



Newsletter of

ONE

LASALLE

the NZ Lasallian Family



"Fulfil your ministry with all the
affection of your heart"
MTR 9.1[Med201.1]

De La Salle

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to Issue Two of "One Lasalle" for 2016!

As we head towards the NCEA final examinations and farewell our senior students we can contemplate on De La Salle's words from Meditation 201.1 above. The act of fulfilling our ministry with all our hearts! At all three of our wonderful Colleges the work of individual and teams of teachers continue to effect daily the lives and futures of the youth in their care. Through the frustrations, headaches and the successes, we must remember the mustard seed and how we all sow in the hearts of our students. It is a privilege we must never forget.

Live Jesus in our Hearts!

Kane Raukura - Editor

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SERVICE

COMMUNITY

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DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

A Dream Accomplished

Mr. Kane Raukura - Lasallian Facilitator

A major event for this year at De La Salle Mangere has been the installation of our new Founders Statue on the 5th August. This wonderful event marked the end of a long journey of planning and fundraising dedicated towards creating a fitting monument of Saint John Baptist De La Salle that would last for countless generations to come. It is hoped that this new monument will inspire and motivate many future Lasallians to be to be faithful, to serve with humility and to be men of excellence and community.

The College would like to acknowledge and show its appreciation to the artist responsible and his assistant. Mr. Michael Pervan and Mr. Brendan Jenke (from the Studio of John the Baptist). They have created an amazing piece of work and it is through their countless hours and determination that we have been able to unveil this moving testament to Saint John Baptist De La Salle.

It is also with sincere thanks and appreciation that the College recognises the many sources of funding that enabled this project to be completed. God Bless the efforts and contributions of past old boys, alumni, past and present staff, present pupils and families, the PTFA and the generous donations of the De La Salle Brothers Community of New Zealand and the College itself. Money provided was gifted to the project purely and solely for the design, creation and installation of a monument that reflected our Catholic and Lasallian values. With our College theme for 2016 being, "With humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2), it is somewhat providential that our new statue shows De La Salle on bended knee. May this be a solid example for our young men, for now and for the next 100 years!

Buried in the hollow granite base of the statue podium is a time capsule with letters, photos, dreams and aspirations, numerous items of memorabilia, past magazines and even school uniforms. It is hoped that in a hundred years' time it will be opened and that we will be remembered. Remembered for being passionate Lasallians, people of God and faith and a community that was trying to make a difference!



"Do your part to help build up the kingdom of God in the hearts of your students." (Meditation 67.1)



FRANCIS DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COLLEGE, NEW PLYMOUTH

MY BUTTIMER JOURNEY

Mr. Tim Stuck - Deputy Principal

Over the past three years I was privileged to attend the Buttimer Institute for Lasallian Studies course at St Mary's College, Moraga in California. The two week course every focused on the founding story and De La Salle's educational and spiritual visions.

During this course we were required to look at the Founders texts he wrote for the first Brothers and the first schools hundreds of years ago. Many of the presenters at Buttimer provided us with contemporary literature to compare issues the Lasallian Brothers were facing when they first embarked on their journey. This enabled me to appreciate, understand, learn and now apply the lessons learnt to my current role as Deputy Principal.

The Buttimer course provided me with an opportunity to work with a number of likeminded individuals from different backgrounds, countries and institutions. The experiences and knowledge I have gained from a variety of people in the 2016 Buttimer Class included principals, religious, formation leaders, university lecturers, teachers, campus ministers and many more. This global network, global family, has already been beneficial in terms of sharing best practice within the work place. It also illustrated that the common thread that gels us all together is the ministry of Lasallian education within our often very different environments that we work in. This has enabled us all to able to learn a great deal from each other. The time spent together enabled us to reflect and plan how to enhance our schools even further with the most valuable features of our charism.

The big danger when attending any professional development is how to use the ideas gathered, the information gained, to enhance the programmes you already have within an organisation. The Buttimer course challenged me to think about the practical application to my role in our school. The course provided an invaluable source of knowledge and understanding around the critical issues that ensure St John Baptist de La Salle's fundamental themes remain at the core of all our operations.





FRANCIS DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COLLEGE, NEW PLYMOUTH

MY BUTTIMER JOURNEY cont...

