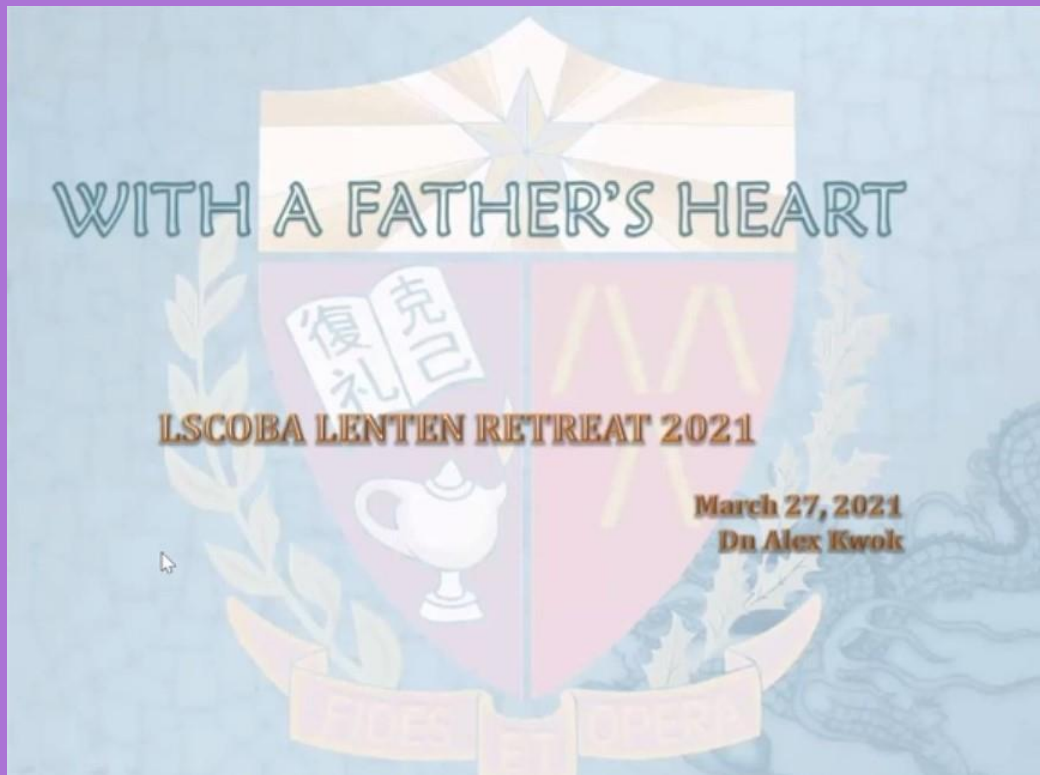




北美風沙
The North American Lasallians
APRIL 2021



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編者的話

一般到年底，總有林林種種的年度大事回顧，編者卻選此刻回顧過去十二個月。原因很簡單，去年這時候，疫情已遍布全球，許多國家陸續封城閉關，香港及海外的舊生活動全面暫停。首當其衝的是三月香港校際田徑比賽。我們作為主編的不禁擔心，隨着各地暫停活動，來稿恐怕大受影響。

豈知塞翁失馬焉知非福。

六月開始，許多校友投稿述說疫情下的生活點滴，當中有許多不曾出席舊生會活動的都願意投稿，也有身處北美六大都會以外，題材比以往更多元化，我們很感動。

踏入秋季，香港喇沙書院舊生會舉行周年會員大會，暨內閣十六人及一位校友校董席位改選。北美風沙主編全人與香港舊生會主事選舉的 **returning officer** 及兩候選內閣緊密溝通，確保帶給讀者的資訊準確，全面，不偏不倚，不分化。

年底疫情高峰之際，北美風沙配合香港舊生會「連結海外校友 加強環球舊生網絡」，製作全球特刊。各分會及城市均有當地聯絡資料。

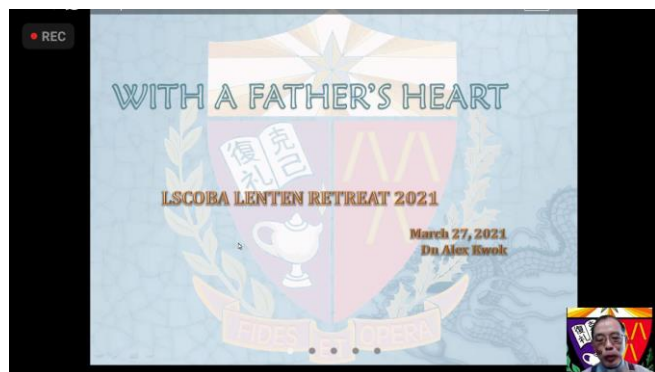


新年伊始，香港舊生會舉辦的一連串活動例如 **professional talk** 及 **town hall meeting**，海外舊生也能參與。這些活動以往只能親身出席，現在到處封城限聚，網上會議越來越流行，本來遠的亦更近了。這 **silver lining** 誰能始料。

最興奮的是 **Brother Thomas** 與海外舊生視像拜年，另一個新創舉。多得香港舊生會與環球舊生網絡悉心安排。應邀出席的三十多位海外舊生都十分高興。**Brother Thomas** 並說是時候開始籌備九十周年校慶了，暫定日期為明年五月十四日，請各海外舊生多多參與支持及出席。一有什麼確定消息，本刊一定跟大家報道。

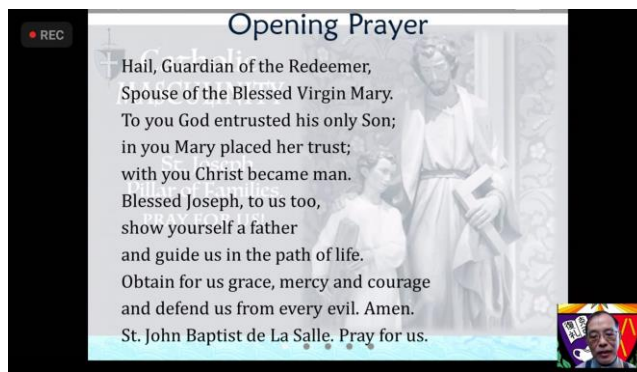
多謝香港舊生會，最近在香港[官網](#)上載了本刊共百多期。香港舊生想知道海外舊生的點滴，又多了渠道。

四旬期是悔改和更新的天主教季節。幾日前香港舊生會首次舉辦線上避靜，並由郭志強執事（亦是前喇沙書院老師）帶領，主題為大聖若瑟年。海外的熱心教友舊生，即使有時差也捱更抵夜參與。



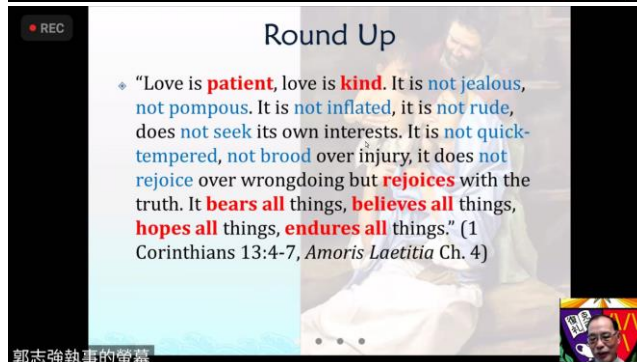
Meditation

- Am I a beloved husband & father to our family members? Do they turn to me when they are in need of help? Have I and my family members found our "true home"?
- Do I care more about things than people; achievements more than growth & development? Do I believe in the Beatitudes (Blessed are the poor, the meek ... etc.)?
- Do I do God's will selectively? Dare I not to impose my wishes and let my subordinates go their own ways?
- Do I have faith in my wife, my children, my colleagues and myself, accepting our frailty? Do I have faith in God?



