

# GREEN AND WHITE

For Private Circulation to Members Only

We begin the year 2018 celebrating the ties that bind

ST FRANCIS' ASSOCIATION, MELAKA  
**ANNUAL DINNER 2018**  
 79ery Big Bang Big Brother...

Mr. Philip Tay  
012 - 429 1478

Mr. William John Lowe  
012 - 644 6323

Date: 13th January 2018 (Saturday) Time: 7.30pm. Venue: Temasek Hotel, Melaka.

What do Malaysians enjoy best? Celebrating anything by having a dinner.

And so it was that on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 that, Franciscans of all persuasions gathered in Malacca for the annual SFA dinner to celebrate everything that St Francis' Institution and the La Salle Brothers mean to us.

This year, the event was co-organised by the Class of '79 (*that's the '79ners*) who pooled effort with the SFA. The '79ners very early on in the planning made a crucial decision: to maximise the attendance and make sure as many Franciscans as possible could attend and have fun at the dinner, there would be no fixed ticket price. Everyone would be asked to make a donation, with the suggested amount of RM30. The reason for this was that although many of us Franciscans have done well in the world after school, many of us also face hard times. In



*The ballroom at Temasek Hotel was filled. CHIJ cheerleaders wow the crowd.*

the spirit of sharing and brotherhood, the '79ners hoped those who were more blessed would carry the load

for those less blessed. This was a courageous stand to take – but the committee trusted the spirit of our brother Lasallians.

The dinner was a success. We had over 50 tables, and for the '79ners there were old classmates joining in a school function after many years for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. We hope it was the same for other years as well. Finances were a challenge, but several generous brother Franciscans stepped in to help settle the bill.

**Age Quod Agis.**

*...by Raymond Nunis, '79ner*



*The '79ners ASSEMBLE*

## We are all part of the fraternity of St John Baptist De La Salle



**07/04/2018**  
(Saturday)

7.30pm  
in the  
School Quadrangle

*Holy Mass at 6.00pm at The School Chapel on the same day*

Later in the year on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 we celebrated again – this time, the 138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SFI and Homecoming Dinner. The gala night was held in the school Quadrangle, steeped with emotion and memories for so many of us. Those of us who attended had a great time touching base again with old friends and teachers.

And so the first half of 2018 has passed. We look forward to the second half and the continued support of the SFA and all our brothers. Best wishes to the organisers of the 2019 SFA dinner and the Homecoming Dinner. ...by *Raymond Nunis, '79ner*

**Editor's note:**

Congratulations and thanks to Franciscan Old Boys of Class '79 for stepping forward to co-organiser of this year's SFA Dinner.

Also a big Thank You to them for their contribution and being a part sponsor of this issue of the **Green & White**.

They have also initiated and set-up a trust fund to help finance various SFI Primary and SFI Secondary projects like the "Needy Boys Uniform Project".

**Age Quod Agis!**

## Gathering of Franciscans

Once every 2 years on the first Saturday of April of each year!!!

SFI celebrated its 138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a grand dinner on our school Quadrangle on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. We were once again blessed with very fine weather the whole day.

At 6.00 pm, our Chapel was filled to capacity for the Thanksgiving Sunset Mass after which, the congregation came down for the dinner.

Our Military Band rendered some beautiful pieces while everyone was busy catching up with old friends and

their former teachers. At 8.00pm, the VIP's and La Salle Brothers were invited by MC Bob Tan (Class of '69) to follow 2 drummers up to the first floor for the ringing of the '**Heritage Bell**' to herald the start of another memorable event.

There were 105 tables in total including 5 exclusive ones for our Muslim teachers and Old Boys. The highlight of the evening was the cutting of the anniversary cake by some senior Franciscans and La Salle Brothers.

There were a lot of "Yam Sengs" as everyone enjoyed the food, drinks and most importantly, the great Franciscan comradeship that we continue to enjoy every two years at this venue.

The event ended at about 10.30 pm on a solemn note as we sang "Auld Lang Syne" and bid farewell to each other.

Rain or shine, we shall dine again in 2020. God bless. ...by *Francis Mahendran Kutty Class '69*



# Forward with **COURAGE...**

## Another Franciscan made a General



*Putting on the coveted 'Star' during the Promotion Ceremony in MINDEF by the Chief of Army and Gloria in January 2018.*



*Johnny and wife Gloria after the graduation ceremony at the Korean National Defense University in December 2017.*

**Congratulations** to Old Boy Johnny Lim Eng Seng (Class of '83) on his promotion to Brigadier General effective December 8, 2017.

