



## Message of the Provincial Superior

Dear Brothers,

The theme of our 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter may continue to ring in each of us. I guess each of you by now must have read the message of the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter. As mentioned previously this General Chapter has been a historic event for us as a congregation. It is now left to each of us to discover for ourselves how we can live out the call of this General Chapter. The theme “Authentic Leadership for a Greater Brotherhood” is very appropriate theme for us in this present time of our history. The impact of this theme will be manifested in the extent “it inspires a renewal in our commitment to be authentic religious, playing a leadership role in the promotion of a greater brotherhood.” (*foreword of the Message*)

The world of today expects from us as religious persons, and even so as a Christian, to be authentic in the way we live our lives. Undeniably we cannot hide ourselves under the cover of being a religious and failed to live a life that is wholesome, in integrity and true to who we really are. This is what scripture would describe as “wolves under sheep skin (cf. Matthew 7:15).” In other words we become false prophets and not authentic leaders. Thus being an authentic leader is so important for us to live a greater brotherhood.

Greater Brotherhood is thus about expanding our relationship with one another, beyond an exclusive way of existence. It is not those kind of fraternity wherein if we swear in some form of secrecy that we can belong to the group. Greater brotherhood is about living our lives in an inclusive way that all people and all of creation can become a part of my life. I become able to expand my being to include “those whom the world rejects,” that is the lost, the least and the last. Being able to embrace all people and all creation means also that I am able to transcend beyond the person that I am, i.e. the “unholy trinity”: Me, I and Myself.

This call for an “authentic leadership for a greater brotherhood” is not a programme for each individual alone. This is only possible through a community of believers that professes to be witnesses to this calling. It is in this process that the entire community becomes a witness to authentic leadership and greater brotherhood

Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh  
 Provincial Superior





## A Pilot Project at MBT - Responding to the Signs of the Time

**Shah Alam:-** Malaysia is a melting-pot country with her diverse culture and belief systems. The multi-racial and multi-ethnic communities create the 1-Malaysia way of living in harmony. Malaysia was and is experiencing the influx of migrants either with or without official permit. This calls a greater challenge for the government in curbing the influx in the recent time. The Church in her pastoral dimension is concern on the well being of the migrants especially in basic human rights.

Many of the migrants are constantly on the run and hide from the government officials because of their status in Malaysia. Many had been penalised and deported in a very concern way in the eyes of the Church. The young migrants if fortunate would be able to obtain decent jobs while others fell into discrimination, blame and humiliation. The Archdiocesan Office of Human Development (AOHD) of Kuala Lumpur is concerned and taking careful steps to help the young migrants. Through her and the UNCHR, seven young Myanmar migrants were admitted to Montfort Boys Town (MBT), Shah Alam for a short 6 weeks course. They are fully financed by a certain body during their course of stay at MBT.



Upon meeting the cheerful young people, two of the seven are taking basic welding course and the remaining five are in the Pastry and Bakery Department. They are in the age range of 16 to 19 years old. Some of them had been in Malaysia for just a couple of months and some are longer. They are grateful for being in MBT and they hope that they could take a longer course rather than just six weeks. They had been in MBT since 1st of June and their course has come to the end.

According to Bro. John Albert, the Director of MBT, it is a pilot project that MBT is embarking and hope for better collaboration with AOHD and UNCHR. It is to respond the signs of the time in providing the

basic needs for the young people. He further said that MBT could be a stepping stone for the young migrants for gainful employment and hope to be accepted by third country. Prior to the opening MBT's door to the Myanmar young migrants, Bro. John had visited the country and had a big dream for the young people in Myanmar. The present Provincial Superior of this Province had been visiting Myanmar for a number of times. Perhaps one day a mission is to be planted in that country.

