



The Gateway

Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin

October 2011

Thirty-fourth Issue

Welcome



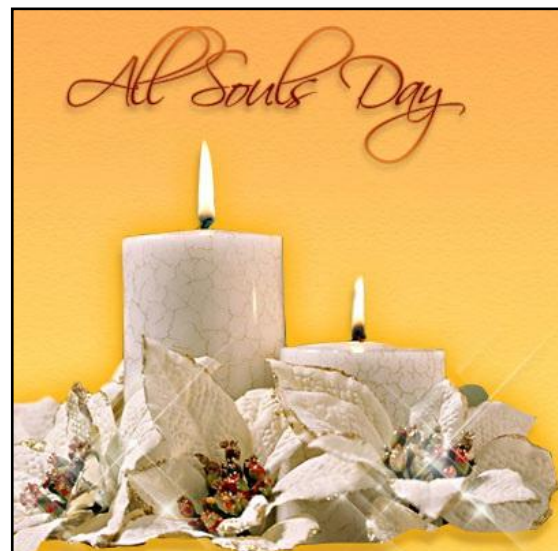
October and November are perhaps the most pleasant two months of the year in Hong Kong. Temperatures tend to hover between 20 and 26c and it is generally dry and sunny, enough to put a pep in our steps. School-wise, it is ideal for activities, camps, bazaars, outings, sports days and speech days. At the same time it is in the middle of a good longish term for teaching and learning.

Brother Wilfrid More was fairly typical of the old guard in education. Bearded and unsmiling, he believed that a few good switches of the cane would solve most problems. The boys kept a wary eye on him!

The Lasallian International Days of Peace at this time of year strike a chord in the hearts of many.

Many staff and students of our schools devoted time, energy and creativity into promoting peace in our world. Their efforts are indeed commendable. Gateway 34 gives you a sample of these efforts.

The month of October, in Catholic tradition, is devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary. She was duly honoured in our schools. November, on the other hand, is associated with praying for the souls of our departed brothers and sisters. We pray that they are in the presence of our loving Saviour, enjoying the fruits of eternal life. We believe that love does not end with death and that we can reach out in prayer to our loved ones.



Brother of the Month

Brother Wilfrid More 1886-1960



Brother Wilfrid was born at St. Andre-de-Maurienne, Savoy, France, on the 28th January 1886. He entered the Juniorate at Annecy in 1899. In 1902 he entered the Novitiate at La Villette and it was there he took the Habit of the De La Salle Brothers.

Almost immediately, in 1903, he was sent on the missions and served briefly in Ceylon, and Malaya before being posted to St. Joseph's College, Hong Kong. He arrived in Hong Kong on the 22nd June 1908 and was assigned to teach Standards III and IV at St. Joseph's College, then sited at Robinson Road. Apart from brief assignments in Manila and Malaysia and Vietnam, he

was to spend the rest of his life teaching in Hong Kong.

In those days there was what was called the English section and the Chinese section of the school, as well as the Commercial class. In the English section, apart from the subject of Chinese, all the teachers were Brothers. There were about 400 pupils. There was also the tradition of having two half-days every week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

At that time the Brothers were paid salaries by the Diocese. A Brother's salary was Hong Kong \$20.- a month and this had to be supplemented by the Boarders' fees. There were 40 to 50 Boarders coming mainly from the Philippines, Macau, Amoy, Indochina and Hong Kong. Some Brothers were chief Prefects of Boarders while others helped out on Sundays and holidays. Brother Wilfrid also taught Catechism to the Boarders.

He taught in St Joseph's from 1908 until January 1912 when he was sent to help the newly founded mission in Manila. He returned to St Joseph's in May 1914, around the same time that Brother Aimar Sauron was sent as Director. Besides regular teaching, Brother Wilfrid was asked to prepare, type, print and preside over the examinations of the middle and lower classes and also helped out in the Catholic life of the school. In addition, he typed the letters for Brother Director Aimar.



Then came the earthquake. We have it in Brother Wilfrid's own words: "Shortly after the building of the extended Annexe, an earthquake in 1918 so shook the main structure of St Joseph's building that we had to evacuate part of it immediately, whilst looking for new quarters. The mortgaged German Club and adjacent grounds were acquired from the Canton Insurance Society. The Club building was partitioned off into rooms for the Brothers' quarters, Boarders' accommodation and the upper and middle classes." And so began the move to the German Club building on Kennedy Road.