It was a double celebration for Johnny as he recently completed his 2 years study tour in Korea. Johnny attended a full year Korean language course

at the Korean Defence Language Institute in 2016 and thereafter the Korean National Defense University (KNDU) - National Security Policy Course in 2017. He graduated from KNDU on December 22, 2017 and returned to Malaysia in January 2018.

Johnny, an Army Ranger officer, is

currently attached to the Malaysian Ministry of Defence in Kuala Lumpur.

With his promotion, there are now two 'Franciscan Generals' in the Malaysian Armed Forces, the other being Brig Gen Dato' Johnny Loh Kok Kong (RMAF) now based in Alor Star as the Commandant of the Air Force College.

## Martinian Lee ordained deacon in Kluang, Johor



Franciscan Martinian Lee was ordained a transitional deacon on February 13, 2018 at the Church of St Louis, Kluang.

Bishop Bernard Paul was the main celebrant, with Bishop Emeritus Paul Tan, Msgrs Peter Ng, VG, Michael Mannayagam, VG and a number of priests concelebrating.

ordination Mass, Bishop Bernard thanked the community of St Louis' parish for hosting the ordination event. He also thanked Deacon Lee's parents for giving their son to the service of God's people in the diocese of Malacca-Johor.

Deacon Lee will be posted to Sacred Heart Cathedral, Johor Bahru until his ordination to the priesthood.

Deacon Lee said he is looking forward to working in the Ministry of the Word. He thanked all the parishioners who had come from near and far to be with him on his special day.

At the end of the

## Congratulations to the Lai Brothers!

In the early morning of January 29, 2018, Lai Xie Ern from Form 3 Putih and his younger brother, Lai Xie Zern from Form 1 Putih upheld the Lasallian's values by succouring a woman who was hit by a car near the Hatten Hotel, Bandar Hilir.

They were on their way to the school when they witnessed the accident. Without hesitation the Lai brothers, who are members of St John Ambulance in school, rendered help by performing first-aid to the casualty. They stayed calm and consoled her all the time while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Their heroic actions soon attracted the attention of the media when one of an Old Franciscan

*Continue next page...*

...from previous page.

who was at the scene praised their action in his post in Facebook.

A few weeks later, the woman came to the school and brought some gifts to express her gratitude towards our courageous heroes.

Kudos to our Franciscans! Both of you have made us proud!

**AGE QUOD AGIS**

... by Ee Jing Han



The Lai brothers with their father (right) and Simon Theseira (in SFI Green T-shirt) who is the Old Franciscan who posted their noble act in Facebook.

## 94th Birthday Celebration of Br Harold Reynolds



The many who travelled to the Philippines for the celebration. Franciscans who went on the trip were AC Vohrah and wife, Michael Chin Siak Sin, Peter Ong Chui Siah, Simon Chan Teong Hoe, Joseph Ng Ah Ngee and Rajinder Singh. Lawrence De Souza, Ang Teck Lee, Francis Chiam, Lim Meng Lee and Sim Kim Tiah also joined the Birthday Lunch.

During the course of our life there is always a certain personality who makes an impression on our lives. Invariably the person will be someone close to us like a family member or a teacher. Br Harold is a such a personality who has captured the hearts of students and teachers who were part of La Salle Klang (LSK) and St Francis' Institution, Malacca (SFI).

For the 5th straight year since Br Harold turned 90 years old, the former students, teachers and their spouse have been making the trip to Dasmariñas from Malaysia to attend the birthday of Br Harold. It has become a fixture in the calendar of these ex-students and teachers of both La Salle Klang and St Francis' Institution. Such is the impression that Br Harold has created in our hearts that we are so grateful and happy to share this special occasion with him. Br Harold has impacted our lives in so many positive ways that we have many stories of his kindness, hospitality, magnanimity and most importantly

his love towards us. Right from our younger days in school Br Harold has been an inspiration to all of us. His commitment towards the community especially the poor and sick, his ability to touch the hearts of students in need and his amazing work in ensuring the positive spirit and hope is simply beyond words. Till this day we are totally grateful for being a part of his life and he continues to speak in high esteem and pray for the well-being of his Old Boys and teachers of LSK and SFI. Such is the bond between Br Harold and us and we look forward to being with him in Dasmariñas during his birthday.

During his stint in Malaysia, Br Harold taught in SFI, Malacca (1951-1957 and 1977-1989), the Brothers' Juniorate in Pulau Tikus, Penang and La Salle School, Klang which he fondly remembers as "those wonderful 37 years".

