



Message of the Provincial Superior



Dear Brothers,

Part IV of the message of the 31st General Chapter highlights to us once again our need for partnership and collaboration with the laity. This invitation for a closer involvement of the laity in our life and mission is not merely a fashionable thing to do but our recognition of a collaborative approach to living our spiritual heritage from St. Louis Marie de Montfort. The message states that, “These relationships mutually strengthened us in our mission and in our commitment (31st GC, 22).” It highlights for us that we are only stewards of this spiritual heritage and not owners of it, and thus we are invited to share this with all people of goodwill.

It is noted that “more and more individuals and groups from various walks of life are expressing their desire to collaborate with us and commit themselves actively (31st GC, 23).” This enthusiasm of the laity sometimes put us to shame, that we should be so reticent about wanting to associate with them. I do wonder at times what really is holding us back from opening up to this new possibility. The message of 31st General Chapter tells us that it should be for us “a source of joy and hope (No. 23).” I would think that this is a very exciting time in the history of our congregation.

In our context it has been so that the laity has been part and parcel of our mission and they have worked closely with us all these while. The one next step that is needed for us is to establish a more committed relationship with them as Collaborators and Associates. It makes us feel much like the rich young man in the gospel where Jesus told him: “Only one thing you lack (Mark 10: 21).” It is good for us to take a look at what could possibly be the one thing that we lack to make the partnership with the laity possible for us as Brothers. Or are we going to go away sad, because it is too much to ask of us to surrender all we have, to open our doors. What possibly can we lose or need to give up in order that this partnership can happen.

The recommendation of the 31st General Chapter is that we look at the possibility of a “wider sharing of responsibilities, in formation, and in working together to promote varied projects, including vocation promotion wherever possible (No. 26).” The lay partners should not be for us mere employees only but we are to see them as really partners at various levels of engagement with us. Some would share our spirituality, other would partake in our mission and some will network with us for the good of those most in need in our society. The relationship will be varied indeed.

We should not attempt to make them like religious committed in the same way as we do but they are to “walk unhesitatingly according to *their* own personal gifts and duties in the path of living faith, which arouses hope and works through charity (Lumen Gentium 41).” The way we are to look at this partnership is expressed by St. Paul: “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others (Roman 12:4-5).” Lay partnership should then be for us a natural outflow of who we are as Brothers and that we are called to share and to partake in the salvific plan of God. We cannot be “an island” but be connected to others in many different ways and to provide the opportunity for others to be involved with us according to the way they are called by God. In this way we can be truly brothers to one another, where there are no barriers but bridges to link us. We are invited by our General Chapter to “be open to writing new pages, in partnership with the Laity, in creative fidelity (No. 31).”

Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh
 Provincial Superior



It gave me the sense of leadership and responsibilities.

~ An experience at IFRS, Philippines

by Bro. Joseph Phillip

The 10-month full-time course at the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies (IFRS), Philippines was significant on my faith journey. I may exaggerate it as the “most important” input on my religious formation. It had widened my knowledge on the different life journey experiences of different people. It also had helped in deepening my understanding about the Scripture in relation to my own spiritual journey.

My arrival in the Philippine was welcomed by a “bumpy road”. The Philippines weather pattern may be common to the locals but it was the other way round for a foreigner like me. The flash flood and typhoon made me wonder on how the locals had endured the entire natural catastrophe. The weather condition in the Philippine conditioned me to carry an umbrella everyday throughout the 10 months of my stay there. In addition, I had to walk for 30 minutes from the Company of Mary’s Seminary to my college. The walk reminisced of the years when I had to walk from my house to the primary school in spite of the weather condition. The walk was rather a little nostalgic for me as it brought me down to the memory lane of my childhood days.

Another “bumpy” experience was being admitted at the hospital for two weeks due to dengue fever slightly after my arrival in the Archipelago. Wow!... that was the most amazing experienced I ever had which cause me to be hospitalized. I am ever grateful to the Company of Mary (SMM) community who had been lovingly concerned on me. The seminarians took turn to take care of me.

Living in a foreign country only made me to realize that I am the foreigner and had to learn their language and culture. It had taught me to be independent such as taking the public transport and had to unlearn the big “I” by going back to sub-zero ground. I was caught by surprised that a bulk of the locals does not use English as I had expected. Nevertheless, that gave me the opportunity to pick some Tagalog in order to get by and to move around.