Opening Prayer

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage
and defend us from every evil. Amen.
St. John Baptist de La Salle. Pray for us.



Round Up

- ✦ "Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It is **not jealous**, **not pompous**. It is **not inflated**, it is **not rude**, does **not seek** its own interests. It is **not quick-tempered**, **not brood** over injury, it does **not rejoice** over wrongdoing but **rejoices** with the truth. It **bears all** things, **believes all** things, **hopes all** things, **endures all** things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, *Amoris Laetitia* Ch. 4)

郭志強執事的螢幕



另一環是香港舊生足球比賽。由於疫情關係，首次在校園外舉行，適逢舊生會剛辦 [YouTube Lasallian Sports Channel](#)，頭炮即全程直播準決賽及決賽，邀得 ViuTV 的專業旁述員 Christopher Chan (96) 旁述，Brother Thomas 頒發獎盃。



感激一眾投稿人，香港舊生會主席 Kent Lau (99) · 幹事 Kenny Fong (17) · Jimmy Chau (04) · Brian Tsang (02) · 及環球舊生網絡召集人 Kevin Kwok (88) 。

When the old boys get... virtually together

Kanne Leung (98)

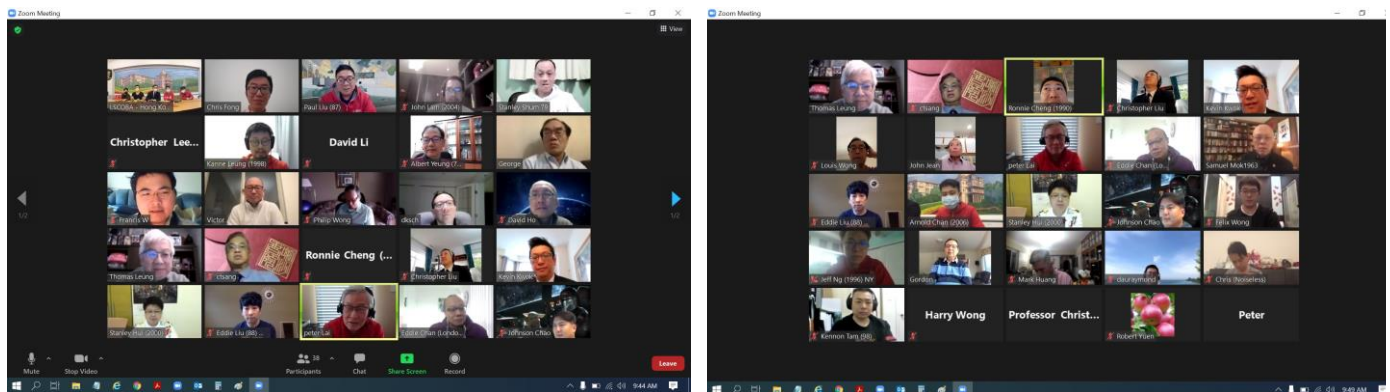


On February 13, 2nd day of the Lunar New Year, LSCOPA hosted a Lunar New Year celebration online with our overseas chapters. We also had the honour of the presence of Brother Thomas and some past presidents of LSCOPA.

This online celebration is the first of its kind in LSCOPA's history. Quite contrary to the etiquette we learnt in childhood, this is probably the first "bai-nin" session where it is fine to stare at the screen throughout the process!

Participants shared updates of the overseas chapters, and some proposed incentives. It is the evident wish of the participants to strengthen the bonding within the Lasallian global community — and the online tools offer an excellent platform for the pursuit.

It is difficult to hold physical meetings now. It is difficult to even organise a lunch. Indeed, many doors have been closed amidst the pandemic — but we believe if we work hard enough, we may be able to open a window somewhere.



Football is not quite coming home (Part 3)

Danny Leung (71)

Danny continues to share his view why he thinks England will probably not win another world cup.

English football is generally conservative and lacks vision. Since the early days of English football, the training philosophy has more or less been stuck in the conservative rut of pushing youngsters to play competitively before honing and finessing their skills. Big, players with a hard-hitting, physical style were valued over smaller players with dribbling and silky skills. Despite England's history of inventive team plays, the English FA has basically shied away from pioneering concepts seen in other nations. In stark contrast, after Germany's unprecedented and humiliating early exits from the 1998 WC, 2000 EC and 2004 EC, the DFB completely changed their approach by investing millions of Euros to improve the grassroots. Each first and second division team must now have a youth academy to develop the players' basic skills. These innovations resulted in German success from 2006 to 2016. Six of their players who won the U21 European Championship in 2009 were in the starting lineup when they beat Argentina in the 2014 WC final. For England's part, the youth academies have improved a lot since the old days, and this has resulted in England winning the U-20 WC in 2017, and also propelled the seniors to fourth place

in the 2018 WC. It remains to be seen whether these youngsters will succeed as senior players in the next major tournament.

England is rightly proud of its long history and culture. However, when compared with Germany, England has tended towards conservatism and stagnation since the end of World War II. Germany, in rebuilding the nation twice over in the 20th century, as well as having to navigate the troubled waters of partition and re-unification, has had to entirely re-examine their national identity, re-focusing their ideology and spending extraordinary effort to build the modern nation we know today, with determination, innovation and perseverance. This translates into football too: they look for a result in all that they do, and will not accept excuses or reasons for failure. England, on the other hand, did not have the same progress during the rebuilding process and afterwards. For them, there was no sting of national defeat to spur a renewed vision like Germany had; victory led to complacency and lack of vision, in the national mentality as much as in football.



(left) Stanley Matthews - Ready to terrorize, speed past and dribble around the defenders in his right winger position. He won the FA Cup at the age of 38 in a 4-3 game dubbed as The Matthews's Final. Sir Stanley later became a commentator for the Canadian channel TSN in the 1986 World Cup.



(right) 1966 Football Is Coming Home - England's only international championship title, the 1966 World Cup winner.

Look at the history. The history of English football, with a few exceptions, can be seen as a history of failures and near-wins throughout its course. England did not even deign to join the WC until 1950 in Brazil. They were defeated 1-0 in the group stage by the US made up of amateur players, of all teams, and failed to advance. Why Stanley Matthews was kept out in that starting lineup was a reflection of the many mistakes to come!

