The Gateway

Issue 83
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LASALLIAN EAST ASIA DISTRICT

Spring has brought back life to Hong Kong with
smooth winds and warm showers.
God bless our schools and may modesty and
benevolence dwell in our hearts.

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Welcome

Gateway 83 comes to you as we approach the Chinese New Year of the Rat. The story goes as follows. The Jade Emperor ordered that animals would be designated as calendar signs and the twelve that arrived first would be selected. On that day, the rat got up very early and rushed to the gathering site. On the way, he encountered the ox that ran much faster.

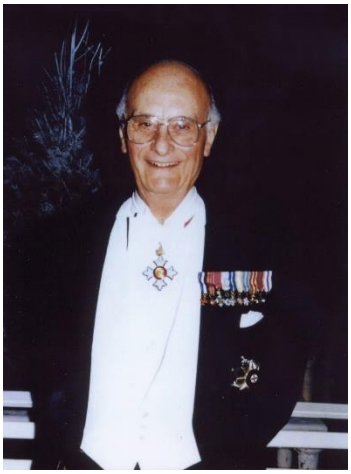
In order not to fall behind, he thought of a good idea. He made the honest ox carry him on condition that he sang for the ox along the way. At last, the ox and rat arrived together. The ox was happy thinking that he would be the first sign of the years, but the rat had already slid in front of him and so became the first lucky animal of the Chinese zodiac.

This Gateway features our oldest Hong Kong Lasallian, Mr. Sonny Sales, who celebrated his 100th birthday on the 13th of January 2020. His life story is inspiring. And we wish Sonny the very best.

One of our special celebrations this year is that of the Golden Jubilee of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College. We also wish them success for many years to come. There are many school updates in this Gateway. We are happy to see this as the sign of the viability and vitality of our schools.

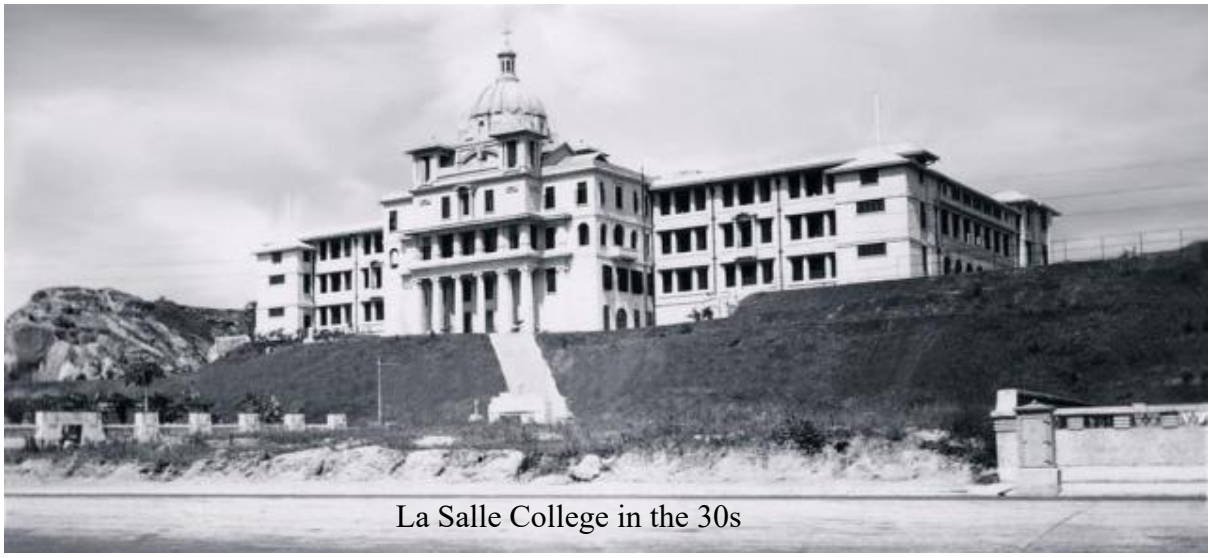
May the Year of the Rat bring peace and joy to all our readers.