Being a religious man, I had accustomed of living in a community with men. It was rather an enriching experience in the IFRS especially in inter-relationship. In most of the classes, I was the only thorn among the roses with mostly nuns. It was a good exposure for me to the “Yin” environment since I came from a “Yang” community. I did not realize that the “Yin” students were uncomfortable with the opposite sex and apprehension about my presence among them until they asked me of how comfortable I was in their midst. Interesting indeed! In reply to their question, I told them that my present was an emersion not only to me but as well to them too. That brought some laughter and our conversation lighter. It eased the tense and more at ease with one another.

It was a challenging journey for me at the IFRS since I did not have a solid background in Scripture and Theology. As such, I spent extra time and effort in my study especially in doing assignments, presentations, written examinations and preparing for oral examinations. I don't deny that the study at IFRS did stir my nervousness. The studies at the institute required to complete 80 hours for each subject. It was a feeling of satisfaction upon completion of each subject although I had to go through the storms of studying and made me eager for the next subject. Another thing that I enjoyed was the lecturers which mostly well versed in their own major subject.

There were many committees in IFRS and somehow I was elected unanimously as Coordinator for the Solidarity Committee. It was an interesting experience of being a Coordinator for the committee. It gave me the sense of leadership and responsibilities especially in leading my fellow students in the activities of the committee. One of the activities we organized through the committee was the solidarity activities in time of natural disaster. The activities included the people's land right, environmental right as well to motivating students to come out with their current issues of their countries. The committee also ensured that those issues were offered during Mass as an act of solidarity with those affected. The activities was actually had helped me to widen my realization towards perspective of change. As well as my way of looking at the different group of people which are being kept in situation called "silent cry".



Last but not least, personally, this theological study means a lot especially by being a religious brother, where understanding on what I embrace is very important. It is by being an effective witness and non-discriminatory church and society through a contextual, transformational, integrated, inclusive formation and education.

Editor's note

Bro. Joseph Philip currently serves at Montfort Youth Training Centre, Sabah. He is assigned to the Pastoral Care Unit of the institution. A vital unit for the accompaniment of the students in their life journey while studying at the institution.

Assumption Pathway School Officially Opened.

Singapore – The official opening of Assumption Pathway School (APS) was held on the 15 August, 2012 by the President of Singapore, Hon. Tony Tan. The school, which was once Assumption Vocational Institute (AVI) was restructured and renamed to APS in 2009. The school was founded in 1938 by the Brothers of St. Gabriel, which then was called St. Joseph’s Trade School. The school caters to students unable to make it through the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) and those who have dropped out of secondary school.

Students are equipped with basic employment skills and training. Courses include Mechanical Servicing, Electrical Servicing, Food Preparation and Services, Baking Practices, Hair Dressing and Desktop Publishing and Design.

In his speech, principal Wee Tat Chuen, said, “What started as a small step enables the school to connect lives and help these students flourish through the available pathways in school to achieve their personal success.”

The ceremony was also attended by His Grace Mgr. Nicholas Chia, the Archbishop of Singapore, the Provincial Superior of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh and the Supervisor of the Gabrielite Schools, Bro. Pierre-Paul Gaudette. The opening ceremony, themed Joy – A Journey Together, saw students, parents and staff showcasing the various aspects of their collaboration in a concert. (*Province Bulletin*)



President Tony Tan unveiling the ceremonial plaque. Beside him (from left) are school management committee chairman Gabriel Teo, principal Wee Tat Chuen (in dark shirt), and Gabrielite Brothers Dominic Yeo Koh and Emmanuel.

Birthday Celebrations



Singapore: The two communities in Singapore, the St. Gabriel's Fraternity and Boys' Town Fraternity, had a joint birthday celebration. The communities celebrated the birthday of Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh, whose actual birthday was 21st August, and Bro. James Tham on the 29th August, 2012. The simple lunch celebration was hosted by the Boys' Town Fraternity at their residence. Bro. James Tham is the most senior among the local Brothers who turned 83. Wishing all the good health and abundance of blessings for Bro. James and Bro. Dominic! *Province Bulletin*

Vocation Discernment Camp

Sabah: The Vocation Discernment Camp was held on 15th to 17th September at Montfort Youth Training Centre (MYTC), Sabah. The Camp was initiated by the St. Gabriel's Fraternity Sabah (SGFS) as part of their community project. It became a Province activity when the Vocation Promotion Team took shape in June this year. There were 9 young men attended the camp. The participants were exposed to the life of Montfort, the Brothers and their missions. In one of the inputs, the participants were taught how to discern their calling. The participants were all local except one from Penang. One of the participants was edified when he joined the Brothers in their community prayer. He expressed his intention to be an aspirant and ready to leave his current job. However, he has a job contract to fulfill. As such, the Provincial Superior advised him to keep in-touch with the Brothers and see the development of his intention. *Province Bulletin*



