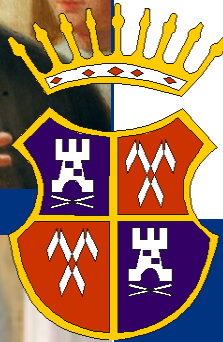


ONE

LASALLE

the NZ Lasallian Family

Newsletter of



"God has chosen you to
do his work" MTR 4.1[Med196.1]

De La Salle

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to Issue One of "One Lasalle" for 2016! Fundraising and organising an overseas mission excursion with students is no easy feat. In this first issue for the year we have an in-depth look at two amazing trips to the Philippines conducted by De La Salle Mangere and John Paul College Rotorua over the 2015 Summer Break.

As this issue goes to press, staff members across the District return to school for Term Two and some can share the experiences they have just had at the first ever Lasallian Educators Conference for ANZPPNG. If you had staff members attend, make sure you rub shoulders and get them to report back! It was a great occasion.

Live Jesus in our Hearts!

Editor - Kane Raukura
(NZMAC Chairperson &
Member - Lasallian
Mission Council)



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Mission Philippines II

Mr. Dermot English - Deputy Principal

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

On December 2nd 2015 25 students (six graduating Y13 and eleven Y12) and five adult helpers / staff (myself, my wife, Mika Salua - old boy, Frances Fannon - careers advisor and Amanda Felise - literacy co-ordinator) departed Auckland for the Philippines via Hong Kong. The purpose of this extraordinary mission was:

- to help form future leaders and partners in the Lasallian mission in NZ
- to help build the connections between NZ and the international Lasallian family
- to give the boys a personal experience of Catholicism in another culture
- to give the boys an experience of Asia and poorer societies at the grassroots.

For others considering this type of Mission Trip, the approximate costs were as follows: \$2900NZpp. \$1700 was paid up over the 13 month preparation time, and \$1200 was raised through raffles and a quiz night. This amount allowed us to donate \$1700 to two different organisations on the trip.

Some of the key highlights of the trips were:

- The boys seeing Hong Kong for the first time.
- The cultural performance aspect of the trip, with the boys performing about 10 times, from the courtyard at La Salle Kowloon to children's shelters, villages, schools and of course the prison.
- Obviously the service element of the trip, for example
- Bilibid prison education unit. We swapped performances with the 30 or so prisoners in the degree course in the medium security unit, and then the boys had 30-40 minutes talking individually with prisoners, listening to their stories. A very powerful experience for all involved.
- Haven for Children, a home for recovering street-children. Activities, touch rugby, lunch and a performance. Our guide commented that she had been to the Haven many times with many groups but had never seen the children so happy.
- Visiting the school for 5-year-olds in Tondo slum, run by mothers for the last 30 years. A very strong sense of community and hope. We made a donation to this group through DSLU.
- The three days we spent building a concrete road in an ANCOP village. It was just long enough to make some difference.
- The reflection aspect of the trip, where the boys led their own reflections on their experiences
- The hosting experience where families were extremely hospitable, and seemed to really appreciate the energy and character of our boys.
- Three nights staying with Chinese families in high-rise Hong Kong apartments
- Eight nights with families from La Salle Greenhills.
- The travel experience
- The boys seeing Hong Kong and Metro Manila
- Staying a backpackers in Malate, meeting other travellers and having a little bit of freedom
- The boys repeating "We're on the other side of the world"





DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

Mission Philippines II continued....

Mr. Dermot English - Deputy Principal



Some final thoughts on the experience this time round....

