted, his fingers also succumbing. He had to wear a neck brace. There was obviously pain. Seeing him thus afflicted elicited pity but Brother Paul himself never indulged in any form of self-pity. Instead, he got on with the work until he could no longer stand and became bed-ridden.

Even in that condition there were no complaints. Father Philip Chao, who acted as school chaplain took care of him.

Brother Paul died on the 13th of March, 1986 and his funeral eulogy was delivered by Brother Henry Pang who said: "With his passing we have lost an exemplary religious, and outstanding educator and, dare I say, a saint. He was one of nature's gentlemen. He was a man of God, with a vision and a mission. Today his mission is accomplished. May you, Brother Paul, realise your vision also, as our Lord opens his arms to receive and welcome you."

Brother Paul was buried in Cheung Sha Wan Catholic Cemetery, accompanied by many friends including La Salle Brothers. To the Brothers, he was a Lasallian in all but name.

The memory of Brother Paul remains green. ○

*The Lord gives and
The Lord Takes*

Bro. Paul Sun

... ONE FAMILY



McRefugees: a new tribe of nomads in Hong Kong

According to a recent survey by Citibank, one in seven in Hong Kong is a millionaire. That means Hong Kong had a million millionaires in 2017, up 15% from a year earlier, while 68,000 have at least HK\$10 million (US\$1.27 million). However, this is nothing that Hong Kong people can be proud of because they know very well the cruel reality behind the spotlight! At more or less the same time, another report stated that the number of impoverished Hongkongers had hit a record high with one out of five people living below the poverty line. This new statistic sparked questions from lawmakers and social workers over the effectiveness of the government's poverty-alleviation measures.

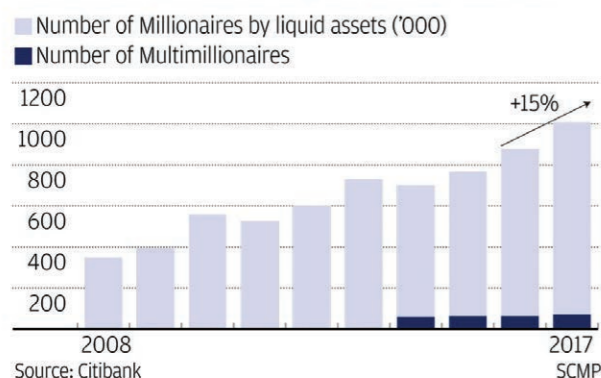


Though housing, the most basic human right, has long been seen as the major crisis the local government is facing, our policy makers seem to have placed their faith in the 'free market' principle and are reluctant to have short and long-term policies to decrease the number of homeless in the streets or families living in sub-divided flat.

Twenty years after its return to Chinese rule, Hong Kong has seen huge economic improvements, and such progress is reflected in the surging stock market and skyrocketing housing prices. The housing shortage, in turn, only widens the disparity between the rich and the poor. Today there is virtually no flat in the city that is below HK\$15,000 (US\$2000) per square foot. Worse still, an average family will need to save their entire income for almost 30 years before they can buy their own home at current prices, and even if they are finally able to do so, they can only afford a tiny 150-square-foot unit. That basically kills young people's dream of buying their own flat — and even if they are qualified for public housing (they have to prove to the government they are poor enough), they will have to wait more than eight years. So those "N-nothing" people have to pay high rent for sub-divided flats, rooms or even cage homes where the living conditions are terrible and privacy cannot be protected. Their only other choice is to become one of the homeless.

Millionaire population in Hong Kong

The number of millionaires grew 15% over last year



Believe it or not, the real immediate relief to this group of N-nothings does not come from the Government or other charity organizations but the fast food shop McDonald's. New terms like McRefugees, McSleepers and even Mc's Housing Crisis Index have emerged in Hong Kong's newspapers and social media.

A few years ago, most McDonald restaurants started to open 24 hours, which is obviously a business decision to maximize their profit. However, unlike some government-run organizations, they are quite considerate of the plight of the 'McRefugees' and treat them with dignity. As long as they can afford the cheapest order the fast food restaurant can offer, they are allowed to stay inside, in safe and air-conditioned comfort.



It was the lonely death of a homeless woman at a 24-hour McDonald's that aroused the society on the need to help 'McRefugees'. On the 3rd of October, 2015, a dead woman, who had gone unnoticed by staff and customers, was found slumped over a table — 24 hours after she entered the fast food restaurant, with only HK \$2.60 (less than US 40 cents) in her pocket.

Despite this tragic incident, again the government has done nothing and, in fact, the situation has got worse. A survey by the Society for Community Organization in 2018 showed that the number of homeless people who spend their nights in 24-hour branches at McDonald's has increased

by 50 percent in the last three years. Some media referred to this as the 'shame of Hong Kong'.

While McDonald's probably deserves some recognition for 'hosting' hundreds of these N-nothing citizens and saving them from both hot and chilly nights, people are angry that the government still ignores their need, especially when a record surplus of HK \$138 billion (US \$17.6 billion) this year has just been disclosed.

In his book 'Poverty in the midst of Affluence', Leo Goodtadt, head of the Hong Kong Government Central Policy Unit from 1989 to 1997, stated that Hong Kong's prosperity is mismanaged. Successive governments have been reluctant to invest in services for the elderly, the disabled, the long-term sick, and the poor.

In Hong Kong today, hundreds of thousands of people take to the streets in support of greater democracy, but far fewer take to the streets in support of a fairer society for the poor and disadvantaged.