100 to the good



As far as we are aware, Mr. Sonny Sales is the oldest Lasallian alumnus in Hong Kong. He was a student in the very first year of the opening of La Salle College in 1932. On the 13th January 2020, he celebrated his 100th Birthday in the presence of his sister Amelia, doctors, nurses, office staff and old friends. Although Sonny is immobile and cannot speak, he seemed unusually alert and the doctors assured us he was following the proceedings. This was especially the case when we sang the school song. For so many years, Sonny was brimful of energy in the service of the people of Hong Kong, in such positions as Chair of the Urban Council and of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong. We were delighted to see him on his 100th and told him we would be back for 101!

The Honourable Arnaldo de Oliverira Sales was born in 1920 in Shameen-Canton, now named Guangzhou. Although he enjoyed a pleasant childhood, China was at the time immersed in civil war, prompting his family to move to Hong Kong during his teenage years. He first studied in St. Joseph's College Branch School on Chatham Road and became one of the first batch of students to attend La Salle College in 1932. During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in World War II, Mr. Sales moved to Macau. After the War, he decided to settle down in Hong Kong with his family.



La Salle College in the 30s

Mr. Sales became a leader in the civic, cultural and sporting life of Hong Kong. In sports, we find him as President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, frequently leading the Hong Kong Delegations to participate in various international multi-sports events. In 1972, as Chef de Mission of the Hong Kong Delegation to the Munich Olympic Games, he successfully negotiated with guerrillas for the release of Hong Kong Delegation members in what became known as the "Munich Massacre" incident. South China Morning Post reported:

'The president of the Hong Kong Amateur Federation and Olympic Committee, A. de O. Sales, confronted the terrorists and convinced them that Hong Kong had "nothing to do with all of this", ultimately ensuring they were released unharmed. Sales told the *Post*: "I was not staying at the athletes' village. But when I heard about the crisis, I rushed there to find two Hong Kong officials were still inside the building. Hong Kong was staying on the floor above the Israeli team. I wanted to go in and get them out, but the German police did not want me to go in. While my deputy Ramon Young engaged the police in conversation, I slipped past and walked across into the building. I came face to face with the leader of Black September. He must have wondered who I was as I was not wearing a Hong Kong blazer. I identified myself and told him that I had come to get some Hong Kong people who were still inside.'

Mr. Sales with Hong Kong first Olympic gold medallist, windsurfer Lee Lai Shan in 1996

His contribution to Hong Kong's aquatic development was so great that FINA awarded the "Highest Merit" in 1978 to Hong Kong in honour of his achievement in constructing the greatest number of swimming pools in any city 1977.

In the civic and cultural world, we see Mr. Sales as chairman of the Urban Council of Hong Kong and chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Authority. In addition, we see him organising the first Festival of Asian Arts in 1976 and the first Hong Kong International Film Festival in 1977. He was also instrumental in setting up the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre.

In our Lasallian world, Mr. Sales served as President of the La Salle College Old Boys' Association from 1957 to 1960. He supported close liaison with the International Confederation of Past Presidents of the Christian Brothers schools and was elected to the Confederation Council, a signal honour for the Lasallian Family in Hong Kong.

As LSC OBA Chairman in the 50s

Encouraging young Lasallians at the age of 80

Currently, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of Sonny being made an Affiliated Member of the De La Salle Brothers in March 2010 by the Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. This honour is another testimony to Sonny's loyalty and service to the Lasallian Family. Throughout his life he has been a staunch Lasallian, taking an active and constructive part in various functions and activities. Even in his advanced years he continues to attend Lasallian events and can always be relied upon in time of need.

In October 2011, the World Union of Lasallian Former Students (UMAEL) bestowed a singular honour on five outstanding Lasallian alumni in the world. This is the first time UMAEL has given such an award. One of the recipients of this UMAEL Outstanding Global Lasallian Award went to Mr. Sales.

It is not surprising to hear that Mr. Sales placed a high regard on education. This is what he has to say:

"Life is an unending process of education. You can never say I have learned enough. Everybody has something to teach to others, something which will be helpful."

Family Updates

Chong Gene Hang College:
All through the years, one of the strength of CGH has been in the area of arts. Their students are well trained and enter a number of competitions and amount various exhibitions. As you can see from the picture the staff and students enjoy the process.

On the physical side, the school holds an annual cross-country race, based on the colours of their 4 houses. Students and even some teachers enthusiastically take part. And they also enjoy the process.

