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2nd Quarter Report 2019

Greetings from De La Salle Residentia at De La Salle University, Dasmaringas, Philippines. Peace and Joy is within you.

My schedule this year is unusual. After the Winter Programme followed by 6 weeks of weekend classes, I returned to Malaysia on 15<sup>th</sup> April to join the Brothers in Melaka for our Holy Week and Easter Retreat. After that I went to Thailand for the Brothers' 3<sup>rd</sup> LEAD Chapter in Pattaya. I was back in Malaysia after the Chapter and I stayed on to be with the Malaysian Lasallians and Brothers to meet our new Brother Visitor Armin on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

I returned to Hongkong on 21<sup>st</sup> May and on 27<sup>th</sup> May I was back at LSSC Changjiao to be in time for Children's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> June. It was a moving event as it was the last Children's Day celebration in Changjiao Primary School. The school is closing down. Parents are sending their children to schools in town. My 18 years of assisting the village school had come to an end. I have fond memories and happy that villagers today have the means to support their children to go to town schools.



BD speaking



Students performing

I intended to resume the weekend classes and prepare for this year's Summer Programme but events pointed to another direction. I have always accepted the fact that after age 70+ my body functions will slow down and ageing problems will begin. The three highs – blood pressure-blood sugar-cholesterol – and prostate condition are common to men. I have already been taking medication for the three highs and they are reasonably well under control. However, recent blood tests results and advice from doctors, nudged me to seek attention as soon as possible to prevent developing serious prostate problem. This is why I am writing this 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report here at La Salle Residencia in the campus of De La Salle University, Dasmaringas.

I was barely a week back at LSSC Changjiao when I received medical report from Hongkong that my PSA was rather high at 15.8 and I was advised to seek treatment as soon as possible. I had originally planned to run the annual Summer Programme and then seek medical treatment in September. However after much reflection and consultation, on Trinity Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, I decided to go for a complete medical checkup and undergo treatment at our DLSU Medical Center in Dasmarias.

After being warded a week for medical examination and observation, the three highs are deemed alright with just a slight change of Blood Sugar medicine. The cataract on my left eye was successfully removed. A minor surgery was done to remove lipoma from my right arm. For the prostate condition I was advised to undergo oral medication with hormone injections. Thank God, all went off smoothly. I should be able to return to Hongkong on 18<sup>th</sup> July and be back to LSSC Changjiao to run morning English tuition classes in August. It is not going to be like the regular Summer Programme which runs the whole day ... lessons in the morning – small groups tuition in the afternoon – activities and show at night ... and with 40-60 volunteers staying in at LSSC served by a 5-6 persons kitchen staff. Students and parents are already inquiring via WeChat ... so far and yet so near. Just a click away!



**BD ... cataract removed**



**De La Salle Residencia**

The extreme drought early in the year combined with the heavy daily rainfall in late March had affected the flowering season of the pomelo trees. Most farmers, when putting pomelos into wrapping bags in early June, found that the number of fruits was just 2/3 of last year's, that is a decrease of 30%. They are praying for better price this year as many orchards around us are having even lower percentage of fruits on their trees. Let's hope the law of supply and demand will push the price up this year. Wait and see!

The pig farming community took a hit last year when government regulations required all farms that were less than 1 km from the river to cease operation. The older farmers took the compensation and retired. The younger farmers built new farms deeper into the hills and away from populated areas. This year, African swine fever swept across Guangdong and Fujian and did a clean job of closing down almost all pig farms, big and small, with most going bankrupt because pigs were dying by the dozens and no one wants to buy them because people in general avoid eating pork.

Many years ago, I asked local pig farmers to keep local pigs (black big belly about 180 kathies adult) instead of imported pig (yellow meat pigs about 300 kathies adult). It fell on deaf ears as the yellow pigs requires just 5 month and they are ready for sale weighing about 300 kathies. The black pigs requires at least 10 month before they are ready for sale at about 180 kathies. I tried but failed to convince them that once the routine of the cycle of birth rate and adulthood (ready for sale) is established over a year schedulling, they will regularly have pigs to sell and have a regular income. Unfortunately, the gambling instinct is always there ... strike it right with high price and many heavy pigs to sell. Big profit with "one big kill" is what they aim for.

This attack of African swine fever does not affect the local pigs that one farmer has. He is now making good money for the market price for local black pig meat is now three times that of yellow pig meat that everyone is avoiding. Everyone agrees that though the price is higher the meat definitely tastes better.

I look forward to returning to LSSC Changjiao before the end of this month. I am keen to run Summer English Tuition classes with some of my local students staying in to assist me. I also want to see how I can assist the younger farmers who now have to time to sit down with me to develop a local black pig farming community and also to get them to cooperate in the marketing process. I see a good future for farming local black pigs because they are more immune to sickness, will roam around and eat anything and best of all they will “come home” in the evening even when they are let free to roam during the day.

Thank you for reading. Keep me in your prayers. To all who have supported this little mission at LSSC Changjiao these 18 years, I say, “Thank you and God bless you.”

As always with love in the service of youths for the development of nation through DLS,

BDLiaoFSC  
2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019  
DLS Residencia  
Dasmariñas.

### Children’s Day – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 at Changjiao Primary School



The 5 students with their parents



Villagers supporting the school



One for the record



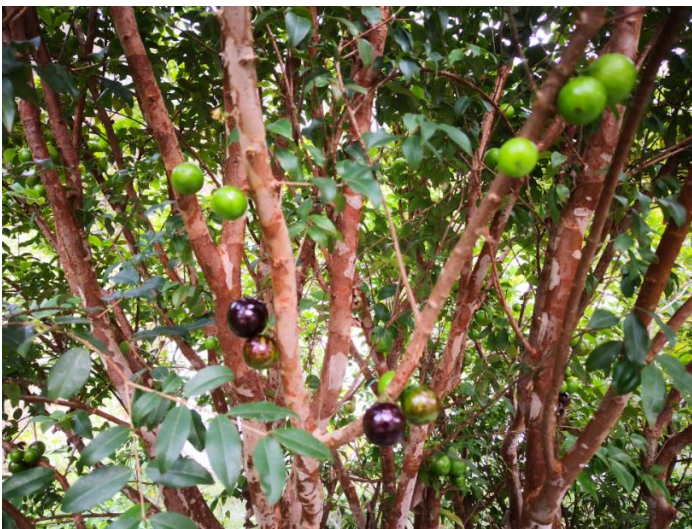
BD with the last 5



All guests sharing a morning break



Smile for the camera



Tree grapes “**Brazilian Jaboticaba**” fruiting



after 7 years care



Iron palm trees



flowering every year



Bougainvilleas - in Hakka – 3 Corners Rose



Smiling after Gaokao – Uni Entrance Exam