Further to that, the official from AOHD comes once a week to be with the Myanmar students. Apart from that, a special English class is given to them by one of MBT staff. Before entering MBT, they had been attending classes in learning centres in various locations by different bodies. Bro. John concluded it is no longer 1-Malaysia but 1-Asean as the world is getting smaller and the cry of the poor is just at the door step.~ *Province Bulletin*

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### The Vocation Promotion Team



Bro. Joseph Philip, who had just come back from his renewal course in the Philippines, was appointed to be the coordinator of the Vocation Promotion Team. He is assisted by Bro. Paulus Xavier, Bro. Stephen Paulus and Bro. Thomas Paul (coincidentally, he is assisted by three Pauls – wonder what it will be come). During the first meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2012 at St. Gabriel's Fraternity, Changi (SGFC), Singapore, lined up two objectives. The objectives are: to promote SLDM and his spirituality and to promote the BSG. The VPT's term of office is only for one year. The team would be automatically dissolved on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013. A Vocation Camp is to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September in Sabah.

# PARENTS' DAY

## MONTFORT YOUTH CENTRE

Melaka, Sunday 20 May – Parents and family members of students gathered together for a day of sharing in Montfort Youth Centre (MYC). The objective of Parents' Day is to get feedback from parents about our programme and to find ways how we can work together to help their children.

The programme started at 9.00 a.m. with welcoming address by Bro. Robin D, Director of MYC followed by tea. After that parents were divided into 3 smaller groups; English & BM, Chinese and Tamil speakers. A lot of issues were discussed among parents and staff. It was a good opportunity for parents, Brothers and staff to mingle and get to know each other and the programme provided by Montfort Youth Centre.

When the groups gathered again, Bro. Robin D summed up the sharing sessions and gave tips to parents on how to help their children especially during the holidays. The session ended with fellowship lunch among parents, family members, Brothers, staff and students.



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A certain mother spent several evenings diligently teaching her 3-year-old the Lord's Prayer. Finally, the toddler was ready to recite the entire prayer and did a very respectable job, right down to the bottom line when she prayed, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some E-mail"

(Source: <http://yahshvah.com/churchjokes.htm>)

## 2012 1st Old Boys' Games Challenge Trophy (OBGCT)

~ Boys' Town Old Boys' Alumni, Singapore

**Singapore:-** On what was going to be an exciting and fun-filled Saturday afternoon of 21 April 2012 at Boys' Town, it soon dawned on all, that this would not be happening as the rain continued unabated, pelting non-stop since morning. The soccer field had become drenched and the basketball court yard wet and slippery and certainly not the most welcoming sight for any sporting activity.

As luck would have it and with Mother Nature on our side, the rain soon became a drizzle. By 4 pm, it stopped completely. By which time, some 30 ex-boys who are part of the Old Boys' Alumni had turned up in full force and were preparing to do battle against the much younger present boys and Staff to vie for the coveted first ever Old Boys' Games Challenge Trophy. At stake are three games – soccer 11-a-side, basketball and tug-of war.

While the players were warming up for the soccer and basketball games to take place simultaneously, Brothers Emmanuel and Roger were present to greet and exchange and shakes with the ex-boys at the basketball courtyard. It was a reunion of sorts as familiar faces and laughter momentarily punctuated the air.

As soon as the whistle blew for the start of the first half of the soccer game, there was no letting up on either side of the team. While the present boys' fitness and stamina was an edge, the old boys were not simple "push-overs" either. To the surprise of everyone, the latter displayed good passing skills and before long, they were rewarded with one goal up.



Our younger boys getting ready for the start of the soccer match

The younger boys with their sheer determination and fighting spirit reciprocated with an equalizer and before the anxiety could subside, the old boys scored again. The boys were fortunate to equalize once again before half time. So it was 2-2 at half time and by then, both teams would have clearly assessed each other's capability and agreed that both sides are equally dangerous and vulnerable.

When the game resumed in the second half, the game soon became clearly one-sided with the younger boys outwitting the older boys with their skills and tenacity. The final score was 4-2 in favour of the younger boys.

The basketball match was played with equal fervour. Both sides were well matched and despite the wet court, the older boys displayed their skilfulness' and won the match. With two sports played and the scores tied at 1-1, the final showdown to decide which team would emerge as Champions was the tug-of-war. It was a show of force as the combined strength of each side of 12 boys and 12 old boys tugging at each side of the rope could easily exceed a ton. Perhaps, the younger boys' technique proved to be far more superior and with much huffing and puffing, they eventually won the first round out of three. The slack was again taken up for the second round and on the command "pull", the tension of the rope

was so great at both ends that it snapped into two. As there was no spare rope available, the referee decided to award the winning point to the current boys.

