

The Gateway



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This stained-glass window adorns the Chapel at our Motherhouse in Rome.

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Welcome

Here we are at the tail end of another academic year. The students, and of course teachers and parents, are looking forward to a good break. It does not mean the end of school activities for a couple of months. There will be post exam activities galore.

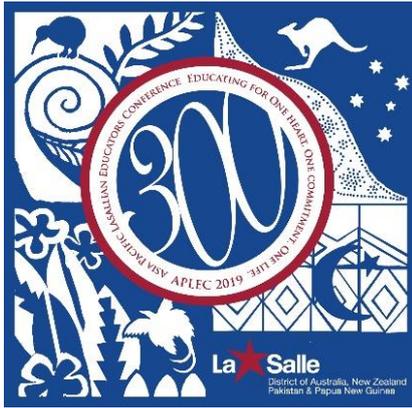
Indeed, as you will see when browsing, there was no shortage of school activities right up to final examination time. Their number, variety and quality are impressive.

In this issue of The Gateway we recall the very successful holding of the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress in April. APLEC 10 was held in Melbourne in beautiful weather. There was a series of inspiring presentations as well as breakout sharings. The Hong Kong Lasallian Family was well represented with nineteen participants.

Also in Hong, the Tercentenary Year of the passing of St. John Baptist de La Salle was marked by a number of events. The final event will be the Tercentenary Thanksgiving Mass to be held on the 21st September in the Hall of La Salle Primary School.

And so, we sign off on another year, wishing everyone safe and enjoyable holidays. We will miss Brothers Chris and Sockie in the coming years and wish them the very best in their new assignments.





ALPEC 10

APLEC 10 was held 14-16th April 2019 in Melbourne with the theme “One Heart, One Commitment, One Life”.

Nineteen Hong Kong delegates attended. APLEC welcomes more than 190 delegates from 13 countries including 29 Brothers from 9 countries.

Day 1: Have you not heard

Keynote speaker, Brother Armin reminded us of the following:

Lasallian Education

Schools: 1,118; Students: 1,039,221; Teachers: 92,910 (As of December 31, 2018)

We are to learn from the burning issues of our days, such as from terror attacks and from Internet obsession.

We are to learn from the indefatigable Lasallian Spirit. “God is so good” said St. La Salle , “that he wills all of us to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Therefore, our students, in whom goodness resides, need to be saved.

Goodness is still in the world, and it begins with me.

Day 2: Their eyes were opened

Keynote speaker, Brother George Van Greiken reminded us of the following:

“To talk about having your eyes opened is to highlight the bursting in of a new revelation, a new awareness, a new collation of the facts, a new place from where to see things that we already knew”.

Br George highlighted five transformative operational dimensions and how those dimensions are applicable today:

1. De La Salle himself, who took risks in faith and persisted in adversity
2. Focus on Education, which is a privileged encounter with youth
3. Self-adjustment, which makes us adaptable and relevant in our work
4. Community, which promotes the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood
5. Spirit of Faith & Zeal which motivates us to bring salvation to all

Day 3: Their hearts were burning

Keynote speaker, Brother Peter Bray reminded us of the following:

1. My house, my family and my land can be taken, but not my education!
2. Our educational centres have to be sacred, safe places.
3. We have to keep the flame of hope alive in the hearts of the young.
4. Spread God's love through our relationships.
5. "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are" (President Roosevelt)



John Baptist de La Salle, A Pioneer in Education.

300 Years of Death Anniversary

Pope Francis



I welcome you who represent the entire spiritual family founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle on the occasion of the third centenary of his death. I greet and thank Brother Robert Schieler, Superior General; I extend my greeting with affection to each of you and I would like him to reach out to all the Brothers of the Christian Schools (and

Partners) who work in the Church with generosity, competence and faithful adherence to the Gospel. This important anniversary of your Founder is a good opportunity for your Institute to highlight the figure of a pioneer in the field of education, who in his time devised an innovative educational system. His example and witness confirm the original relevance of his message for the Christian community today, illuminating the way forward. He was a brilliant and creative innovator in his vision of the school, in the concept of the teacher, in the teaching methods.

His vision of the schools led him to mature ever more clearly his conviction that education is a right of all, especially for the poor. For this reason, he did not hesitate to renounce the canonry and its rich family heritage, to devote himself entirely to the education of the lower social class. He gave life to a community of lay people only to carry forward his ideal, convinced that the Church cannot remain alien to the social contradictions of the times with which she was called to confront herself. It was this conviction that led him to establish an original experience of consecrated life: the presence of religious educators who, without being priests, interpreted the role of "lay monks" in a new way, immersing themselves totally in the reality of their time and thus contributing to the progress of civil society.

