

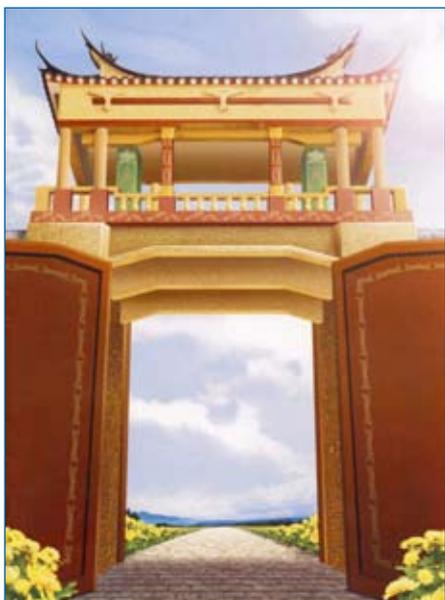
# The gateway

January 2014



issue  
**50**





“By means of this bulletin, our Lasallian Family in Hong Kong will try to open the Gate for you so that you can catch glimpses of our life and times, of our past, present and hoped-for future. We chose **The Gateway** as title because it is rich in both Chinese and Christian tradition.”

# The gateway

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Mr. Paul K. K. Tam

issue

# 50

# Welcome

The 50<sup>th</sup> is upon us. Little did we think there would be 50 issues of The Gateway within six years. Glory to God for all his blessings.

It so happens that our 50<sup>th</sup> coincides with the running out of Brothers of the Month. We only concentrate on those who worked in Hong Kong and material is limited. And so, we have embarked on a new thread called 'Our Pathways.' In this section we hope to cover various aspects of our Hong Kong Lasallian story. We are only too well aware that there will be gaps and we will be delighted if anybody out there can help us to fill them or, better still, contribute a separate piece.

The Family Updates remain because we think they help to give a snapshot of the fantastic variety of activities in our schools.

We also start a new series entitled 'In Our Hearts Forever.' This was originally written by Brother James Dooley and traces his experiences as well as that of his Community during the Japanese occupation in Malaysia. Brother James wrote well and, at times, graphically.

Another year is upon us. In line with the thinking of Pope Francis, let us strive to be peace-makers and strive to help the poor. ■



**The Gateway  
Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin  
January 2014  
Fiftieth Issue**

## Our Pathways

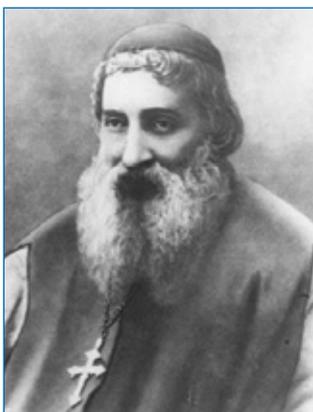
# A Path Not Forgotten, and Revisited

## The West Point Reformatory

The West Point Reformatory was also known as West Point Orphanage, the Catholic Orphanage, St. Lewis Reformatory and St. Louis Reformatory. It is regarded as the first establishment in Hong Kong to provide technical and vocational education. From 1875 to 1893 it was under the direction of the De La Salle Brothers.

**W**est Point Reformatory is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year under its present name of St. Louis School. Throughout its history, the Reformatory had been entrusted to a number of religious congregations.

### Taking up the challenge

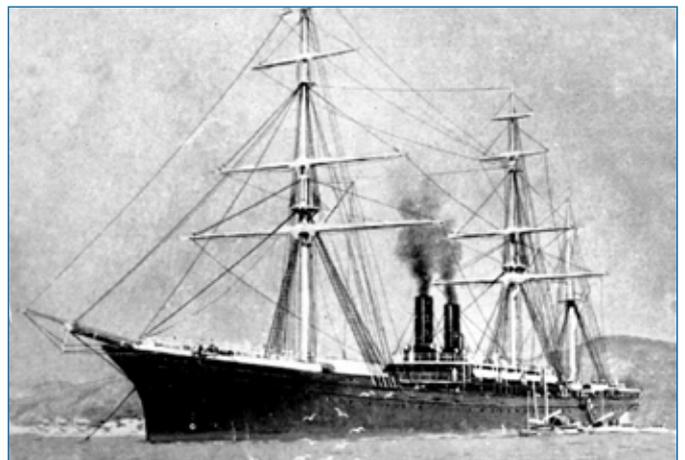


Father Raimondi

The problem of Catholic education in Hong Kong in the 1860s and 1870s was that the Church could not find committed and proficient personnel to manage its schools. Father Raimondi wanted to solve this problem once and for all. He made a memorable trip to Europe from 1873 to 1875, when he visited France, Italy and Germany. After receiving refusals from various religious congregations, Father Raimondi, a man who displayed uncommon resolve, headed to Paris to try and convince the

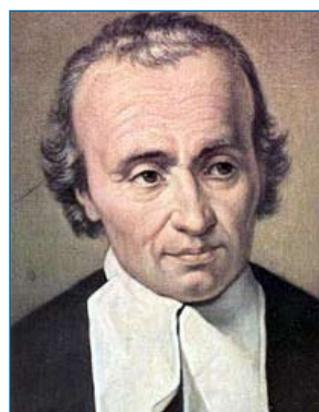
reluctant Superior General of the La Salle Brothers, Brother Philippe, to send Brothers to Hong Kong. Brother Philippe eventually promised to do so but the negotiation took almost two years and it was finally Brother Irlide, the new Superior General, who signed the agreement.

