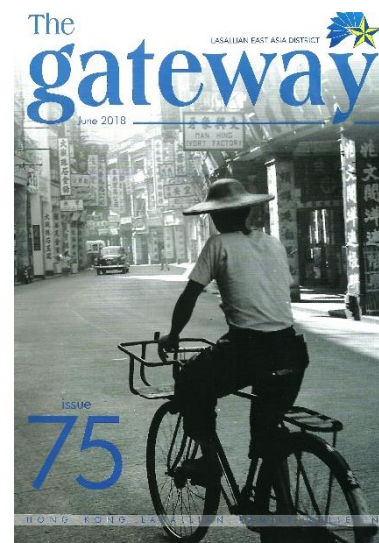
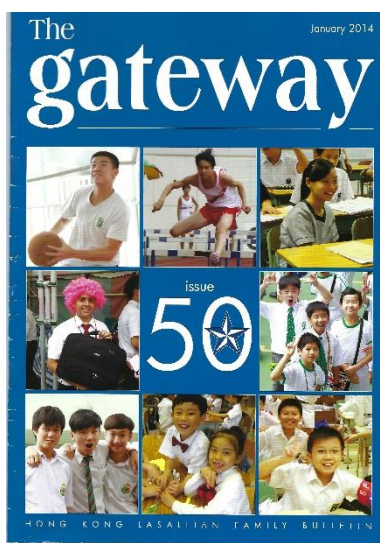
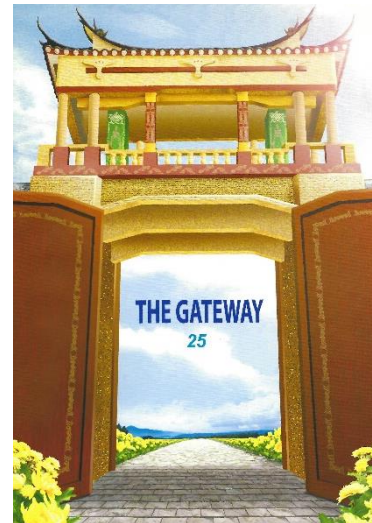
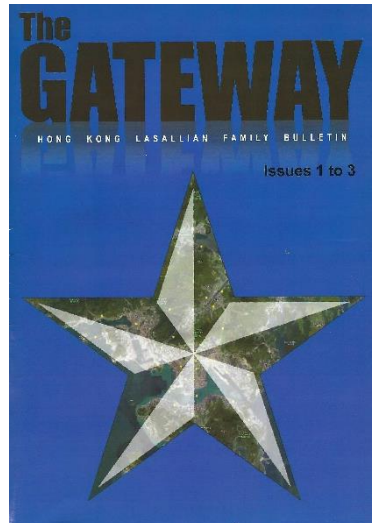


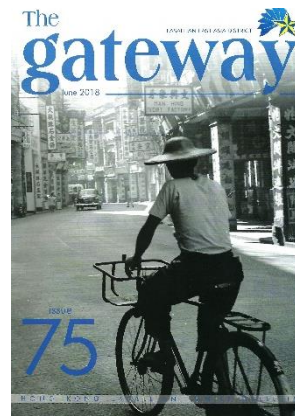
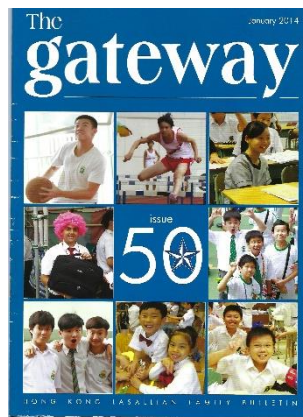
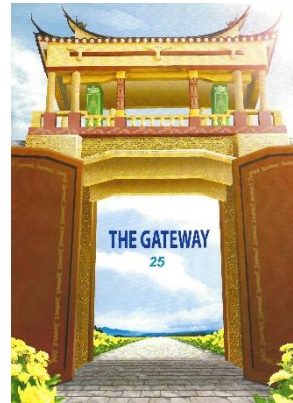
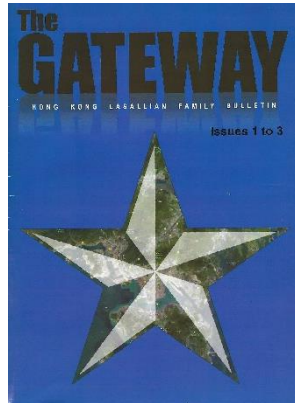
The Gateway



100th

Issue 100
June 2023





Milestone Gateway Covers

First published in 2008

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Gateway 100
June 2023

Welcome

Welcome to our 100th issue of The Gateway.