The daily contact with the world of school matured in him the awareness of identifying a new concept of the teacher. He was convinced, in fact, that the school was a serious reality, for which people needed to be adequately prepared; but he had before his eyes all the structural and functional deficiencies of a precarious institution that needed order and form. He then realized that teaching cannot be just a job, but it is a mission. He therefore surrounded himself with people suited to the popular school, inspired by Christianity, with aptitude and natural gifts for education. He devoted all his energy to their formation, becoming himself an example and model for them, who had to exercise a service that was both ecclesial and social, and working hard to promote what he called the "dignity of the teacher".

In an effort to give concrete answers to the demands of his time in the field of school, John Baptist de La Salle undertook bold reforms in the methods of teaching. In this he was moved by an extraordinary pedagogical realism. He substituted the French language for the Latin language, which was normally used in teaching; he divided the students into homogeneous learning groups with a view to more effective work; he set up seminaries for country teachers, that is, for young people who wanted to become teachers without becoming part of any religious institution; he founded Sunday Schools for adults and two pensioners, one for young offenders and the other for the rehabilitation of prisoners. He dreamed of a school open to all, so he did not hesitate to address even the most extreme educational needs, introducing a method of bringing back the dignity of the person through school and work. In these formative realities he began a formative pedagogy which, in contrast with the use of the times, brought to punishment among the young people, study and work, with handicraft activities, rather than just the cell or the lashes.

Dear spiritual children of John Baptist de La Salle, I urge you to deepen and imitate his passion for the least and the lost. In the wake of his apostolic witness, be protagonists of a "culture of the resurrection", especially in those existential contexts where the culture of death prevails. Do not tire of going in search of those who find themselves in the modern "tombs" of bewilderment, degradation, discomfort and poverty, to offer hope for a new life. The impetus for the educational mission which made your Founder master and witness for so many of his contemporaries, and his teaching, can still today nourish your projects and your action.

His figure, always so relevant, is a gift for the Church and a precious motivation for your Congregation, called to a renewed and enthusiastic adherence to Christ. Looking to the Divine Master, you can with greater generosity work at the service of the new evangelization in which the whole Church is engaged today. The forms of proclaiming the Gospel need to be adapted to the concrete situations of the different contexts, but this also involves an effort of fidelity to the origins, so that the apostolic style which is proper to your religious Family can continue to respond to the expectations of the people. I know that this is the commitment that animates you and I urge you to walk courageously in this direction.

May you carry out with renewed vigour your mission among the younger generations, with that reforming audacity which characterized John Baptist de La Salle: to all he proclaimed the Gospel of hope and charity. May the Blessed Virgin always support you and obtain for you abundant apostolic fruits.

Dear brothers and sisters, I thank you for everything you do in the field of education. I accompany you with my prayer and my blessing. And I ask you please to pray for me.

Thank you!

Vatican, 16 May 2019

Family Updates

50th Anniversary Old Boys' Athletics Meet



For the first time in the history of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College, old boys of all ages competed in an athletics meet on 4th May 2019 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Despite occasional rain showers, around forty old boys competed in a variety of track and field events at Perth

Street Sports Ground, exhibiting strength, skill and endurance. While the competitors were contending for the crown, their family and friends gave them the best cheers on the spectators' stand. The fundraising event organized by the Old Boys' Association was drawn to a close with some old boys and their children taking part in a 2 x 50 m family relay. The fantastic afternoon provided an opportunity for old boys to meet the retired teachers and to strengthen the spirit of the boys in red. More celebratory events are being rolled out one after another.

Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College Debating Team



Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College went through an unusual journey this year. It is the first time for them to enter the Grand Final in the Sing Tao 34th Inter-school Debating Competition. The team finally snatched the 2nd place. Throughout all the rounds, the Captain of the team, Larry Lau, was named the Best Debater 4 times and the Best Interrogative Debater twice. It was a memorable moment for them as the team was supported by the Principal, Vice-principals, teachers, old boys, retired teachers, parents and students at

the Queen Elizabeth Stadium on 17th May 2019. Congratulations to all the debaters in the Grand Final!

Magnificent Seven

Not content with winning the inter-school competition, the badminton boys of La Salle College went on to win every other major tournament in the territory, the latest being victory over Raimondi College in the Jing Ying competition. Altogether, there were seven titles on offer and they took all seven. Their exploits must have set some kind of record in what has become a golden era for the College teams, from the youngest at junior level to the A Grade under twenty level. The players, coach, teacher-in-charge, parents and supporters have all played their part.



Trouble



“Trouble” was the name of this year’s musical, an annual highlight of the school year of Chong Gene Hang College. The school’s former native English teacher, Stuart Mead, continues to help and wrote the script. The sub heading to the title was ‘A scary comedy musical drama’ and it lived up to its billing. The storyline revolves about a former school, said to be haunted, and two teenage boys who dream of starting a

modern dance club there. “Trouble” was full of fun, jokes, action and music and much enjoyed by a large audience, including students from neighbouring schools.

