



BROTHERS OF ST GABRIEL

"Labor Omnia Vincit"



*And they found a child
in the manger*



Provincial Superior's Message

Bro John Albert Arul Devanesan fsg

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Board of Governors, Benefactors, Montfort Associates, Friends of Montfort, Staffs, Students / Trainees,

Blessed Be God! Blessed Be His Holy Name!

As we draw closer to the end of Year 2017 and anticipate the unfolding of the Year 2018, we can surely find many reasons to express our gratitude to God and to each other.

Being thankful is a sure way to keep the flame of joyfulness in our soul.

We are constantly in the spirit of advent or the great expectation. Deep inside each human heart there is longing for the real joy and true love. We yearn for constancy and unconditional love.

Who can this be the source of constancy and unconditional love?

The Creator of us all alone can quench this thirsting of our inner heart. God has leaped from his heaven to the earth.

We firmly believe in the event of the Incarnation of God in Jesus. The Virgin Mary took the lead to respond to the desire of God to be one with us. She created the space in her heart for the divine will to be realised.

The coming of God into our lives will very much depend on the willingness of each of us offering the sacred space and firm consent "Let it be done".

Our Founder Montfort's Cry "***Open the Door to Jesus Christ***" challenges us to open the door not only to the Person of Jesus but to Jesus Christ who has identified Himself or disguised in the poorest of the poor and destitute.

In my journey as a Religious Brother, I hear people tell me that it is easier to just open the heart to Jesus in the Scriptures and Sacraments but very difficult to open the heart to persons who are difficult and challenging.

Is there a way to truly to keep the two dimensional love? My answer is that of Archangel Gabriel to Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God".

My prayer for all of you is that the Holy Spirit enables you to make that space for God and Humanity

Blessed Christmas and Wisdom Filled New Year 2018





APS
Assumption
Pathway
School

Assumption Pathway School Singapore

By Julia Ler

A School of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel

The last term of the year at Assumption Pathway School (APS) was brimmed with activities.



Guest of Honour, Ms Jane Ittogi, Chairperson of The Singapore Art Museum, addressing the guests on opening night

Art Exhibition

On the aesthetic forefront, we are proud of the inauguration of Equilibrium, an art exhibition held in ION Orchard Art Gallery, from 9 – 13 November 2017. Ms Jane Ittogi, Chairperson of The Singapore Art Museum, was our guest of honour for the event.

Featuring works by our students, teachers and local artists, the exhibition was a celebration of talents and creativity. The displays, both 2D and 3D, vary in styles and medium, from drawing to painting, pottery and mixed media. It provided our students an authentic experience in the exploration of creative forms and styles of art-making.

Through this exhibition, APS hopes to inspire students to scale new heights in visual arts, pursue their passion and be active contributors and supporters of the arts in years to come.



Art pieces on display at Ion Orchard

Education and Career Guidance

In November 2017, an Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Centre was set up in Assumption Pathway School (APS).

Located at the Enterprise Hub, the ECG Centre aims at equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills and values to help them make informed education and career decisions.

Run by counsellors trained in career facilitation and counselling skills, the counsellors work closely with teachers and industry partners to plan programmes for



Guests admiring the art installations

students, such as career fairs, talks, immersion programmes, learning journeys and workshops. They provide students with reliable industry information and help them relate schooling to potential career pathways.

With professional guidance, parents and students can be made to understand that there are multiple routes to realising aspirations for different individuals.



A warm and cozy corner at the Education and Career Guidance Centre



The Education and Career Guidance Centre provides students with information on their educational and career pathways

Baking Challenge

On 25 October 2017, 28 schools were selected to participate in the finals of the APS Baking Challenge.

Held annually, this event is part of the Income OrangeAid APS Challenge aimed at engaging students through activities and challenges to build up their confidence, resilience and character.

On the competition day, excited students from various schools, accompanied by their teachers, gathered early at APS before being assigned to their respective stations. Many of the participants felt that the competition was fun, enriching and an eye-opener. Not only did they see so many other talented student bakers, they were challenged to work in a professional kitchen fitted with industrial grade equipment. Many of the students were also handling ingredients that they hardly use before such as fondant and piping with buttercream.

The APS team comprising of Haney Sofea, Muhd Sufyan and Muhd Farhan from Class 3BP1 emerged as the first runner-up for this year's challenge. We are proud of our students' achievement at the inter-school level.



