NIRMAL DEEP NEWS LETTER

AUGUST AND SEPTEMPER

NOVICES
12/24/2012

Promise Day and Fr. Iggi's Birthday

On the 15th of July, the first year novices promised and officially entered the novitiate program. We had seven days of Retreat. Fr. Joseph guided the IInd years and Fr. Iggie was with the Ist year novices. At the end of the retreat, we had invited all the members of the Family of Mary in Ranchi to take part in the promising day celebration. On the very same day we had family night and birthday celebration of our master Iggie and our brothers those who were celebrating their birthday during the month of July.

ASHRAM EXPERINCE

The novices had heart-drenching spiritual experience at Madridam ashram in Varanasi. We left for Varanasi on 16th of July with Fr. Joseph and our seminarian Bros. Chinnaiah and Chitti. It was a good opportunity to learn the different methods of praying and at the same time experience the movements of the Holy Spirit deep within our hearts. We were there for 10 days.

Classes with seminarians

We began our classes on the 1st of August with our seminarians on the topics of "Acts of the apostles", "Sacrament" and "Liturgy". Bro.Chinnaiah had taken the sacrament and Bro. Chitti took Liturgy and Acts of the apostles. They not only took classes for us but also, they rendered us several sessions of guided-meditations. We thank them for their generous contributions to their younger brothers (we).

Talents shows

The month of August filled with many talents shows of the novices. We had mainly three talents nights, based on acting, dancing and musical instruments, they were very helpful to bring out each novices talents. Every one performed well, it was good to see that many of us filled with many gifts and talents

Feast of Blessed Jacob Gapp

13th of August is the feast of Blessed Jakob Gapp. It is very important feast for the Marianist Family. On that day we had meditation at 6 O'clock and at 6.30 am we had the special Eucharist Celebration. We celebrated this feast with much grandeur. Especially we offered this Eucharistic celebration for blessed Jakob Gapp. Later in

the morning we had volleyball match. This time the teams were divided little different from every usual arrangements. The novices came together and formed two teams and the staffs along with the seminarians formed the third team. In a short while the wetly ground experienced the burning fire of the players. As you see in the picture, everyone fought for their own teams' championship title. However, due to the novices' bad luck the staff's team snatched away the trophy.

Independence Day

On the 15th of August is the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary as well as the anniversary day of our nation's Independence Day. This feast is very important for the Marianist because we honor Mother Mary as our own Mother. On the 14th of August we had

practiced the parade. On the next day we had our meditation at 6.00 am followed by the Holy Eucharist. We celebrated this Eucharistic celebration gloriously and joyfully. Soon after the mass we had March fast. On that day Br. Chitti and Br. Chinnaiah were the chief-guests. The same day evening we had "talent show" among the both first and second year brothers. Making use of this great day we also celebrated the

Birthday of Br John Paul.

Shakespearean Play

The 31st of August, the last day of the month brought different sets of feelings to everyone, both on the stage and at the stage. We had staged our long practiced great drama, "The Merchant of Venice" by Shakespeare. It was done expressing our gratitude towards the two seminarians Br. Chinnaiah and Chitti. It was a great experience for all the novices to bring out their talents. Everyone took some essential parts to put up the drama with assistance of Fr. Iggie. This is the first time in history that the Marianist novices in InDiA performed a Shakespearean drama. Our neighboring communities and some of our Marianist sisters were there to witness the grandeur of the play. After the play we had dinner together.

Fr. Iggie had really helped us to practice well and with much difficulties he collected several costumes for the actors. In the end the play came up so well that it's fame started spreading through several religious communities and lay collaborators. All of them regretted for not being able to be present at the show and some of them even requested the responsible person to host the program once again. Even to this day, at times there are couple of good words said about the great performance of the novices on the great play "The Merchant of Venice".

Classes with Br. Dan

The month of September brought us both joys and sorrows to our hearts. Earlier in this month the seminarians left for Rome to complete their unfinished courses on Theology. We were sad for their departure but also were happy that we will meet them again receiving much more guidance for our spiritual life. Bro. Dan's arrival filled us once again with much happiness like that of being with our seminarians. Bro Dan taught us some new songs, corrected the incorrectly learned songs, took English classes and overall we were all deeply touched by his active spirit to come to India again and again to teach us something is something which irresolvable riddle to everyone of us. In October he left for Bangalore to be with the Aspirants for sometime. We were sad but let him to share his love with the aspirants as well. May God Bless him.

