

The Gateway



Issue 92
September 2021



If you take a walk along the Shing Mun River Promenade, you will likely come across Egrets at work. They seem to stand patiently for hours on end, waiting for their reward.

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Welcome

We are all happy that school has resumed with physical presence. The happiest might be the Primary One students and their parents. Last year's Primary 1 started online and it's just not the same. We are still hoping for whole-day schooling and the conducting of extra-curricular activities. We need at least a 70% student and teacher vaccination record for that.

We are also happy that, despite Covid restrictions, we have been able to carry out quite a number of activities. You may be surprised at the number and variety when you browse the Updates. Of course, we have to be careful about wearing masks and social distancing.

Two of our schools are celebrating jubilees. La Salle College celebrates its 90th and Chong Gene Hang College its 50th. Both schools have rich and interesting histories. To set the ball rolling, La Salle had a colourful kick-off ceremony while Chong Gene Hang had a Thanksgiving Mass and Statue Blessing. Congratulations to both schools and may their future be rich in blessings.

It is not too often that we have the pleasure of welcoming a new Brother to Hong Kong. And so, we are delighted to welcome Br Paolo Mata into our midst. He comes from the Philippines and has already had experience of teaching in Singapore. He has been assigned to St Joseph's College.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, with its accompanying mooncakes and lanterns, has come and gone and the public holiday was a welcome respite from the busyness of everyday life. The beautiful festival lanterns fill the city with a festive glow. The Chinese are simply marvellous when it comes to the colour and creativity of such festivals.

Until we meet again.



Back to School



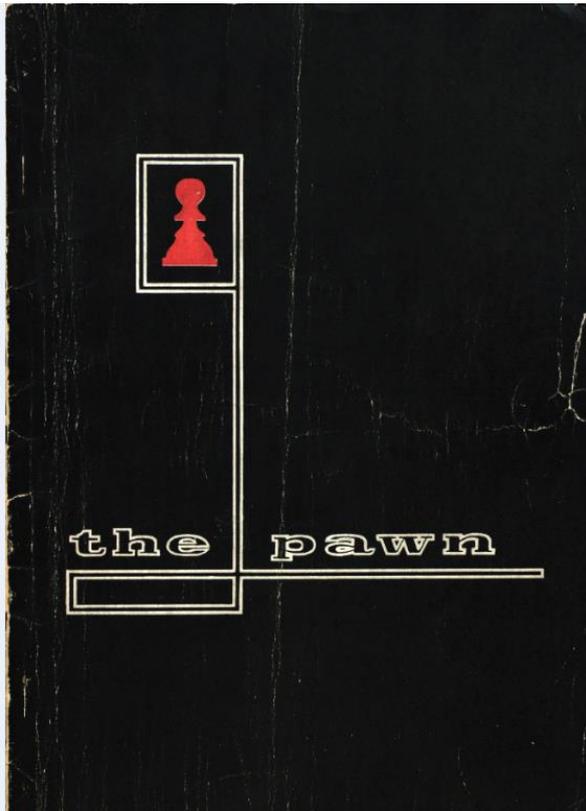
We were all glad to see the students back in school as of September 1st. And we were also glad to hear the sounds of school life. Of course, Covid restrictions are still in force. Mask-wearing is mandatory and after school activities not allowed. We look forward to brighter times.

The new students already have had their bridging or orientation programmes. We were therefore amused when a teaching Brother told us that a secondary one student's first question was "Where is the toilet!"

There has also been a major development in one of our schools. Chong Gene Hang College has officially become a co-ed school and the first batch of girls was admitted on September 1st. We wish the new venture every success.



Excerpt from 'The Pawn': A Brother I Know



A student publication by the graduating matriculation class of La Salle College in 1957, is entitled 'The Pawn.' It is a little gem of its kind.

With very little amendment, we select a piece about a Brother who impressed a certain student. The student entitled the piece: 'A Brother I Know.'

"If you happen to visit the school Library or the Geography Room, you may be able to see a man of about forty years old, with a pair of large black eyes, a long yet well-shaped nose, and a pair of thin lips, wearing a white gown and busily and carefully going over the books on the shelf. There he was, running his fingers quickly across the rows of books, but when they came to the few thick ones wrapped beautifully in good paper, he would pause for a moment, and then, having taken them out one by one scrutinise them. After turning all or

nearly all the pages over with the gesture of a Chinese lady holding a needle, he would heave a sigh of relief and close the books with a certain amount of satisfaction. Sometimes the expression on his face may be otherwise after his routine check-up.

No:.....CZC. 232.....

REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, 1934.9
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

Police Department.
 Hong Kong

This is to certify that.....HUSARIK, Stefan.....*La Salle College, Kowloon*
 Address.....St. Joseph's College, 7 Kennedy Road, H.K......

Has Been Registered Under the Registration of Persons Ordinance, 1934, and Has supplied the Particulars Specified in the Schedule.

N. B. Unless specifically exempted, every change of business or residential address or intended departure from the colony must be notified within one week before every such change of address or intended departure as the case may be, and every fresh arrival in the colony must be notified within a period of ~~seventy~~⁴⁸ two hours.

In any further reference to this office you should quote the number in the top left hand corner of this certificate.

G. Russell Innes
 COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

Date.....20 June.....1946.....



“Who the devil has taken my ‘Monkhouse’ away?” or “Who has underlined this part with pencil?” he would ask himself with a bit of anger. “Oh, oh, that will never do. They are treating my treasures as though they were their own. Just wait till tomorrow and you will see. Just wait till tomorrow.” Then he walked away, slamming the door loudly behind him.



The next morning everybody was expecting a violent outburst. What usually happened was that he walked hurriedly into the classroom with his leather bag, like a busy statesman, flinging his bag onto the table. He would stand there rubbing his hands rapidly and would stare at a few whom he suspected to be guilty of the “theft” without saying a word. For a moment there was absolute quietness in every corner of the classroom, for everyone was expecting a bomb to explode at any time. Then, finding what an effect his cold attitude could produce, he broke out into a sort of mysterious smile which he often did when he was content with something. By then, everybody knew the storm was over.

One can easily mistake him to be a hot-tempered man at first sight. Yes, he can be furious like a lion sometimes, but it is unfair to judge a man just by one look. If you want to know a man, you have to get acquainted with him that you may be able to see how he deals with small matters, for trifles often betray the true character of a man. It is one of these trifling matters



that has completely changed my former impression of him. I am not going to give an account of the occasion on which I changed my mind, for it was a very small matter, and furthermore the reader may not think as I think and may not feel as I feel and therefore he may say I am too sensitive about things. However, I would like to tell it to someone in private, someone who is sympathetic, kind and understanding.

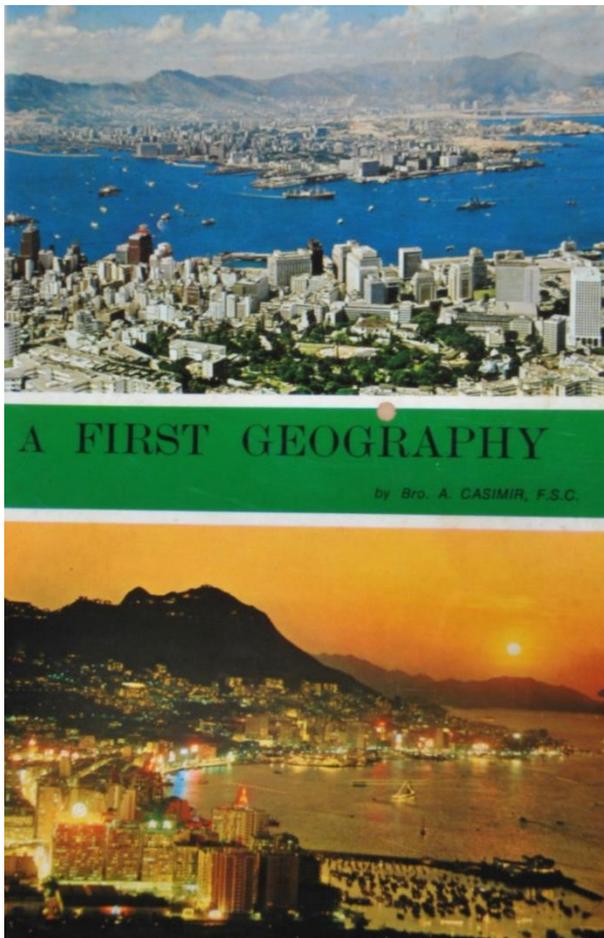
Our Brother is a geographer besides being a scholar of the French language. He knows Geography as well as any geographer so far as theoretical geography is concerned, but when talking

of people and places, few can be compared with him for his footmarks covered half the globe. That is why he knows many interesting aspects of many countries and peoples living in them. As a result of this, he can entertain you for one whole hour with interesting talk on the happenings in different places without exhausting his resources.

I have given the clearest description I can about our Brother and I have nothing more to add except he is very firm in his determination, so much so that sometimes he seems a little stubborn. But if you are looking for someone to help you, someone to advise you, someone to understand you, and someone you can trust; in short, if you are looking for a friend in the fullest meaning of the word, there is the man!

