

La Salle College Old Boys' Association Newsletter

c/o La Salle College 18 La Salle Road
Tel : 23387171 <http://www.lscoba.com>

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Bookings : 23362985 Wed 3:30-4:30p.m.



LSCOPA Annual Christmas Ball 2002

Dear Lasallians,

Do you want to find back those long lost classmates of yours?

Do you want to share the happy moment with your family, colleagues and friends in a spectacular event?

Or do you just want to know a bit more about our School or acquaint with some Old boys who might share their experience? If the answer is "Yes", do come back and join the School's 70th Anniversary Christmas Ball 2002 on Saturday, December 14th at the Grand Ballroom of Grand Hyatt Hotel. The following are just some of the highlights of the event:

(1) live band with popular star singer;

(2) dancing performance & 'fun drama';

(3) exciting games including "Total Recall" and (4) lucky draws with fabulous prizes!

So don't hesitate, just give us a call: (for reservation of table) Mr. Gerald Huang at 9045 8687 & (for advertising in brochure) Mr. Patrick Lam at 61978899 (before 20th Nov.) or visit www.lscoba.com

With your generous participation, I believe this event will be the most successful and memorable one.

Yours truly,

Paul Ngai

**LSCOPA Christmas Ball 2002 Organising Committee
Chairman**

My First School Ball

There is a Chinese old saying "If you have never been to the Great Wall of China, you would never be a man". But all the boys in my school only honor this motto "If you have never touched the hands of the girls from the Flint Convent, then you are still a baby." I have carried out this commandment but ended up in a disaster.

Naturally speaking, the Christmas Ball in the school was the most meaningful event that we lived for in each academic calendar, apart from the Inter-School Race. The one in 1986 was my first ball. I had already stocked up my fashion gears from the famous Lady's Street well before the night.

The night was full of young boys and girls. Boys were looked like gentlemen as they were on their dads' suits. Girls in high heels and miniskirts became swans on the dancing floor.

By the way they walked, talked and groomed, I was able to tell where those swans were from: Some from the Blue Pool as they were simply elegant; some from the Farm House, shown by their natural and fresh look; some from the Robinson Synagogue, a bunch of incomprehensible and unfriendly creatures; we even had a few from the Gascoigne Barracks but not tempting enough. The night was actually dominated by those from the Flint Convent as they came in droves, accompanied by a white-robed Sister who sat behind the stage and kept a watchful eye all night.

My eyes were like the laser ray beaming through the throngs of moving bodies and searching for my first 'prey'. Amidst the thunderous musical chords, I heard funny names being shouted out like "Peter", "John", "Mary" and "Susan" as if we were back to the Primary One English textbook or we were playing a modern ICQ! I was told later that this was a social etiquette in this function to have easily-sounded Christian names and it could weigh up your chance.

I had put up quite a dismal performance throughout the night despite my abundant courage of persistence. When I was about to make a graceful retreat, I was suddenly approached by a girl from the Flint. "Don't you know you look like an Eurasian?" the girl with a face full of baby fat and an impeccable hint of innocence was throwing smiles at me. I was only speechless and completely shocked by this charming flirtation. Later I also learned that this was another important social etiquette to offer your invitation with polite and flattering words. How unsophisticated I was at the time! In less than two minutes I saw myself dancing like Michael Jackson.

It was also my first time being asked to have a social drink in Patio, the cafe in New World Hotel. It was funny that I saw so many familiar faces there as if the party had carried on in a new venue. People came in pairs, boys ushered their new acquaintances into their seats as if laying down their trophies from the Inter-school Race.

I didn't realize the beverage names on the drink list could be so colorful. Pink Lady, Grasshopper were much more imaginative than the Vitasoy, or Fanta we used to have in the school tuck shop. My new girl seemed to be more excited than myself as if she had finally baited a big fish.

