



北美風沙

The North American Lasallians

JUNE 2020



*"Even were I to walk in a ravine as dark as death I should fear no danger,
for you are at my side. Your staff and your crook are there to soothe me." -
Pslam 23*



Highlights for this issue

Kudos to our Si-dai and Lasallians worldwide... pg 2
 COVID-19 stories from New York (part 1) pg 2
 COVID-19 stories from New York (part 2) pg 4
 足球·口罩·老人院 (Washington DC) pg 5
 COVID-19 Lockdown in New Orleans pg 7
 Life As an Essential Worker During the Pandemic Outbreak (Vancouver) pg 9
 Life in Ireland under COVID-19 pg 12
 Live and Let Live! Staying Alive in NYC pg 14
 Thought and Comments from East Coast/New York pg 15
 Brother Felix Sheehan (1912-1986) pg 16
 Southern California Chapter Spring Dinner pg 21
 A message to all Lasallians from La Salle Holy Land pg 23

Kudos to our Si-Dai and Lasallians worldwide...

Staying home extensively can be difficult at times. The *La Salle College Wind Orchestra*, through *La Salle College Campus TV*, produced a [video](#) of their virtual performance (Gustav Holst - Second Suite in F 1st movement; see page 1 for screencap) available on YouTube.

This is just one of the many virtual performances carried out by our Si-dais. The *La Salle College Mass Choir* posted a few virtual performances on their [Facebook page](#), some of them with the Joint School Community in Hong Kong.

"Be filled with the spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves" -Eph 5:18-19

From *La Salle College Mass Choir* Facebook page:

信、望、愛是我們每一位基督徒信仰的根本，其中缺一不可。我們本身為人，固然會為疫情當中遇到的種種逆境而感到悲觀和失望，但我們相信可以透過與天主的相處，感受到祂對於我們的恩寵，並且定會帶我們走過陰森的幽谷...無論發生什麼事情，耶穌基督定必會眷顧我們；而在面對凶險的路途，更需要堅定我們的信仰。耶穌基督乃世界之光，祂會在黑暗之中帶領人們走出難關；在這黑暗的世代，我們身為基督徒，更需要跟隨基督的道路，為祂的恩寵作見證。

Kudos to our Si-dais! We solicited for Covid-19 related article submissions on our last issue; the response was tremendous ...

COVID-19 stories from New York (Request for PPE)

Sue & Benny Ng (65)

La Salle Boys Stepping Up to Help One Another in the Extended Lasallian Family and Supporting the Community

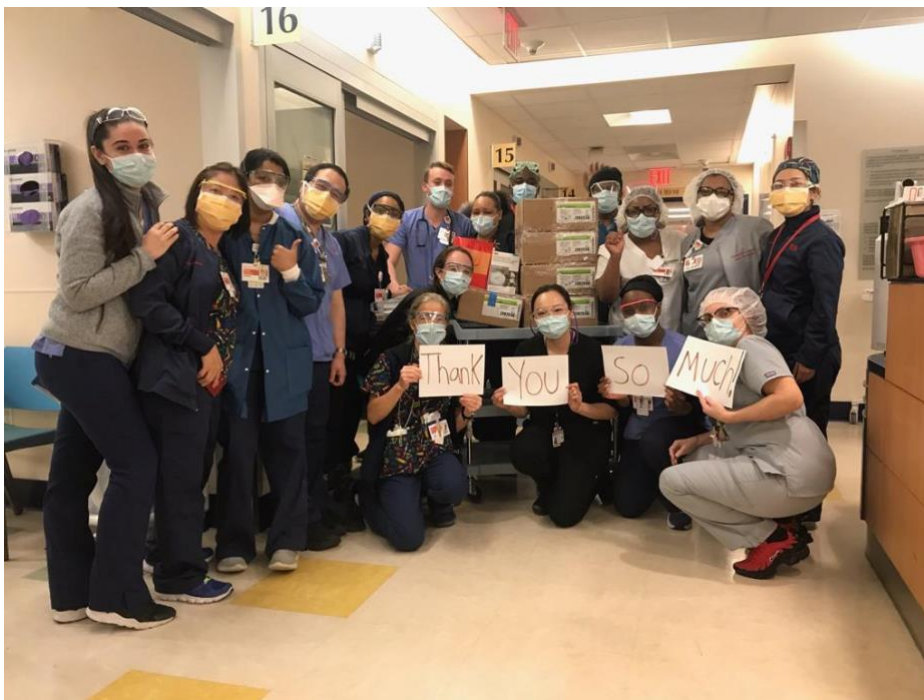
Editor's Note: This is part 1 of 2 on the same incident, on how La Salle boys stepped up to help one another in the extended Lasallian family.

We first heard of the new Coronavirus in early December when we were visiting family in Hong Kong. When they confirmed the first case of Coronavirus in Hong Kong, we immediately flew back to New York City where we thought we would be safe. Unfortunately, Coronavirus has become a global pandemic, with NYC being one of the epicenters of the pandemic in the U.S.

My daughter, Dr. Lorraine Ng, M.D., is an Emergency Medicine physician, and Director of Pediatric Emergency Ultrasound at New York-Presbyterian Columbia University Medical Center (NYP CUMC) in NYC. As Coronavirus spreads in NYC, the healthcare system was quickly overwhelmed and there was a critical shortage of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) - surgical masks, N95 masks, eye/face shields and gowns. Hospital staff was being forced to ration out their PPE and reuse supplies, sometimes over the course of multiple days, which put their own health, as well as the health of their patients, at great risk.