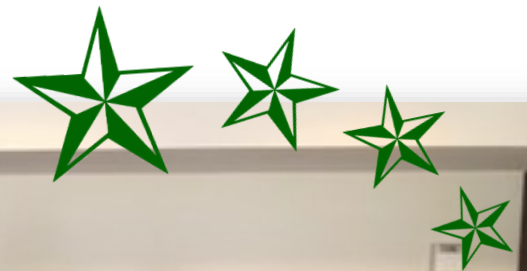
Mr. Tim Stuck - Deputy Principal

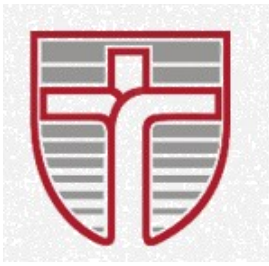
Francis Douglas Memorial College has not had Brothers living in the community for a number of years. I'm conscious as a leader within our College that we must continue to develop and enhance the special charism, especially as many of our older staff retire and depart with valuable knowledge of our mission. It will be critical over the coming years to continuously adapt and be responsive to today's realities.

One of those realities is the core role of a school is providing a holistic education for life in a contemporary society for those students who are entrusted to our care. This education has to be engaging, challenging, inspiring. DLS highlighted the importance of relationships between the student and teacher. I believe this is a point of difference for Lasallian schools. In my current role, responsible for the pastoral care of students, St John Baptist reminds me of the importance when recognising each student as an individual and ensuring that child feels valued, safe and is encouraged to do the very best they can. It is a responsibility that FDMC serves to support the development of the child and encourages them to identify, develop and use his skills.

Reflecting on my faith journey within the programme, it reminded me about the importance of a Catholic school in the 21st century ensuring students' faith experience keeps up with the complexity of their lives, ensuring that it is contemporary, challenging, engaging, relevant and real.

Overall, the Buttmer experience has been an excellent in your face reminder of making sure I understand the students and staff who are learning and working within the College. That they come from many walks of life with many different stories to share. The doggedness of the Founder to provide a human and Christian education has certainly resonated with me as I continue to lead at FDMC.





JOHN PAUL COLLEGE, ROTORUA

REFUGEE OUTREACH

Matt Satherley - TIC Geography

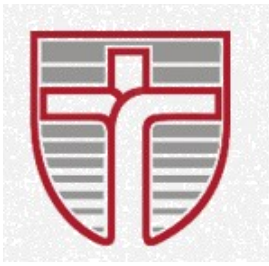
Having its origin in late 2015 as a result of an informal discussion between Bernadette Fredricksen, the Campus Minister and myself as TIC of Geography, the idea was borne for our students to have the opportunity to walk the walk and do something meaningful as a response to the refugee crisis. The wheels were set in motion to organise a two day visit to the Mangere Refugee centre in early 2016.

A group of year 13 students submitted an application to take part, stating what they would do with this opportunity and how it would benefit the refugees and also how they could see the experience contributing to their self development. In this application process they also needed to outline their skill set and what they could bring to this exchange.

Dually in March this year this group went to the Refugee Centre in Mangere, Auckland and had two days of interaction with the second intake for 2016. They were able to select the area where they felt most comfortable; Pre-School, Primary or Secondary students, young adults or family. We worked with the staff and engaged with the refugees as they went about their normal daily routine at the centre. Some students were able to help out with childcare and became very attached to the young infants over the course of the visit. Others interviewed families, who recounted their story about their journey to New Zealand, with a view to use this information to apply to GIS mapping technology back in the classroom. We were also supported by the staff and students of De La Salle College who offered to billet the students, and the Brothers, who invited Bernadette and I to stay at their house.



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"



JOHN PAUL COLLEGE, ROTORUA



REFUGEE OUTREACH cont...

Matt Satherley - TIC Geography

The visit culminated with a game session on the field on the last afternoon with the teenaged refugees where laughter and high fives were the order of the day. On departure a small gift of a School bag and drink bottle was presented to each school aged refugee in this intake. This was a small gesture from our students and our wider school community but was received with wide eyed joy, a smile and a wave. This genuine sense of appreciation was a highlight of the visit.

