LEAD STORY

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JMJ

April 2024, Wk 1

Dear Brothers and Partners in the Mission,

Who will move the stone for us? [Mark 16: 1-7]

We often find ourselves face to face with challenges that seem insurmountable. Like the women in the Gospel of Mark going to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, we might ask : "Who will move the stone for us?" Whatever it is that weighs you down and whatever feels like a big stone blocking the flow of life in you—a habit you are unable to break; or a relationship that doesn't quite work; or work that has become unsatisfying; or a project that has not met with success—Easter joy invites us to see these in a new light. Just as the angel sent the women to Galilee to meet Jesus who is alive and not dead, may Jesus' rising from the dead allow you to see your life in a new and life-giving light.

I am reminded of the situation our Lasallian communities in Myanmar. Despite the difficulties that the internal conflict within Myanmar has caused, our Brothers and partners continue to carry out the mission. In Yangon and Maymyo, our fellow Lasallians provide young people with safe spaces to continue their education. The needs of young people for hope have made them more courageous and more creative. Preparations are currently underway to soon open a new ministry in our Brother's house on Ady Road, Yangon. In this place, we hope to help young people get an internationally recognized high school diploma so that educational opportunities in other institutions of learning can be opened for them. Let us pray for the success of this endeavor in Myanmar. I hope that our sensitivity to the needs of young people, especially those in difficult situations, will move away the stones in our hearts and free what is most creative and life-giving in us to be shared.

Formation Session for La Salle Center, Yangon students facilitated by Br. Justine Nge Bo FSC

Br. Joseph Aung FSC, Br. Lucas Thein FSC, and Br. Iñigo Riola FSC inspecting the progress of renovations at the Brothers' House in Ady Road, Yangon where a new ministry is to be opened to help young people obtain an international recognized high school diploma.

Fraternally,

Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC

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LEAD HOLY WEEK RETREAT 2024

The Lasallian East Asia District is grateful to Fr. Vergel Dalangin SSS, Br. George Van Grieken FSC, and Fr. Francis Alvarez SJ who accompanied our Brothers in Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand respectively during the Holy Week.

Holy Week Retreat 2024 at La Salle Hall, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
(Photos from De La Salle Brothers – Manila Facebook page)

Holy Week Retreat 2024 at BRCC, Tagaytay, Philippines
(Photos from De La Salle Brothers – Philippines Facebook page)

Holy Week Retreat 2024 at Redemptorist Center, Minburi
(Photos from De La Salle Brothers – Thailand Facebook page)

MY CIAMEL EXPERIENCE

Text by Ms. Coreen Paul; photos from La Salle Global website

New seemed to be the word lingering through the various conversations we had as a council since October 2023. New members in a way of none of us being a part of the previous council. New in a way of us not knowing each other, not knowing what the role calls from us or what new vision the current Superior and his General Council have for us.

Being the last group to come together within the governance structure of the Institute we were also new and last to the 'party'.

Part of the experience newness on so many levels gave us the opportunity to learn, to discover, to create, to envision and walk in faith that we will be led by the one who calls us.

Seeing with the eyes of faith challenged us to view realities in our regions with different lenses.
It opened us to various possibilities as well as challenges.

Amidst of the newness somethings remain constant: the spirit that brings us together, the love and passion for education and the poor.

As a newly formed council, we met in person from the 5th–9th of February 2024 in Rome. Surrounded by inspiring images and history of the institute, we gathered to figure a way forward for us as a council . We learnt about the work of the commissions and offices and talked about how CIAMEL would connect with these different groups. We used the 46th General Chapter and 3rd AIMEL resolutions as a reference in the various conversations.

At the end of the 5 days , we made some recommendations to the GC and outlined some areas for us to work on as a council.

The one question that kept surfacing was the implementation of all these plans and resolutions which we have come to understand would be at district level.

There will be a meeting with all the visitors in July 2024 where the various recommendations will be shared in hope that it will be localised to meet specific needs.

I hope to be able to rise to what this role and involvement calls for and continue to be of service wherever the Lord needs me to be.

I appreciate the support of Br Andrew Loke FSC and Br JJ Jimenez FSC in being able to contribute outside the Sector of Malaysia and LEAD. Their support has made a tremendous difference in making myself available to the Region and Institute.