The Match of the Century was another rude awakening. England, widely considered the originator of football, was brought crashing down to earth 3-6 on November 25, 1953 at Wembley by the brilliant Hungary, the 1952 Olympic champions with a run of 24 unbeaten games. England had to swallow their pride, but the worst was yet to come. The return match in Budapest on May 23, 1954, was another master class in football, with host Hungary, using a withdrawn role of a false # 9, thrashing England 7-1. Unfortunately, England did not learn their lesson from these matches, failing to fine-tune their skills, body movements and tactics. Instead, they took another path, led by their own pioneer coach, Sir Alf Ramsay.

Ramsay would employ a conservative 4-4-2 formation, which deviated from the popular 4-2-4 attacking formation of mainstream football, used by the 1958 and 1962 WC winner Brazil. But Ramsay became

known for his ground-breaking 'Wingless Wonders', and tactics based on hard running, sound defense, efficient execution, and full backs attacking from the wings. These efforts, combined with once-in-a-lifetime world class players like Gordon Banks, Bobby Charlton and Bobby Moore, won England the 1966 WC.

However, most World Cup winners have controversial moments leading up to their victories, and England's '66 WC win is no exception. After a dull opening group stage, in the QF match against Argentina, the referee helped England to great controversy. Argentina played brilliantly, but they also employed their dark arts of sneaky fouls and persistent complaints to the West German referee. Losing patience due to the language barrier after one complaint too many, the referee red-carded the Argentine captain. The game finally resumed after prolonged stoppage, and England won by a lone goal. After the game, Ramsay made the infamous remarks of labeling his opponents as "Animals". This has sparked a bad feeling from Argentina to almost every Latin country against England for many years to come. It will not be easy for England to be successful playing in these countries.



(left) Bobby Moore - With Pelé after losing a heartbreaker 1-0 to Brazil in the 1970 World Cup, a game that was used in soccer lecture for the English players. Both men remained good friends until Moore passed away.



(right) The Hand of God - Peter Shilton just could not get the height to beat The Hand of God in the 1986 World Cup 2-1 lost against Argentina.

England advanced to meet the sensational Eusebio's Portugal in the SF. England's hard man Nobby Stiles should never have been in that lineup against Eusebio's full attacking squad, because he was suspended; but Englishman Stanley Rous, the FIFA president at the time, waived Stiles' suspension. Stiles marked Eusebio out of the game and England went on to the final against W. Germany.

It was in this 1966 WC that W. Germany unleashed Franz Beckenbauer, a 21-year-old gifted left midfielder who scored four slick goals for them before this final match. The W. German coach Helmut Schoen realized that Bobby Charlton posed a dangerous attacking threat, and so made the disastrous decision to take Beckenbauer off attack to man-mark him. They two players neutralized each other during the game, and Germany lost the attacking flow that they had sustained in their previous matches. After regulation time, it was deadlocked 2-2. The turning point happened in extra time: it was unclear as to whether or not Geoff Hurst's controversial goal actually crossed the line. The referee had to consult the famous "Russian linesman," actually a Soviet Azerbaijani, who advised him that it had. Hurst's shot was ruled a goal, but to this day Germany contends that there was no goal, and the rest of the world also has doubts too, since there was no VAR at the time. (Frank Lampard's goal against Germany in 2010 was ruled out, even though it clearly went in; the world says it was karmic payback.) England, emboldened by their success, went on to score another goal, and so they won their one and only major

international tournament to this day. Years later, that linesman confirmed that he had made his decision against Germany because of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union during World War II. As the home team, England had had the advantage of playing all their matches at Wembley, giving them a crucial edge for all of their games. England felt on top of the world, and rightly so because they had played well in the crucial final two games, but some argue that they were only able to win because of some favorable circumstances.

They rest on their laurels. The glory of the '66 WC went to England's head, especially for the media who basically deified the English team and demonized anyone not English. They found it difficult to accept every subsequent defeat, but the next critical one was the heart breaking QF lost against W. Germany in the 1970 WC. After leading 2-0 with a quarter of the game remaining, Ramsay took off Bobby Charlton and in came Norman Hunter the runner, nicknamed "Bites Yer Legs". England lost hold of the midfield and the game. With regular goalkeeper Gordon Banks staying in their hotel due to diarrhea for drinking a bottle of local beer, his last-minute replacement Peter Bonetti froze out during the entire game. England eventually lost 3-2. His counterpart Helmut Schon, used his substitute wisely with winger Jurgen Grabowski. The latter would run riot against the tiring English left back Terry Cooper during overtime. The inability of Ramsey to adapt and change tactics during the game was another factor for the defeat.

W. Germany demolished England at Wembley 1-3 in the first QF leg of the 1972. Even the patriotic English media admitted the attacking flow of Germany's new sweeper Beckenbauer, the smooth running and razor like long-range passing of blond midfielder Guenter Netzer and the goal-scoring machine Gerd Mueller, plus young talents Paul Breitner and Uli Hoeness, were hard to match. Hungary had previously dominated Wembley since 1953, but now W. Germany, the eventual Euro winner, took over.



(left) Paul Gascoigne - The photo became a heroic icon and wallpaper in England after Paul received his second yellow card of the tournament, thus ruling him out to appear in the 1990 World Cup final if England won. England eventually lost to W. Germany in penalties in that game.



(right) Pierce Stuart - Roaring from The Psycho, after scoring in the penalty shootout vs Spain in the 1996 Euro and redeeming his tragic miss 6 years ago.

Things went from bad to worse for England. In the 1974 WC qualification, they had lost once to Poland already, meeting them in Chorzow in June 1973. They had to win the return match at Wembley, four months later, in a do-or-die. It was a typical rainy October evening in London, and on the wet pitch, England played well and had more than a dozen clear-cut chances to win the game. But Poland countered with strong last-minute blocking and a string of unbelievable saves from keeper Jan

Tomaszewski (nicknamed The Clown by Brian Clough), and the match tied 1-1. Despite inserting Kevin Hector at the meaningless 87th minute mark, Ramsay failed to make any good substitutions to turn the game around. It was like the 1970 QF all over again! The old, inflexible style of management eventually led to the exit of the greatest English coach of all time. These three games cast England into limbo and weakened their claim to world football power. An inferiority complex overshadowed former English pride; they could no longer be the confident innovators in football and the wingless wonders under Ramsay.

Michael Owens - Goal vs Argentina in the 1998 World Cup. A dash from the midfield saw the 19 years old wonder boy passing two players and scoring a famous goal in the World Cup. England lost the game in penalty shootout playing with ten men for most of the game after David Beckham received a red card for retaliating Diego Simone with a "Donkey Kick".



David Beckham - Scoring a tense penalty vs Argentina the 2002 World Cup and redeeming his immature act four years ago.

They keep losing... again... and again... and again... Since 1974, key losses have shaped the course of English football.