The ever popular and highly respected Br Harold retired from teaching in

Malaysia in 1989 just before his 65th birthday. He moved on to Philippines and continued to provide his teaching expertise which was much sought after for 23 years till May 2012 when he stopped teaching due to a fall. It cannot be denied that Br Harold has touched and enriched the lives of all those who have come into contact with him. His great sense of humour, compassion and love given to all irrespective of race, religion and background speaks volumes of his character. He is known as an excellent teacher,

administrator and above all a good friend to his staff.

We will always remember Br Harold for teaching our minds, touching our hearts and transforming our lives. We look forward to celebrating his 95th birthday in 2019 and in particular his 100th birthday and beyond. In this regard a special word of thanks goes to Brother Agustin Boquer (Br Gus) for obliging us and making all the arrangements at Dasmariñas for the last 5 years. We are simply awed by Br Gus' passion and energy to do so many things at the same time whilst maintaining an eye for details. Br Gus' amazing work towards the community is simply magical. We are very thankful to Br Gus for taking such wonderful care of Br Harold and also for coordinating and assisting us in our trips to Dasmariñas, together with our very own dedicated coordinator Ms. Irene Tan (ex-teacher of La Salle School Klang)....by Surendran Menon, La Salle Klang

## Chinese New Year Celebration



Tan Hin Seng, Chairman of Board of Managers was the VIP for the celebration at SFI Primary.



Chinese New Year is the most widely celebrated tradition in Asia!

fascinating performances by our very own Franciscans.

As usual, our school held a sensational celebration of it and this year it was held on the February 14, 2018 which is two days before the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Unlike previous years, this year, our school hired a lion dance troop to perform and it was totally a bargain as the atmosphere of the school was lit up.

All teachers were dressed in red. Many Old Franciscans can be seen coming back to their alma mater to enjoy the celebration with us. As usual, there were numerous

The event ended with the distribution of mandarin oranges to every student by the teachers and prefects. Thereafter the school dismissed. ...by Chua Kai Yang

## Books and Jerseys from Dharma Raj



**January 29, 2018:** Muhammad Dharma Raj (Class '86) donated some books on hockey coaching that was written by him and jerseys to the school for the hockey squad. Principal, Lee Chee Choon received the contributions on behalf of the school.

Dharma Raj played hockey for the school, State (Malacca and Kuala Lumpur) and country at various levels. He is currently a national hockey coach with the Malaysian Hockey.

## Outstanding Young Franciscans



**February 3, 2018:** An Award was presented to Andrik Lim Kai Shan, a squash player, for his participation and achievements in the Kuala Lumpur Junior Open Squash Championship 2017 (6th placing in Boys Under-15), Singapore Junior Squash Open 2017 (Champion for Boys Under-15) and British Junior Open 2018 (finished 17th from amongst 128 players from all over the world).

Thaanesh Devan also received an Award for his achievement in

badminton. He won first place in Boys Under-15 in the Melaka Badminton Championship 2018.



# Teachers' Day



and guests of honour which kick started the event that morning. The teachers then went on stage to sing a song and to witness a cake cutting ceremony led by the Principal.

they had the chance to escape from the seriousness and sternness in a classroom. However, the excitement and jollification was interrupted when it started raining.

The event was followed by the performance of the students. Even though there were only a few performances being staged, each performance was highly impressive and managed to put a smile on the teachers' faces. It was then time for teachers to have a little fun for themselves with a few interesting games. Undoubtedly, the teachers had a great time as

Students then took the opportunity to present the teachers with gifts and cards to show their gratitude. Some gave a wish and a hug but all in all, it is the thought that counts.

Teachers' Day this time around was indeed simple because teachers are not appreciated on the May 16 only, but every single day we meet them. *...by Jeremy John*

An annual calendar surely wouldn't be completed without a day when teachers get appreciated for their efforts and contributions.

Teachers' Day this year was celebrated on a modest scale. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Balik Kampung'. Although teachers donned fairly decent outfits, that didn't take away the fact that all of them looked stunning. A thunderous applause welcomed the teachers



# CONGRATULATIONS

In recent years, SFI has been doing well in all the public examinations. Teachers and students are living true to the motto of the school "AGE QUOD AGIS".

**March 5, 2018:** The SPM 2017 results were announced today. SFI has 1 student who obtained straight A+, while 22 students obtained straight A.

Congratulation to all teachers and students for their achievement.



**March 15, 2018:** Congratulation to all teachers and students of Form 6 for their achievement in the STPM 2017 examination.

SFI obtained 100% passes!



## Celebrating Founder's Day Visit by the De La Salle Brothers



Brothers of LEAD together with Br Gustavo Ramirez, General Councillor, join the students of SFI Malacca in celebrating La Salle Week. This is Br Gustavo's second visit to SFI. His first visit was in August 2016.



