



# 北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

Feb 2015

## 新春大吉



Source: photo. elsoar.com

### 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](mailto:editors@lscobaedm.org).

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Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965), Peter Lai (1967)
Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)
San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976), Ambrose Lee (1998)
Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)
Vancouver	Victor Leung (1977), Richard Choo (1977)

### Reminders

#### East Coast (USA)

##### Chinese New Yr Dinner & AGM

Date Saturday, March 7th, 2015  
AGM 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Venue Orchid Chinese Restaurant  
730 Franklin Avenue, Garden City,  
NY 11530 Tel.(516)742-1116  
Cost \$45.00 per person, \$20.00 (under 18)  
Menu Cantonese special  
Contact [dimsum@nylscoba.org](mailto:dimsum@nylscoba.org)

#### Edmonton

##### Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date Feb 6, 2015 (first Friday of each month)  
Time noon  
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓

##### Spring Dinner / AGM

Date March 14, 2015 (Saturday)  
Time 6:00 pm  
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓  
Cost \$35.00 per person

#### San Francisco Bay Area

##### Bimonthly Lunch gathering

Date Feb 7, 2015 (1st Sat of every other mth)  
Time 1:00 pm - 3:00pm  
Venue Cooking Papa Restaurant  
1962 W El Camino Real,  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
Contact [sf@lscoba.com](mailto:sf@lscoba.com)

#### Southern California

##### Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date every first Sunday  
Time noon to 2 pm  
Venue Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant  
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., 3/F, Monterey Park

#### Toronto

##### Louis Pomeroy Memorial Mah Jong Tourn't & Spring Dinner

Date Sunday March 8, 2015  
Venue Emperor Fine Chinese Cuisine 君臨天  
下高級粵菜 9019 Bayview Avenue,  
Unit 9, Richmond Hill L4B 3M6  
Cost \$45 (Incl MJ Tournament, Afternoon  
Snack and Dinner) \$40 (Dinner only)  
Contact [dauyeung@gmail.com](mailto:dauyeung@gmail.com)  
[tpomeroy@leeli.com](mailto:tpomeroy@leeli.com)  
[kevinkwok26@gmail.com](mailto:kevinkwok26@gmail.com)

#### Vancouver

##### Chinese New Year Dinner

Date: February 28, 2015 (Saturday)  
Time: 6:30 pm  
Venue: Rainflower Seafood Restaurant 粵之醉  
海鮮酒家  
Cost \$40.00/person (Spouses are welcome)  
RSVP [ndomingo@telus.net](mailto:ndomingo@telus.net)



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## Chapter News

### Toronto Chapter

#### 2014 New Year's Eve Dinner Party

Happy New Year to you and your family! The Toronto Chapter hosted another highly successful New Year's Eve Dinner Party at the Casa Deluz Banquet Restaurant in Scarborough. This is the venue that we held our NYED a couple of years ago.

To quote the tradition of presidents of the Olympic Committee at the end of each Olympic game closing: I declare this to be the best game ever; may I say the same about our 2014 NYED – this indeed is the best NYED from our chapter.

We ended up hosting 470 (yes, 47 tables!) old boys, their families and many returning guests, including quite a few from our Joint School friends. We were particularly honoured to have with us two former La Salle teachers – Mr. Lawrence Leung and Mr. Joseph Yu who joined our party.







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Everyone enjoyed and danced to the live music of our Synergy Band, led by old boys Peter Chan (72)—lead singer, guitar and Paul Wong (73) who plays bass guitar. As he did in many past events, Dr. Thomas Tam (63) led the line dancing program for the evening with his many students and followers.

To host a party of this size requires team work and dedication from many old boys. Thanks go to the capable organizing committee - chaired by Felix Leung (85), co-chaired by Peter Chan (72), William Chan (69), Chris Fong (94), Kevin Kwok (88), Stephen Leung (63), Thomas Tam (63), Joe Tang (71), Paul Wong (73), Albert Ho (53) and John Yeung (73).