Little did we think, when we started this venture back in 2008, that we would reach this day.

Little did we think that we would cover over 50 of our deceased Brothers who had served in Hong Kong.

In this issue, we take a little trip in our feature article. We may well have heard, or even read, the famous novel by Jerome K. Jerome called 'Three Men in a Boat.' Well, here we have three Brothers in a boat, an adventure story that has come down to us courtesy of one of the said Brothers.

We also take a little trip down Gateway memory lane. We thought it may be interesting to start by looking back at the very first issue of The Gateway. We were well rewarded. And so, we have revisited Gateway 1 as well as a selection of Gateway Oriental Flavours.

Among our updates are a few of special interest. For example, we write about the rare holding of an affiliation ceremony in Hong Kong; we take a look at the recently completed APLEC 11 in Sydney; and finally, we cover a joyful birthday, Brother Thomas' 80th.

We are grateful to all our Gateway readers over the last 15 years and especially grateful to those who encouraged us along the way.

With this issue we hope that our Gateway mission has been completed!

God bless you all!



Three Men in a Boat In the South China Sea

13 August 1913 at 1313 hours

An interesting piece of history came to light some years ago when the Hong Kong Lasallian archivist at the time, Brother Meldan Treanor, wrote to Brother Kevin Byrne in Singapore about a drowning incident among the Brothers there. Brother Kevin unearthed an article which shed some light on the matter.

The article was written by Brother Sigebert, one of the three characters involved. This was in 1968.

The piece is of interest to Hong Kong since two of the three characters served here for some time.

Brother Sigebert writes:

My Dear Brother Meldan,

I have been 62 years in Katong, a District in Singapore, and never heard that a Brother from here was ever drowned.

However, once on a picnic day we went to a bungalow facing the State of Johore. After dinner Brother Cajetan and Brother Concord and myself looked for a koleh (small Malay boat) to try to cross the Strait in it. Brother Concord jumped into it and he and the boat went straight to the bottom. He tried again but with no better success, so he was disqualified as being too stout.

We had no oars but an old coconut to bail out the water. When we had crossed 2/3 of the Strait a strong current turned the head of our boat towards the China Sea. In our efforts to make it go across some planks in the hull at the bottom of the boat gave way and up, up, up came the water into our boat. I was not afraid. I did not know that Brother Cajetan swims like a piece of lead.



I caught the back of the boat, swimming with all my might in the right direction and when, by the force of nature, Brother Cajetan's head popped up I shouted at him with all my might and helped him to lie flat on the back of the boat. But the current was too strong. It carried us straight into the China Sea.

It was 13 minutes past 13 o'clock, 1913, August 13. So many 13s - no wonder we escaped! Brother Cajetan asked the Little Flower to save us. Some Chinese tongkang came to see what was wrong. When they understood our difficulties, they all drove away for they thought a curse was on us. About one hour later we were now in the deep China Sea and God be thanked a

tongkang manned by Indians saw us floating, took pity on us, caught us by our trousers and the back of our necks, hauled us into their boats and brought us back to Changi.

When Brother Cajetan saw the Director, Brother Michael, in great anger he said to him: Dear Brother Director when I saw you, you reminded me of the Eternal Father scolding Adam and Eve after their disobedience!

That pleasant remark cooled Brother Michael down and he gave a most pleasant laugh which satisfied everyone.

I am very busy man with a lot of translations into English of the lives of our Brothers who died in our District.

(signed Brother Sigebert)

I hope you all believe that 13 is a most lucky number.



Brother Concord Grady

Brother Concord was born on the 1st May 1892 at Feakle, County Clare, Ireland and was called Michael at baptism.

He entered the Novitiate at Castletown in 1908 and took the Habit on the 30th August that year. He was soon sent on the missions to Mandalay in Burma and later taught in Malaysia. He was transferred from Malacca to teach in St. Joseph's College Hong Kong, arriving on the 11th December 1919.

He found several Irish Brothers in the Community including Brothers Paul O'Connell and Aubert Cooper of County Laois, Alphonsus McDonagh from County Meath and Cairnan Costelloe from County Mayo. So, Brothers Concord did not feel lonely. Most of the boys were Chinese. There was one stream composed entirely of Portuguese, and there were also some Spaniards, Vietnamese, Japanese and the occasional English and Irish lad. The Brothers had a summer house near the sea at Castle Peak, the climate was agreeable, the system of education English. No wonder that Brother Concord considered Hong Kong 'the place I liked best.'