Thus ends the first piece. The Brother in question, never mentioned by name in the article, is undoubtedly Brother Casimir, the longest-serving Brother in La Salle College. He taught there from 1933, soon after the school's opening, became its Vice-Principal, then Principal for six years before returning to teach until his sudden death in 1977. As the article indicates, he was passionate about Geography and wrote a textbook for young learners entitled 'A First Geography.' He was fluent in French and in fact it was his degree subject. He had a gift for languages and could speak a number of European languages. He was also very fond of music, playing both the violin and the harmonica.

Brother Casimir had a deep love for La Salle College and it nearly broke his heart to witness its demolition. However, being a Brother and a gentleman, he accepted the majority verdict in good grace.



Family Updates

Royal Medal award first for ‘father of non-invasive prenatal testing’

Professor Dennis Lo Yuk-ming, an old boy of St. Joseph's College and associate Dean at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has been awarded the Royal Medal for his outstanding achievements in biological sciences, the first Chinese scientist to receive the prestigious award in 200 years.



The medal is one of the most prestigious awards to be given out by the Royal Society, which was founded in 1660 and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

The Royal Society had highly commended Lo for making a major impact on prenatal diagnosis by discovering fetal DNA in women who were expecting, developing non-invasive prenatal testing and contributions to the testing of other types of body fluids.

His scientific achievements led to the development of non-invasive prenatal diagnostic tests for multiple genetic diseases such as Down syndrome.

The first Chinese Royal Medal recipient in biological sciences said he is delighted and encouraged to have his work on circulating fetal DNA, development of non-invasive prenatal testing and other body fluid tests recognized by the Royal Society.

"I am also humbled when I look at the list of distinguished past winners of this award. I wouldn't have developed the non-invasive prenatal diagnostic test without the support of my devoted team. I am grateful for all the inspiration, support and company from my family, mentors, colleagues, students and friends," he said.

Joining CUHK in 1997, Lo is now the director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, associate dean of research and chairman of the department of chemical pathology at the university. Lo is known as "the father of non-invasive prenatal testing."

The non-invasive prenatal test for Down syndrome developed by Lo and his team has been widely adopted in dozens of countries.

Welcome Br Paolo

The Hong Kong Lasallian Family is delighted to welcome Br Paolo Mata who arrived in late July 2021. We reckon he has made history, as the first De La Salle Brother to undergo three weeks quarantine on entry. The first two weeks were at a government designated hotel while the final week was in the form of self-quarantine. Br Paolo is very grateful for the support he received while in quarantine. He also praises the hotel and its staff...and the food!

Br Paolo has been assigned to St. Joseph's College Community, in the company of Brothers Dennis Magbanua and Jeffrey Chan. He is settling down and visiting our various centres with a view to future support. Welcome, Br Paolo and may your stay in Hong Kong be a long and fruitful one.



Establishment of LAFT

The Hong Kong Lasallian Animation and Formation Team (LAFT) was recently formed under the chairmanship of Brother Dennis Magbanua. As the title suggests, the main aim is to further the Lasallian formation of our Lasallian family. To start with, a core committee was formed which will liaise directly with a representative from each of our eight schools. The first meeting of the core committee and the individual school's representatives was held on 10th August 2021 when plans and implementation were discussed.



Walking to Beijing and back

World Transplant Games Federation organized a world-wide “Fit for Life: Billion Steps Challenge” to encourage people who recovered with organ-transplantation to record their walking steps in 10 weeks’ time. As most of them cannot do vigorous physical exercises or sports, it is hoped that they have a good habit of doing some walking every day. The goal is a billion steps by teams from 64 countries in the world. The final count is 1.5 billion steps and the 162 teams from Hong Kong had contributed 460 million steps.

The world champion goes to Mr. Lai Sui Lun, former teacher of De La Salle Secondary School. In ten weeks, he himself contributed a total of 5.5 million steps for Hong Kong, with a distance of walking to Beijing from Hong Kong and back (about 4000 km).

The Federation is targeting 2 billion steps in the next challenge.



La Salle Study Centre China



Brother David Liao who runs our Lasallian Study Centre in China has not been able to return there for quite some time. But he has not been idle as his latest update shows.

“Schools in China reopen today. My last lesson of the Summer PinPhonic Reading Programme was on Sunday 29th August. Weekend lessons will start on 10th September so I have 10 days of relaxation before I get working again. The LSSC Summer Programme was very well received judging by the responses of parents and students. We had around 1200+ students ... which is about 3 times of the regular LSSC summer programme.

