



*Wishing you a Blessed
Christmas
And a very happy New Year*





The Provincial Superior Writes

Dear Brothers,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas it is for us a time of Joy, Peace and Love. This time also mark the beginning of a New Year in 2013. May this year bring you much happiness in all that you do and that you continue to draw yourself closer to the Lord in your life.

One aspect of the birth of Jesus that struck me most during this Christmas is where the Gospel of Luke stated that the baby Jesus was placed in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7). It recalls for me that on the 22nd December, after the annual retreat, I was calling for a taxi to return home but there was no taxi available. After much trying and waiting I decided to take a bus home instead. On Monday, 24th December I was trying to get an air ticket for Bro. James Anting to return to Malang, Indonesia on 28th December but to no avail. He had to fly only on 30th December instead. This might be your experience too during the holiday season. I would guess that Mary and Joseph must have felt the same that there was no place in the inn for them. Their situation was even more pressing as Mary was to deliver the child Jesus at that time in Bethlehem.

In a figurative sense, we on occasions may have crowded Jesus out of our lives as well. We may have been too pre-occupied with our own concerns in life and thus do not have any place in our hearts for Jesus. This crowding out of the Lord from our lives can come in many different ways and for a fair bit of the time in a subtle way. We can also crowd out the Lord by our prejudices, pre-occupied by our own mental images of things and people and failed to experience the true presence of our Lord in our midst. At times our heart can also be hardened that it is no longer possible for our Lord to enter into it. We may have been wallowing in our own pains and hurts which prevents the Lord from making room in our heart of stone, unless we transform it into a heart of flesh.

The birth of Jesus in a stable signifies his self-emptying (kenosis) to become one with us. If I as a cup am full of water, it is no longer possible for God to fill me up. The self-emptying that I must do is the process where in God can find a room in my heart. This is what it means that the Word made flesh and dwells among us.

Montfort in Dinan (1706) brought home with him a homeless man to the missionary house and crying out, "Open the door to Jesus Christ." I am invited to open the door of my heart to Jesus Christ as was the case with Montfort. He sees in the poor homeless man the person of Jesus Christ and that is his vision of faith. For Montfort the poor are Jesus Christ himself and thus Jesus really lives in the poor. May this Christmas and the new year lead us to step into the door of faith (Porta Fidei) in order that we may truly experience Jesus in the people we meet, especially among those most in need.



25 years as Brother of St. Gabriel



CONGRATULATIONS

To

Bro. Peter Issac

22 Dec 2012

Bro. Peter Issac had served the Province in various capacities, including Provincial Bursar, Provincial Council, Director of an institution, Local Animator and a delegate to the General Chapter. Currently, he is posted to St. Gabriel's Fraternity, Melaka. Bro. Peter, who was once a printer, trained at Montfort Boys Town (MBT), Shah Alam, responded God's challenge when he was in his early twenties. The outspoken brother heard the call of God when he was just a student at MBT and he had responded it generously. After the initial formation, he made first profession. It was since twenty five years ago. Bro. Peter is known to have a generous heart knowing no boundaries to reach out to help any of the poor students who came to seek his help. The Brothers praised and thanked God for the gift of Bro. Peter who had given much for the Province. A thanksgiving mass was offered on the 22nd December 2012 for the auspicious day. Congratulations to Bro. Peter Issac. – *Province Bulletin*

Renewal of Vows



CONGRATULATIONS

To

Bro. Joseph Philip and Bro. Paulus Anak Tuan

22 Dec 2012

At the closing of the annual retreat, two Temporary Professed Brothers Joseph and Paulus renewed their vows. Both Brothers are currently attached at St. Gabriel's Fraternity, Sabah. Bro. Joseph is currently serving at Montfort Youth Training Centre (MYTC). He is takes care of the pastoral aspect of the students. Bro. Paulus is currently doing his scholastic year.



Congratulations to Bro. Thomas Paul who had graduated from his Master Degree in Project Management. The convocation was held of 15th December 2012 at Kuala Lumpur. At the present, he is posted at St. Gabriel's Fraternity, Changi, Singapore. The picture shows he was flanked by his two sisters.

Happenings in Boys Town, Singapore



16 Oct 2012

The last Mass celebrated in the old chapel of Boys' Town.

28 Oct 2012

Bro. Pierre-Paul's (Emmanuel) 79th Birthday. I was attended by the Brothers, some staff and friends.



The building that housed the Brothers' Quarters, Chapel, Offices and dining hall of the boys; to be demolished once the Brothers had moved to the new building.

The new building recently completed. It houses the Brothers' Quarters, Chapel, Offices and Boys' Dormitory.





Blessings of the new building and dedication of St. Louis Marie De Montfort's Chapel.

Singapore: The blessings of the new building and the dedication of the new chapel took place on the 24th October 2012. His Grace the Archbishop of Singapore, Msgr. Nicholas Chia celebrated the mass and concelebrated by three priests. The Gabrielite Brother-Priest Mark Tee read the gospel.