Raffle Draw

The annual Raffle Draw for the Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund took place at La Salle College on the 20th May 2019. The mission fund caters to special projects and programmes not normally covered by the government. Currently, for example, it supports teachers and young Lasallians going on formation or exposure programmes, the most recent being for the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators Conference held in Melbourne, Australia. The fund also supports our La Salle Centre in China. Occasionally, it will also sponsor a project in the wider Lasallian world, usually for the poor and needy. This year the raffle was very successful and all our schools and stakeholders deserve much credit for their active participation.



Project WeCan Partners Appreciation Reception



Principal Mr. Simon Tso and Head Prefect Lee Cheuk Ying of De La Salle Secondary School NT were invited to attend the Project WeCan Appreciation Reception at the Government House on 30th May 2019. De La Salle is one of the 76 participating schools. Using an ‘adopt a school’ model, Project *WeCan* is an **open platform** where each school is coupled with a partner in a multi-year collaboration for providing financial and volunteer support. It is hoped that through diversified programmes WeCan students will be able to enhance their communication skills and increase their exposure so as to foster their innovativeness and creativity.

(Picture taken with Mr. Woo Kwong-ching, founding patron of Project WeCan)

Hong Kong APLEC Plenary Meeting

A plenary meeting of the Hong Kong Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Conference (APLEC) was held on the 18th May, 2019 with a large attendance. On the one hand there was the welcoming of new members and also welcoming Brother Jude, on a visit from India. On the other hand we were saying farewell to three long-standing APLEC members, Rosanna Chan, Cecilia Tang and Mark Mak. We also farewelled Br Chris who is taking up a new assignment in South Sudan. Participants of the APLEC 10 Conference held recently in Melbourne gave a comprehensive and interesting report. The Hong Kong APLEC members do much good work in their respective schools.



Principals' Conference

Twice a year, the Principals of all our schools meet for discussion of policies and for sharing on useful practice. The latest meeting was on the 21st May 2019. An ongoing highlight of the Conference is a review of our Viability, Vitality and Visibility study which was conducted over the past year. At this meeting we also said farewell to Ms. Rosanna Chan, Principal of St. Joseph's Primary School. She has served the school devotedly for many years and we wish her every blessing on her retirement. At the same time, we welcomed the new Principal elect, Ms Cecilia Ho and wish her well as she takes up the reins of administration.



LEO Closing Ceremony

The 31st May, 2019, was the date chosen for the closing ceremony of this year's Lasallian Educational Outreach programme. It was held in Ngau Tau Kok Caritas Centre. Now in its third year, the programme is much appreciated by students and administrators concerned. At the closing ceremony there was an inspiring sharing from Walter, alumni of the first year programme. Walter was selected as the first singer in a prize-winning musical and he encouraged the students never give up on their dreams. Brother Chris Soosai presented certificates to the students and our dedicated outreach teachers deserve much credit, devoting their time after school.

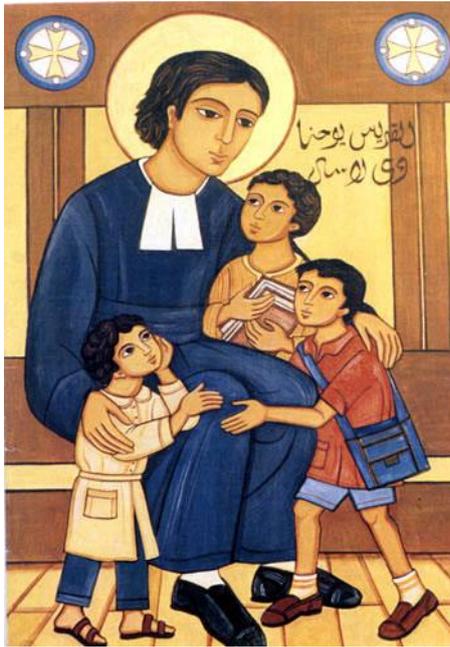


Catholic Teachers Formation Day

On 13th June, about 100 Catholic teachers from the Catholic Diocesan Secondary Schools gathered at La Salle College for a formation programme. Brother Chris Soosai, Mr. Joseph Fong from La Salle College, together with Mr. Joseph Rogers from La Salle High School (Minneapolis) shared with participants the story of St. La Salle, the Lasallian core principles as well as our Mission Worldwide. The teachers were quite impressed with the work of the Brothers and especially their spirit of service. The programme finished with a Mass in the school chapel celebrated by Father Xavier Wong, who is a former teacher of the College.



Lasallian Thoughts for Teachers



Caring:

Have much more care for the education of those entrusted to your care than you would have for the children of a king.