Yes, it's that time of year again. A time where every Franciscan and Lasallian remember how our schools were built and by whom. It's not Christmas, Thanksgiving, Deepavali or Chinese New Year celebration. It's the celebration of our school Founder's Day and also La Salle week.

This year, it was notably remarkable and extra special as our school was visited by many De La Salle Brothers from Malaysia and as well as from Thailand, Myanmar, Hong Kong and the Philippines. They were led by Br Gustavo Ramirez, General Councillor who is based in Rome.

What a memorable day it was for St Francis' Institution, Malacca!...*by Chua Kai Yang*

## SFI PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES FOUNDER'S DAY



SFI (Primary) celebrated Founder's Day on June 6, 2018 during a special assembly in their School Hall, the De La Salle Hall. The honoured guest at the occasion being Brother Director, Br Ambrose Loke. Others who attended ceremony were the newly elected Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association, Gunalan a/l Narayanasamy, together with his Vice-Chairman, Richard David Hendricks, the Alumni was represented by Ong Eng Khiam, President of SFA and the Board of Managers by Wee Min Yong and William J Lowe.

Br Ambrose, in officiating the function, touched on the Life and

Mission of our Founder, St John Baptist De La Salle. Later, a talk on the characteristics of Lasallian Education and its Education for Character Formation was presented by Wee Min Yong. This was followed by a video presentation and the singing of "We Are Lasallian" by the Primary Students.

At the closing of the ceremony, Br Ambrose placed a garland of petals on the statue of our Founder, at the entrance to the School.

This is the second year the Primary School celebrates Founder's Day. ...*by Wee Min Yong*



How often do we get to see so many La Salle Brothers in St Francis' Institution?

For the second year running the **La Salle Brothers of LEAD** had their Holy Week Retreat in Malacca. It looks like Malacca is one of the choice venue for some La Salle Brothers events.

The Holy Week Retreat ended with Easter Vigil Eucharistic celebration in SFI chapel. It was joined by some Franciscans and friends. Also during the celebration, 13 Brothers renewed their vows.

After Mass, they had a fellowship in the school hall organised by some Franciscans of Class '72.



V Sivalingam was back to visit the school and Br Ambrose. He brought along his lovely wife to show around his beloved alma mater. Sivalingam was the Head Prefect of 1995.



*Brothers renewing their vows*

## He left his HEART in SFI. He keeps coming back!



In 2010, Hatsushi Tominaga came to SFI as an exchange student from Kagoshima. He has been back 3 times since, always visiting the school and Br Ambrose Loke.

On May 4, 2018, he joined the F-1 Malacca Group for breakfast at the SFI canteen, enjoying his soup noodles, exclaiming 'Oishii' (delicious) with the first mouthful.

"Please come again as often as you like and bring in your friends. Our doors are always open!"...by Josephine Chua

## 79th Annual Sports Day 2018



It was that time of the year again when students came out to the field to compete for honours and prestigious trophies. Students had the opportunity again to prove who's the best after weeks and months of relentless trainings. Questions were also raised on which House would dominate this year's 79th Annual Sports Day.

military band. This year's event was rather colourful with students putting on various costumes symbolizing birds and insects. Just like every other year, the school invited a VIP guest to officiate this year's sports day, and it was none other than Ng Kok Guan, a Franciscan himself, was very sports-inclined during his student days.

The event kick started with the march past of each class accompanied by the harmonious and in unison school

This year the defending champion, Edward House proved their dominance yet again on the field. ...by *Jeremy John*



## SFI's Got Talent

Simon Cowell. Howie Mandel. Amanda Holden. These are names that we're probably familiar with as judges from the well-known talent shows across the globe, America's and Britain's Got Talent. Undiscovered performers from all over the world come together to showcase their talents in hopes of winning the grand prize of a million dollars. Many would regard it as an unrealistic dream of winning the competition, but this year, St Francis Institution has brought the competition a little closer to home. For the first time in the school's history, students will finally have a platform to discover their hidden talents in the first-ever SFI's Got Talent Competition.



singing performance to the strumming of his guitar. Akassh A/L Komarasamy (5S1) came in second with his solo piano performance which was a melody to the judges' ears. Ultimately, the winning act which was the most entertaining performance of a group comprising of 4 Form 5 students who were, Subasran (5S2), Piong Yao Bin (5J), Joel Thye (5J) and Joey Hong (5K).



The cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> were RM550, RM400 and RM300 respectively. Undisputably, Franciscans aren't just excellent

in academics and cocurricular activities, but they sure do have a lot of talent as well which will only be left undiscovered if not for this competition. If this competition were to carry on in years to come, I'm sure the competition will only grow fiercer and highly-tensed. "Talent can't be taught, but it can be awakened"....by *Jeremy John*

April 23, 2018 was the chosen date for the finals. Almost all the performers received a thundering ovation from the audiences. Judges had a tough time deciding on who deserved to be the winner and after much discussion, the emcee had the results in his hand. Coming in third was Ezekiel Hendricks (5B), who put up a solo



## Recent Bereavements

### FAREWELL, Dear Cyril De Witt

Singapore F1 lost a regular member of the Group with the passing away of Cyril De Witt on March 21, 2018.  
"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace."



Members of the Singapore F1 Group at the wake.

I am writing this with a heavy heart because Singapore F1 has lost a good and dear friend in the person of Cyril De Witt who was called home to the Lord on March 21, 2018. St Francis' Institution Malacca too, has lost a true and loyal Franciscan.

My admiration of him started in 1955 when we were in Form 5. He was a true sportsman, playing hockey, football and cricket for school and State. An all-round sportsman that he was, he excelled in athletics too, both in track and field. In 1955, he occupied the coveted position of centre-forward, being able to run fast, dribble past opponents' line of defence and shoot straight. In those days, SFI and Malacca High School were arch-rivals in football.

After his O-Level in 1955, he went

south. Here in Singapore he reached the pinnacle of his sporting career by being selected to play hockey for Singapore in the ASIAN Games in Jakarta and in the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956. He truly had an illustrious sporting life but all these years, he had never even once said, "When I was in the Olympic Team..." Few have I come across who was that humble. Other Franciscans who were great sportsmen that I know of include George Tan, John D'Cruz, Ee Chong Ghee, Francis Koh and Mah Teck Wah.

Cyril and I live just 300 metres apart and I got to know him better in the last 20 years. Whenever I walked to Toa Payoh to buy groceries, I would see Cyril and Helena having lunch in one of the many *kopitiams* around the area. For many of us, filial piety comes

twice a year – on Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. Cyril had taken filial piety a notch higher than most of us would. For him, it was a way of life – 24/7. His Japanese mother had strict Asian values and she gave Cyril and Helena her blessings after she knew Helena better and realised she is a devoted Catholic. Though he married late, he had a happy married life. From the way he talked, laughed and joked, I could sense there was marital bliss in his humble Toa Payoh home, all credits to his dear wife. Helena was very much a part of Cyril, participating in many functions in Singapore and Malacca. Cyril was a stalwart supporter of anything SFI and Helena was always there to keep him company and give him moral support.

Cyril lived a truly Christian life and was very lucky to have met and married Helena and they tied the knots on November 14, 2001. Their marriage was witnessed by many close friends and relatives. The late Br Michael Jacques was present to grace the happy occasion.

Cyril was Singapore F1 *de facto* General Secretary. He was instrumental in organising many a function. Our HQ was Block 116, Toa Payoh. Over the years, we had quite a number of visitors and VIPs, including Peter Ong Chui Siah from Kajang, Mah Teck Wah from Australia, Sim Bin Teck and Shirley Sim, Br Ambrose Loke and Br Harold Reynolds.

We truly lost a great Franciscan. It will be quite a while before another of his caliber comes along. We bid farewell to dear Cyril De Witt....by *Michael Chin Siak Chin, Singapore*



**CONDOLENCES** to the family of Anthony Tan Kim Lai (Class '83) who passed way peacefully on May 24, 2018 after a short illness. The funeral was held on May 25 at the Church of the Holy Rosary, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. May his soul rest in peace.

## Recent Bereavements

**CONDOLENCES** to Br Michael Kum and family on the demise of his mother Loretta Loke on February 25, 2018.



**L - R:** Br Lucian Ng, Br Michael Kum, Br Ambrose Loke, Br Jason Blaikie, Br Andrew Loke and Br Thomas Lavin

## In Memory of Joe Bosco Lazaroo



Manuel (Joe) Lazaroo, better known as "Papa Joe" was a cultural icon of the Portuguese Settlement. Born in 1941, the former student of St Francis' Institution made a debut as a musician at the age of 13 in the 1930s when some foreign dignitaries visited Malacca.

Together with Rev Fr Augusto M Sendim, the parish priest of St Peter's Church then, he co-founder the cultural group "Rancho Folclorico San Pedro" in 1974 to revive traditional Portuguese songs and dances. Since then, he had contributed his life to Portuguese culture in the Portuguese Settlement till the very end of his life.

