



# THE MARIANISTS DISTRICT OF INDIA

## NEWS LETTER

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August 2010

### UD DEEPAHALLI HAPPENINGS

The Provost( a high ranking administrative person) of the U. of Dayton, Dr. Joseph E. Saliba visited UD Deepahalli and briefed the staff on future curriculum changes.

The former Executive Director of UD Deepahalli, Bro. Mark Ormond, S. M., has returned to Deepahalli as one of our professors. Bro. Darwin is especially happy about that as he now has Bro. Mark's portrait on the wall along with our other executive directors. Bro. Mark, for his visa break in November, will be helping out in Nairobi. Welcome back, Bro. Mark.

A first time professor at UD Deepahalli is Dr. Jeremy S. Forbis. Dr. Forbis is a professor at UD Dayton. He taught sociology to the first years.

Fr. Joe Lackner has managed to teach a full course even though he was only here from 12 July to 5 August. Now he gets to take a short sabbatical before dividing his ministry between Hawaii and India.

In addition to our own four new Scholastics we have six others starting their UD Deepahalli studies, three from SOLA and three from Sacred Hearts.

### PRAYERS PLEASE

Prayers are requested for the mothers of Victor and Chitti; the brother of Fr. Jose Ramon; and for our two newly professed in Binda: Suresh Samad has a cut nose and mouth from a recent accident and Binod Bahla is suffering from malaria.

For Bro. Pratap Guria's mother, Mary, who died on 11 August.

And for Mr. Pradeep Hemrom who gave continuous assistance to our REDS Hama Centre. He died on 1 August of a heart attack.

The wife of our lay Marianist, Raymond Baxla, who is in serious condition from a motorcycle accident.

The cousin of Fr. Marianus Lugun, Julius Ergo, who died 19 Aug leaving a wife and four small children.

## PERSONNEL MOVES

- ✚ Bro. Julius Tete has moved from the Scholasticate to Infant Nilaya
- ✚ Antony Attukaran by contracting marriage is no longer a member of the Society of Mary.
- ✚ Bro. Dulare Lal Lucas is the new director of Madeleine Niwas allowing Bro. Baloo to focus on his many school responsibilities.
- ✚ The Diocese of Rourkela has taken over the Gomardih parish from the Society of the Divine Word so Fr. Sylverius Kerketta has moved to Kahupani parish. His new address:  
R. C. Church Kahupani,  
At/P.O.—Kahupani,  
Sundargarh Dt.,  
Orissa 770018
- ✚ Our Khammam community address:  
Jacob Gapp Nivasam  
Mariyapuram  
Peddabeeravali (vi)  
Bonakal (Mandal)  
Khammam Dt. 507204  
Andhra Pradesh  
Tel: 0949 380 7379(Saju' s mobile no.); community Tel: 0949 1460 797(Bhaskar's mobile no.) Land lines are being applied for.
- ✚ other new phone numbers will be published in the new personnel
- ✚ An American novice, Joseph Janosik, will do part of his second year novitiate program in India. He arrived in Bangalore on 17 August, and is part of the Scholasticate community but will be working with REDS. He will be with us until December. Welcome to India, Joseph!

## REDS RANCHI

A great effort has been made by our REDS Ranchi staff to get our REDS children into regular schools. This year 131 new students were enrolled in various Ranchi area schools, bringing the total to 502. Nearly all of the present students were promoted. All nine that took the test to graduate from high school have passed. Seven of these have been admitted into college and the other two opted for technical training.

A successful summer camp for sixty students was held at our Singhpur school. It was conducted by the REDS staff, Marianists Brothers and Sisters and our Lay Marianists.

Our eleven centers have nearly all been renovated recently.

An eye camp was organized at Gyan Deep that saw 100 men, women and children examined.

Sr. Elizabeth, FMI and Nurse Mrs. Swati Toppno visited our centres and treated the children having wounds, coughs and colds.

## FORMATION PROGRAMS

Our Seminarians, Joseph Barla and Xavier Raj gave the retreat for all 30 novices from 23-30 July. On the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> all the Ranchi area communities were invited to Nirmal Deep to witness the formal entry into the novitiate of our 18 new novices. A first: 18 were accepted for the Novitiate and all 18 arrived at the Novitiate. Nine are from Jharkhand, and three each from Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Congratulations to them on taking the first big step into Marianist life.

On the 13th of August, 31 young men officially began their year of Aspirancy. Eleven are from Tamil

Nadu, nine from Orissa, six from Jharkhand, two from Chattisgarh, and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Bihar. The impressive ceremony of their reception into the Aspirancy was held in the Scholasticate chapel with excellent decorations and music. Fr. Varghese was the main celebrant and homilist. He spoke especially about imitating the heroism of Fr. Gapp. District Council members Darwin and Del gave Fr. Chaminade medals to the Aspirants. The Scholasticate also hosted the tasty meal after the Mass.

### **BUDAKATA, ORISSA**

Land settlement problems continue at our Budakata school. Many of the neighbors to our school continue to put obstacles in our way to settling the school boundary and other land issues. A foundation for the school boundary wall was started but a group of women complained to the police and stopped the work. A delegation of the District Council met the Diocese of Rourkela's the Vicar General and the Bishop's secretary to see if there are alternatives to our present stalemate.

### **OUR SCHOOLS IN NEPAL**

After a long struggle and with much tension the teaching staffs of our three schools have accepted new contracts. In July Fr. Pragasam and Bro. Prakash visited Nepal and had many meetings with our brothers, the sisters, members of our funding foundation and with the lay staff of our schools at Bharaul and Chakkargotti. Some agreements and a great deal more of understanding were arrived at after these lengthy gatherings. Responsibilities for taking care of finances, accounts and

student sponsorship were specified as our funding foundation requires clear and up-to-date accounts.

