

MORNING STAR: MARIANISTS IN ASIA

Bulletin of ACEMS (Asian Center of Marianist Studies)

Number 1 – March, 2010



The Chaminade Educational Centre at Deepahalli-Bangalore, home of ACEMS

Name and Address: The Center for Asia has been baptized as **ACEMS (Asian Center for Marianist Studies)**. Its first Director is Fr. David Fleming, and its address is at Deepahalli near Bangalore (Post Bag 1, Chandapura / Bangalore, Karnataka 560 081 / India). Its E-mail address for now will be that of Fr. Dave: dflemingsm@yahoo.co.in

“Morning Star” in our title is a poetic name of Mary, who preceded the rising of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. It was the name of the first Marianist school in Asia, and seems like a good title for our Asian bulletin.

Similar centers for study and research in Marianist life already exist in Europe (the Chaminade Center in Bordeaux, Madrid’s SM Publications, Rome’s Seminario Chaminade) and in the USA (NACMS in Dayton). With the encouragement of the General Administration, other centers are also being established for Africa and Latin America.

A New Marianist Center in Asia: In the summer of 2009, during the General Leadership Assembly of the Society of Mary in Rome, leaders of the four SM Units in Asia (Japan, Korea, India, Philippines) decided to establish an Asian Center for Marianist Studies. This bulletin, entitled *Morning Star: Marianists in Asia*, is a first bit of news about this “Asian Center.”

ACEMS is meant to be at the service of all branches of the Marianist Family in all parts of Asia: SM, FMI, Marianist Lay Communities, in Japan, Korea, Philippines, India, Nepal, any other part of the continent....

The main purposes of ACEMS are:

- to foster and promote knowledge and study of the Marianist charism,
- to make our charism better known for all kinds of audiences – popular and specialized
- to encourage study and publications in all the appropriate languages
- to provide resources to help in making our charism known
- to offer support and help to Marianists of all branches in studying the charism
- to develop a group of “expert” Marianists who can continue to deepen and pass on our charism
- to organize seminars and workshops from time to time for these purposes.

ACEMS is building up an **extensive library** of Marianist books, pamphlets and media in Bangalore to support Marianist studies in Asia.

A coordinating team was appointed by the councils of each SM Unit to organize ACEMS. Founding members of this team, along with Dave Fleming, are Hirokazu André Takada (Japan), Chan Bok Dominic Park (Korea), Ignase Arulappen (India), and Pablo Rambaud (Philippines).

Getting organized: Finances will not permit frequent meetings, but a first organizational session of this coordinating team was held December 4-6, 2009, at the beautiful S.M. novitiate (the area is called “Eden”) near Davao City, Philippines. Fr. Andy from Japan was not able to attend this first meeting, and he was replaced by the Regional Superior of Japan and President of the SM Asian Zone, Fr. Kazuo Louis-

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An Asian Seminar on “Marianist Servant Leadership” will be organized by ACEMS from August 7-20, 2011, at Deepahalli-Bangalore. It will be offered to Marianists of all branches of the Family, with the aim of deepening our ability to guide our Family for mission within our varied Asian contexts, in the spirit of our Founders. We are aiming for up to 30 participants, including many now in positions of leadership in communities and ministries.

Presenters and facilitators will include Bros. Edward Violett, Raymond Fitz, Tom Giardino, Frs. Dave Fleming, Pablo Rambaud and others. Simultaneous translation will be available in Japanese, Korean and English.

The cost for the seminar, including room and board, will be approximately US\$500 per participant, plus travel costs for each participant to and from Bangalore. Those who wish to attend are invited to apply for the seminar through the Marianist leaders of their Unit (Province, Region, District or National Coordinator).

Ibaragi Shimizu. This meeting worked out a program for the work of ACEMS until the next General Chapter (2012) and defined more exactly the scope and the plans for the new Center.



ACEMS Coordinating Team at Davao— left to right: Rambaud, Shimizu, Park, Fleming, Arulappen

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Fr. Chaminade at 250 years: April 8, 2011 will be Blessed Father Chaminade’s 250th birthday. The Year 2011 has been declared a “Chaminade Year” and all Marianists groups and institutions are invited to make this year with special activities and observances. ACEMS plans to publish a special Marianist Asian Booklet with reflections, readings and prayer services for the year 2011. We will also publicize your ideas and suggestions for observing the Chaminade Year. Please let us know your plans and suggestions.



Main chapel at Deepahalli – “Seat of Wisdom”