This theme was continued in September, with Caritas Social Justice week highlighting the plight of refugees and migrants in New Zealand. During the month of September, our school community donated toiletry items which were made into toiletry packs for refugees. We decided to maintain momentum and to build on our contact with the Red Cross, so another group, this time Year 11 students were involved. Red Cross Hamilton invited our group to the Powhiri for the recent intake from the Mangere Refugee Centre, who were settling in Hamilton to begin their new life in New Zealand. We were able to present each family with several buckets full of toiletries and share the experience of the arrival in their new home with one particular family- A Mother, two teenaged boys and a Grandmother from Colombia. The connection with the refugee issue was again personalised and the fact that small actions collectively do make a real difference to someone's life.

Our presence at the Powhiri for these new New Zealanders was really welcomed at a number of levels, not least the example they set for the refugee children as to what they have the opportunity to become in their new home. We look forward to continuing this contact with the refugee community.



REFUGEE OUTREACH





TWINNING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TWO SPECIAL KIWI'S GIVE TO PNG

A photo essay

The NZ Mission Action Committee and the Lasallian Mission Council recognise the wonderful contribution of Mr. Peter Smith from FDMC and Mr. Joseph Keane from DLS. During their school break they travelled to PNG and ran workshops and staff professional development sessions and also taught classes and shared essential resources. This act of truly living the mission is an example to us all and will hopefully inspire others to volunteer and follow suit.

Watch out for a full article in the next issue of 'One Lasalle'.





I AM A DE LA SALLE BROTHER

A friendly chat with Brother Antony Swamy

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 Antony Swamy. Principal of Lasalle Technical College in Hohola Papua New Guinea!

What makes me stand out from other people is my...

When I was schooling I came across these words from my Religion teacher "the most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of oneself to others." These words still echo in my heart and mind.... As a De La Salle Brother, I always give a larger part my life to others especially students, teachers, parents and friends... I always treat people, as I would like them to treat me... ("So always treat others as you would like them to treat you" Mt. 7:12) this gospel verse is my theme for my personal life this year. At the end of each day in my personal prayer I ask myself, is anybody happier because I have touched, inspired or passed his/her way...



As a child, I dreamed of....

Becoming an Army officer. I was selected and joined the Army but life changed when I encountered the De La Salle Brothers in my village, they were source of inspiration and touched us with their words and deeds... I never had a thought to turn back....

One of the most delightful experiences I encountered in my Novitiate was...

Teaching catechism for grade 4 and 5 students in the little village, which happened during my one-month village exposure. Where I begin to experience God's love through children. Where I started to have passion for teaching and felt proud to be a De La Salle Brother.

My ultimate dinner party, which I had, was....

In the Pilipino village with lots of singing and dancing. Little children were wonderful, it's still enlightens my life. I will never ever forget this experience; the food was very simple but the love and sharing was awesome.

The book that had the greatest influence on me;

A RADICAL LOVE A PATH OF LIGHT by Joe Manneth SDB... it is well written book... practical, relevant and inspiring. This book describes the beauty and burdens of religious life... this book made my heart full, now I seek happiness in the right places... closeness to God, genuine relationships, wanting to love rather than dominate; seeking to serve rather than to get a privileged treatment.

Lasallians: How to keep the inner flame burning.....

When we wake up in the morning, and find ourselves alive on this fragile planet, with health of body and mind, and a thousand opportunities to do good or harm, to hurt or to heal, decide to increase the goodness in the world today.

The Love that sustains us created the world and locks it in a tender embrace. Decide to be on the side of love, and think of at least three good deeds we can do today---- least our good intentions vanish without a trace.

If not, at least desist from evil. Do not use this privileged free pass ____ another day of life____ to do harm. Lasallians life, at its core, is not really about rules or founders, nor habits or buildings, not even about the legal code of vows; but about a habit of the heart. Any good person, of any background or persuasion, can sense it, if it is real. If our years of staying in has freed our heart to love without boundaries, God smiles....

After all, you seek no other reward except the Giver of all gifts. When caught up in love, who thinks of rewards? When the heart is on fire, why clamp it down with rules?

Let us keep our inner flame burning.





LASALLIAN FORMATION

A New Lasallian Saint - St. Salomon Leclercq

“TEACHING UP TO THE END” A TEACHER, A MARTYR, WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT HEART



He was a teacher and educator, often of disadvantaged children. He was also the bursar of a large college and then General Secretary of his Congregation. Guillaume Nicolas Louis Le Clercq was born in 1745, the gentle, reserved son of a family of merchants in Boulogne-sur-Mer Boulogne, a major port on the northern coast of France. He grew up in a family that was well-off and numerous, and which held to solid religious principles. His mother was ever present and full of joy, giving comfort and security. His father was upright and honest in his business as a dealer in food and wines, besides owning two salt beds near Rochelle.