The feast of the Holy Name of Mary

We celebrated our patron feast of the Holy Name Mary. We had offered eight days of novena prayers to this feast. On 11th of September we concluded our novena prayers. We had a day of recollection in order to prepare ourselves inwardly for the feast. Fr. Iggie gave the recollection talk on "the Holy Name of Mary". All the three Offices took care of different responsibilities to prepare the feast. On 12th we joined the Marianist sisters to celebrate the feast with the inauguration of the new hostel building in Ranchi. In the evening we had the holy Eucharist and followed by, we as a family tea party.

Council Visitation and combine class

On 17th and 18th Br. Augustus and Br. Basant visited our community. Br. Augustus had arrived on the 16th morning and Br. Basant on 17th morning. We had a good time with our council members. They shared with us their experiences and encouraged us to be actively present in doing our daily activities. On the same day we began our combine classes with our FMI novices. In this academic year in our syllabus we have "Introduction to the New Testament", "Christology", "Mariology" and "Prayer". Fr. Iggie is taking the "Introduction to the New Testament" and Fr. Joseph is with "Christology" and "Prayer" and Sr.Tere takes "Mariology". These days Sr. Maria Joel as well takes classes for us. We are 9 brothers and 7 sisters.

Feast of Blessed Carlos, Jesus, and Fidel

We celebrated the feast of Blessed Carlos, Jesus and Fidel the Marianist martyrs on the 18th of September. We had meditation at 6:00 AM followed by Holy Eucharist. Religious office members decorated the chapel, Fr. Iggie presided the Eucharist and preached the homily.

Karma celebration

Along with the tribals in Jharkhand we observed the feast of Karma with great reverence on September 20. Br. Telesphore, Br. Cyprian, Br. Hencil were pagans (tribal priests). On the 19th they fasted for the whole day and went to bring the Karma branches from forest. We welcomed the Karma branches with much reverence by waiting at the gate for a long time and accompanied the branch to the chapel by dancing according to the tradition of the tribal

culture in Chotta Nagpur. We celebrated along with feast of the Triumph of Cross. On 20th morning we had mass and Fr. Iggie explained the history of the feast of Karma. We invited the Marianist sisters novitiate community to take part the evening celebration. After the evening prayer we had supper according to the tradition of the tribal culture.

Poetry festival and thanks giving to Br. Dan

Recently we the novices staged some chosen famous poems. Br. Dan assisted and encouraged the novices to present those poems as a real poet. In fact, it was a competition between the first and the second years. The FMI novices were the cheerers. Fr. Iggie, Joseph, and Sr. Therre acted as judges. The program was very much creative and provided great learning experiences to the novices. A very special thanks is offered to Br.Dan.

Saragossa Retreat

This year the Zaragoza retreat was conducted at our community. The participants were; Deacons. Birendra, Prasad, Rajesh, Bros. Ashok, John Paul, and Libin. Fr. Kip guided the three brothers who were preparing for their final commitment in the Society of Mary. Fr. Iggie guided the deacons who were preparing for their ordination. The both groups of brothers experienced the presence of God, the guidance of Mother Mary, and the importance of Bl. Chaminade's teachings during this retreat.

PV Celebration

Bro. John Paul, during this year spent valuable time to prepare himself to commit himself wholly in the service of Mother Mary. After such long preparations Bro. John Paul along with his two companions promised to serve God with undivided heart until their last breath. We extend our appreciation to him to continue his religious life.

Bro. Del's Arrival

On the 22nd evening Bro. Del arrived here. We have waited so long for his arrival. At last today he is with us. We have offered many prayers to God in his name. His presence in our community lights up more joys and happiness. Until now we have not even had our usual welcome ceremony in his name. Christmas preparation takes up all our energy. Soon after the Christmas vigil mass we hope to celebrate his

welcome ceremony with much joyous energy in our community.

Christmas

The novices put up tremendous energy in decorating the whole property with colorful lights, flowers and artificial paper works. Decoration is the job which never tires or finishes until any celebration really starts. The novices are still working tirelessly. This year sadly we have less novices but the amount of energy they pour out and the job they complete is tremendous. Carol Singing helped us to meet and wish the near ones and to the rest of all, may this newsletter carry our warmth wishes. With all these external preparations and the internal preparations that we gained through our walking with the Advent message boosts us to wish you all **"MERRY X'MAS** and **A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR (2013)"**. May God bless us and Mary our Mother be with us.

THANK YOU