



北美風沙
The North American Lasallians
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Letter from La Salle College Principal Tong

Dear Old Boys,

Greetings from La Salle College, Hong Kong.

This year, La Salle College is celebrating her 90th Anniversary.

Ninety years is a long time. We are talking about 9-10 generations of students if we take a decade as a generation. Many things might have changed in these 90 years but not the spirit of Lasallian education. Since the start of the school, La Salle College has been committed to providing holistic quality human and Christian education to its students.

In pursuit of excellence has always been a goal of our College. Our students have been doing well in public examinations. Just a few years after we started in 1932, our students were already awarded 3 out of the 6 scholarships in Hong Kong. In the HKCEE era, our school scored 501 A's in 2003 under the principalship of Brother Thomas. This is a record in the HKCEE examination. Numerous times, we have had students achieving 10As. In recent years, we also have had students scoring 7 5**. One even got 9 5** in the DSE exam which has made a mark in the DSE history.

The school's academic achievements are not just limited to public examinations but also include other competitions and tests, such as the various Olympiad competitions in: Mathematics, each Science discipline, Informatics, Geography, as well as Ethics Olympiad and various debating, speech and linguistics competitions. Achievements in all of these areas show to the public that La Salle has a strong academic tradition, and her students are strong performers in studies.

To sustain the marvelous academic achievements, our school has been taking initiatives in learning and teaching to facilitate student learning so that they could realize their goals in studies. In recent years, our school introduced the BYOD programme, implemented eLearning and online learning, instill positive values among students and most important of all, taken the initiative to review and plan for the future development of the school making use of the opportunity to have a Vitality and Viability Review commissioned by LEAD. All these measures have enabled our school to step out of our comfort zone and chart new courses in the fast changing educational arena in Hong Kong and the world.

Indeed, the V&V review exercise has prompted us to have a better understanding of our positioning in Hong Kong and the world. The goals we set after doing the review are to

maintain our strengths as a leading Catholic boys' school, overcome our weaknesses, grasp the opportunities and minimize the threats.

As such, the school takes the opportunities given by EDB on various educational changes, to offer new programmes, such as STEM, Aerospace, Service-learning, Careers, and Language across the Curriculum to strengthen the academic abilities of our students. It is hoped that with these new initiatives, we could give students more opportunities to excel in different areas at school.

La Salle College is committed to providing high quality holistic human and Christian education to its students. When mentioning holistic, we mean that students should also participate in activities other than academic studies to broaden their scope as well as develop their potentials in other areas, such as music, sports, and other cultural activities.

The College has been doing a lot in this regard, ever since it was established in 1932. A few years after the establishment of the College, we were already champions of football, swimming, cricket, and hockey. This tradition of encouraging students to participate in co-curricular activities remains one of the significant characteristics of La Salle College.

In recent years, the achievements of our students have made the school proud. Different teams of the school have set records in inter-school activities. The come back on the Finals Day of the 2018 Inter-school Athletics Meet impressed the spectators, especially with the winning of all 6 relay races which astonished not just our school but also the public. The badminton team had also made a mark in inter-school badminton competitions. They won all seven titles of inter-school badminton matches in 2018. The Chinese Orchestra had also made history by winning the Music Festival Championship for five consecutive years. These are just a few examples of how superb our students are in inter-school competitions and thus showing their attainment in co-curricular activities.

Joining in all these activities will nurture our students' abilities and skills in planning, implementation of activities, reflective skills as well as abilities in collaboration, cooperation, communication, leadership, perseverance, and handling responsibilities - which are all essential values and skills in the 21st Century. Our school will strive to work hard in this area to ensure our students have the necessary training.

On top of that, our school has also put much emphasis on organizing exchange and service-learning programmes so that students could have chances to experience and apply what they have learnt inside the classroom to authentic situations. Exchange programmes give our students the chance to explore the world and have a better understanding of their counterparts in school and in life. In turn, they would also better understand themselves as citizens in Hong Kong and the country.

Service-learning programmes give our students the opportunity to serve as well as to understand the importance of service in our Lasallian education. Our school has been faithful to our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle in nurturing the spirit of service among our students. In fact, our 90th Anniversary slogan 'Hearts aflame with Faith and Zeal' is a tribute to our Founder who started this ministry of serving the youth.