De La Salle Secondary School NT

DLS has a strong tradition of service to the needy and particularly to the elderly. Every week some students go out after school to serve meals at a home for the aged. The home they most commonly served is St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in Sheung Shui, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The service is much appreciated by Sisters, staff and the elderlies.

German Connection

On the 18th of January 2020, De La Salle Secondary School NT hosted a visit from the German Consul Mr Lamie, his wife and some consular staff. The main purpose of the visit was the production of a short video clip for use by the German community here. The school made use of the opportunity by organizing a number of activities including calligraphy relating to Chinese New Year. It was also an opportunity for the students for more exposure to English. The consulate was kind enough to denote some books to the school library.

Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School

Every month of October, CSKP keeps up the lovely tradition of paying respects to Our Lady, the Mother of God. Each class appoints a representative to offer bouquets of flower on behalf of the class and which are placed around the statue of the Virgin.

St. Joseph's Primary School

Many schools in Hong Kong take part in a dress casual day for charity. SJP is one of them and has introduced the custom of students bringing food to school. The food is gathered into a food bank and distributed to the needy by means of NGO.

La Salle Primary School

This year's Speech Day was held on the morning of the 19th December 2019. The large Hall was packed with staff, students, parents and old boys. In fact, in a break from tradition, the students of Primary 2 to 6 also attended. A lead-in liturgy followed by a short drama set the tone. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Eric Ku, Supervisor of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School and former Principal of De La Salle Secondary School. After retirement he continues to help the Lasallian family and is currently a manager of no less than four Lasallian schools. He reminded the audience that they should prepare for both good and not so good days in their lives. This was a good day for the students who reaped the reward of their efforts and were presented with their prizes.

La Salle College

The Speech Day and Prize Giving of La Salle College for the Class of 2019 was held on the 18th January 2020, with Brother Patrick Tierney as Guest of Honour. This Speech Day was special on a number of counts. As far as we know it was held for the first time on a Saturday morning and it was held in the new year rather than the normal months of October/November. On top of that, and on a rather sad note, two members of the Class of 2019 were unavoidably absent because of early death due to sickness. A minute's silence was dutifully observed. The Class of 2019 performed brilliantly in the academic, cultural, sporting and service life of the school and certainly deserved their awards. The Student of the Year award went to Wong Chi Fung. We wish all the graduates the very best as they move forward into their next chapter of life.

Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College

Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year. As part of the celebrations, two Open Days were held at the school on the 7th and 8th December 2019. The Opening Ceremony was held in the school Hall. Brother Michael Cua said the opening prayer and the presence of seven Brothers was appreciated. The Open Days featured drama, food stalls, general interest stalls and exhibitions. Among the souvenirs on offer was the 50th Anniversary Commemorative magazine and which contains a beautiful reflection by our Superior General, Robert Schieler, on the school badge. Congratulations and best wishes to the staff, students, parents and old boys of the school.

The Hong Kong Outstanding Students Award

The 34-year-old Hong Kong Outstanding Students Award organized by YouthArch Foundation is one of the most prestigious awards for secondary school students in Hong Kong. With more than 30 years of history, the Award has garnered wide-spread recognition and support from the community. This year, the judges selected 11 students out of 368 candidates through a written test, an assessment camp, an enrichment programme, sharing sessions and the final interview. A Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College student, Lau Yu Ka, Larry, was one of the 11 winners. His schoolmate Chan Man Ho also got the finalist award for being one of the top 40 students.

St. Joseph's College

The 145th Anniversary Opening Ceremony of the College was held on 10th January 2020 in the school hall. The Guest of Honour was Mr. David Lee Kwok Po, chairman of the St. Joseph's College Foundation. The school Principal, Mr. Perrick Ching, availed of the opportunity to inform participants of the projected future development of the College.

Home of Love

The Home of Love was set up in 1983 by Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity. They have been operating in Sham Shui Po, one of the more disadvantaged districts in Hong Kong, serving the homeless and desolate in this area. Meals are served each day to between 60 and 100 persons. The meals usually consist of rice, some meat and vegetable, a soft drink and a fruit. After saying a prayer, those who possess meal cards issued by the Social Welfare Department are served first. Other needy people who show up will then receive food if available. Volunteers, some from our Lasallian schools, go to help especially at the weekends when classes are held for the needy children of the neighbourhood. This service is much appreciated by the Sisters.

