



The Gateway

Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin

December 2011

Thirty-Fifth Issue

Welcome

The lead-up to Christmas is being blessed with glorious weather. Clear blue skies, a rarity in Hong Kong, and a cool breeze make for a happier mood all round. Of course the commercial aspects of Christmas are well to the fore, especially in popular shopping malls. However, one does not have to travel far to see beautifully constructed cribs or to hear beautifully sung carols. The message of the child king is thankfully still heard.



The months of November and December are 'busy busy' in our schools. They are the months traditionally associated with Speech Days, Sports Days, Christmas Gatherings and, in some schools, Exams. Add to these the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress (APLEC) and the Assembly of Brothers and there is no shortage of Family Updates.

The Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress comes around once every three years. This year it was the turn of the Philippines to host the 8th Congress and a mighty fine job they made of it too. The Theme of Living the Lasallian Values struck a chord in the hearts of our educators. Besides, the sheer energy and exuberance of the participants was heartening and ensured a memorable experience. The follow ups back home will now be crucial.



And so, as we approach the 25th December, may we wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a bright New Year.

May we welcome the new-born king and may he reign in our hearts, forever.

Thirteen delegates from our Hong Kong Lasallian schools attended the 8th Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress (APLEC) in Manila from the 4th to the 9th December 2011. There were also delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

The Theme was "Living the Lasallian Values in the Asia-Pacific Region."

Each country was asked to give a presentation on how the Lasallian Values were lived out in their ministries, with a particular feature on a ministry to the poor or disadvantaged. The Hong Kong Delegation concentrated their presentation on the Cross-border Students at the De La Salle Secondary School, NT. These are students who cross the border from China every day in order to attend our school. Currently, there are about 100 such students.

Besides the inspiring presentations and sharing, the highlight was undoubtedly the Exposure Day with visits to Lasallian school and non-traditional ministries. These visits made the living of Lasallian values very real indeed.

Another feature of the APLEC 8 programme was the exposure of delegates to some of the cultural life of the Philippines, mainly in the form of song, dance and drama. Many wondered if there was any Filipino who could not sing or dance!

A colourful, entertaining and energizing "Solidarity Night" on the final evening concluded the programme.

Brother Kenneth Martinez, Aimee, Vanes and all their back-up team deserve the highest accolades for seeing to every detail of the programme.

The Hong Kong delegates were well pleased and inspired with the APLEC 8 experience and are determined to share and promote their inspirations in their respective schools back home.

The APLEC 8 Hong Kong Delegation



Back Row (L to R)

Mr. Joseph Fong
La Salle College

Mr. Joseph Hui
La Salle College

Bro. Patrick Tierney

Mr. Paul Tam
St. Joseph's Primary School

Mr. Lee Ting Leung
Chan Sui Ki(La Salle)
College

Mr. Alex Chan
Chan Sui Ki(La Salle)
College

Mr. Mark Mak
De La Salle Secondary
School, N.T.

Mr. Billy Lau
De La Salle
Secondary School,
N.T.

Front Row (L to R)

Ms. Rufina Cheng Chong
Gene Hang College

Ms. Rhoda Lee
Chong Gene Hang
College

Ms. Erica To
La Salle Primary School

Mrs. Emily Leung
La Salle Primary School

Ms. Carrie Ho
La Salle Primary
School



心之所願，無所不成
Nothing is impossible for a willing heart

Day One: Starting the Conversation



Brother Michael Broughton on Lasallian Spirituality with Tracy Adams on Boystown, Australia



Brother Mike Valenzuela on St. La Salle: A Man of Extraordinary Faith and Zeal



De La Salle University students singing and rapping

Mr. Henry Aytade, recently elected President of the Worldwide Union of Lasallian Alumni, in full flow.



Day Two: Expanding the Conversation



Dr. Ben Eusebio on 'Time for a Hero'. Dr Ben concentrated on how we, as educators, can contribute towards making the world more eco-friendly.