- 1976 Euros: Losing to Czechoslovakia, the eventual winner (who beat Holland 3-2 in the semi-final O/T and Germany 2-2 with penalties in the final), in the qualifying group stage and did not make it in the final tournament.
- 1978 WC: Losing out to Italy on goal difference in the qualifying stage and did not make it in the final tournament. Italy then brought a young promising team that claimed fourth place in that WC and won the big one in 1982.
- 1980 Euros: England could only beat Spain, tied with Belgium and losing to host Italy in the tournament group stage. Italy eventually lost to Czechoslovakia in penalties after tying the game 1-1 in the bronze medal match.
- 1982 WC: (not a loss, but) in the 2nd group stage, England could not beat the mediocre host, Spain, who had already lost to W. Germany and had no chance to advance to the semi-final. England and Spain tied 0-0 and failed to advance to the SF.
- 1984 Euros: they lost to Denmark, a small and unknown football country, in the qualifying stage. Denmark would then thrill the world with their attacking football in the Euro and the 1986 WC.
- 1986 WC: nothing wrong losing to Diego Maradona in the QF but the group stage games against Portugal losing 1-0 and Morocco tying 0-0 showed their inadequacy.
- 1988 Euros: they did not play badly in the group stage and had their share of bad luck by losing

to Ireland, the USSR, and the eventual champion, Holland. Their defense was simply too naive to mark out a mercurial Marco Van Basten.

- 1990 WC: they lost in a penalty shootout against W. Germany, the eventual winner, in a tight contest, despite being the start of what would later be touted as the two 'Golden Generation' of English footballers from the mid-'90's through the early '00's.
- 1992 Euros: they lost to an average Sweden team in the must-win last match of the group stage. Why did Graham Taylor take off Gary Lineker while trailing Sweden?
- 1994 WC: lose out to Holland in the qualifying stage. Why was Ronald Koeman not given a red card for committing a last man foul before he scored Holland's first goal from his trademark free kick? Overall, Holland had a much better team against Graham Taylor's obsolete coaching style.
- 1996 Euros, SF: they lost to Germany in yet another penalty shootout. They were close in this tournament and should have won it at home.
- 1998 WC, Round of 16: they lost to Argentina in a penalty shootout. Oh, that Donkey Kick from David Beckham!
- 2000 EC: losing both games to Portugal and Romania by 3-2 in the group stage and failed to make it to the QF. Beating a very poor German team was their only consolation.
- 2004 Euros, Round of 16: they lost to host country Portugal in a penalty shootout.
- 2006 WC, QF: they lost to Portugal again in, you guessed it, a penalty shootout, thus ending the so-called 'Golden Generation'.
- 2008 Euros: they lost to Croatia in the qualifying campaign, so they did not even make it to the final tournament.
- 2010 WC: tying USA and Algeria and beating Slovenia by 1-0 set up an alarming bell to the squad. Despite of playing well for a good spell of 30 minutes and Lampard's goal that was not counted, The Three Lions was generally tamed by the young, fast and counter attacking German squad in that 4-1 round of 16.
- 2012 EC, Round of 16: they lost to Italy in another penalty shootout.
- 2014 WC: they lost to Italy, Uruguay and, of all teams, Costa Rica (!!) in the group stage.
- 2016 Euros, Round of 16: they lost to another average team, Iceland, who went on to become the darling of European soccer fans at that time.

THOSE DAMNED PENALTIES!



Steve McClaren - England missed their chance to advance to the 2008 Euro final tournament after losing to a young Modric's Croatia in the qualifiers. Coach McClaren had to hide during the entire game with his "Wally with a Brolly" act on a rainy day!

Frank Lampard's Ghost Goal in the 2010 World Cup - Somebody, mostly Germans and a few neutrals, said it was karma. That was the one of the major incident for FIFA to decide on implementing VAR (Video Assistant Referee) for the future World Cup.



The Managers and the tactics: Since the Second World War, England has had 15 managers and 5 caretakers looking after the squad. The average is a 4.3-year term per manager over a 74-year period. Turnover has been huge, with the longest-staying managers being Walter Winterbottom 1946-1962, Alf Ramsey 1963-1974 and Bobby Robson 1982-1990. Tactics have never been consistent among the various managers: innovative Sir Alf Ramsey, money grabbing Don Revie, conservative Ron Greenwood, groundbreaking Sir Bobby Robson with his sweeper system, the long ball but boring Graham Taylor, effective Terry Venables, youngsters-promoting Glenn Hoddle, clueless but motivating Kevin Keegan, easy-going but short-on-tactics Sven-Goran Eriksson, Steve McClaren, the clueless and infamous Wally with the Brolly, old-style disciplinarian Fabio Capello, ultra-conservative Roy Hodgson, unknown Sam Allardyce for one game only, and now, the promising Gareth Southgate. Regardless, England seems to be more comfortable with its own home-grown managers. The foreigners like Capello created more controversies than results towards the end and Eriksson's tournament record, while decent, did not propel England to glory despite of the supposed "Golden Generation" in David Beckham, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard, John Terry, Rio Ferdinand, Joe Cole, Wayne Rooney and Michael Owens.

Should England stick with the traditional long ball fast play, or switch to possession-based football? Should they have a tactical sweeper thinker or two tall centre backs? Should they press high up or stay deep at the back defensively? Should they deploy a traditional 4-4-2 with a midfield diamond shape, the more obsolete 3-5-2 with sweeper, the popular 4-2-3-1, the defensive minded 4-3-2-1 Christmas tree or the even more defensive 4-5-1 formation? Each England manager has deployed different tactics during their tenure, leading to confusion and inconsistency among the players. A successful team like Germany has had a total of nine managers since 1950, averaging one manager every 7.8 years. Five of them were promoted from assistant to main manager. German consistency in team selection and tactics has never been in doubt, since the managers have had more time to better understand their players and maximize their abilities.

The wet pitch and adaptability: The cold and damp weather in England forces the style of play to be open, direct, fast paced with their fair share long balls. The warm and dry climate in most of the successful nations in the World Cup (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Italy, France and Spain) encourages the players to control the ball more on the ground, thus honing the ball skills of the players. The wet pitch in England is hardly the best ground to have this kind of development. Germany is perhaps the one country that resembles England's field condition. After their first World Cup conquest in 1954 based on hard work and resilience together with the formation of the Bundesliga in 1962, the Germans adapted from the South Americans to play the ball on the ground more. The teams who can play the ball on the ground have a better chance of controlling the tempo of the game and conserve more energy in a long exhausting tournament.

The mindset: Since 1966, England has historically shown an inability to overcome both weaker and evenly-matched opponents in a consistent manner. They simply lacked the right mindset and confidence to overcome negativity, roadblocks and focus on the win. Hyped by the media and inflated by high hopes and expectations before all the major tournaments, time and time again they were brought crashing down to earth by their lack of mental focus and self-believe. Only when they were the underdog in the 1990 and 2018 WC's, with low media expectations, were they able to finish 4th. The 'what-if' scenarios flogged by the English media in postmortems after each major defeat actually crippled England, becoming one of the main obstacles to them performing well on the pitch.

