



THE DISTRICT OF INDIA

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THE DISTRICT UPDATES

Fr. David Fleming



The Marianist family in India will greatly miss Fr. David Fleming who passed away on March 12. He played a key role in bringing the Marianist charism to India. In August, 1978, he visited India for the possibility of establishing the Society of Mary here. From this time onwards, he worked tirelessly to turn the possibility into a reality. After establishing the Society here, he played various roles as Regional Superior, novicemaster, scholasticate director, spiritual director, and professor in the University of Dayton Program, to strengthen the foundation which he had nurtured with the utmost commitment to his call as a Marianist. May he rest in peace.

Communities across the District organized special prayer services and offered Masses to honour Fr. David. On March 15, the Barh Marianist Community Brothers conducted a prayer service in his honour during the canonical visitation of Most Rev. William D'Souza, S.J., Archbishop of Patna, to their



Most Rev. William D'Souza, S.J., Archbishop of Patna (third from the left) with the Brothers and the local clergies.

community. The Archbishop fondly remembered Fr. David from the time that he first came to India, and praised Fr. David's commitment to founding the Marianists in our country.



Bro. Johnpaul shares about Fr. Dave with the STC students.

On March 17, the Skill Training Centre (STC) Deepahalli offered prayers and a gathering to highlight the various contributions that were made by Fr. David for the STC Deepahalli. Fr. Mariandu Belevendiran, Bro. Johnpaul, and all the Brothers shared with the STC staff and students Fr. David's commitment and his love for REDS Programs.



Provincial Chapter

On March 5-9, Fr. Sudhir Kujur participated in the Provincial Chapter in St. Louis, MO. During the Chapter, he presented a PowerPoint report



to the Chapter members about the District and its status during the year 2019-20. After the Chapter meetings, Fr. Sudhir Kujur met with Fr. Oscar Vasquez, the Provincial, and Bro.

Bernie Ploeger, the Assistant Provincial, to share various important issues about the District. Following these meetings, Fr. Sudhir traveled to San Jose, California, to meet with some well-wishers of the District.

St. Joseph Chaminade Academy



(From left) Bro. Johnpaul, Fr. Ignase Arulappen, Bro. Saju Chittadiyil with the teachers.

St. Joseph Chaminade Academy organized its 5th Graduation ceremony for the upper kindergarten on March 7. This was the largest group of students that the school has had so far: seventy-one children graduated from the upper kindergarten to the primary school. Along with the graduation ceremony, the school also conducted art and science exhibits by students. Different exhibits included art works and projects based upon social science, computers, math, and language. Parents and guests were invited to visit the exhibit and give feedback related to the work done by the students. Fr. Ignase Arulappen was the chief

guest of the day. On the same day, Scholastic Publishers hosted a book fair on the school campus, where 2000 books were available for reading and purchase.

MLC Ranchi



Participants of the recollection.

On March 8, MLC members from Singhpur and Kolambi along with the S.M. novices traveled to a village nearby Binda for a day of recollection. The recollection aimed at helping participants enter into the deeper meaning of the Lenten season.

REDS Bengaluru



Some participants perform a group play.

On March 14, Bro. Showria Ravulapalli and the Infant Nilaya Community members organized a Women's Day celebration. Nearly 200 women who are associated with the program participated. Originally, the Women's Day celebration was planned for the whole day; however, due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the program was reduced to an hour. Mrs. Susma, a local education officer, was the chief speaker, and Dr. T. Rani and Mrs. Vimala D'Souza were the guests of honor. The program concluded with gift distribution and lunch for the participants.

REDS Ranchi



Bro. Marianus Bilung explains to the parents about the importance of good parenting.

On March 14, Bro. Paulus Lakra organized a workshop for the parents from the centers of Tokitoli, Bargawa, and Chutia. Ninety-eight parents participated. Bro. Marianus Bilung and Mr. Rudhir Linda explained to the parents the importance of building a good family where a child can have happy childhood experiences.

UD Deepahalli Program



The graduate group 2020.

On March 17, the staff at the Program organized a photo session for the graduation class of 2020. This year twenty-five students graduated from the program, of which eleven were Marianist scholastics. So far this is the largest group to graduate that the program ever had. Due to the Coronavirus breakout, however, the graduation ceremony on April 4 was cancelled and some of the students left the program much earlier than planned. We wish them all blessings and success in their future ministries.

CRDP Binda



Most Rev. Binay Kandulna, Bishop of Khunti, present a sewing machine to a CRDP student.

On March 18, Most Rev. Binay Kandulna, Bishop of Khunti, donated thirty sewing machines to CRDP, Binda. Bro. Augustus Surin along with the Asha Deep Community members and the CRDP trainees received these sewing machines most gratefully from the Bishop.

St. Joseph Feast Day



STC students pose in front of a decorated chariot of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of both the St. Joseph's Community and the Skill Training Centre (STC), Deepahalli. Every year on March 19, the STC staff, students, and the Brothers celebrate this feast day with immense joy. The STC students decorated St. Joseph's statue with

flowers and it was carried in a prayerful procession by the STC students and the Brothers. Bro. Johnpaul gave a presentation to the participants about St. Joseph, and Fr. Josephraj offered the final blessing. The feast day celebration concluded with a special supper for all the participants.

Academic Success

Fr. Rajmohan successfully completed his Diploma Program in Counselling and Religious Formation studies at the National Vocation Service Center, Pune.



Awarded

Bro. Saju Chittadiyil was named "Asia's Greatest Principal, 2020-21" by Hummingbird Education Ltd, New Delhi. Congratulations, Bro. Saju on your new achievement.



Outreach Program

On March 13, Bro. Lucian Tigga and Mrs. Amala attended an outreach program in Chennai that was conducted by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Chennai. This outreach program helped them to learn about the new rules introduced by the Government for charitable trust bodies.

Education Meeting

On March 14, Bros. Sanjay Ekka, John Gracious Minz, and Prakash Kujur attended a seminar in Ranchi. It was organized by the CRI Jharkhand Region. The seminar taught the participants about the new education policies and their implications for minorities' institutions.

Prayer Requests

Let's pray for the world that is affected by the Coronavirus. May God heal those who are affected. May God bless those who are working to heal the sick. May God give us the strength to overcome this pandemic. May God help us to

remain steadfast in His love. May He grant eternal peace to those who have lost their life to this virus.

Mr. C. Arokia Doss, uncle of Mrs. Amala, the District secretary, who passed away on March 14. Let's pray for his soul and offer our deepest condolences to Mrs. Amala and those who miss her uncle.

Mr. Sukhram Gari, father of Ms. Snehlata Gari, the Developmental office secretary, who passed away on March 27. May his soul rest in peace and may we offer consolation to Ms. Snehlata and her family.

Please pray for the Brothers who celebrate their birthdays during the month of April:

- 06 Hans, George
- 07 Markose, Renny
- 16 Kerketta, Sylverius
- 19 Xaxa, Victor
- 21 A., Mariandu Belevendiran K., Peter Paul
- 23 Barla, Joseph

