

The Gateway



Issue 97
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Together-Stronger

This is the slogan for the Christian Brothers Cup this year, comprising alumni from our 5 secondary schools.

Photo credit: Chong Gene Hang College Photography Club

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Welcome

Students in Hong Kong are happy to be back in school for face-to-face lessons. There are still some restrictions, especially when it comes to extra curriculums, but being physically back in school means a lot.

We have not had a local vocation to the Brother's way of life for quite some time. Our feature article reveals that we had quite a few in older days and we still harbour the hope that there will be more to come. Of particular interest, perhaps, is the postulant who came from mainland China before the forces of Mao took control. He did his Novitiate in Vietnam and taught for most of his life in Thailand.

In this connection, we were happy recently to witness the pronouncing of Final Vows by Br Edmon Villareal. The ceremony was held in the Chapel at St Joseph's College and Bishop Stephen Chow was kind enough to come along as celebrant. We hope the recent profession of Final Vows by Br Paolo Mata and Br Edmon will inspire some of our local young men to consider the Brother's way of life.

In this issue we say goodbye to an outstanding old boy, Michael Sze, who was called to the Lord after a valiant struggle with ill health. Michael's heart was big and he wore it on his sleeve. May the Lord receive him warmly.

It has been some time since we included an Oriental Flavour article. We have put this to right with the inclusion of a piece on Rabindranath Tagore whose teachings remain very relevant to this day.

Once again, welcome back to all our staff and students and we wish our schools a successful new academic year.



Brothers from Hong Kong / China

Modern generations of Lasallians may not be aware that a number of Brothers in the past joined us from Hong Kong/China. Some of these Brothers may be lost in the mists of time. We recall a few of them now, in brief, as a form of respect for their dedication to the Mission.

Brother Salvator Pai King (1920-1990)-First Lasallian Postulant in China



The first Lasallian postulant from China was called Pai King. He had become attached to the Brothers in Moukden (Shenyang) in the 40s, in the Province of Liaoning where the Brothers worked with the seminaries since 1936.

After WWII, the Brothers bought a house in Beijing, with a view to preparing for expansion of the Lasallian Mission in China. 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. Brother Leopold took along with him a local postulant called Pai King. Thus all the Brothers working in China were all together at Benildus House. Pai King, the postulant from Moukden, stayed with them as well and attended courses at the Fujen Catholic University. Meanwhile the Brothers began studies in the Chinese language.

Unfortunately, civil war in China disrupted all plans. The Brothers had to find their ways to safety and abandoned the house in Beijing.

After fleeing to Hong Kong in late 1948, the Brothers and Pai King sent a letter to the Assistant to the Superior General, which said in part:

“ 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 heart-breaking to quit our lovely Benildus House in Beijing.”

After a short stay in Hong Kong, Pai was destined to end up in the Brothers Novitiate in Nhatrang, Vietnam, where he would receive formation and where he took the name Salvator.

After finishing his Novitiate in Nhatrang, Vietnam, Brother Salvator taught in our schools in Thailand, and according to Brother Joseph Klong, one of his students, he was quite a strict teacher.

Brother Salvator passed away in 1990, aged 70, the only locally born Brother of the north China Mission.



Brother Leonard Alves



Leo Alves, Penang Novitiate

Brother Leonard was born in Macau but grew to love England and all things English. Perhaps that's why he took up English Literature as his life's work and taught it at University level. He wanted to act like an English gentleman, even to having tea in the proper way. And he would go to great trouble to get 'proper' English butter. Although he ended up in Japan, he got satisfaction from teaching English Literature there.

On the occasion of the centenary of his alma mater, St Joseph's College in 1975, he had this to say.

I am a St. Joseph's boy through and through as I started at the then lowest class. It was euphemistically called Class 8. The highest class was Class 1.

I left Hong Kong in the middle of July 1932 and together with four other Portuguese boys sailed on the S. S. 'Sirdhana' of the BISN line eventually arriving at Penang on 1 August. The Brother in charge of us on the voyage out was Brother Aimar. Today after a long interval of forty-three years two of the original five are still Brothers. They are Brother Francisco Rosario and me.

On this occasion of the centenary of St. Joseph's College I, of course, want to thank God for giving me my vocation as a Christian Brother through the instrumentality of my old school for which I bear an undying affection and loyalty.



