

March 2012



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The Marianists

District of India

NEWSLETTER



Rahil Samad honored in her passing

Bro. Augustus and his family were joined by Marianists and friends in offering the Mass of the Resurrection for Mrs. Rahil Samad, Bro. Augustus' mother who died at

age 84 in the Diurgarha subvillage of Lamdega village, Jharkhand on March 17. Fr. Joseph Barla, SM presided at the liturgy at the family home on March 18. The music was provided by the 2nd year novices from Nirmal Deep. Other Marianists were also present from the Novitiate, Asha Deep and Gyan Deep. Fr.



Barla and Bro. Augustus jointly preached the homily. The whole District, the Provincial Administration and the General Administration join in prayer for the eternal happiness of Rahil Samad, with great fraternal sympathy for her large and devoted family.

Bro. Augustus Surin with his mother



General Administration Visit

The General Administration has already begun their visit with us. We welcome them warmly to our District! We hope to profit a great deal from their time, prayer and celebration with us, and we hope that we can contribute to their understanding of the activities of the Marian-

ist mission in this part of the Asian world. Fr. Manuel Cortes and Bro. Ed Violett are in Nepal right now. After meeting with Bishop Antony Sharma, SJ in Kathmandu they will visit our Brothers at Morning Star School, Chaminade Academy and Don Bosco School. They first

reach India on April 4. On the morning of Holy Thursday, the GA will meet with the District Council in Deepahalli for an orientation discussion. We are delighted that they will be celebrating the great solemnity of Easter in the District.



REDS Workers Interviewed and Videotaped by Jan Dixon

Mrs. Jan Dixon, editor of the Marianist ALIVE magazine and her husband Richard Davis spent two weeks in the District examining and

learning about all the REDS activities and plans in the Ranchi and Bangalore areas. The hours of interviews and videotaping will be worked into three articles in the next issues of ALIVE magazine and into a comprehensive video along with separate clips of various activities. Bro. Alex and Bro. Libin introduced Jan and Rich to the REDS programs and centers in Ranchi as well as helped with conversations with mothers and ragpickers. On March 6, the visitors visited the Chaminade Rural Development Project in Binda with Fr. Joseph Barla's help, and



Bro. Peter Samad helped with videoing the Roro Binda School and a visit to the tailoring program. Bro. Anuranjan introduced Jan and Rich to classes at the Singhpur Prabhat Tara School on March 7, while Bro. Alexis and Bro. Libin gave them an overview of the new STC Centre in Saraitoli. Bro. Lucian, Bro. Julius and Mrs. Prema were the key guides to the REDS work in Bangalore. Self-help group members, Mrs. Anthonimal and Mrs. Amalorpovavenrasi, were interviewed, along with two tailoring girls, Mrs. Prema, Bro. Julius, Bro. Augustus, and Fr. Jack.

Fr. Dave returns to USA Province



After the annual retreat and summer classes Fr. Dave Fleming will return to the USA Province as his permanent residence. Happily for the District, Fr. Dave is very willing to return to India to teach regularly in the UD academic program at Deepahalli. For the sake of his physical health and personal situation, however, his permanent home will be in the US. We will miss the enormous contributions he has made on an ongoing basis, but we hope to see him here frequently.

Fr. Dave has served as Novice Master, local director and Regional/District Superior of India, as well as on the District Chapter.

Bro. Joseph and Bro. Baloo request seminary studies



The District Council has received requests from Bro. Joseph Raj and Bro. Bala Bhaskar Madanu to begin their seminary studies this year. Consultations will be sent to their communities of the last three years. The responses should be sent to

Bro. Augustus at the District office by April 20 so they can be used at the April meeting of the District Council.



Nine Brothers request perpetual vows

Nine Brothers from across the District have requested perpetual vows. Consultations will soon be on their way to the Brothers they have lived with for the past three years, and the Council requests that these consultations be returned to Bro. Augustus at Curlee Street by April 20. The consultees will only receive electronic forms. They may return them electronically for swift delivery but they may also print them out and mail the hard copy to the District headquarters. The Brothers requesting perpetual vows are Renny Markose, Messiah Paranthaman, Libin Tete, Ashok Kumar Dungdung, John Paul, Anup Ranjan Kullu, Sudhir Kumar Soreng, Kumaraswamy, and Julius Tete.