### Arrival of the Brothers



Hoogly

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1875, after a 42 days voyage from Marseilles on the 'Hoogly', there landed in Hong Kong the six pioneer Christian Brothers. They were Brothers Hidulphe Marie, Hidulphe de Jesus and Herbertus Joseph who were from the Boarding school of Marseilles, Brothers Adrian Edmund and Aldolphus Marie from the Novitiate of London, and Brother Isfrid from Paris. They were happy to find two men



Brother Philippe

dressed in black robes waiting to greet them on the shore. These two French Brothers had come to Hong Kong from Saigon one or two weeks beforehand to prepare for the historic arrival. The two forerunners, as it were, were Brother Lothaire Marie, Visitor of



Brother Lothaire

Vietnam and Brother Benilde Henri Dubois, who was actually the first De La Salle Brother to be posted in Hong Kong. Brother Lothaire Marie soon returned to Saigon and the seven remaining Brothers were entrusted by Father Raimondi with

two eminent Catholic educational establishments in Hong Kong: St. Saviour's College, founded in 1864, and the West Point Reformatory, founded in 1863. They were to take over the administration of the Reformatory and the English section of St. Saviour's College, which they renamed St. Joseph's College, in honour of the Holy Patron of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

To start their work, the seven Brothers were divided into two Communities.

**St. Joseph's College** — Brother Hidulphe Marie (Director), Brother Hidulphe de Jesus, Brother Adrian Edmund and Brother Aldolphus Marie.

**West Point Reformatory** — Brother Benilde Henri (Director), Brother Isfrid and Brother Herbertus Joseph. They were joined by a PIME Brother, Marcello Puricelli, who helped as an interpreter.

## Beginning of West Point Reformatory



Sir Hercules Robinson

The Reformatory was established in 1863 by the Roman Catholic Mission who were granted quite a large piece of land in West Point by the Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson. The Government at the time saw the seriousness to

society of the problem of orphans, street children and young offenders and believed it was best to put the problem in the hands of the Catholic Mission. Such children needed to be taken care of and taught some working skills to enable them to find jobs in the future. Father Raimondi was the first Principal and had the help of some priests and lay teachers. Although good discipline was enjoined he managed to arrange a curriculum and time-table which helped to make the Reformatory more like a school than a correctional home. Father Raimondi, however, had a larger vision for the Reformatory. In his 1875 report, he wrote:

"Up to now the number of the boys has not exceeded 50. However, we hope the time has come now for improvement. The Christian Brothers, who have come from Europe for St. Saviour's College, also take the Reformatory under their wise direction, so that a further increase in the size of the establishment and a more comprehensive teaching, than has been carried on hitherto, we do hope for a great success."

## Under the management of the Christian Brothers

In November 1875, Brother Benilde Henri became the first Brother Director of the Reformatory. With the help of Brothers Isfrid, Herbertus Joseph and Benedict Peter (Marcello Puricelli who joined the Brothers in 1876), some radical changes took place. The Reformatory started to take in Portuguese and European boys to respond to the needs of society at the time. Since running schools was part of the expertise of the Christian Brothers, they regarded the Reformatory more as an educational establishment rather than as a correctional one.

In his reports of 1875 and 1876, Bishop Raimondi showed his appreciation and recognition of the Brothers' approach to the Reformatory.

1875 Report:

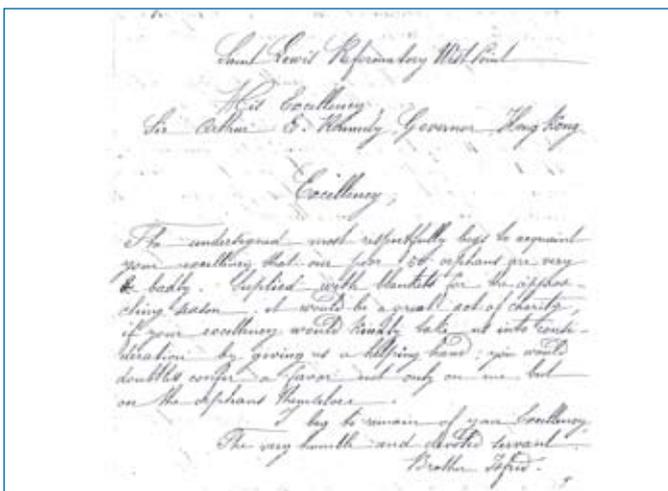
"It has overgrown its original purpose as a place for young delinquents and has become a useful industrial school, with the emphasis always on helping the most needy ... The West Point Reformatory for boys, under the care of the Christian Brothers, has been progressing ..."

