



北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

May 2014

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Excerpted from <http://www.lasalle.edu.hk>



The Brothers of the Christian Schools were founded by St. John Baptist de La Salle. John Baptist de La Salle was born on the 30th April, 1651, in the town of Rheims in France. He was the eldest child. <...skipped...> After many years of study in the seminary, a place for training young men to become priests, the Bishop ordained him at the age of twenty-seven on 9th April, 1678. When he was performing his duties as a priest, John Baptist met many poor children who never went to school. They wandered in the streets and became mischievous, unruly or even fell into evil ways. He pitied them and made up his mind to help them by establishing schools. <...skipped...>

A few years later at the suggestion of John Baptist the group promised to stay together and called themselves 'Brothers of the Christian Schools', now better known as the 'La Salle Brothers'. This was the genesis of a group of men whose main aim is the human and Christian education of youth. Little did John Baptist realize that this small and humble beginning would later gradually expand through the centuries, for today there are about 7000 Brothers in partnership with their Lasallian colleagues, running educational establishments of various types and sizes in some 80 countries around the world. In Asia, there are Lasallian missions in India, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

When he was on his death-bed, John Baptist reminded the Brothers to be men of faith in God and to remain faithful to their vocation and their mission of Christian education. He died on the 7th of April, 1719. As he had lived his Catholic faith and practised God's commandments of love so perfectly, the Catholic Church honoured him with the title of Saint in 1900. Since then he has been called Saint John Baptist de La Salle. In 1950, he was proclaimed Patron of all teachers by Pope Pius XII.

Celebrate La Salle Day on May 15

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscobaedm.org-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

East Coast (USA) Christopher Tse (1965),
Peter Lai (1967)
Toronto Felix Leung (1985),
Kevin Kwok (1988),
Jimmy Chang (1966)
Vancouver Victor Leung (1977)

Southern California Eddie Shek (1985)
San Francisco Bay Area Ephrem Fung (1976)
Ambrose Lee (1998)
Edmonton Calvin Chan (1971)

Reminders

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date May 2, 2014 (every first Friday)

Time noon

Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓

San Francisco Bay Area

Bimonthly Lunch gathering

Date Jun 7, 2014 (1st Sat of every other month)

Time 1:00 pm- 3:00pm

Venue ABC Seafood Restaurant

Contact sf@lscoba.com

Southern California

Global Reunion 2014

Date Aug 8 – 10, 2014

Website <http://lscobasc.org/gr2014/>

Registration <http://lscobasc.org/gr2014/register.html>

Info gr2014@lscobasc.org

Toronto

AGM & La Salle Day Dinner

Date May 15, 2014 (Thursday)

Time: AGM - 7:00 p.m. Dinner – 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Mong Kok Chinese Rest 新旺角酒樓
8360 Kennedy Road, Markham

Cost \$40.00

Vancouver

AGM

Date May 15, 2014 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Venue: Rainflow Restaurant 粵之醉海鮮酒家
3600 No.3 Road, Richmond

RSVP Nick Domingo by May 7, 2014

Cost \$30.00/person (spouses are welcome)



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Chapter News

Vancouver Chapter

Vancouver Chapter welcomes the “Year of the Horse”

Nick Domingo (1963)

The Vancouver Chapter welcomed the Year of the Horse with a banquet attended by 68 people at the Rainflower Seafood Restaurant in Richmond on February 9, 2014. The evening started with the singing of the School Song interspersed with several raffle draws and a “Year of the Horse” skit by Peter Choy and Henry Leung. Below are some pictures of the celebration.





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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

April 2014 Luncheon

Reported by Ambrose Lee '98



From the left : Timothy Wan 2009, Chris Ngai 1978, Francis Siu 1961, Andrew Sien 1963, Ambrose Lee 1998, George Law 1966, Philip Leung 1964, Daniel Law 1972
Not in the picture: Ephrem Fung 1976

Thank you all for coming! It had been a great afternoon!!

9 Bay Area Lasallians and their families gathered for an enjoyable luncheon at the ABC Seafood restaurant in Foster City on April 5th 2014 (Sat). We had a great time sharing our updates and recent trips with each other.

The chapter would like to congratulate Timothy Wan '09 for fulfilling his dream in getting into Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida! May God bless him with a prosperous future and a fruitful experience at the "Harvard of the sky"!!

