



THE DISTRICT OF INDIA

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THE DISTRICT UPDATES

## Marianists' World Day of Prayer



Jacop Gabb community Brothers and the MLC members pray the Rosary.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the communities in the District celebrated the Marianists' World Day of Prayer. Usually on this day, the communities in the District come together with the MLC members to celebrate in a meaningful way. But this year it was very different due to the pandemic's restrictions on large gatherings. Many communities celebrated the day in their own community along with a few MLC members. Each of these communities handled the day with its own creativity but retained the purpose of the day.



Bro. Prakash Kujur and Fr. Jinu Muthukattil with the MLC members.



The MLC members with the Maria Nivas Community Brothers.

In Nirmal Deep, the staff, novices, and candidates, along with six MLC members, began the day at 10:00 a.m. Bro. Prakash Kujur gave a Powerpoint presentation to explain to everyone the purpose of the day, which was followed by a rosary and a procession to the chapel. At 11:45 a.m. all the participants came together in communion for Holy Mass in the chapel, then concluded the day with lunch.



The communities in the Deepahalli pray in front a Madonna statue.

All the communities in the Deepahalli came together to celebrate the Mass and prayed together to signify the day. The Infant Nilaya and the Chaminade Nilaya communities gathered to pray in Chaminade Nilaya community.



The Fidel Nilaya community organized a special prayer service and a Mass for a few MLC members with its community. The Jacob Gapp community, the Gyan Deep community, and the Asha Deep community celebrated the day with local MLC members and explained to them the importance and the purpose of the day.



The Singhpur community Brothers.

The Singhpur community celebrated the day with a meaningful prayer service. These communities celebrated the day with prayer services and solemn Eucharists while making sure they followed all the new protocols imposed by Covid-19 without losing the purpose of the day.

### Founder's Day



Asha Deep Community celebrated the Founder's Day with the CRDP staff.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is an important day in India, because it commemorates the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth on October 2, 1869. Marianist communities across the District also highlighted the anniversary of the foundation

of our Society of Mary with special prayers and the Holy Eucharist.

### Brotherhood Day

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the staff and the students at CRI Vidyadeep College organized a celebration for Brotherhood Day. Bro. Darwin Joseph delivered a talk on the significance of Brotherhood to the staff and students and he had an opportunity to celebrate Brotherhood Day with them.

Bro. Julius Tete participated in a webinar course on "Introduction, Revised Syllabus & Suggestions/Guidelines for the Parents/Head of School about Physical Education" which he successfully completed. Congratulations, Bro. Julius.



### Chaminade Training Institute, Patna



Bro. Antony Nesam and the institute computer instructor handover a diploma to a student.

Chaminade Training Institute, Patna, has slowly resumed its classes following all the new norms of Covid. Bro. Antony Nesam indicates that the students have shown interest in recommencing their studies. He hopes that many more students might join the institute in the coming days. These days Bro. Antony is distributing the diplomas to the students who completed their courses prior to the Covid lockdown.

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## New Measures with Hope



### Bro. Lucian Tigga, Office of Temporalities.

We Marianists in the District are committed to render our services to the poor and the vulnerable. We devote our welfare programs to the villagers, street children, and slum dwellers to improve their standard of living. We strive to empower them to become contributing citizens of society, by providing educational activities, skill training, and self-help programs, thus enabling them to live with dignity and purpose. Without discrimination, we welcome children of all backgrounds to our programs for succeeding in the mainstream of society.

After the outbreak of Covid-19, the District Administrative team planned together to assist the people with Covid relief. We approached local authorities and sought their permission to distribute food grains, masks, and sanitizers. From the Office of Temporalities, a circular was circulated to the social ministry directors about the urgency to eradicate and prevent the spread of Covid-19. I sincerely applaud the ministry directors and community Brothers for their quick and positive response. Several awareness programs were conducted in vernacular languages through our social ministries about crucial aspects like prevention, hygiene, and social distancing isolation. We provided shelters in our school campus especially to the migrant construction workers.

Vigorously, our Brothers did justice by distributing masks and food grains to the slum dwellers, villagers, and migrant workers. Our social wings made a valuable contribution during the outbreak of this pandemic, reaching the needy in a timely manner. We shall continue our good works assisting the poor and the vulnerable, as Fr. Chaminade tirelessly assisted the people of his time.