1876 Report:

7.—THE REFORMATORY at Sy-ing-poon. This establishment which is now under the management of the Christian Brothers is going on satisfactorily.

The Printing Press formerly at St. Saviour's is now at the Reformatory and there is a teacher specially retained to instruct the boys in the art of printing and to superintend the office. The boys have done a great deal of work with their little press and they also bind very decently. Tailoring, shoemaking and carpentry work is also done on the premises and there is a garden where instruction is given in agriculture. A school for European and Chinese boys is kept there at certain times of the day. Some European boys abandoned by their parents have been taken in with the Chinese boys for want of some other place to put them. With one exception (in the case of a boy not

It is clear, therefore, that the Brothers were trying their best to run the Reformatory more in the vocational/ industrial type mould rather than as a Reformatory for young criminals. Even so, the Brothers faced many difficulties as can be seen from the letter of Brother Isfrid to the Governor in 1877.



St. Lewis Reformatory West Point

His Excellency,  
Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, Governor, Hong Kong.

Excellency,

The undersigned most respectfully begs to acquaint your Excellency that our poor 50 orphans are very badly supplied with blankets for the approaching season. It would be a great act of charity, if your Excellency would kindly take us into consideration by giving us a helping hand; you would doubtless confer a favor not only on me but on the orphans themselves.

I beg to remain of your Excellency  
The very humble and devoted servant  
Brother Isfrid

Hong Kong January 11<sup>th</sup> 1877

Catholic life

Despite the critical financial problems, the Brothers were determined to develop the Catholic life of the students. In the reports that the Directors made to their Visitors, they recorded details of the number of baptisms and first Holy Communions.

Year	Chinese Boys	Non-Chinese	Baptism	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion
1875	50-			
1876			7	6
1877			11	12
1878	50	12+		
1879			12	14
1880	53		11	10
1881			14	12
1882	70		16	18
1883	75			
1884				
1885				
1886	49	22	13	20
1887			14	23
1888	75	26	18	29
1889	75		23	
1890	72	27		
1891	70			
1892	70			
1893				

## Difficulties arising

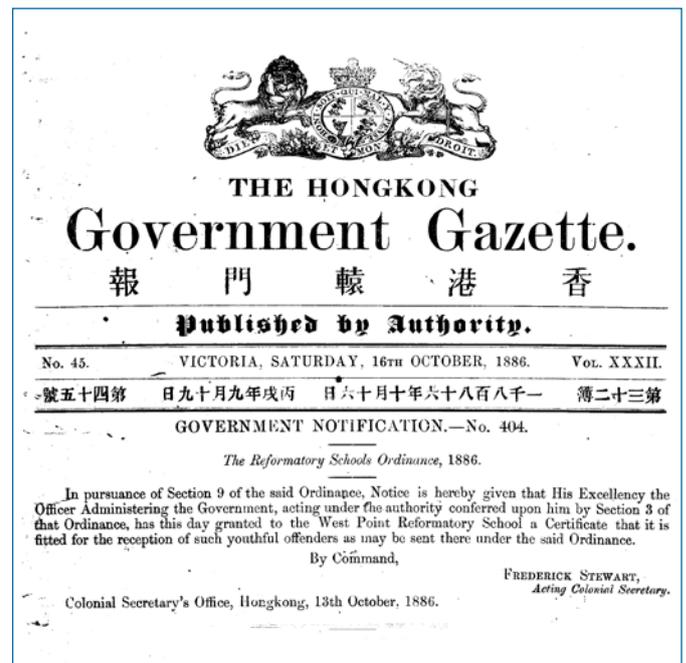
It did not take long for other difficulties to arise. The main one was that the Government kept on trying to force the Brothers to take in young offenders sent by the Magistrates. This was not in keeping with the Brothers' vision for the Reformatory and the premises were not geared to it.

