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I am back from a five-week, four-sector stint doing canonical visits. I was able to visit 14 communities and had a chance to formally interview 67 Brothers. All in all in a very enriching experience for me. The next editions of LEAD Story will be about the visits.

Visit to the Sector of Thailand | 23 January – 1 February | 3 Communities.

I flew to Bangkok on the 23rd after PARC 35 in Dasmariñas, Philippines. I was met by Francisco Teerayut and Peter Boonchert and we proceeded to Bangna. Since it was Chinese New Year, the community had dinner together with the Sisters and sponsored by the community chaplain, an annual

tradition. On the 24th I traveled to the Bamboo School with Sector Leader Stephen Kan and accompanied by Simon Phanom. Travel to Sanklaburi takes around 6 hours and with all the stopovers we arrived at about 3 in the afternoon.

The "Bamboo School" has two campuses, the original one in Three Pagoda site, is about 300 meters from the border of Myanmar and the new one, on property owned by the Brothers and known as the Parmenie site, is about 13 kilometers away. The original campus have the pre schoolers and others learning English, while the rest are in the new campus. They are brought by shuttle every morning and brought back to the border every afternoon. The Three Pagoda campus has 240 students and 12 teachers and the Parmenie site has 84 students and five teachers. Br. Joseph Klong and Br. Victor Gil are the two Brothers currently assigned there with Joseph looking after the Three Pagoda campus and Victor in the Parmenie campus.

On the 26th we traveled another six hours to La Salle Chotiravi Nakhonsawan, the first school of the Brothers in Thailand. There are six Brothers working in the school with De La Salle Sayam as Director of both the school and the community. There are two young Brothers working full time, Benilde Preecha and John Niran with Benilde also handling the Juniors. There are two very committed non LEAD Brothers in the community, namely: Br. Mario Zammit from Malta and Br. Joseph Dat from the District of California. Br. Francis Chaochaiyapat, former President of the Delegation, is also in Nakhonsawan and helps out in various capacities. All the Brothers teach English and have other involvements that keep them in touch with students.

On the 28th we traveled back to Bangna in preparation for the Sector's 60th Anniversary celebration for the La Salle Schools on the 29th. Representatives from the Sector of Thailand's 4 schools were aptly represented. The program was a whole morning affair with talks by Br. Peter Boonchert and by Br. Eugene Prapas. As part of the program, Outstanding Alumni from the schools were given awards as well. The day was a wonderful celebration of the Lasallian Family of Thailand. (continued in LEAD Story 32)

Fraternally,

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