



Provincial Superior writes



Dear Brothers,

Recently you have received the pre-chapter working document for your reflection on the theme of the upcoming General Chapter next year. I do hope you have taken some time to read through the document and to make your reflection on it. I am sure you will have the opportunity to reflect together as a community on the various items in the working document.

I want to reflect in this issue on the term authenticity. If you look up the thesaurus you will find words related to Authenticity and they may be: genuineness, accuracy, correctness, credibility, dependability, factualness, legitimacy, purity, realness, reliability, trustworthiness, truthfulness, validity, veritableness. These words give us some ideas into what authenticity would mean. We are all invited to live lives that are authentic. It is quite a challenge to be able to be truly authentic. What authenticity would mean for us to be is to be who we are as true persons. Much of our lives we put on masks, and most of the time this is done unconsciously. We need people around us to remind us and to challenge us back into authenticity.

As a religious person we always need to call back or remind ourselves as to who we are as a person. Sometimes the structure of religious life does impede us from being truly who we are. We are created in the likeness and image of God and what is that for each of us. It is often said that "the Habit does not a Nun make." Hiding behind a habit or a socially defined image of a religious does not reveal the authentic person that we are called to be. A truly religious person must be an outcome of our inner journey to be who God has created and called us to be. This require a long and winding journey into our true personhood. From a psychological standpoint, our Ego often times is a great master of illusion. It is said that the fallacy of the Ego is the habit of deceiving without limitation. It requires of us a great deal of self-awareness to catch ourselves doing just the opposite of who we are.

The gospel passage that we are the salt of the earth and light of the world are often quoted as our need for Christian witness. This passage from the gospel of Matthew (5:13-14) reminds us of our need to be authentic. What is salt good for if it is no longer salty and what is the use of lighting a lamp and putting it under a bushel. We need to be who we are called to be, the origin of our being. If the talents and qualities that we are endowed with does not shine forth in genuineness then we are defeating the very purpose for which we exist. Thus the call to authentic living is not because it is nice but it is the fundamental of who are called to be. Let us be Brothers who are authentic in our lives and in our relationships.

Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh Tuan Kiok
Provincial Superior





SAN DAMIANO'S HOSTEL

Community Project of St. Gabriel's Fraternity, Sabah.

Kiulu:- When the students returned to the hostels at the beginning of the academic year, they encountered many inconveniences since the hostel was still under renovation and extension. There are 46 boys lodged in the hostel while going to SMK Tun Fuad (a government secondary school), a ten minutes walk from the hostel. There were many applicants who wanted to lodge in the hostel but due to the incomplete building, there were differed.



Bro. Francis and Bro. Thomas visited the hostel on the 25 February. The extended front portion was beginning to take shape. The ground floor is to serve as dining hall and the first floor is to house the office, computer class and Brother's room. The bridge from the main road connecting to the building was under construction.

There were more shelves delivered to the hostel. The Brothers wish to express their gratefulness to the Rotary Clubs for their generous contributions. They donated the beds, cupboards and shelves (*Province Bulletin*).





MONTFORT CENTRE, SINGAPORE

By Bro. Dominic Kiong

REPAIRS

The repainting and repairs of the exterior building of Montfort Centre was completed at the end of December 2010

Soon, the extension to the Dining Room will be completed. This will be followed by the addition of 3 more rooms. Works will begin as soon as BCA (Building Construction Authority) approves the project.



Maintenance of the building is on going. The bulk of the expenditure goes into this.

PROGRAMS.

Bro. Raj, (Program Co-ordinator) has started conducting Orientation Programs with the new students and staff of our Gabrielite Schools here in Singapore.

He has gone about doing this at our 3 schools. Secondary One Students from St. Gabriel School came here on 26-28 Jan, 2011 to view the Montfort Exhibit. On the 9 of Feb, 2011 some 25 new teachers from Montfort School came to Montfort Centre for Orientation. The orientation program consists in introducing our new students and staff to St. Louis Marie de Montfort and the Brothers of St. Gabriel.

Bro. Raj has managed to get a sponsor to fund in the making of an Orientation Kit. This consists of a CD and some materials for our new students and staff.

Bro. Raj has a program for the year to conduct the MX Series (Montfort Experience) in our Institutions in Malaysia. He begins the MX series in Melaka on the 11 of February.

PRAYING WITH MONTFORT.

The tradition of an evening prayer with Montfort continues. It is held every last Wednesday of the Month. This is one way of letting others know about our Founder. As words get around more will come and join us in this prayer.

RETREATS.

Most of the weekends have been book by church groups (Christians and Catholics) for Retreats. In a way this helps to defray the cost of keeping this place.





From Montfort Youth Training Centre and St. Gabriel's Fraternity, Sabah

Welcoming the year of the Rabbit! MYTC celebrated the Lunar Year on 15 February 2010. Many Friends of Montfort and well wishers came to celebrate with the Centre. The white lion dance in joy to welcome the guests.



The St. Gabriel's Annex was filled with loving couples for a weekend retreat on 26 to 27 February. The retreat was conducted by the *Couples For Christ*. The organizer told us that there were more couples would like to attend but they were turned down due to limited place.

26 Feb 2011, Kuala Lumpur: Montfort Youth Training Centre was one of the recipients of the Berjaya Group's community outreach programme. Bro Stephen, Mr. Vincent Wong and two students (Eriki and Aaron Fabian) represented the Centre. They put up a little exhibition for the event.





The Brothers and the Admin staff celebrated the birthday of our *associate*, Ms Helena Kwan on 28 February. It was a surprise gift for her. Although it was a simple lunch prepared by another of our *associate* Ms Charlotte Chin-Wong, it was none the less a joyful occasion.

The Brothers decided to break one of the walls of fraternity's house and replaced it with the sliding glass door. At the time of this publication, the work is yet to be completed. The sliding glass door was donated by our *associate* Ms. Charlotte Chin-Wong. When completed, the community will enjoy their meal in the patio.



Recently, two young men from Kiulu came to experience the Brothers' community life. They stayed with the Bothers for about two weeks. They were Walter Martin and Cornelius Muhin.



Walter helped the Brothers washing the dishes.



Cornelius wiped the table.