Yours in La Salle,

LSCOBASF (Bay Area) Chapter

The pictures will be posted on our official Facebook webpage: www.facebook.com/lscobasf



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Southern California Chapter

Spring Dinner

On February 22, 2014, LSCOPA Southern California Chapter hosted 2014 Spring Dinner to celebrate Year of the Horse at Atlantic Seafood & Dim Sum Restaurant. More than 130 Old Boys, family members and friends attended this event. This year, we invited Mr. Michael Sze ('64), ex-LSCOPA President from Hong Kong and Rev. John Lam, pastor from St Bridget Chinese Catholic Church to be our guests. Old Boys from classes of 1951 to 2013 got together for a wonderful evening.

Highlights of the night:

Lion Dance



Rev. John Lam (left) and Mr. Michael Sze (1964)





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Raffle Prizes and grand prize of Samsung TV



Our handsome M.C. Ronny Mok (2003) and partner



God of Fortune (Mr. Sampson Chan, 1975)



Mahjong (left) and Video Game (right) trophies presentations





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When Old Boys get together!



Want to see more photos? Visit our website: <http://www.lscobasc.org/gallery>

Toronto Chapter

2014 AGM & La Salle Day Dinner

Date: 2014-05-15
Time: Reception – 6:30 p.m.
AGM - 7:00 p.m.
Dinner – 8:00 p.m.
Venue: Mong Kok Chinese Restaurant 新旺角酒樓
Address: 8360 Kennedy Road, Markham (inside 新旺角中心)
Cost: \$40/person



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Special Contribution

Fly The Ocean (Part 2)

William Lai (1961)

William wishes to thank fellow 61er, Francis Siu, for collating the photo montages in this article.



Cruise ship views

Highlights

Black-pearl farm

The first stop of the cruise was the island of Raiatea which means bright sky. A Polynesian myth pinpoints this island as the birthplace of the world and the religious centre of ancient Polynesia. Legends also have it that migrations to Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island started from here.

The more modern fame of these parts of the French Polynesia is its answer to Japan's white pearl farming industry. The Polynesian waters are noted for nurturing a black pearl industry. We took an almost obligatory tour to a black pearl farm. The tour explained in some detail, actually more than what I wanted to know, the processes of implanting, growing, extracting and testing the pearls produced by well selected oysters. Apparently, it takes years for the oyster to produce a harvestable pearl whose quality remains somewhat of a gamble until it's taken out. The quality of the pearls varies widely, and so are the corresponding values. It can range from a few dollars to thousands per pearl.

At the end of the tour, the tour group was led to a black pearl shop (of course). To be quite honest, not being someone inclined towards jewellery, I really couldn't tell the difference between the ten-dollar pearl and the thousand-dollar one. Other people seem to have the same issue. In this shop were displayed the whole range of black pearls with that price range. I was watching a fellow tourist asking one of sales clerks why the pearl he was considering buying was worth only about some \$15. Perhaps due to language problems, the clerk couldn't quite answer the question satisfactorily. That tourist and I looked at each other briefly and just off the top of my head, I blurted out: "It looks like plastic to me". The clerk did understand this part of the conversation and was not amused. Moral of the story: keep your jewellery ignorance to yourself. I also couldn't tell the real Crown jewels from their plastic replicas, both of which I had seen in my travels.



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At the pearl farm



Why are these things so outrageously expensive?



I'll just settle for these cheapo pearls, real or not

Paradise and sharks

The subsequent ports of call, Taha'a, Bora Bora and Moorea were all tied by one common theme – that of paradise-like scenery of sandy beaches and turquoise waters, much like what one sees in tourism pictorial promotion materials. There are variations in the land and geological formations of different islands, features of which usually carry some spiritual significance in local folklore. One can purchase day tours from the cruise ship. Most of the day tours have itineraries designed for water activities such as snorkelling in the corals or sea life watching. Others would explore the landmarks of the islands. For us, we did not find the land tours very interesting. Instead we took several catamaran trips which brought us to various picturesque spots where you can frolic with some sea creatures amongst the corals. Swimming in the calm, clear, warm water with fishes around you did seem like a version of paradise.