Our party is well known for excellent draw prizes. This year we had over 50 prizes for our guests, including three grand prizes of big screen TVs. Thanks to Chris Fong who was in charge of prize solicitation and purchase. Our key draw prize sponsors included Peter Lau (69) for the grand prize, William Chan, John Yeung, Joe Tang, Thomas Tam, Michael Mau, Dr. Andrew Chung (Salesian), Peter Chan, Felix Leung, Francis Yeung (71), Tony Pomeroy (71), Jimmy Chang (66) and Danny Au-Yeung (67).



Personally, I feel our NYED is beyond just a party; it is a reunion of old boys, friends and families. Many guests have been coming for years and to them, our party is a New Year eve homecoming ritual. Let us keep up this wonderful tradition.

Yours in de LaSalle,  
Philip Wong (67)  
President, Toronto Chapter



## Special Contribution

©"Brother Felix Sheehan & La Salle Spirit: from 50-70's"

Thomas Yip & Class '66 Cohorts "©

### 1. "La Salle Spirit" - a Myth, Legend or Legacy?

Our "*La Salle Spirit*" came into being in the 60's, and was popularized in the 70's. At the time, Brother Felix was at the helm of La Salle College and it was his leadership that redounded a strong sense of identity for both students and Old Boys. Though still nebulous and protean, it was forged in the crucible of the then prevailing zeitgeist which also saw the nascence of the "*Below the Lion Rock Spirit*," with the latter engendering Hong Kong's subsequent economic success. Many of our OBs equipped with our La Salle Spirit later became catalysts of changes that can now be seen as legacies of Hong Kong's "Golden Age." This article, based on anecdotes during this climacteric period, is a tribute to our late Brother Felix.

### 2. "Onto the Far East & Taste of War."

Fresh from the seminary in the 30's, Brother Felix was told by his superiors that manpower was needed in the Far East, which at that time was anywhere east of the Suez Canal. Brother Felix volunteered and after a brief stint in Malaya, settled at St Joseph's College, HK in 1936. In December of 1941 the Japanese invaded HK. Although the Irish Brothers, classified as Third Nationals, were spared internment, nevertheless they were obliged to sell belongings to make ends meet. Brother Felix, being one of the youngest, soon found himself flogging a typewriter on the street. There he was accosted by some Japanese officers. Upon seeing this cassocked Caucasian, they asked: "Are you a religious?" to which he replied: "Yes, and I am Irish." They showed deference and asked if Brother Felix could teach them English, promising to pay. The young Brother Felix had little choice but to acquiesce.

As is the Japanese national trait, these officers arrived punctually on the morrow to begin their lessons. They behaved gentlemanly, but only for about a week. Then one asked: "Brother, could you get us some women?" Brother Felix replied "Sorry, I cannot." That concluded their last lesson. To be fair, these miscreants did pay before "graduating prematurely".

Brother Felix, together with other Brothers who were Third Nationals, soon evacuated to Vietnam where they sought refuge until the end of the War.



### 3. Those Hallowed Halls Under the Dome.



*Its architecture, both interior and exterior, exuded masculinity, and indeed we're a very macho School. One looked above to Divine Providence, and below to the city we're about to serve. But while on campus, we're one and we always returned as one.*

*Photo: [www.lscoba.com](http://www.lscoba.com)*

Our Dome was a majestic edifice standing high on an eminence at North Kowloon. Ever since the 60's, it represented the "True Home" to many "Old Boys" who were diasporas from overseas returning to HK. The flight paths was such that before landing at Kai Tak where they are greeted by eager families, they would have flown over this iconic Dome beckoning and reminding them of their formative years, where memories abounded, lifelong friendships bonded and values imbued.

