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The Marianists

District of India

NEWSLETTER



Chapter Election

The District congratulates our brothers in the recent confidence placed in them by their fellow brothers in the chapter elections! Bro. Paulus Lakra and Fr. Santosh Tudu are elected to five-year terms. Fr. James Dungdung is elected to a three-year term, Bro. Alexius Toppo to two years, and Bro. Darwin Joseph to one year.

Voting was as follows:-

Brothers:

- ♦ Paulus Lakra: 48
 - ♦ Alexius Toppo: 33
 - ♦ Darwin Joseph: 26
 - ♦ Sanjay Ekka: 26 (The tie with Darwin is resolved by Darwin's prior profession, 1997; cf. RL 7:35)
 - ♦ Libin Minj: 19
 - ♦ Lucian Tigga: 15
 - ♦ Vijay Minj: 7
- scrutators were Bros. Fedric Kujur and Peter Paul K., Mrs. Amala was secretary and Fr. Kip, witness.

Priests:

- ♦ Santosh Tudu: 41
- ♦ James Dungdung: 39
- ♦ Joseph Barla: 18
- ♦ Birendra Kullu: 13

In both the nomination and final rounds, the eligible voters were 75 and the ballots received, 62. Witnesses and scrutators were : nomination: Bros. Tony Xavier and Julius Tete, scrutators; Mrs. Amala, secretary; Witnesses: Fr Kip and Fr. Jack. In the final round,

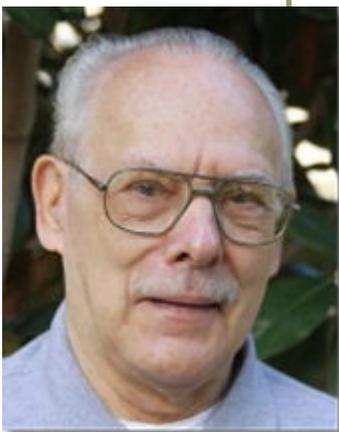
New Principal at Don Bosco, Biratnagar



On August 15 Jyoti Prakash Minj was appointed principal of Don Bosco School. We are grateful for his willingness and for the skills he brings to the ministry, e.g., his ability to speak Nepali. Much thanks is also due to Bro. Renny Markose, the former principal, who took on

the job in an emergency situation last year and worked diligently and successfully to stabilize our situation at Don Bosco. Renny is now teaching at Jacob Gapp School and pursuing an MA in English literature at Madras University.

Welcome to Bro. Dan Stupka



Welcome back, Dan, to another season of assisting the District of India in the areas of music, singing and English! Bro. Dan is spending the month of September in the north assisting the novices and the Marianist Sisters, and at the end of September he will travel to Deepahalli to work with our aspirants and scholastics.

New Principal at Chaminade Academy, Bharoul



Bro. Mariandu Belevendiran has accepted the additional responsibility of becoming principal of Chaminade Academy as well as of Morning Star School. The District is most thankful to Mariandu for taking on this additional ministry and work load. Under threat from persons connected with Chaminade Academy, Fr. Sudhir Kujur resigned his position as principal and is now assigned to the Don Bosco community as an informal resource and support for Bro. Jyoti Prakash.

As a balance to community membership, Bro. Tony Nesam is moved to Bharoul and will be taking care of his Sponsorship Management from the Morning Star community. He is also teaching at Morning Star School.

Year of Faith

On October 11, the universal Church will begin a celebration of Faith in honor of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II and the 20th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In addition to any local celebration, the Marianist District of India will mark this year of faith with a series of reflections and sharing on faith in Marianist life as taught in the writings of Fr. Chaminade. Periodically all communities will be sent copies of readings on faith from Fr. Chaminade for their prayerful reading and reflection and sharing as a community.

Vocation Promotion

Bro. Libin Minj (Budakata) is facilitating a network of Marianists across the District to reach out to young people concerning Marianist religious life, with the hope of initiating contacts over a period of time which will lead to strong vocation prospects. Bro. Tony Xavier (Chaminade Nilaya) has worked to assure the printing of large and small Marianists calendars which will serve as reminders of the Marianists, provide information about contacting us, and a listing of Catholic religious celebrations.