Sector Presentations



Thailand



Philippines



Singapore



Sri Lanka



New Zealand



Australia



Pakistan



Malaysia

“Living the Lasallian Values
in the Asia-Pacific Region”

Hong Kong Presentation



The Hong Kong Delegation concentrated on the project to cater for the 'Cross Border Students' at De La Salle Secondary School, New Territories. This co-educational school is situated quite close with the border with Mainland China. Currently there are about 100 'Cross Border Students' attending the school. This makes up about 16% of the total school population.

By 'Cross Border Students' is meant those who cross the border between Mainland China and Hong Kong every day in order to attend schools in Hong Kong. As you can imagine, such movement takes up a lot of time. In the case of De La Salle Secondary School, for example, these students have to be bused to and from school each day. Moreover, a number of teachers have to be deployed at bus stops in order to ensure a smooth flow.

The Hong Kong Sector presentation highlighted the four main challenges the school faces in trying to help these students. First of all, there is the question of their English standard which needs to be improved. Then there is the question of adaptation to life in Hong Kong, particularly to its hectic pace. Some students may also experience feelings of isolation or discrimination and therefore require some counseling. Lastly, there is the matter of communication in general since many of these students speak Mandarin and are not fluent in Cantonese, the local dialect.





The rush at the border: school is calling



Adaptation to life in Hong Kong: teacher taking the students downtown



Entering a local competition...and winning

Day Three: Deepening the Conversation

Day three was devoted to Lasallian ministries exposure trips. Participants were split up into 9 groups to visit Lasallian works ranging from kindergarten to university, and including outreach programmes to the poor, disadvantaged and even imprisoned.

To many delegates, this exposure was the highlight of their APLEC 8 experience.

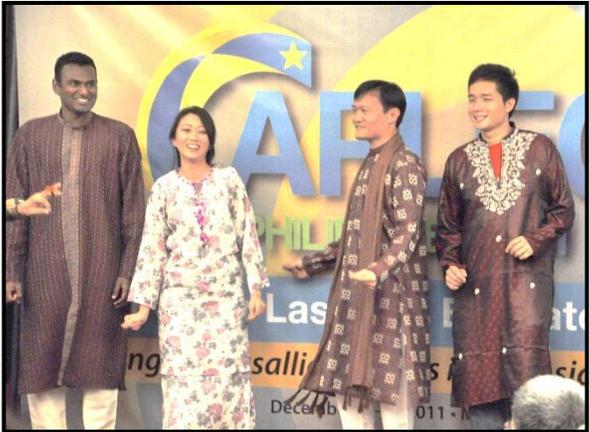


Day Four: Transcending the Conversation



Closing address by Brother Visitor, Edmundo Fernandez

Solidarity Night
Delegates let their hair down





Family Updates

Lasallian Derby

On the 25th November two Lasallian schools went head to head in the senior A Grade Inter-School Football Final. The beautiful, newly-laid, astro-turf field at Shek Kip Mei Park was the setting for the contest between La Salle College and Chong Gene Hang College, dubbed the 'Lasallian Derby' in the local newspapers. The



game was played in a sporting atmosphere and a goodly number of spectators from both schools chanted gustily and happily. When the dust settled La Salle had that bit more firepower, running out winners by two goals. They are now champions two years in a row.

Award for Brother David Liao

The La Salle Study Centre (LSSC) in mainland China received a big boost with the latest award to its founder, Brother David Liao.

The big day for LSSC was the invitation to Brother David to participate in the 2011 南方华人慈善盛典(South China Chinese Charity People Grand Ceremony) at the invitation of the Guangdong Overseas Chinese Affairs



Bureau and the Guangzhou TVS2 on 18th November in Guangzhou, as one of ten distinguished awardees. The ceremony was held at the Zhongshan (Dr. Sun Yat Sun) Memorial Hall and was telecasted live via TVS2. After receiving the award, Brother David returned to Dabu and was invited to have lunch with the deputy mayor. He was also presented with congratulatory letters from the Meizhou state government and Dabu district government.