In 1923 Brother Concord was appointed Inspector of Schools, a traditional Institute post. It is indicative of Brother Concord's conscientious approach to his school-work that he was chosen for this position.

'I remember,' recalled a Brother who taught in Hong Kong long after Brother Concord's time there, 'the devotion and affection with which the old boys spoke about him. One of them, a distinguished Muslim called John Ackbar, produced each year at the Old Boys' dinner a tattered certificate he had received in school stating that he was first in the College in Religious Knowledge- "and me a Muslim!" He spoke very highly of 'my old teacher, a gentleman, Brother Concord.'

Brother Concord had a sense of humour and one of his humorous remarks was "I am Brother Concord from the house of discord!"



In 1927 Brother Concord was transferred back to Malaysia.

Brother Concord retired to Ireland and served in Castletown until his death which occurred in 1984.

Brother Cajetan Lhomaille

Brother Cajetan made his Novitiate at Nantes, France, in 1897. he seems to have been a bright young man and readily passed the public examinations set by the French government. His official Institute death notice paints an interesting portrait:

“Of imposing stature and somewhat solemn bearing, Brother Cajetan from his earliest years was distinguished by his wit and charm, as well as by a certain independence of manner and speech which remained characteristic of him. Nonetheless he was strongly attached to his vocation, to safeguard which he accepted the great challenge of expatriation”.

The expatriation referred to was the exodus of French Brothers to other parts of the world in 1906 caused by the closure in 1904 of nearly all the schools run by the Brothers in France. Brother Cajetan, along with others, embarked on the long voyage to Australia. Difficulties arose relating to standards of English and many had to move on to newer pastures.

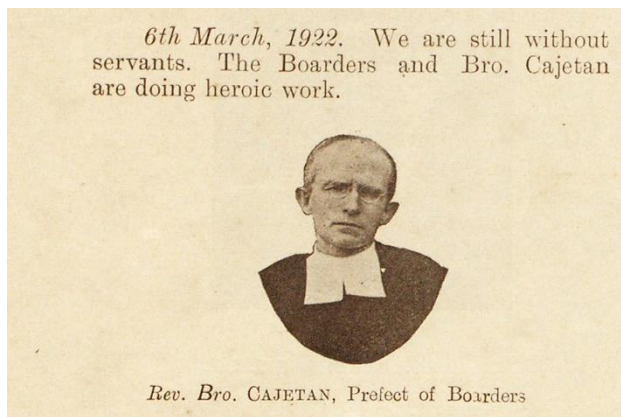
He was compelled to return to France during the first World War. Fortunately, he avoided front-line fighting, having been assigned as an interpreter.

It was not until he reached the District of Penang that Brother Cajetan was able to settle down and find scope for his spirit of zeal. His obituary notice indicates his preferred direction when exercising this zeal. “An artist to the soul, he was easily enthused: by beautiful singing, the

dignified conduct of religious ceremonies made him live again”.

One aspect of singing that he particularly liked was that of Gregorian Chant, which led to his being appointed chapel master in the Penang Novitiate; he taught the same in the local seminary. An accomplished draughtsman, he was also responsible for the design of the beautiful Novitiate chapel in Penang. On all major feast days of the church, he saw to it that the singing and the music were well prepared and executed. Brother Austin de Lemos says “the music and the singing were just heavenly”.

However, he was destined to be transferred frequently to different schools of the District right up to the time he was repatriated to France in 1928. This pattern of frequent change may have been due to the needs of the time but may also have had something to do with Brother Cajetan’s temperament, since he was inclined to speak rather freely and act rather independently!



We find him in St Joseph’s College Hong Kong in 1920 where he is named Prefect of Boarders. 1921 was the year of the great strike in Hong Kong. Br Cajetan and his prefects did heroic work keeping the house supplied and the boarding department going.

He was transferred from St Joseph’s College, Hong Kong to St Joseph’s Novitiate at Pulau Tikus in 1922 and later returned to France.

He died at the Nantes District’s House of Retirement at Blain in 1964, aged eighty-two.



Gateway 1 Revisited

After 100 issues, we thought a look back to our 1st issue would be interesting, and we were not disappointed.