Award for Rural Education and Socio-Economic Development for the poor



State of Jharkhand Award for Service in Rural Education and Socio-Economic Development of the Poor. This award was presented to Bro. Augustus on July 8 by India Cabinet Minister of Tourism, Subodh Kant Sahay, C.Singh, legislative president of Jharkhand, and A.N.Shadev, assistant mayor of Ranchi city. This award honors the efforts of those who serve at the Roman Catholic Primary School, Roro and the Chaminade Rural Development Project (CDRP), both in Binda.

Death of Parents

The District offers our deepest sympathy and offer of prayers to our brothers and their families at the recent deaths of several parents. On August 31, Mariammal Arokiam, 86, mother of Bro. Arokia Doss Mullai, succumbed to

a coma. On September 9 Bro. Suresh Samad lost his father, Clement Samad, 68. Maria Francis, 73, father of Bro. Arul Raj, died after a long illness on September 13.

Hasirudala's Karnataka State Pension Parishad



On 9th August, Hasirudala's Karnataka State pension parishad rally was attended by REDS Bangalore Staff. One-sixth of the elderly of Karnataka live without any family. Many of the elderly are without the physical and financial support of younger family members. These socio-economic changes are not self-generated but the result of economic changes the State has championed. This calls for increased responsibility of the State to ensure that the elderly are able to lead economically secure, healthy and safe lives by providing them a pension.



Welcome back to Jose Ramon

Soon we will be welcoming Fr. Jose Ramon back to India. In early October Jose Ramon will become a member of the scholastic community, teach UD courses and be of assistance to the Faustino community.

Bro. Augustus to the Philippines



left to right: Fr Joseph Lu, Bro. Oscar Kerketta, Renato Alias, Michael Ki, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, and Bro. John Woo.

As president of the Asia Zone of the SM, Bro. Augustus will be traveling to the Philippines in early December. The units of Japan, Korea, India and the Philippines will meet at the Marianist community in Davao December 4-6 to consider current and future collaboration. Right now, there are three novices, i.e., a Korean, Michael Ki, a Chinese priest, Jo-

seph Lu (for the region of Korea) and a Filipino, Renato Alias. Bro Augustus will also visit members of the India District, Raymond Toppo and Oscar Kerketta. Bro. Augustus will return in time for the perpetual vow ceremony.

Perpetual Vow Preparation

The program of preparation for perpetual vows has been going on since mid-August. First, the Scripture program for 40+ participants at Bangalore's *National Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre*. Next, from Sept. 17 to 27, the Brothers, Ashok Dungdung, John Paul and Libin Joy Tete, worked with Fr. Jack, deepening their understanding of Marianist thought in its various dimensions, culminating in a synthesis paper and presentation. The final phase of the program is a 30-day retreat during the month of November at Nirmal Deep. The brothers in preparation for perpetual vows will be directed by Fr. Kip and the three deacons - Birendra, Prasad and Rajesh - under Fr. Iggie's direction.

Bro. Kumar Swamy has decided not to make perpetual vows this year, but to make his request again next year.

Our Patronal Feast

The celebration of our patronal feast, the Most Holy Name of Mary at Barh consisted of a prayer service and fellowship of the Marianists, the Sisters of the three congregations in the parish, and the parish priests. At Gyan Deep, the local Marianist Lay Community worked with the community to plan a Eucharist, sharing and a festive lunch. Later in the afternoon there was an open house and tea for our religious collaborators in the neighborhood. About fifty religious came to wish the brothers a happy feast.

Tailoring Units hold debate competition (REDS Bangalore)



On 25th of August, a debate competition was held between tailoring units 1 (L. R. Nagar) and 5 (S. R. Garden). About 45 students participated in the program. The students spoke about whether women should go for work or not. The topic was interestingly shared by both the units. After games and a cultural program, the day ended with a delicious lunch.

Audits

The audits are reaching their final stage. A lot of work by our accountants, some at the last minute, has ended in a happy conclusion of balanced books, but with a heart-stopping surprise or two that serve as a reminder of the necessity of a steady and careful recording, balancing and reporting, so as to avoid shocking holes and gaps.

