



## From the desk of the Provincial Superior



Dear Brothers,

As we continue in our reflection on Authentic Leadership, I thought it would be good to reflect about how truth can set us free. We know that Jesus has stated He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. What this quote could mean is that Jesus is the embodiment of Truth. Truth is not an isolated concept but is a contingent part of our life. Truth that is divorced from our life does not mean anything at all. If we profess to proclaim the truth then my life also reflect that truth.

Jesus stated in John 8:32, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Thus if one lives his life according to the truth then he can experience freedom. I would see that an authentic leader is one who has a sense of freedom in his life. Thus living in truth will see one living in freedom too. Mark Twain wrote: “If you tell the truth; you won’t have to remember anything,” Living in truth means that you need not be always on your guard from being found out. Having told a lie requires that you tell more lies to cover that one lie. Thus living a life of lie means that one cannot be free.

Then what is the truth. The truth is not in what you say but you need to be the embodiment of the truth. Truth is not about a set of defense that one makes but it is to be proclaimed. In other words, the truth does not to be defended. The truth will defend itself. What is needed is to just live the truth.

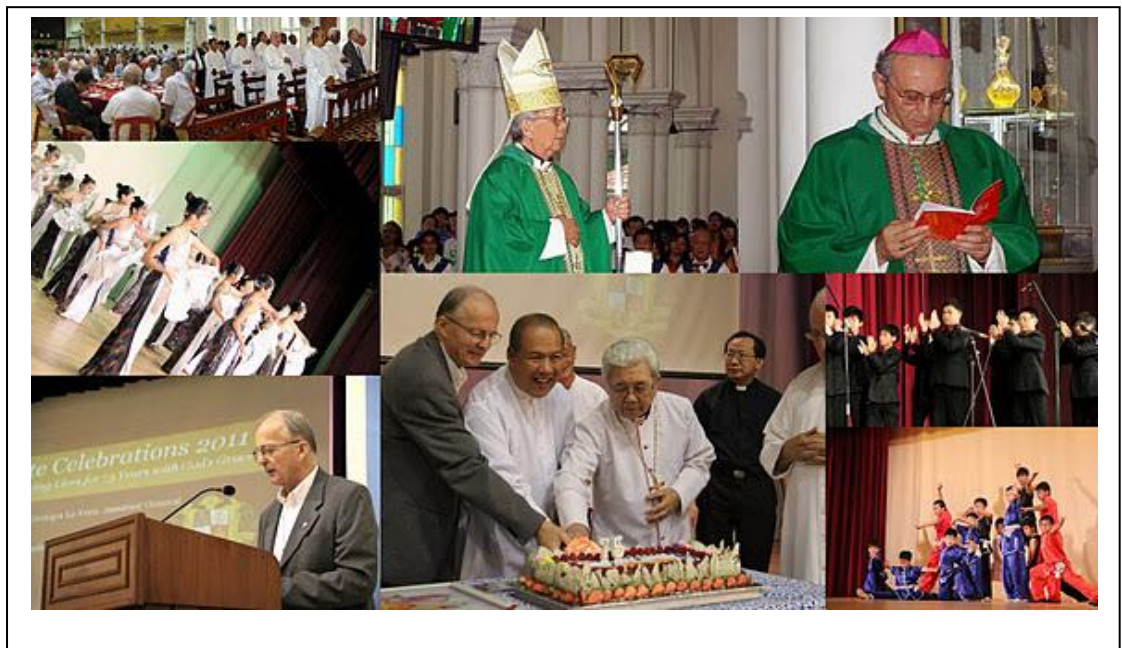
Our good works can be deceptive too. We may be doing good works for our own sake and thus it may not reflect what the work is about, but about oneself. It is said that we may be doing good works for God but not doing God’s work. The truth will reveal our motives for the good works that we profess to do. Freedom thus is a result of knowing the truth and living it in our lives. Blessed John Paul wrote: “Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.”

Not living in the truth would mean that we are living a divided life. In some ways we are not living as real persons. We put on our mask most of the time and living a life divided. Integrity is not a part of the life that we live and we pay a high price for this. The price we pay can be that I will “feel fraudulent, anxious about being found out, and depressed by the fact that I am denying my own selfhood. “ And others around me pay a price as well, for they now walk on unstable ground made so by my dividedness. Dividedness is a personal pathology but it soon becomes a problem for the people around me too. It is said that we need to rejoin our soul with our role in life. If it is not so, then it would be a difficult journey in living a coherent life that is not divided. In this journey we need a community of support, of trustworthy relationship.

*Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh*

## The Province Celebrated Two Diamond Anniversaries

Singapore – 75 years ago, Bro. Gerard Majella, a French, from St. Gabriel's College, Thailand (Kingdom of Siam as it was then known), set foot on Singapore soil on 27 November 1936. He was 52 years old. Later he was joined by two young Bros. Adolphus and John de Breboeuf, both were from Canada. They arrived on the 29 December 1936. The three of them founded the first community at Holy Innocent's School, Serangoon, Singapore. In 1938, the Trade School at Bukit Timah was opened with Bros. Robert and Galmier to be in-charge of the school.



Singapore was thought as an ideal location for formation of young Brothers from India, Siam and Malaya. A Novitiate was soon to be a reality. The location of the Novitiate would be at Bukit Timah, adjacent to the Trade School. The first Postulant arrived in 1938 but he had to reside at Holy Innocent's School, Serangoon until the Novitiate building was completed. By June 1938, the Novice Master in the person of Bro. Gerard Majella and five Postulants moved to the Novitiate at Bukit Timah. Bro. Louis Gonzaga, had arrived from Siam to replace Bro. Gerard Majella as Director of the Seranggon School. The numbers of the Brothers grew but hampered by the World War II.

