



THE MARIANISTS DISTRICT OF INDIA

NEWS LETTER

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Ordination of Fr. Sudhir Kujur, SM

The celebration of Sudhir's ordination began the night before the big Sunday as hundreds of parishioners of his Harasmara, Orissa parish welcomed not only Sudhir but all of the visitors with a long processional dance. These same parishioners spent much of the night decorating the outdoor altar and premises. The parish is under the Capuchins who shared their living quarters with the many Marianists who arrived. The Marianist



Sisters stayed at the Srs. Of St. Joseph's convent. It was hard to count the number of people that came for the ordination as the church compound barely held them all. Sudhir was bought before Bishop John Barwa, SVD by his brother, Bro. Fedric and his cousin. Bro. Ed Violett represented the General Administration and the Seminary. Bishop John

Barwa, Bishop of the Diocese of Rourkela, later spent much time visiting with the Marianists. The following day, 18 January, there was another journey through the hills to Sudhir's village and new house for his first Mass. About 200 were present for the Mass and festivities that went on into the evening with a program, meals and dancing.

Perpetual vows of Bro. Sebastian Bara,SM

Chaminade Day was Sebastian's big day, but it was shared by the whole Marianist family and our Gyan Deep neighbors. The dancers for the liturgy were our FMI candidates and REDS students. The choir included Capuchins, Daughters of St. Anne,



and lay Marianists. Our Gyan Deep's parish of Samlong hosted the vow ceremony with its parish priest, Fr. Anand taking part in the Liturgy and welcoming us graciously. Fr. Marianus Lugin was the main celebrant, Fr. Pragasam received

Sebastian's vows, Bro. Ed Violet assisted, Bro. Augustus Surin gave the homily, Bro. Prakash Kujur gave the commentary and many brothers took photos. The Marianist Sisters decorated the altar and sanctuary. Sebastian's family was present from his village near Simdega. After Mass all went up the road to Gyan Deep for a cultural program and excellent meal. All in all it was truly a family affair. Then it was more traveling on the Ranchi-Simdega road for the Mass and celebration at Sebastian's village of Muria, just east of Simdega on 25 January. Many Marianists were able to join in the lively celebration in the courtyard of Sebastian's family compound. Bro. Del surprised the villagers by surviving the long Advasi dance.

Travels of the District Council

January travels of several members of the District Council, Bro. Darwin missed out, began in Orissa with a meeting with a lawyer helping us with our land case in Budakata. After a short visit to Budakata is was a long drive to Sudhir's parish for his ordination, to his village for first Mass, back to Budakata and on to Binda for two day visit. Besides the usual interviews we observed the school building construction's progress, the leveling of the new playground and the tailoring

classes. Binda's gardens have greatly increased and prospered since our last visit. Their dogs are still numerous but the lovable mynah is no more.

Gyan Deep was our next stop as Bro. Sebastian's vow day was near. Besides joining that celebration we met with the Marianist Sisters, viewed the progress of their new building at the outskirts of Samlong, met with lawyers,

auditors, contractors, attended the pastor's, Fr. Anand's birthday party, said

goodbye to Bros. Oscar Kerketta and Bro. Ed as they left on 22 January after Sebastian's vows, and eventually with Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo. On 24 January it was back on the Simdega road for Sebastian's home celebration, then to our next community visit at Singhpur where we viewed the several buildings arising of the future STC, and the first foundation diggings for our parish church down the road from Singhpur School. Besides meeting the brothers we also met with the contractors for the STC buildings. Landscaping also began that day. We made it to Nirmal Deep despite roads being blocked by a local land dispute. For the first time in memory all of the Novices were interviewed by the Council members and several even understood Bro. Del's English—they surely will make vows! While there the Council judged the talent contest in which each novice performed an original program. Nirmal Deep's vegetable gardens have also increased.

At last on our third stay at Gyan Deep, the Council had their official visit with the Gyan Deep community. REDS continues to grow under the guidance of our four brothers there. Hopefully all will have the chance to see the new colors of our Gyan Deep residence, both inside and out—no longer grey, especially the chapel! Gyan Deep was also the site of two days of Council meetings after which Bro. Del escaped back to hot Bangalore while Fr. Pragasam got to check out the audit which began on 5 February. Eventually, Bro. Prakash went with our contractors to make arrangements for

building the compound wall around our property near to Siliguri. On 6th Fr.

Marianus Lugun and Pragasam returned back to Budakata where they had meetings with the local people discussing about our future mission there. Fr. Pragasam met the members of the community and completed the official council visit to Maria Nivas Community.