The first Brother featured was that of Brendan Dunne. Why we chose Brother Brendan, God only knows. Perhaps because he was a character, or because he had served in three of our Lasallian schools in Hong Kong, or...In any case we are happy with the choice. We move on with that telling remark by one of his old boys:

“I believe Bro. Brendan was born as my Guardian Angel. What a wonderful aura unfeigned kindness gives to a face. Charity and courtesy can be faked – kindness can’t.”



A major news article was about the opening of the new Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School building, adjacent to its old campus. The School Sponsoring Body had applied to the government for this new school building and fortunately gained approval. On a lovely, warm day for 12th of January 2008, Cardinal Joseph Zen blessed and opened the school. As can be seen from the picture both the Cardinal and school supervisor, Brother Herman, were in joyful form.



Another of our Primary schools, La Salle Primary, was also featured because it was celebrating its Golden Jubilee. The celebrations included Masses of Thanksgiving, concerts, sports, musicals, a talent showcase, a fun fair, a jubilee dinner and an open day. The Speech Day Guests of Honour showed a nice touch. They were five representatives of the first graduating class of 1957-1958. Mrs Elizabeth Pau, Principal at the time, was well pleased with the success of the celebrations.



Exciting news also came from De La Salle Secondary School with the decision to introduce co-education. At first, the number of girls was small but gradually built up and in recent years the percentage of girls has risen to over 40 %. De La Salle was the first Lasallian secondary school to introduce full-scale co-education in Hong Kong.



Oriental Flavour Revisited

When we started Gateway in 2008, we hoped that it would help readers from countries outside Asia learn more about the Orient in a less formal and casual way. We compiled a series of articles under the title 'Oriental Flavours.' The writers tried to introduce life, literature, history, festivals, and food in this part of the world to our readers. We hope that readers will still find the below articles interesting.

The Unsung Hero (Gateway 45): It is the story of a former teacher at St. Joseph's College in the 1880s. Yeung Kui Wan was a leader of the Chinese revolutionary movement aiming at overthrowing the Qing Dynasty. He was assassinated in 1901 at his house at 52 Gage Street, Central. Under the pressure of the Qing government, the Hong Kong Colonial Government buried him in Happy Valley and did not allow people to put his name on the tombstone.

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/docs/gateway/TheGateway45.pdf>

Hitori Tabi (Gateway 53): It is about the last and solitary journey of Brother Cyprian Gendreau. Hitori Tabi is Japanese, meaning travelling alone. Brother Cyprian is the only Lasallian Brother and Director in Hong Kong of St. Joseph's College buried in Kobe Foreigners Cemetery, an unintended destination.

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/docs/gateway/TheGateway53.pdf>

McRefugees (Gateway 74): It is a report on the poverty problem in Hong Kong. McRefugees refer to the homeless who spend their nights in fast-food restaurants, which are open 24 hours a day. The article was written five years ago. It is sad to learn that more Hongkongers are joining this new tribe of nomads, and still one fifth of the present population falls below the poverty line.

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/docs/gateway/TheGateway74.pdf>

The Snakes (gateway 19): In the West, snakes are regarded as hazardous and evil. However, in the East, they are made into soup and wine, a famous delicacy.

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/docs/gateway/TheGateway19.pdf>

The Tigers in the eyes of Chinese (Gateway 21): One of the reasons why this powerful big cat is now an endangered species is that people in the East believe that all parts of the tiger's body have mythical powers. Perhaps the biggest threat to the survival of the tiger is the unscientific beliefs of people in China and Southeast Asia.

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/docs/gateway/TheGateway21.pdf>



The Sushi Etiquettes (Gateway 60): Japanese sushi (a piece of raw fish on a roll of vinegared rice) has become a popular cuisine, especially among young people. It has become a fashionable and expensive genre of dining, like a status symbol. You will need to learn the sushi etiquette first if you are invited to a renowned sushi restaurant. Actually, hand-rolled sushi began as a street food for the working class, we should enjoy it the way we like.

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/docs/gateway/TheGateway60.pdf>

The Principals Conference



The Principals Conference was held on 17th May 2023 at Chong Gene Hang College. Members discussed and shared their views in various challenges facing our schools in Hong Kong, including the impacts of small-size classes, harnessing artificial intelligence in our school curriculum and deployment of Brother Animators in our schools etc. The principals also wished Mr. WS Tong a happy retirement at this, his last Principals Conference.