Assumption Pathway School was awarded the first runner-up of APS Inter-School Baking Challenge 2017



Winning creation of Assumption Pathway School



Montfort Secondary School (MSS), Singapore

By Priya Prasad



Overseas Values-in-Action Trip to Chiang Mai

23 Student & VIA leaders embarked on the Student Leadership & VIA Chiang Mai trip from 8 to 15 November. They spent time in Montfort College (MC) where they interacted with other student leaders, had a VIA activity at Chomtong which was arranged by MC. They also went to Pa Kluay Village, where they helped villagers in the garden and paddy field. The Village Head also addressed our students and there was a cultural exchange between MC and MSS. Our students worked closely with Care Corner Orphanage where they taught the students English, refurbished the gardens and painted the walls in the home.



Reflections from our students from the Chiang Mai VIA Trip

"When I was at the wheat farm I thought that it was easy work, but when I did it, it was super hard and from that trip, I learnt that I have to be grateful for the food on my plate every day." *By Adrian Poon, 3AA*

"Brother Anorak said that "children are very simple, all their actions come from the heart and nothing else", I can see why. Every emotion, every action was purely from the heart indeed. The gratitude they showed when we were with them was insanely heart-warming, all we did was help them in small ways. But what we got in return was much more than

we expected. This just shows that that the motto of this trip, "not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love". Is without a doubt true." *By Kieran Lowe, 3E1*

Applied Learning Programme

Our Secondary Two boys showcased two projects at the Maker Faire Singapore Festival. One of the projects, "Smart Home", featured the concept of cooling homes when a certain temperature threshold is met. The other project, "Wireless Sports Timer", measures the speed of a toy car with self-calibrated timer gates. These two projects were also showcased at the Computing Teachers Seminar on 31 October 2017. 6 Sec 2 students and 2 Sec 1s spent most of their post-exam time refining their projects and presentation skills. The students' efforts paid off as many curious teachers visited our booth, and they fielded visitors' questions with aplomb.



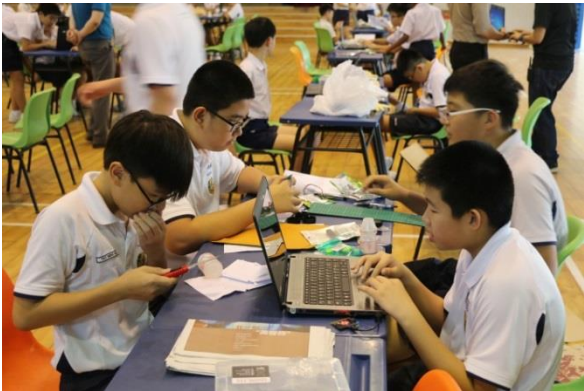
Interactive Digital Media (IDMA) Club

The IDMA Club has been awarded the Merit Award for our entry to Schools Digital Media Awards 2017 Competition (Video Category). It is a huge achievement for the club given that there were 427 entries from all schools! This team is also in the running for NEmation and our students are in the midst of working on their project through the year-end school holidays.



Montfort Junior School (MJS), Singapore

By Ng Yi Li



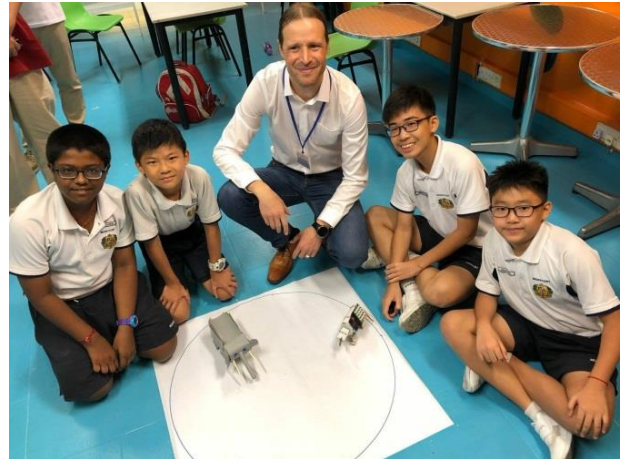
Developments in our Makers' Culture

Hackathon 2017 We held our very first Hackathon for our Primary 6 pupils as a culmination of their progressive coding lessons since Primary 4. In joint partnership with HomeFix, our young Montfortians put both their coding skills and craft skills together to create their own designs for the challenges posed to them.