After a quick wash up and change into clean clothes, everyone gathered at the dining hall for the last part of the evening’s celebration which was prize presentation and dinner. Harry Mealin, Head of Residential Services welcomed and thanked all the old boys for their presence, their generous contributions to the Old Boys’ Day Challenge Trophy and even sponsoring the sumptuous dinner.



Brother Emmanuel delivering his Thank You speech



Old and current boys gathered at the Dining Hall

Bro Emmanuel in his usual unassuming demeanour gave a speech to thank all the old boys for their participation in this first ever Old Boys’ Day Challenge Trophy. The speech was peppered with many stories reminiscent of those past years he looked after the old boys. He shared that while he was happy to see and know that many who left Boys’ Town had become successful, there are others who are also not so successful. Whatever situation they are in, we are touched by Bro. Emmanuel’s magnanimity when he said that all of the old and present boys shall always be in his prayers and all the other Gabrielite Brothers’ too. Harry then led all through one of the three songs of Boys’ Town called “Together We Achieve”.

The highlight of the night was the award for the winner of the 2012 Old Boys’ Challenge Trophy. Every waited anxiously as Harry read out the scores for the games played. Soccer was won by the current boys while basketball was won by the old boys. It was tense moment when Harry announced that the judges had decided to award the winning point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> game, tug-of-war to the current boys and the Challenge Trophy went to - The younger boys!



The proud moment – Old Boy Adrian presenting the winner of the 2012 Challenge Trophy to current boy Subash

A final highlight during dinner was when we were treated to a very inspiring talk by an old boy Paul Aloysius. Paul recalled how he turned his naughtiness and mischief during his time in Boys’ Town into something positive and meaningful where he was given a position of authority as a School Prefect. He has become more resilient and thus a better person

today and has gone on to establish himself as a graphic designer. His only regret was not making better use of his time in Boys' Town but nonetheless, he admitted that his stay there was his most memorable one in his life which he cherishes even till today. The prayer which he had to say before every meal has a very special place in his heart and he still does it today because he feels that there is always tomorrow to look forward to, after dinner. On a more light-hearted note, Paul ended his speech with a parting shot - "That those who had listened to him intently would have learnt something and benefitted from it but those who did not, had missed out something important to take home."

It was indeed a fun-filled, exciting and meaningful Saturday for all present. Not only did it end with a positive note where friendship was once again rekindled and forged, more importantly, the old boy's alumni was formed. This will give the impetus towards more bonding and networking events to come. Special thanks to ex-boys Adrian and Leon, Harry and his Supervisors, Jaysen and Conrad for making the event a success.

[Note: The Management of Boys' Town wishes to extend an invitation to all past (old) boys who wish to be part of the Boys' Town Old Boys' Alumuni (BTOBA) to contact Harry Mealin, Head Residential Service at email: [harry@boystown.org.sg](mailto:harry@boystown.org.sg)]



## My Experience at the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter

*By Bro. Stephen Tee*

When I received an 'sms' from Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh, asking me if I can write something about the experience during the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter – I asked myself... 'Urh...again? I thought I'd given my sharing to Bro Thomas Paul...? As I was washing the bathroom, I pondered, well the last article I gave to Bro Thomas was during the Chapter time, so this article will be the post experience then or perhaps related to my experience as a whole.

Here it goes...when I was chosen as a 'capitulant', I giggled away, "Wow....me going for the General Chapter, representing the whole Province? Me? What am I going to do there?" Gathered some sharing from some Brothers who went for the previous General Chapters, said it is good to experience perhaps once in a life time and feel it. So I told myself, okay I will do my best to participate whatever I can. Since the day I was chosen for the Chapter, I was planning ahead, what to bring, what to wear, what and what? I am a person who just needed to prepare beforehand and so I did. My baggage was ready one month before the flight to Rome, sent it to Singapore during one of the Quarterly Recollection just to 'lighten my weight'. Hmm, it is not that easy to pack for this kind of 'adventure'. Anyway I have done what I needed to do and was just ready to fly.