Participants listening to the input



Having light moments

Brief News from Montfort Youth Training Centre (MYTC) and San Damiano Hostel, Sabah

SAN DAMIANO BOYS HOSTEL, KIULU

Visit from Guan Yi Tang, 17th September 2012

Mrs. Ng led a group from Guan Yi Tang to visit the Students at San Damiano Boys Hostel in Kiulu on 17th September 2012. They donated some food provision for the Students' consumption.



John and Mary Pang

John & Mary Pang's Visit, 22nd August 2012

A long-time friends and supporters of Montfort, John Pang and his wife, took time during the Hari Raya holidays to visit our Campus and Kiulu for the first time. Upon hearing that San Damiano Boys Hostel is planning to build a library for the Students, the Pangs without hesitation donated RM10,000 to start off. Our heartfelt gratitude to them for their generosity.

Awareness & Healing Seminar, 10th – 12th August 2012

Sr. Judith Benedict of the Franciscan Sisters of Immaculate Conception conducted a 3-day seminar on awareness and inner healing for the Students. This is the first time such session is conducted and many Students benefited from it.



Healing Seminar

Two cows are standing in a field.
One says to the other "Are you worried about Mad Cow Disease?"
The other one says "No, It doesn't worry me, I'm a horse!"

(Source: <http://www.funshun.com/jokes/short-jokes2.html>)

Montfort Youth Training Centre, Kinarut, Sabah

Building the Culture of Peace for the Children of the World Exhibition, 23rd September 2012

Twenty (20) members of MYTC Interact Club visited an exhibition organized by Saka Gakkai International on 23rd September 2012. The exhibition is initiated by United Nations which declared a decade of peace in 2003. The Interactors are exposed to the existence and consequences of violence as well as being educated on the ways to build the culture of peace instead.



MYTC students interacting with the Japanese students.

Dialogue with Japanese Students, 15th September 2012

A group of 24 university students from Japan under the guardian of Mr. Abe of Centre for Future Malaysia dropped by for an afternoon of interaction and dialogue with our Trainees at Kinarut Campus. It was an enriching experience for all the students and Trainees as they learnt from each other the culture and school system. The light refreshment provided also turned into a topic of sharing as the Japanese sought to learn more about the local fruits from our Trainees. The session ended with both groups thanking each other in respective languages.

Project Trust Volunteers, 4th September 2012

MYTC received four volunteers from United Kingdom on 4th September 2012. The volunteers came under the banner of Project Trust to offer their services for 1 year. Jason Lattimer and Barney Necus are based at Kinarut Campus while John Haswell and Hugo Drummond are helping our Students in Kiulu with San Damiano Boys Hostel.

Staff Outing – Water Rafting at Kiulu, 23rd August 2012

The staff took a day off from their work and school holidays to go for the water rafting at Kiulu. The activity was organized by the MYTC Staff Club as part of the on-going programme to foster close relationship among the staff.





Friendly Futsal Match with Sabah State Players, 15th August 2012

Adidas SEA and Grace One Sdn Bhd together with Sabah state players Hendrick Helmke, Brendan Gan and Syed Adney paid a visit to our Campus on 15th August 2012. In conjunction of their visit, various activities were drawn up including a familiarization tour of the campuses – Skill Development and Residential as well as a friendly match between the Adidas team and our Trainees. The half day

programme ended with a presentation of RM10,000 worth of Adidas products for the Trainees.

Ayam Brand's Community Care Campaign 2012, 4th July 2012

The Ayam Brand hosted their annual Community Care Campaign 2012 at our Campus on 4th July 2012. Along with our Trainees, children and youth from other homes such as Pusat Kebajikan Care Haven Bhd, Rumah Kanak-kanak Kota Kinabalu and Yayasan Kebajikan Suria were invited to display their culinary skills under the Ayam Brand's Regional Cooking Competition. Our Trainees, Harvey Marius from Motor Vehicles Mechanics Department and Edward Rayner from Welding Department represented Montfort Youth Training Centre at the Competition.



MRSM Exchange Programme, 1st July 2012

A total of 130 students from our neighbouring Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) came for half a day exposure programme conducted by Bro. Joseph Philip.

