



15 November 2013

**Super Typhoon Haiyan:** The international Lasallian Family is responding generously to the horrendous super typhoon that hit the Philippines. The Solidarity and Development Secretariat in Rome, De La Salle Philippines and the Lasallian Foundation, Australia have all launched appeals to Lasallians throughout the world. Prior notification giving details for sending donations has been sent to Brother Visitors/President in PARC. We continue to keep all affected in our prayers.

**La Salle Novitiate Lipa:** Yesterday (Thursday) I visited the PARC novitiate and had individual conversations with each of the staff. Bro Christy Cross (Colombo) arrived last week and is currently observing the programme. He will commence teaching some classes later in the month and will assume responsibilities as Director with the incoming novices in May 2014. Later in the month Bro Peter Foo will take up his new appointment as Director of Formation in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (LEAD). However he will continue to be a “visiting staff member.” He has worked in novitiate formation in three locations; Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines from 1981 to 1996 and has been in his current position at Lipa since 2007. Both Brothers Vincent Keating and Peter Foo will be farewelled from their full time positions in May. The novices are following an eight days’ mid novitiate silent retreat at present. A number of Visitors and Sector Leaders have indicated to Bro Vincent Keating a date when they will visit their novices. A gentle reminder to those who have not yet done so to be in contact with Bro Vincent. The roof of the novitiate is in need of major maintenance. The Sector of the Philippines is working on this with work to commence in January after the rains are over! The Sector of the Philippines (LEAD) continues to be very generous in subsidizing the running costs of the novitiate.

**Commitment Renewal Programme:** Seven Brothers from PARC; Colombo (3), Philippines (2), Vietnam (1), India (1) are following the programme with their directed retreat component finishing today. Thanks to Brothers John Pill, Christy Croos, Edmundo Fernandez and Thomas Johnson for their involvement in either coordinating the programme, directing the retreat or giving presentations.

**Three Groups of Brothers at Pattaya, Thailand:** In addition to the Commitment Renewal Programme at the Redemptorist Center, Pattaya, the LEAD Mid Life Brothers’ Assembly and the LEAD District Council Reflection Day and meeting will take place at the same venue later next week.

**Visit to LEAD:** This morning I returned from phase 2 of my visit to the Sector of the Philippines (LEAD). Thanks to all who in the Sector who “opened my eyes and touched my heart.” During the LEAD District Council meeting next week I will be offering some feedback on my visit to five of the seven countries of this young District in PARC.

**Human Development Magazine Closes Down:** For a number of years the Jesuit publication Human Development has published timely and challenging articles. The Fall 2013 edition is the final issue. The magazine in recent years has been struggling to stay afloat with circulation falling. While the publishers tried to persuade readers to take out online subscriptions, very few did so. I did!

**CIL Vocations Programme:** This programme continues in Rome with the Brothers only module underway. Participants from PARC are providing updates through their various communication networks. Let's all support whatever initiatives are suggested when the Brothers and Lasallian Partners return to the Districts/Delegation of the Region.

David Hawke FSC  
General Councillor PARC