1975 is a far cry from the days when St Joseph's boasted an international staff of sterling men and religious drawn from a veritable potpourri of French, German, English, Irish, Central Europeans, Americans, Eurasians, Burmans and Chinese-- and

dignified with the common appellation Brother so-and-so. And how well they taught and punished us!

It is perhaps not surprising that many old boys of St. Joseph's will celebrate the centenary of their Alma Mater far away from the sounds and scenes of their youth. I myself was never given the chance to teach in Hong Kong, although my professional career began in July 1938. Today, I am teaching English Literature and Language at Sophia University and Tokyo University in Japan.

We may be far from Hong Kong and times may have so radically changed that the old days will only remain a nostalgia for us old boys, but I can assure the present staff and pupils of St. Joseph's that our interest in the old school is unflagging, our desire for its success unflagging, and our hopes for its continued excellence undiminished. God bless St. Joseph's and all who work and pray and play within the shadows of its hallowed walls.

Brother Francisco Rosario

Br Francisco was a man of great faith and devotion, with particular devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We are fortunate that he wrote something for the Centenary issue of the St. Joseph's College magazine.



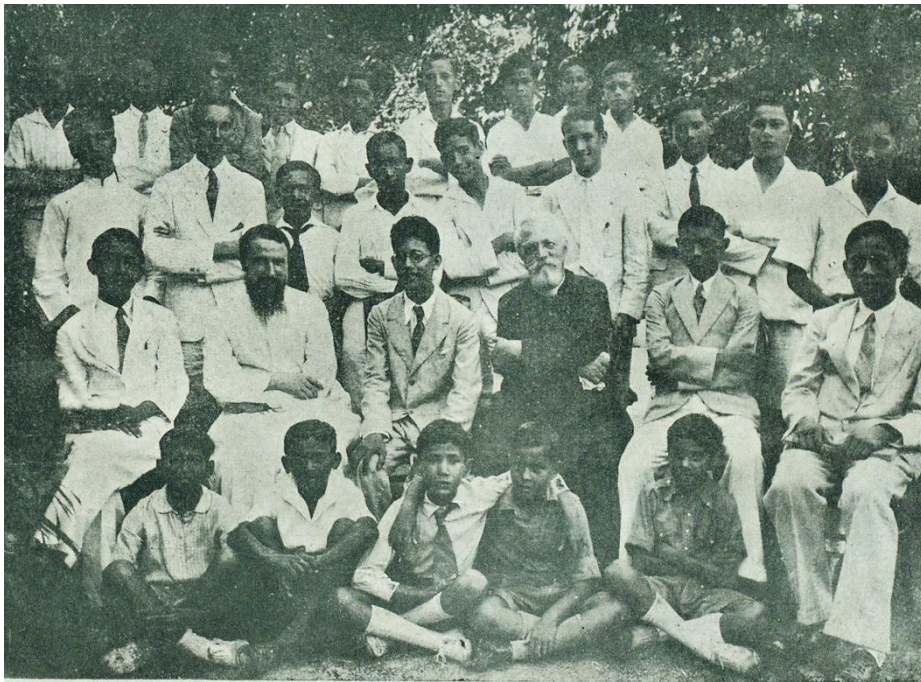
“I was born in Hong Kong on 24th November 1913 and if I am not mistaken, I entered St. Joseph’s College in January 1923.

When I was in Class 3 (Form 4 nowadays), we were taught by an Irish Brother Eusebius Mahon and who gave us some talks on joining the Brothers, which I believe was the beginning of my vocation. I was greatly encouraged by Brother Matthias to become a Brother of St. John Baptist de La Salle. Our Director at the time was Brother Aimar, and he brought me to Penang in August 1932 to enter the juniorate there in Pulau Tikus.

After my Novitiate and Scholasticate, I was sent to St. Xavier’s Institution, Penang in September 1935. In January 1937, I was transferred to St. Joseph’s College, Hong Kong and in August 1939 to La Salle College, Kowloon and there I made my Perpetual Profession in the same year. I was sent back to Malaysia when the world war broke out.

I am so sorry I am not able to be present at the Centenary Celebrations of my much beloved Alma Mater, St. Joseph’s College, on account of my poor health, although, thank God, I am still able to do some work. However, I must thank the Auxiliary Visitor, Brother Alphonsus Breen for having invited me to my beloved Alma Mater, which I pray God, Our Heavenly Father may shower with abundant blessing.”