The most interesting spots for me were those where you could swim with sharks. I think they were called lemon sharks due to their yellow skin. There was some initial trepidation before jumping into what looked like a large shark tank. But looking around at our



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fellow tourists who were also ready to test the shark-infested waters, I took some comfort in the thought that I was not the only item on the sharks' menu, nor the juiciest, for that matter. These sharks in their full-size could be about 10 feet long. As we swam, snorkel and dived underwater close to the sharks, they seem to be rather well-behaved, just swimming back and forth in a relatively small area, minding their own business and did not seem to show much interest in the touring intruders, i.e. us. After a while, one could come to the notion that these sharks must be of the vegetarian persuasion. Actually, I found out later that these sharks are piscivorous (fish-eating, no mammals) and normally feed at night. In any case, swimming with sharks has to count as one of my lifetime's most memorable experiences.



In the company of sharks

Bora Bora and Moorea

Bora Bora is the best known in the group. It has also been dubbed the most beautiful island in the world. The original name was Pora Pora, meaning First Born. Moorea means "yellow lizard". Both islands have, again, paradise-like beaches and some rugged terrain inland. Both have distinctive mountain peaks that had spawned legends and inspired writers. Arguably the most famous of the latter was James Michener who wrote Tales of the Pacific, upon which the Rogers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was based. Michener had spent much time in the south Pacific islands, starting with a naval posting during WWII.

I remember very clearly watching that movie in Hong Kong. A subplot in South Pacific involves a mythical and mystical island called Bali Hai, a place of innocence and happiness which in the story had eluded Lieutenant Cable who subsequently died on a military mission. In the movie, Bali Hai was portrayed as an island with a strong slender peak often ringed and masked by circling clouds. It is said that the peaks on Bora Bora and Moorea inspired Michener's rendering of Bali Hai. (The movie was actually filmed in Hawaii).



Moorea

Bora Bora with Mt Pahia in background



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Over-the-water bungalow

For our post-cruise stay, we opted to splurge on an once-in-a-lifetime experience hoteling in an over-the-water bungalow which appears so stunningly picturesque in tourism brochures. Bora Bora was recommended to us as the best location for this indulgence. We were booked into the Intercontinental Hotel. There are two Intercontinentals in Bora Bora. The five-star one is the Intercontinental Resort and Thalasso Spa; the four-star one is the Intercontinental Le Moana. We stayed in the cheaper one. Thalasso is located on Motu (islet) Piti Aau across from the main island with a spectacular view of the iconic peak of Mt Pahia. Le Moana is at the southern tip of the main island with a side view of the same peak. Thalasso has larger and more upscale facilities and its own lagoon with abundant sea life. Le Moana is a smaller hotel, has a more rural and rustic décor, and a smaller and windier beach. There were scheduled ferries between the two hotels so that the low-level Intercontinental cousins (us) could use the facilities of the five-star resort.

Our unit was about a third of the way from the beach to the end of the row of bungalows. It's basically a bachelor suite with the usual hotel furnishings, nothing too fancy. The unique feature of these over-the-water quarters is that the coffee table has a glass top looking down to a small artificial reef designed to attract fish to provide a live view of the aquarium underneath from the comfort of your living room. The glass coffee table top is openable, the idea being you can feed the sea creatures below by throwing fish food through the open coffee table. The problem is when you forget to close the table top, you can inadvertently dispose of items that you just want to place on the coffee table without realising that the table top is open. We congratulated ourselves for accidentally dropping only a bottle of water through this opening, and not a camera or some other valued item.

From our bungalow, we simply stepladdered down to the water which, at our location, was only about waist-deep. The water was very warm – it felt like we walked into a humongous bathtub. The beach was rather flat and you can walk for some distance without having to swim. There were schools and schools of colourful fish around the base of the bungalows and an artificial reef structure nearby. One could almost return to humans' aquatic origins by swimming and snorkelling amongst these marine life forms.



Some bungalows are over deep water



Our bungalow



Local aboriginal entertainment and be a Polynesian for a day



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Amongst fish friends



Breakfast delivered by canoe, for just under \$100 per breakfaster

Some suggestions

Water shoes are a must. Though the beaches look inviting with smooth sand in pictures, there are protruding objects such as sea urchins and other shelled items under water that can hurt badly. Some kind of body protection such as a Lycra swimsuit would be strongly recommended if you intend to snorkel and swim amongst corals as featured in many of the day tours. Accidental scratches by the corals, even small ones, take a long time to heal and scars remain long after the incident, as we found out.