- Well, where to start. Firstly the trip was a delight to be on. Our goals were definitely achieved. The boys shared their gift of being fully in the present moment. Many of them visibly grew in confidence as the trip progressed. One boy has finally decided to get in to his music and is now recording songs, as well as singing a lot more. He is a gifted singer and his father had never heard him sing. Another boy who would never open his mouth with adults present is now being described as 'bubbly'. Boys who were marginal at school have returned with a sense of being fully engaged with the school community. Leaders are energised to spread their experience of the Lasalle family to their brothers.
- It is definitely worth repeating. Cutting out Hong Kong would cut at least \$500 off the cost, and allow us more time to do more intensive service in Manila, ie more time doing less activities.
- Traffic in Manila is a real problem. Activities should try and avoid lots of driving, for example next time we would stay in the village that we were doing the concreting in.
- Having an old-boy on the trip was excellent. He was a bridge between staff and boys and an outstanding young man.
- I have already approached some staff about taking the next trip. It needs to be sustainable beyond my involvement. We hosted LSGH in Mangere in February 2015 and may host them again at the beginning of next year. An exchange with another boys' school seems to work.



Finally thank you to everyone within the Lasalle family who supported these boys on this trip. It was the trip of a lifetime.





FRANCIS DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COLLEGE, NEW PLYMOUTH

MY FAITH JOURNEY

Finn Zeylemaker - Y13 FDMC

I am Finn Zeylemaker, a Year 13 student at Francis Douglas Memorial College. I recently decided to do the Sacramental Programme where I was baptised into the Catholic faith. My search for a loving community of people was over once I met those of St Joseph's New Plymouth.

This search for community along with a thirst for Christian teaching was the reason why I chose to do this programme. Personally this experience is and forever will be, a pivotal point in my life. I came closer in my relationship with God and with others involved in my journey. Being baptised has birthed a new passion in my life, a passion to serve others with a kind Christian heart, to grow into the Christian man God called me to be. These Sacraments showed me community, a very important part of who we are as Catholic Lasallians.

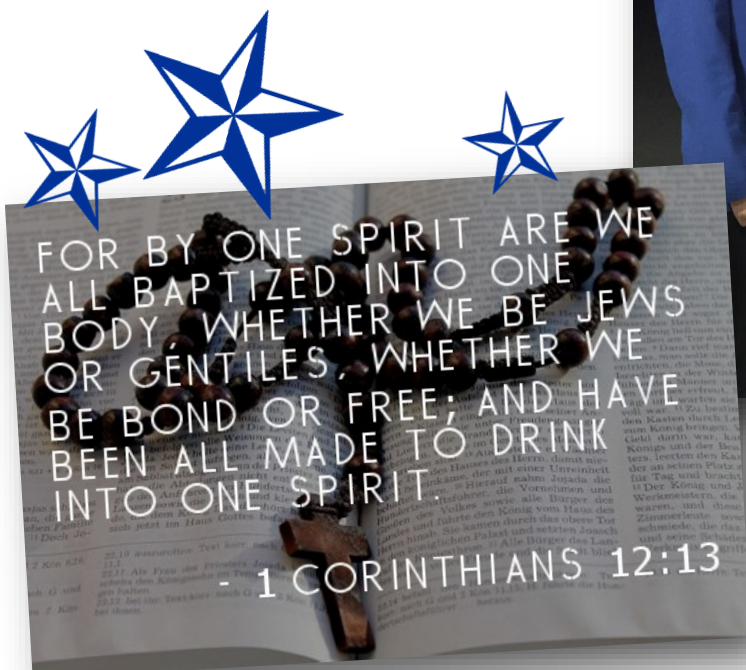
Recently our Catholic community of the wider Palmerston North Diocese gathered for the Mass of the Oils. FDMC and our sister college, Sacred Heart, had the honour of presenting the oils to Bishop Charles. I felt privileged to be asked to present the oils and to be a part of the ceremony. This experience along with my baptism will be an experience I will never forget. I look forward to the future and the opportunities and connections I hope to make as a proud Catholic Lasallian.

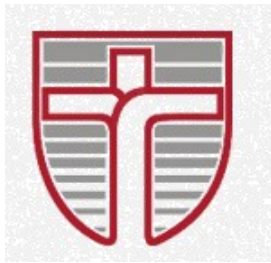


Above: My Baptism Ceremony



Above: Fellow FDMC students who presented the Oils to Bishop Charles during the Chrism Mass.