First Vow Requests

The seven first-year novices have requested approval for their first vows. The District Council has met and discussed the letters and the evaluations. The decisions along with the preliminary indication of category have been sent to the Provincial Council for ratifica-

tion. They are Pitrus Ekka, Anup Khoya, Nabin Lugun, Showraiah Ravulapalli, Bineet Tirkey, Shashi Tirkey, and Albert Xalxo.

Bro. Augustus in the USA

Bro. Augustus represented the District of India at the recent meeting of the Provincial Chapter of the Marianist USA Province, March 1-5, at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center in Eureka, Missouri. During the Chapter Bro. Augustus presented a half-hour power point on the makeup and activities of the Marianists in India. While in the US, Bro. Augustus had meetings with the Provincial, Fr. Marty Solma, as well as the head of development, Mrs. Allison Hewitt and Fr. Dave Paul, director of development for ministries in developing countries.



MLC Day of Recollection

All three MLC groups from Ranchi, Singhpur and Kolambi gathered at Singhpur for a day of recollection in preparation for Easter. That day, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 25, was also the Marianist Family World Day of Marianist Vocations.

Task Force to plan our proposals to TATA and Indian Hotels Company

In order to think hard and creatively about the future in such a way as to attract the long term support of such groups as Tajhoteles, Indian Hotels Limited Company and TATA, the District has formed a Strategic Planning Task Force to

work from April 10 to 21. Working under the direction of Fr. Dave Paul who will come from the USA to facilitate the meeting, the District Council has named as members Bros. Arokia Doss (chair), Lucian Tigga, Alex Toppo, Antony Xavier, Kuldeep

Ekka, Raj Mohan, Darwin Joseph, Fr. Kip Stander and Ms. Prema Matesh. From these meetings the District and the Province plan to formulate projects which could win the long-term financial and business support of such firms as TATA and other foundations.

Workshops: Perpetual Vows and 1st Year Professed

Workshops for broth-

thanam, Sudhir

istry came together to

Soreng, Kumara Swamy and Anup Kullu at Nirmal Deep on February 18 & 19. In the south Fr. Dave Fleming conducted the program for Ashok Dungdung, John

reflect, pray and talk about their experiences. In the south Sarath Babu, Sekar, and Rayappan met with Frs. Iggie, Jack and Kip in Chaminade Nilaya on March 20 and 21. In the north Fr. Iggie met at Nirmal Deep with Ignasinathan, Samuel Kerketta, Alexander Kujur, Martin Lomga, and Paul Prakash on February 11 and 12.

ers discerning perpetual vows were very prayerful and helpful events, according to participants. In the north Fr. Iggie gathered with Renny Markose, Messiah Paran-

Paul, and Julius Tete in Deepahalli on February 20 and 21. As is customary too, the 1st year professed who have spent the last year in active min-



Vocation Activities

All over the District trips are being planned or contacts being made for “Come and See” programs and diocesan vocation camps to be visited. Varghese and Saju are planning visits to **Kerala** after advertisements about the SM have been published, while Lucian and Britto will take a tour in **Karnataka**. Peter Paul and Daniel have already spent some time in

Tamil Nadu, and Raj Mohan with John Paul will go again. There are already 60 contacts and a “Come and See” planned for the 3rd 4th week of May in Tamil Nadu. For **Andhra Pradesh**, Bhaskar has already made one trip, and in May both Bhaskar and Xavier will visit vocation camps to recruit for a “Come and See” program at Jacob Gapp School in Khammam. Rajesh

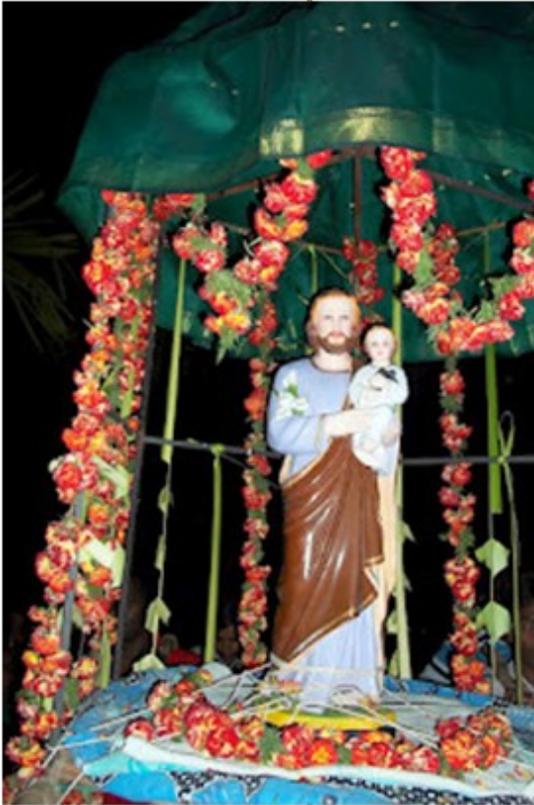
and Joy will be attending vocation camps in **Orissa** and also planning a “Come and See”. Basant has already made some contacts in **Jharkhand**, and before April 27, he and other brothers, plus the FMI Sisters will do a vocation tour in preparation for a “Come and See” at Nirmal Deep, May 13-19. Joseph Raj has taken some initiatives in **Bihar**.



