



# **The Gateway**

**Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin**

**August 2008**

**Fifth Issue**

## Welcome

We go to press as Olympic fever abates. The games were not without controversy but overall have enthralled and brought joy to millions.

If sport is all about “One World One Dream”, about bringing people of many backgrounds together in rigorous but friendly rivalry, then the Olympics will be a winner.

In our Lasallian world, we too share a vision of ‘One World One Dream’, as we try to touch the hearts of the children confided to our care.

You may have noticed that our little city of 7 million people had their own team at the Olympics. We operate under the “one country two systems” principle. Work that one out!



## 福娃 Friendlies



Note that when we put together the first syllable of the names of the mascots, “Bei-Jing-Huan-Ying-Ni”, we get “Welcome to Beijing”.

## Brother of the Month

### Brother Casimir Husarik (1914-1977)

Brother Casimir holds the distinction of having been the longest serving Brother in La Salle College. He spent his entire teaching career there. He must also hold the distinction for the number and variety of posts he occupied, a somewhat breathtaking list as follows:

teacher, prefect of boarders, sports-master, violinist in school orchestra, harmonica player, spiritual director of Mother of our Redeemer praesidium, editor of school magazine, designer of

school magazine covers, honorary president of the old boys' association, oral examiner for French in the Hong Kong General Certificate of Education examination, deputy principal, Director and Principal of the school.

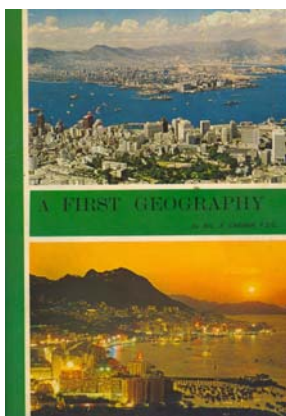


He was born in a troublesome year, 1914, which saw the outbreak of World War I, and in a troubled spot, Czechoslovakia. In later years he would be unable to visit his family and place of birth because of political developments. At the age of 14 he went to Belgium to begin his training to become a De La Salle Brother and was then transferred to Dover, England, to complete initial studies. He had a gift for languages, becoming particularly fluent in English and French. Later in life he would take out a degree in French from the University of London. It amused him to be sometimes mistaken for a Frenchman.

Brother Casimir arrived in La Salle on a crisp December day 1933, the 18<sup>th</sup> to be exact. Brother Michael Curtin met him when the boat arrived “and surely never alighted on these shores a more delightful vision.” Brother Michael was struck by his youthful appearance and vigour. The school had just emerged from her cocoon of bamboo scaffolding and Brother Casimir immediately fell in love with the “majestic dome.”



At first sight Brother Casimir appeared pretty stern. Yet his smile could light up a room. He was strict in class without being rigid and expected his students to perform to the best of their abilities. The lines of Oliver Goldsmith come to mind :  
“Yet he was kind, and if severe in aught,  
The love he bore to learning was at fault.”



He was a born teacher, giving a clear exposition whatever the topic. He taught Religion and French and English at all levels but perhaps he is best remembered for his teaching of Geography. He wrote and had published “A First Geography” textbook intended to stimulate young pupils in Hong Kong. His masterpiece was a map of Hong Kong made from Ordnance Survey maps with all the exact contours cut out in fretwork. It graced a wall of the school library for years.

The pleasant routine of life was rudely shaken at 8.00am on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941 when Japanese planes bombed the nearby airport. When it was realized that this was not an air-raid practice but the real thing, the Brothers gathered the pupils together, told them that the scheduled examinations were postponed indefinitely and to go home. Kowloon was overrun within a matter of days. The Japanese put up their national flag and the red-cross flag on the Dome and La Salle College became a Japanese military hospital for the duration of the War.



*One World One Dream*

The Brothers sought refuge in Vietnam and on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1942, Brother Aimar led a group of eight there, Brother Casimir among them. He was able to teach French to the young Brothers in Vietnam while following events closely in Hong Kong. On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1946 he managed to get a place on a Dakota and returned to Hong Kong to help Brother Cassian get La Salle College up and running again.

After taking out an honours degree in French at London University(1948-1951) Brother Casimir exercised his talent for teaching, for conducting extra curricular activities and for school administration until his untimely death in 1977. He never missed or wanted to miss a lesson. He marked the students’ exercise books and

gave all the basic drills in English and French with meticulous care. In 1965 he was appointed Director and Principal and steered the ship capably and wisely. He was straightforward in his dealings with staff and students and had a good listening ear.

This is what his Head Prefect at the time had to say:



*The Two Heads*

“While he was feared by the boys, he was actually very tolerant of a student’s omissions unless he went over the top. Then no amount of pleading from teachers and parents would save the boy from Brother Casimir’s wrath! I learned in my senior years to find Brother Casimir a very warm and caring headmaster.”

Another of his students fondly recalls:

“The stern voice, the rolling R’s in French class, the smile, the twinkle in the eye and much much more made him the wonderful teacher he was to me. Brother Casimir in my heart forever.”