My daughter and her co-workers started a pledge for PPE donations to their Emergency Department, and sent out messages to their families and friends through email and social media. When I shared this message on WhatsApp with our NY La Salle OBA Chapter, the generosity of responses was overwhelming and inspiring.

First, Louis Wong drove up to NYP CUMC and personally delivered 14 N95 masks and 1,500 surgical masks to the front door of the Emergency Department of the Hospital. Christopher Tse arranged 100 N95 masks to be shipped from China and sent directly to the Emergency Department. Peter Lai's son-in-law, Michael, who works in Merck, also helped to donate half a million masks to the NYC Emergency Management Office. Fanny Moy contacted her friend Javy Wu, who generously donated her supply of N95s. Through John and Virginia Ng's networking with the local NYC Chinese communities, they connected our daughter to Dr. Richard Ng, Medical Director of CAIPA (Coalition of Asian American Independent Physician Association), who donated a truckload of PPE that included Hazmat suits, N95s, goggles, and face shields.



Peter Lai and the NY local chapter have since formed the Coronavirus PPE Committee, and bought 3000 masks to support our brothers and sisters at the frontline of the Coronavirus crisis.

There are not enough words to show our appreciation of the overwhelming generosity and outpouring of support from our NY LSOBA Chapter that reflects our collective La Salle Spirit. Thank you for your generosity and for helping keep my daughter and all of her co-workers safe.

We pray that this pandemic will end soon so that we can return to our normal lives. Until then, we hope that everyone will stay safe and healthy.

COVID-19 stories from New York (PPE Committee)

Peter Lai (67), Dan Souza (64), Chris Tse (65)

Editor's Note: This is part 2 of 2 on the same incident, on how La Salle boys stepped up to help one another in the extended Lasallian family.

As the New York City region unexpectedly becomes the epicenter of the nation during this COVID-19 pandemic, its overwhelming impacts on the region's healthcare systems, and the responsibilities and stresses it put upon the medical professionals are beyond one's imagination. Members of our La Salle families are among these frontline warriors fighting daily battles in the ER, ICU and EMS across the region.

On March 23, 2020, when the New York/East Coast Chapter received messages that PPEs were urgently needed by the frontline warriors to protect their own well-being, the chapter saw the need to step up to support and protect its family members. A PPE Committee was formed and served by several retired OBs to spearhead the initiative.

The committee quickly established two priorities: Priority #1 – to provide PPE urgently needed by the medical professionals (N95 masks, gloves and gowns); and Priority #2 – to purchase surgical masks as reserve for OBs families with emergency needs.

After a series of outreach efforts with OBs in Asia, and having evaluated all the challenges associated with quality assurance and logistic hurdles and uncertainties, the Committee concluded that Priority #1 was very difficult to accomplish in a timely fashion, but would continue to monitor and seek for solutions, and the Committee would immediate focus on Priority #2 with the available resources.

On April 3, 2020, the Committee was able to reserve a small number of procedure masks from a local supplier in NYC. While these masks were not N95 equivalent, as suggested by the medical professionals, they were still acceptable at a time of shortage and urgency. Ironically, it was also the time when NYC was expecting to approach the rising point of its apex curve, and the White House was also considering a masking policy for the nation, so NYC was perhaps the last place on earth for anyone to look for PPE regardless of pricing.

On April 6, 2020, a day after the NY Governor announced to increase the violation fine for non-essential travel from \$500 to \$1000, two committee members drove and picked up the purchased orders from the local supplier and delivered them to the storage location in New Jersey.

Two days later, hundreds of masks had been packaged and delivered via UPS to our frontline family members.

Meanwhile, encouraging news from the frontline indicated that the PPE situation had improved, and the Committee therefore stockpiled the remaining masks as reserve for the future. At this point, the Committee's initial mission was achieved, and would like to express their appreciation to the OBs in Asia for their assistance during this difficult time.

足球・口罩・老人院 (Washington DC)

Eddie Liu (88)

足球和口罩，本身其實沒有什麼直接關係。但對廖貽謀 Edmund Liu (92)來說，足球和口罩，是他人生中兩樣經常接觸的東西。



從喇沙小學便開始認識 Edmund 的校友及老師們，都一定知道他從小便熱愛足球。小學畢業後移民美國，足球仍一直是 Edmund 最喜愛的運動。久不久更會與他小學時的體育老師余 Sir 相約進行「二人足球」聯誼一番。

Edmund 現在是一位牙科醫生，所以口罩可以說是他每天工作的「制服」之一。本年三月初，新冠肺炎疫情在美國開始爆發。隨著確診數字增加，因 COVID-19 入院的人數也不斷上升！全美國的醫院都缺乏 PPE (Personal Protection Equipment)，眾所週知。但當與親友交談時，Edmund 才得知原來真實的情況比報導的更為嚴重！

Edmund 其中一位朋友的女兒在 Virginia 州一所醫院上班。每天的工作就是照顧 COVID-19 病人。她是前線醫護人員，理應得到最好的保護吧！但院方竟然連一個 N95 口罩也無法提供，每天只能為每一位前線醫護人員供應一個外科口罩。他們真的要「慳住用」！



