

# Holy Mass celebrating the Tercentenary of St John Baptist de La Salle entry into eternal life



*Left – right: Br Jason Blaikie, Br Andrew Loke, Br Patrick Tierney, Most Rev Julian Leow, Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Br Augustine Julian, Br John D’Cruz, Br Peter Foo, Br Matthew Bay, Br Ambrose Loke, Fr Alvin Ho, Friar Michael Teng, OFM Cap, Michael Simon, Angeline Lazaroo. Pic: FRANCIS LAI*

**PETALING JAYA, Saturday, 17 August 2019:** “The Brothers had dedicated their lives exclusively to educate millions of students of all races and creeds in the country,” the Catholic Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Most Reverend Julian Leow Beng Kim, acknowledged during the Holy Eucharist at the Tercentenary celebration.

“Many of these students have risen to great prominence to become successful professionals and leaders. We owe a debt of gratitude to these La Salle Brothers on whose shoulders we stand on today. We have to be thankful to the dedicated services of these Brothers, who have groomed many a student and given them a direction in their lives,” said Julian, an alumni of St Paul’s Institution in Seremban, Negri Sembilan.

Archbishop Julian noted that the majority of the Brothers in Malaysia are aged 60 and above.

“One of them is 80 years old. In one to three decades, I fear there will be no more Brothers in our schools. Will the Lasallian spirit eventually die? Will its legacy slowly fade away, leaving only memories?” he asked.

He said the brothers had inculcated great values and given so much to educate local youth for 167 years in Malaysia.

“They made a great impact on our lives with their passionate commitment to provide holistic and quality education, since the Brothers planted their seed with their noble mission here in 1852,” said Most Rev Julian Leow, at the 11.00am Mass to commemorate the 300th death anniversary of St John Baptist de La Salle at the Church of St Francis Xavier in Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya.



Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Most Reverend Julian Leow Beng Kim (centre, at the altar), leading the mass to commemorate the 300th death anniversary of St John Baptist de La Salle at the Church of St Francis Xavier in Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Pic: NSTP/SYARAFIQ ABD SAMAD

The tercentenary celebration themed **“One Heart, One Commitment, One Life”** was followed by a fellowship luncheon.

Present were Auxiliary Visitor of Lasallian East Asia District, Br Patrick Tierney, Kuala Lumpur Archbishop Emeritus, Tan Sri Murphy Nicholas Xavier Pakiam and La Salle Brothers nationwide.

Frenchman St John Baptist de La Salle is the patron saint of teachers and founder of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian schools.

Archbishop Julian Leow called on all to ensure that future generations were provided with a holistic education and not just made to chase paper qualifications.

“Are we addressing the needs of our country and providing our children with a solid foundation for a better world of tomorrow? We must ensure that education remains relevant and has the matching needs of the country, so that our children become useful citizens,” he said.

Archbishop Julian adds that for this reason, efforts ought to be made to preserve La Salle mission schools to produce teachers who were dedicated to educate the young.

There are a total of 32 La Salle schools in Peninsular Malaysia and 12 associated schools in Sabah and Sarawak.

Br Patrick Tierney paid tribute to De La Salle as a great man who succeeded in establishing the Brothers to use innovative methods in educating people, regardless of their ability to pay, since 1680.

“Although the Brothers are getting fewer, the number of Lasallian missions is expanding worldwide. This is a sign of the people’s wishes to continue to accept its establishment,” said Br Patrick Tierney, who flew in from Hong Kong.

He said the Tercentenary celebration was not only meant to honour St John Baptist de La Salle’s impact and mission, but also to marvel at the La Salle Brothers’ contributions.

*(Adapted from the **New Straits Times** by Adrian David)*



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# La Salle Tercentenary Dinner



*Pic: JOSEPH LAU*

**PETALING JAYA, Friday, August 16, 2019:** The Regional Lasallian Education Council of Perak organised a dinner at Sri Nyonya Restaurant, Petaling Jaya in honour of the La Salle Brothers in conjunction with the Tercentenary celebration of St John Baptist de La Salle completion of his earthly journey.

The Brothers present were Br Matthew Bay, Br Michael Kum, Br Peter Foo, Br Ambrose Loke, Br Andrew Loke, Br John D'Cruz, Br Augustine Julian and Br Jason Blaikie. Br Patrick Tierney, who just flew in from Hong Kong also joined in the dinner.

Also present were Sr Mary Theresa Chua, IJS, Provincial, Sisters of the Infant Jesus (Nicolas Barre), Fr Alvin HO, SJ and Kenneth Wong, Executive Secretary, Malaysian Catholic Education Council. The Committee Members of the Malaysian Federation of Lasallian Alumni Associations were also invited.





*Walking with St La Salle. The La Salle Brothers holding the caricature images of St La Salle with Lasallians from the different alumni associations. Pic: JOSEPH LAU*



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