Of the eight nations who have won the WC since its inception in 1930, England and Spain have lifted the trophy once each. Spain did not even become a world football power until the beginning of the 21st century, despite the widespread popularity of Real Madrid and Barcelona. Even Holland, a beloved and respected nation, has never even won the WC. Uruguay (before WWII), Argentina and France have each won it twice, Italy (twice before WWII) and Germany have each won it four times respectively, and Brazil has won a whopping five times; FIFA even awarded them a permanent trophy. Both France and Spain have evolved well in their tactics to win the cup. France has developed a solid defense, speed and power to complement their skill set. Spain has been perfected with a possession based short passing game to run down the opponents.

Stuck between a conservative playing mindset and a stagnant approach to training reinforced by a draconian English FA, and the media hype that causes penalty kick stage fright, crippling their mental focus and bringing misfortune more often than not, England has simply failed to play for the win, and it looks like this will probably continue. Plus, the numbers are just stacked against them.

Penalty Shootout Win, FINALLY - While England had been notorious for its penalty shootout record, they surely have turned the tide vs Columbia in the 2018 World Cup.



The WAGS - The wives and girlfriends of England's players in the 2006 World Cup. While the players suffered from another penalty shootout lost against Portugal, their WAGS claimed the shopping spree title.

Note: David Beckham, OBE, was one of the most famous English players during his time. While girls had been screaming at his ever present smile, creative hairstyle and six packs; opponents were grinding their teeth when Beckham took a corner or a direct free kick closed to the penalty area. His ability to swerve the ball with precision resembled those of the South Americans. Despite being criticized by the media for lack of speed and inability to dribble around players, Beckham scored in all the three world cups he played, an England record.

A Tribute to Humphrey Ho

Victor Leung (77), Paul Ng (73)

With great sadness, Vancouver Chapter was mourning for the loss of one of his fellow brothers and a long-time member in March. After a remarkable fight against cancer and made a miracle recovery against terminal cancer in 2018, Humphrey Ho, class of 1969, succumbed to cancer and passed away on March 19, 2021. Humphrey is survived by his wife, Fernanda, his son, Brian, and his daughter, Michelle, and grandson, Tyson. As a symbol of the “Never Say Die La Salle Spirit (永不言敗, 喇沙精神)”, Humphrey’s legendary story has made him a well-known figure amongst the La Salle community, both in North America and in HK, and has touched different generations of Lasallians. For this reason, his sad departure was also felt by fellow Lasallians across the world. Many are not aware that Humphrey was in truth a pillar and the co-founder of the present-day LS Athletics Club and Global Reunion.

Those who knew Humphrey would agree that he had a gifted talent in football (soccer) and athletics. His football talent caught the attention of Brother Thomas, who then invited Humphrey to join La Salle (LS) in 1966 to serve on the A-grade football team. As an additional surprise to Brother Thomas, he discovered Humphrey was also a very good sprinter. That year, Humphrey won a bronze medal in 400 m and helped LS reclaimed the Interschool Overall Athletics Championship after a 13-year losing streak. In the following year, Humphrey won a bronze medal in 200 m and a silver medal in A-grade 400 m with a 53-second time, which was very fast time considering he was running on a slow track during his era.

Those were the glorious days of Humphrey as well as La Salle.

After winning the overall athletic championship in 1966-1967, and with the help of Ronnie Poon, Humphrey helped started the LS Athletic Club. He then competed for LS for 2 addition years before retiring from competition and proceeded to help TP Cheung training the C graders while he was still studying at LS. During this time, Humphrey represented LS on many occasions, including various joint interschool competitions and numerous invitation relays. He left for further studies in Canada in 1972.



Team Vancouver at the 2003 Soccer Competition

After graduating from York University, Humphrey moved back to Hong Kong for a few years and got married and had two kids, the older Simon and younger daughter Michelle. The whole family emigrated to Canada in the mid 80s and settled in Vancouver, BC. Still very passionate with football, Humphrey was very popular among the Chinese soccer arena and helped start the North America (NA) Soccer Competition among the LS chapters. Hosted by San Francisco chapter, the NA Soccer Competition started in 2002 as a friendly competition among three chapters, namely San Francisco (SF), Los Angeles and Vancouver. That year, Humphrey led the Vancouver team to SF to participate in the competition. The following year, the competition expanded to 6 chapters with 3 additional chapter joining, including Edmonton, Toronto and New York. As the annual competition became hosted by different chapter, the event eventually evolved into the Global Reunion/Conference.



Humphrey's family with Brother Thomas at the 2013 NA Soccer Tournament.

From left: Fernanda, Fernanda's Maryknoll Sports Master, Brother Thomas, Humphrey, Michelle, and Brian.

As a true fighter, Humphrey is a symbol of the "Never Say Die La Salle Spirit (永不言敗, 喇沙精神)". In 2018, Humphrey was diagnosed with Stage 4 terminal lung cancer. Instead of accepted defeat and be frustrated about his health setback, Humphrey decided to take control in his own hands and determined to fight this battle, which he did. During his fierce battle with cancer, Humphrey took up exercise, started to play soccer, and also started to prepare himself for the Master Athletic Meeting held in HK in 2019. At the Master Games Humphrey participated in the 100 m, 200 m and 400 m events in the M70 category, and won 2 silver and 1 bronze medals. More impressively, Humphrey broke the M70 category records in both 100 m and 200 m events and was 1 second short of breaking the 400 m record as well. His wife, Fernanda, also scored very well at the Games, winning 3 gold and 1 silver medals, and broke the 100 m and 4 x 100 m relay records of her age category.



Left: Humphrey competing in the Master Game event
Right: Humphrey and Fernanda

In February this year members of Vancouver Chapter learned about the deteriorating health of Humphrey. With a relapse of the cancer and other complications, Humphrey was admitted to hospital. Even at this very late and challenging stage, Humphrey continued with his “Never Say Die” spirit and continued to fight his illness till the bitter end. After a long fight with his illness, the family decided to pull Humphrey off further treatment. Yet, Humphrey continued to surprise everyone and was able to regain renewed energy from time to time, giving many of us hope that he might once again perform a second miracle. Unfortunately, he finally succumbed and passed away on March 19, 2021 at 9:05 pm. Although he may be gone, Humphrey’s legendary La Salle Spirit will continue to glow amongst fellow Lasallians and be forever remembered.

Southern California Updates

Ronnie Cheng (90)



On 2/21/2021, LSCOBAS-SC chapter held the first ever Zoom meeting to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Because of the COVID, our chapter had to cancel the annual Chinese New Year banquet for two straight years. Luckily, technology compensated this, and allowed us to meet each other from different locations.

The activity started by singing the Chinese version of the La Salle School Song, then it was a brief introduction of the new directors and officers. The main event was the greeting session which every attending old boy taking turns to say the Chinese New Year blessing to each other. The original school song was sung before wrapping up the activity. There was a small raffle, and three prizes were given out.

At one time there were 30 old boys showing up and the gathering was a success.