Brother Wilfrid continues: "It was about this time (1918-1919) that Brother Aimar asked me to prepare the compilation of a school prayer book. It was closely checked by Monsigneur Pozzoni, Vicar Apostolic. In the course of time it came to be called A Guide to Devotion."

There followed a short term of duty in Malaya, from 1920 to 1922. His health had suffered somewhat as he recalls: "I returned from Malaya on 7-9-22, an unhealed man from an appendicitis operation which left me with an open wound, discharging matter. After about two months observation Dr Strahan operated again and closed the wound. I healed and have been very well ever since." He resumed regular teaching at a number of different levels.

Brother Wilfrid was committed to the study of the Chinese language. He would spend hours checking and researching the origins, composition and meaning of the characters and wrote numerous manuscripts, none of which, alas, has survived.

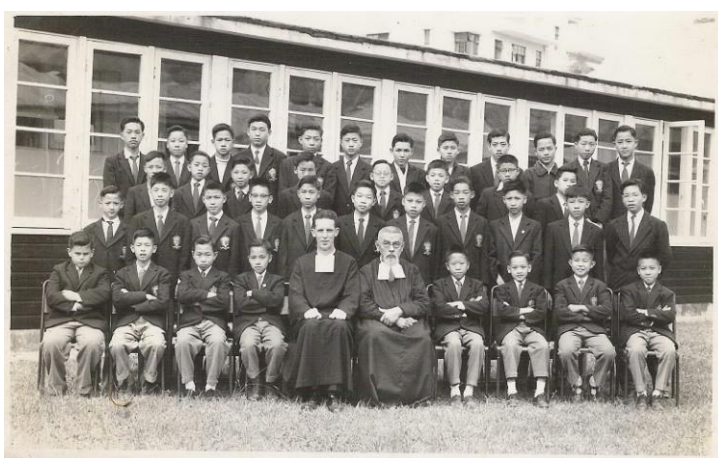
Here is what he has to say: "As to Chinese, I succeeded only in reading medium Chinese not classical or modern literary Chinese. I have what is called a working knowledge of spoken Cantonese and Mandarin but my deafness always proved a hindrance to my understanding.

As to what they call my 'Chinese Dictionary', it consists of special devices to quickly learn the 'Students' 4000 Characters'. As usual in these things the mnemonic devices are generally looked upon as something harder than the study itself, except by intellectuals. Students who cannot make out the mnemonic parts may leave them out."



From 1928 to 1932 Brother Wilfrid served in Malaysia before returning to Hong Kong on the 16th May 1933, this time to teach in the newly opened La Salle College. Apart from a few years in Indo-China during the War, he was to spend the rest of his life at La Salle.

He was first put teaching Class 3A and taught at various levels until the outbreak of war. In July 1942 he was issued with an identity card by the College of Education run by the Japanese. By this means he was expected to learn the Japanese language with a view to teaching through this medium. The Brothers held on in Hong Kong until the 22nd March 1943 when, led by Brother Aimar, most left for Indochina. There Brother Wilfrid could help with the teaching of French and English and also with the procurement of material goods. After the war, he managed to get back to La Salle arriving on the 20th April 1946.

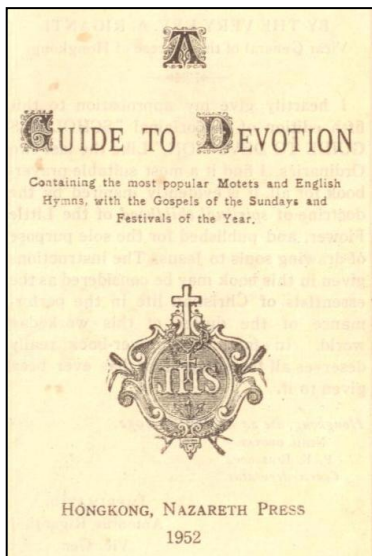


There followed the takeover of the College by the British army and the removal of the school to the 'temporary' hutments in Perth Street. The 'exile' lasted all of ten years. Old boys of the time remember Brother Wilfrid well and not always too comfortably. He believed in the liberal use of the cane for even

minor infringements and sometimes its use was perceived as unwarranted or somewhat over the top. His classes would start half an hour early and finish half an hour late. Those sent to detention, and there were many, meant staying another hour

before release. It seems clear that Brother Wilfrid subscribed to the ‘spare the rod, spoil the child’ educational philosophy, common to what some people refer to as the ‘Old Guard’.