The humble beginning of the Province always well remembered and the Province always grateful to God and to the Province of Thailand, from which the Malaysia-Singapore Province was born. Even until of recent time, the Province sent its Postulants to the Novitiate in Thailand for formation.

The Diamond Anniversary was celebrated on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011, in none other than at the Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin at Serangoon. It was the Parish where the Brothers had their first community, a foundation if it may be called. The Archbishop of Singapore, Most Reverend Nicholas Chia presided the Eucharistic Celebration. The Brothers were honour with the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli during the celebration. The Archbishop of Singapore thanked the Brothers for their contribution especially in education sector. He encouraged the Brothers to continue in their education mission although the numbers of Brothers in Singapore had dwindled.



Bro. Emmanuel

After the Eucharistic Celebration, the Brothers joined by the Archbishop, Priests, Religious and many well wishers to a reception at St. Gabriel’s School. The celebration made grandeur because Bro. Pierre-Paul, affectionately known as Bro. Emmanuel celebrated his 60 years as religious. He had contributed a lot for Singapore’s society and his contribution was acknowledged by the government. He had been conferred Justice of Peace. A man with talents and wits, who is ever entertaining when one, sits next to him. His contribution to the Province is remarkable. He said that he will keep on giving his service as long as God wants him to be.

The Province is truly grateful to God for its 75 years of existence and for the gift of Bro. Emmanuel in the province. ~*Province Bulletin*

## The Province Recollection and Chapter

**Singapore** – The Brothers once again gather as a province for the Recollection and Chapter. The Recollection and Chapter was held at Montfort Centre from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The Recollection was facilitated by Ms Cheryl Lee from the Episcopal Commission for Migrant and Itinerant People. The theme of the recollection was *Migration - A Sign of the Times*. During the input, the Brothers were challenge to respond to the needs of the migrants surround them. She said that the migrants, although given the status of refugee and acknowledged by the United Nation, they were harassed by some ignorant authorities. They are the voiceless and defenceless. Many of the migrant workers were exploited and cheated. She said that the happenings are the reality. Although the recollection was one and a half day, it gave an impact to the Brothers life.

The Province Chapter was mainly held as a preparation for the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter. The Chapter was graced by Bro. Georges Le Vern, the Assistant General. During the Chapter, Bro. Stephen Paulus Tee was elected as Capitular to the General Chapter. The Brothers had a Preliminary Provincial Chapter in June, which produced the first Draft out of the working document. The Provincial Chapter once again looked into the first draft to fine-tune it. There some opinions cropped and discussed. Although there were many points brought up during the discussions, the Chapter was within a prayerful environment.

The main topic on discussion during the Chapter was on *Authentic Leaders*. Many Brothers opined that an authentic leader cannot be an authentic leader without being an authentic person. Still, not less believed that an authentic leader needs authentic team. A leader certainly needs a team or else the leader would become very autocratic and a dictator. As for the topic on *Greater Brotherhood*, the Brothers felt that they need to play important role to be part of the bigger society to overcome the environmental crisis, on human rights, on gender issues, in poverty and economic issues, and to be transparent and accountable in their daily dealing within the fraternity. The Brothers all agreed that the Congregation need to have a different *Structure of Government* and to have *New Forms of Link and Belonging*.

In the closing address, the Assistant General, Bro. Georges Le Vern thanked the Brothers for their hospitality and to be part in the Provincial Chapter. ~*Province Bulletin*

## Montfort Youth Centre (MYC) Celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Melaka** – It was a joyous occasion and happy moments to give thanks to God for the 10 years of what Montfort Youth Centre (MYC) had gone through. The Centre was founded by Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh, Bro. Robin D and Bro. Peter K. The first community



took procession of the former St. Mary's Primary School, Air Salak Melaka in 2000. They, especially the two young Brothers Robin and Peter, without wasting time, gathered all their energy and started to clean the abandoned building. Some structures were pulled down and new structures were built. Some staff and students and also former students from Montfort Boys Town, Shah Alam, came to help in making the old building more decent. In August 2011, Montfort Youth Centre was born with the intake of 14 young men for a single course, Motor Mechanics.



Since then, the Centre had experienced three different Directors. The present Director, none other than Bro. Robin D is a talented and calibre person. He tirelessly and continuously makes the centre a better place for learning and a home for the students.

Currently, MYC is training 82 young men in two trades, Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Computer Maintenance. MYC had certainly grown from merely a simple dormitory and a

single workshop to what it is now. The ten years effort, hard work and most of all, dedication of the Brothers, had seen a lot of improvement. “The tree is fruiting!”

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held at the Equatorial Hotel, Melaka. The Charity Dinner was attended by many well wishers including some Brothers from different communities. All the founding Brothers of the Centre were present during the celebration. The Assistant General, Bro. Georges Le Vern was also present during that night. Mr. Tan Hin Seng, the Board Chairman of the Centre, thanked the many donors and sponsors to make the



night a memorable one. He specially thanked the Berjaya Group for having contributed a handsome amount of money for the well being of the Centre.

It was a wonderful occasion to see the former students of the Centre present during the celebration. One of the former students, Bernard Tan Tin Song works as a Service Advisor with Honda at Petaling Jaya, said that he is always grateful to MYC for what he is now.

The Province believes that the Brothers’ apostolate in Melaka is still relevant to the society. Their witnessing and contribution to the society certainly had given impact to the young people who had walked in and studied in the Centre. Many of its former students still visit the centre and some of them are returning the blessings they had received from MYC. They said that what they contributed or donated to MYC would never be the same amount what they had received from MYC.~*Province Bulletin*