Sadly, Joe has gone before us and has returned to the Lord on May 17, 2018. ...by *Edmund Lazaroo*

## 138th Homecoming Dinner 2018



Franciscans' Homecoming Dinner, an event that occurs once every two years to welcome and gather the alumni of the school to catch up with each other as well as update the progress of the school. All Franciscans, near and far, young and old, gather on this very night to celebrate what the school has done for them in their lives that has helped mould them as the individuals they are today.

This year's Homecoming Dinner was to celebrate the 138th Anniversary of the establishment of St Francis' Institution. The Military Band members and 24-Seasons Drum Troupe lit up the evening with their spectacular performances. The event surely was a very memorable night for all attendees. ...by *Mitchel Keagan Theseira*



<b>138th Homecoming Dinner 2018</b>	
<b>Statement of Income and Expenditure</b>	
Total Income	RM73,680.00
Total Expenditure	RM56,614.00
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>RM17,066.00</b>
<b>Note:</b>	
At the Dinner Committee Meeting held on April 26, 2018, it was agreed that the surplus will be distributed / retained and used as follows:	
* To be kept by Br Ambrose as "Start-up Fund" for SFI Dinner 2020	RM5,000.00
* Donation to Green & White	RM5,000.00
* To organising Hawkers' Night on Sunday, December 16, 2018 during the De La Salle Brothers' Assembly in Malacca	RM4,066.00
* 120 pcs Thermal Flask (Door Gift)	RM3,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>RM14,066.00</b>
=====	
<b>Thomas Cho,</b>	
<i>Treasurer, Dinner Committee 2018</i>	

*Left:* The Organising Committee. The people who put the things together. Congratulations for a job well done.

## Singapore F-One Fellowship Meetings

Choe Sim Chye played host to our Franciscan friends Charles Reincastle and wife Joan from Perth, Australia.



**L - R:** Charles Reincastle and his wife Joan, Choe Sim Chye and wife Kim and Michael Chin Siak Chin



"Charles, Choe and I are happy to have you and Joan as company for these few days," Kim seem to be telling. Charles.

Singapore F1 extend a very warm welcome to old Franciscan Cecil Theseira.

*"In the Journey Of Life, we pass pleasures and pain.  
There will be sunshine and rain. There will be loss and gain.  
But we must learn to love and smile again and again.  
Happiness is found not in those who have the best of everything,  
It is found in those who make the best in everything."*



**Standing L - R:** George Tan, Michael Seet, Michael Chin Siak Chin.  
**Seated L - R:** Peter Ong Chui Siah, Choe Sim Chye and Cecil Theseira.

### Thank You for your contributions



Franciscan Old Boy Brigadier General Johnny Lim Eng Seng (Class '83) handing over his contributions to the SFI Chapel Fund and the Green & White.

Thank you for your generosity.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS



**Paramasivam a/l Raman**



**Yong Kheng Kwang**

Green & White and the Board of Governors of SFI welcome Paramasivam a/l Raman to St Francis' Institution as the GPK 1. He was previously the GPK Form 6 at SMK Bukit Baru. We also welcome back Yong Kheng Kwang to SFI. He was previously the head of Humanity Department before he was promoted

and transferred to ACS Malacca. He is back now as GPK HEM.

We also extend our "Congratulations and Farewell" to Lee Soon Luwi on his promotion and transfer to Notre Dame Convent as the Principal and to Rodney Tan on his transfer to ACS Malacca.

### Fellowship with Br David Liao

Br David Liao was in town to attend the LEAD District Council Meeting recently.

Franciscans Class '72 had the opportunity to meet up with him over a meal and

got an update of his mission work in China for 'the last, the lost and the least'. We understand that his work may be extended to cover Myanmar in the near future.



**Standing L - R:** Lim Yew Suan, Yoong Jee Pin, Allen Yong Kuan Hon  
**Seated L - R:** James Sia, Br David Liao, John Ng Lee Kwang

## 7th Malaysian Educators Conference 2018



The **7th MaLEC 2018** was held on March 18 to 21, 2018 at the Palm Hotel, Seremban. The organisers were the Regional Lasallian Education Council (South) in collaboration with St Paul's Institution Primary and Secondary and the Old Paulian's Association, Seremban to engage with the Principles of Peace, Justice and Humanity Education from the perspective of the Lasallian Education philosophy, mission and ethos to focus on the following goals:

- Revitalisation of Existing Schools,
- Developing New Educational Initiatives, and
- Directing Educational Service to the Poor.