In his homily, the Archbishop exhorted the Brothers' efforts and mission in educating the youth. He also recapped the early Brothers who founded the schools in Singapore. The Archbishop who was once educated Brothers has a close affiliation with the present Brothers.

The blessings of the premise took place after the homily. The Blessed Sacrament was enthroned in the new tabernacle just before the final blessing.

A fellowship reception followed the mass. The celebration was attended by the Brothers, Board Members, benefactors, staff, students and well wishers.

The Brothers expressed their gratitude to all those who were present during the auspicious day especially to the Archbishop of Singapore. *-Province Bulletin*

Events and Happenings in Montfort Youth Centre (MYC), Melaka, Malaysia

- By Bro. Robin D.

1. NATIONAL DAY

- 31 August 2012 – Home activities for boys started at 8.30 a.m. with quiz, treasure hunt and telematch.
- 3 September 2012 – Prize giving for national day during assembly.

2. STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN KITE FLYING EVENT

15 September 2012 – students accompanied by Students Affairs Officer and Mr. Takashi Nakayama participated in the event at Pantai Klebang which was organized by Dekites Junction Club Melaka.

3. 2ND. YEAR STUDENTS AWARENESS SESSION

9 – 22 September 2012 – The session was held at Good Shepherd Seminary and was conducted by Fr. Norris, a team of counselors and assisted by 3 youth from St. Francis Church who took charge of the games. Group and personal therapy were conducted in English, Chinese and Tamil. After the session some of the boys have become more active and responsible.

4. TALK ON SOCIAL ISSUES

27 September 2012 – Ex. BOG member Mr. Singam and Mr. Donald Lee gave a talk to boys at 8.30 p.m. in Tamil and Mandarin.

5. VISIT OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

4 October 2012 – A group of kindergarten teachers visited us at 8.30 p.m. accompanied by Mr. Donald Lee.

6. BOYS' ACTIVITY

12-14 October 2012 – The prefects organized “Kampung Style Activities” which include among others, outdoor cooking with minimum utensils and fishing for their own house consumption.

9. GENERAL MAINTENANCE STUDENTS' EXPOSURE VISIT TO HONGQIN SDN BHD, KOTA DAMANSARA

9 October 2012 – Accompanied by their instructor, the General Maintenance students went for exposure study on robotic systems used in industries. They learned the basic functions of the system and did practical on infrared sensor. After the 4 ½ hours session, the boys were served pizza by the kind manager followed by presentation of certificate to our students.

10. POWERTEK BERHAD

10 October 2012 – We received donation of RM10,000.00 from Powertek Berhad.

11. MOON CAKE CELEBRATION

15 October 2012 – Buddhist Tzu Chi Merit Society celebrated Moon Cake festival with boys at 8.00 p.m.

12. BOYS ATTEND MELAKA TYT'S 74TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

17 October 2012 – 20 boys accompanied by Student Affairs officer and 2 prefects attended the tea function at MITC. The 20 boys received RM50.00 each.

13. DRUGS, HIV & AIDS TALK FOR ALL STUDENTS

19 – 20 October 2012 – The 2 day seminar was conducted at MYC by Harapan Community, KL.

14. FIRE PREVENTION SEMINAR FOR STAFF

22 October 2012 – The 1 hour seminar was conducted at MYC by Fire Preventers' Society. The aim of the seminar was to bring awareness and to teach the techniques to minimize the risk of death or injury by fire.

15. VISIT BY SCHOOLS

24 October 2012

40 year-six students and 3 teachers from SJK (T) Tampin visited MYC in the morning. After a short introduction of MYC, they were brought round to visit the workshops. The teachers were thankful and amazed at the mission work.

60 students and 5 teachers from River Valley Primary School, Singapore visited MYC in the afternoon. After a short introduction of MYC, they were brought round to visit the workshops and dormitory. Later, together with our boys, they fixed up 2 bookshelves which they donated to the centre and did some manual work.

1 November 2012

60 students and 11 teachers from St. Gabriel Primary School, Singapore visited us and donated S\$1,290.00 and other gifts from the students.

16. PARENTS' DAY

28 October 2012 – Parents and guardians of students gathered for a half day session, with staff to discuss ways to help their children. They were divided into 3 groups; English & BM speakers, Tamil speakers and Chinese. Mr. Donald Lee helped in the Chinese speaking group. Many questions were raised by parents and the staff helped the parents to understand better. The session ended with fellowship lunch among parents, students and staff.

17. FIRE DRILL BY BOMBA (Fire Brigade)

31 October 2012 – All staff and students attended a 1 ½ hrs simulation fire training session by BOMBA.

18. 3D WOOD DESIGN COURSE

3 November 2012 – Fifteen 2nd year students from Computer Maintenance Course attended a briefing on 3D Wood Design Course at Federation of Malaysian Foundry & Engineering Industries Association (FOMFEIA), Taman Asean, Malim. After the briefing, they will proceed to 2 factories in Bukit Rambai for exposure learning. These boys will attend a 10 day course at FOMFEIA in January 2013.