From 1940 until his retirement he taught in a number of schools in Malaysia and Singapore. In retirement he was District Bursar for a while but his chief focus was spreading the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Francis Rosario on the Eve of his Departure for St. Joseph’s Novitiate, Penang. The Rosary Church Servers Picnic.

Brother Anthony Cheung

Brother Anthony has sometimes been called “A Man for all Seasons” and “A Man for all Trades.”

Located in a Hakka speaking area in the northeastern part of the Kwangtung province of China is Hing Ling, dear to the Cheung family as their ancestral village. Here Brother Anthony's revered grandfather John Cheung, first generation Catholic, headed an extended family and lived a full and spacious life, venturing even as far as Singapore "doing business" as Brother Anthony expresses it.

When the family moved to Hong Kong, Anthony ended up studying in St Joseph's College. He had this to say when the College celebrated its centenary in 1975:

“All St Joseph's needs is

- (i) a larger playfield! And I don't think it will ever be able to have a larger one, and
- (ii) more Brothers – and Hong Kong Brothers especially – on the staff. The problem can be solved by some of you.”



When I was in St Joseph's in the mid 1930s, the College was not as big as it is now.

It was when I was in Brother Cronan's Class 6 that I first thought of being a Brother but I waited two years before I went to the newly-founded Juniorate (in Kowloon). Together with Br Henry Pang, I was among the first group of three to join that Juniorate founded by the late Brother Aimar in 1936. Later we were sent for further training. Since then I have gone quite a long way and have been to quite a good many places and countries. Further religious training took me to the USA and Rome.

For years I taught in Malaysia, but in 1960 I was posted back to my homeland, Hong Kong. For six years I was in La Salle College. I was suddenly recalled to Malaysia in October 1966 to take over the Juniorate in Ipoh and to erect a building for the Juniors there. Five years later I was asked to take charge of La Salle University Hall in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

My days are filled with very meaningful and challenging activities and really I have not yet encountered a dull day. Come and join us, Christian Brothers, you young Catholic men and who read these pages, and you will find the life of a religious Brother challenging, meaningful, enriching for oneself and for many others, and of course highly meritorious.

Finally, sincere congratulations to all in St Joseph's College on the occasion of the Centenary year of the founding of the College!”

Brother Henry Pang

Brother Henry was born 14 April 1920 into a long-established Hakka family in the city of Haifeng, China; where his father was mayor. He identifies for us two things which for him characterised the family tradition.



(i) We were fortunate to inherit a tremendous respect and love for learning which was always held in high esteem in our family; on a recent visit to Waseda University [Japan] I counted no fewer than 19 Pangs along with my father and uncle.

(ii) Even more, we valued respect for human rights, for the individual as an individual. I remember in my childhood my mother repeatedly reminding me that I ought to say thank you to servants and maids for every little favour and service rendered.

When the family moved to Hong Kong, Henry's father became a teacher at St Joseph's College and Henry himself attended school there. He has these memories as he looks back.

“Looking back over the years I have good reason to be grateful to the Alma Mater not only for the sound education I received there like every other Josephian, but even more so for the invaluable gift of my religious vocation, the seed of which was sown and nurtured there, though it was from La Salle College that I afterwards left for Penang to join the Brothers.”

“St Joseph's College in the early thirties was manned by a veritable United Nations of Brothers of over ten nationalities and included Europeans and Asians. They were excellent teachers and I remember strict disciplinarians and insisted on work and good quality work too. But they were a happy lot and attracted me very much as a boy.



Good Brother Hubert used to collect the Catholic boys on Fridays and very often the subject of his talks would be on Vocation. Anthony Cheung and myself were in this group. His father, the late Mr. Benedict Cheung, and my father were on the school's teaching staff then, and so, understandably, I had to be on my best behaviour.

In 1932 when La Salle College was opened, Anthony and myself moved across the harbour because there was a section for us to “live-in” and “try out” before we sort of ventured forth or launched out into the deep.

At Easter of 1937 I sailed in the Conte Rosso for the Novitiate in Penang. Then followed eighteen years of sojourn in Malaysia, of which six were spent in study and twelve were engaged in active teaching. In 1954 I was posted back to Hong Kong, to La Salle College, where I have been to the present.”

Br Henry established La Salle Primary School in 1957, a school much sought after by Hong Kong parents.