When I was told the flight may take almost 12 hours, I was thinking aloud, "Wow! That's long." I am sure those of us who had travelled to Rome will say the same thing. I could feel the discomfort when I was in the plane, and sure I too felt the 'time zone' is out. I was not sure I will like to take a 'cat-nap'. I decided to watch the movies during the flight all the way round. I could sense Bro Dominic feeling a bit discomfort, with the seating. 'Night and daylight' just flashed through the cabin windows and the next

moment the announcement saying we are about to land at Dubai International Airport. We got about 2 hours for our transit to Rome. Bro Dominic and I were scouting around the airport. It is a huge airport and a long airport – took us about half an hour to just reach the departure gate or was it more? While waiting we met up with the Brothers from North-East of India. They were catching the same flight with us to Rome. So another 6 hours of flight to Rome. When we reached Rome we were picked up by Bro Pierre, the General Bursar. I thought our Generalate is quite near but it was not so.

When we reached the Generalate we were welcomed by Bro Rene and other Brothers in the community. I was given a room at the ground floor just opposite the Reception Office – quite a big room, looks like almost a first class. We met up with other Brothers from other Provinces who arrived earlier. The next couple of days were relaxing and I admire the Casa and its surrounding land. The weather was chilly but I managed to adapt with it. As days passed, Brothers from all over arrived and we begin to get to know each other informally. While having meals we chat about many things, some even asked me about the Brothers in our Province, those whom they knew and I told them all is fine and well.

During the Chapter, we had the formal ‘Get to know you.’ I was selected as the ‘Time Keeper’ – a honour post. I make sure everyone is on time for the sessions. We spend about a week just to know everyone, at least to make sure we know each other name and faces. We had to use two languages, that is English and French, to make sure everyone know each other. Other days we got into discussion on the topics based on the General Chapter theme, “Authentic Leaders for a greater Brotherhood.” But the crucial moment was the election of the Superior General and his Assistants. Somehow things went on smoothly and accordingly, within a few days all these important posts were filled. What really strike or makes me to remember were the friendship and the Brotherhood we shared with one another. Young or old, I felt the whole atmosphere wherein everyone treated each other very much as genuine brother to one another, very much with understanding, caring, concern, love and in solidarity with one another – reminds me of the quote “See how much they love one another.” And it is true, each one of us takes interest to know one another, the difficulties one is facing either as individual, in the Community or as a whole Province – we are not alone. Every sharing given by the individual Brother connects to the other Brother. This is truly one in solidarity with each other and I felt very much at home.

Much is emphasized how we as a Congregation can walk with the ‘sign-of-time’, how shall we integrate and live up our Montfortian charism today. I can see that the whole Congregation is really concerned about our presence in Europe and Canada. Are we losing our presence there? How do we as a whole Congregation can assist these two continents where the Brothers are present and what will happen in the next decade? It is clear that now it is time to see how we can help as a congregation our dwindling sectors. It is also the time of the lay collaborators – to help to take charge and journey with the Brothers to live up the Montfortian charism for the coming generation. Is it possible? The answer of course is “Yes” and “Why not?”

Overall, I felt I am just honoured to represent our Province to attend this important Chapter. Not only did I get a chance to participate and represent but also to know the Brothers from diverse cultures and languages. I made new friends and we spoke the ‘common’ language that everybody understand and in solidarity with one another. We own a great Brotherhood that was founded by Montfort. A great Brotherhood so profound that not only reached out to the less privileged but also to those whom meet along the path.

## NEWS FROM MONTFORT YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE (MYTC) KINARUT, SABAH, MALAYSIA

By Bro. Francis Chua (SG)

Joyous greetings of the Peace of Christ be with you all from Montfort Youth Training Centre.