#### Act 1 - "The First Crowning in the School Hall."

The campus had long been requisitioned by the British garrisons for use as a military hospital on account of the Korean conflict. It





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required the Brothers ten long years to wrest its return. Brother Felix's perseverance and judicious use of moral suasion proved to be mightier than the sword. In 1959 the School reverted to the original status of our "True Home." After long years of exile, our Speech Day was once again held at the School Hall. On this occasion Br. Felix had good reasons to be jubilant as he mounted the stage in the Hall. He could not have inkling that 20 years hence, on that very same stage, he would receive an irrepressible ovation from a deeply appreciative student body.



*The Irish General thanked the Grenadiers who had spoken out to help wrest the old campus back from the British Army.*

*Photo: School Magazine "La Sallite '59-60"*

## Act 2 - "Leadership in Action" in the Assembly Hall.



*"La Salle Spirit" is a set of shared values...boys of daring, boys of courage, full of manliness and will ..... evolved through time. Photo: Anonymous*

Our Assembly Hall was airy and cavernous, adorned with Roman columns. A dais, enclosed by an elegant cast iron balustrade, extended the full length of one side. The back of the dais overlooked the two courtyards below. Assembly was summoned by the peal of an electric bell at the beginning of class every morning, after the breaks for recess and lunch. Brother Felix, who towered redoubtably from this coign of vantage, used these occasions to make announcements in his strong voice, clarion to everyone even without the aid of a PA system.



*"HIGHER VALUES" IN SPORTS. We've always placed much importance in sports, not solely for winning trophies and awards. This photo is an example of the "Higher Values" our Alma Mater contributed to society. As part of a strategic plan to elevate the overall soccer standard in Hong Kong, an Inter-school Joint team (學界聯隊) comprising La Salle, Moral Training College and Wah Yan College was pitched against the HK Youth Team (香港青年軍) in an exhibition match played before the Division A Final. We fielded 4 players (Ho Sai Lai, Peter Fung, Ip Sheung Wah & Anthony Lau of '66) two (Fung & Ip) of them later joined Division A teams.*

*Photo: Peter Fung*



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Our A-grade soccer team was very strong in the mid-60's. In 1966 we remained undefeated in the preliminary rounds and were thus the favorite to win the inter-school league. Moral Training College, the school next door, was the contender to meet us in the finals. For over a week, anxiety in our camp was palpable. The school was aflutter with excitement. Brother Felix, himself a soccer fan rallied our spirits, coaxing not only the footballers but also the entire School. His words at the morning assembly, the day preceding the match, still ring in my ears: "Tomorrow, we're meeting our Old Friend, Moral Training College.," The confidence he exuded was scintillating. But he was soon drowned by spontaneous uproars and cheers. We all got his message, and he got ours. The decisive battle on the morrow played to a full house at the *Fa Hui* (花墟) Playground. We won by a narrow margin, but for student support, we won by 30-1. Our bounty: the coveted trophy, one day holiday, a happy Principal, and the refrain extolling the Lasallian team spirit: "*We're One. We're Many.*"<sup>1</sup>

## Act 3 - "You Won. We Lost."

As soon as another strong rival, Diocesan Boys School recovered from the ravages of WWII, their athletes were quick off the starting block to successfully challenge our preeminent position, and dominated for several consecutive years. In '65, we fielded teams, in all grades, strong enough to make them feel the heat in the finals. Brother Felix's presence was of course a tremendous morale booster; everybody gave their level best. By the end of the day, LSC was declared the Overall Champion. In accordance with tradition, the trophy was proudly presented to Brother Felix by the captains the next day at the morning assembly. This all took place with great jubilation and fanfare. Alas, the following morning devastating news arrived that the scores had been wrongly calculated. The proper score relegated us to second place by a mere margin of two points. Brother Felix calmly announced at that morning assembly: "The trophy will be returned to DBS." We stoically accepted this stark disappointment with silence as we filed back to our classrooms. The salutary lessons to us were: "Accept defeat with grace," but "Never say die." The latter reprise remains our battle cry today.