In order to force the Brothers to accept young criminals into the Reformatory, the Government passed an Ordinance in 1886 as follows:

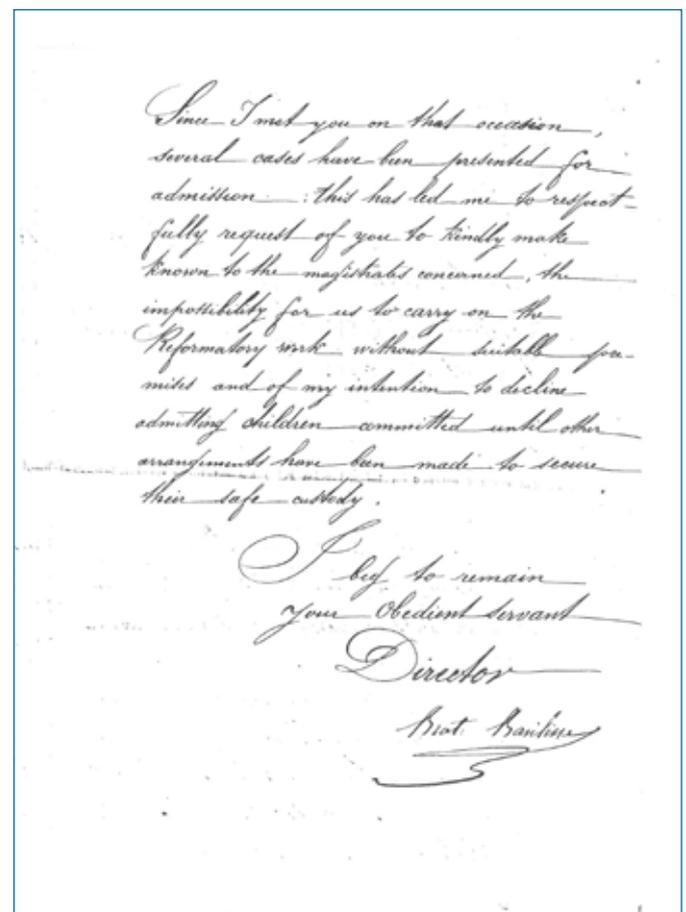
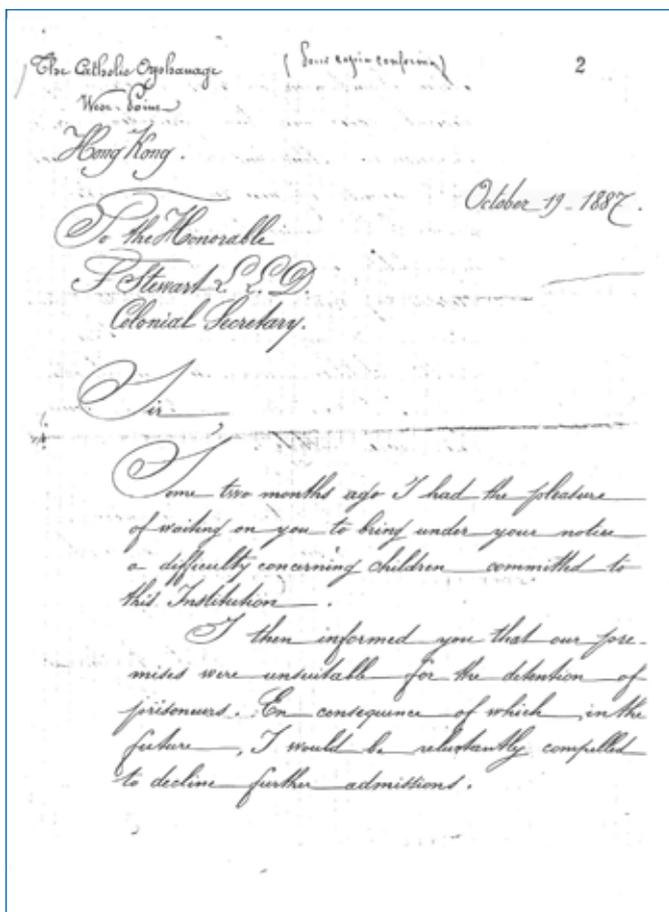
"In 1886, it having been discovered that there was no power under the existing laws to send boys to a Roman Catholic Institution, a special Ordinance was passed to overcome the defect in the regulation, and a certificate was granted under this for the purpose of thoroughly legalizing the procedure."

(West Point Reformatory from column 'Old Hong Kong by Colonial' SCMP in the 1930s)

Discussion and bargaining followed between the Reformatory and the Government concerning the



admission of juvenile offenders. The Government believed that by forcing the Reformatory to accept them, it would "have the effect of reducing the prison population and of preventing the contamination of the young ..." (*Legislative Council Paper* dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 1893).



Letter hand-written by Brother Basilisse to the Colonial Secretary

But the Brothers held firmly to their stance as is evident in the following letter by Brother Basilisse to the Colonial Secretary dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 1887.