In the past 90 years, we have been blessed to have our Heavenly Father overseeing our needs. In addition, we are grateful that our teachers, students, parents and old boys all contribute to fulfilling the Lasallian education mission. Indeed, there are 4 pillars at La Salle College: the School Body, the OBA, the PTA and the Foundation. With the concerted efforts of the school, the parents and the old boys, we are committed to bringing La Salle College from strength to strength.

Ever since La Salle College was established, we have been in the aided system. We are grateful to the community in giving the support to our educational mission. However, with the development of curriculum and pedagogy, various needs arise that could not be catered for by Government funds. As such, the Foundation, together with old boys and parents come in to support the needs of the College. Only with their support could the College continue to provide good learning facilities and a conducive learning environment to our students.

To celebrate the 90th Anniversary, the school has also taken initiatives to upgrade the campus facilities and provide learning programmes, e.g. the building of an eLibrary, Digital Learning space, Service-learning programmes, STEM programmes etc. to help strengthen student learning. All these initiatives need support. Therefore, we are grateful that the Foundation is starting a fundraising programme for the College to support these initiatives. Your continuous and generous support is crucial to the success of all these programmes.

Our mission is to inspire and challenge all stakeholders of La Salle College to embrace the Lasallian core values of faith, service and community and to aim for all round excellence as a leading school of wholistic education. This has been our work in the past 90 years and continues to be for the next 90 years. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Wun-sing Tong,
Principal

Congratulations to the LSCOBA 2021-22 Committee



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多倫多迎新

Global Overseas Network



全球疫情持續，但生活已漸回復正常。碰巧今夏，多得 Overseas Network Group 的穿針引線，多倫多迎來多副新面孔。

搞迎新，就在足球場上吧。空曠，空氣清新，當然要限人數啦。

在限聚令下，多倫多舊生會不能正式舉辦舊生會活動，只能安排部份兄弟見面及踢足球。放心!我哋守法嘅，在場外一定帶口罩。待情況穩定，一定會舉辦更大型嘅正式舊生會活動。





初到貴境，利利是是。雖然利是封裏面冇乜餡 (利是錢)，不過香港舊生會設計嘅利是封都幾靚，值得收藏作為紀念。





人來也有人去。左邊的 Michael Yip (2021) 幸得 UCLA Berkeley 收錄，執筆時已起行往西岸，當然我們有碌人情卡，介紹給 Bay Area 的兄弟啦。右邊的 Brian Chan (2016) 亦已前往英國劍橋，沒有上鏡的 Garvin Yan (2020) 亦已前赴洛杉磯。

When the East Coast Old Boys Get Together ...

Daniel Souza (64)

For a group of Old Boys and their families in the Tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, this year's Independence Day holiday was much more than a commemoration of America's declaration of independence on July 4th, 1776. It was also a day of joy to be together again after more than a year apart because of the pandemic lockdown.

Thanks to the hospitality of Chris Tse (65) and wife Nancy, about 30 LaSallians, including spouses and children, gathered at their home in Connecticut for a scrumptious clambake lasting from 2 to 7 p.m.

The menu consisted of surf and turf - fresh oysters and clams on the half shell and fillet mignon, along with summer salad, corn on the cob and freshly baked bread brought all the way from the renowned Rockland Bakery in New Jersey by John Ng (65). Dessert consisted of home baked cake, cookies and Connecticut's award-winning ice cream from Arethusa Farm in Litchfield.



Fresh Oyster and Little Neck Clams



More oysters



Lobsters and corns

Bel Baptista (77) was, as in past gatherings, our expert chef cum director of food and beverage. In the drinks department, worthy of mention was Bel's idea of chilled junmai sake (brewed from rice grains milled to 70% remaining and 30% removed) which paired especially well with the raw oysters. Some guests chose Chardonnay to go with the surf and were pleased with that as well.

All that said, food was only secondary. Nothing was more enjoyable than the camaraderie, banter and jokes the old boys enjoyed together, each one talking over the other, with frequent outbursts of laughter when the inevitable off-color jokes from the old La Salle days were recalled with great amusement and nostalgia. Lasallian spouses were, as always, gracious and 通氣 (understanding), allowing their hubbies to relive their boyhood days despite their rowdiness.

Though inclement weather was in the forecast from the day before, everything turned out well with just a few brief sprinkles mid-afternoon, hardly enough to dampen the high spirits of our boys on such a happy occasion.

As they used to say in the society pages, "a good time was had by all" and before leaving, plans were already being made for the next gathering in the fall at the Jersey Shore to be hosted by Peter Lai (67).

