

THE MARIANIST NOVITIATE, RANCHI, INDIA

Newsletter

February 14, 2012

Nirmal Deep

Preparation for the Christmas

We started our preparation for Christmas on 13th of December and it continued until 23rd. As the three offices, each worked at cleaning and decorating in a different location around Nirmal Deep. The members of the Religious Life Office had the chapel area to decorate and create a crib scene. The members of the Education Office decorated in the living room, the parlour, where they set up a crib and in front of the Lady of Jharkhand. The Office of Temporality decorated in the Dining Hall and in front of the Dining Hall where they made a crib scene which took up most of the Japanese Garden. We finished classes on December, 18th.

On 20th and 22nd of December, we visited different congregations to sing Christmas Carols. We went in two groups, one group into Ranchi and the other group visited our local communities. We had our Reconciliation Service on 23rd of December. In the evening of 24th December, we had gift sharing. Bro. Marianus became Santa Claus and presented a gift to each of us. The Christmas Vigil Mass began at 11.00 P.M. After Mass we wished each other a very happy Christmas. After that we had small party with our neighbours and danced until 3.00A.M.



Marriage celebration:-

On the occasion of marriages of the twin brothers, Powan and Anuj, both members among the friends of Nirmal Deep Family, we took the responsibility to handle the music at their wedding ceremonies on 27th and 29th of December, 2011. We enjoyed playing the music and singing at the marriage celebration. Our novice master, Fr. Iggie celebrated the marriage Eucharists. It was an enjoyable experience for all of us.

New Years 2012



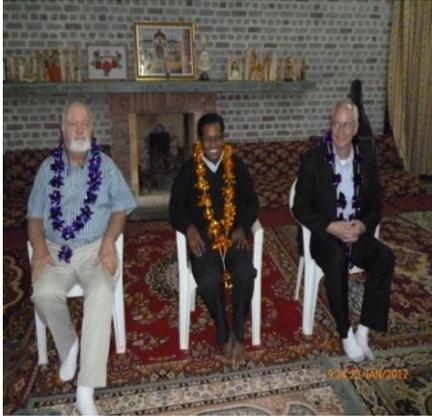
On New Year Eve, we had Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 11 P.M. and concluded at 11:50, to welcome in the New Year. Then, we went to the basketball court to burn the old man, with coracles, that we had made. As the old man burned, we shared wishes for a very "Happy New Year". After he had burned out, we had cultural dances for about an hour, then, went to sleep. In the morning of 1 January, we attended the Eucharist at Saporam Parish.



Apostolic Experience

The second year Novices travelled to Binda village for two weeks of apostolic work on the 2nd of January and returning on the 16th. While they were there, they were involved in different activities. Some taught singing and dancing to children of the village in preparation for the upcoming ordination. Others taught English class in our school. They all helped in working around the school and the community. One of their challenges was the daily cooking of meals for 17 people.

Visit by Area Council



Three members India Area Council came to Nirmal Deep on the 23rd of January. They were, Fr. Kip Stander, Fr. Jack McGrath and District Superior Br. Augustus Surin. We welcomed them with one of our cultural dances, the customary washing their feet and the singing of our welcome song. Then, they all of them introduced themselves and encourage us to continue to grow in our religious vocation.

Independence Day

The 26th of January was Independence Day. We had the usual start of 6:00 A.M. meditation and 6:30 Mass by Fr. Iggie. Since we celebrate this Independence Day, we, the novices, had march past. As our guests, Bro. Joseph Barla talked about the Independence Day and Bro. Xavier Raj raised the flag. Later in the morning, we played a basketball game between first year and second year brothers. The 2nd year brothers defeated the first year brother. As a prize Fr. Iggie gave soft drinks and candy. For each of the first year brothers there was a gift of pen drive. An enjoyable day was had by all.



Classes Resume

Classes for the first years resumed, while the second years were out on apostolic experience. Then there was a short break to prepare for the

ordination and the clean up. Everyone was back in class on the 2nd of February. We follow common classes with the novices of the Daughters of Mary. In the 1st period, Sisters Teresa teaches Consecrated Life, in second period, Bro. David teaches the History of the Catholic Church, and then, Fr. Iggie concludes the morning by teaching Spirituality. Through these classes we are gaining knowledge of the Church, Spirituality and learning about God. These classes are really interesting and useful in our lives.

The Ordination

At Nirmal Deep, on the 29th of January, Bros. Joseph Barla and Xavier Raj were ordained priests for the Society of Mary. For much of the month before, the novices prepared the grounds, guest rooms and practiced singing and dancing. The second year practiced several songs and dances with some students from Binda, while they were there. It was part of the apostolic experience for the second years. On 25th of January, Bros. Joseph and Xavier arrived for several days of prayer and preparation for this big event in their lives. Bro. Xavier's family arrived at Nirmal Deep on 27th of January from Tamil Nadu and stayed with us. The night before the ordination was blessed with the rain!



On the 29th, we had an early start to do the last moment's things. By 9:30, we were beginning to welcome our guest. His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo arrived promptly at 10 A.M. A group of MLC members welcomed him in a traditional way. We then processed towards the chapel. The students from Binda were dancing in front of the chapel. The Novices and some Family of Mary members were the musicians and the choir. The Ordination Eucharist began at

10:30. With the Cardinal on the altar were eighteen priests to concelebrate and participate in the ordination. The entire liturgy was very well done. More than a thousand people came to Nirmal Deep to be a part of this big occasion. Some of the believers came from Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Bangalore, Andhra Pradesh, Nepal, Bihar and Jharkhand.



Soon after the Eucharist, we started to serve the food for all of our guests. It took sometime, but we managed to feed all those present. After the lunch, some of the people started the trip back to their own homes. All the novices and many members of the Family of Mary were kept busy in many ways helping to take care of the crowd. The day was a great blessing for the Society of Mary and good experience for the Novices.

In the evening, when most everyone had left, the community had some music, dancing, a few words of thanks and a lovely meal. There was a cake cutting by Fr. Xavier and Bro. David. On this day, we celebrated three things, the closing of the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Fr. Chaminade, Golden Jubilee of Bro. David and the ordination of Frs. Xavier and Joseph.

Thank you very much!

God bless you all!