Personnel and ministry news

- **Fr. Tony Attukaran**, in his passport known as Antony Antony, will be leaving for his new assignment with our community in Davao, Philippines on 20 March. Until then he is at our Infant Nilaya community in Bangalore.
- **Bro. James Fitzgibbons** returned to Nirmal Deep on 25 February to continue his excellent work with the novices.
- **Fr. Sudhir Kujur** arrived at his new assignment in Bharaul, Nepal on 25 February to help with our ministry and to do pastoral ministry. We appreciate his willingness to help with our Nepal mission.
- **Bro. Tom Oles** will complete his years in India and Nepal in June when he returns to the United States.
- **Fr. Jose Ramon** went to Spain on 23 February to be with his terminally ill sister. He will return in March. Fr. Jose Ramon began his 50th Golden Jubilee year in December. Congratulations to Fr. Jose.

- **Bro. Basant Kujur** will be completing his U. of Dayton studies and returning to India this May.
- **Bro. Daniel Stupka** will arrive in Ranchi on 20 March for a stay at Nirmal Deep and later at Deepahalli. This year is Bro. Dan's 80th year and 60th of religious vows—congratulations on both epic events.
- **Bro. James Contadino** has been teaching at Deepahalli U. D. since January. Bro. Jim took time off from his community in Ireland.
- **Fr. Joe Lackner** visited all of our communities in the District, having interesting adventures in several places, especially in Nepal, taught at Deepahalli U. D., visited our brothers in Davao and left from there on 19 February.
- **Fr. Dave Fleming** and **Fr. Ignase Arulappen** traveled to Davao in December to attend the Asian Zone meeting concerning a Marianist Studies Center for the Asian Zone. From there Fr. Dave traveled on to Dayton where he will be teaching, conducting workshops, and giving talks until his return to Deepahalli on 5 May.
- **Bro. Raimond Toppo** will be in India for his home visit starting 27 February.
- **Bro. Kuldeep Ekka** will move to Gyan Deep on 20 March to begin preparations for his advanced studies.
- As of 25 February there were **20**
 - **Aspirants**, three from Orissa, one from Kerala, three from Chattisgarh, ten from Jharkhand and three from Andhra Pradesh.
 - Pascal Raj A., Stanislaus Hembrom and Bibin Jose have left the Novitiate. There are now **14** first year novices and **10** second year novices.
 - Corrections in phone numbers: **Bharaul's school** number is 00977-25621092. **Singhpur's community** number is: 651-2940684 and the **school** number: 651-6451360.
 - The Marianist **email addresses** in the District personnel have not yet been activated.
 - Bros. Ismail Sindur, Pratap Guria, Santosh Savarimuthu, and Prince A. will begin their Scholasticate on **3 May**.
 - **Fr. Pragasam** will be attending the Provincial Chapter in St. Louis, starting 3 March. While in the States he hopes to visit our brothers in Dayton and on his return trip our Seminary in Rome.

[Nepal News](#)

Vincem Pokhrel's family has turned over Chakkargotti School to the Marianists. Strenuous efforts are being made to get all of our schools registered under the Nepal Marianist Society. This is a difficult and long term process. Pray for its success. Don Bosco School, Biratnagar's teacher,s situation has been normalized.

In December, Morning Star School organized a two day exhibition on science, agriculture, the environment, health, and population. The exhibition was inaugurated by the District Education Officer. Fifteen schools visited the exhibition, some coming from long distances, and the first of its kind in this part of Nepal. Congratulations!

Invitations from Korea and Japan

Both the Regions of Korea and Japan have extended invitations for our Indian brothers to come and work in their regions for a number of years. We hope to be able to reply favorably to these requests, but it will be a few years before we have the personnel available. Obviously learning the languages of Korea and Japan would be a challenge. An invitation letter will be sent to the District in April to identify the brothers for preparing them academically for this mission.

Annual retreats

The north retreat will be held from 9 to 16th June at Ashrivad in Ranchi and the south retreat will be held from 21-28th of May at Deepahalli. The retreat preachers will be from India this

year. As usual some Scholastics may not be able to make the scheduled retreat due to classes or examinations. Alternate dates will be found or they may make the north retreat.

News from Chaminade Training Institute, Patna

In November, Archbishop William D'Souza, S. J. blessed and inaugurated the Hardware and Networking unit. Classes have now begun in this new unit. During 2009 nearly 500 students attended CTI with 263 in Spoken English, 152 in typing and 81 in computer section.

REDS, STC, Deepahalli

In the past two months Bros. Arul Raj and Britto Murmu, along with the STC instructors have been attending, free of charge, a training program organized by the Bosch Company, in the use of Bosch power tools. Hopefully this training will continue in the coming years. Now our STC instructors can train our STC boys in the proper use of updated power tools.