2020-22 Board of Directors:

- President: Ronnie Cheng ('90)
- Vice-President: Stanley Wong ('68)
- Secretary: Herman Yip ('75)
- Treasure: Jeffrey Kan ('15)
- Director: Johnson Chao ('95)
- Director: Michael Chow ('62)

Samuel Mok (62): A Profile of Excellence

Daniel Souza (64)

This is a story of how a Hong Kong boy came to America and through hard work and determination, became one of the highest-ranking Asian Americans in George W. Bush's administration and a leader of the Chinese-American community.

Samuel's life story is a veritable case study in how to achieve one's full potential in America, giving new meaning to the idea of seeking a new life on the Golden Mountain, or 金山 ("gam saan") in Cantonese, as America was once known to Chinese immigrants during the Californian gold rush.

Samuel was born in Shanghai and raised in Hong Kong before immigrating to the United States. Thus he enjoys the advantage of being fluent in Mandarin as well as Cantonese. Samuel's La Salle days date back to the "wooden huts" era at Perth Street where he started in Primary 5. He finished Form 6A at the Boundary Street location in 1963. Samuel recalls fondly his membership in the 17th Kowloon Boy Scout Troupe and being awarded the Queen's Scout Badge – a top honor equivalent to Eagle Scout in America – bestowed personally by Prince Philip at a ceremony in Hong Kong with a congratulatory handshake that Samuel remains thrilled about even today.

With his early education in La Salle College grounded in the Christian tradition, Samuel later continued his studies at Fordham University in New York, a preeminent Jesuit college, where he obtained his B.S. in accounting. For his postgraduate studies, Samuel once again chose a Catholic institution, Catholic University in Washington D.C., where he obtained his M.A., also in accounting.

Younger members of our La Salle family reading this may be excused if they jump to the conclusion that accounting is a good subject to study, which it is, when they see what Samuel has achieved in his career by mastering that discipline. Further accreditations as Certified Internal Auditor (1986), Certified Government Financial Manager (1994), and Certified Internal Control Auditor (2007) were acquired by Samuel. This progression in Samuel's studies leads this writer to wonder if he was consciously perpetuating the La Salle tradition of always being "something more" in the most positive sense.

Of particular interest in Samuel's career is his service to his adoptive country, America. After several years in the private sector as senior auditor with top-tier accounting firms, Samuel was called to active military duty in 1971. As a commissioned officer of the U.S. Army, he served in Okinawa, Japan, as a strategic intelligence officer overseeing reporting and analysis on China, Vietnam, and North Korea. He also served as an Army advisor in Army Readiness at the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point. If service is the hallmark of loyalty, then Samuel has undoubtedly demonstrated his fidelity to country.

On a La Salle Old Boys Association (East Coast Chapter) chat group there has been some informal posts that gives us some insight into what Samuel is like as a person besides being highly accomplished in his career.



Samuel and wife Nancy in pre-COVID-19 days

A good number of fellow Lasallians mentioned the periodic gatherings held in Washington DC which Samuel also attends. Quite a few Lasallians posted that Samuel is a very down-to-earth fellow, devoid of any airs despite his achievements and senior positions held over the years. They report that Samuel is easy to talk to and acts as a mentor as well as role model to them. As a Lasallian myself, it is most gratifying to know that one of our own is kind and generous enough to provide guidance and counsel to younger Lasallians who have a long and promising future ahead. Such is the La Salle spirit in action. Bravo Samuel!

Samuel is currently managing member of Condor International Advisors LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based management consulting firm that specializes in representing U.S. companies and international clients doing business in the U.S. and federal market. Prior to that, he served as CFO of the U.S. Department of Labor, being confirmed by the U.S. Senate – an exceptional honor – following nomination to the position by President George W. Bush. Samuel also previously served as CFO and Comptroller of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

It is worth noting that Samuel is the only known person from Hong Kong to be conferred the designation “Presidential Appointee confirmed by US Senate” or PAS which accords the awardee the use of the honorific “The Honorable” for life. (Knowing Samuel’s modesty though, we can safely assume he wouldn’t mind us continuing to refer to him as Sam.)

Samuel has in his long and illustrious career accumulated numerous awards and accolades, too many to

be named here. Rather, please go to Samuel's LinkedIn site (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/samuel-mok-a5a148>) for full details of the impressive record of achievements and successes our fellow Lasallian Samuel has garnered in all his years of private as well as public service.

On the personal front, Samuel and his wife Nancy reside in Washington DC, enjoying their grandchildren who attend St. Alban's, a private school with a campus strikingly similar to the "old La Salle", Samuel recalls, as he reminisces about the many annual "Speech Days" at his alma mater, back in the day.

Finally, Samuel's message to our young Lasallians is: His experience "should help inspire La Salle boys that if Sam can do so in America, any La Salle boy can achieve something more anywhere".

The New LSC Aviation Laboratory

George Law (66)

On the morning of Thursday, 2021/02/25, I returned to the La Salle College campus, at the kind invitation of Vice Principal Steve Leung. Another Class of 1966 fellow Old Boy, Alex Poon, also accompanied me.

Just around February 1st, the school had setup an aviation laboratory, first of its kind for any secondary schools in Hong Kong. It is equipped with a Federal Aviation Administration-approved advanced aviation training device, with 3-axis motion and wrap-around visual effect.

Mr Leung was most patient in coaching me to physically maneuver this device, a Cessna 172S propeller plane. It was a little rough for me initially too, amidst simulated air turbulences. Of course, not long after taking off from Shek Kong Airport in the New Territories, I proceeded to "crash" the plane. Device then had to be restarted again. On my second try, I was able to land (actually onto San Francisco International Airport's runway 19L) but then "skidded" to its adjacent grassy area before stopping. Suffice to say, I did not properly manage air speed or angle of decent etc.

According to Vice Principal Leung, the school is honored to benefit from volunteer assistances of a former President of the Hong Kong Aviation Club. We now have six teachers being trained so they can in turn train interested LSC students upon implementation of this aviation program. Students who will make thorough use of this flight simulator before heading to Shek Kong Airfield for actual flying lessons on a Cessna #172S plane. A minimum of fifteen (15) hours of such training will allow them to get a solo flying certificate to flying this type propeller plane in and out of Shek Kong Airfield. A minimum of 60 hours of flying lessons can allow them to flying this Cessna plane in and out of any airfields.

I am plainly thrilled to see our alma mater taking a huge initiative to, at the very least, foster aviation knowledge amongst the students. Program implementation could offer additional career opportunities for future school graduates in the aviation field. Bravo!

Yes, La Salle is something more!!!



2021 Snow Storm in New York Area

John Jean (76)

In February, we experienced a series of back-to-back snowstorms in the NY area. This may be very minor compare to areas that receive heavy snowstorms during winter, but to NYers, this was a significant event.

The first storm left up to 30" of snow accumulation in some areas. It started after midnight, and by the time I woke up, my home got close to 8" already in just a few hours. Eventually my home got close to 18". My daughter in Long Island got over 24"!