‘The man with the beard’ was what he was popularly called. However, the students gave him a Chinese nickname 蠶豆 meaning ‘Broad Bean’. Presumably his students felt that his facial features bore some resemblance to the shape of a broad bean!



The Silver Jubilee magazine of the College records that he was “as zealous and active as ever.” One aspect of his zeal was promoting religion, especially various forms of Catholic devotions. To this end, with the help of Brother Cassian, he re-edited the prayer-book called “Guide to Devotion”. It was printed in 1952 by the Hong Kong Nazareth Press and some copies are still extant. In its day it was widely used. The author sums up his hopes for the book as follows:

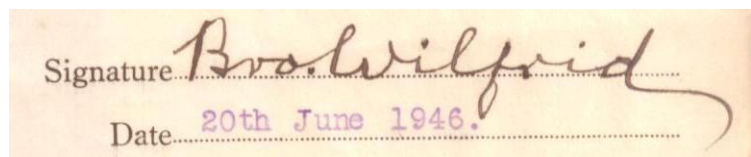
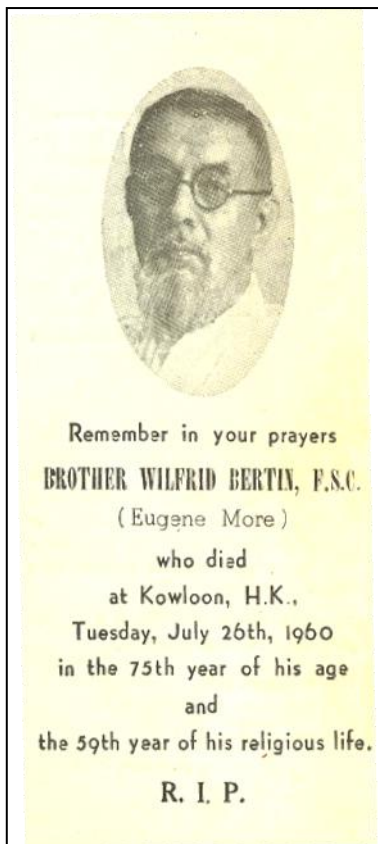
“To sum up, this little book will have fulfilled its mission of being a Guide to Devotion if it helps to make us understand God better, and be more manly in his service, because, by helping us to walk with him, it shall have developed day by day the friendship between God and each of us.”

In one school magazine an old boy writes of an interesting encounter with Brother Wilfrid. Brother was teaching him one fine day when he was in the lower forms and suddenly called him “a blackguard”. The old boy says he always remembered this, firstly, because it was the first time he learned the pronunciation of this word and secondly because he had the uneasy suspicion that the assessment of his character was close to the mark!

Time was moving on but nobody thought that Brother Wilfrid was nearing his end. After official retirement, he had continued to help around the school, and in particular took classes in Dictation. But the body was wearing out and he had to be hospitalised in St Teresa’s. It was there he passed to his reward on the 27th July 1960 at the age of seventy four. Bishop Lawrence Bianchi celebrated the funeral Mass and Brother Wilfrid was then laid to rest in the Brothers’ plot in Happy Valley.

Postings of Brother Wilfrid:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Annecy, France | Juniorate | 1899-1902 |
| La Vilette, France | Novitiate | 1902-1903 |
| Colombo, Ceylon | Studies | 1903-1904 |
| Malaya | Teaching | 1904-1908 |
| St Joseph's College, Hong Kong | Teaching | 1908-1912 |
| La Salle College, Manila | Teaching | 1913-14 |
| St Joseph's College, Hong Kong | Teaching | 1914-1920 |
| Malaya | Teaching | 1920-1922 |
| St Joseph's College, Hong Kong | Teaching | 1922-1928 |
| Malaya | Teaching | 1928-1933 |
| La Salle College, Kowloon, Hong Kong | Teaching | 1933-1942 |
| Vietnam | War Time | 1943-1946 |
| La Salle College, Kowloon, Hong Kong | Teaching | 1946-1960 |



Family Updates

Visits by LEAD Leadership

On the 30th September 2011, Brothers Visitor, Auxiliary Visitor and four District Council members paid courtesy visits to Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School and to De La Salle Secondary School, New Territories. Brother Herman Fenton was the first Principal of Chan Sui Ki Primary and Brother Felix Sheehan of De La Salle. Both these schools are co-educational. Administrators, staff and students received the visitors warmly.