又有另一位朋友告訴 Edmund，她在 Baltimore 一所醫院中的深切治療部（ICU）工作。曾有一天，24 小時內，全醫院沒有任何醫護口罩，醫護人員唯有跟著院方的指引，使用自己的頸巾或頭巾作「口罩」！



之後又從一位在某醫院行政部工作的親戚聽到，當時全醫院的 N95 口罩都用光了！身為一位牙醫，Edmund 當然很明白口罩對醫護人員的重要性！接二連三地聽到 PPE 的嚴重短缺，Edmund 決定用自己的名義，抱著「收集到一個都好過冇」的精神，在網上社交平台開始呼籲有心的親友捐贈 PPE 給區內的醫院。為了方便捐贈者，Edmund 甚至願意開車到親友的住所或城鎮提取 PPE。

慶幸現今的網上社交網絡及資訊發達，「出 Post」後不久，即有朋友聯絡 Edmund，告知他可捐贈二十個 N95 口罩！接下來的反應更非常熱烈！很多親朋戚友、鄰居、甚至他的病人們都紛紛響應！有口罩的捐口罩，沒有口罩的，便自製面罩或布口罩，「幫得就幫」！



Edmund 起初的幫助對象是區內的醫院，後來發覺原來各方都把焦點放在醫院內的醫護，卻忽略了另一個有同樣需要的地方 – 老人院。因此 Edmund 立即把他的目標延伸到區內的老人院，希望讓老人院內工作的醫護人員也能得到應有的保護。在短短一個月間，Edmund 為區內的醫院及老人院提供了一共超過一萬個口罩（其中包括有 N95、KN95、外科口罩、及布口罩）及二千多個面罩。



對 Edmund 來說，這次 PPE 收集行動最大的挑戰，莫過於「需求太大，資源太少」。而他學到最大的功課是：「不是每件事都能依靠政府；幸好這個世界是有很多好心的人。」

COVID-19 Lockdown in New Orleans

Louis Kong (79)

When the Government announced the Covid-19 lockdown in early March, the first thought that came to my mind was how to cope with this new life. My immediate concern, Tulane Reilly Recreation Center and all the fitness centers will be closed, my active lifestyle will have to change.

But to most people in New Orleans, they worried that this period would be like Katrina. To tell you the truth, this lockdown is much better than Katrina. After Katrina, there were no TV broadcast, no radio services, because all the TV and radio stations were flooded. After Katrina, trash and debris piled up in the neutral ground 30 feet high, because we had no garbage pickup services for months. After Katrina, only a few banks opened; in average, you had to wait in line for 2 hours before getting any services. After Katrina, 90% of the shelving in supermarkets was empty if the stores were opened. After Katrina, 99% of the restaurants were flooded, everyone were eating tasteless army meals given by the militaries. I guess you get the picture.

For Covid-19, my only concern was what to do with all my free time when not having to go to work. So, back to the story of how to preserve my active workout lifestyle, I quickly learnt that many were teaching online workout classes. Being a part-time fitness instructor, I was curious about what others were teaching in their classes. So, I tried to attend as many as I could. Very soon, I realized that I was working out about 5 hours every day attending all kinds of classes, from ballet to muscle toning, from cardio to yoga. As much free time as I have during the lockdown, there was not enough hours in the days to attend all these classes.

My favorite workout classes were taught by Canadian Olympian Champion, Helen Vanderburg. Her fusion workout covered everything from cardio to yoga. Very creative and functional, Helen incorporated stretching techniques from basic yoga asana to the principle of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation; she included isometric muscle training as well as isotonic.

Besides workout classes, I attended several ballet classes for the first time in my life. Having the opportunity to learn from professional dancers, such as Chun Wai Chan, principle dancer of Houston Ballet, or Sterling Baca, principle dancer of Pennsylvania Ballet, was really delightful for a beginner ballet student like myself. So, in the last two months, I learnt what is a plies, a tendus, a glisses, a fondus ... besides the flexibility and endurance, the artistry and the athleticism required of this sport made it extremely challenging.

Then in the second month of the lockdown, my students in Tulane University asked me to give an online workout class. After some thoughts, I decided to offer the classes free to anyone who was interested. Interesting enough, a few hours before that first class, a TV reporter from Fox News contacted me. She said she was a reporter working on a story about how to stay healthy under quarantine, and asked for my permission to use footage of that first class for her story. I agreed. And at the end of that class, I found out we had people from all over the world joining us live. Very exciting indeed!

You may think this lockdown period was all play and no work for me. Wrong! I did do something for my career as an architect. I took an online class with Professor Howard Bloch of Yale University, The Age of Cathedrals. In this class, Professor Bloch gave an introduction to the history of Paris in the centuries of chaos following the death of Charlemagne in 814 and the building of the first Gothic cathedral at Saint-Denis, just north of Paris. In Saint-Denis, the doctrine of God was portrayed as light, and was translated into

architectural form. He discussed the origins and engineering innovations of the new style of religious architecture. These include ribbed vaults, reinforced pillars, pointed arches, flying buttresses, and a modular system of bay construction; all of which permitted the construction of higher and lighter, thinner walls filled with stained glass. Moving to the heart of Paris, Professor Bloch explored the initial construction of Notre-Dame and the innovations that were undertaken almost as soon as the building began. He discussed the sculptural programs of Notre-Dame's West façade, including the portal which depicts the life of Saint Anne, Christ's grandmother, and Mary, his mother and the central portal of the Last Judgment. Professor Bloch also lectured the Cathedral of Chartres where Gothic architecture hits its stride. He explored the history of Chartres, its unique and mysterious architectural features, and its miraculous relic—the Holy Tunic. Professor Bloch also explored Saint Louis's building of the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris as a house of glass, a new Ark of the Covenant, to house the relics Saint Louis had amassed.