### Harvest Festival/ MYTC Batch 12th Graduation

In Sabah, the month of May is the time of thanksgiving for rice harvest with farmers across the land reaping what they had sown months before. Each village celebrates Harvest Festival and gives thanks for the fruits of their labour. It was also a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving for us in MYTC. On 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, forty-five Trainees from Batch 12 graduated with the Montfort Certificate and their Malaysian Government Skills (SKM) Certificates in Level I and Level II in one of the fields of Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Senior Furniture-maker or Motor Vehicle Mechanic. The Graduates gave testimonies that the 2-year stay in MYTC had been tough, challenging and demanding but that their determination and perseverance paid off. Their lives have been transformed, having gained more confidence in areas of technical skills and especially, proficiency in English. It was a proud moment for the Graduates, their Parents, Brothers, Staff and Benefactors. Today the graduates are gainfully employed across the Nation in the skills they had taken up.

### Batch 12 Leaving their Footprints in MYTC

Throughout the three months preceding the month of May, our Campus was filled with activities that can only proclaim one word – tradition! The graduating Batch passed on their torch of leadership to their Juniors who will soon assume their roles as Seniors to incoming new intake. The Leavers also took up several projects. They built fish ponds and store houses, leaving the tradition of Leavers' footprints onto the land of MYTC Campus. The Graduating Class also guided their Juniors through the Obstacle Race and Merit Card (MC) Carnival which filled the campus in a festivity mood and enlisted the full participation of the Brothers, Staff and Trainees. The Leavers' Programme culminated with the Leavers' Spiritual Retreat and Leavers' Nite which brought a closure to their life in Montfort and in which they prepared themselves for the new chapter of their lives in taking their rightful places among the contributing society in the Nation.



Leavers' Nite on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**New Intake – Batch 14**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 MYTC received the next Batch of 88 Trainees in various trades. They are the new members of the Montfortian family.



The 88 young Montfortians starting their journey in MYTC



The organizing Chairman of the Golf Tournament, Mr. Willie Wong, with Bro. Charles (FSC) and Bro. Francis (SG).

**6<sup>th</sup> Montfort Charity Golf Tournament**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year that we run this charity event. As for past years, we are receiving tremendous support from the golfing community and generous outright cash donations from those who are too far to participate. The proceeds raised will go towards sustaining the residential care of the 150 Trainees in MYTC and the 60 school-going children in our San Damiano Boys Hostel in Kiulu.

**News on St Gabriel Fraternity Sabah**

**Transfer**

Bro Thomas Paul was attached to the St Gabriel Fraternity in Sabah while undergoing his studies has been transferred to the St Gabriel’s Fraternity, Changi, Singapore. His presence and contributions to the Sabah Fraternity is deeply appreciated.

**Welcome**

Bro Joseph Bin Philip joined us in June 2012. He was in the Philippines for a year for a renewal course. Prior to his assignment to Sabah, he was attached to Montfort Boys Town, Shah Alam. He is assigned as Brother-in-Charge of the Pastoral cum Accompaniment Unit in the Student Affairs Department. We warmly welcome Bro. Joseph in our midst.

**On Study**

Bro Paulus Anak Tuan is currently on his 2nd year full-time Management studies.

**Visit of Bishops from Singapore & Malaysia to MYTC**

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, MYTC was greatly honoured with the visit of Archbishops and Bishops from Singapore, Penang, Sibu and Kuching. They were in Sabah in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our Archbishop John Lee. The visitors were accompanied by our Coadjutor Archbishop John Wong. The Trainees accorded our VIPs with a cultural welcome.



**Special Incept from MYTC**

**Graduation Ceremony**

On 26th May 2012, a total of 45 trainees graduated from Montfort Youth Training Centre, Kinarut, Sabah as Batch 12. Among them were 15 from Automotive Mechanics, 16 from Welding and 14 from Carpentry Department.

These graduates have taken up the challenge and did their best to complete the whole two years Montfort training and programmes conducted. As their graduation project, the graduates built a store for keeping grass-cutting equipments and other gardening tools. They also made a fish pond for the juniors to rear tilapia fish for their own consumption. The culmination was a retreat at the Bundu Tuhan Retreat Centre in Ranau, to prepare the graduates for their new phase of life in the workplace.