As she was eagerly ordering some dishes of Ravioli and Samosa from the Menu of Appetizers, I began in a panic to count the remaining number of slips in my pocket that I had saved up on lunch boxes over the last month. After finally seeing her off somewhere in Homantin Hill, I had become penniless on the street and walked back to my home in Tsuen Wan at this midnight hour



Yip Kin Shin (1987)

Yip Kin Shing, Jim, a general practice surveyor and the convener for the La Salle Old Boy Surveying Professionals' Network, graduated from La Salle in 1987 and A. Level in 1989. His contact e-mail address: jimyiphk@yahoo.com
Newsletter

LSCOBA 2002 Winter Golf Tournament

Details of the next golf tournaments of LSCOBA are as follows: Date: 29 November 2002 (Friday)
Venue : Macau Golf & Country Club

Ferry: HK to Macau: departing from Shun Tak HK -Macau Ferry Terminal (Sheung Wan) at 7:30 a.m.
Macau to HK : departing Macau at 6:00 p.m. to Shun Tak HK -Macau Ferry Terminal (Sheung Wan)

Price: HK\$1,400 per person (please see notes below) includes:

- * Round trip ferry between HK and Macau and transfer to golf club
- * green fee, buggy fee and locker * Breakfast & lunch & drinks
- * Prizes

Notes:

(1) For members of Macau G & CC (or of other clubs e.g. American Club, HK Football Club which are entitled to play in Macau free of green fee), the price is HK\$990.

(2) If you prefer to make your own arrangement to return from Macau, please deduct HK\$160 from the price. Vacancies: 40 LSCOBA members on a first-come-first-served basis Deadline: 15 November 2002 (Friday)

Remarks:

- * No entry will be accepted unless accompanied with full payment.
 - * Prizes will be awarded to the winners with the best total score, most Stableford points, Best Front-9, Best Back-9 as well as winners for the longest-drive and nearest-pin.
 - * Make sure you have a valid travelling document to go to Macau.
 - * All itineraries and prices are subject to change without prior notice.
 - * LSCOBA reserves the right to cancel the event at its sole discretion in which event a full refund will be made.
 - * LSCOBA and the organizers shall not be responsible for any personal injury or loss or damage whatsoever to any person howsoever arising in connection with this event.
 - * For further enquiries, please contact Roger Wong (tel: 2230 3522, fax: 2899 2996, email: rogerksw@prestongates.com.hk)
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喇沙校長帶領改革獲讚賞

同於四月接受視學的喇沙書院，視學報告對校長、學生及教師都有很高評價(見右表)，視學報告盛讚該校朝氣勃勃、卓爾不群，能應付廿一世紀的挑戰。報告大讚年近六十歲的校長譚瑪士修士十分能幹，表現出專業的領導才能，備受學生及教職員愛戴。

閱讀文化弱未照顧稍遜學生不過，報告亦批評該校大部分接受觀課的課堂，未能照顧能力稍遜的學生，亦未能建立學生閱讀文化。譚瑪士校長土任僅兩年，已帶領學校逐步改革，成功例子包括諮詢全體教職意見後，成功推行教職員評核制度。他接受訪問時指出，尊重教職員意見，是順利改革的要素。為了解民意他擴開「進誅」崇道，將教職員大會由每年一次增至每年四次，增設每月與教職員代表會面、單獨與職員見面、派發問卷蒐集民意等。尊重意見成功推行評核制度譚瑪士校長強調，「我不是他們(教職員)的老闆，我像管理人多於老闆。」他說，教職員評核制度也要經十入個月話詢才能實行，「教職員對此很敏感，我們要求所有教職員參與諮詢，最後建立一個屬於他們的制度，校方只從旁監察」

譚瑪士校長又認為傳統Chalk & Talk(俗稱填鴨式教學法)已不適用，教師與學生的互動關係最重要，「教師一定要與學生溝通，不能只當學生是一個註冊名字」。譚校長積極支持學生活動，打破與學生間的隔閉。校長「親氏」學生士氣高司令喇沙書院學生會主席劉鎮然指出，校長很著緊學生表現，「他時常去看學生練波，詢問同學的練波情況、出席率，又會到校際比賽為我們打氣」。劉鎮然笑言，不諳中文的譚校長達中文辯論比賽都出席，令同學士氣、歸屬感大增。中文科教師劉鎮然認為校長有魄力、思想開放，懂得由下而上推行政策。

