

The Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund

The mission of the De La Salle Brothers (the Brothers) is to provide education services embedded in the Christian faith to children and young people, especially among the underprivileged sectors of the community. Today, the 4,500 Brothers together with more than 80,000 lay men and women teachers and numerous other supporters help in running over 1,000 education establishments in 80 countries. More than 900,000 students and children study in these educational establishments. The Brothers have been in Hong Kong since 1875 and are now operating 5 secondary schools and 3 primary schools.

To support the work of the Brothers, the Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council (HKLEC), under the auspices of the Brothers in Hong Kong, established the Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund in March 2012. The Fund is not normally used for activities where there are established sources of funding e.g. school programmes or operations funded by the government or by the respective school organisations (Parent-Teacher Associations/Alumni Associations etc). It is primarily used to supplement resources needed for educational and formation activities in schools and educational centres run by the Brothers.

Some examples of projects that have been or targeted to be assisted by the Mission Fund include the following:

- (a) Lasallian formation activities run by or for the Hong Kong Lasallian Education Council, the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress Hong Kong (APLECHK), the Hong Kong Lasallian Youth Movement, and the Lasallian Volunteers.
- (b) De La Salle Secondary School's (DLSSS) Student Support Programmes. DLSSS has a student population of about 600. About 20 % come in daily from across the border for schooling and another 25% arrived in Hong Kong from Mainland China in the past few years. They all need extra support given their special socio-economic background and shallow Hong Kong link. The support programmes include free school bus service (estimated to cost \$200,000 annually) for F1 students, free lunch box and school uniforms for students in need and one-off financial support in special cases. The De La Salle Alumni Association is providing as much help as possible for these extra support programmes for the poor and needy students.
- (c) Bro David Liao's La Salle Study Centre (LSSC) in Changjiao,

Dabu, China. Bro David Liao, a retired De La Salle Brother from Malaysia, is single-handedly operating a free study centre in English for children in his native village of Changjiao in Meixin, Guangdong. This project has been in operation since 2002 and is going strong. Continuous financial and manpower support is needed for this project. Individual members and groups of the Hong Kong Lasallian Family have been providing very strong support for the project. The recurrent budget of the LSSC is in the region of RMB \$150,000 – \$200,000 annually

- (d) The Bamboo School Project, Thailand. Since 2008, the De La Salle Brothers in Thailand and the Lasallian Family there have been providing education services to about 300 refugee children in the Thai/Myanmese border under the Bamboo School Project. The demand for school places is growing all the time. Recently, the Project needed support to acquire a new school bus to cater for the growing number of students. The Hong Kong Lasallian alumni groups and the Mission Fund have donated US\$20,000 towards this project.
- (e) Formation of young Brothers in Myanmar. We are short of Brothers and Myanmar is one of the exceptions in this part of the world where there are still young men who aspire to join the Brothers. There are about 10 to 15 persons who are under different stages of formation as Brothers. The Brothers in Myanmar desperately need our support.

To meet these needs, the Fund has at the outset taken over some of the assets of the former Hong Kong Lasallian Formation Fund and the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators' Congress Hong Kong, and the Brothers have also made a donation to the Fund. All these amount to about HK\$500,000. Additions to the Fund will come from donations or specific fund-raising programmes to be mounted by the HKLEC. We have since 2014 introduced the Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund Annual Raffle.

Support for the Mission Fund will directly benefit the underprivileged children under the care of the Brothers. Donations should be made to “The Hong Kong Lasallian Mission Fund” and sent to “The HK Lasallian Mission Fund, c/o 18 La Salle Road, 5/F, Kowloon”. Donations over \$100 qualify for tax exemption as approved by the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Department.

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