The two biggest groups of 500 students and 350 students were handled by parents in Dabu. A number of former students of LSSC were also running their small groups of 10+ students. Now that I have finally video recorded my lessons in my own amateurish way via Zoom, I am confident that I can teach via video lessons. I will have it done in a professional way when I get back to China.”

LSC 90th Kick-off

La Salle College, Kowloon, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this academic year. The kick-off ceremony was held in the school hall on 10th September 2021, with two forms attending, socially distanced, while there was live broadcast to the remaining forms. All members of the school’s Incorporated Management Committee also attended. After the opening prayer there were speeches by the Supervisor Brother Thomas Lavin and by the Principal, Mr Tong and they helped to give an overview of the history of the school. The logo adopted by the school was designed by Caleb Chung and he was able to present the design format and meaning. Five representatives from each form were chosen to receive 90th anniversary pins which they can wear on their school ties for the rest of the year. There was an unveiling of a large poster for the occasion and the popping of confetti guns marked the official opening. The ceremony ended with the singing of the school song.



LEO Summer Programme

Our Lasallian Educational Outreach Programme (LEO) was brought to a successful conclusion on Friday 20th August 2021. The pupils are a mix of those recently arrived from mainland China as well as some of the local children from low-income families. All of them are lovely, keen to learn and of good conduct. It is a pleasure to teach them. Their basic weakness is the lack of a foundation in English. But where there is a will there's a way.



In Loving Memory

The Hong Kong Lasallian Family were saddened to hear the news of the passing of Miss Caroline Chan on the 3rd September 2021.

Miss Chan had been a long-standing teacher in St. Joseph's College before becoming its Principal in 2010. In fact, she was the first lady Principal of the school. She was well respected and loved by her students and old boys. She was a hard-working Principal, always concerned for the welfare of the school. She was also a long-time supporter of the Lasallian family in Hong Kong.



Jubilee Mass and Special Blessing



On the 21st September 2021, Chong Gene Hang College organized a Thanksgiving Mass at Holy Cross Church to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Bishop Joseph Ha kindly agreed to be the chief celebrant. In line with the Gospel reading, he reminded the congregation of the importance, relevance and beauty of the sentence: “Behold, a sower went out to sow his seeds.” Indeed, he got the whole congregation to repeat the sentence a few times.

Attending the Mass were the Brothers, Lasallian Education Council members, school Managers, the Principals of all our schools in Hong Kong, teacher, parent and student representatives. The altar-servers came from different Lasallian schools. The Director of the Brothers in Hong Kong, Br Dennis Magbanua and the school Principal, Mr. Gary Wong spoke words of appreciation at the end.

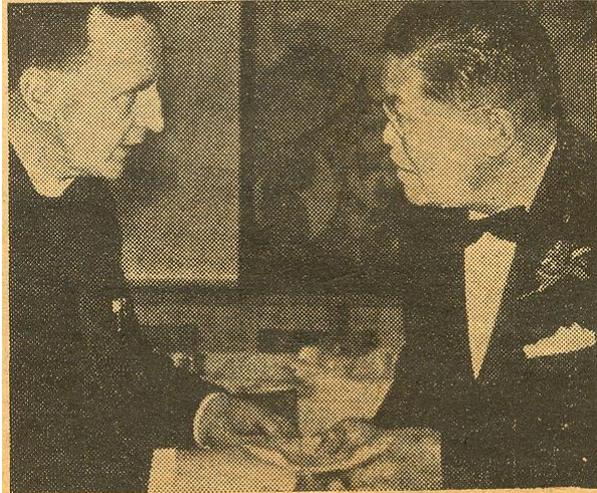
After the Mass, we were transported back to the school for the blessing and unveiling of a large-scale bronze statue of St. La Salle specially commissioned for the occasion. The school has tastefully erected the statue in its own little garden. Bishop Ha was again on hand to lead the prayers and blessing.

We congratulate Chong Gene Hang College on its Golden Jubilee and recall with admiration the special features of its origins.



Report from South China Morning Post: Friday, March 13, 1970

Ambition Fulfilled: \$500,000 Gift Presented to School



Mr Chong presenting the \$500,000 cheque

The ceremony was simple and very brief - it took just ten minutes for a slip of paper to change hands. But in that space of time an old man's life-long ambition was fulfilled.

The piece of paper was a cheque for \$500,000 and it had taken Chong Gene Hang more than 40 years of frugal living to amass.

In 1925, Mr. Chong left Hong Kong for the United States with two goals in mind: to make as much money as he could and to donate it towards the building of a school to be named after his late wife and

himself.