Family Updates

Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College boy in Cali, Colombia



The **2022 World Athletics U20 Championships**, also known as the **World Junior Championships**, was an international athletics competition for athletes qualifying as juniors (born no earlier than 1 January 2003), which was held from 1st to 6th August 2022 in Cali, Colombia

Congratulations to Lin Ming Fu from Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College, for making history as the first Hong Kong long-jumper to qualify for the World Athletics U20 Championships field event finals in Cali, Colombia. Lin placed eighth out of 24 athletes in qualifiers, with a personal best of 7.54 m on his second leap and 7.62 m on his third. That secured his progression to the finals, where he jumped 7.36m, 7.57m,

and 7.38m, putting him in ninth place.

St. Joseph's College boy in Lima, Peru



The **8th FINA World Junior Swimming Competition** is open to competition for girls ages 14 to 17 years old and boys ages 15 to 18 years old. This year the Competition took place in Lima, Peru from 30th August to 4th September. Our St. Joseph's old boy, Adam Mak, got a Bronze medal in the Men 200m Breaststroke, the best

result for Hong Kong in this competition. Former Principal Mr. Ching praised the hard work and determination of Adam and also gave credit to the teachers who spotted the potential of this short and thin young boy when he joined the school's swimming team in Form 1.

Profession of Perpetual Vows



For the second time in this academic year, the Lasallian Family in Hong Kong had the pleasure of attending the final profession of vows ceremony. On Saturday, 30th July 2022, Brother Edmon R. Viroomal pronounced his final vows in the chapel of St. Joseph's College. It took place during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen Chow, with Fathers Joseph Haw S.J. and Alan Wong S.J. as co-celebrants.

A fine cross-section of the Hong Kong Lasallian Family attended as well as some friends of Brother Edmon. We were also happy that there was a link to the ceremony online.



The Bishop gave a very thoughtful Lasallian homily, based on the 3 core values of faith, service and community. The fact that he himself belongs to a religious society gave him insights into our Lasallian spirituality. He also blessed three symbols of Brother Edmon's commitment: the professional cross, the professional ring and the certificate of appreciation.

Brother Patrick Tierney gave permission to Br Edmon to pronounce his final vows. Br Edmon was accompanied by Brother Dennis Magbanua for the pronouncing of vows. Brother Dennis also thanked all relevant parties while the letter of appreciation to Brother Edmon's family was read.

Brother Edmon gave a short speech of thanks and gratitude for all who have accompanied and encouraged him along the way. He loves the Lasallian way of life.

The Charis choir, conducted by Miss Edith Ng of De La Salle Secondary School, is to be commended on their beautiful hymn and litany renditions throughout.



Christian Brothers Cup



There is no hard and fast rule for the holding of the Christian Brothers Schools sports tournament. In fact, it has been several years since the last one was held. But, thankfully, this year it was restored and was held on two successive Sundays, the 24th and 31st July 2022. The weather was hot and players drank plenty of water.

The Opening Ceremony was held at the garden in La Salle College and was a colourful and meaningful event. It was strongly supported by the Brothers, members of the Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council (LEC), school Principals and Lasallian Family members.

The guests were presented with a T-shirt and the message at the back was “**Together – Stronger**” emphasizing the common desire for strong unity of brotherhood and sisterhood.

The event took on a special meaning this year because it was promoted as a fund-raising drive, in aid of the establishment of a new Lasallian school in north Thailand, in a place called Mae Hong Sun. This school is earmarked for the needy students of the area, for children who live in the mountains and for refugees.

Serving the community, in Hong Kong and overseas, is a value that helps to take us out of ourselves and take a world view. We are glad to see our students in Lasallian schools trained to put this value into practice and our alumni leading the way.

Well done to Mr. Kenneth Wong and his committee for organizing this year’s Christian Brothers Cup so successfully. The committees of our 5 old boys/alumni associations also rose splendidly to the occasion.



LSCOBA Memorial Mass for the late Michael SZE Cho Cheung

Friday 26 August 2022 in the La Salle College School Chapel

Sharing by Nicholas NG Wing Fui, LSCOBA Past President (1982-84)



Michael SZE Cho Cheung was born on 23.6.45 and passed away on 19.5.22. Michael studied in La Salle in the late 50's and the early 60's. He was the President of LSCOBA in 1979-80 and the Founding Chairman of the La Salle Foundation in 1992-1997. He was also an outstanding career civil servant between 1969 and 1996, having reached the rank of Secretary before his retirement. Thereafter, he worked as Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council from 1996 to 2004.