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*Sir,*

*Some two months ago, I have the pleasure of waiting on you to bring under your notice a difficulty concerning the children committed to this institution.*

*I then informed you that our premises were unsuitable for the detention of prisoners. And consequence of which, in the future, I would be reluctantly compelled to decline further admissions.*

*Since I met you on that occasion, several cases have been presented for admissions; this has led me to respectfully request of you to kindly make known to the magistrate concerned, the impossibility for us to carry on the Reformatory work without suitable premises and of my intention to decline admitting children committed until other arrangements have been made to secure their safe custody.*

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However, the Educational Report of 1893 reinforced the Government's power to control intake into the Reformatory:

"Arrangements were made during the year 1893 to enable the only Industrial School of the Colony, the so-called West Point Reformatory, A Roman Catholic Asylum, to come, in the course of time, under the provisions of the Reformatory Ordinance (No. 19 of 1886), which had hitherto remained a dead letter."  
(E. J. Eitel)

## The difficult decision

Despite the inadequate premises, the Reformatory was therefore set to become like a prison for young criminals, against the wishes and vision of the Brothers. It was not the work for which they felt themselves specially adapted, and their successive Superiors and Visitors thought that with such a limited number of Brothers at their disposal they should concentrate on St. Joseph's. So in 1893, after 18 years of labour, the management of the Reformatory was, we believe reluctantly, returned to the Catholic Mission.

## The Brothers

**Brother Benilde Henri** — A French Brother who worked in Saigon. He came to Hong Kong with Brother Visitor Lothaire Marie one or two weeks before the arrival of the six pioneer Brothers on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1875. They made necessary arrangements for the coming of the Brothers and greeted them at the pier. Brother Benilde was the first Brother Director of the West Point Reformatory Community. He returned to Vietnam in 1876 but later returned to Hong Kong to teach in St. Joseph's College.

**Brother Isfrid** — From Paris and one of the six pioneer Brothers who arrived in 1875. He took up the Directorship of West Point in 1876 and left in 1878.

**Brother Leo Miller** — Canadian born Brother Leo spent most of his career in America. He replaced Brother Isfrid, whose health was getting worse as Director. His work was highly recognized by the public and he was responsible for bringing about a number of improvements such as, creating a vegetable garden, adding of a new wing etc. He returned to the USA in 1881. He was Director of the Reformatory from 1878 to 1881.

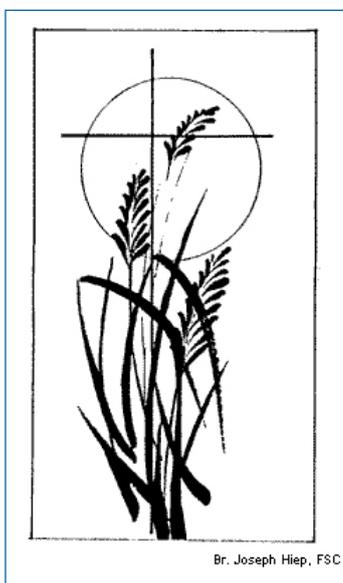
**Brother Basilisse Marie** — A French Brother who was working in Vietnam. He struggled very hard to keep the management of the Reformatory in shape under difficult circumstances and despite constant shortage of resources. He wrote many times to the Governor asking for more support and also made it clear that he wished the Reformatory to function more like a vocational/industrial school. He was the last Brother Director of the Reformatory from 1881 to 1893.

**Brother Benedict Peter (Marcello Puricelli)** — A PIME Brother from Italy. He served the Reformatory from the very beginning until 1893. He was a good interpreter and decided to join the De La Salle Brothers in 1876. He passed away in Hong Kong in 1897. He was the only West Point Reformatory Brother buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Happy Valley.

Name	Years	Institutions	Remarks
Benilde Henri Dubois	1875–1876, 1882–1885	SJC, West Point	Director 1875–1876
Isfrid (Isphridus)	1875–1878	SJC, West Point	Director 1876–1878
Herbertus-Joseph Nicolas	1875–1877	SJC, West Point	
Benedict Peter Puricelli	1876–1897	SJC, West Point	Buried in HK
Leo Louis Miller	1878–1881	SJC, West Point	Director 1878–1881
Basilisse Marie	1881–1893	SJC, West Point	Director 1881–1893
Herenien Louis	1882–1883	SJC, West Point	
Joseph Pierre	1883–1886	SJC, West Point	
Henry Edward	1883–1889	SJC, West Point	
Octavian Joseph Lalo	1886–1887	SJC, West Point	
Lewis Edward Lynam	1886–1900	SJC, West Point	
Doroshee Rufin Le Meur	1889–1892	SJC, West Point	
Johann Joseph Godeke	1889–1899	SJC, West Point	
Conrad Alexis Thomas	1891–1895	SJC, West Point	
Adrien Jean	1877–1880	West Point	
Ambertin de Jesus	1880–1881	West Point	

List of Brothers serving the West Point Reformatory

## Let us remember



Let us remember these and any other Brothers who may have worked in the Reformatory. They gave of their best to fulfill the Lasallian mission of educating the poor, the needy and the disadvantaged. ■

### *From the editor's desk*

While the Brother of the Month will still be on our agenda should the occasion arise, we are now moving into a new thread entitled 'Our Pathways'. It is approaching 140 years since the pioneering Brothers first set foot in Hong Kong. Our Lasallian Family have taken many roads and trod many pathways since then. We hope to cover some of the stories in our history many of which were challenging, inspiring and interesting. We do not have all knowledge or all the answers and would be very grateful for any correction or advice. This story of the West Point Reformatory, a pathway that is not so well known or researched. What we offer here is according to our lights.