Perhaps the reason why his parents chose to send him to the Lasallian school was because it excelled in teaching calculus, precisely in order to make that discipline available to the children of traders and artisans in the XVIII century. His father had attended the same school and held it in high esteem and appreciation. These were precious days for the growing boy, who was fascinated by the big book about 'God's heroes' which he preferred to adventure stories. During his years in school, he absorbed the daily example of the serious devotion of his educators, and thus they prepared the ground for the development of his future vocation.

He finished school at sixteen and began his apprenticeship. With an eye on the family business, he was first sent to Devres, not far from Boulogne, and then to Paris for work experience. There he found himself in the midst of the tumult of the capital city. It was characterised by hostility towards religion, and the young people (such as those with whom he lodged in the pension Vessette) were out of control. Because of this, there grew in him a rejection of the disorders of social life and an increasing desire to find fulfilment.

He returned home and expressed his determination. "I want to be like my teachers, the Brothers, following them in their piety, their austerity and their service to young people." It was a call to be different, similar to that of St Benedict, and he entered the novitiate at the age of twenty-one. His happiness at having finally found the right path to the end is evident in the many letters he wrote to his family whom he regarded as a great gift from heaven. He became a teacher at the age of twenty-three, first in Rennes and then in Rouen.

Now fully occupied as a teacher, he sometimes had classes of up to 130 pupils, to whom he taught "reading, writing and calculus" from morning to evening. Some of them, like those in Maréville, were difficult teenagers, sent to the school for re-education. At some personal cost, he learned how to get through to them by tenderness, kindness and authority. He exchanged his natural timidity for a joyful, healthy approach, and he was concerned not only to teach them but also to accompany them patiently, while fully aware of the limited viewpoints of their old established families.

At the age of 27, he made final vows and a few months later he became Director of Novices. This new post involved the delicate and difficult work of discerning and supporting future religious. Guided by his profound understanding of the Lasallian constitutions and Rule, he initiated them into the constant practice of virtue in the course of the one year of the novitiate. It was a time of asceticism, when he was happy at having chosen «the essential» as opposed to the meaningless life offered by the world with its rush for material things and riches which fade. The main features of his spirituality were his understanding that he was and wanted to be the humble instrument of grace, his daily efforts to choose what was right, with the strong support of the sacraments, his devotion to the Sacred Heart and to Mary and his trust in Providence.

At the age of 32, we find him in Maréville in charge of a big educational complex, with around 1,000 students, including 150 "difficult" boys committed by the courts, plus a novitiate and a Community of 40 Brothers. He did a small amount of teaching, but his main work was that of administration. He was responsible for looking after a number of buildings, animals, vineyards and orchards belonging to the property, seeing to the provisions, maintaining the structures, negotiating with the farmers and tradesmen. It represented a sudden change in his life which brought him back to the affairs of the world, and he was strengthened by the balanced judgement he had learned from his father. He was guided by the one main idea of eternal salvation, which inspired everything, even when he was up on the scaffolding supervising the building works. Nine years later, he was sent to Melun to teach mathematics in the scholasticate, the teacher training centre for the Brothers. He stayed there for five years. His good sense, simplicity, discretion and great ability were evident to his students, who appreciated his intelligence and skill in synthesising things and admired his perfect handwriting.

During the General Chapter of 1787, he was appointed to the delicate role of secretary. He did not go unnoticed by the Superior General, who recognised in him an attentive and wise observer, with a skill in making interventions and relating to those in authority. He appointed him as his personal secretary. Two years later, the French Revolution exploded and became increasingly anticlerical. Brother Solomon continued to do his work for a higher court of law. Like many of the Brothers, he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the state. Religious congregations were abolished, and the Brothers' schools were closed. They were driven from their houses and reduced to total poverty.



