



Message From Mr Lim Beng Choon

(A Member Of The Board Of Trustee Of ECM Libra Foundation)

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to Mr Peter Yap, Chairman of Yayasan Lasallian Kuching (YLK) for inviting me to pen a message for this column.

ECM Libra Foundation (ECMLF) has been working with YLK since 2010 and we are happy to be able to make a difference to the education of the rural students through the programmes conducted by YLK.

In the past years, we have been encouraging YLK to extend help to students that have “graduated” from YLK tuition through our other programmes. Last year YLK sent seven students from Sarawak to attend ECMLF’s fully sponsored SPARK Youth Camp conducted in EPSOM College Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. The feedback was very positive and we look forward to more attendees in the coming December. ECMLF also gives out interest free loans to students who need financial assistance to complete their tertiary education. YLK is encouraged to refer students to this loan programme.

Last year in our trip to Kuching to visit the tuition centres, we observed that there continues to be good demand for new centres to be opened. With this demand, and limited capacity, ECMLF shared several new ideas based on our own experience as presented below.

Working with higher education institutions. For the English tuition programme in Selangor and Perak, ECMLF has worked with Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman to give English tuitions to primary school students in New Villages surrounding their Sg Long and Kampar Campuses. This is a win-win idea because the university students learn how to contribute back to society by volunteering to teach, whilst the primary school students benefit from interacting with youth that have successfully become university students thus giving them role models to look up to. As the saying goes teaching is the best form of learning. In addition to polishing up their own English, through this program the university students also get to become well-rounded individuals that are attractive to employers when they graduate and look for jobs. Universities and other institutions of higher learning are nowadays keen to work on such programmes that improve employability of their students. We believe such collaboration can be explored for YLK programmes.

Working on confidence of students. Recognising that not all students are academically inclined, ECMLF has been sponsoring programmes that help students recover their confidence vs academic teaching. Two organisations that

ECMLF continues to partner with are Leaderonomics (www.leaderonomics.org) and Goodkids (goodkids.com.my). With Leaderonomics, ECMLF runs the SPARK youth camp mentioned above for 14-16 year old youths focusing on Leadership, Teamwork and Confidence. With an organisation called Goodkids, ECMLF sponsors a yearly program in several schools / communities whereby students facing difficulties keeping up with their studies are asked to join a weekly performing arts program using a combination of percussion, stomping and counselling. Students go through a fun-filled, self-discovery journey. They end up at the end of the year performing in an amazing concert where they perform for a paying audience.

Training the trainers. ECMLF has also been sponsoring programmes whereby our partners organise leadership camps not for students but for teachers. It is said that schools often forget their most important students, i.e. the teachers themselves. It is indeed the duty of all good schools to help the teachers become better teachers. In the past year, ECMLF has been working with Global Peace Foundation (<https://www.globalpeace.org/malaysia>), who has a small presence in Kuala Lumpur to organise what they call the Educator’s Retreat for schoolteachers. This is a weekend camp for teachers to discover talents within themselves as well as their peers. It also builds teamwork between the teachers that will eventually benefit the students.

With the above three examples, I encourage YLK community to continue to think of new ideas to pursue, and new models that better engage parents and students.

With all the challenges that our country faces, I think this quote is appropriate to end with.

“We cannot always build our future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future” By Franklin D Roosevelt.

YLK is doing exactly the right thing. I wish all of you at YLK including the students, their parents and teachers all the very best and another successful year ahead.





Mr Sia
Peh Swee

YLK Scholarship Sub-Committee

The YLK Scholarship Sub-committee was set up on 18.2.2017 as follows for a term of 2 years:

Chairman	Mr Sia Peh Swee (left)
Advisor	Datuk Christopher Sim
Committee members	Mr Andrew Law
	Mr Martin Chai
	Mr William Chong

Its main functions are to:

- ▶ Interview and select suitable candidates from YLK Centres for scholarships offered by the Catholic Archbishop of Kuching through the St. Joseph's Private School Board of Management.
 - ▶ Arrange board and lodging for all outstation students and do close supervision.
 - ▶ Monitor closely and regularly the progress of all YLK scholarship holders and to make reports to the YLK Committee from time to time.
 - ▶ Initiate the setting up of and managing a YLK Scholarship Fund to assist YLK scholarship students when the need arises.
 - ▶ Assess and assist other good students from poor families in their education.
- Run a hostel/organise boarding facilities for YLK outstation scholarship students.

Besides helping the needy at the primary school level, this Committee helps YLK to look after some other students who are pursuing and acquiring technical skills or tertiary education.

Scholarships



- ▶ On 11.2.2017, the committee members had a dialogue with the selected scholarship recipients and their parents. YLK also provided them with desktop computer to help them in their school work.

YLK is monitoring closely the scholarship recipients. On 9.3.2017, William visited the Franciscan Sister to understand the life of one of the scholarship recipients who is living with them during the school term. So far, she is adapting and coping well with her school work and the new environment.



We have moved our office From BDC to De La Salle Brothers' Quarters, St. Joseph's Secondary School at Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, 93000 Kuching (left). Our new office telephone number is 082 230988.