The second storm came just one day later. But this one was a relatively smaller one, with only about 4" additional accumulation in my area. In normal circumstances 4" would have been considered substantial in my area.

Then a few days later, another major storm hit the area and brought another 8" of snow. So total of three storms within an eight-day period with the total accumulation in my area was approximately 20", but it was a lot worse in other areas. An old boy forwarded me this photo of a gigantic snowman built as a result of all this snow.

A couple of weeks later, the snow had mostly melted away. A neighbor decided to cheer up this "winter blues" by placing a penguin onto his snow white front yard. You can see the penguin clearly after two weeks.



To give a contrast, here is a herd of deer roaming during summer time; and now standing in 12" of snow, which makes them look like midgets.



Quite often ice crystals formed on my car windows in the morning. They are annoying as they obstruct vision and I would quickly turn on the defroster to melt them. One morning, I stopped and looked at the crystals and was amazed by their formation. Sometimes one has to “stop and smell the roses” and takes the time to admire God’s creation.



Pilgrimage to Reims, Birthplace of Saint John Baptist de La Salle (part 4)

Anthony Luk (66)

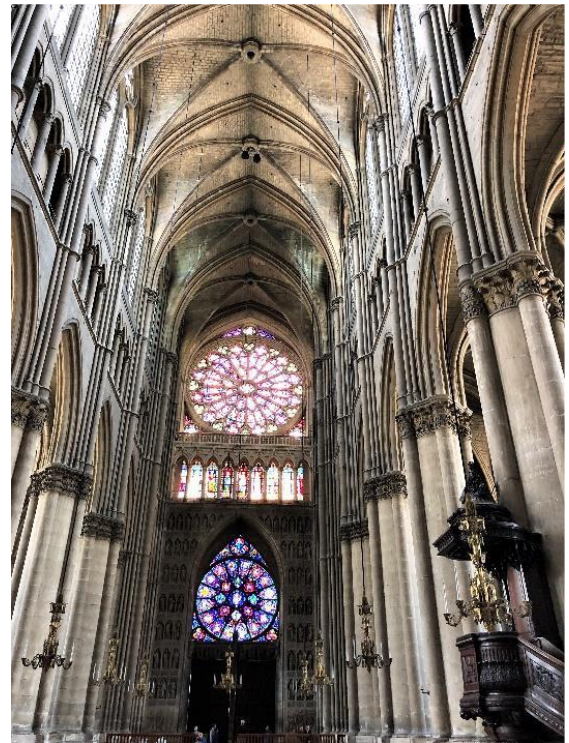
Brother Bernard wished that we had time to use Reims Lasallian Itinerary to visit other historic attractions in town. We responded that was our plan for the remainder of the day. He reiterated that despite his success in founding numerous schools in France, John Baptist de La Salle had lived through long periods of painful doubts and depressions due to secular and ecclesiastical oppositions but his firm faith in the Providence enabled him the new courses to work tirelessly towards the will of God. This last remark is poignant and useful when we are troubled by news of conflicts around the world these days.

Standing in front of Hôtel de La Salle, we followed the museum pamphlet and looked at the mullioned windows and Doric pilasters adorned with plant motifs. At the upper right of the facade, the signatory statue of John Baptist de La Salle and a child by Louis Lejeune, that commemorated the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Baptist, will beckon all visitors.

Reims Cathedral

Since Maureen visited Reims last year, she led the way from Hôtel de La Salle to Reims Cathedral and we arrived there within ten minutes. This is a magnificent cathedral in par with Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Both glorify Virgin Mary. Entering the cathedral, the stained rose windows and glasses immediately impress every visitor.

Beginning at a young age, John Baptist regularly attended Mass and prayers in the Cathedral. At age ten, to show his intention to be a priest, he received his tonsure at the Archbishop Chapel. At age sixteen, he became a canon of Reims Cathedral and befriended Nicholas Roland, a fellow canon. Their relationship grew deeper through the years. When John Baptist was studying for his priesthood, Father Roland became his spiritual director. At age 27, John Baptist was ordained as a priest on Holy Saturday, April 9, 1678, and celebrated his first Mass the following day in a side chapel known today as the Lady Chapel. John Baptist served as a canon in Reims Cathedral for sixteen years.



Lycee Saint-Jean-Baptist de La Salle

Our next destination is naturally Lycée Saint-Jean-Baptist de La Salle. Using Google Map, we reached it before 6:00 p.m. and met with a group of boys and a gentleman in coat and tie just outside the front gates. Again pointing to my Old Boys' tie, we introduced ourselves to the gentleman and asked his permission to enter and walk around the campus. He answered in French and gestured us to go ahead.

It is evident that the high school consists of an older wing and a modern structure. We walked to the parking lot of the older wing and took pictures of the buildings. When we returned to the modern school complex and while busily taking more pictures, a gentleman in casual attire ran towards us. (Later, he introduced himself as Mark Tangir.) He said that the principal had asked him to show us around the school. He brought us back to the school entrance and introduced us to two gentlemen in coat and tie: one is the Director of Groupe de La Salle and the other whom we met minutes ago is Mr. Eric Masson, the principal. Mr. Masson was kind and attempted to converse with us in English. He brought us to his office, gave me his business card and from a drawer, he picked and handed me a ball pen commemorating the 300th Anniversary of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Mr. Mark Tangir is the disciplinarian of the school. He practiced dialoguing in English when he worked in Britain and the United States for nine years.

Mr. Tangir walked us to the section where the older building and the modern structure intersect. He used one of the keys in his key chain and we entered a huge space. He said this was the place where John Baptist had meals with his Brothers. The place had since been converted to a cafeteria and an extension was added for an indoor dining area for students. Next was the school chapel with stained glass portraits depicting De La Salle teaching children and leading his congregation. In a direction opposite to the altar, desks and chairs were arrayed on the floor of the chapel. Mr. Tangir said the setup was getting ready for exams.



Using different keys, Mr. Tangir led us to other buildings and corridors. I asked him about the class sizes. As we passed by the classrooms, he opened their doors and a quick glance would prove that his answer of about twenty five students per class was accurate.

Next, Mr. Tangir took us to another building whose ground floor looked similar to the one we just visited. To our great surprise, this Lycée Saint-Jean-Baptist de La Salle campus is not only a boarding school but also coeducational. The dormitory can accommodate over a hundred students. The top floor is the dormitory for girls. Mr. Tangir continued saying that the school enrollments came from different parts of France. As we returned to the courtyard in between the modern buildings, boarding girls and boys were setting up a barbecue dinner, a ritual when the end of a school year was approaching.

The final building and classroom that Mr. Tangir led us to is the audio visual and arts facility, where regular and adult students can acquire a broader curriculum to develop new careers. He spoke of Groupe de La Salle and its various majors being offered. (A few blocks away, we later passed by a

multistory building with huge letters identifying the compound: Saint-Jean-Baptist de La Salle Lycée et Formation Continue.)