The day's activities were captured in some candid photos - yet another joyous La Salle old boys gathering that happens every so often somewhere in the world. When the Old Boys get together ...





2021 LSCOA Vancouver Chapter Annual Picnic

Victor Leung (77)

After almost two full years' pause in activities due to COVID-19, Vancouver Chapter was excited to be able to host our annual BBQ once again. Taking advantage of the COVID reopening in BC, we wasted no time to organize our gathering on July 31, 2021 at Deas Island Regional Park in Delta, BC in July 31, 2021.



Organizing a large size gathering was certainly not easy in the middle of a pandemic. While some felt comfortable coming out after being fully vaccinated, some were still uneasy about any large size gathering. This is certainly understandable after being forced to be in self-isolation for close to 2 years. In addition to be COVID sensitive, we were also faced with two major challenges during this event organization – the wildfire hazard alert in BC and the heat wave warning. Our initial plan to host a BBQ party was put on an abrupt halt a few days prior to the party date when BC had suddenly extended the province-wide BBQ ban to all BC public parks. The team had to quickly come up with contingency plan and changed the BBQ to a lunch picnic with Chinese take-out and roast pig.



After we resolved the lunch menu hurdle, we were faced with our second challenge that Metro Vancouver was hit with our second heat wave warning during that weekend. Temperature that day was forecasted to reach over 30°C, something Vancouverites were not accustomed to. We were worried if our guests would change their mind due to the sour experience of our first heat wave in June. Nevertheless, the heat did not deter the desire to get together for fellow La Salle boys. We were very pleased to have close to 50 people attending the outdoor gathering.

The BBQ turned out to be a fun, enjoyable, and obviously a very long overdue gathering. In addition to the regular supporting members, we also had many new members at the BBQ gathering. One of the highlights at the BBQ was the auction of souvenirs with La Salle logos, donated by Raymond Lu, with the proceeds of the auction donated to Vancouver Chapter. As in previous annual BBQs, different door prizes were given out via lucky draw. The BBQ ended with much joyous laughter and the group school song singing.



Left – successful bidders of the LSC t-shirts (L-R: Daniel Chung, Steve Ng, James Ng, Simon Tang)



Right – Lucky Draw (L-R: Patrick Li, Albert Manson)



Group photos at the 2021 BBQ

Vancouver Chapter was very lucky that we had timed the BBQ right during the reopening when daily COVID new cases were down to <50 and that all of our participants were fully vaccinated. Should we have waited for another month, we might not be able to host this gathering with the resurgence of COVID cases in BC. We were very blessed to be given an opportunity to meet up after 2 years of COVID lockdown.

The Toronto Chinese Catholic Taskforce Puts Love Into Action

[Archdiocese of Toronto](#)

陳嘉年 Peter (67) 早兩期寫及他在學生活點滴 今期轉載文章 談及他在天主教圈子的貢獻

“We have one thing in common: The common core value of caring for the people,” said Peter Chen, convenor of the Toronto Chinese Catholic Task-force. “And that’s why we can work together.”

Many parishioners of the Archdiocese of Toronto have likely never heard of the Toronto Chinese Catholic Task-force (TCCT). They are one of the archdiocese’s worker bees. For 16 years, this small lay association has quietly been taking on an ever-greater number of projects that have made life better for countless people.

They have even caught the eye of Bishop Robert Kasun, auxiliary bishop of the Archbishop of Toronto, who often consults with the TCCT as part of his work overseeing the archdiocese’s ethnic councils.

“The Toronto Chinese Catholic Task-Force (TCCT) is a unique lay service organization based in the Archdiocese of Toronto,” Bishop Kasun said. “It is prepared to initiate and support any kind of activity which would promote the ‘common good’ as understood by the Church and which would come under the category of ‘Outreach in Justice and Love.’”

For those who have never heard of this group, now is a great time to learn more about the TCCT’s work – and how you can help them.

From Humble Beginnings

Formally founded in 2005, the TCCT brought together likeminded groups that wanted to take action in response to a number of political developments that they saw as an erosion of traditional values in Canadian society. Many Chinese Catholics were particularly concerned about the legalization of same-sex marriage, but at that time, there was no guarantee that they would mobilize to express their opinions.

Fr. Peter Chin, spiritual advisor to the TCCT and chair of the Chinese Pastoral Council, recalls that in the early days of the taskforce, Chinese Catholics were not always eager to add their opinions to Canada’s public discussion.