Bulging Doors

The doors are bulging at St. Mary's Multipurpose Training Institute, Barh. 350 students are enrolled and dozens turned away from competition, English, computer and typing classes. Every seat is taken, Bros. Saju, Dulare, and Shashi report. More furniture has been ordered.

REDS Deepahalli does Ganesha Puja

The 54 boys of REDS Deepahalli gathered joyfully and respectfully on September 19 in the REDS hall to honor Ganesh and pray for abundance in crops, good luck, and happiness for themselves, their



families and their villages. The shrine was heaped with flowers and garlanded with lights. Oil lamps glowed and many fruits were assembled. Much puffed rice was available for offering and distributing. Puja was offered and sweets were distributed for 15 days until

the end of the month when Ganesh would be released into the lake at Chandapura.

Remembering our Brothers at study and on sabbatical

We keep in mind our brothers on sabbatical: Bro. Del on home visit and a renewal program at Mensiana (Rome) and Fr. Pragasam for a completion of his program at the East Asia Pastoral Institute. We are also praying for our brothers in Dayton (Arokia Doss), Patna (Prakash Kujur), Sikkim (Xerobim Xalxo, Dilip Tirkey) as well as all those doing correspondence work. Likewise we remember our seminarians (Chitty, Chennaiah, Jinu, Arul, and Joseph). The University of Bangalore has again postponed its examinations until October 12, thus delaying the study programs of Peter Paul and Fedric Kujur and Julius Tete.

Votes in the Nominating Round

You may be interested in the full report on the voting in the initial nomination round for the District Chapter: **Brothers:** Paulus Lakra (32), Alex Toppo (32), Darwin Joseph (23), Sanjay Ekka (20), Libin Minj (21), Vijay Minj (19), Lucian Tigga (19), Ananias Tete (18), Marianus Bilung (16), Mariandu Belevendiran (16), Dilip Tirkey (15), Anand Prakash Kujur (14), Jyoti Prakash Minj (14), John Gracious Minj (13), Antony Nesam (11), Kuldeep Ekka (10), Raj Mohan (9), S. Victor Sahayaraj (7), Anuranjan Lakra (6), Saju Chittadiyil (6), Britto Murmu (6), Augustin Kandulna (6), Suman Dungdung (5), Sebastian Bara (3), Arockia Doss (Mullai) (3), Kerobim Xalxo (3), Dulare Lal Lucas (2), Arokia Doss A.(1).

Priests: James Dungdung (40), Santosh Tudu (35), Joseph Barla (29), Birendra Kullu (25), Varghese Manooparampil (23), Sylverius Kerketta (22), Xavier Raj (21), Nittamaria Varaprasad (17), Marianus Lugun (13), Rajesh Kumar Lakra (13), Pragasam (3).

1st Year Professed Reflection

For the weekend of Oct. 5,6 and 7, our seven first year professed – Bineet, Anup, Pitrus, Shashi, Showraiah, Albert and Nabin will come together at Nirmal Deep for a weekend of reflection under the direction of Fr. Iggie, centered on their five months of experience of community and ministry.

Marianist World Day of Prayer

Uniting ourselves with the Marianist Family all over the world on October 14, the District of India will be coming together in the north at Blessed Chaminade parish, Singhpur, and in the south at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, Deephalli. The gathering at Chaminade parish will be composed of the Brothers, the Sisters and the MLC, for a Eucharist, Lunch, Rosary procession, blessings of the image of Our Lady of the Pillar, and tea. At Deepahalli the Brothers, the MLC and REDS will celebrate the Eucharist, offer a talk on the Year of Faith, lunch for all, and the rosary. We are glad to take part in this worldwide sign of our united charism. Let us unite ourselves gladly with the Marianist Family all around the world to pray and share our Marianist life under Mary's protection and intercession.

Leadership Development

Over 30 brothers of the District will be taking part from October 20 to 24 in the first of a three-part leadership development program called *Kairos*, at Deepahalli. The program is under the direction of Bro. Tom Giardino and Mr. Savio Franco of Bangalore, in discussion with the District Council. The participants, who are community directors, ministry directors, Chapter and Council members have received work materials to use which will be a significant part of the program. Parts two and three will follow in April and next October.

Thank
You!