While passing an outdoor area where students assemble every day before classes, Mr. Tangir paused and told us to look closely at the statue of Saint John Baptist de La Salle at the front of the older school building. The statue survived the bombardments from WWII as there was a shrapnel hole piercing the chest of the child statue to the left of the saint. A similar miracle happened to the statue of Saint John Baptist de La Salle at the Basilica of Saint Remi.

Entering the spacious teachers' room nearby the principal's office, Mr. Tangir searched around and happily handed me Groupe de La Salle Reims, the school's 2018-2019 year book and wrote down his email address on a piece of paper. Warmly shaking hands, he hoped that we would find the year book useful. He popped up a question, "We are celebrating our 350th Anniversary next year. Are you coming?"

Sisters of the Child Jesus

Google Map failed to give us directions to Sisters of the Child Jesus. We trekked along based on the maps from the Reims Tourist Center and Reims Lasallian Itinerary. We spent half an hour searching and believing that we were in striking distance. Like many Lasallians, we like to pay homage to Sisters of the Child Jesus as the congregation imperceptibly germinated the seed of Brothers of Christian Schools.



In 1670 after taking charge of an orphanage of the poor abandoned girls in Reims, Canon Nicholas Roland started to organize Sisters of the Child Jesus. He wanted to give the girls an education and showed them the love of Christ.

After the passing of his mother in 1671 and his father in 1672, John Baptist decided to return to Reims from the Seminary of Saint Sulpice in Paris in order to execute the family estate and to take care of his younger siblings. In this struggling period, Father Roland continued to give spiritual guidance to the seminarian and in addition, asked his fellow Canon to help the effort in formulating the duties of Sisters of the Child Jesus.

Unfortunately, eighteen days after the ordination of De La Salle into priesthood and only eight years after guiding the Sisters, Father Roland suddenly passed away at age 36 in 1678. In his will, he bequeathed John Baptist to take charge of the Sisters and to gain official recognition for the community from the Catholic

Church and the City Council. During the process, Father De La Salle visited the Sisters and said daily Mass in the chapel. With his skills and experience executing his parents' estate, he smoothly succeeded in the

formal establishment and recognition of Sisters of the Child Jesus.

With his privileged family background and his renowned degree of Doctorate in Theology, Father John Baptist de La Salle was destined to advance in the church hierarchy and in time to become a bishop in Reims. But a chance encounter with Adrian Nyel at the doorstep of Sisters of the Child Jesus in March 1679 would alter the pastoral career of Father John Baptist. A wealthy widow from Rouen and a relative of De La Salle gave a charitable amount to Nyel and asked him to form a free school for poor boys in Reims. Listening to his ambitions and learning that Nyel had created several free schools for the poor children in Rouen, John Baptist invited him to reside at his home. They collaborated laboriously. Within eight months, they started two boys' schools in Reims, the first one in the Church of St. Maurice.

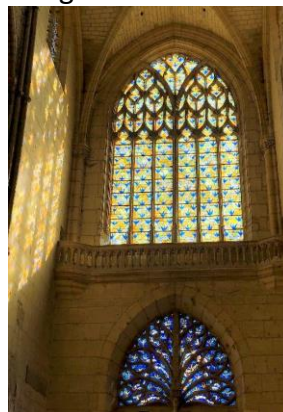
Father John Baptist soon realized that he needed to improve the instructional quality and mannerism of his teachers and to lay down the rules of the classrooms. Believing in the Providence, he began to lay the foundation for an institution of his community of men. He eventually resigned from his position of a canon in Reims Cathedral and devoted more time to educating the poor children.

Conjecturing to identify which historic event that the "350th Anniversary" stated in Mr. Mark Tangir's last question, the celebration could be to commemorate the year 1670 when Father Nicholas Roland and the Sisters began teaching the poor children in Reims.

Basilica of Saint Remi

The Reims Lasallian Itinerary lists eight locations that relate to the livelihood and activities of John Baptist de La Salle in Reims. Basilica of Saint Remi can be said to be his refuge in Reims. For many years, he prayed there alone throughout the night until the next morning — abundantly manifesting his faith in God.

As it was getting late, we did not walk to the Basilica. Maureen took pictures of Basilica of Saint Remi when she visited Reims in October 2018. She put together some samples in the photo collage.





利是封大作戰

Christopher Lee (98)

踏入大年三十，所有在 2 月 7 日前購買利是封的舊生，應該已經陸續收到實物。希望大家喜歡！

這標誌着項目大體完成：師兄弟得到靚靚利是封；OBA 得到超過\$80,000 銷售收入（約相等於上年度全年銷售收入 70%），用於喇沙發展。我們亦借此機會，使用項目部份盈餘給修士和教職員送上禮物籃，一同分享節日的喜悅。這些對我們來說，自然都很鼓舞。

這次也是從產品意念、設計、製作、收集預訂、推廣，最後通過網上商店銷售，本屆 OBA 首次完成紀念品開發的全過程。



除了大家看得見、摸得到的典雅設計，後面還有設計部隊預備的八個設計方案、選定方案後的數易其稿、與印刷廠招標議價、通過預售收集市場反應，乃至生產完成後處理網上訂單、送貨等工作。

一方面，我們得到很多師兄弟拔刀相助，壯大了我們的開發團隊；亦在過程中累積到寶貴經驗，為將來其他項目鋪平道路。對我們來說，這比項目本身的銷售收益，更添一重戰略意義。

再次感謝各位師兄弟的支持，下一種紀念品已在籌備中，敬請期待！

最後，利是封尚有少量現貨，歡迎各位到 www.lscoba.com/shop

LSCOBA Lasallian Sports YouTube Channel

La Salle College Old Boys' Association is launching an official Lasallian Sports Channel in YouTube for all brothers!

Starting from March, you can receive the school's latest sports information by subscribing to our YouTube channel [<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyflPRv4IKbl6JKxXOXyCVw>].

What you can take:

- ▶ Sports Activities Updates
- ▶ Sports Events Live
- ▶ Sports Team Information

Contact us here:

- ▶ Our email: admin@lscoba.com
- ▶ Our Website: <https://www.lscoba.com/>
- ▶ Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lscoba>



This photo was taken a few years back during a work trip at the small Island in coastal Vancouver. The ice crystal had somehow caught my attention.

Upon closer examination, it was discovered that there were fine ice needles growing on top of the ground. The ground was so cold that the moisture from the air had slowly dropped out and started growing on the grass. Mother nature is full of natural wonder. One only needs to pay attention and start appreciating.

Victor Leung (77)

About the North American Lasallians

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>

Previous issues of the newsletter are also available on HKOBA website at <https://www.lscoba.com/nanewsletter.php?catid=4&subid=56>

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The Chief editors appreciate Kanne Leung (98), Danny Leung (71), Paul Ng (73), Ronnie Cheng (90), Daniel Souza (64), George Law (66), Anthony Luk (66), Christopher Lee (98) for their contribution to this issue.

Chief Editors

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

下期預告

余 sir 1982 年開始任教喇沙小學體育課，2019 年榮休，慷慨與本刊分享許多好東西。請密切留意下一期！