The Hong Kong Government is so 'poor' that the only thing they have is money. They are also poor in vision, poor in making the right policies and lack the ability to empathise. Surprisingly, the public tends to trust the Government and believes its officials are goodhearted.

As it stands, we believe there will be more 'local refugees' seeking shelter in McDonald's, KFC or Starbucks ... Hong Kong has been throwing around the tag "Asia's World City" since 2001. The Government will have to do far more to make that tag stick. ○



Family Updates

Odyssey of the Mind - Champions



Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School recently received excellent news. A group of seven students, four from P.5 and three from P.6 had been chosen to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind Hong Kong Tournament. On the 3rd of March, 2018, the school received the news that their team had won the competition. It is a signal honour for the school, considering that there was very stiff competition. The school will now represent Hong Kong at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals to be held on the 23rd to the 26th of May, 2018 at Iowa State University in the United States. It will be the first time that the school takes part in an international competition and we wish them well.

Three Days

A highlight of the sports year is the annual inter-school athletic meet. It is held over three days, in Wanchai Stadium, in the heart of Hong Kong Island. The top 16 boys and girls schools vie for honours on track and field. The atmosphere, especially on Day 3, is electric. Many races go down to the wire. La Salle College athletes did themselves, their coaches and their school proud by carrying off the under 16 trophy and taking runners-up spot in both the under 20 and under 14 Grades. On top of that they broke two prized records, one in the under 20 High Jump and one in the under 20 4X400 metre relay. All in all, quite a satisfactory three days work.



Beyond and Forward

St. Joseph's Primary School is celebrating its Golden Jubilee year. First off was a Thanksgiving Mass held in the Cathedral. The chief celebrant was Bishop Michael Yeung assisted by the Vicar General and some old boy priests. Everything was arranged well. The choir sang sweetly, the offertory gifts were well chosen, the Bishop



gave a thoughtful homily and memorable pictures were taken at the end. St. Joseph's is the feeder Primary school for St. Joseph's College and many old boys attended, as well as parents. 'Beyond and Forward' is the theme of the year as the school continues to work towards an ever-brighter future.



Open Day

La Salle Primary School hosted an Open Day as part of its ongoing Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It was a grand affair with former Financial Secretary and old boy, Mr. John Tsang, as Guest of Honour.

In the opening ceremony the drums rolled, the music swelled and the sportsmen demonstrated. A highlight of the programme was a visit to areas of updated IT hardware and software, sampling the 'Wow' room, the iBeacon, the Internet of Things and so on. Some visitors happily followed the trail of the 60 school icons and received special souvenirs at the finish. The weather

was warm without being too hot, ideal for the occasion. All concerned with preparations for the Open Day deserve much credit.



Lasallian Education Council Meeting



It is not every time that the Council meets on St. Patrick's Day! Word had percolated down the grapevine to the Irish Consulate and Chamber of Commerce. They kindly sent along 'Irish' refreshments — porter and whiskey cakes and crisps and LEC members enjoyed the refreshment break. The meeting itself addressed

issues relating to the Lasallian mission in Hong Kong such as our Mission Fund and reports on the Viability and Vitality of the Mission.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Unlike last year, this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade took place on a beautiful, warm and sunny afternoon, on the 11th of March. St. Patrick will surely forgive the anticipating of his feast-day. The parade is a colourful and cultural event, winding its way near the waterfront of Hong Kong Harbour. Almost everybody wears at least a touch of green — some are dressed from head to toe in green! As usual, a group of La Salle College students, staff, old boys and parents took part and enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Participants also appreciate the offering of a snack at the finish. Beannachtai na Feile Padraig roimh uile!



Retreats 2018

The Brothers of the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD) held their annual Retreats in Holy Week, one in Malaysia, one in the Philippines and one in Thailand. The presenters were well prepared and gave inspiring content. A special feature of the Retreats was the Renewal of Vows by a number of young Brothers. It was a heart-warming sight to see so many young men willing to take up the life and mission of the Brothers.



Public Speaking

On the 10th of April, 2018, La Salle College was privileged to host a presentation by Susan Culleton on the art of public speaking. She was recommended by the Irish Consulate who knew of her expertise. A selection of Form 5 students benefited from the presentation which might be considered as an 'other learning experience.' Susan has spoken to many groups and the students found her presentation both inspiring and relevant.



Nature Blooms



Bougainvillea, Kowloon Walled City Park, Kowloon City

Blooming trees, shrubs and plants have brightened our days through the months of Spring.

Early on there was the cotton tree, of more reddish tint this year. It stands tall, as if determined to overlook and overawe its neighbours.

The bougainvillea is not tall, more of a creeper, but what it lacks in height it more than makes up for in brilliance of colour. It just hits you between the eyes.

The officially designated Hong Kong flower is the bauhinia. It is widespread and was particularly profuse this year in both park and street.

The golden trumpet tree brings us joy. One look and we smile. It is magnetic and draws crowds of

people, especially in a densely populated city like Hong Kong. Perhaps we are also attracted to gold!

The two more recent arrivals are the azalea shrubs and spider trees. The azaleas show off, especially along slopes. They grow in profusion along the slope of one of our nearby schools.

Spider trees currently line the La Salle Road. They form a sort of bridal pathway, with creamy white petals.

We await two more favourites, the jacaranda and the flame of the forest. Bounteous nature is so good to us.



Bauhinia, Kowloon Tsai Park, Kowloon City



Golden Trumpet Tree, Nan Cheong Park, Shamsuipo



Azalea, Maryknoll Convent School, Waterloo Road



Spider Tree, La Salle College



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