La Salle College 80th Anniversary Celebrations

Jubilee Mass

“This is your College. That is why we are here,” Brother Steve told about 1,600 students, gathered together with staff, old boys and parents at a Mass at the Cathedral on December 2nd to mark the foundation of the College.

Bishop John Tong celebrated the Mass together with a number of old boy priests. The Bishop also presented a papal blessing from Pope Benedict XV1.

It would have been impossible for a stranger to have dropped in and not recognize that the student body participated in the Mass in a manner that truly reflected a tremendous pride in and love for their school.



Family Fun Day

As part of its ongoing 80th Anniversary celebrations, La Salle College held its Family Fun Day on the 18th December 2011. The day turned out beautifully dressed, with sunny blue skies and a cool breeze. Delicious foods, creative games, attractive prizes and souvenirs, visual arts, science and heritage exhibitions and top class



entertainment were the order of the day. There were also stirring dragon and lion dances to generate atmosphere. A large and appreciative attendance soaked up the atmosphere.

The occasion was also used by the La Salle Foundation to launch a major fund-raising drive, to enable the College to maintain its above standard facilities and to remain at the cutting edge of modern educational development.

I reached the South Pole

Peter Lui, an old boy of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College and a member of the Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council, recently fulfilled a long-cherished dream. Here he is in his own words:



“It is my great pleasure to inform you that I have completed the Mission Impossible : to be the First Hong Kong Scout to Reach the Top of the World -- North Pole (2000) and also the Bottom of the World --- South Pole (2011). I left Hong Kong on the 6th of Dec, 2011. After a long and unforgettable journey, I finally reached the designation on 11th December. I’ve stayed there for several days to do a lot of photography and science experiments, and was supposed to start my return trip on the 14th of Dec. However, the weather was too bad and the South Pole didn’t want me to leave. I had to stay in the polar camp

to struggle with the strong wind and -38°C cold temperature. I was lucky to have God by my side and finally can say good bye to South Pole and started my journey back home.” Peter made sure to carry the school flag all the way in carrying out ‘Mission Impossible’.

Brothers’ Assembly

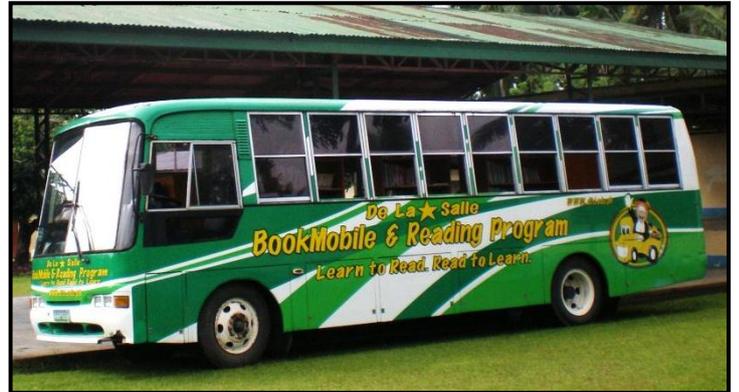
The first Assembly of the Brothers of the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD) was held from the 10th to the 15th December 2011 in Pinna Training Centre, Tagaytay, Philippines. About 110 Brothers attended. What was particularly noticeable and appreciated was the natural interaction between the older and younger Brothers. The entire programme was well designed to strengthen bonding and to initiate networking. A highlight of the Assembly was the arrival and veneration of a major relic of our founder, St La Salle. The concluding highlight was the taking of Final Profession of Vows by Brother Arian. The new LEAD District is truly up and running.



The Mobile-Library

The bus comes round just once a year,
A mobile-library bus;
Although it is the worse for wear,
It causes quite a fuss.

The six to nine year olds emerge,
And line up mighty fine;
They know that they are on the verge,
And soon will sumptuous dine.



I watch their eyes take fancy flight,
On entering the realms of gold;
I watch their eyes all filled with light,
When they the gold enfold.

Sixty years seem but a day,
The written word to love;
Diamonds sparkle on the way,
The gifts of God above.



Note: A small reflection on what some APLEC 8 delegates experienced on the Lasallian Mission Exposure Day