Three voluntary workers are assisting in the office administration and supervising the ten centres. They are Nicola Law, Kathleen Ng and Allan Tan.



Lasallian Corner

Hello Lasallians! This is the third section of our Lasallian Formation programme. So far we had an overall look at our topics in Issue 10, 2016, of the STARS OF TOMORROW:

- A. La Salle our Founder
- B. Lasallian way of life
- C. Lasallian Education
- D. Growth of the Lasallian Family in the Modern World.

In Issue 11, 2016, we started off with a little look at the way human beings grow and thus become more aware of who we are and why get involved in our Lasallian educational mission. We saw that on the whole in our life as human beings we tend to move, consciously or unconsciously, from DEPENDENCE to INDEPENDENCE to INTER-DEPENDENCE. And through ongoing reflection we begin to see the beliefs and values that help us to be clearer of our identity as Lasallians.

In this issue, we look at our model, John Baptist de la Salle, and see the main aspects of his saintly way of life. In general, he had a good family background in a fairly upper-class society in which the rich tended to be isolated from the many poor people around them. Also, his family was quite attached to the Church and through his grandmother's influence he was quite a devotional Catholic. Through his early training for the priesthood he understood the Church's theological, moral and sacramental way of life.

However because of his involvement with the poor and education he slowly began to understand the life of the poor, especially the 'children of the streets'. He also learned about poverty from the poor schoolmasters whom he gathered together, and was challenged to live a simple life and to share his material well-being with the poor. So also, in a world where success is mainly seen in the life of wealth and prosperity, Lasallians are challenged to live a simple lifestyle and be in solidarity with the poor.

La Salle became more involved with the poor children and brought together a group of schoolmasters and slowly saw the need to form a close-knit community of people, living together and dedicated to the human and spiritual education of youth especially the poor. To do so, he saw the need to work together as a community rather than as an organization. Relationships became important. La Salle emphasized community life where the members respect basic human dignity in each other and share their belongings and do nothing to use or abuse people in a world of "human traffic".

Thirdly, as a community, the 'brothers', those who lived together with him, were trained to be 'obedient' to the Gospel way of life, much like Jesus and His disciples. This was a challenge to live the Gospel way of life rather than the society way of life with an emphasis on career success and material well-being without developing the inner, deeper values of the Gospel.

And so, Lasallians do not really focus on a successful way of life as Educators but on a way of life that is closer to the poor even as they try to empower the poor and help them take responsibility for their own life. And so, in the next issue, we will focus on La Salle's educational mission against the background of society's way of life and its emphasis on wealth, power and abuse of people.

Yours Sincerely,

Br. John



On 10.6.2017, Mr Lim Beng Choon (top Left), Executive Director of ECM Libra Foundation, attended YLK 39th Committee Meeting. In this meeting he opened up another chapter of collaboration between the two Foundations. He introduced Dr. Teh Su Thye (top right), Chief Executive Official, of Global Peace Foundation to YLK. Global Peace Foundation is an International non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-profit organization, which promotes an innovative, value-based approach to peacebuilding based upon universally recognized principles and shared values as essential to building social cohesion within nations and the global community. We will work together to inspire and help our volunteer teachers in developing their potential in teaching to a higher level. Programmes will be drawn up to develop the potential of the students too.

SPARK Leadership Camp organised by ECM Libra Foundation in collaboration with Leaderonomics Youth, EPSOM College in Malaysia and Air Asia, was run from Dec 11–17, 2016. It was held in EPSOM College in Nilai at the end of the year during the school holidays.

Seven YLK students accompanied by Mr. Taka Poren, Supervisor of Singai Centre, were invited and sponsored by the organisers to attend the camp. Among them, three students were from Sibuluh, two students from Singai and two from Stass. Students from other centres will be selected in future for this camp. The summary on the feedbacks from them on the programme are as follows:-

Cross the line

- ▶ It told me that I am not alone in this whole world
- ▶ Others might have the same feeling as I did

Execution Day

- ▶ It helped me to understand the residents of the home of the aged better and to know more about life.
- ▶ It helped me to be more grateful for the things that I have now.

SPARK night

- ▶ It helped to ignite my potential



The Pitch Out

- ▶ It helped me in my spoken English and improved my confidence in public speaking
- ▶ It gave me courage to speak in front of many people

The participants were grateful to the organisers for being given the opportunities to know about themselves and their surrounding better. They will share with others their experiences and to apply these experiences in school and in the community.

YLK is looking forward to collaborate with ECM Libra Foundation and other institutions in fields concerning building up the potential of people for the good of the society.



Lasallian Family Day

On 22.10.2016, two hundred students, teachers, parents, Ketua Kaum and YLK committee members gathered at La Salle Centre, Skibang to celebrate the 4th Lasallian Family Day. The programme comprised of speeches, storytelling, dance and ended with a family meal. YLK thanked the villagers for providing the hall and preparing the meal through gotong royong spirit. Last but not least, we appreciate very much the effort and good work of the supervisor, Mr Leo Mijen and his team for the success of the annual gathering.

Yayasan LaSallian Kuching (49-03-15)

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Through www.ylk.org.my ePayNOW

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