Michael was one year ahead of me in La Salle and HKU, and we were colleagues in the Administrative Service of the Hong Kong Government. My sharing today will focus on Michael's connection and contribution to La Salle.

Michael's early days in the primary section of La Salle were not smooth. He never denied that he had to struggle a bit before getting into the secondary section. Thereafter he managed to pull himself up and entered the Arts Faculty of HKU in 1969.

While Michael was not known to be very active during his days in La Salle, he already made his name as a friendly, sociable and helpful person. He had vivid memories of his good old days in the Perth Street "wooden cottage" and of the teachers there. He told the Lasallite that "Before examination, our Form Master would take us to a picnic which helped to release our pressure".

This attachment and gratitude to his alma mater shaped Michael's continuous service and support for La Salle. He was attracted by the fraternal and harmonious spirit of the La Salle Old Boys Association, and a lifelong connection ensued. The Association was founded in 1939 with a loose structure. Seeing the need for a more formal standing, Michael, together with President Dr Lawrence CHAN Siu Hung, took steps to incorporate the association as a legal entity. On 29th May 1978, La Salle College Old Boys' Association Limited (or LSCOBA") was incorporated, as a Company Limited by Guarantee. This solid legal foundation has enabled the Association to develop and blossom.

Michael continued to nurture the newly constituted alumni group with his active participation. He was elected president in 1979-80. It was during his tenure that he re-rope me back into the LSCOBA cabinet, which first began when I was in my graduation class in La Salle. Michael's contribution to La Salle did not stop with LSCOBA's work.

Given that many of the facilities at La Salle College and the La Salle Primary School are above government standards, substantial amounts of money would be required to meet the repairs and replacement costs in the long run. In the summer of 1991, in consultation with the Brothers, senior old boys and Past Presidents of the OBA, Past President Michael Sze incorporated a company with charitable status in February 1992. The La Salle Foundation Limited was founded as a charitable institution with the aim of promoting and advancing all aspects of education at La Salle College and La Salle Primary School. In the past 30 years, the Foundation has helped to plan and oversee several major improvement and renovation projects of the two schools and raised over \$100 million for the purpose.

As a career civil servant, Michael was committed to doing his best in whatever job he was assigned. He never shirked responsibilities, no doubt in keeping with the spirit of the school song's first stanza: "Boys of courage, boys of daring. Full of manliness and will. Spirit nought for danger caring, hearts to conquer every ill". His last boss in the civil service, the last Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, had this to say about Michael:



"Michael Sze was one of Hong Kong's finest public servants - brave, honest, honourable and very competent. He was one of the first of the Chinese Hong Kong civil servants to rise to the top on merit. I never met anyone who knew him who didn't like him. He did what he thought was right and understood to his fingertips the qualities which once made the Hong Kong civil service one of the best in the world and a powerful reason for the territory's success. He endured cancer bravely and without self-pity. May he rest in peace."

Amen.



Oriental Flavour

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

Bengali poet, short-story writer, song composer, playwright, essayist, and painter, Rabindranath Tagore introduced new prose and verse forms and the use of colloquial language into Bengali literature. He was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of early 20th-century India. In 1913 he became the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. Tagore is also regarded as a philosopher and educator. In 1901 Tagore founded an experimental school in rural West Bengal, where he sought to blend the best in the Indian and Western traditions. He settled permanently at the school, which became Visva-Bharati University in 1921.

Here is some of his teaching on how we can use our lives to influence the lives of others:

把自己活成一道光，
因為你不知道，
誰會藉著你的光，
走出了黑暗。

Please live as a beam of light.
For you do not know
Who, by your light,
Will come out of the darkness.