LASALLIAN FORMATION

A New Lasallian Saint - St. Salomon Leclercq

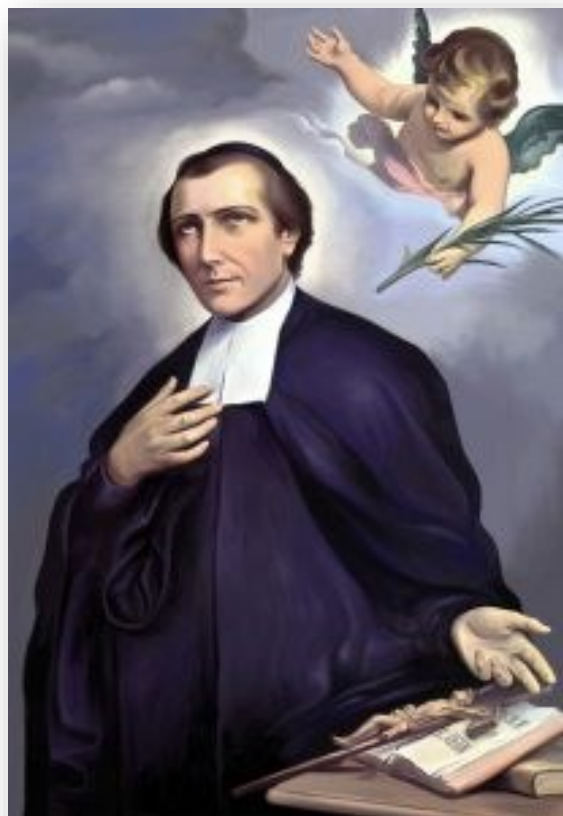
Those who could went back to their families. When Solomon met Father Clorivière, a Jesuit, he discussed with him his idea of transforming religious institutes during times of persecution into what would later be known as secular institutes, living out their vocation in the world. Just before his time of trial, he made a retreat in the forest of Senart. Brother Salomon and the Brother Superior General did all they could to ensure the dignity of the Brothers. The Revolution was at its height, and it suspended all individual rights in the name of democracy and equality.

The Constitutive Assembly did try to introduce legislative compromises, but the Paris municipality inflamed people's minds. When the Prussians were at the gates of Paris, violence broke out and was also expressed in the press. Many religious suffered because of it. In his last letter, dated 15 August 1792, Brother Solomon remained calm before the storm and was more worried about his family and the Brothers than about himself. "We bear with joy and gratitude the crosses and afflictions that come our way. As for me, I do not seem to be worthy to suffer for Him, since up to now nothing bad has happened to me, while there are so many confessors of the faith who are in difficulty." A few hours later, he was arrested by a squad of about fifty men, along with 166 "refractory" priests and religious. He was imprisoned in the Carmelite Convent in Paris. Having been interrogated during the night, he spent his final days without any food. Brother Abraham, who was in prison with him, managed to escape and to tell people about the last hours that were spent as though in a Lasallian retreat of spiritual exercises developing detachment from material things in preparation for martyrdom.

On 2 September, they received the final order to take the oath to the Civil Constitution. After that, they were taken out into the garden in two successive waves at the usual time for their fresh air break. They were met by their killers, joined by hired assassins, who killed them with swords and guns. Some of them were praying. Their bodies were thrown into the well or buried in mass graves dug in the garden. They were beatified on October 17, 1926, by Pope Pius XI, as a group of 191 victims of the massacres of September, 1792. Brother Salomon was the first Lasallian martyr, and he was followed by three other Brothers who died during those years in the prison ships of Rochefort. They were beatified in 1995.

This story of the life of Saint Salomon has been sourced from the official media press kit released by the Generalate, Rome.

For more information see: http://www.lasalle.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CARTELLA_STAMPA_En.pdf



224 years after his martyrdom and his canonization: What is the message?

It is twofold: First, Brother Salomon gives us a lesson of great integrity and loyalty with the options taken, even at the sacrifice of his life. And God only knows how necessary it is today to live with integrity and loyalty in a world where it has become normal to trample rights unscrupulously against our conscience, against others and against God, for mere interest and profit ...

Secondly, there is another message that Brother Solomon proposes to Christian teachers and consecrated persons in general: to be witnesses of Christ, whatever the cost.

"The world, you know, needs more witnesses than teachers," said St. John Paul II. The world today needs more than ever loyalty, consistency, justice, generosity, altruism even at the cost of your own life.

Brother Solomon lived these traits and more.