Besides architecture, I also took an online art class. *Charting the Avant Garde: From Romanticism to Utopic Abstraction*, taught by Lisa Wainwright, Dean of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In this class, Ms. Wainwright lectured Abstraction in Western painting at the start of the 20th century and how Abstraction altered the course of art history in irrevocable ways. 200 years of avant-garde art at the Art Institute of Chicago were used for demonstration as Wainwright went over the theories and movements of Romanticism, Realism and Impressionism, and exploring how artists built a foundation for later movements like Post-Impressionism and Cubism, which, in turn, helped foster the pure abstraction pioneered by artists like Piet Mondrian, Wassily Kandinsky, and Kazimir Malevich. Very interesting!

For me, this lockdown is about looking for new things to do. But for some of my senior fiends, this is about staying alive. Going out, even to grocery shopping, can be a great fear for infection. So, I have to do what I have to do—take care of the seniors. Every Friday, I will do grocery shopping, then deliver grocery over town to seniors.

Oh dear! I am really getting used to this lockdown.



Life as an Essential Worker During the Pandemic Outbreak (Vancouver)

Victor Leung (77)



After World Health Organization (WHO) announced COVID-19 as a Global Pandemic, many countries including Canada have implemented different measures to control or slow down the spread of the virus to within acceptable levels. I am sure all Lasallians have been affected by the pandemic in different ways. I was no exception! This pandemic has affected my life both at work and at home. For this reason, I like to share my personal experience with fellow Lasallians to capture this, arguably, one of the most significant lifetime events.

Face Mask Use – A Cultural Difference

As a Certified Industrial Hygienist, one of my core businesses is providing technical advisory to my clients on various workplace related exposure concerns including biological hazards exposure such as COVID-19. For the year 2020, I had two major project commitments – (1) supporting a local petroleum refinery turnaround from February to end of March, and (2) supporting another petroleum refinery in Alberta from April onwards.

Refinery turnarounds are usually scheduled from late March onwards to avoid cold weather. But being located in Metro Vancouver, we had the advantage, weather-wise, to kick-start a turnaround as early as February, a good 4 – 6 weeks before other refineries in the country. Unfortunately, this time, this advantage turned against our luck for we were hit with the pandemic in the middle of a major turnaround. I would never have guessed that I would have the personal experience to be the very first, and hopefully also the last ever, industrial hygienist supporting a major turnaround in the middle of a pandemic. Boy, was that ever stressful!!!

For those who are not familiar with refinery scheduled maintenance operations, each refinery in Canada is required to go through a regular scheduled turnaround when production is stopped to allow different processing equipment to be opened for inspection, preventive maintenance and necessary repairs. To accommodate this sudden surge of maintenance/repair needs, the refinery needs to bring in anywhere between 500 – 2000+ very specialized contract workers from USA and other parts of the world for this annual major event. Workers are often required to work very long hours around the clock with day and night shift work crews. As one can almost always predict, a certain portion of the contract workforce would come down with a cold or seasonal flu sickness near the end of the turnaround due to long working hours, lack of sleep and work fatigue.

Knowing that we likely had to address seasonal flu and in anticipation of a potential global novel influenza coming our way (based on my last SARS experience), I recommended my local client to consider stocking

N95 respirators or regular face masks back in early January when mask supply was still not an issue in Canada. But my recommendation was quickly rejected as the western culture was (and still is in some ways) not used to the idea of wearing face mask.

In early March COVID-19 was becoming an increasing concern and we started to see more workers coming to work with mild flu- or allergy-like symptoms. When the percentage of workers calling in sick became significant, I again suggested to management to consider using face mask, but my suggestion was again shot down. The response from management was: “We would never consider using face masks for people would look at you as if you were a monster when you wear a face mask.” It was then I realized that the cultural difference on mask use between East and West was so great that it would be an extremely hard sell.

Although WHO declared COVID-19 as a PHEIC (Public Health Emergency of International Concern) on January 30, 2020, life at work continued unaffected and the turnaround officially started in February as scheduled. With the workforce working 24/7, the turnaround proceeded as planned to open most of the big vessels and operating structures for inspections and repairs while the world and our workforce were becoming increasing aware and worried about COVID-19. Then the worst nightmare started to unfold on March 11, 2020 when WHO officially declared COVID-19 a Global Pandemic.

Life After the Pandemic Declaration

After the pandemic declaration most companies in BC were forced into pandemic mode. The most immediate and noticeable observation I had was my afternoon commute to work immediately after the WHO announcement. Normally traveling during peak rush hour to work, my commute was typical of a big city, at crawling speed. But as soon as pandemic was declared, I immediately noticed something very odd during my normal work-commute that - almost all the normal rush hour traffic suddenly disappeared. Even though I was enjoying my rush hour free traffic, there was a very strange feeling deep inside me, and I started to ask myself, “Why am I still going to work?”