## Act 4 - "Our Chapel - Our Sanctuary of Serenity. "



*Our Chapel under the Dome. "ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM" (The King Has Come). All kneel before Him.*

*Photos: Class 74*



Brother Felix perspicaciously realized that local culture, values and beliefs were inextricable to the success of La Sallian missionary work. He tried in vain more than once to learn the Cantonese dialect. He judiciously delegated two seminal positions to ethnically Chinese Brothers. Br Henry Pang was appointed head of the Primary School and Br Anthony Philip Cheung was put in charge of vocation. It was the latter's idea to hang two red Chinese lanterns under opposite arches that were furthest away from the altar to underscore this point.

<sup>1</sup> <http://archives.lib.nthu.edu.tw/history/about/3-02/3-02-06.htm> Accessed 25 Nov 2014



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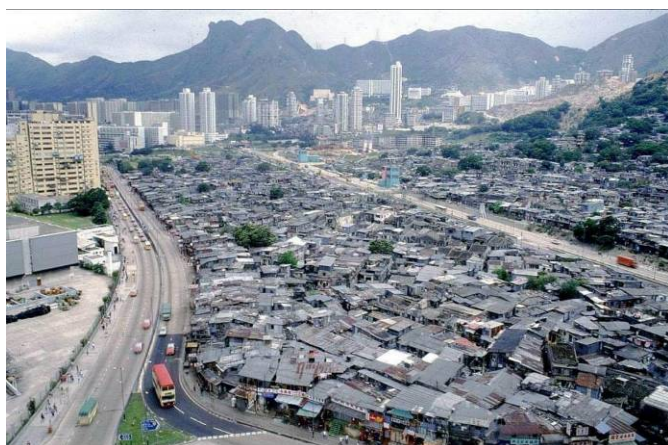
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Our Chapel was a venue for spirituality and development of community spirit. The stained glass, depicted Jesus standing in the middle and extending his hands; kneeling to His sides are Saint de La Salle, Saint Francis Xavier together with their youthful converts was allegorical of Catholic education in this part of the world. Looking upwards at the Dome, one could see the ceiling, painted sky blue, engendering proximity to the Divine Providence. The arches were gilded in gold, adding to the majesty of the ambience. Under the august dome, the setting was conducive to conflate Brothers, teachers and students in an atmosphere of serenity and community spirit.

## Act 5 - "Sorry, I Got You Wrong."

Once a year, Catholic students wishing to be confirmed learned at a special retreat the rudiments of confession and of the Holy Eucharist, at the end of which they attended their first confession in the school chapel. We queued up, by order of seniority, awaiting our turn. Then suddenly I heard Brother Felix bellowing: "Don't talk while lining up at the confessional." He stormed in and evicted one of the students. The hapless chap slinked out of the chapel only to reappear nonchalantly a few moments later. As he was an acquaintance, I broached the incident with him afterwards. He mitigated himself by telling Brother Felix that he was only explaining to a blind classmate next in line on how to make a confession, whereupon Brother Felix apologized and told him to return to the queue. I was perplexed by this saga and asked myself: "An awesome Principal saying sorry to a student? Aren't teachers supposed to be inerrant?" In the ensuing years, I became convinced that Brother Felix, though fiery tempered, had a deep sense of righteousness. He was always ready to apologize to anyone wrongly accused, irrespective of the person's status.

## Act 6 - "Compassion & Free Lunch."<sup>2</sup>



*A montage of "Lasallian Education" and "Stories Under the Lion Rock." A metropolitan HK arose from this mélange of social classes.*

*Photo: Internet download*

The canteen or the "Tuck Shop" could be considered the least "hallowed" location where students congregated in droves, but even here Brother Felix wrought noble deeds. A plate of rice with toppings made from morsels of meat or fish in gravy, costing \$1.20 was the common lunch for most; but nevertheless still beyond the means of the indigent. Oftentimes Brother Felix made unannounced inspections of the canteen at the commencement of the lunch hour. He would tell any student sitting without food on the table, to obtain the standard fare from the caterer, whereupon he signed a chit and departed without further ado.