# In Our Hearts Forever

## War in the Far East

**D**uring World War II Brother James Dooley and his Community in Malaysia had been imprisoned by the Japanese. He secretly kept a diary of events – a dangerous thing to do – but the diary is now a treasure. And so, we begin the first part of a series on the arrest, ‘trial’, imprisonment and dispersal of the community of De La Salle Brothers by the Japanese Military Police (the KENPEITAI) in Taiping, Malaya, 1941–1945, during World War II.

Brother James Dooley was Principal of St. Joseph's College, Hong Kong, from 1964 to 1970 after which he taught in La Salle College until called to Rome in 1977.

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Through many dangers, toils and pains,  
We have already come.  
'Tis grace that brought us safe thus far,  
And grace will lead us home.

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### Japanese Expansionism 'A Place in the Sun'



For Japan, her attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941, and her lightning advance through South East Asia, was just another ‘incident’ in the series of wars she had been waging since 1904. From the Meiji restoration in 1868, she had sought ‘a place in the sun’ ... just as the Western Imperial Powers had done before her.

She fought and defeated a weak China, appropriated South Manchuria, annexed Formosa (Taiwan) and Korea and overpowered Russia in the Russia-Japanese War of 1904–05.

The Treaty of Versailles, 1919, awarded former German Colonies in the Pacific to Japan thus enabling her to cut off the Philippines Islands, an American possession at the time, from Hawaii, headquarters of the US Pacific Fleet.

The militarists in Japan took advantage of the world economic crisis of 1929 to discredit an already weak home government and to consolidate her position in Manchuria with the establishment of the puppet State of Manchuria.

In 1937 she invaded China proper referring to it as the ‘China Incident’. But the war in China assumed much greater proportions than ever the Japanese had anticipated. There was the vast size of the country, the dogged refusal of the Chinese to surrender, the tying down of nearly one million men and the problem of ever diminishing, irreplaceable war supplies. In 1941, she occupied French Indo-China, an easy annexation



since she was one of the Axis Powers and France had already fallen to Nazi Germany. In response, America, Britain and Holland froze Japanese assets thus cutting off ninety per cent of her oil supplies and considerable quantities of war materials.

Japan was left with two alternatives ... withdraw from China as America demanded, and so lose face before the whole world, a move she could not countenance, or gamble all and take on the mighty strength of America and the combined Forces of Britain, France and Holland.

Fight on to the end was the only logical decision in the circumstances. And after all, the U.S. was far away over the ocean, the war in Europe was effectively cutting off aid to the South East Asian Colonies and there, almost on her doorstep, lay ready for the grabbing, the very commodities she needed so badly – oil, rubber, tin, rice and tempting territorial gains.

So with 'WAR NOW' the slogan, Japan decided to strike, seize the Dutch Oil Fields and bring the unfortunate 'China Incident' to an acceptable conclusion ... and thus realize her long-cherished dream of establishing her very own South East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.

In a series of swift blows, which began with the crippling of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour – 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – with simultaneous successful attacks on the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and Burma, Japan, in one desperate gamble, had taken on powers possessing far greater war potential than herself.



## The Japanese Conquest of Malaya and Singapore (7<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942)

The Japanese plan was to overrun Malaya in one swift blitzkrieg and so, with the inevitable fall of Singapore, drive Britain from its strongest position in South East Asia, provide a base for further attacks and so procure crucially essential supplies of oil, rubber, tin and rice. It was for them, the beginning of the execution of the 'Tanaka Memorial' – a document attributed to Tanaka, Prime Minister of Japan 1927–1929.

It read in part:

"... Grab China first, then South East Asia, then India, then Australasia, then the Middle East and Europe and finally, maybe, the rest of the world."

The attitude of the British towards the possible invasion of Malaya was somewhat simplistic. A reasonably-sized force, it was felt, would be ample to deter any improbable attack from the north through the Malay Peninsula with its impenetrable jungles and coastal marshlands. There was confidence, too, that the impregnable fortress of Singapore with its strong seaward defences would repel any naval attack.