Mental Stress of an Essential Worker

Soon after the WHO pandemic declaration, the entire Canada kicked into COVID-19 responses. Canada closed her borders to international travel on March 16, followed by Metro Vancouver cities declaring State of Health Emergency on March 19. We saw an increasing number of workers calling in sick, either because they were really sick or because they were too fearful to show up for work. The client even called the government to seek verification if workers at fuel producing facilities like petroleum refineries would be deemed as essential workforce. And the answer was a definitive yes because other essential workers would be unable to operate without fuel. As at the time of writing Canada has 38,197 confirmed cases, 1,827 death and 13,116 recovered.

For those who continue to show up at work since State of Emergency was declared, many no longer came to work for money but with a mission and professionalism to finish the job! The refinery was completely pulled apart and had to be put back into one piece safely in order to resume production. But many who showed up at work also expressed concerns on how the company could protect them against COVID for they did not want to come down with this potentially life-threatening disease, nor could they afford to carry this virus home to their loved ones. It was probably one of the most difficult decisions one had to make in the middle of a crisis. And it was a very personal and difficult call to make. This made my job increasing important for the entire workforce looked to me for technical assistance.

A Very Challenging Time



“COVID! COVID! COVID!”

- that was literally my daily cross-shift note from my day shift counterpart. Since the pandemic was declared and we were declared essential workforce, the industrial hygiene team was bombarded with all the COVID related questions. Being a novel virus the world was still trying to gain understanding on COVID-19. With little information on hand, we felt we had to make decisions based on large degrees of uncertainty. There were so many valves to turn, so many decisions to make, but with so little available information. The key question is which are the right ones!

How the Workforce was Won

At that very challenging time when the morale of the workforce was understandably at an all time low, it was very important to maintain an open dialogue and be fully engaged with the workforce. It was very difficult to talk about workplace safety (many of them potentially life-threatening if we were not careful) when we knew the ONE AND ONLY THING in their minds was COVID-19. One also needed to appreciate the amount of stress going through their minds at the time.

As a key health and safety staff for the turnaround, it was especially important for us to gain the trust of the workforce. To achieve that, one must learn to become (i) an empathetic listener to any concerns the workers might have, (ii) be totally transparent and share with the workforce the latest developments from both inside the company and guideline changes from the 3-levels of government, and (iii) be updated and share the latest technical knowledge on COVID-19 in a timely manner.

End of Support with a Sigh of Relief

Typically, at the end of a turnaround when a person's support is no longer required, the usual response from the coworkers would be, “Oh! I'm sorry to hear that it is your last day / week” for the end of support usually means the end of a money earning opportunity for contract workers. But for this turnaround, everyone was coming to me congratulating me for being able to come out from the long and very dark tunnel. This was probably the first (and hopefully only) time that I would agree with their greetings: “Congratulations! I'm so happy that you are finally not required to work here.” It was surely a strange and unforgotten experience for me!

Uncertainty during the Pandemic

All along during the pandemic I was asking my client in Alberta whether they would continue with the turnaround in April but received no answer until early April. It was very stressful during the wait. On one hand, I could not unilaterally breach my signed contract with my client for I knew they would be unable to find my replacement at a time when industrial hygiene support would be critical. On the other hand, I did not feel safe to travel by air, stay in a hotel for an extended duration (how to handle the self-isolation

logistics during my stay as there would not be food to pack from home for work), and work in an even larger workforce environment (>2000 workers). I was relieved when my client advised that they had finally made the right decision to postpone the turnaround till a later time.

Tribute to Essential Workers

I like to close this story by paying tribute to the many essential workers who are still required to report to work and face the public. The general public is very aware of the contributions made by the frontline healthcare workers, but many often overlook that the many other “ordinary workers” like those who help to maintain our critical supply needs, garbage and postal workers, etc., etc... Some of them I have spoken to echoed my experience that they were not there for the money but motivated by their mandate for community support. Many of them were earning monthly incomes of not much higher than \$2000. They did not have to risk their health and well-being to physically work because the Emergency Benefits for Workers offered by the Canadian government would offer them \$2000 just to stay home. Please give these workers a big thank you the next time when you go out for essential supplies shopping!



An unusual but interesting snapshot outside a BC Liquor store. Customers were strictly following the 6-feet social distancing rule when lining up to get into the store. For those who don't know, BC Liquor has experienced a 40% increase in sales as a result of this pandemic!

Life in Ireland under COVID-19

George (Felix) Chanduloy (59)

My wife, Sharon, and I left Oxford on March 21 after visiting our daughter's family, and returned to a nearly empty Dublin airport with nearly no taxis and a reduced public bus service. All cross-country private coaches had ceased operation the day before. It was 4 in the afternoon. We waited 30 minutes for the slow public cross-country bus, which stopped at 7-8 towns along the 4 ½ hr journey to Galway (the express takes only 3 hrs). There were only 6 passengers on the bus which would in normal times be packed with 50-60 people.

After a good night's rest, we got up to do our weekly shopping before lunch. Shops and supermarkets were all still open normal hours with no restrictions to the number of people entering.