喇沙書院校友黃定認為喇沙能夠保持活力，主要是有優良傳統，令每位喇沙人都以「喇沙」為榮，想把這傳統傳承和發揚開去，為培訓新一代，很多喇沙舊生都回校任教。地鐵主席蘇澤光、貿易發展局總裁施祖祥都是喇沙校友。



喇沙書院全校學生近1700人，校長譚瑪士修士竟能叫出大部分同學的名字，同學都嘖嘖稱奇。

喇沙書院褒貶摘要

創校 1932年

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| 褒 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 校長譚瑪士具專業領導才能，十分重視教職員意見，致力推行改革，如實行教職員評核制度• 教師致力進行本科改革，能用流利英語授課，約四成接受觀課的課堂，教學質素高於平均水平。教師採用有效教學策略，如運用良好的提問技巧、採用探究式教學法，給學生發問及表達意見的機會，培養學生的批判思維能力。 |
| 貶 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 學生主動學習，成績出眾，學生之間情同手足• 大部分接受觀課的課堂未照顧能力稍遜的學生• 缺乏有系統的自我評估機制• 圖書館部分書籍已殘舊或過時，且活動不足，未能建立學生閱讀文化 |

資料來源：喇沙書院網站 lasalle.school.net.hk

陳牧祝聖明沙小學新教學樓

(本報訊)陳日君主教在九月二十五日,祝聖九龍塘司令沙小學新校舍並主持彌撒。參加這次彌撒的包括喇沙小學全體三十六班學生、教師及近百位嘉賓。陳主教在講道時讚揚喇沙會修士在過去百多年間對香港所作的貢獻,並對政府推動小學全日制的政策表示肯定。喇沙小學重建工程在二000年七月展開。工程分兩期在學校原址進行。新建的教學大樓在今年九月啟用,象徵第一期工程順利完成。第二期工程將於二00三年年中完成,舊校舍將被新操場、校車土落設施及室內泳池取代。重建後,喇沙小學的課室和設施比舊校舍增加近一倍,足以應付現代教學需求,及該校為一千四百多名小學生提供全日制課程的需要。該校校監巴特修士(Bro. Patrick Tierney)對新教學大樓的設施十分滿意,他說:「新校的課室擁有目前最先進的教學設備。學生們更可享受為美勞、電腦和音樂課而設的特別室,以及設備優良的語言室。至於活動空間方面,除有蓋操場外同學們可以利用面積寬廣的體育館」。該體育館與多用途學校禮堂相連,可容納一千五百多個座位。

巴特修士非常感謝各界的捐助和支持:「雖然政府負責斥資興建所有資助學校應有的標準設施,但其他高於準的設施,如室內泳池、體育館和壁畫等,都是由喇沙師生、家長、舊生和友好捐贈的。」他表示,面向喇沙利道的壁畫名為「The Creation」是名設計工匠Francisco Borboa 為喇沙小學特別設計的。在彌撒和祝聖新校舍儀禮完結後,巴特修士與陳日君主教參觀了新教學大樓。

Homily at funeral Mass of Br. Frank O'Rourke in Castletown by Bro Stephen Duignan The Brother Visitor of Ireland (excerpt)

Well, we know now that Br. Frank's battles with his illness and with the by-pass are over. All of us who supported him in these past years, but especially in these last months, would have loved to see him 'pull through' and walk once more among us. In the designs of God it was not to be, I would like to convey to his brothers and sisters, Maureen, Teasy, Jimmy, Josie, Bernadette, Michael, and Gerard, and to his brothers in law and sisters in law, nephews, nieces and many, many friends, the sympathy of the De La Salle Province in Ireland, the sympathy of the Sector of Hong Kong, sent by Br. Patrick Tierney, Provincial of the Hong Kong sector, who was present here, not more than a month or so ago, at the funeral of his own Brother, Br. Albert, and, from South Africa, and through the Auxiliary Visitor, Br. Gabriel Griffin, the sympathy of the Brothers in the communities of that region.