The conference aimed at being a catalyst to examine and determine



*Participants from St Francis' Institution*

the role of educationists, school leadership, teachers, Board of Governors / Managers, parents and students proactively engaging with peace, justice and humanity education. The conference deliberated on incorporating education for peace, justice and humanity in: Education policies and school wide practices;

Classroom pedagogy; Co-curricular activities; School ethos; Social education agenda and commitment; and New community-centred education initiatives

At the conclusion of the 7th MaLEC 2018 a Lasallian Education Declaration for education for peace, justice and humanity was tabled and adopted. The Declaration set of general principles that Lasallian Education Initiatives and Lasallian Schools employ to promote the 5 core principles of Lasallian education.

The guiding philosophy for the 7th MaLEC 2018 were the core principles for Lasallian Education: Faith in the Presence of God; Concern for the Poor and Social Justice; Quality Education; Respect for all Persons; and Inclusive Community. ...by *Dr Ganakumaran Subramaniam*

## La Salle Brothers' hostel in deep Sabah interior is **Second Home** for hundreds of poor students

Students of La Salle Hostel Butitin deep in the rural Nabawan district in Sabah have praises for the De La Salle Brothers – past and present for being educators, mentors, friends and disciplinarians who shaped their lives.

The hostel is a place for poor rural students to live, study and learn to be good citizens of Sabah and Malaysia, said student Magdalena Palang, 19. She said the hostel, located in the Crocker Range Valley, some five hours by road from Kota Kinabalu, was built by the La Salle Brothers, and over the past 28 years hundreds of students living and growing up there had been given better opportunities in life.

Mentored by the Catholic De La Salle Brothers, the Form One to Form Six students come from far away to study at SMK Nabawan.

Palang described the hostel as “our second home and the place where we learn responsibility and discipline. Here at the hostel, we students get free tuition, food and basic vocational skills like farming and housekeeping,” the Upper Six student told *The Star*. She said the hostel has functioned as a second home to needy Form One to Upper Six students, aged 13 to 19, since Brother Peter Phelan, its Irish founder set it up in 1990.

Hundreds of children have since passed through its doors and grown up to become good citizens.

Palang, whose parents live five hours away by road, thanked the La Salle Brothers and hostel administrators for giving students a good footing in education.

The longest serving La Salle Brother at the hostel, Brother Egbertus Sevelinus, said each student was only charged a token sum of RM1 to upkeep the five-acre site. The hostel is home for children from difficult backgrounds as they were cared for with love.

*Continue next page...*

... from previous page.



*One happy family: The students and La Salle Brothers and management of the La Salle Butitin Hostel.*

“The students are mostly from poor families of the native communities. Some have single parents who are unable to care for these children. We also have children from extremely poor families from remote settlements in places reachable by hours of boat ride and walking. They were referred to us by their parents or friends and we received them with open arms. They are part of our big family. We give them shelter, food, friendship, care and send them to school. This is a place for them to grow and mature. They also take computer lessons,

learn cooking, baking, simple farming and housekeeping. We give them the foundation they need to become independent. Upon leaving the hostel after completing their secondary education, they will continue their studies or find work. We also help them in these areas where needed,” he said.

The hostel in Nabawan serves as a second home to hundreds of poor students from rural areas in Sabah. Every year there are about 70 to 80 students living in the hostel, said the

57-year-old Sabahan Brother.

Hostel chief administrator Francis Tahip said the La Salle Brothers were great mentors to the students while board chairman Datuk Johnny Kulai said RM15,000 per month was needed for its operations. The hostel relied on donations from the alumni, individuals and private companies to make ends meet. Local politicians and the state government also gave out occasional grants, said Kulai, adding that there were plans to build a vocational skills training centre on the premises.

Form 5 student Norianeh Ambiki said the hostel had many activities like games, gatherings and festive celebrations as well as lessons for its residents. “It is a good place to call home,” she said. Manny Pius, 16, said the La Salle Brothers were strict and it was good for the students to keep them disciplined. Manny and Norianeh are from Kampung Saliliran which is 15 hours by road, boat and jungle-trekking to get to. They said many poor students were given an opportunity to get an education and better themselves and the hostel was their home away from home. *(Story and picture from The Star Online)*

## La Salle Brothers from LEAD were in town



More than 20 La Salle Brothers from East Asia Districts (LEAD) were in Kuala Lumpur to attend the 27th District Council Meeting from April 27 - 30, 2018.

As usual when the La Salle Brothers from overseas are in town our Ms Irene Tan will organise dinners to host them. This time she organised 2 grand dinners, one on Saturday, April 28 and other one on Monday, April 30. Both the dinners were hosted by 2 very generous La Salle KLang Old

Boys; Che King Tow & Steven Teow respectively.

Both King Tow and Steven were former students of Br Harold Reynolds and they have also developed a close friendship with Brother Agustin Boquer (Br Gus) President of De La Salle University, Dasmariñas, Philippines.