But a lot of shelves were empty and in disarray. There must have been a rush for the veggies and meats, and the pharmacy and sanitary sections were all nearly empty of Panadol kind of medicines, and in disarray. There were no hand disinfectants at all. And even the actual pharmacies were rationing very tiny tubes of hand sanitisers.

The veg and meats were restocked by Wednesday when we went again to the shopping centre.

But Wednesday was also the first day of lockdown. All shops - AND pubs - were to close, and fast food and takeaway places were to operate only as drive-thrus.

We arrived at the shopping centre at 8:30, and the rush had not started yet. The 8:30-9:30 slot would be for the elderly and the health-carers, or family members getting provisions for the elderly.

When I went back the next day for 2 more eye-lotion size 'rationed' hand sanitisers, the Irish had already cleared out the beer, gin, vodka, brandy and whiskey shelves!!!! The following Monday all the fast food and takeaway places were mandated to close.

I live at the end of a dead-end street with 5 houses, all facing open fields and a stream. So I feel lucky that we have the winds and the sun and the rain which may clear the air for us. The last 2 houses are rented to eastern Europeans who haven't been seen since I came back.

A very kind elderly Irish couple live next to us, very good Christian people we've known since our first day here nearly 30 years ago. In these few weeks, we have been standing in our gardens talking about our children and grandchildren, and about putting in seeds.

On our right is a house that used to be a home for elderly autistic men, run by subsidized care workers. It is now a daycare centre for younger autistic men in care. But at this moment, only 1 or 2 young people are brought in everyday. A man and 2 ladies look after them.

Since last week, the local police have been patrolling the inner city, telling people not to loiter in the streets, and manning the roads leading out of the city, asking drivers where they are going or from where they are coming, telling them also not to stay out unnecessary. The government has appealed to people with qualifications in health care - whether retired or not presently working - to offer to help out in care centres and private homes needing helping hands.

Maybe because Ireland is insular, and because the epidemic truly spreaded after the Christmas holidays and before the next holiday rush, there were not many holiday makers here yet. Also, apart from Dublin, Irish cities in the Republic are far apart and are not congested. The numbers affected have mercifully been kept lower than in many other countries. But one death from Covid is one death too many, and one Covid patient is one patient too many.

There has been talk in the national news and in the papers about the epidemic receding, that the lock-down may be lifted end of May or June. They said that there hasn't been a significant rise in the number of Covid 19 cases. This call comes mainly from people in Government and Party leaders - none of whom I really trust. I feel that they are just thinking about winning votes in the annual election which they do not want to be postponed.

But enough of the unhappy side.

Liam, my 49 yr old neighbour of 29 years living 2 streets down is now a first time grandfather - his daughter Zoë has just had a baby girl Maë 7 2/2 lbs 2 weeks early on Holy Saturday.

An 80+ old lady in Dublin fell and broke her hip a month ago, was brought into A&E. She was diagnosed with Covid-19!! But miracle of miracles - she recovered! She was released from hospital, and all her neighbours and friends nearby came out to welcome her home! (All wearing masks I hope.)

At least 2 large Irish bookshops are donating books to care homes and health centres to help the patients and the elderly pass their time.

On the matter of books - may I end by recommending a VERY good read appropriate in these times reminiscent of the Plague - Ken Follet's 'World without End' - the second tome in his Kingsbridge Trilogy, about villagers and nuns dealing with the Plague. Ken Follet's first book in the series 'Pillars of the Earth' is also very good - a story of building a Cathedral in Medieval times. He also wrote a very short piece titled 'Notre Dame' after the tragic fire in April last year.

Editor's Comment: Not only Felix is an old boy, he also taught at our Mother School from 1962 to 70. Some of our readers may have been taught by him.

Live and Let Live! Staying Alive in NYC

Louis Wong (66)



*Sheltering under the pandemic sun,
Crouching under the Freedom
Tower,*

*Covering their mouths with face
masks,*

*Protecting with the same pseudo
PPE that doctors wear in ICU,
Not caring if CORVID-19 would
spike;*

*The two elderly Chinese couple,
Shuffling among the garbage bags
for plastic and glass bottles,
Exchanging for 5 cents/1 bottle
with the grocery owner in
Chinatown,*

*Silencing before the arguments
between the President and the 50
governors,*

*On opening the economy when,
where and how?*

*In giving their honest opinion, the
two humble Chinese couple
answered already,*

*Live and let us live, even for 5 cents
a piece.*



Thought and Comments from East Coast/New York

Critical Thinking- Alfred Kwok (87), Maryland

“The pandemic forces everybody to think critically: To decide whether to wear a mask or not; to hoard cleaning supplies and food or not; to allow kids to play outside or not. To make things worse the official guidelines from various governments all over the world change by weeks if not by days. So I exercise my power of decision on a lesser scale. I decided to binge-watch TV series, to take courses, to pick up gardening, to cook more, and to swear less. These decisions are low-involvement and don't take up much of my time. Time is what everyone needs most. Without it we are all poor. A poor person won't make good decisions.”

My life under a “stay-at-home” order policy- Chris Tse (65), Connecticut

I am so engaged now with the video-meeting App, that I am proficient to operate it, including initiating invitation and joining most of them: for luncheon-meetings, attending town-hall meetings, gym classes

Due to my extra untidy and long hairs because of barber-shop are closed, I was once awarded as “the most quarantined” person.

I do miss the physical socializing part of my life, but to fight against the COVID19, it is a reasonable price to pay.