Br. Frank endured to the end -endured, indeed, to a premature and -a religious life which began in his home in Clonaslee, Co. Laois in 1940. John Joe was 5th in a family of five Brothers and five sisters, three of whom Larry, Tommie and Chrissie are deceased. He entered the Junior Novitiate in Mallow in 1953, moved here to Castletown in 1955, completed his Novitiate and took his first vows here in 1958. He completed his Leaving Cert. in 1960 and qualified for the Training College in Waterford. However, he postponed his entry to the training course and he went instead to East London, South Africa where he spent five very happy years teaching in St. Anthony's Primary School. He returned to Waterford in 1965 and completed his teacher training course, made his final profession and returned to East London in 1967. After one year he was transferred to De La Salle Junior School, Victory Park, Johannesburg where he spent the next two years.

He returned to Ireland in 1970 and studied for his degree and Higher Diploma, all the while teaching in Mount La Salle. Apart from short spells in Muine Bheag and Kimacud, Br. Frank was to spend the next 24 years of his life in Hong Kong. It was an extraordinary move within the space of a few years, from the African continent to Asia. Nobody is quite sure what it was that attracted Br. Frank to Hong Kong, and, especially at that time to the doorstep of China.

The experts say it was his contact and friendship with Br. Alphonsus Breen, the Hong Kong Superior at the time. Others say it was his ties with Clonaslee and the fact that a number of Laois Brothers were working in that part of the world at that time. While these were important considerations, I am more inclined to the belief that there was a higher call too and that the consciousness of the Master's call to make disciples of all nations had not a little influence.

After five years of full-time teaching a vacancy arose for the Vice-Principalship in Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College and Br. Frank was appointed. He continued to teach his full programme. A year later he was appointed Director of the Community. In spite of the fact that it was his first appointment as Director he took the post in his stride and soon he began to show his ability as an organiser, a book-keeper, a spiritual leader, an innovator. It was during Frank's time as Director that word went around that the Chan Sui Ki community had the best cook in Hong Kong. And it seems many Brothers can vouch for this fact.

In 1990, another vacancy, this time of a very high profile nature, arose with the retirement of the Principal of the very prestigious La Salle College, Kowloon. Again Br. Frank was promoted and he remained Principal of this College until his retirement in 1998. During his reign as Headmaster, the College achieved many notable successes both in the academic and sporting fields. His ability as a motivator, a leader and innovator came to the fore and he will always be remembered there for his setting up of the La Salle Foundation to provide funds for extensions and maintenance, for the establishment of one of the most vibrant Parent/Teacher associations in the East and his upgrading of the IT systems in the school. He was noted for his ability to get through not only to the hearts of the Former Students but to their wallets as well. A short extract from the 70th anniversary Commemoration Publication of La Salle College, summarises many of the qualities of this extraordinary Brother. "Br Francis was a quick and decisive person. He was a totally honest person and was always expressed his feelings in an open, honest way. Whenever he set his mind on a new development or a new project, he would pursue it with an extraordinary single-mindedness, with vigour and with speed. He never missed a single school function, though not residing on the campus and, in the final years of his Principal ship, though not in the best of health, he never missed a meeting with the parents or a school function organised by the former students. Judging from the number of development projects he undertook during his tenure, he will always be remembered for the extraordinary creative campus enlargement during his time."

Ill-health forced his retirement as Principal in 1998 and he decided to return to Ireland to continue his dialysis treatment and to investigate the possibility of having a kidney transplant or, more correctly perhaps, getting into the queue for a kidney transplant. Despite the frustration and tiredness brought on by his condition, no one ever heard him complain. He was always in good humour and maintain his fighting, optimistic spirit up to the end. The urgent need for a by-pass brought Br. Frank to the Mater about four months ago. It was an extraordinary 'yes' to the doctors considering the circumstances. Even his most optimistic friends weakened in their faith in relation to his chances of survival. But, survive he did and we followed his progress through the intensive ward, down to the high dependency unit and finally to the open ward beside the nurses bay. It was almost unbelievable. Even the nurses were caught up in the atmosphere of determination and dogged desire that Frank would make a full recovery. It was in that tiny ward that I last spoke with him in the company of Peter Foo, the Provincial of Singapore. His voice was strong and his mood hope-filled and optimistic. Little did we know that the end was so near. Frank gave up the battle on Monday morning at 11.30.