Hosting of Visitors to Tinkershop We had the privilege of hosting many visitors to Montfort Junior's very own Tinkershop during the second half of this year, to learn more about the maker's culture in MJS and also an opportunity for us to interact with like-minded people on developments in this area in the rest of the world. Visits included the leadership team from CHIJ St Nicholas and Telok Kurau Primary, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Qawi of Brunei and his wife, Her Royal Highness Princess Amalin of Kelantan and Mr Zach Shelby, Founder of Micro:Bit.



The Royal couples talking to the student



Mr. Shelby with the students



Innovation Project with the use of Micro:Bit

A small selected group of P5 pupils had the opportunity to go through the innovation protocol program, to expose them to problem definition, solution and design thinking. With safety and security as the theme, pupils had to identify a problem, conduct interviews and prototyped solutions.



Children’s Day Celebrations – Create and Play In line with our Makers’ Culture of Dream, Believe and Make, our children’s day celebrations this year was rather different from the norm. Prior to children’s day, our pupils had to first start collecting recycled materials and on that day, they could create their own games out of recycled materials and their fellow classmates could play the games.



Boys’ Town



By Trevor Chan

Foster Care Week – 25 Sept to 1 Oct 2017

This year’s Foster Care Week was officiated by the Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Desmond Lee at Waterway Point Shopping Mall together with representatives of Fostering Agencies, including Boys’



Town's Deputy Executive Director Dr Roland Yeow. Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) also held a week-long roadshow at Junction 8 Shopping Mall. Outreach awareness was conducted through information sharing, flyer and brochure distributions, as well as a sharing session by one of our foster parents. Meanwhile, accompanying children were engaged in exciting activities such as colouring and balloon sculpting. Through this successful event, BTFS received a high engagement response with 961 members of the public, 5 foster parent applications and 23 volunteer sign-ups.

Freshman Camp – Exposure to Leadership



On the 21 to 22 October, the 2 day 1 night camp was planned to expose the boys to outdoor adventure elements while instilling leadership values by encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones and push past their limits. The various elements tried out and experienced by the boys resulted in teachable moments for them. Staff were there to guide and monitor the entire process, ranging from managing the boys' expectations to overcoming the challenges they faced.

Thanksgiving Night - 26 October 2017



This annual event celebrated boys who have completed their stay in Boys' Town. This year, kind individuals and organizations who have supported in the provision for the boys were invited too. The evening began with Mass, followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Highlights of the event include presenting four boys their leaver's rings and award presentation to boys who have done well. We also gave thanks to benefactors and volunteers for their selfless and generous contributions to Boys' Town.





Assumption English School (AES), Singapore

By Mr Quek Ser Hiang (Vice Principal – Admin)

AES Carnival-cum-Open House (18 November 2017)

It is the time of the year where we once again showcase our unique programmes to the incoming batch of Secondary 1 students from all Primary Schools. This year, the school's Open House took on a creative showcase in the form of a Carnival on Saturday, 18 November 2017. The carnival featured a wide range of food and game stalls designed and run by our very own Assumptionites. Our Secondary 1 to 3 students were able to make use of their skills and knowledge picked up from different subject areas in an authentic platform; raising funds and also sharing with all visitors the actual learning outcomes from the holistic education they have received. The courtyard was filled with lots of laughter and shouts of joy as visitors enjoyed the games devised by our students.



One highlight of the carnival was our very own Haunted House produced by the school's English Language Drama and Debate Society (ELDDS). Using the theme of a haunted mall as a backdrop, visitors were lured to the different shop fronts by missing children played by our very own ELDDS members. The students wrote their scripts and the hectic month-long preparation saw them playing their roles so well that there was an overwhelming response from the visitors.

Visitors who needed a break after the harrowing haunted house experience were treated to some delicious cheesecake and a cup of freshly brewed coffee at the Café – a makeover of a section of our school's library. Our performing arts groups also put up a lively array of song, dance and music showcase. It was a tiring but extremely fruitful day as we ended the school year with pride as visitors witnessed the passion and commitment of every Assumptionite.



Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH) Parenting in a Digital World workshop

On the evening of the 7th of September, MeToYou held a workshop titled Parenting in a Digital World with a group of parents at Creative Mindset located in Jurong Point.

Organised in collaboration with SAMH CreativeSAY!, the parents in attendance were keen on learning about gaming addiction and the useful strategies they could adopt in broaching the subject with their children.

Participants were given a crash course on the latest apps and their functions, and advised to stay up-to-date in order to understand both the benefits and the dangers these applications can bring.