The LEC

The Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council is back in face-to-face business mode. Its latest meeting, with Br Dennis in the chair, was held at St. Joseph's Primary School on the 20th May 2023. Topics of interest were discussed, and advice or direction given. Topics included our Lasallian Mission Fund and Raffle Sales, Schools Insurance, Possible Impact of Small-size Classes and Knock-Door Policy, Use of AI in Teaching, Preparations for the 150th Anniversary of the Lasallian Mission in Hong Kong, Brother Animators for our Schools and LEC Chinese Terminology. Reports on recent past Lasallian events, such as the Affiliation of two Lasallian Family members, were also given, making for a very full and fruitful meeting.



APLEC 11 - A New Legacy For A New Time



encouraged to reflect on “what we do and why we do it.”

Over 140 delegates from ten countries in the PARC Region gathered at Mary MacKillop Place and the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney for APLEC 11 – 11th to 13th April, 2023. The conference began with a moving Acknowledgement of Country, followed by the Opening Ceremony and Liturgy. Brother Timothy Peter, Visitor, welcomed delegates and officially opened APLEC 11. The delegates were

The first Keynote address was delivered by Brother Armin Luistro FSC, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Brother Armin reminded delegates that a new legacy requires a conversion of one’s heart; it requires each one to soul search and to look upon the Lasallian Mission with the eyes of faith and with hope. Brother Armin’s address set the tone for the conference.

Over the course of the three days, delegates were able to hear, listen, network, and interact with other Lasallian educators. Each of these speakers shared their expertise in their various fields – passion for human rights, dedication to youth, expertise in mental health issues, teacher wellbeing, practising synodality, and the opening up of new paths into the future.

There were many highlights, but one especially was the rich sharing that took place during the breaks and meals. Networks were formed and new friendships were made. The passion for the Lasallian Mission was very evident during the conference. One could really form the impression of a renewed desire in the participants to be “*Brothers and Sisters to each other and older Brothers and Sisters to those entrusted to our care.*”



Affiliation

On 13th May 2023 the managers of our eight Lasallian schools came together for a morning of professional development. The first part of the morning consisted of presentations by officials from the Education Bureau while the second part was a Lasallian formation segment delivered by Brother Jose, our LEAD Visitor.

Advantage was taken of the occasion to hold a rare ceremony, namely the affiliation to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools of two members of our Lasallian Family. They are Mr. Lester Huang and Mr. Paul Tam. Affiliation assures the recipients of the spiritual fruits obtained through the Brothers and Lasallian Family and is the highest mark of recognition and appreciation of the Institute. Affiliated members may use the title AFSC.



Lester is an old boy of La Salle College and, after university studies, rose to an elevated position in Hong Kong as a partner in a well-known law firm. For the last forty years he has given his legal services to the Brothers and the Lasallian Family. He has done so cheerfully and freely, a magnificent record. Lester is also a founding member of the Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council.



Paul spent almost all his teaching career in St Joseph's Primary School, where he rose to the rank of Discipline Master and Vice Principal. As such, he was a staunch believer in the Lasallian way of being firm but kind and also a firm believer in prevention being better than cure. In retirement he became the Secretary to the Lasallian Family in Hong Kong and also our Archivist. He is untiring in his service.

The presentation of the letters of affiliation was fittingly done by Brother Jose, our Brother Visitor. All present were well pleased that they had the opportunity to witness this special event and the new affiliates were heartily applauded.



Brother Thomas' 80th Birthday!

A milestone in the life of Brother Thomas Lavin was reached on 16th June 2023 when he attained his 80th birthday. Representatives of the Hong Kong Lasallian Family invited him out for lunch. There was a powerpoint presentation of highlights in his life, the cutting of the birthday cake and sharing from both Brother Dennis and Brother Patrick. Brother Thomas himself shared on some aspects of his life. Many pictures were taken and Brother Thomas was wished many more years of good health and fruitful mission.



Hong Kong APLEC Plenary Meeting

At last, we are back face to face. About 40 members of our Hong Kong APLEC cohorts assembled at La Salle College on the 17th June and renewed acquaintance. We had an opening prayer service led by Br Paolo followed by a fine presentation by our delegates to APLEC 11 which was held in Sydney. Br Dennis gave a presentation on the Leavening Project and participants then broke up into small groups for sharing on possible implementation within the context of Hong Kong. Paul Tam then introduced the new Lasallian Educational Outreach Initiative for the academic year 2023-2024 which will basically help children living in subdivided flats. Nikki Chan rounded off proceedings with an overview of Lasallian Youth gatherings, especially using the space created near our residence at Sheung Shui. A group photo was followed by refreshments.





Great Things Are Possible



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