

Visit to Changjiao, China

From 16th to the 18th of April, a contingent of La Salle Primary School teachers, parents and students paid a visit to our Lasallian Centre in Changjiao. They were accompanied by Brothers Steve Hogan and Joseph Hung. Students and parents wrote some reflections on the visit.



The environment

The environment is very comfortable. When I was in the classroom, I could hear birds singing and see insects moving. I could even feel the warm breeze. It is a wonderful place for learning. The school is surrounded by hills and fields. There are hens, ducks, dogs and even goats nearby.

Cheng Shing Hing P. 5



The Students

I think the students' high English standard is due to the effort of Brother David. He is a very enthusiastic, very good and very kind teacher. Apart from teaching English he also teaches his students to be kind and helpful. He has set a good example for everyone by helping to build a new house for an old villager. I believe that his students will learn to care for others from him.

Alexander Kwok P.4

The students come from different places. Some of them live far away and have to travel a long distance to learn English. Even though they are poor, they are all very happy and like to smile a lot. When Brother David is teaching them English, they all listen patiently and attentively. They all respect their teachers and speak politely. They have the determination to work hard, too.

Lo Tin Bo P.6



Love and Care

The Study Centre is actually the house of Brother David's grandpa. He uses this house as a place to teach English to the children. He shows love and care to everyone. The students are outgoing and well mannered. They are like brothers and sisters. The teachers treat them as their own children. They are poor, but they always smile. Brother David is also poor, but he is full of love. I hope I can visit them again.

Owen Lai P.5



What I gained from the visit

I admire the students' work ethic and positive attitude towards life. When they came across some difficulties during their speech, they persisted and accomplished their task with courage. They truly demonstrated the "never give up" Lasallian spirit.

This was an unforgettable trip which broadened my horizon. I should be grateful for what I have, and not give up or complain about any difficulties in life.

Jeffrey Ip P.6



In gratitude

I'm deeply impressed by what you do in the La Salle Study Centre, Changjiao. I'm touched by the warm welcome from your students and their parents. I really appreciate their learning attitude. They grasped every opportunity to practice their oral English. Your love and care are indispensable to make such change.

Menza, Parent Organizer



Have you ever seen a little girl curiously peeping through a classroom door to express her eagerness to become a student there? Or a group of youngsters of humble backgrounds struggling from afar to attend lessons in a simple little village house just to learn basic English? Have you ever met a man who returned home after living abroad for years and now contributes all he can to his home village? He teaches these youngsters and even rebuilds a house for a helpless old man nearby without asking for any reward in return.

These were sights that our group recently witnessed when we visited La Salle Study Centre in Changjiao. Our group consisted of the principal and some teachers, students and parents of La Salle Primary School. When we arrived one cool spring morning, a group of young village kids from LSSC greeted us with warm and cheerful smiles. We were then welcomed by speeches delivered by the local students. Some of them struggled through the difficult English speeches. Nevertheless they had a strong determination not to give up and successfully finished their task. I couldn't help reflecting that while boys in Hong Kong complain about too much homework and too little time for electronic games, the kids in Changjiao treasure every single chance to learn, in a much less comfortable environment.

I can't help wondering, amidst all the reviews, debates and confusion of the ever- changing education system in Hong Kong, where the fundamentals of education have gone. The example in Changjiao is one where the village kids are eager to learn and Brother David is willing to teach, without any bureaucratic influence. This simple education system in Changjiao seems to be ideal. Isn't that the type of education Hong Kong experienced in earlier days?

Fortunately we were able to see once again that the spirit of St. John Baptist de La Salle, and his devotion to the poor and needy students over 300 years ago, lives on in La Salle Study Centre, Changjiao, - with a dedicated Brother simply having his students' education in mind.

Frankie Jim
A parent and an Old Boy

From left: Brother Steve Hogan,
Ms Emily Leung, Brothers David
Liao, Joseph Hung and Mr. Frankie
Jim