"I worked extremely hard for over 40 years in the laundry business in Boston, Massachusetts, scrimping and saving every dollar possible."

"But it has been worth it. I have had very little education myself. Therefore, I wanted to do something to further the cause of education and to be associated with it in a permanent way. Today is the greatest day of my life," Mr. Chong said when he handed the cheque to the Principal of St Joseph's College, Rev Bro Alphonsus Breen, yesterday.

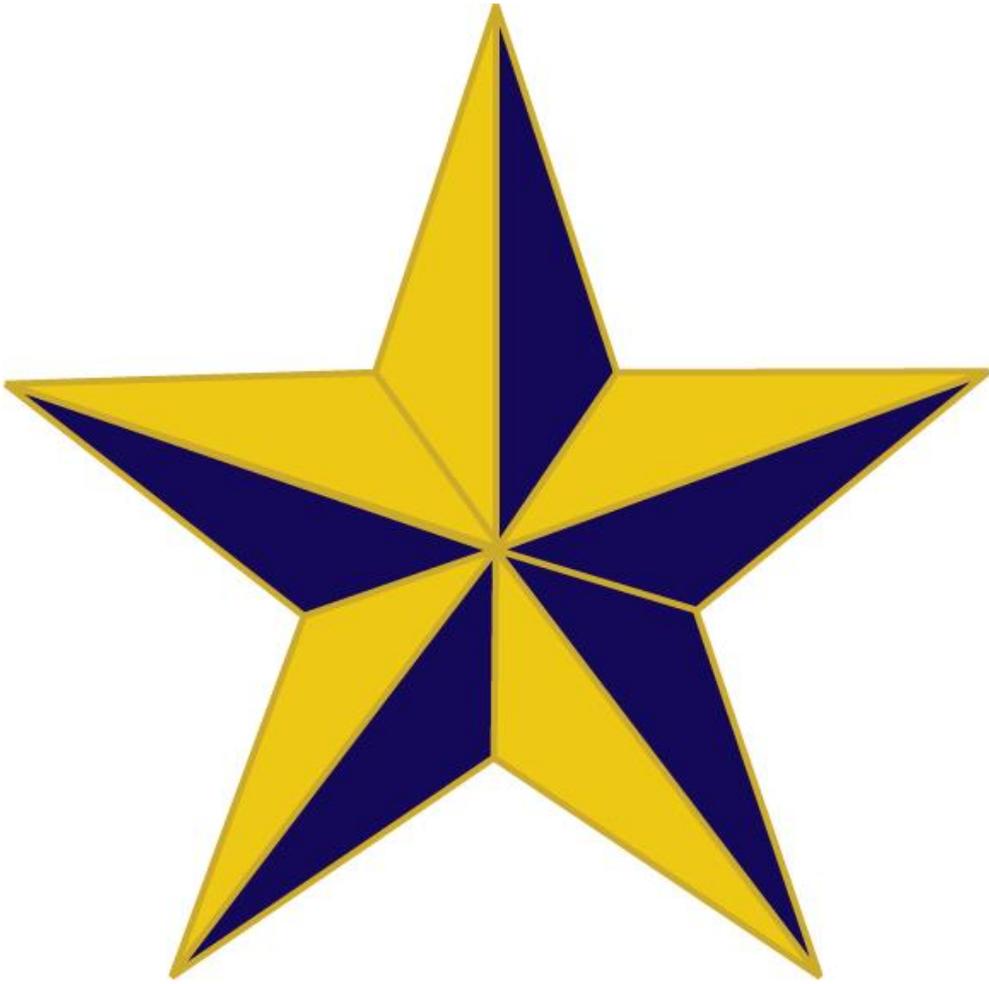
The money, together with a subvention from Government and other private donations, will go towards the building of the Chong Gene Hang College in Chaiwan. The school is expected to be completed sometime next year (1971).

Mr. Chong and his wife had returned to Hong Kong in 1968, but at the time he did not know "how to donate my money." Last September, his wife died and it was one of her last wishes that he does something about it.

Mr. Chong, a simple man, sought the advice of a Mongkok shopkeeper (Mongkok is a local residential area for the man in the street) who, in turn, directed him to the Mongkok City District Office.

The City District Officer, Mr. Albert C. C. Lam, said Mr. Chong walked into his office about six months ago and asked to whom he could donate \$500,000 towards the building of a school (this was a substantial amount of money in those days). Mr. Lam said it happened at the time that St. Joseph's College was holding a fund-raising campaign for the building of a new secondary school in Chaiwan. The school would be named after the person who made the largest single donation.





Great Things Are Possible



We are one, and we are many.....