He will be sorely missed by his family, whom I know he loved dearly and with whom he spent as much time as he could. His family repaid this love during his final illness and on behalf of the Province I thank them for their great loyalty to and support of Br. Frank over many years but especially these last two. He will be missed too by his community in Mount La Salle, by the Brothers of the Province and especially by the students, teachers and former students of the various schools in Hong Kong who admired him greatly and for whom he had great affection. May his soul now find peace and rest and may eternal light shine upon him forever.



Brother France giving out badges at The Guidance Centre Badge Conferring Ceremony

You are invited to join the LSCOPA 2002-03 Basketball League

Former LSCOPA Basketball League teams and all other OB's are welcome to join in. Please let us know if we can help any OB's to form a new team if team formation is a challenge. A limited number of guests in each team is welcome to further help team formation. Matches are scheduled on Sundays at LSC. We expect the registration period to be in December 2002 and the tentative kick-off date of the league to be in early January 2003. Please contact OB Gerald Huang at 9045-9697 for more details or for any further help. Further announcements would be made on the registration. Thank you.

**Sports Sub-Comm.
LSCOPA**

Part III

LA SALLE COLLEGE KOWLOON Community Diary by Brother Cassian Brigant

On 8 February we mourned the accidental death of a Standard 7B student. Tan Man Tai was a Catholic and was cycling with a companion along the Taipo highway when he was struck by a passing lorry, which then stopped and by mistake reversed over his body. He was given first aid at the Tsun Wan police station and then rushed to hospital where he soon passed away.

Sports Day on 10 March was blessed with lovely weather while individual champions and teams battled it out with skill and endurance. Chief guest was Mgr H Valtorta, Vicar Apostolic.

The college feast was on 8 April and it coincided with confirmation and solemn communion day in the parish. Mgr Maeris who had succeeded Mgr C Constantini as Apostolic Delegate in Beijing presided at the ceremony. But what gave us the greatest delight and exceeded all expectations was that he kindly joined us for lunch in community.

Mgr Zanin on his part shared with us his great sense of satisfaction at finding himself among the Brothers once more. For a period of eight years he had been chaplain to our leading establishment in Rome, and over the years he had identified with all the joys and pains of the Brothers worldwide.

Two days later the Representative of the Holy See returned to make an official visit to the College. A welcome song by the 750 pupils was followed by address of welcome by a student from the matriculation class. The Monsignor replied in vibrant Italian which was translated by one of the Mission Fathers. He repeated some of the happy sentiments earlier expressed to the staff, and at one point showed them his pectoral cross which contained a relic of St John Baptist de La Salle, a personal gift from the Superior General Brother Adrian.

Service for the Repose of the soul of Brother Superior General Adrian:

The Parish of St Theresa very kindly arranged for a solemn funeral service for our much lamented Superior General, Brother Adrian. The South China Morning Post reported on this and went on to comment: The large attendance at the ceremony was a clear indication of the estimate in which the Christian Brothers are held. The Church of St Theresa was overflowing with students past and present and their parents - a tribute of appreciation to one who had given his entire life to the Christian education of youth. [SCMP 10 May 1934 page 11]

Teachers' Association

This year saw the formation of an association open to all schools in the Colony. This was an initiative taken by certain teachers in government colleges, and in a short time it had 120 members. The Jesuit Superior and Brother Director of St Joseph's College are among the vice-presidents. Meetings are monthly and are hosted by the leading schools in rotation.

Change in the school year

The new school year will be fully implemented this year, following the June examinations. So as not to interfere unduly with studies, there will be only a limited promotion in September. This year also we introduce commercial studies, so essential for those pupils without the means or aptitude for higher academic studies. It is felt that two years will be sufficient to prepare for the London Chamber of Commerce Diploma.