Parents were also cautioned against being too strict as some of the more important needs of children in the digital age can only be satisfied by participation in the online world.

They were advised to take the big picture into consideration during conversations with their children about their online habits.

At the end of the session, parents shared that the workshop was engaging and enjoyable with many keen on joining future programmes. **By Justin Tan**





Montfort Boys' Town, Shah Alam

By Arulannandam S

Our journey continues trusting in Divine Providence and we have seen the benefits and witnessed many heart-warming events that have taken place in Montfort Boys Town. We are grateful to all the donors, benefactors, friends of Montfort for their generosity and we wish them all a Blessed Christmas and Joy filled New Year. Following are some of the events and activities:



ASSISTANT GENERAL'S VISIT – BRO. PAUL RAJ

On 20th November 2017, we witnessed another official event – visit by Bro. Paul Raj (Assistant General). During the general assembly, Bro. Paul Raj gave a caption – #H2, C2: This means – Hard Work, Humble/Humility, Conviction and Courage. It provided something to ponder about and motivating as well. He spent some time meeting the Montfort associate Movement and encouraged them to continue to be committed and to be an agent of change to bring about the values of the founder.



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (CPP)

Montfort, in compliance with the above requirements by Jabatan Kebajikan Malaysia (JKM), has conducted a series of briefing sessions to staff and students. Montfort launched the CPP on 9th October 2017 and it was officiated by JKM officials.

INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER DRIVING LICENCE (ICDL) – CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION:

Our heartfelt thanks to Fraser & Neave Holdings Bhd for its continuous support in the field of IT. On 14th November 2017, F&N with ICDL presented certificates to 20 students from the Graphic Design Department and 15 students from the Computer Maintenance Department. ICDL certification course has provided the opportunity to develop technical and vocational skills that will enable the students to be self-sufficient and secure better job opportunities upon graduation.





ECO WORLD FOUNDATION DONATES RM 60,000.00 TO MONTFORT BOYS TOWN:

Eco World Foundation (ECWF) donated a new electric oven worth RM 60,000.00 and its official ceremony was held at Montfort on 1st November 2017. The three deck baking oven is to benefit 50 students as it is part of the requirement under SKM syllabus. Mr. Philip Mathews (Foundation's Trustee Member) was accompanied by Tan Sri Mohd Radzi Sheik Ahmad and Captain (Rtd) Datuk Liew Siong Sing.

SESSION BY SOROPTIMIST (CLUB OD DAMANSARA – SID): LIFE SKILLS 4 YOUTH (WORK READINESS PROGRAM)

Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization for women in management and the professions working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. This group sponsored by J.P Morgan has reached out to our 2nd year trainees of Montfort in 2016 / 2017. Their focus is on preparing the economically disadvantaged and academically below average youths to be ready to go to work.

----- find a job..... get the job.... stay in job....
Excel in the job.....



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2017

Christmas celebration was held on 15th December 2017. Prior to this the Montfort Carollers (Boys and Girls) went around the dormitories, Bro. Quarters, and Sisters House to sing a few carolling songs. The Joy filled event started with Mass and continued with entertainment from students with Santa going around wishing everyone to a rejoicing event.

News in Pics



On 7th October 2017, about 33 students participated in a social service program at Infant Jesus Convent



A session conducted by the police on 17th November 2017, to all our students



Montfort – Emergency Rescue Team (ERT) – training in action



Five of our staff attended the Crime Prevention Talk



Mind mapping session by Mr. Shankara for the Student Affairs, Girls Campus and Pastoral Care Unit Staff





Montfort Youth Centre, Melaka

By Ms. Laura



MYC SPORTS DAY

MYC Sports Day 2017 was held on the 15 Oct 2017. It started off with a March Past competition. Teams marched in formation and were judged on factors such as timing, arm and leg swing and presentation. Congratulations to Louis House for being the champion of the Marching Team. MYC sports was a month of field challenges with the four Houses competing in various games before the Sports Day. Earlier on, they had participated in cross-country with the top ten winners clocking in at the finishing line. The winners of all the pre-sports day games then competed with the staff on the Sports Day in volleyball, *sepak takraw*

and tug of war. The overall champion of MYC Sports Day 2017 was bagged by Anthony House. Well done and congratulations to all the boys for participating in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL: 04/10/2017

The mid-autumn festival was held on the 4 Oct. Students made their own lanterns from scraps and recycled card boxes. After watching a video presentation on the origin of mid-autumn festival, all the students had their hand-made lanterns lighted up with candles. Each carried their lantern and took a little stroll within the vicinity of MYC. Upon completing the walk under the beautiful full-moon, the students hanged their lanterns on the trees and enjoyed the moon cakes donated by kind donors.