Thoughts from a M.D.- Peter Cheng (76), Maryland

East coast is still the hot bed for COVID-19. We lack personal protective equipments to protect health care workers. Brace for second wave to come as we relax restriction. So far my count: Total COVID cases 15, 5 hospitalized, 1 dead.

Who Is a True Friend?- Michael Chung (87), Maryland

“你要記住，這個時期，當你同朋友傾偈，而你哋兩個都有帶口罩的話，佢就係你嘅生死之交。

如果你朋友是女的，不要讓老婆知道。”

Coronavirus- John Jean (76), New Jersey

No matter how the virus started, we lost too many lives already, and putting our love ones in danger. May God accept the souls of those passed away and resting in peace in Your hands.

Spending Quality Time with Family- Eddie Liu (88), Maryland

“與家人真正的相處，隨著大流行正式開始！是福氣？是考驗？是夢想成真？是挑戰極限？無論怎樣，也是一家人！”

Brother Felix Sheehan (1912-1986)

William Lai (61)

A grateful contemporaneity

Brother Felix was the Principal of La Salle College 1956-1965. I was in La Salle from 1954 (P5) to 1963 (F7). In effect, in some ways, Bro Felix had overseen much of my Lasallian adolescence. It is no doubt he had great influences on many, many individuals, students, colleagues and external officials alike. For me, I felt a personal connection with him, perhaps partly because my parents worked with him on some teacher-parent working group, and he recognized me readily through this relationship.

Bro Felix is most well-known for his strategizing and management of the transition from the Perth Street huts to the majestic Dome which was returned to the rightful owners in 1959. It was a daunting task, trying to rehabilitate the building while ensuring the school and academic functions proceed without losing ground after the move. He also oversaw the establishment of the La Salle Primary School as a separate but related entity.

In fact, Bro Felix did more than maintaining the La Salle quality of excellence. He took particular interest in promoting extra-curricular and sporting activities. Under his stewardship, LSC became prominent amongst middle schools in Hong Kong for shining in both academics and athletics, plus of course, my favourite, scouting. He also instituted the wearing of the school uniform as a mark of discipline as well as identification. We all took pride in putting on the school blazer with the school emblem on the left pocket. The uniform united us all as “sons of La Salle everyone” and greatly contributed to the “La Salle Spirit”. Many of us Old Boys still have this blazer with the school badge. I do.



Left – Bro Felix cutting the 17th Group's 20th birthday cake (1957)

Right- Bro Felix overseeing 17th Group's 24th birthday festivities; Scout Master Francis Loo decorating Joseph Kho with me behind Joseph. (1961)



St George's Day - Bro Felix with the new Queen's Scouts – I'm in the middle, back row.



Bro Felix with life-savers – I'm in back row, 4th from left.



Teachers-parents working group outing - Bro Felix in the back, my mother on the right front with flowery dress. (1957)



Nathan Restaurant - Teachers-parents group gathering – my mother seated third from left, my father in back row second from right behind Bro Felix. (1958)



Nathan Restaurant -my father standing extreme right. (1958)



17th's 21st birthday celebrations – my mother sitting fourth to the right of Bro Felix at head table. (1958)



17th's 21st birthday – my mother receiving some kind of recognition from Bro Felix. (1958)

Some anecdotes

At the Perth Street campus, Bro Felix used to patrol the grounds at lunch time, presumably just to keep an eye on things when most people were out of the school grounds. But if he saw you seemingly doing nothing useful and just loitering around, he would strongly encourage and sometimes physically guide you to the school chapel to join the Rosary-saying crowd. Yes I was the subject of his urging many times and yes I do know the Rosary well, even now, thanks to Bro Felix.

I was once sent home by Bro Felix for doing the rebellious thing of wearing a pair of jeans to school.

In a previous NA Lasallian Newsletter, I wrote about how Bro Felix wanted to change a word in our school song. Here's an excerpt of what I wrote:

The word was "minding" in "She would have us ever minding, That above is our true home". He believed that the use of "minding" in this context was a malapropism. He said the correct word should be "mindful". The reason was that "mindful" meant bearing in mind, whereas "minding" could mean to be leery of something that one wants to avoid, as in the ad nauseum warning to "mind the gap" in the HK MTR. The intent of the two lines in question was that "she" wanted us to bear in mind that the "above" is our true home; she did not want us to be apprehensive of the fact that our true home is above. Bro Felix actually had us singing "mindful" for a while. But I guess the idea did not catch on in the long run.

Paying my respects

It was a long sad moment when I learned of Bro Felix's passing in the 1980s quite some time after the fact, when I had settled in Canada by then. I had always wanted to visit his gravesite ever since, but the opportunity did not materialize until recently. I was eventually able to do it in July 2019.

Bro Felix is buried in the De La Salle Monastery Graveyard, in Castletown, County Laois, Ireland. It's about an hour and a half's drive from Dublin. The town is well off the beaten path of tourists and it is not easy to travel there by public transportation. For some non-locals, a good option would be to rent a car and drive there from Dublin. But we in North America are used to driving on the right side of the road. They drive on the wrong side of the road over there. So, I didn't dare to try. My wife and I ended up hiring a taxi from Dublin for the day in order to visit the cemetery. The place is not very well known; even our taxi driver had to make several inquiries once in Castletown before he could locate the spot.



