

“I was surprised when Fr. Joe Lackner asked me to teach at the scholasticate in India. I accepted because it seemed like an adventure. After only a few days there, I began to experience what a wonderful opportunity it was. Living in a different culture, meeting our Indian brothers and the young scholastics was truly enriching and rewarding. When Bro. Chola, district superior of Eastern Africa, asked me to give him a year in Africa (which extended into three years), I, at first, had misgivings. After some prayer and thought, I said ‘yes.’ The experience with our African brothers and those who have given years to the work here has also proven most rewarding and enriching. I have begun to see that life can be very good even when the electricity goes off, the water runs low and the temperature drops (yes, 2 degrees below the Equator and at the 7,500 ft level). I have seen many wonderful things and places. Above all, the people of both Africa and India have taught me many things—the most important being what the Marianists have in common and the joy of working together and continuing Mary's work. They are exceptional people. I would recommend seizing the opportunity to experience our works outside the U.S. You will meet wonderful people and see the beautiful world God created. If you do so, you will not regret taking the chance.”

Fr. Allen DeLong
District of Eastern Africa