DEEPAVALI CELEBRATIONS

Deepavali or the Festival of Light was celebrated on 11 Oct. Students made decorative items from coconut leaves to hang all over the celebration area. The place was also brightly lighted up with colourful lights. Few staff and kitchen-duty boys helped to cook sweet desserts. Hindu class teacher, Mr. Govin and his team lead the Hindu boys in prayers. The celebration night started with Bro. Peter K. sg and Mr. Govin lighting up the lamps, signifying the start of Deepavali Celebration which is also known as the Festival of Lights. Students from the Four Houses gave their presentation after everyone had dinner. Guests leave with sweet desserts as door gifts and blessings of everything sweet and delicious coming their way from MYC!



MAGNUMCARES AWARD

On the 10 Nov, twelve students and one staff received the annual academic excellence awards from ENE Melaka Sdn Bhd. Students were awarded for being of Top of Class in all four Departments, including Home Side. The awards were also given to the most improved students. The award recipients were chosen not only based on their academic achievement but also their good character. One of the staff also received the Most Caring Teacher award.



PASTORAL VISITS



While 35 students and a Student Affairs Officer were away in MBT, Shah Alam for a friendly match, MYC received visiting clergies. It was an honour to have Rt. Rev. Bernard Paul, Bishop of Melaka-Johor Diocese and Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church, Rev. Fr. KC Wong visiting MYC. On the 18th of November, Bro. Paul Raj arrived at MYC. The clergies' presence inspired the students. We thank them for their kindness in spending time to visit MYC.

CRIME PREVENTION TALK

Through the kindness of Board Member, Mr. Lawrence Prosper, ASP Balan who is the Head of Crime Prevention Division from the Police Department came to MYC to give a talk to the staff and students.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2017

It was that time of the year again where all the staff and student had been eagerly waiting for, MYC Christmas celebration! The students had been practising for a musical play to impress our guests. This is to show their appreciation to the donors and benefactors for their kindness throughout the whole year in making it possible for the students to complete their skill training in MYC. It will soon be another long holiday where the boys will get to go home before the new semester begins next year. Blessed Christmas & A Happy New Year!





Montfort Youth Training Centre, Sabah

By MYTC

SAN DAMIANO BOARDERS YEAR END EVALUATION RETREAT



San Damiano Boys' Hostel, Kiulu ended the academic year of our Boarders with the year end evaluation retreat which took place at Purun, Kuala Penyu from 9th to 12th of November. The session was conducted by Mr Vincent Wong who is also the manager in charge of San Damiano Boys' Hostel together with the officers and invited speaker, Rev. Fr. Ronnie Luni the rector of St Patrick Membakut Parish. This retreat focuses on the Boarders' self-discovery and their experiential values that they had learnt throughout the year 2017. Team building activities are also

incorporated into the sessions so as to strengthen their bonding as a family of San Damiano Boys' Hostel.



ST GABRIEL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE AND MYTC PREFECT LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM

MYTC once again warmly welcomed the St Gabriel's Secondary School students and teachers for a 6-day and 5-night stay starting

from 23rd to 28th of November. The program was specially formulated by the management of the St Gabriel's Secondary School for their students elected as prefect to instill leadership values and doing social works befitting the Brothers of St Gabriel's motto 'Labor Omnia Vincit'. This interaction gave the both parties the time to form friendship and learning from each other. MYTC benefitted by playing



host to our visiting students. The programme included a visit and one night's stay at San Damiano Boys' Hostel, Kiulu, obstacle race, cultural night and pastoral visits to some of our Trainees village. Many memorable moments were created and treasured by our visitors.