Discipline:

Pray God never to allow you to be carried away by any outburst of anger when you have to punish any of your pupils.

Faith:

Do you have a faith such that it is able to touch the hearts of your students and inspire them with the Christian spirit? This is the greatest miracle that you can perform.

Gentleness & wisdom:

It is by your gentleness and your wisdom that you will lead those entrusted to your care to give up bad habits.

Kindness:

Never speak to anyone except with kindness, and if you fear to speak otherwise, keep silent.

Patience:

You expect patience from others, then you must show patience yourself, and let your pupils see you are not acting through whim.

Piety:

You should pray much for your students to obtain for them the gift of piety, something God alone can give.

Pleasing God:

I adore in all things the will of God in my regard.

Politeness:

Be sure to be warmly affable toward everyone, to speak and to answer everyone with great gentleness and respect.

Presence of God:

In all matters I advise you to act as being in the presence of God and not to please others.

Rest:

It is quite right to take a little rest from time to time. Both body and mind need this.

Scripture:

Read Scripture frequently and often meditate on the words to encourage yourself to do what is right.

Self-control:

When you tell your pupils to be self-controlled, are you the first to act that way?

Seriousness: The seriousness demanded of teachers does not consist in having a severe aspect, in getting angry, or in saying harsh words.

Silence: The more completely silence is kept in your school, the more order there will be. For this reason, see that silence is kept.

Straightforward: God loves openness of heart and straightforwardness.

Students: If you have for your students the firmness of a father to restrain them from misbehavior, you must also have for them the tenderness of a mother to draw them to you.



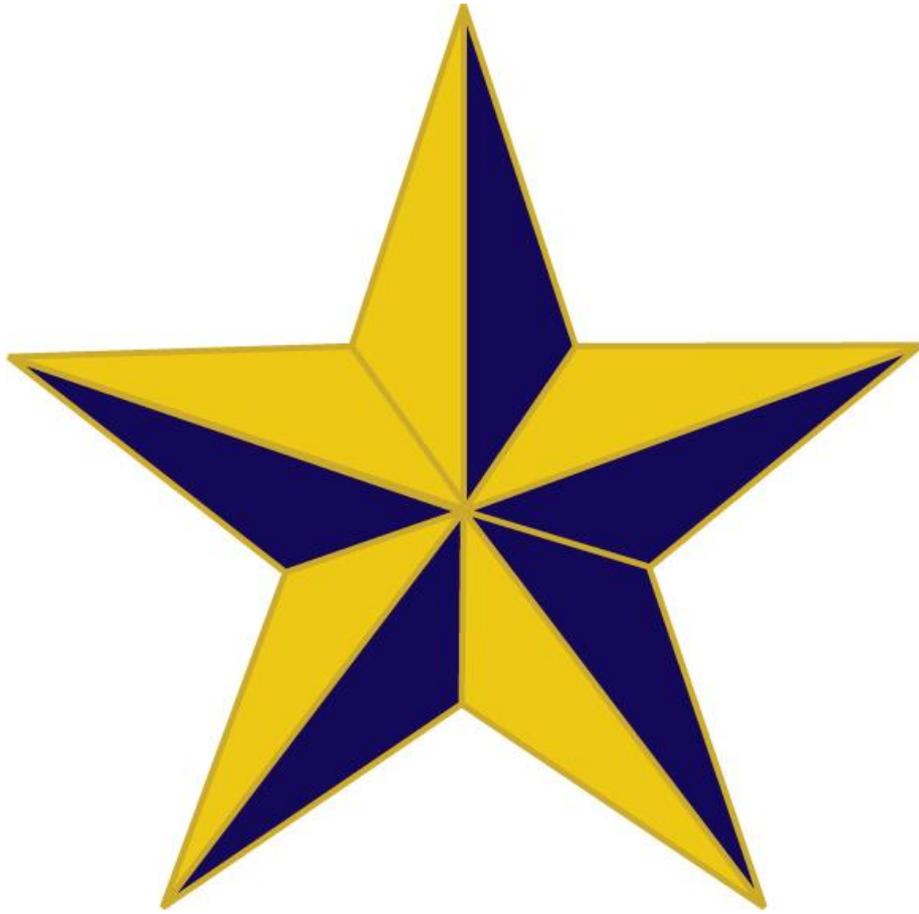
Students:
The soul of each one of your pupils is infinitely dear to God.

Teachers:
Often ask God for the grace to touch hearts; this is the grace of your state.

Vigilance:
Often ask God for the grace to touch hearts; this is the grace of your state.

Virtue:
Do not forget to help your pupils acquire gentleness, patience, love and respect for their parents.

Zeal:
Secondly, the spirit of this Institute consists in an ardent zeal for the instruction of children, inducing them to preserve their innocence and inspiring them with a horror for sin.



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