Blessing and Opening of LEAD Provincialate

Lasallian history was made on the 1st October 2011 with the Blessing and Opening of the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD) Provincialate on the 5th floor of La Salle College, Hong Kong. The unveiling of the plaque and opening address was by Brother David Hawke, General Councillor, while Father Ambrose Mong O.P. led us in the Blessing and Mass. Brothers Edmundo, Visitor, Thomas, Auxiliary Visitor, members of the District Council, Brothers of the Hong Kong Sector, Lasallian Education Council members and selected guests were in attendance. After the Mass, all present were invited to dinner.



Congratulations!

On behalf of the UMAEL (Union Mondiale Des Anciens Eleves Lasalliens or World Union of Lasallian Former Students) and the DLSAA(Philippines) – Hosts for the 2011 World Congress, we wish to advise you of your selection as an **UMAEL OUTSTANDING GLOBAL LASALLIAN**. As an alumnus of St. Joseph’s College Branch School and La Salle College in Hong Kong you have been selected for your outstanding lifetime contribution to Nation Building and your continued support of the Lasallian Mission.

The aforesaid award was given during the “ONE LA SALLE NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE” On Friday, 28 October 2011 at the De La Salle Zobel, Muntinlupa City, Philippines. This event was one of the highlights of the CENTENNIAL WORLD CONGRESS of UMAEL held in Manila from October 26 to 30, 2011.



UMAEL World Congress



Hong Kong was well represented with a total of 9 delegates. Their leader summed up their experience as follows:

On behalf of the Hong Kong delegation, I would like to express our heart-felt appreciation of the effort and hard work put in by the entire Filipino Lasallian family in making the DLS Centennial and UMAEL V Congress a great success. The meticulous planning, the careful execution of details, the overwhelming Filipino hospitality and the embracing Lasallian fraternity have given us an experience of a life time. In the words of one of the Hong Kong delegates, it was an eye-opener for many of us. You all deserve a big round of applause from us.



St Joseph's and La Salle Share Spoils

The Hong Kong Inter-School Squash Singles Championships were held on October 14th 2011. The final thrilling games at A, B and C levels turned out to be an all Lasallian affair with St Joseph's Yip Tsz Fung winning the A grade, La Salle's Chris Lo Cheuk Hin winning the B grade and Chu Kwok Kee, also of La Salle, winning the C grade. They are the golden boys of squash and their coaches are proud of them.



Annual Inter-school Swimming



Every year, the indoor swimming pool at Kowloon Park is a cauldron of noise. Each of the competing schools at Division 1 level raises the rafters with chants, slogans, songs and shouts. This year, when all was done and dusted, or should we say when the waves subsided, St Joseph's College claimed the A grade title and were 2nd in B and C while La Salle College came in 3rd in all three grades.

Month of the Holy Rosary

Since October is the month of the Holy Rosary, our schools made special efforts to honour Our Lady. This was done through school assemblies, recitation of the Rosary and offerings. Our Founder reminds us:

“Let us be convinced that all we do to honour Our Lady will be very richly rewarded by God.”



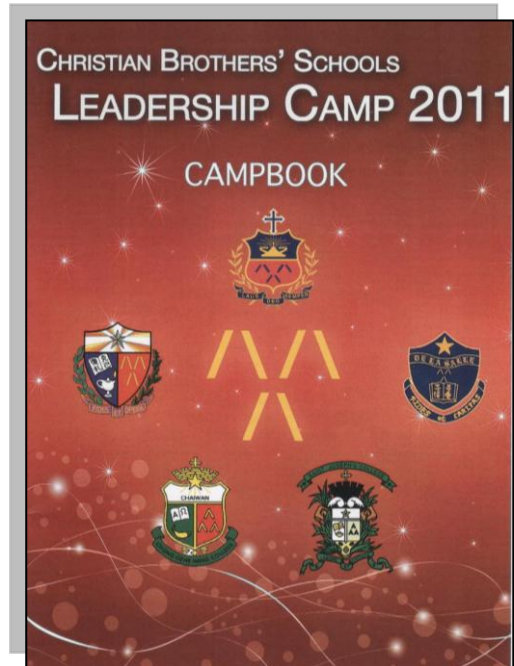
APLEC 8 Preparations

Every 3 years or so, the Asia Pacific Lasallian Education Congress (APLEC) takes place. It attracts many Lasallian teachers and administrators across the region for a formation programme. This year APLEC 8 will be held in early December in Manila and the Theme is 'Living the Lasallian Values in the Asia Pacific Region'. Hong Kong is fielding thirteen delegates and they are preparing and looking forward to the experience. The location of APLEC this year is particularly auspicious since the Philippines are celebrating 100 years of Lasallian presence.