JOHN PAUL COLLEGE, ROTORUA

Destination Philippines

Maree Stewart - Deputy Principal

On 28 November Owen Kowalewski, Maree Stewart and five Year 12 girls left Auckland for Cebu in the Philippines, via Singapore.

The aim of this trip was to build relationships with Lasallian organisations and schools in the Philippines with a view to participating in future outreach programmes to assist people less fortunate than ourselves.

Owen organised the trip with the assistance of Joy Espellarga who is one of our school parents. We were met and hosted in Cebu by Beth Cueva who is Joy's sister. Beth's two daughters were also our tour guides for our time in Cebu.

We spent five days in Cebu visiting the Basilica, Magellan's Cross, a Taoist Temple, visiting the Mayor, interacting with students at Cebu Public High School, the Monastery of the Holy Eucharist, visiting the Missionaries of Charity feeding programme, visiting the Catholic School for the Hearing Impaired and Magellan's Shrine.

We flew to Bacolod early on day 6. We were greeted by Roda Regalado, a cousin of Joy and Beth. Roda is a travel agent and was instrumental in organising the Bacolod section of our trip and hosting us. We stayed at the University of Saint La Salle and were immersed in things Lasallian. While in Bacolod we met the Director of Outreach programmes, visited classes at the University and the attached Primary school, visited Bahay Pag-asa, a juvenile detention centre run by Lasallian Brothers, painted the exterior of a house at Balayan - an outreach programme assisting people to move out of slums and into their own homes which is facilitated by the University of Saint La Salle. We also visited areas of interest in Bacolod e.g. John Paul Tower, the Ruins, San Sebastian Cathedral, Campuestohan Highland Resort

We returned to Cebu on Day 9 where we were again met by Beth and her daughters. We visited Andres Soriano Memorial College which is a Lasallian school in a copper mine and spent the day with the students. On day 12 we flew to Singapore where we spent four days hosted by the Brothers at St Patrick's School before returning home on 14 December.

Highlights of the trip for the students and teachers were developing an understanding of how fortunate we are to live in NZ and how many opportunities there are for us to assist the less fortunate in other countries. It was an eye opening experience for both the students and teachers.

We have now built relationships with people and organisations in the Philippines and Singapore which will assist planning of any future trips.



Us with the Director of Outreach Programmes at USLS



St Joseph School - Bacolod



Painting houses in the Outreach programme



De La Salle Andres Soriano Memorial College



I AM A DE LA SALLE BROTHER

A friendly chat with Brother Anthony Cummins

In this section of "One Lasalle" we spotlight some of our wonderful Lasallian Teachers around New Zealand and our dedicated Brothers within our District. For this issue we get to meet Brother Anthony Cummins. Past staff member of De La Salle Mangere and current Director of Young Lasallians for Lasallian Mission Services.

What makes me stand out from other people is my... *job as Director of Lasallian Volunteers (a great job!)*

As a child, I dreamed of... *defeating Bjorn Borg at the Australian Tennis Open*

I'd like it if other people... *could experience the Lasallian world as I have been privileged to do*

The last thing I cooked was... *pasta ('heated up' is a better description)*

To my ultimate dinner party... *I'd invite Pope Francis, Barack Obama & Whoopi Goldberg + Curtis Stone (to cook) + ABBA (to entertain)*

My guilty indulgence is... *live theatre*

My worst fashion disaster was.. *in the 1970s when flares were particularly becoming as a teenager (so I thought)*

A good word to describe me is... *congenial*

Something that really irks me is... *how disrespectful some people can be of others*

I would like to be remembered for... *being a brother to others, especially those in need*



The book that had the greatest influence on me was... *'Something beautiful for God' by Mother Teresa*

