DE LA SALLE BROTHERS IN SRI LANKA
May 01, 2008 marked an important milestone for the De La Salle Brothers in Sri Lanka.

The Vicar General Rev. Bro. Thomas Johnson FSC arrived from Rome on April 23 to participate in the 140th Anniversary celebrations of the arrival of the De La Salle Brothers. The program included a Concelebrated Mass on 25 April and a Grand Dinner hosted by the OBU the following day.

Felix Dias was honoured as a distinguished Lasallian and James Perera as a benefactor by the Vicar General at a special ceremony on May 03, '08 at Mutwal. Our congratulations go out to them.

DOOR IS OPEN
The Bens & friends unfurled another chapter in their activities teaming up well to carry out our maiden project on September 15, 2007 on a successful note. Our band of volunteers served meals to 300 persons in Eastside Vancouver as a token of our concern for the less fortunate in our milieu in the East Cordova location coming under the care of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa. The project was the brain-child of Bens stalwart Hilary Livera and the manner in which our members, families and friends rallied round in a bond of unity was laudable.

We are pleased to report that Project 2 was conducted on February 15, 2008 when approximately 225 persons were the beneficiaries of our benevolence. Our sincere thanks to our friends and well wishers whose participation and generous donations for the above projects deserve much praise. We are confident that in the days ahead Bens & friends will endeavour to continue this act of mercy and sharing with those who are in need and thus afford credibility to the noble ideal of seeing Christ in our less fortunate brothers.

VISIT OF MR. C. PATHMANATHAN
Mr. C. Pathmanathan former student and teacher in College was warmly welcomed by a group of Bens at the residence of Manoranjan & Jayanthi Rasiah who graciously hosted the fellowship and dinner.

The rendezvous served as a welcome forum to journey through time reminiscing of our student days and renewing old friendships under the banner of the Green & White. It is relevant to mention that two of Mr. Pathmanathan's classmates, Franz Lorage and Ted Sela were out of the country at that time and could not meet our visitor. The OBA records its very sincere gratitude to Manoranjan Rasiah whose untiring efforts were instrumental in making the visit a reality and the donors and well wishers from UK, USA & Canada for their generosity.

JUBILIARIANS
Our congratulations and best wishes to: Francis & Mano Paiva on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Mr. Paiva was a Teacher at College during the 50’s era.
Franz & Rosemarie Lorage on their Golden Jubilee.
Rev. Dr Baptist Croos FSC and Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Nicholas FSC on completing 50 years of religious life.

SILVER SPARKLE - DINNER DANCE 2007


The Silver Jubilee Dinner Dance proved a commendable celebration of a milestone achievement journeying through Benedictine splendour for the past twenty five years in the Lankan social firmament. ‘Benedictine Nite’ made its jubilant entry in 1981 at the Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental unfurling a new chapter in the annals of the Old Boys Union. The organizing committee comprised Denzil Perera (Chairman), Victor Fernando (Secretary), Felix Dias, John NLC Fernando, Eric Motha and Lal Wickrematunge. The far sighted vision and confident initiative evinced by the trail blazers paid handsome dividends through the passage of time firmly establishing ‘Benedictine Nite’ as the most popular Dance amongst the schools in the country.

An aura of a warm Benedictine welcome greeted the guests at the foyer of the Grand Ballroom, with an array of attractive gifts being handed over followed by an invitation to pose for a photograph ere entering the Dance hall. It was a most welcome surprise when the framed photograph was handed over to the guests within an incredibly short span of time. The tempo for the evening’s entertainment was set by veteran Kumar Molligoda to the strains of music reminiscing of the ‘good old days’. The Gypsies and Misty followed with their scintillating presentations and a packed Dance floor was a tribute to their musical extravaganza.

In acknowledgment of their proven leadership the Chairman of the Dance Committee since 1981 were presented with silver mementos.


The late Trevor Alphonso, Leslie Vandersay and Canute Perera were also gratefully remembered for leading the Dance committee with finesse in their respective years.

Eric Motha, Glen Joseph and Ravi Irugalbandara were recipients of the Loyalty Gold Medallion.

Franz Lorage our OBA Founder President was invited to award some of the prizes. The mega raffle with an array of 25 air tickets to destinations near and far around the world coupled with valuable gifts were undoubtedly a star attraction affording credibility to the stature of Benedictine Nite. The selection of Benedictine Queen and the traditional Baila contest formed further highlights of the programme maintaining the traditions from the inaugural year.

The organizing committee spearheaded by versatile Lasantha Rodrigo and comprising a host of stalwarts who had proved their mettle in
previous years and Bens of a younger vintage brimming with enthusiasm teamed up in unison to ensure the Dance was a resounding success. The Silver Sparkle exuded through the Nite bringing together alumni of varying vintage and from California, Dubai, London, Melbourne, Sydney, Toronto and Vancouver, in a spirit of camaraderie and fellowship unique to the Benedictines.

It was in the early hours of the morning that the revellers bade adieu carrying with them memories that will linger through the sands of Time.