“We found that the Chinese, in general, were not very active in social issues,” Fr. Peter said. “They come from countries where any sort of expression of individual freedom and voicing opinions on social issues was suppressed.”

School-related issues proved to be an effective in-road for social engagement among many Chinese Canadians who wanted to ensure their children received a good education, according to Fr. Peter.

Over time, the TCCT expanded its work – and it flourished in the process. The taskforce now has a network that reaches 23 cities (16 in Canada and seven internationally). It has regular contact with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Pontifical Council for Culture at the Vatican, as well as non-Chinese Catholic parishes, non-Catholic denominations and members of non-Christian religions.

Stem Cells Drives

Around 2015, the TCCT noticed that some other Chinese organizations were trying to help people in desperate need of stem cell matches. In a particularly gripping situation, the family of a very sick child was publicly appealing for assistance in finding a stem cell match.

Peter Chen, the convenor of the TCCT, is currently retired after an impressive career that weaved together academia, consulting and business, but he remains endlessly busy with the taskforce's many projects.

Chen's undergraduate education in biology helped him see the challenges and opportunities that stem cell technology presented to the seriously ill. He watched stem cell donation campaigns being organized in Toronto and Vancouver with great interest.

"They expressed the urgency of the patients and that made me really alarmed," Chen said.

In recent years, doctors have been able to transfer stem cells from one person to another in order to treat people with life-threatening illnesses, including blood cancers, sickle cell disease and immune system disorders.

But finding a suitable match for a stem cell donation is not guaranteed. In fact, it can seem like looking for a needle in a haystack. Identifying a donor who is genetically close enough to you that you can successfully receive their stem cells is difficult enough when you are a member of a country's majority group. The chances of finding a match become slimmer when you're a member of a minority group and slimmer still when your parents are of different racial groups. Chen notes that Chinese Catholics are a minority in Canada and they are increasingly marrying non-Chinese people, so there is a real concern that members of this group will not be able to find a suitable stem cell donor, if needed.

Layered on top of these difficulties was the possibility that Catholics would not participate in stem cell medical treatments. Early stem cell science used aborted fetal cells, which is against Catholic teaching. But as the practice started using the stem cells of consenting adult donors, could Catholics ethically donate and receive stem cell treatments?

This question led to a one-year investigation by the TCCT into various aspects of stem cell use from a Catholic perspective, culminating in a 300-page report that was submitted to the Archdiocese of Toronto. The TCCT concluded that stem cell treatments that worked with consenting adult donors were morally acceptable from a Catholic perspective – their report was later validated by the Vatican.

This was a huge development in getting Chinese Catholics to accept the practice.

"The TCCT already had a trust relationship with the Chinese-speaking Catholic population, so that is very helpful," Fr. Peter explained of the destigmatization of stem cell treatments in the Chinese Catholic community.

In 2016, the TCCT started organizing stem cell donor registration drives in cooperation with the Canadian Blood Service (CBS). Participants would have their cheek swabbed to determine their stem cell information and the CBS would contact individuals if their stem cells could help a gravely ill person. There was excellent interest from the Chinese Catholic community.

“The theme was, ‘You Are Giving Life.’ We’re not asking for money, we’re not asking for a donation, we’re asking you to save life,” said Fr. Peter. “So that’s very attractive to the Chinese population: Down the road you could save a life. That is very Christian.”

Because of the TCCT’s efforts, three people have received perfectly-matched life-saving stem cell donations and others have received partially-matched stem cell donations. Sadly, at least one person has died while waiting for a donor to be identified. But the project has been an overwhelming success.

“We thought, ‘Well, if we can do this in the archdiocese, then we can do it in other places,’” said Chen. “In other places there are also these desperate patients.”

The TCCT sees itself as a steering organization, so it helped groups in 23 cities to organize their own stem cell registration drives.

For Peter Chen, the need for stem cell donations is only going to increase, which he thinks we should all be concerned about.

“Recently there have been more children asking for help,” said Chen. “This is an alarming situation, because this means more and more young people are falling ill to these kinds of diseases. We as an organization – and other organizations – should actually pick up the pace and do more for these patients.”

Promoting Mental Health

In recent years, the TCCT has put a focus on promoting the importance of good mental health. It was work that Fr. Peter was ready to help the taskforce with.

Fr. Peter, currently the pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Toronto, is a psychotherapist by training and has worked at many psychological services centres, including The Southdown Institute, which was at that time located in Aurora, Ont.