In September the number of Catholic students went over the 50% mark. Last year Catholics numbered 356 out of a total of 778, this year we have 423 out of 829. On the other hand the number of Protestants had gone down to 48 from 61. There

are 7 Islamic students and 2 Jews. Chinese students number 411, while European / Portuguese come to 372. The number of Chinese is down from 443 in 1933, while European / Portuguese are up from 276 in 1933.

Economic Depression

The economic depression has been slow to reach HK, but it is now being really felt. Its effects are seen in the falling number of boarders, down from 127 to 85 and of these many are paying reduced fees.

Brother Marcian James, former director of novices and currently director of De La Salle College in Manila, presided at the annual retreat. The preacher was Fr Finn, a Jesuit scripture professor from the Regional Seminary. Brother Visitor James was with us in Hong Kong 17-25 October, during which time he paid a number of brief visits to La Salle College. Another visitor was his Excellency Mgr L Balcon, vicar- apostolic for south Shensi since 1926 and recently elected superior-general of the Society of the Foreign Missionaries of Milan. Mgr Galvin from Maynooth, vicar- apostolic of Hanyang also came by. We were particularly shocked at the news of the death of Brother Assistant Anacletus, because La Salle College owed so much to him. May our dear lamented benefactor continue to assist from heaven.

As in previous years we had a retreat for the students as the new school year got under way. It was preached by Fr Spada. At its close His Excellency Mgr Valtorta inaugurated the Congregation of the Children of Mary -4 October.

Numbers continue to rise a little, reaching 868, of whom 432 are Catholic. The economic crisis is getting worse, and it is having sharp consequences for our budget. We have lowered still further the fee for boarding, but this has not prevented a further fall in the number of boarders, now down to 60. The depreciation of the dollar in November added further to our problems as it led to a jump in the prices for basic foods.



Opening of Juvenile

The event which took pride of place for us in the course of the year was the opening of the Juvenile. The project to open a juniorate at Kowloon that was so dear to our late Assistant Brother Anacletus was at last being realised. At the beginning of September a wing of the college 'has converted to provide accommodation for Chinese youth who felt drawn to give their lives to the cause of Christian education. Up to the time of writing some six very promising aspirants have been admitted. Others are planning to join and still others have expressed interest. A piece of land has been acquired beside the college. It has already been levelled and enclosed with a classy wall, and we hope shortly to be able to construct a building to accommodate the juniors.

Scholastic successes

Another event of importance was the excellent performance of our students in the School Certificate Examination held last June. Seven got honours, while 37 scored distinction, the highest number in the whole Colony. In addition three students received important scholarships. We have thus achieved 'citizenship rights' among the larger educational establishments of the Colony. The Director of Education who together with his wife, presided at the prize-giving in December, expressed his lively satisfaction on this point.

The Diocesan Catechetical Commission held its annual examinations to assess the quality of religious instruction in Catholic schools. 20 of our seniors and 16 Juniors achieved the required standard and received the diploma on 11 December.

Annual Retreat

As on the previous year, Brother Marcian James came from Manila to preside over the annual retreat, which was preached with much zeal and unction by Fr McCaffrey SJ from the Atheneo in Manila. At the end of the retreat a number of Brother, Chinese and European, pronounced their vows. The retreat for the pupils was preached by Fr Craig from the Regional Seminary in Aberdeen. Mention must also be made of an enclosed retreat of three days during the holidays for some 30 Chinese teachers from various Catholic schools. Most were old boys of our schools.

Brother Visitor James paid us two visits, first on his return from Manila in February, then on 1 June to receive the Visitor-General for North America, Brother Romuald, who has a special mandate for the mission from Brother Superior General. Brother Romuald arrived from Haiphong on 3 June and stayed some 12 days with us. In November we had a visit from Mgr Marcou from Foukin and 10 December a visit from Mgr McCloskey from the Philippines, both protectors of our Institute.

(To be continued)