**CALGARY**

Our OBA member Gaston Rajakaruna and his wife Shirley co-ordinate 2 St. Vincent De Paul (SVP) programmes in a Church at Wattala, Sri Lanka. A total of 55 kids are being cared for and the couple are sponsors for 6 of them. If any member is desirous of assisting in this programme kindly contact Gaston on email – gastonr@shaw.ca thanks. The cost of sponsoring a kid is $ 60 per annum ($5 per month). A worthy cause indeed.

**SAN FRANCISCO**

Our member Anthony Kekulawela, Asst. Ports Engineer, Port of Oakland is the Project Manager that brought solar generation to the Port authority. He is currently managing and Hamid Abdullacrating all the renewable energy programs at the Port authority. The solar system is installed between the airport security fence and aviation safety buffer zone. The project is making good use of the land without compromising safety or security. Our best wishes to Anthony.

**ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

The Committee of Management at their recent meeting agreed it would not be feasible to organize our Annual Dance this year.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 12th Annual General Meeting of our OBA is scheduled for Sunday June 22nd, 2008.

**RETIRED CHRISTIAN BROTHERS FUND**

A sum of Rs.230,000/= has been handed over to Rev. Bro. Provincial Visitor through the College Development Fund for the welfare of the elderly Brothers. The Fund as at April 01st, 2008 was Rs.1,072,327/=. It is very appropriate to record herein our grateful thanks to our members and donors for their generosity in our modest tribute to our former mentors.

**THE SBC SUCCESS SAGA CONTINUES:**

(An excerpt from an article penned by our OBA President in 2005)

It seemed providential that Bro. Granville Perera FSC was appointed Director in January 2003, at a crucial time in the history of the school now in its 140th year of existence. I must state with a sense of pride, that St. Benedict’s has registered commendable progress during this brief span of time both in academics and extra-curricular activities- a tribute to the charismatic leadership of Bro. Director whose zeal to regain the prestige of yesteryears is most laudable. In addressing the assembly of students on the opening day of the current academic year I was wholly impressed by the finesse which characterised the occasion with Bro. Director leading the way; to me, it seemed like a journey into my own student days in the memorable 1950’s with Rev. Bros. Austin, Oliver and Alban at the helm. Bro. Granville is a Director with a grand vision and a clear mission.

**NEWS FROM KOTAHENA**

For the very first time in the 143 years history of St. Benedict’s College, the Benedictine Athletes did their school proud by becoming the undisputed Champions at the All Island Inter-School Athletic Games 2007. The Bens have maintained their supremacy in Relays since winning the Jefferson Trophy awarded to the Relay Champions at the Public Schools meet in 2005 and also establishing a new record in the 4 X 400m event.

**COMPUTER EDUCATION FACILITIES**

The Computer Laboratory 2 in the upper School was extended and 20 more computers added
as a part of an ongoing program to upgrade IT Education facilities for the students. Roy Perera, Finance Director of Jetwing Travels and the Hony. Treasurer of the SBC DF and Mrs. Renuka Perera ceremoniously opened the extended Laboratory.

PREFECTS INVESTITURE CEREMONY
Old Ben Joachim Motha, Chief Manager Human Resources at Seylan Bank Limited and Hony. Asst. General Secretary OBU was the Chief Guest at the Ceremony held in January.

BENEDICTINE CAROL SERVICE
The annual carol service was held on 22nd December '07 in the beautifully refurbished Cathedral in a setting of perfect acoustics. The combined performance by the Senior & Junior Choirs and past Choristers was resounding and received a standing ovation from the packed congregation at the finale.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Mr. Wilfred Perera one of the most respected Teachers in College launched his autobiography “VISAMMUTHI SAMMUTHIYA” (Assent over Dissent) on 23rd February’08 at the College hall with popular Film Star Old Ben Ravindra Randeniya doing the honours to his former ‘guru’

APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMICS
In the GCE Advanced Level 2007 Examination St.Benedict’s was placed first amongst the Catholic Private Boys’ Schools.

SOCCER
St. Benedict’s College finished as runners-up at the recently concluded All-Island Schools Championships losing to Zahira College in a closely contested Final in the presence of a large gathering of spectators reminiscent of the yesteryears when Benedictine dominance was at its best.

SWIMMING
Benedictine star swimmer Nabeel Dole won the 50m and 100m Breast Stroke events at the Junior National Aquatic Championships 2007 with a new record in the former. He also won a Bonze medal in the Junior Swimming Championships in Islamabad, Pakistan and perhaps the first Benedictine to compete in a foreign meet.

OBITUARY
Rev. Fr. Flavian Wilathgamuwa
Rev. Fr. Hilarian Dissanayake OMI
Vince Rajaratnam Francis(Bobby) Alvis
Malcolm Mack Patrick M Peter
Nihal Soysa Roger Joachim
Dion Raymond Dr. Amiratharajah Appiah
J. Nicholas Rodrigo
We extend our condolences to members of the bereaved families.

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