In his parish ministry, Fr. Peter saw there were a number of parishioners at Chinese Catholic churches who had children with disabilities. Their parents would often come to church exhausted and would try their best to celebrate the Mass while caring for their children’s needs.

“No one had come forward to really care for them,” Fr. Peter said. In response, he gathered a group of volunteers who would take turns caring for the children during Mass, giving the parents some time to spend with God.

“That was the initial idea,” said Fr. Peter. “And like all initial ideas, it develops.”

Peter Chen was involved with a program at Chinese Martyrs Catholic Parish, in Markham, that worked with students to improve their academic performance in order to get into university and receive scholarships. This experience showed Chen the stress these students were experiencing.

Chen cites statistics saying that the majority of first and second year university students struggle with depression. Seeing these statistics motivated Chen to organize the launch of the National Caring for the Mental Health of Students campaign.

The TCCT found that students who didn't know how to study experienced more stress. Family expectations of top-tier academic performance didn't help. But the taskforce found that these students' mental health particularly suffered during the transition to university, often because their high school education didn't properly prepare them for the post-secondary world.

"The students would experience something like a quantum leap. Jumping from one level to another, but not being prepared," said Chen. "So our program teaches students what to expect and how to study in a university setting."

In response, the TCCT organized sessions where mental health professionals had conversations with soon-to-be university students and their parents about the stressors that post-secondary education presents. Discussions on how to better academically prepare for university were also included in these sessions.

The TCCT encouraging parents to ask their university-aged children about the cafeteria food rather than their studying.

"Parents can't help them with their work anyway, so why ask them?" Chen said. "It just gives extra pressure, especially for the students who really mind what their parents think."

For Chen, it's vital to address these mental health struggles as soon as possible.

"When these students become adults, if they continue to have these mental health challenges, their struggles will be even worse," said Chen. "Because the outside pressure will be even greater from the community, the workplace and the family."

The pandemic has shown us that mental health challenges can affect all of us. Chen looks to reports of the stress that medical workers felt during the pandemic as an example of this. He hopes it will help us have a better conversation about mental health.

There Is More to Do

The TCCT's work has greatly expanded over the years and they would be excited to get more volunteers to help with their many projects.

"People who are really passionate about what this taskforce is doing should let us know," Fr. Peter said. "We depend on volunteers. As with all groups, we need new blood to survive. We need new ideas to energize ourselves."

Bishop Kasun echoed this call to assist the TCCT with its work, as he said, "I am most appreciative of the dedicated efforts of the TCCT and I invite many others to consider membership."

For Chen, the recent pastoral letter on the sacred heart of Jesus by Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, shows why Catholics need to reach out and help others. The pastoral letter deeply touched, Chen, who helped spread it to Catholics around the world.

"We need to take action to love our neighbours," explained Peter Chen. "All our love for others is grounded in the fact that Jesus loved us first."

Response from Reader to the Passover Article

Willaim Lai (61)

The "Passover" actually refers to an act of God. It relates to the 10th Plague of Egypt. To strengthen Moses' demand on the Pharaoh to release the Jews, God inflicted the famous 10 plagues to try to convince (intimidate ?) the pharaoh to let Moses' people go. The 10th plague was the killing of all first-borns in Egypt. But God gave Moses a heads-up, and told him that if the Jewish families killed a lamb and splattered the lamb's blood on the exterior door frame of their houses, then God would know that their houses were Jewish and would not kill the first-borns in those houses. In other words, God would "pass over" those houses that had the lamb's blood on their door frames. The reference is:

"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and where I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt". (Exodus 12:13)

So the Passover was a very specific action (or inaction), not the more general fact that "Moses led the Jews working as slaves out of Egypt to the Promised Land", as the article implies.

And, about the "Promised Land", what was God's instruction to Moses and his crowd before entering the land of milk and honey?

William Lai (61)

Response From the Author

William 師兄,

Thank you for your feedback. I should not have assumed our schoolmates studied in a Catholic school would understand the background and history of Passover.

Your comments are much appreciated,
John Jean (76)

Updates from Hong Kong

2021 Master Athletics Meet, held in Tseung Kwan O, attended by Brother Thomas and Headmaster Tong













Friendly match with St Paul Co-ed College
3 team categories: open group, 35+, 50+
Live broadcast on YouTube by [LSCOPA Sports Channel](#)







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.

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The Chief editors appreciate Daniel Souza (64) for their contribution to this issue.

Chief Editors

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