St. Gabriel's Primary School (SGPS), Singapore

By Gerald Kong

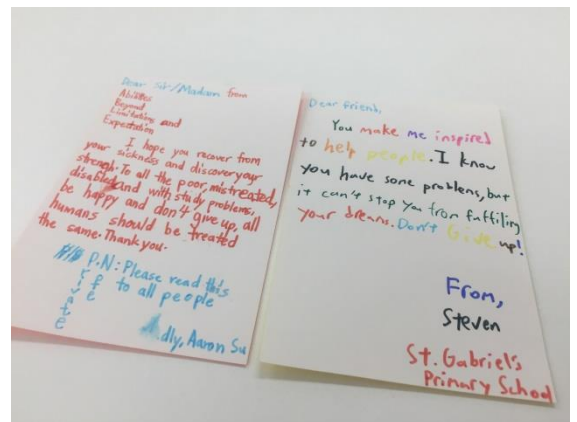
Visit to Agape Village by St. Gabriel's Primary Catholic Club



36 boys, the majority of whom are Catholic Club members, visited Agape Village, the one-stop social service hub of the Catholic Church run by Caritas Singapore on 8 November 2017. It is located at 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh. They were accompanied by teachers Mrs Anne Leow and Mrs Betty Goh, the school lay chaplain, Mr Gerald Kong and parent volunteer, Ms Patricia Seng to learn more about the social mission of the local Church.

The students were introduced via a brief presentation and tour of the premises to the 25 Catholic charities and social services organisations which combine resources to serve a total of more than 50,000 beneficiaries, regardless of race, religions or nationality.

Through a simple card writing activity, the boys were able to express their empathy and encouragement in particular for those physically and mentally challenged as well their appreciation to the staff who served. It was a meaningful afternoon for all who participated in the trip.



Official Opening of Assumption Learning Loft

Brother Provincial John Albert, Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh and Mr. Zerah Goh arrived at ALL on the 8th of December. They participated in the Official Opening of ALL on the 9th December. The Brothers and ALL staff received special guests from Singapore on the 10th. On 11 December, three ALL staff and Brothers met and had dinner offered by the special guests from Singapore at Shangri-La Hotel. The two brothers and ALL staff gave a day-trip to Myaungmya and Patheingyi in Irrawaddy division. The trip travel was arranged by Ko Nay Min Tun (John Paul). They visited the Bush School, The Ascension Learning Centre run by Fr. Benjamin. They participated in Bush School Christmas Gathering. The two Brothers and Mr. Zerah left for Singapore on 14th of December 2017.



Mr. U Francis the Chairman of Assumption Learning Loft addressing the guests



Bro. John Albert the Provincial Superior giving his address



Msgr Saw Francis and Mr. U Francis doing the honour of unveiling the banner



Some of the students entertaining the guests with their rendition of Heal the World



Visit of the old boys of St. Gabriel's School to Assumption Learning Loft



The Alumni of Assumption Learning Loft having their first gathering



Asian Bursars Formation

responsibilities and the formation programme was proven to be beneficial to the participants. After the formation sessions, they had a little time to visit some interesting places in Singapore such as the Jurong Birds Park, Sentosa Island and the Gardens by the Bay.

Singapore: It was an honor for the Province of Malaysia-Singapore to host the Asian Bursar Formation on 16 to 21 October, 2017. It was held at Montfort Centre, Singapore. Mr. Rene Kone, the Director of Finance of the Province of Canada was the main speaker. He was assisted by Bro. Michael Matthew, the Assistant Bursar General. Besides them, they were three external speakers to address the Brothers. They were, Mr. Andrew Sng, Mr. Gerald Lee and Mr. Adrian Khoo. The Bursar General, Bro. Andre Roberge was also present during the sessions. Most of the Asian Bursars were "First Timers" in their



The Outreach at the Church of Transfiguration



The new Montfortian Associates



Team Building Walk at Coney Island



Singapore: The Montfortian Associates Movement (MAM) made their second outreach on the 15 October 2017 at the youngest parish in Singapore, the Church of Transfiguration (CoTt). The purpose of the outreach is to make known to others about Montfortian Spirituality. They gave away prayer cards and also information on the coming Montfortian Experience (MX) Retreats. Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh, the Spiritual Director of the Movement spoke to the congregation about Marian Devotion and the importance of Our Lady in Christian life. Montfortian Spirituality is based on the Cross and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. The Associates also sold few books written by St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

On the 29 October, the 2nd Batch consists of ten (10) new members made their consecration and pledge to be Montfortian Associates. They went through the 33 Days of Preparation as prescribed by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. They also made their three days retreat before Consecrating to Jesus through the hand of Mary. With the Consecration of the ten new members, Singapore MAM now has 22 members.

As part of community building, the Associates went for a hike on the 4 Nov 2017 at Coney Island. The hiking trip was the initiative of Ms Doreen Law. The 'tour guide' of the trip was Mr. Cher Ming. He is a faithful "Prayer Partner", who always present during the monthly Montfortian Evening Prayer.