At the very time the first Japanese aeroplanes were on their way to Singapore, the wealthy, social whirl went on "And why not?" the revelers asked ... the war in Europe was thousands of miles away, reinforcements were on their way, British's most modern battleship 'Prince of Wales' and the cruiser 'Repulse' with four destroyers had just reached Singapore. There was nothing to fear ... until the night of 8<sup>th</sup> December (1941) when sirens wailed over a brightly lit city

of Singapore and Japanese bombs killed sixty and wounded seven hundred civilians.

Simultaneously, Japanese assault barges were landing troops in south Thailand and north Malaya. Within forty eight hours, they had gained hard-won air mastery over the northern battle zones. Once they had air control, it was practically impossible to halt their advance down the Malay Peninsula and on to Singapore. On the 10<sup>th</sup> December, Japanese aircraft attacked and sunk the 'Pride of the Navy', Britain's most modern battleship 'The Prince of Wales' and the battle cruiser 'Repulse' – a very severe blow to her morale and pride.

The absence of adequate air cover and tanks, the lack of training in jungle warfare, the superior equipment, tactics and motivation of the Japanese forced the courageous but dispirited and often demoralized Australian, British and Indian troops, fighting against momentous odds, into almost continuous retreat. "Withdrawal to prepared positions" became a euphemism for a disorganized and demoralizing pull-back.



It had taken the Japanese fifty-four days to capture Malaya with all its material riches. They had lost less than five thousand men, killed and wounded. The British had lost some twenty-five thousand men, chiefly as prisoners of war, and a vast amount of equipment.

### **Singapore (7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942)**

With Malaya in Japanese hands the fall of Singapore was only a matter of time. There were no adequate fortifications along the north of the Island, facing

Malaya, so convinced were the British that an attack from the mainland was unthinkable if not impossible.

Within five days of the Japanese landing in Singapore, the city resembled something out of Dante's Inferno. Refugees from mainland Malaya had practically doubled its peace-time population, the city's water supply was in enemy hands, Japanese army units and tanks pressed on driving the gallant defence forces to within three miles of the water front.

To avoid the destruction and loss of life that prolonged and now futile fighting would entail, Percival, the Commander-in-charge, sought and obtained authorization from the Supreme Commander, Archibald Wavell, to surrender.



Percival



Yamashita

So Yamashita, the Tiger and Percival, the Rabbit, negotiated and the outcome was never in doubt. Percival tried to play for time but Yamashita bluffed his way to force the unconditional surrender of Singapore Island and everything on it.

It was Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> February, the First Day of the Chinese Lunar New Year and fittingly for the Japanese, the Year of the Tiger.

Three and a half years of the most bitter captivity in the history of war were to follow. More than a third of the prisoners died, as a result of the savage treatment meted out to them by their inhuman and vicious captors.

Prisoners died of beatings and torture, of tropical sickness, in concentration camps, in hell ships, on death marches, in Japanese mines and in the infamous slave camps along the Death Railway in Thailand.

*(To be continued)*

# Family Updates

## Green and White Walkathon



The Green and White Walkathon of St Joseph's College, taking on the theme of 'Pioneer', was successfully held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 with over 400 participants. Students were encouraged to

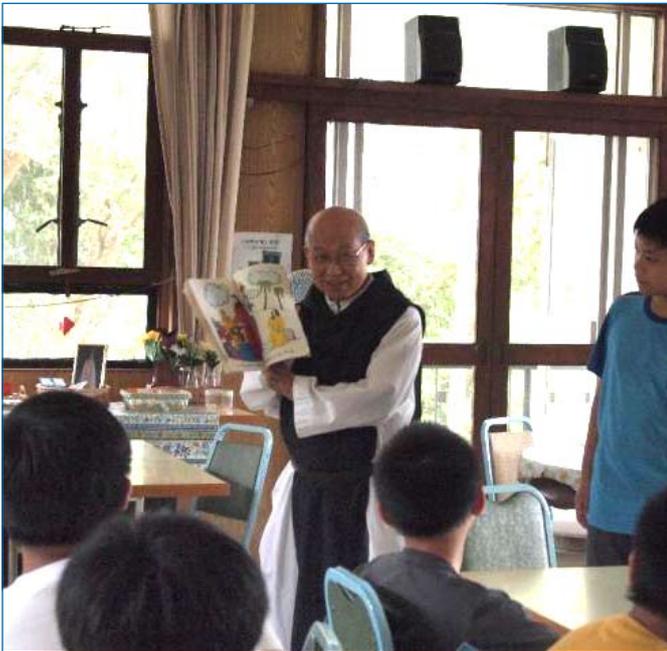
continue the legacy of the old boys by living the Green and White Spirit – by treading the paths mapped out by old boy pioneers, by building on the foundations established, and by being dignified Josephians.

## In Giving that We Receive



St. Joseph's Primary School's Dress Casual Day was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. It was a day when students were taught and experienced the meaning of sharing. They made donations to the Community Chest as well as bringing food to school to support the Food Bank of St. James Settlement. An Old Boy who learnt about this activity showed his support by sending the school 200 packets of white rice and promised he would continue to do this in the years to come.