How I came to be involved in the Lasallian mission was... *attended De La Salle College, Malvern (Melbourne) and then decided to become a De La Salle Brother*

I believe the Lasallian mission is still relevant today because.. *the need that St La Salle saw and responded to is still with us: the human & Christian education of young people, especially the poor*

An awesome experience I had as part of the Lasallian family was.. *to visit parts of our Pacific/Asia region where Lasallians are doing extraordinarily inspiring work*

My favourite words of wisdom are... *"Today is the first day of the rest of your life: make the most of it"*





LASALLIAN FORMATION

De La Salle - Educational Pioneer



A Saint For Teachers

JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE TAUGHT and exemplified, in a way that no one before him had done, that teaching is a religious act and that the teacher has a religious vocation. He guided into being a community of teachers devoted to living out that truth. Clearly, the enduring movement he began for “human and Christian education” is not only educational but also spiritual, a movement that has the school as its setting, the teacher as its focus, and the salvific potential of education as its inspiration. The following is an overview of the main tenets of De La Salle’s spirituality.

DRIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

For De La Salle, the Holy Spirit was as real and alive as the students who gathered in the classroom each day. He urged his teachers to pray constantly for their students and to bring all their daily teaching concerns to God. He told his teachers that they should look upon their students as Jesus would.

WITH THE SPIRIT OF FAITH AND ZEAL

De La Salle came to understand his work and the work of the schools as an expression of a single spirit that consisted of two parts, faith and (Left) Cesare Mariani's painting of the Founder teaching class. On the occasion of the beatification of St. John Baptist de La Salle in 1888, the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools presented the painting to Pope Leo XIII. The painting has been on display from time to time in the Vatican Museum and in the Motherhouse in Rome.

In the Words of the Founder

“Consider that you are working in your ministry for the building of the church through your teaching of the children whom God has entrusted to your care. These children are becoming a part of the structure whose foundation was laid by the holy apostles. For this reason you must fulfill your ministry as the apostles fulfilled theirs. ... You are successors to the apostles in their task of catechizing and teaching the poor.”

—from St. John Baptist de La Salle, *Meditations* 200.1



De La Salle

“Cherish poverty and honor the poor. ... Learn to see Jesus Christ beneath the rags of the poor children whom you teach.”



LASALLIAN FORMATION

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zeal. The spirit of faith is the spirit that lets us look at situations from God's viewpoint rather than our own. We begin to find new insights, new talents, and new challenges as this spirit of faith becomes habitually exercised. The spirit of zeal describes a kind of drive that animates a person who is fully committed to Christian education. Zeal makes sure that whatever needs to be done will be done. Such zeal is found each day in classrooms, offices, and sporting fields throughout the Lasallian world.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SCHOOL

In De La Salle's day, the quality of one's educational life depended on social standing, financial resources, and academic interest. De La Salle and the Brothers bypassed these determinant influences by insisting that all students be treated the same and as if they were sons of the King (social standing made no difference), by requiring that everyone receive their education gratuitously (no tuition or gifts were accepted), and by providing an education that cultivated academic engagement (the curriculum was practical).

DEPENDING FULLY ON GOD

De La Salle's trust in God's continual and loving care shaped the educational enterprise that he developed. His surrender to the designs of God's Providence was a conscious, continual decision, a daily recommitment. His constant response to all was "God be blessed." His deep



The dying Founder gives his last blessing to the Brothers. Painting (detail) by Giovanni Gagliardi (1906)

conviction was that God's Providence spoke to him in the events of his life.

ACCESSIBLE AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

The more De La Salle became involved in education, the more needs he saw and tried to fulfill—needs for

terminal primary schools, continuation schools, teacher-training schools, and more. The schools were to be accessible to all. Students were treated alike in terms of opportunity and treated individually in terms of capacities. The education that De La Salle and his followers provided paid attention

In the Words of the Founder

You should remove your hat: 1) in a place where there are important people; 2) when you greet someone; 3) when you give or receive anything; 4) when you are being seated at table; 5) when you hear the names of Jesus or Mary; 6) when you are in the presence of persons to whom you owe great respect.