Twenty years later, Brother Felix was often invited to some of our small private reunions. On one such occasion a curious Old Boy asked: "Those free lunches at the Tuck Shop in those days – whose money was it?" He replied demurely: "It's my money." His unassuming reply bowled me over - those free lunches came from his meager personal allowance.

## Act 7 - Liberal Thinking but with Principles.

The Hong Kong society, under the colonial set-up, was generally conservative. A few tenets were deeply rooted in the Chinese population, including: 1. "A Book Holds a House of Gold" (書中自有黃金屋) 2. "Stay Out of Trouble" (明哲保身) 3. Most of all, "Benefit from all situations" (左右逢源). The economy was in the throes of recovering from the war, few could even afford a decent secondary education. The denizens were most concerned with making a living. Only the cream of the crop aspired to tertiary levels. The Brothers, who were liberal and progressive in their attitudes found this backdrop stymied their efforts to foster a compressive education which emphasized Christian morals, charity and social values. Brother Felix strived to shake people out of this stupor. In

<sup>2</sup> Feng Chi-Shun (2009) "Diamond Hill - Memories of Growing up in a HK Squatter Village." Feng himself an OB in the 50-60's, was one of the success stories of how Lasallian Education brought about upward social mobility under the "Lion Rock."

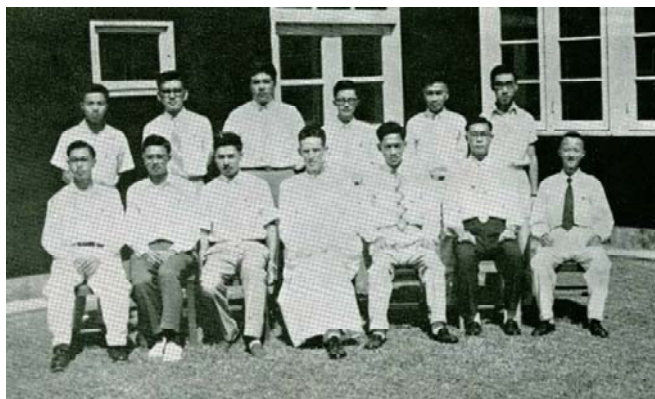




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1956, he was the progenitor of the first Students' Council to encourage out-of-classroom leadership training. I personally knew some of the seniors who benefitted from this program. Many from this group left for overseas studies, thereafter excelled in their professions and made significant contributions to their communities.



*The first Student Council 1955-56. Students were more mature and idealistic, and shared stronger camaraderie. Amongst them one became a renowned medical specialist in Canada. He declined an affluent classmate's generous offer to shoulder his expenses abroad, but chose to work for his own tuition and board by taking up summer jobs*  
Photo: Br Casimir "Silver Jubilee 1932-1957."



*An august force of votary and lay manpower - probably the most numerous in our history. Lasallian Education soon proliferated in HK, and Brother Felix is readying to "climb another mountain." - this time in New Territories. Photo: LSCOA web download*

### 3. The Second Crowning. "I'm not prepared to make a speech."

In the mid-70's, plans were drawn for the iconic edifice to be replaced by a modern institutional building centered round a quad. In December 1979 a "Last Supper" to bid farewell to the "Dome" was held at the venerable school hall. Old Boys began congregating before sunset. The hall came alive, reminiscent of the old days, with boisterous hubbubs. At the appointed hour, Br Raphael Egan, the incumbent Director, briefly described the new campus before inviting Brother Felix to address the gaggle. At the mention of Brother Felix the hall erupted in thunderous applause. As he was sitting somewhere at the back, it took him a while to get to the stage, during which the handclapping became in unison. As he approached the microphone, he was greeted with a standing ovation, rendering it impossible for him to speak. He gesticulated for order, but on this occasion, he was disobeyed. Knowing his students well he waited for the clamor to subside before tapping on the microphone to signify the commencement of his speech. The students hushed out of reverence and wishing to be transported to the days of their youth; to be reminded of the reprimands and punishments for their transgressions; and of the plaudits for successes. In a calm and gentle voice, the amiable man, now at the age of 67, began: "I am not prepared to make a speech, but I am happy to see you all here tonight. God bless you all." After these laconic words the self-effacing man walked down the stage amidst enthusiastic claps and cheers of a somewhat bewildered audience.