# Our Lady of Joy Trappist Monastery



This is the second year in a row for students of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College to go on pilgrimage to the Trappist Cistercian Monastery. It was a precious opportunity for twenty-one students and two teachers, to meet the priests and brothers on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. The pilgrims prayed and sang during the Way of the Cross on the ascent to the monastery. After a quick lunch, they joined the priests and brothers in their daily prayer, a rare chance to chant together in Mandarin. Rev. Father Chong arranged a meeting and introduced the wondrous history of the monastery. He also performed a few magic tricks to help the pilgrims appreciate the importance of prayer. Our young Catholic and non-Catholic students enjoyed the visit greatly. This encounter with prayerful, cloistered brothers was once again truly eye-opening.

# DLS Primary Schools Football Tournament

The occasion was the 10<sup>th</sup> Seven-a-Side for boys and 2<sup>nd</sup> Five-a-Side for girls Inter-School Football Competition hosted by the De La Salle Secondary School for the Northern District Primary Schools. This year the competition was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November

2013 with a total of six schools participating. Over 100 boys and girls enjoyed themselves immensely. After all, it is not at all easy to find a sports-field with real grass in Hong Kong – much less in a school. The De La Salle sports-field is a little gem.



## Two in One



Brothers Lawrence Blake and Patrick Tierney killed two birds with one stone, as it were, by having a joint birthday celebration on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The consumption of only one birthday cake was a great saving, at least for their figures. Brother Lawrence is the big brother, literally, and looked very smart on the day. Brother Patrick thinks he is young, relatively. May the Lord look kindly on his servants and give them length of days.

## Cross-Country

On the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> November the sun shone gloriously on the green swards of the Hong Kong Golf Club. That was the venue for the annual inter-school cross country finals. If anything, it was too warm and a few competitors succumbed to heat-stroke. Three of our Hong Kong Lasallian schools

were in the mix and all three retained Division One status. The La Salle College boys managed to come in 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 14 category and the school was 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. After the prize-giving, school songs were sung and most participants were transported back to the city by bus – the sun still shining.



# Visit by La Salle Auckland



Seventeen students and four teachers from De La Salle College Auckland visited La Salle College from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December and were hosted by families. The students were well known to the Principal, Brother Steve Hogan. They assisted with some oral English and PE classes. On the final day La Salle College hosted a lunchtime

concert in the garden featuring La Salle College students on the Chinese drums and Desmond Yu singing his Talent Quest winning 'Starfall'. The New Zealand boys performed traditional Pacific island dances and songs and their school haka (similar to the All Blacks rugby haka).

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## Music Grand Slam



First it was the Symphony, then the Strings then the Wind, then the Chinese and finally the Champion of Champions. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December the Chinese Orchestra won the Champion (Gold Award) at the Hong Kong Music Interflows. La Salle College then entered the Champion of Champions and emerged with the musical Grand Slam. These things don't happen so often or by accident, so much credit is due to the boys and their instructors.

## Another Two in One



The birthdays are coming thick and fast. Just before we go to cyberspace, the Old Boys' Association of St Joseph's College organized a joint birthday celebration for Brothers Alphonsus Breen and Thomas Favier. Between them, they

have notched up 156 years and 106 years in Hong Kong. This might be some kind of record. In any case, we wish them both long life and happiness as we head into the New Year.

## Family Fun Day

The rain, which fell off and on, did not dampen the enthusiasm of the large crowd that attended the La Salle College Family Fun Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013. If anything, the rainy weather brought everybody closer together. You could not help bumping into old and new friends as you made your way through the events on offer. The dragon and lion dance at the opening ceremony set the tone. Games of all kinds, many quite creative, attracted long lines of parents and children. There was food galore from a glittering array of stalls. And then there

were the performances, a pleasing mixture of music and song which threw up amazing talent. A day well prepared for and well spent.



# Variety Show



Every two years, in the run-up to Christmas, La Salle Primary School hosts a Christmas Variety Show which runs for three consecutive nights. This year the programme certainly lived up to its variety name. It included a musical medley from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat,

a mesmerizing rope-skipping item, a modern and colourful Dragon and Lion Dance and the highlight musical, *Invade/Save the World* which sold a strong message about protecting our earth – one universe, one earth, one race – only with love and care can we make the world a better place.

## La Salle Primary Speech Day



Many schools regard Speech Day as the highlight of the school year, the day when major academic and extra-curricular achievements are duly recognized with the distribution of awards and prizes. It was the turn of La Salle Primary School on the 14<sup>th</sup> November and the Guest of Honour was Mr. Willie Wong, President of La Salle College Old Boys' Association. It does the heart good to watch the little ones, some as young as six, ascend the stage and, eyes sparkling, receive their awards.



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