20 June 2014

Appointment of Rev Fr Dr Adrian Danker as Deputy Principal

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev Fr Dr. Adrian Augustus Danker, S.J. as Deputy Principal at SJI with effect from 30 June 2014.

Fr Danker is a priest of the Catholic Church, a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and a graduate of St Joseph’s Institution (Class of 1981).

He received his primary education at St Michael’s School (now St. Joseph’s Institution Junior), St Joseph’s Institution and Catholic Junior College. He read English Literature in his honours year for his undergraduate education at the National University of Singapore. He holds a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Adelaide, Australia. As a Jesuit, he earned a Masters in Philosophy from the Ateneo de Manila in the Philippines, as well as a Masters in Divinity and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Boston College in the US.

He was the recipient of the PSC Local Merit Undergraduate Scholarship and the PSC Overseas Postgraduate Scholarship-cum-Australian Equity Merit Scholarship.

He was trained as a teacher, having earned his Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the National Institute of Education. He began his teaching career at Telok Kurau Secondary School where he taught English and History at various levels. He returned to Catholic Junior College to teach General Paper and English Literature. There, he was also the Head of Pastoral Care. Prior to entering the Jesuits, he worked at MOE Headquarters in the Planning Division working on educational policies.

In the Society of Jesus, he worked as the Dean of Studies for the newly vowed Jesuits in the Jesuit formation house in Manila and as a consultor to the Jesuit Rectors in Manila and Boston. As part of his formation, he also worked in the Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools in Singapore as its Deputy Director. In the last two years, he carried out his ordained ministry in a poor inner-city parish in Boston while completing his theology studies.

He shared that he had several happy memories of his SJI years in Bras Basah Road. He remembered studying for the O-levels with his friends in the open area above the school porch. He recalled, with fondness, the annual week long Retreat Mission conducted by the Redemptorists. He reminisced about Maths tuition with Bro Christopher and about spending Friday afternoons printing the School Newsletter on the cyclostyling machine with the
Newsletter Team. He remembered his time as a scout with 2104 Pelandok and the times he hung out in the canteen with teachers and classmates after school. He also remembered representing the school at a story-telling competition on radio and the year he was SJI’s Head Prefect.

In his new role at SJI, he hopes to work constructively with the students, teachers and the school leadership, as well as with the La Salle Brothers, the Board of Governors and the alumni, to help SJI accomplish its goal of becoming a Catholic school of choice in Singapore. To realize this, he has expressed his wishes to collaborate with one and all in the school community to articulate a clearer understanding of what SJI education is about so that there can be more commitment to accomplish it, more passion to live it, and more happiness to enjoy it. He hopes to do so by listening to students, teachers, parents, alumni and friends of SJI so that he can learn from them, and with them, build relationships of trust and goodwill so that the whole school community can help SJI better realize her hope of nurturing young men and women to become students of character and excellence and persons of faith and service.

SJI looks forward to tapping on Fr Danker’s expertise and experiences to bring SJI to a new level in her development.

Ora et Labora,

Dr Koh Thiam Seng (Class of 1976)
Principal