Tan Sri Augustine Ong, James Sia (Class '72) and Peter Ong (Class '57) were invited to join the 20 Lasallians from Klang for the dinners. The three

*Standing L - R: Surendran Menon, Che King Tow (host), Br Jimenez Jose Mari (Auxillary Visitor), Irene Tan, James Sia, Tan Sri Augustine Ong and Peter Ong.*

*Seated L - R: Br Patrick Tierney, Br Agustin Boquer, and Br Victor Gil Munoz.*

have developed close friendship with their fellow Lasallians from Klang and they frequently joined their gatherings and trips to Manila to see Br Harold.

To quote Brother Visitor, Br Edmundo Fernandez, “The Brothers are certainly well loved (and fed) in Malaysia”.

Finally, a big ‘Thank You’ to Irene Tan for organising the 2 dinners and the 2 ever kind and generous La Salle Klang Old Boys for hosting the dinners. ...by *Peter Ong (Class 57)*

## In praise of selfless teachers

I WILL be attending a reunion next month with my schoolmates who completed the Malaysian Certificate of Education (MCE) in 1966. We have not seen each other much since we left school and we have modern technology to thank for enabling us to reconnect after more than half a century. As the reunion date draws nearer, we cannot help but reminisce about our wonderful school days.



Our alma mater is a mission school in Muar. Though our school was inadequate in many ways, we were well educated in most things. For this, we have our late Catholic brother director to thank, our dear Reverend Brother Robert. Though his approach was seen as harsh and unusually strict, it brought out the best in us.

Of course, there were some who did not agree with his approach and might still harbour ill feelings against him but most of us revered this great educator for instilling in us values and teachings that have guided us through life thus far. In him, we experienced sincerity and dedication at its best. His genuine ways in wanting the best to be done was seen in every aspect of our school life.

Back in the 60s, the school had many inadequacies; for example there was only one graduate teacher covering all Science and Mathematics subjects for the upper forms. He was not a good teacher but we harboured no hard feelings against him as we believed he was over-worked and had no choice. All other teachers were either “normal-trained” or Kirby-trained. Despite the fact that they were non-graduate teachers, they made up for it by being prepared and did justice to the profession. These teachers deserve utmost respect and praise.

The 1966 batch had the distinction of registering the school’s first group of Pure Science students and the first batch of Malay Syllabus-X students. We pioneered these for our alma mater and did extremely well in both. I also cannot resist looking at what this humble school has produced. Among them are two directors-general

of ministries, numerous well-known medical specialists, high-ranking armed forces officers and generals, senior civil aviation personnel, CEOs, educationists and, of course, very successful entrepreneurs and businessmen.

To our great Reverend Brother Robert and all our dear teachers, we take this opportunity to offer our sincere salutation and respect for a job well done. We are proud of you and the school.

Our great teachers treated their work as a career, not an occupation. It is indeed a great pity that we have very few educationists who discharge their duties with such dedication and sincerity. It is also sad to see missionary schools being phased out over the years. With them goes the noble ethos and philosophy of selfless education.

I am sure many of us would like to see the same dedication and ethos in present-day teachers. I have always maintained that teaching is a career of conscience – one that demands great sincerity and honesty. At the end of each day, we should ask ourselves whether we have done justice to the responsibility we have been charged with. ...by Yow Lop Siaw, *Petaling Jaya*

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By the grace of God, all of us had witnessed the successful celebration of our SFA's 2018 Annual dinner held on the night of January 13, 2018 at the Temasek Hotel, Malacca. Credit should be extended to the hardworking SFA Organising Committee, including our Old Boys of Class 1979 (SFI '79ers).

On the night of Saturday, April 7, 2018 it was our dear Alma Mater's turn to welcome her beloved sons and daughters for a rousing family gathering, inclusive of other Lasallians. We thank God for the fine weather that night.

I take this opportunity to wish "All the best" to our Old Boys of Class '64 (headed by Michael Seet) and our Old Boys of Class '70 (headed by Ong Goon Hong) on their respective 'projects' to raise funds for their

beloved Alma Mater to organise more future Lasallian family gatherings!

All of you love your Alma Mater and also realise the Lasallian bondage – first with your individual family members and secondly with your Franciscan Family Members.

In this respect, I do hope more of our Old Boys will make more attempts to revisit SFI, your 'second home'!

Please continue with your individual class gatherings. Whatever gatherings or reunions organised, please remember to let your "Green and White" have your 'feedback'! Thanks to all. God Bless

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Last, but by no means least, our grateful thanks to all donors and well-wishers who have helped, in one way or another, in the publication of our 'Green & White' and all our readers for their support and encouragement.