請保持心中的善良，
因為你不知道，
誰會藉著你的善良，
走出了絕望。

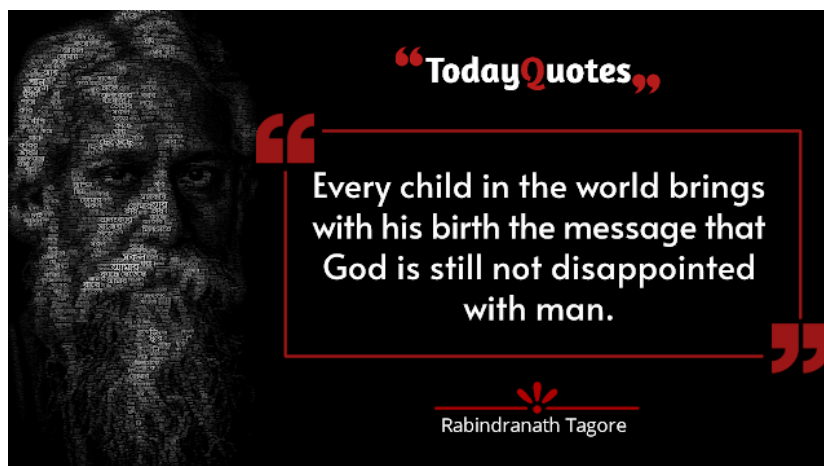
Please keep kindness in your heart.
For you do not know
Who, through your kindness,
Will come out of despair.

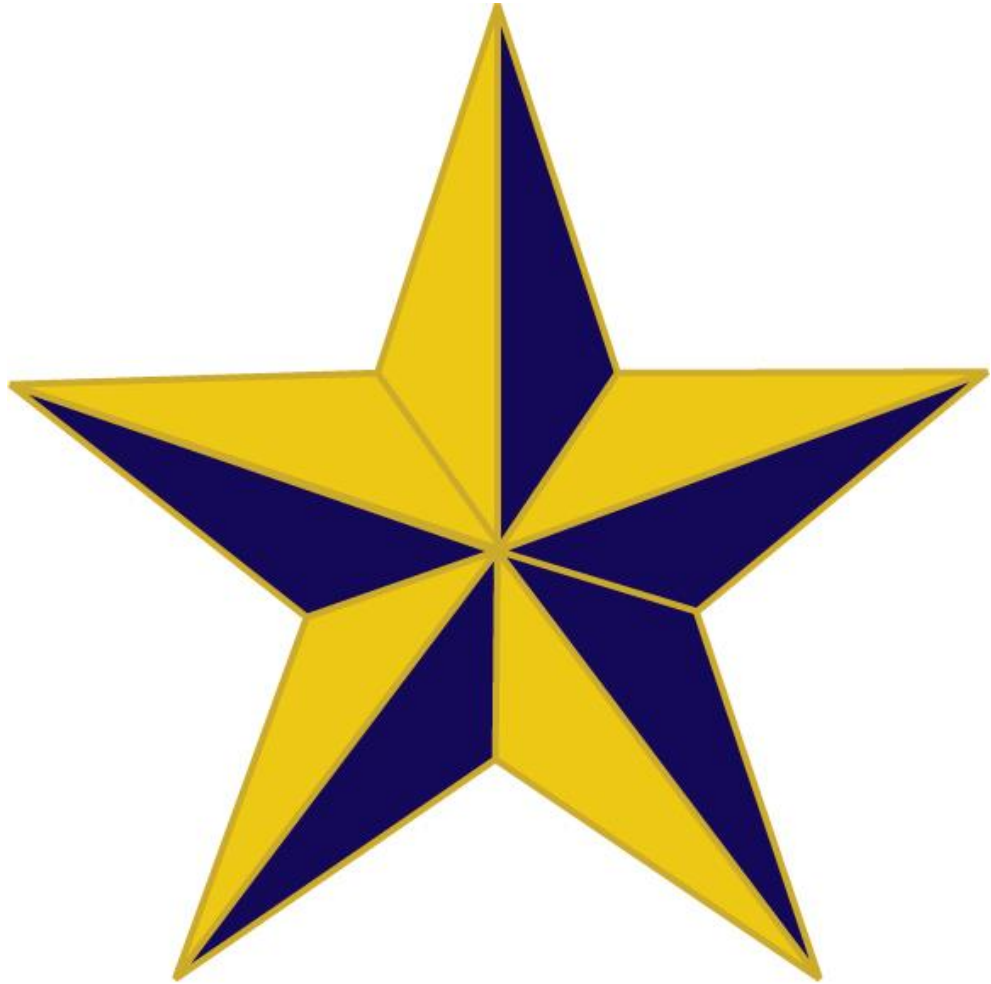
請保持你心中的信仰，
因為你不知道，
誰會藉著你的信仰，
走出了迷茫。

Please keep faith in your heart.
For you do not know
Who, through your faith,
Will come out of confusion.

請相信自己的力量，
因為你不知道，
誰會因為相信你，
開始相信了自己

Please believe in your own strength.
For you do not know
Who, by believing in you,
Will begin to believe in himself.





Great Things Are Possible



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