Our biggest difficulties are in getting the schools transferred to the Nepal Marianist Society and the transfer of the land of the schools to the Nepal Marianist Society. This needs the prayers of all.

As far as day-to-day life is concerned our schools had summer holidays in late July to early August; load shedding averages 13 hours a day making account work on the computer difficult; plentiful rain has made for green fields and paddy transplantation on our farm land; and Messiah is moving back and forth from Nepal to Bangalore to complete his education degree.

### **VISITORS**

- ✚ Several District Council members will be visiting our communities in Orissa, Jharkhand and Bihar from 3-28 September.
- ✚ Fr. David Paul, SM, the Development Director of Developing Regions for the Province of the USA will come to India, starting in Bangalore on 15 October. He will give a one day training program on development in both Bangalore and Binda. After Bangalore he will visit Khammam, then Ranchi and Binda, leaving Ranchi for USA on 26 October.
- ✚ On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October the Regional Superior of Austria-Germany, Fr. Hans Eidenberger, SM, along with Bro. Josef Grunstaudl, SM, will arrive in Bangalore from Korea. The next day they travel to Khammam for

the official inauguration of our school and community on 8 October. You may recall that the Austria-Germany Region is the major benefactor of our Khammam School and community. After the inauguration they return to Bangalore, visit our communities and ministries there and fly on to Ranchi on 13 October where they will visit our places in the Ranchi area and in Binda. They leave India on 16 October.

✚ The new Provincial, Fr. Martin Solma, SM and the new Assistant Provincial, Bro. Joseph Kamis, SM of our USA Province will make a long visit to our District beginning 21 December in Nepal and ending 23 January, 2011 in Bangalore. Hopefully they will be able to spend Christmas in Bharaul, finish the year attending the District Chapter in Ranchi and celebrate the new year with our Nirmal Deep community. After that are visits to all of our communities in north India, coming to Bangalore on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January and attending the Perpetual Vow celebration.

✚ Bro. Donald Neff, SM, one of our main development persons in the Marianist Mission in Dayton hopes to visit in January 2011. He regularly speaks at US parishes raising funds for the missions such as our works in India.

**USA PROVINCE GATHERING IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, 30 JUNE-3 JULY**

The District of India was represented at this large gathering of over 300 Marianists and lay Marianists by Bros. Lucian Tigga, Birendra Kullu, Rajesh Kr. Lakra, Nittamaria Varaprasad, Tom Oles, and Delmar Jorn. Most of the gathering focused on the new vision statement of the USA Province, "Vision 2020". The other major event was the inauguration of the new Provincial team. Each of them had a chance to share their thoughts on the present and future of the Province of the USA and its dependent districts. There was a generous amount of time given to meeting new people and renewing relationships. As usual there was a great interest in happenings in India.

### **JACOB GAPP SCHOOL, KHAMMAM BEGINS**

Bros. Saju and Ajay Babu arrived at our school near Khammam in early June and began registration. Classes from lower kindergarten to third class began in June. The enrollment is finalized for this year at 280 students. Saju and Ajay stayed in our parish, Rebbavaram, about seven kilometers from our community and school until 12 July when they moved into our community residence, a few hundred feet away from the school. Bros. Chitti and Chinnaiah went to help the move into the new community house. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of July Fr. Pragasam and our parish priest, Fr. Shanti, blessed the residence. The teaching staff, contractors and other helpers, along with Bro. Del were witnesses. They all enjoyed the first meal provided in our Jacob Gapp Nivasam.

The official inauguration and blessing of the school will be on 8 October when our principal donors for the school, representatives of our Region of Austria-Germany will be present. Khammam Bishop Most Rev. Paul Maipan will be the main celebrant.

It is fitting that our school and community be named after our Marianist Austrian martyr, Fr. Gapp, since his Region has been the primary donor for the school and community.

Jacob Gapp School is special because it is the first school in India started from the beginning by the Marianists and fully owned by the Marianists. Fr. Pragasam and Bro. Bhaskar also met with Bishop Maipan.

### **INFANT NILAYA, AUSTIN TOWN**

Our five story building in Austin Town has some new occupants. Until now REDS have the ground floor, our Brothers live in the first floor but the other three floors meant for our school have been vacant as we have not received permission to start an English medium school. Since that permission is not likely to be given for some time we have rented out parts of the third floor to the GMR Varalakshimi Foundation. This is basically a N. G. O. run by the large GMR company for empowering and giving livelihood to the poor. Training is being given by them in tailoring, computers and electricity. Our former tailoring students are now taking advanced tailoring training with GMRVF.

### **HORIZONS PROGRAM 2010 (BORDEAUX)**

The fourth “Horizons” program was held at Bordeaux from July 10- August 10. This program is aimed at perpetually professed Marianists under the age of 40. Representatives from India were Bros. Oscar Kerketta ( on mission in the Philippines). Peter Samad, Dilip Tirkey, Kerobim Xalxo, and Sister Columba Yu (from Korea but on mission in Ranchi). There were a total of 36 participants – 27 from the S.M. and 9 from the F.M.I. All sessions were translated into English, French, Spanish and Korean. Director of the program was Bro. Tom Giardino, and Fr. Dave Fleming was a presenter and member of the Coordinating Team.

The participants enthusiastically shared their experiences, got to know Marianists from other cultures, reflected together on the charism, and visited the places of our foundation. Participants were especially moved by the visit to Blessed Father Chaminade’s Madeleine Chapel, the room where he lived and worked for 30 years and his tomb, where all renewed their vows. Other visits included trips to Agen, Perigueux and Lourdes.