### REDS Ranchi

The ongoing pandemic has interrupted the normal activities of everyone, and it has forced us to stop our regular activities too. For this reason, REDS Ranchi has stopped running day care centres, seminars, workshops, and health care works. The pandemic led many REDS families to suffer severely from hunger, because their livelihood is dependent upon their daily wages, begging, and rag-picking. They were not able to leave their homes due the lockdown. A good many REDS children's parents started making phone calls to REDS centre coordinators and shared with them that they were suffering from starvation. Many feared death by hunger, not from Covid.



Bro. Paulus Lakra handovers some groceries to a woman.

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Bro. Marianus Bilung offers food provisions to a man.

Bro. Paulus Lakra, the director of the program, and the centre's coordinators came together to find the ways and means to help the REDS families. With the support of the District Administration, Bro. Paulus and his staff enthusiastically started to distribute food provisions, cleaning supplies, medications, and facemasks to the REDS families who live in 12 different slums of Ranchi. The food materials were packed and distributed to each family of REDS children as well as other poor and needy families in the REDS areas. With these food distributions from the month of April till now, the Brothers and the staff continued to assist the people in various ways. So far, REDS Ranchi has distributed food materials to nearly 3,027 families, who are very grateful for the care and support shown to them during these difficult times.

### REDS Bengaluru

During the time of national lockdown, REDS Bengaluru dedicated its service to the slum dwellers in vulnerable conditions in the various parts of Bengaluru. In March and April, twenty-four staff in twelve groups went house-to-house in the slums to raise awareness on the importance of hygiene, wearing masks, maintaining social distance, and sanitation. They provided the people all the information about Covid-19. Due to the lockdown, many people were left without food because many of them are dependent upon their daily wages. Many of them lost their jobs and were left in hunger and poverty. Hence REDS Bengaluru stretched its helping hands to the slum dwellers in association with the District Administration and the friends of REDS.



Bro. Showraiah Ravulapalli gives some groceries to a woman.



Bros. Antony Xavier and Showraiah with the beneficiaries.

Initially, REDS started to distribute groceries to the places where people suffered greatly due to the complete lockdown. Then from the month of May onwards, REDS Bengaluru has distributed groceries, food provisions, vegetables, and hygiene kits to various slums in Bengaluru. Bro. Showraiah Ravulapalli, the director of REDS Bengaluru, says that so far they have distributed such supplies to 2,718 families.

Additionally, the Brothers and staff have distributed fruit juice, facemasks, and cleaning supplies to the people. All of the play schools and daycare centres are shut during these days, based upon the advice of the government. The beneficiaries are very grateful to the Brothers for their valuable assistance during the lockdown.

### REDS Patna

Bro. Antony Nesam, the director of Maria Nilaya Community, says that his community has taken an active part in easing the pain of the local people during the time of lockdown. In April, he assisted the local welfare authorities to identify the people who needed food provisions and other assistance. Many people benefited from the food distribution of local welfare authorities. In May and June, twice he organized food distributions to 150 people from funds of the Marianist District Administration. The community members and volunteers assisted him with the smooth food distributions. Most of the beneficiaries are coolie workers. Some of them are widows, cancer patients, migrant workers, and elderly persons. They are extremely grateful to the Brothers for their assistance in time of need, and some beneficiaries expressed that these relief materials brought hope and light to their huts.



Mr. Clement Kujur (the community cook) assists a woman to pack her food provisions in a bag.



People waited in front of Chaminade Training Institute to receive some food provisions during the national lockdown.

**Prayer Requests**

Let's pray for the world that continues to be affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. May God heal those who are infected. May God bless those 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 lives to this virus.

Kindly pray for the speedy recovery of Mr. Masilamani, the brother-in-law of Bro. Antony Xavier, who met with an automobile accident.

Mr. Thomas, the grandfather of Bro. Saju Chittadiyil, passed away on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Kindly pray for all his family members who mourn the loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Fr. Romanus Tete S.J., the brother of Bro. Ananias Tete, has been admitted to a hospital for cancer treatment. Kindly keep him in your prayers.