**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS
LEADERSHIP CAMP 2011**

Date: 8th – 9th October 2011
Venue: Ming Fai Camp, Cheung
Chau Island
Participating Schools:
La Salle College,
De La Salle Secondary School,
Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College
Chong Gene Hang College
No of participants: 46



Organising Committee:
Hong Kong Lasallian Volunteers
Programme:
The Story of the Founder
(Bro Jeffrey Chan)
Lasallian Spirit
(Bro Jeffrey Chan)
Lasallian Leadership
(Mr. Peter Leung)
Games, Reflections & Sharing

International Lasallian Days for Peace



We believe that 'Children also know Peace'. Hence we would like to share with you some of the efforts of our primary and secondary school students to promote peace in our world.



Lord, we

Pray for peace in the world

Especially for those who are suffering from wars and conflicts

Although many temptations are affecting us, but

Charity will bring us to harmony, so that

Eternal joy and peace can be achieved

Amen



Dear almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for all you have done for us. May you bless our world and give us peace. We pray that you bestow peace upon this land you have given us. Please help us stop our feuds and our wars. Remove the barriers between us and our neighbours, and reunite us as friends. Forgive us our sins and help us create peace with one another. Please bring peace to the poor, the discriminated and disabled. May you guide them through hardship and pain, and help them find inner peace and harmony. Help us restore the peace we once had in this land. Lord hear our prayer. Amen.



God, we're praying for more peace between nations. We pray that our national leaders will do their utmost to save your people from wars. There are different conflicts between nations and people. People are living in poor and harsh conditions. There is no peace between people in different lands. We pray that you bless these people. Bring them peace. Allow them to lead happy lives with less conflict, so that the world can be one happy family. Amen.



Glory to you Lord, for providing us with a decent place for living. We pray for no more wars, no more pain, no more selfishness, no more riots. We pray that sinners who have done wrong to your people are not brought to punishment and damnation, but to your redemption and salvation. May you give wisdom to national leaders to guide them through the path of solving conflicts between nations in peaceful ways, instead of igniting wars. May we unite the world as one so that the Earth will become one big harmonious family.

Amen



To you, O Lord, I offer my prayer. In you, my God, I trust.
Give me your peace Lord, when I call to you! Be merciful and answer me!
Rid the world of wars and protect us from our enemies. I always trust in you!
O Lord, you know what I long for.
Give peace to those who have faith and trust in you!
I sing praises to you, Lord, the most High.
Amen

The 7 Educational Values of Salem Abbey School

The great Cistercian abbey of Salem in South Germany was founded in 1136. To this abbey was attached a very famous school which set out 7 ways to fulfill its vision and mission.

An article written in 1954 by Brother Cassian Brigant of La Salle College, Kowloon, Hong Kong, reviews these 7 educational values and they are worth a rerun.



1. Give the children opportunities for self-discovery. The true talent or greatness or passion of a child may remain hidden and unrealized to the end of life. Give them 'space'.
2. Make the children meet with triumph and defeat. Life is not always plain sailing; it has its crests and troughs, its successes and failures. It is good for the educator to know what the child's reactions to defeat and success are. The first should not cause despondency, the latter should not result in pride.
3. Give the children opportunity for thinking of others. It is easy enough to form sports or athletic teams in school. The teamwork that is necessary in order to succeed should ideally be transferred to all other aspects of life.
4. Provide periods of silence. Young people need time to think, to make connections between what is done and its consequences. Periods of silence are good for the soul.
5. Train the imagination. Children are to visualize, plan and fear and hope for the future. They need a vision. This will give them power to resist passing temptation and avoid self-indulgence.
6. Make sports important but not overly so. By sports is meant hard, physical games and athletics. They must be used as an enjoyable means of self-expression.
7. Have a healthy mix of backgrounds in school. When children of different socio-economic backgrounds rub shoulders together, there is mutual benefit.