He stayed in office for six years and then, in typical modest and humble fashion, continued in the rank of teacher. He never sought any privileges because he was the former Director. His words at the 1969 Speech Day reveal his vision of a proper Lasallian education, an education “in which the head and the heart, knowledge and wisdom, culture and character walk side by side in perfect harmony, not omitting manners and morals.”

On his retirement as Principal, the school scout troop presented him with an embroidered silk painting, famous in Chinese art, called The Hundred Birds. The birds represent the numerous students who passed through Brother Casimir’s hands.

As the Director of the Brothers’ Community he was kind, humble and cheerful. Basically he was a simple man without a trace of vanity. Although he shouldered a very heavy load at all times, he seemed to find time to listen to all who approached him with their problems. He was well liked by his Brothers for he was courteous and friendly and fulfilled cardinal Newman’s ideal of a gentleman as “one who never inflicts pain.” He was evidently convinced that one cannot love God without loving others.



Brother Casimir had never paid undue attention to his health or diet, yet generally seemed to be in good shape. But all was not as it seemed. The end was to come quickly. On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1977 he went to bed early, telling a Brother that he had an upset stomach. Next morning he was in the Chapel for the morning prayers and served the Community Mass. He taught class all day.

His Director at the time, Brother Raphael Egan, describes what unfolded: "I met Brother Casimir in the corridor on his way to the bathroom about 2.30pm and made the routine greeting "How are you?" He said, "not well," and when I looked at him he was ashen and perspiring. Realising he was unwell, I accompanied him back to his room. I phoned the doctor and he arrived about 3.10pm. Brother Casimir was chatting away with the doctor and nurse when he got another massive attack. He was dead within minutes."

Many old boy priests concelebrated the funeral Mass in St Teresa's Church, which was filled to capacity with staff, students, parents, old boys and friends. Brother Casimir got a big "send off." The words of the school song he loved to sing comes to mind:

"She would have us ever minding  
That above is our true home."



Staff 1976 -1968 : 40 Years ago

## Chinese Traditional Masks

Chinese Masks are part and parcel of Chinese culture. Masks first appeared in China during the Shang and Zhou dynasties some 3,500 years ago.

There are two main types of masks. The New Year masks are worn by Chinese people to welcome the New Year throughout the world. The opera masks are painted and drawn on the faces of the actors and singers and are used to depict the traits and characteristics of the role each actor is playing.



Chinese New Year Masks are made of varied materials including cloth, paper, grass, leather, metal, shell, and carved of stone or wood. They are painted with Chinese symbolic designs and vivid colors. Some masks have realistic human or animal features like lions or dragons, while others provide a grotesque appearance. Chinese people consider red a lucky colour and therefore there are lots of red masks worn during the celebrations of New Year. Chinese New Year Masks are among the best creations in the art world and are highly sought after by art collectors.

The other type of masks in Chinese culture are the modern Chinese Opera masks which are either painted on or worn as thin cloth masks. Red is perhaps the most popular colour because it symbolises prosperity. Frequently used facial make ups include yellow which represents cruelty, silver and gold which are typically used to represent gods and demons, blue which stands for vigour and valour and green which depicts justice and chivalry. These colour themes have remained the same for ages and were handed down and refined throughout the ages of Chinese art, culture and history.



## ***In Remembrance***

**We pray for the repose of the souls of our departed Brothers.**

<b>Our Brothers</b>	<b>Service in HK</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Place of Burial</b>
Bernard Dunne	1876-1885	09-07-1897	Ireland
Michael Noctor	1921-1923	09-07-1936	USA
Basilien Coin	1903-1906	09-07-1945	Vietnam
John Fitzpatrick	1877-82; 1890-93; 1896	11-07-1896	Myanmar
Louis Gaubert	1884-1889	21-07-1844	Vietnam
Raphael Egan	1947-1958;1971-90	23-07-1990	Ireland
Lewis of Mary Canny	1882-1885	25-07-1887	Sri Lanka
George Patrick Richardson	1910-1940	25-07-1940	Hong Kong
Wilfred More	1908 -1960	27-07-1960	Hong Kong
Anthony Knoll	1956-1981	28-07-1981	Hong Kong
James Dooley	1964-1977	29-07-2001	Ireland
Henry Achsletter	1937	08-1938	Malaysia
Adrian McDonald	1913-1914	05-08-1925	Ireland
Fridolin Gaughran	1972-1986	06-08-1988	Ireland
Francis Rozario	1936-1939	08-08-1990	Malaysia
Conrad –Alexis Thomas	1893-1895	11-08-1901	France
Adrian Canny	1875-1883	15-08-1887	Sri Lanka
Matthias Linehan	1929-1935	16-08-1979	Ireland
Joseph Robert	1900-1927	26-08-1927	Hong Kong
Rupert Kunzelmann	1927-1930	27-08-1973	Malaysia
Vincent Ong	1932-1940	27-08-1999	Singapore





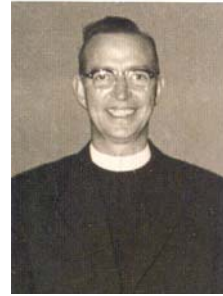
Brother Michael Noctor



Brother Raphael Egan



Brother Wilfred More



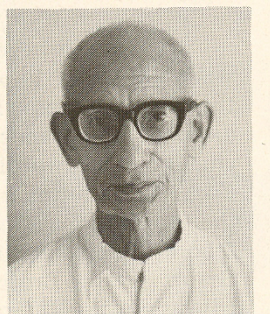
Brother Anthony Knoll



Brother James Dooley



Brother Fridolin Gaughran



Brother Francis Rosario



Brother Mathias Lineham



Brother Rupert Kunzelmann



Brother Vincent Ong

## Family News

### La Salle Study Centre, Changjiao

Brother David Liao continues with his great work in China. This year his annual summer programme attracted over 400 students and about 40 teaching volunteers from around the world. Brother David's work has been featured in Chinese newspapers and TV.



