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JMJ

29 April 2024

*Remain in me, as I remain in you.  
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine,  
so neither can you unless you remain in me. [John15:1-8]*

We find ourselves making sacrifices in the course of our work or our relationships and it is not unusual that we pause to ponder the question : Is it all worth it? It is quite honestly, a question that is not easy to answer because what feeds the question is not just a search for proofs or evidence. The question is framed as a yes-or-no question. We might find that a yes or a no is not sufficient because what we ought to be asking might be ‘What gives my life meaning? What gives my life value?’ Underneath the question ‘Is it all worth it?’ is a much deeper search for meaning and fruitfulness. Our Gospel offers us hope that being in relationship with Jesus – to remain in Him and He in us – is the root of meaning and fruitfulness of our life. Jesus invites us in the Gospel to love what He loves and to see as He sees. In prayer and meditation, as De La Salle admonishes, we are schooled and opened to seeing, and knowing and loving as Jesus sees, knows and loves.

In our ministry as educators, we enable those we accompany, to find meaning in what they do. It is not enough to tell those we lead and those we teach what to do. We also need to engage them at a level where they are able to come to terms with the why’s of what they do. Let us remember then this week those who lead our communities that they may shepherd us to where we will find our lives as having purpose and meaning. This week in LEAD, we remember in a special way Ms. Christine Soe Hlaing who has been appointed as Director of the La Salle Center in Yangon beginning 01 January 2025. Amidst a very challenging situation, we join Christine and the community of Lasallian Brothers and Partners in Myanmar in creating safe and life-giving spaces for young people. We also welcome Andrew Photsawat Due-Hae from Thailand. He is an aspirant and is currently in the Philippines to study English. We accompany Andrew in prayer as he deepens his awareness of this God who calls him to life and greater fruitfulness.



Ms. Christine Soe Hlaing




Andrew Photsawat Due-Hae

Fraternally,

**Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC**

## 1LaSalle Campaign

From the La Salle Global Facebook Page

[#1LaSalle](#)  We are a global community passionate about education, present on 5 continents and in 80 countries. Together we are [#1LaSalle](#).

★ Let's heed the call of our Superior General, Armin Luistro, and join the 1 La Salle Campaign!



Click on the image above or [HERE](#) to watch the video!

## Twists, Turns, and Teachings: Rosary Tech's Overnight Journey

Text by Ms. Josie Burgos

As the midday sun cast its warm embrace over the lush surroundings of Kondiu, Papua New Guinea, I together with Vangie, formator of De La Salle Zobel, Philippines and Br. Raffy Reyes FSC, Filipino missionary Brother, embarked on an unforgettable journey to Rosary Secondary School in Chimbu Province. It took us almost two hours of warm flight from Port Moresby and a long road trip of another two hours before reaching the school that was a delightful surprise for me from a God who has brought me all these 32 years of engagement to different mission areas of the Lasallian Family. Traversing a rugged 7-kilometer road from the bustling highway, navigating through twists and turns, and feeling every bump and jostle along the way, we finally arrived at this hidden gem nestled





amidst nature's splendor. Despite the challenging terrain, the school stood as a beacon of education and community, infused with the Lasallian spirit of service and communion. We were welcomed with the traditional PNG *bilum* and was given the warm welcome by the Principal, Sir John Mondo, and teachers who took time to pause and to welcome us with good fond memories of Br. Raffy when he was Principal of the school. I found myself shedding a tear for it suddenly dawned on me how special the place has been for him and for these Lasallians who continue the Lasallian mission in this part of the world. With a dedicated faculty of around fifty teachers catering to the academic needs of approximately one thousand students from grades nine to twelve, the Lasallian dimension of the institution was palpable—a commitment to holistic

education that nurtures both mind and spirit. As we went around, greeted by the sights and sounds of this remote oasis, I couldn't help but feel a profound sense of connection—a kind of spiritual experience woven in the daily life at Kondiu. With anticipation in my heart, I embraced the opportunity for an overnight stay, eager to immerse myself fully in the warmth and hospitality of this remarkable community.