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*The School Hall is where we took exams, watched dramas, attended concerts and received our parchments from distinguished guests at graduation ceremonies- snapshots of our formative years.*

*Photo: Class 74*

At the conclusion of the evening the School Song was sung, with gusto and one heart though not perfectly in tune or beat. Everyone bid a wistful farewell to the magnificent campus, realizing that future assemblies will be conducted in a far less nostalgic building. All carried in their heart their fond memory of the Dome, the Hallowed Halls and their deep respect for their past Director (Principal as known at the time).

#### 4. "Useful to the End."



*"Slings & Arrows of Outrageous Fortune" - but "To Be Or Not To Be" (Hamlet quote) was never a question to Brother Felix. "Just Do It" was his nature. Here in this picture, he's back as a school teacher, but readying for yet another challenge.*

*Photo: Anonymous*

He might have lived out his retirement at the Fanling School but was recalled to bolster the teaching staff at La Salle. This did not sit well with him. The warhorse champed at the bit and decided at the ripe age of 70 to help at a Vietnamese Refugee camp in the Britain. He confided to me his reason for leaving: "I want to remain useful to the end".

On another occasion he dolefully mentioned the vast difference in people's attitude towards him before and after his retirement: "at 4:45 pm, they would still line up at your door. By 5:01 pm, once you closed your office door you became nothing." He went on to lament that perhaps teaching was no longer attractive to novitiates. I begged to differ and replied "No, it means a lot." He looked obliquely at me and continued "I don't know why, but youngsters nowadays prefer priesthood. Maybe our Mission is finished." I assured him that it was far from over as there are swings and roundabouts. He gazed at me and I recognized the familiar glow of enthusiasm and sparkle in his eyes.



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*Ask a mountaineer: "Why are you climbing this mountain?" He would say: "It's in front of me."*

*Justin Lau ('66) on Mt Kilimanjaro c. 2007, the highest peak in Africa holding a flag (hand- made by his son) of LSCCBA Southern California.*

*Photo: Justin Lau*

## 5. Epilogue.



*The communal graveyard of the de La Salle Order at Castletown, Ireland. Brother Felix is buried (front row) close to Br Raphael (One row behind, with floral wreaths). If I only could, I would put up this epitaph:*

**"Brother Felix Sheehan, FSC -**

**an Educator posted to the Far East.**

**There he touched the Hearts of Many."**

*Photo: Alex Poon Class*

We have to make one correction in the article titled **"Lifelong Career of an Educator from Shanghai to Paris and Hong Kong- Dr Walter Wou."**©, written by Thomas Yip (1967), published in January 2015 issue of this newsletter.

**ERRATUM: "Fr Marciano Baptista was a student of Portuguese Class whilst at LSC, and not Dr Water Wou's French Class."**





WISHING YOU A VERY

Happy  
New  
Year  
for 2015



The Vancouver Chapter had a very successful New Year's Eve Dance attended by 260 people. Everyone had a great time. The buffet dinner was delicious and the decorations were fabulous and reminiscent of the 60's and 70's which was the theme for this Dinner Dance. Music for the evening was provided by Michael Remedios and the Vancouver Mystics to dance into the new year. Happy New Year everyone!



2014  
NEW YEAR'S EVE

*A Go-Go  
Dance Party*



DECEMBER 31, 2014

Sheraton Vancouver  
Airport Hotel  
Richmond, B.C.

[www.nye2014.lscobavan.org](http://www.nye2014.lscobavan.org)