Bring your own snorkelling equipment. All resorts and tour operators offer complimentary snorkels and breathing tubes for paying customers. But my observation was that, in all cases, the returned snorkels and tubes were only casually dipped into a bucket of stale water before giving the same items to another waiting customer. Given that these items had been near or inside the previous user's nose and mouth and that they were hardly cleaned in reused water, hygiene becomes a concern in using these freebies.

For the over-the-water-bungalows, I would suggest doing some prior research before booking. The things to consider are as follows:

- Location of the resort – some have mountain views and some have sea views and some both, and some are more sheltered than others. Facing the open sea could mean wind and choppy waters under your bungalow. Some resorts are within a stone's throw from local ferry and boat traffic, and thereby subject to constant wakes from passing vessels.
- Distance from shore or beach – the price increases directly in proportion to the distance from shore. But apart from price, the factor to consider is the actual depth of the water under your bungalow. Some bungalows at the outer end of some resorts are basically situated at the start of the open ocean. These units are probably not good for you if you are looking for a relaxing morning swim near your bedroom. On the other hand, staying too close to the beach or shore defeats the purpose of experiencing an over-the-water dwelling. So, find out the depth of the water and the distance from the beach before asking for a specific unit, rather than having one assigned to you upon arrival.
- Nearby environs and facilities – some of these resorts border on what looked like dilapidated neighbourhoods which could be unpleasant for exploring on your own. Inquire about transportation to nearby towns and safety of doing so and about the ease of getting to assembly points for day trips.

There is more than one way of seeing these islands. We took a combined cruise and extended stay programme. In our view, the Paul Gauguin cruise was quite good, but not outstanding. (But then we didn't pay the upper-crust fare either.) There are other cruise lines sailing to the South Pacific, from the West Coast. These itineraries are usually longer, visiting more ports of call, and transiting the Pacific on ship rather than "flying the ocean", which some people enjoy more. One can also independently island-hop by plane or by ferry, which would take extra efforts in trip planning but provide more flexibility and accommodation to individual ideals of what a paradise is.

Mutiny on the Bounty history buffs should consider staying in Papeete for some time as there are museums and monuments commemorating this epic tale.

Speaking of paradise, unlike the one where Adam and Eve lived for free, this one has no forbidden fruit and no corrupting serpent, but is extraordinarily expensive. Be prepared (as we 17ers are wont to do) to part with some serious dough for *Some Enchanted Evening* in this part of The South Pacific.



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Global Reunion

La Salle College Old Boys Global Reunion 2014 hosted by LSCOBA Southern California Chapter

Date: Aug 8 (Fri) thru Aug 10 (Sun), 2014

Place: Pacific Palms Hotel Resort (same as 2005 World Conference), City of Industry CA. <http://www.pacificpalmsresort.com/>

Guests of Honor:

- Rev. Bro. Steve, current principal of LSC
- Mr. Randy Woo Ho Wai, retired former history teacher of LSC (sponsored by Douglas Chan, from Class of 1977)
- Mr. Victor Lo Si Tak, retired former PE Master of LSC (sponsored by Class of 88, PIC Bryan Lee)

Program (tentative):

Thurs – Afternoon – Check in, casual evening gathering (pizza and beer at hotel)

Fri – Morning - Global Reunion Meeting with Bro. Steve

Afternoon – Class/Decade Reunion

Sat - Morning - 7-a-side Soccer Tournament

Afternoon thru Evening – Class of 66 sightseeing tour

Evening - Mass

Class of 66 dinner reunion with live band performance

Sun - Morning - Bowling challenge

Afternoon - Decade reunion

Evening - Gala Dinner

Tentative Activities:-

- Golf tournament (discount golf at WPGA 36-hole courses at hotel)
- Self tour to Disneyland (advance booking required to enjoy early bird discount)
- Day-trip tours to local attractions – e.g., California Science Center

Working Committee:-

Person-in-Charge: Charles Tsang (83)

Chief Technical Officer: Eddie Shek (85)

Program Book Chief Editor: Stanley Wong (69)

Event Graphic Design Manager: Francis Lam (84)

Music and Entertainment Director: Robert Lee (66)

Class of 66' Events Coordinator: Anthony Luk (66)

Souvenirs: Raymond Ho (72), Paul Chiu (88), Andrew Yip (83)

Soccer Tournament-in-Charge: Johnson Chao (95)

Gala Dinner-in-Charge: Bryan Lee (88)