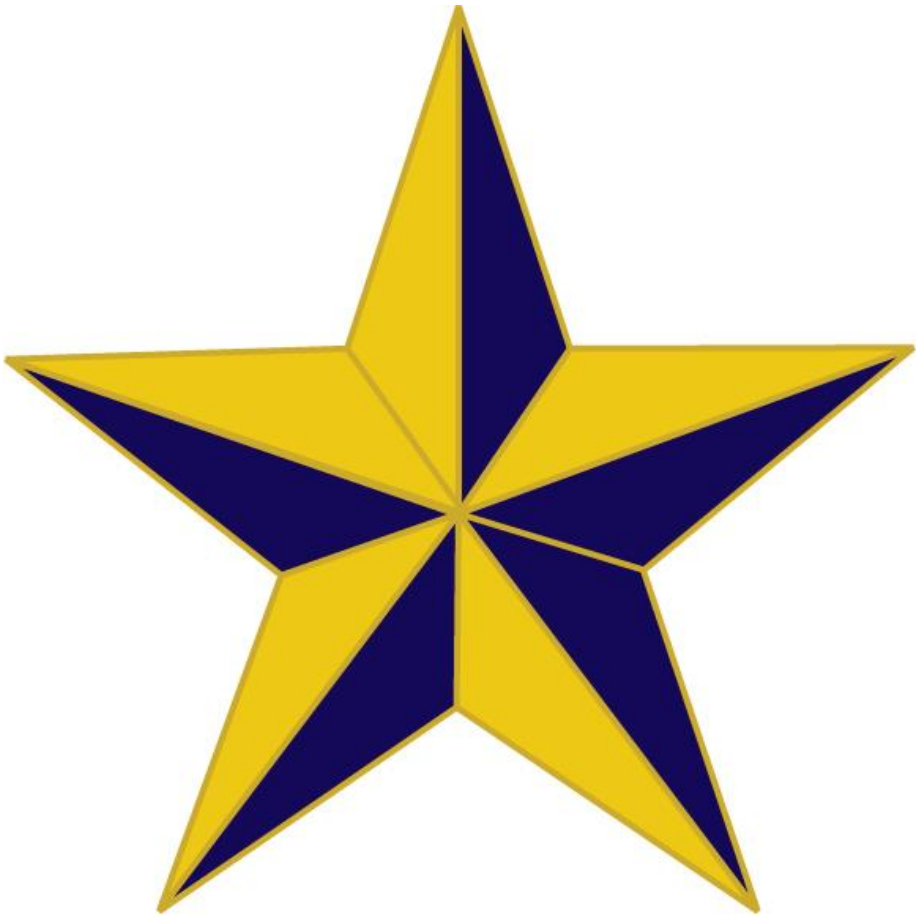
Outstanding Young People Award

The Outstanding Young People Award is a yearly ceremony in Hong Kong. Out of the eight awardees in 2019, two were old boys of La Salle College.

Professor Jason Yam (Class of 1998) is now the Associate Director, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, the disparity between the rich and the poor is big. The eye health of poor children is often neglected. As such, Professor Yam and his team initiated the most extensive service scheme in Hong Kong to teach children across Hong Kong to protect their eyes by enhancing public awareness, building volunteer platforms, and connecting different social sectors. In the past five years, they have provided a service for more than 20,000 grass-root families, and organized more than 170 public educational talks. In total, they reached over 30,000 parents and 2,000 teachers and social workers.

Mr. Arnold Chan (Class of 2005) gave up his lucrative job in investment banking and turned to education for the underprivileged. The only reason for him to step out from his comfort zone is that he wants to give back to society by helping the underprivileged school children with the strong belief that "education changes destiny." Arnold teamed up with a group of enthusiastic and passionate young leaders to set up Teach4HK, following the model of Teach for America. Teach4HK offers a 1-year fellowship programme to university graduates who will serve full-time in schools. While the children will directly benefit, Arnold hopes that a greater impact can be attained when the fellow teachers, with experience in teaching, will take education into account to make a difference in whatever their future career will be. At present, 36 local schools are in this programme.

Congratulations to Jason and Arnold who clearly show the Lasallian spirit of service. The College wishes them every success in their future endeavours.



We are one, and we are many……..

DE LA SALLE*1719-2019 ONE HEART. ONE COMMITMENT. ONE LIFE.*
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