—From Rules of Decorum,
by St. John Baptist de La Salle

De La Salle

In the Words of the Founder

"Union in a community
is a precious gem."

De La Salle



LASALLIAN FORMATION

De La Salle - Educational Pioneer



to the heart of all education—integrated lives in right relationship with reality, which includes the reality of God.

EDUCATION AND THE POOR

Commitment to the education of the poor works hand in hand with a commitment to the Gospel itself, and for Lasallians, it is a great legacy and a great challenge. De La Salle established educational institutions that directly addressed an ingrained and debilitating societal cycle in 17th-century France. The “poor” of his day were the vast majority of the population, limited in resources, abilities, and security. De La Salle’s response was to provide well-organized schools with caring, dependable teachers who provided a comprehensive, free, and faith-centered education.

A CHRISTIAN AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL

De La Salle’s followers called themselves “Brothers of the Christian Schools” because their focus was the school. One of the major tasks of these Christian Schools was to bring the young to understand and enter into the fullness of life that was their inheritance as children of God. Concern for “salvation” on the practical level went hand-in-hand with “salvation” on the spiritual level.

The schools were solidly schools within the Catholic tradition. The context of a vibrant Catholic heritage provided the means for developing what we today would call a “faith community.”

A PRACTICAL APPROACH

De La Salle did not write about educational philosophy—he wrote educational handbooks and textbooks on everything from French syllables to Gospel maxims to the rules of politeness. The schools were eminently practical: written work concentrated on contracts and ledgers; arithmetic lessons dealt with finance and business; young men who worked

all week could attend classes on Sunday, an opportunity unique to Lasallian institutions at the time, to learn mathematics, drafting, and commerce; and schools on the seacoast included classes on navigation and seamanship.

WITH CREATIVITY AND COURAGE

Courage? De La Salle gave up his inheritance, social position, and chances of ecclesiastical preferment; he distributed his fortune to feed



The statue by Aureli of John Baptist de La Salle in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. Part of the gallery of founders of religious congregations, it stands some five meters in height and weighs 23 tons. It is often picked out by Lasallians by means of the guiding outstretched arm and is one of the few statues in the gallery of St. Peter's that includes children.

the poor; he took an “heroic vow” to establish the Institute even if they had to live on bread alone; he withstood years of relentless attempts to destroy or co-opt the young society of Brothers.

Creativity? De La Salle and the Brothers came up with innovative

methods for teaching reading, handwriting, mathematics, and religion, and for grasping each student’s needs by means of a personalized record of strengths and weaknesses, family relationships, and the approaches that worked best.

TOGETHER AND BY ASSOCIATION

De La Salle realized that the schools would be successful and stable only if the teachers were united by a common vision, a shared dedication, and a supportive community. From the first retreat that he gave them in his house in 1681 to his last General Assembly with them in 1717, he worked to knit his teachers into a religiously animated group of Christian educators who worked in, with, and through association.

A LAY SPIRITUALITY

The Brothers’ vocation is a vocation to educational ministry, not to sacramental ministry. It is a lay vocation that has more in common with the people in the pew than with the pastor in the parish.

De La Salle established a teaching order of men who were to be neither “seculars” nor “clerics.” They were to be dedicated to teaching as “Brothers.” Their ministry lay in their encounter, as teachers, with students and parents. And the value of the teaching encounter is what Lasallian educators today still use as a touchstone.

This lay character allows for, encourages, and empowers the sense of companionship, the down-to-earthness, that characterizes the relationships found within a Lasallian school. There is a care for one another like that of an extended family. There is a sense of solidarity among all Lasallians, who know from daily experience the many modalities of the lay vocations that have sprung from the spiritual inspiration of John Baptist de La Salle.