The Batch 12 Graduands with MYTC Board of Governor members, MYTC Executive Members, PPB Manager, Training Manager, Vice Consul- Consul Office of Japan and SKM representative

The MYTC Board of Directors Chairman, Tan Sri Bernard G Dompok who officiated the graduation ceremony said that skilled graduates from MYTC are highly sought by both local and foreign employers. He presented the Malaysian Skills Level 1 and 2 certificates and conferred the graduation certificates to these proud graduates. As in the previous years, three of the graduates—Joudin Kilan, 20,(read his story on page 3) of Kota Marudu and twin brothers, Jordan Chin Yung Pok and Jonathan Chin Yung Hou, both 18 from Sandakan gave their testimonies of what they have learned from MYTC.

The auspicious occasion was attended by the parents and families of the graduates. The event ended with a luncheon and fellowship at the dining hall.



The parents and families who attended the Batch 12 during the Graduation Day in the Open Hall at MYTC, Kinarut



The proud Batch 12 Graduates marching in the Open Hall to the stage witnessed by their parents and families.

### A Loud Whisper Was Heard

When the valedictorian, Mr. Joudin Kilan shared his experienced and testified what and how Montfort had formed him, Datuk Margaret Fung, a Board Member, exclaimed in full excitement to Mdm Helena Kwan, MYTC Admin and HR Manager, “Of what he had become, we must continue our efforts to form young people to be like him!”

Mr. Joudin Kilan graduated from the Carpentry Department had only reached primary two. He soon picked his English and continuously used English while in Montfort. His formation in MYTC had brought this young Montfortian to stand tall among his peers. His speech is on the next page. ~ *Province Bulletin*



Datuk Margaret Fung (left) and Mdm Helena Kwan (right) during the graduation ceremony

## “Montfort is an institution that can help youth live decently in the real world”

### MYTC Valedictorian’s Speech

Good day! I’m Joudin Kilan from Batch 12 of Carpentry department. I am 20 years old and come from Kg Pinatau Kota Marudu. I attended until Primary 2 (8 years old) due to family problem. I was still young when I left school so you can imagine what kind of life I had. Life in the village is exciting when you’re young. I was carefree and followed my friends without worrying about any problems. I always asked my parents for money without any thoughts of guilt. I stayed with my sister until the age of 14. When I was 15 years old, I started realizing that I had to do something to change my life. My sister asked me to see Peter Saibin (Batch 11). Peter shared his experience in Montfort and I developed the curiosity as well as determination of going back to school again. I believe this is God working through people around me. I was accepted in MYTC, Kinarut and took up Furniture making. It took me four months to adapt and follow the program here.



Mr. Joudin Kilan

It was challenging but with patience and perseverance, I managed to overcome my fears. Lacking in education, doesn’t mean we cannot learn other things. Learning English and skills really challenged me. With the Montfort motto, “I MUST, I CAN”, motivated me to more determine to learn. I had to put in extra effort to catch up with the others but I managed. It was a slow and tough process for me because, I had to learn how to read and write as well. I was determined to gain whatever knowledge taught in MYTC because I didn’t want to lose out. I learned making chairs, cupboards, racks and many more through my practical lessons. It is not as easy as that. For a carpenter, calculation is very important. We must always measure twice before we cut.

Here, we are taught discipline, self control, personal hygiene in character formation and also faith formation. I became a Catholic here in Montfort. Praying gave me peace and strength and I feel that need and proud to say that I can speak as well as write in English fairly well. I know that I am a changed person; more confident, disciplined, well mannered and diligent.

Montfort is an institution that can help youth live decently in the real world. I thanked the Lord Almighty for the second chance which made me what I am today. The knowledge, skills, experience and sharing in Montfort has molded me to be more mature and experience person.

My gratitude goes to the Brothers of St Gabriel especially Bro Director, Bro Francis Chua, BOG, benefactors, sponsors, staffs, fellow trainees and not forgetting Peter Saibin and Teacher Alice. Thank you very much for your guidance, advice, support, love, care and concern. May the Good Lord bless you and your family. **Thank you.**