As the day transitioned into evening, we gathered for a special program during the agape, where we and the teachers shared our own joys and challenges in the mission. Their heartfelt stories resonated deeply, reflecting the dedication and passion they brought to their roles as educators amidst challenges. It was evident in their attentive listening and genuine appreciation for this brief but meaningful encounter. As the conversations flowed around the table, I found myself drawn into their rich experiences, gaining insight into the profound impact they had on the lives of their students. As the night drew to a close, bidding farewell to the warmth and beauty of Kondiu became increasingly difficult, for it was the people we encountered who truly made our stay unforgettable.





This experience underscored the vibrant nature of mission when embraced with committed partners, united in their determination to make a difference in the lives of those entrusted to them. It reaffirmed the beauty of simple, humble living, surrounded by a community whose generosity and love transcended any material wealth. I could only bow down in gratitude and pray, *God of surprises, THANK YOU, for the gift of Kondiu. I was blessed!*

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.**

## Associated for the Lasallian Mission: Learning from a Lasallian Partner

Text by Br. Lemuel Asuncion nFSC; Photos by Br. John David Ong FSC



Coreen Paul, Chair of the LEAD Mission Council, facilitated a session on “Association for Mission” with the members of the Lasallian Formation Center (Philippines) on 06 April.

Guided by Circular 461 (Associated for the Lasallian Mission - An Act of Hope), the directions set by the Mission Council, and her rich experience of working with Lasallians in the district, Ms. Coreen presented contextually relevant perspectives on how Brothers and Lasallian Partners work hand in hand in bringing human and Christian education to the

young as well as addressing the challenges that the Institute faces today.

Association within a Lasallian ministry is a “spiritual process in which faith in God is a moving force, and, for others, a potential goal” (Circular 461, p. 40); hence, association is largely dependent on the movement of the Spirit, and is something that develops over time. As a process, it includes vocation, identification, community, and commitment. Personal belief system is a vital component of this process; thus, the diversity of Brothers and Lasallian Partners is something to be celebrated as it enriches the association that we all need to nurture.

The session we had is one of the ten concrete strategies for strengthening association (Secretariat for Association, 2022). It is important to work explicitly on the topic of association as early as initial formation. There is value in having a Lasallian Partner facilitate this learning process because we got to hear her insights and sentiments about the joys and challenges of doing the mission “together and by association”. As Brothers in formation, we also shared our ideas on how association can be reinforced, taking into consideration the international, intercultural, intergenerational, and interreligious realities of the Lasallian family.



Association has existed since the beginning of the Institute, and over time, emerging challenges called for newer forms and expressions of such. As the Church strives to be more synodal, it is timely to be creative with how we associate with each other for the mission. We thank Ms. Coreen and Br. John David Ong FSC, Director of the Lasallian Formation Center, for this opportunity to learn about association.

## La Salle's Life shared with Yangon Language Center



Online session on the life of St. John Baptist de La Salle was facilitated with the La Salle Language Center, Yangon.

The session, held on 12 April, was attended by over 35 students, 3 Lasallian Partners from the local community, and 3 Brothers - Br. John Ong, Br. Moris Thargyi, and Novice Brother Br. Lee.

The participants engaged in lively discussions, shared their perspectives and experiences, and gained a deeper understanding of the Lasallian charism and its relevance in Myanmar. The session not only enhanced the students' understanding of

St. John Baptist de La Salle's life but also reinforced the Lasallian core values of faith, service, and communion. The attendees left the session with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the transformative power of Lasallian education.

Postulant Polycarp led the engaging exploration of De La Salle's pioneering work in education and his lasting impact on the Lasallian mission worldwide. This was the first collaboration between the La Salle Language Centre and the Lasallian Formation Center (Philippines).