19. MYC SPORTS DAY

5 November 2012 – Staff and students joined as teams to compete each other in the spirit of MYC family.

20. SCHNIEDER ELECTRIC

6 November 2012 –Mr. Peter Cave, the Country Manager and team came to present a mock cheque of 2,000 euro, electrical equipment and they would be giving training to 25 students.

WORKSHOP ON DRUGS, HIV AND AIDS

Melaka - Workshop on drugs, HIV and AIDS was held on October 19 to October 20 .This workshop was initiated by the Harapan Komuniti or known as Channel of Hope. This workshop is to bring awareness to the students on the danger of Drugs, HIV and AIDS. The speakers were Mr. Alex and Ms. Ester.

The first day began at 9am Mr. Alex gave a brief introduction about him and his co – speaker Ms. Ester. Elaborating on these three topics Mr. Alex showed some pictures about drugs which the students get clearer picture on the topic.

“Dear students each one of you are the back bone of Malaysia therefore do not try to involve in drugs, if once u started or even tries it will lead you to HIV or AIDS, if you love your family please don’t ever try , there a lot of good activities is being organized by NGOs for young people,” said Mr. Alex

Some of the topics covered by Mr. Alex were what are drugs and the consequences? , What are HIV and the modes of HIV? And finally he spoke on how to prevent HIV.



There were role play by the students on drugs, how a drug addict will behave and how a normal person will behave from this the students learn not to take drug.

Statistic of Drugs and HIV also was projected to the students, the number of drug addicts among youngster.

On final day which was October 20 Bro Francis Xavier Gasper together with Mr. Jason Student Affairs Officer thanked both Mr. Alex and Ms. Ester for their time and contribution to the students and MYC .A token of appreciation also were presents to both presenters.

“Before this I only knew about drugs at surface level after this workshop I understand in depth about Drugs and the consequences,” said Kenny Lee one of the first year student.

“I wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Alex and Ms. Ester for their sharing and for animating this workshop for all the MYC students and truly I will share with my friends and sibling about drugs and HIV so that we will live a healthy life,” said Eric Cantonna one of the second year students. – *Bro. Robin, MYC*

Congratulations to the Infant Jesus Sisters



The Brothers congratulated the Infant Jesus Sisters for their 350th Founding Anniversary and for the 160 years of their existence in Malaysia.

They joined the Sisters in their joyous celebration on 21 October 2012 at Cheras Convent, Malaysia.

Events and happenings at Montfort Youth Training Centre

-By Bro. Stephen Tee and Ms. Marcella Tiong



The annual Open House carnival was held on the 7th October 2012. MYTC expressed its gratitude to all those who had handled the stalls and those who had come to support the Open House.



As part of MYTC's tradition, a rosary procession was held on the 31st October, 2012 to mark the closing of the Rosary Month. And for first time the students had fun for the Halloween night initiated by the two young English volunteers, Mr. Jason Lattimer and Mr. Barney Necus.



The students of Montfort Youth Training Centre and San Damiano Hostel had their camping on the 26th to 28th October, 2012 at Kuala Penyu, Sabah. MYTC recorded her thank to Captain (Retired) Lui for letting MYTC used the ground for the said activity.



On the 13th to 17th November, 2012, the Assumption English School (AES), Singapore visited MYTC. On the 13th November, the Deepavali was celebrated in solidarity with Mr. Dorai, the only Hindu staff and Mr. Saran Rao, the only Hindu student. The staff and students of AES joined in the celebration.

The Hand-over of the Grant Assistance Project for the Project for Purchasing Vehicle for the Boys Hostel in Kiulu



Kiulu, Sabah: The Government of Japan extended Grant Assistance totaling US\$ 30,911 (RM 93,660) to the Project for Purchasing Vehicle for the Boys Hostel in Kiulu (The San Damiano Boys Hostel which is managed by Montfort Youth Training Centre (MYTC), Kinarut), in October 2012. The grant was used for purchasing a vehicle (Van) for the

Boys Hostel. And the vehicle is benefitting around 60 students who are living in the Hostel to study in the nearest secondary school as the mean of transportation to hospital, shopping for daily necessities and study trip as well as daily commute especially in rainy day.

The Project has been completed recently, and handed over at The San Damiano Boys Hostel on 20th November 2012, in the presence of Mr. Hirofumi MORIKAWA, the Head of Consular Office of Japan, on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The Government of Japan extends financial assistance to the development projects to meet the diverse needs of the people in developing countries through the scheme of grant assistance. Known as the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP), this scheme supports the project proposed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), hospitals, educational institutions and other non-profit associations. The GGP has acquired an excellent reputation for providing flexible and timely support to development projects at the grass-roots level.

Since 1989, under the GGP, the Government of Japan has contributed in Malaysia with 127 small but socially and economically important projects amounting to approximately RM 14.3 million in total (in Sabah, 29 projects amounting to approximately RM 3.1 million). The Government of Japan is always responsive to the good proposals from NGOs and other non-profit associations to carry out the projects under the GGP (*Incept from the press released*).