The cemetery is essentially the large backyard of the monastery building which doesn't serve as a monastery anymore. It's now a residence for a few retired La Salle Brothers.

The first thing that struck me as I was approaching Bro Felix's grave was how inconspicuous the grave actually was. The headstone is simply the emblematic Celtic cross, surrounded by numerous replicas of the same design. My immediate thought was that this great and highly venerated principal of ours deserves a more glamorous, ornate grave monument than this little cross. But upon more reflection, the grave is perhaps fitting after all, because Bro Felix served to benefit all whom he touched with much humility and humbleness, symbolized by the modest headstone.

Here are some photographs of our visit with Bro Felix.



Paying respects to Bro Felix.





Bro Felix's grave is in Row 10 landmarked by a crucifix nearby.



View of graveyard from the back of the monastery building.



View of graveyard from the back looking toward back of the monastery.



Chapel in the monastery.



Altar of the chapel.



Statue of St John Baptist de La Salle in the chapel - a similar one existed in the Brother's residence at LSC.



The gate is marked by a de La Salle signage.



An aerial view of the De La Salle Monastery compound.

Brother Felix Sheehan, RIP

I would like to thank Mark Huang, Past President of the LSCOPA, and Bro Patrick Tierney via Calvin Chan, former editor of this Newsletter, for providing some preliminary information about the grave.

For a more complete biographical account of Bro Felix's accomplishments, please see The Gateway #15, Hong Kong Lasallian Family Bulletin, June 2009:

<http://www.lasalle.org.hk/pages/docs/TheGateway15.pdf>, and Mark Huang's *Sons of La Salle Everyone: A History of La Salle College and Primary School 1932-2007*.

Southern California Chapter Spring Dinner

Stanley Wong (68)

The Spring Dinner for the Southern California chapter was held on February 8, just before the coronavirus pandemic. We had a great turnout with over 80 old boys, family members and friends attending to celebrate the CNY of the rat with festive atmosphere. We had an excellent time enjoying the fantastic Lion dance, Fortune God, exciting raffle drawing, Karaoke singing and the delicious 10-course dinner. Most importantly, we had good company and were able to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones at the dinner.

I would like to thank all my fellow board members for putting this successful event together and donors for generously donating to the raffle. Hopefully the pandemic will be over soon and we will then meet again!!



Our beautiful raffle ladies



Lion Dance



Group photo



Singing School Song



Our Grand Prize winner!



Old Boys get together

A message to all Lasallians from La Salle Holy Land

Source: [YouTube](#)

Hello ... Hello ...

Anybody out there? Cause I
don't hear a sound

Alone ... alone...

I don't really know where the
world is

But I miss it now

Hello LaSallians...

I am La Salle Holy

Few weeks ago, I had to close my doors

I did this for you! For you ... my family

Being aware that I won't see you for some time...

I do not receive any visits from all of you...

I have always felt proud that no restrictions
detached us...

I no longer see the astonishment on your faces that I
used to see

whenever you experienced what I hold inside my
heart...

Our memories... Our honored History

I miss the school days...

I miss the early fresh mornings...

But what I miss more is you....

my children when you used to come to me in your
best suits...

Hugging your teachers and best friends...

I miss friendship that wipes your tears in the
sorrow...

I miss when you were always full of joy and
happiness...

Enthusiasm and eagerness

and never got tired of celebrating together

I miss the times we used to sing and dance
together...

Right now, I only hear the echo of empty halls...

The Sad corridors and playgrounds...

No matter where you are, what you have or not,
these memories can't be erased by anyone...

never forget that Great things are possible!

Although i know the situation is not easy...

But I'm asking you to stay home...

I'm asking you to STAY home to meet again as soon
as possible!

This is the time where our LaSallians values appear
more than ever

Solidarity, innovation, perseverance, patience,
cooperation and faith in God. never give up!

NEVER GIVE UP

Every cloud has a silver lining!

People call it SCHOOL ...

LaSallians call it LIFE!!!

Stay home!

We will be back!

Stay Home, Stay Safe ... La Salle Worldwide.

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication & sharing among La Salle old boys in North America. It is not meant to be used as an instrument for promoting any personal agenda.

The editorial board reserves the rights to oversee and edit all submissions, to ensure all contents shall meet our publication standards, as well as appropriate for the newsletter's intended audience & global circulation. Our editorial board has the exclusive right to reject submissions deemed to be not in line, or incompatible with the purpose or spirit of this newsletter at our sole discretion.

Previous issues of the newsletter are available from the archive located at <http://www.lscob-global.net/NALS.html>

If you want to communicate with the editorial board, please send email to editors@lscob-global.net

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, please send email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscob-global.net-subscribe@lscob-global.net

If you want to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send email (with subject line: unsubscribe) to newsletter-lscob-global.net-unsubscribe@lscob-global.net

The Chief editors appreciate Sue & Benny Ng (65), Peter Lai (67), Dan Souza (64), Chris Tse (65), Eddie Liu (88), Louis Kong (79), George (Felix) Chanduloy (59), Louis Wong (66), William Lai (61), Stanley Wong (68) for their contribution to this issue, and Jimmy Chang (66) for proofreading.

Chief Editors	John Jean (76) Victor Leung (77) Kevin Kwok (88) Chris Fong (94) Ambrose Lee (98)