### La Salle Primary School Golden Jubilee

The Golden Jubilee celebrations drew to an end with the Thanksgiving Mass on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. Brother Gregory Lim, a former Principal, now based in St. Patrick School Singapore, graced the occasion.



### International Lasallian Youth Gathering and World Youth Day

From 7 – 22 July 2008, nine members of the Hong Kong Lasallian Volunteers attended the International Lasallian Youth Gathering and the World Youth Day which took place in Melbourne and Sydney respectively. During this two-week experience, the delegates had good interactions with Lasallians from all over the world. They were touched and inspired by the unity and the size of the worldwide Lasallian family.



### Public Examination Results

La Salle College and St. Joseph's College students accounted for 50% of the straight 10-A boys in this year's School Certificate Examination. Congratulations to both schools and to the students concerned.



### **80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration**

Brother Alphonsus Chee celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August. He has been serving in Hong Kong since 1968 as teacher and as Principal of La Salle College, Kowloon. Ad Multos Annos.



### **Arrival of Brother Michael Phuong**



Thanks to the generosity of the District of Vietnam, Brother Michael arrived in Hong Kong on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. Welcome Brother Michael and we hope you will have a long and fruitful mission here.



Emily

### **Congratulations**

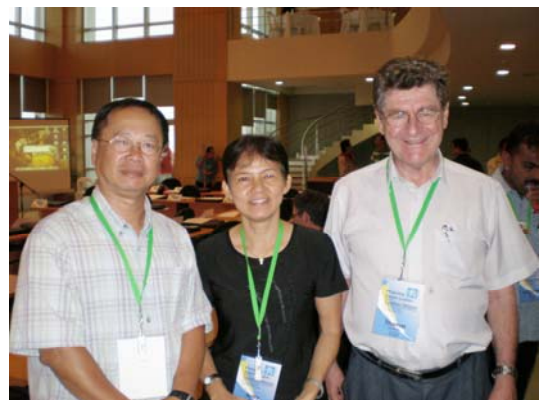
We congratulate Mrs Emily Leung and Miss Irene Leung who have been appointed Principals of La Salle Primary School and St. Joseph's Primary School (PM Session) respectively. They will assume their new roles as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. We wish them the very best in their Lasallian leadership ministry.



Irene

### **Lasallian Leadership Programme**

This programme was entitled "Preparing Future Leaders for the Lasallian Mission in PARC" and was held in Manila from the 1st to the 11<sup>th</sup> August. The programme brought together a nice mix of Brothers and lay partners. The Penang District was represented by Brother Thomas Lavin, Visitor, Miss Betty Wong from St. Xavier's Institution Penang and Mr Paul Tam from St. Joseph's Primary School Hong Kong.



## Sharing of a teacher before his retirement

Peter Kwok

St. Joseph's College Primary School (1972-2008)

When I graduated from the College of Education in 1972, I started my teaching career in St. Joseph's Primary School. I befriended many colleagues who cared about others and their friendship is the greatest reward I have received from working in St Joseph's Primary School. For this I am eternally grateful.



Before I retire I want to say something about my heartfelt sentiments towards the De La Salle Brothers in Hong Kong. I have learned a lot from them. In them, I can see the image of Jesus Christ as they work diligently for the good of other people in education, inclusively embracing, with selfless sacrifice. They believe in the dignity of every child, the teachability of every child and the potential success of every child. This is a righteous belief firmly rooted in the right of every child to a child-centred education, and since they are made in the image of God. The Brothers' philosophy passes through time and space. They use love and care to touch the hearts of



pupils. Touching hearts is a highly effective and beautiful strategy in quality education management. As stated in LACE magazine of 2003, "The life and talents of the Brothers are for sharing." The Brothers also take their standard from the beautiful sentiment of St Paul:

"If I have no love, I am nothing"

(Corinthians 13:2)

Love and care can change the world. The De La Salle Brothers have become visible angels for those people who are in need of education. They bless them. They care about them. They sacrifice themselves selflessly. What they do is worthy of respect. In this fast changing world, they use enthusiasm, love, care, insistence, persistence and inclusive tolerance to influence those people who want or are in need of education. Their achievement in education is great and worldwide. But they are humble. They attribute their success to the blessing of God. We salute their untiring and sacrificing contribution to education.

**St. John Baptist de La Salle**

**Pray for us**

**Live Jesus in our hearts**

**Forever**