Seminarians of the District

Our third year brothers, Birendra Kullu, Rajesh Lakra and Varaprasad Nittamaria were ordained deacons on January 14 in Rome. This summer they will return to work in various communities as they further prepare themselves for ordination. Our second year brothers, Chennaiah Polishetti and Chittibabu Gunja will be teaching in the Novitiate and giving retreats. We will be happy to see them again. Our first year brothers, Jinu Muthukattil and Arul Raj will give their summer over to intense study and practice of Italian for the sake of still easier and smoother understanding and communication.

REDS boys honor St. Joseph



On March 19, the REDS boys of Deepahalli honored their patron St. Joseph with the blessing and decorating of his statue and carrying him in procession. Incense was offered and cake was shared.



Transitions

Bro. Sudhir Aukash Kachap will be returning home on Easter Tuesday. His temporary vows will expire on Easter Sunday. We wish him well and particularly thank him for his conscientious and effective work at Jacob Gapp School, Khammam, during the past year.

Three of the first year novices were led by their discernment to leave the Novitiate this month.

They are Anand Joseph Toppo, Lins Soreng, and Rohit Minj. May God continue to guide their way.

The same process of discernment resulted in five of our second-year novices concluding their novitiate training. Amit Kalyan Minj, Suneel Pidiyala, Deepak Tigga, Ereneus Tigga and Sukshai Xalxo have returned to their family. God be with them.

District Council Meetings

The 4th District Council meeting will be held at Gyan Deep, April 27-29. The principal topics should be the renewal of temporary vows, approval of perpetual vows, seminary requests and the final edition of the new personnel. The three earlier meetings of the Council focused on the large areas of **Ministry Growth** and **Brothers' Growth**.

In the area of Ministry Growth we dealt with such topics as 5-year plan in each ministry, property titles, boundary walls, government recognition of institutions, qualified personnel, and projects of foundational support for our REDS activities (e.g., Tajhotels and Indian Hotels Company Limited). In the area of Brothers' Growth we discussed the 13 requests for study, de-

velopment of degreed personnel, leadership development in several stages, community housing, strengthening formation, stability of personnel, mixed composition, retreats and several hours on the first edition of the new personnel.

New Hostels open on April 10 and January 4

Under the guidance of Bro. Alex Toppo, director of the STC Centre in Saraitoli, a hostel will open on April 10 for REDS boys from Ranchi to attend the Marianist Prabhat Tara School in Singhpur, a fifteen minute walk through the forest. We expect these boys to be joined by boys from the area who live too far from the Singhpur school to walk each day. On January 4, Principal Peter Samad opened a hostel at Roro/Binda Primary School. The boys and girls number about 25. Our hope is to soon open a larger hostel down the road on the older property.

UD Festival of Art, Literature and Culture



On March 21, the UD Deepahalli students presented a “Literature, Music, and Arts Festival.” The program consisted of group and solo singing in English, Sadri, Hindi, and Tamil, dramatic declamation, original poetry reading, tabla, guitar, keyboard, flute, and harmonica performances, mime, magic acts, drawing, and dancing. Almost all the UD students, who are Marianist, Montfortian, SOLA, and Sacred Hearts brothers, participated in some way.

In attendance were members of the Marianist communities in Bangalore, the Marianist Scholasticate and Aspirancy Staffs as well as the staff members from the SOLA and Sacred Hearts communities. Lay Marianists, Hazel and Savio Franco, also enjoyed the festival along with Brother Darwin, Dr. Rani, the Honored Guest, Mr. Carlos and the professors of the UD program. The Marianist Aspirants also enjoyed the presentations.



After the two-hour program, a delicious lunch was provided by the UD Deepahalli Centre. Fr. Joe Lackner was the faculty advisor for the festival. The Festival was a great success. It highlighted the many talents of the students. The members of the audience not only responded with genuine applause but individually complimented the students on their creativity and performance.

Thank You!