

## Reflections from the Asian Lasallian Renewal Program



*|| To compress three weeks into short paragraphs is a tall order. It was such a nourishing experience that I think whatever I share will not capture the beauty and entirety of the program. After all, I am but a part of a puzzle. We are a community of 25 sojourners, trying to understand our Lasallian journey. Here is my part, and I hope and pray that the puzzle can be completed by the rest who have experienced the program.*

*When you are part of the Lasallian Mission Office, people expect that you know the Founder's story; that teaching and living the values that St. La Salle has lived is already second nature to you. But then again, we are humans as well, who struggle to be the Lasallian we hope that we could be. A few months ago, I felt the need to step back from conducting formation programs because I felt that I was running out of steam. Many things are about to change, which is beyond my control, hence I felt the need to pause and to reassess my role in the mission. (Continued on next page)*





*This was the Asian Lasallian Renewal Program for me. It was a means for me to set aside my regular work and reflect on what it means to be a Lasallian now, and what more I can contribute to our ever-growing community and mission. It provided us a way to reflect on our life and faith journey – a deeper understanding of the self that we constantly share with a bigger community. It was a means for us to know the Founder and his mission in a different light, and to see how his dream has continued to live and expand as years passed to respond to the changing times. A human and Christian education is always relevant in a world where poverty continues to evolve into new forms.*

*It also provided me a perspective about the conduct of our mission. Oftentimes, we feel overwhelmed by the amount of work we do because of the dynamism of the mission in the university and we take it for granted that we have an environment that enables us to do what we can to make as much social impact as we can. On the other hand, we hear of Lasallians who do their best to make the Lasallian culture alive where vocations are running low, where violence and insurgency is high, and where government limits the actions of people. I felt so guilty of the times I had failed to recognize how blessed I was to be working at DLSU, in an office where I was enabled to creatively work on programs and projects for the Lasallian Mission.*

*One of the questions I asked myself during the course of the program was: Considering the new challenges that we will face when we go back, how can I become a better Lasallian when I go back to DLSU? On our last reflection time, the answer was quite clear. We can only be better if we allow ourselves to be transformed by the experiences that we have gained and the people that we have been privileged to meet along the way. We have a shared mission – one that we cannot take full ownership of. After all, this is God's work, not ours. But to be inspired by him as St. La Salle was some 300 years ago, we need to build communities. We can trust that no matter what challenges we face when we go back to our home countries, we have a community that will support us and we can work with to continue making our mission fully alive to those whom God confided to our care. **(Jeanne Carmel Puertollano, DLSU)***



*|| ALRP comes at a time when I am invited to recollect and appreciate the gifts that I have received in my years of being a Brother. I was able to discover the wealth of our mission through the shared experiences by my fellow Brothers and partners in three themes – faith, service and communion.*

*For three weeks, we journeyed together in prayer and reflection as we deepen our commitment to the mission not only in our respective countries but also in the bigger challenge of LEAD. I am thankful for the dynamic and highly relevant sessions by our resource persons and program staff for providing creative opportunities to discuss and retool for an exciting journey ahead. Special thanks as well to the Brothers of Thailand for their warm welcome and generosity. **(Br. Aikee Esmeli FSC)***

The ALRP was held in Thailand from November 8 - 28, 2015. The Asian Lasallian Renewal Program (ALRP) responds to “Line of Action B3-3” of the First Lasallian East Asia District Chapter which calls for the implementation of “a pilot program for the District for Continuing Formation and Renewal in an Asian context.” ALRP offers Lasallians the opportunity to participate in a renewal program that is closer to home, both geographically as well as in context and perspective.

I’d like to thank the steering committee, first headed by Br. Vic then by Br. Joe Klong for conceiving and implementing the program. Special thanks to the Brothers of Thailand for being gracious hosts. Thanks to