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach him to use the Internet, and he won't bother you for weeks!

(Source: <http://www.funshun.com/jokes/joke-41-7875.html>)

The New Building Is Completed



Singapore: The new building in the Boys Town had been granted permission to occupy. The students and staff had moved in to the new premise. The old dormitory block is currently undergoing renovation. The old block where the office, dining hall, kitchen and Brothers' quarters are housed would be demolished once the Brothers had moved to the new living quarters in the building. At the present, the rooms for the Brothers are yet to be

furnished. However, there are some issues in regard to the Brothers occupying the space in the building since the Brothers have no direct dealing with Boys Town. "The matter is more complicated," said Bro. Pierre-Paul, the Gabrielite Schools Supervisor. Nevertheless, there are three or four brothers would be residing in the new building once their rooms are fully furnished. *Province Bulletin*

Towards Authentic Leadership



Singapore: The Brothers gathered for two days on 23rd and 24th September, 2012 at Montfort Centre, Singapore to study the message of the 31st General Chapter. It was a study day to brain storm on the practicality of the document based on the local context of Singapore and Malaysia. The Brothers were challenged to see how the documents to be transferred and interpreted to their daily living as well as for the benefit of the institutions. The three main topics studied were; Authentic Leadership, Greater Brotherhood and Partnership. The document challenges each Brother to live authentically among the people in their very environment,

culture, political scenario, economic situations and within the circle of their benefactors, collaborators, partners and associates. The document also challenges the Brothers to reach out beyond their comfort zone of their institutions. The study was held as a preparation for the coming Provincial Chapter. *Province Bulletin*

“It takes bricks to build a house, but it takes hearts to build people.”



AmBank Group director and Chairman of the Board of Governors of Montfort Boys Town, Tan Sri Clifford Francis Herbert (L) and The Gandhi Memorial Trust of Malaysia chairman S. Radhakrishnan handing over the GMT's Public Service Award to Montfort Boys Town representative John Albert after the launch of the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence at the Royal Lake Club, KL on Oct 2, 2012. (Source: *SUNPIX* by Sharil Amin)

KUALA LUMPUR (Oct 3, 2012): For more than half a century, Montfort Boys Town has worked to provide food, shelter and opportunities to disadvantaged youth in the country through its residential and vocational skills programmes.

It was for these tireless efforts that the charity, run by the Brothers of St. Gabriel, was awarded the Gandhi Memorial Trust of Malaysia Public Service Award on Tuesday.

GMT secretary A. Navamukundan said the charity was chosen for its passionate work in providing not just the necessities of life to the youth, but also skills training for a brighter future.

"Montfort Boys Town recognises that these youth need much more than just food and shelter to transform them into responsible young adults and tomorrow's nation builders.

"The GMT is happy to present Montfort Boys Town the award in recognition of its 53 years of tireless efforts in pursuing a mission of holistically educating academically and economically challenged youth," he said at the Third Gandhi Memorial Lectures held in conjunction with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence on Tuesday.

Montfort director Brother John Albert thanked corporate sponsors and individuals whose donations have kept the charity running all these years. "It takes bricks to build a house, but it takes hearts to build people. "Over 53 years, it is because of you all that we are able to continue doing what we do, and from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you," he said.

The lecture series, chaired by retired judge Tan Sri Dr James Foong, saw Singaporean diplomat K. Kesavapany and Right Livelihood College director Datuk Dr Anwar Fazal speak on Gandhi's philosophy and how it can be applied today.

Kesavapany spoke of how Gandhi's devotion to truth and philosophy of peace and non violence held the humane appeal that withstood the test of time.

"That is the magic of Gandhi – he is historical, apolitical, a cult figure that comes to mind whenever there is need to fight injustice or spearhead change.

"It is up to us, and succeeding generations, to remain true to them and put them into practice as best as we can," he said.

Anwar said the world today needed more 'possibilists', people who asked what and how things could be done instead of mere optimists and pessimists.

"The world is full of intellectuals, but it needs more BST (blood, sweat and tears) people as well as GTD (getting things done) people," he said. (Source: *The Sun Daily*)

Two baseball players promised each other. If one of them died first, he will come back as a ghost to tell if there was baseball in heaven.

So one of them dies and comes back as a ghost and says, 'I have some good news and some bad news.'

Then the other person says, 'tell me.' So he says, 'The good news is there is baseball in heaven, but the bad news is that you are pitching tomorrow.'

(Source: www.funshun.com/jokes/joke-98-8251.html)