



THE DISTRICT OF INDIA

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THE DISTRICT UPDATES

A Tribute to Bro. Paulus Lakra



Bro. Paulus Lakra was a committed Brother who devoted his life to serving street children, teaching in schools, and taking care of the community and ministry finances. He was a source of joy and a dependable Brother. He received anyone walking into the community with his warm heart and a laughter with slight metallic sound.



Bro. Paulus gave a speech to the children about the importance of education.

On May 12, 1993, he made his first vows in Ranchi. From that day onwards, he lived his Marianist vocation with great sincerity and joyfulness. Fr. Oscar Vasquez, the Provincial of the USA Province, said "Bro. Paulus was a faithful servant and disciple. My experience of Paulus was that he always had a smile on his face and was ready to be of service. No detail was too large or too small. He did it all!"



Bro. Paulus unpacked the meaning of Christmas to the REDS staff during the Christmas gathering.



Bro. Paulus offered a piece of cake to a child.



He was well accepted among the Brothers and the people for his humility and kindness. He was serious about his ministry commitment as director of the REDS Ranchi Program. He regularly interacted with the staff, parents, and the children. He reached out to the poor and downtrodden who needed the REDS Program in the Ranchi area.



Bro. Paulus offered food provision and other essential food supplies to a child during last year's lockdown.

Last year, during the Covid lockdown, he went on foot to many slum dwellers to distribute the food provisions, vegetables, and other necessary items. He even worked with other NGO's to provide more food to the people in the REDS working areas. Along with his community members and the REDS staff, he served many thousands of families with these food provisions, vegetables, and other essential items. Regularly he encouraged the REDS children to do well in their school studies. He conveyed his formidable messages to the children and their parents with his affectionate smile.



Bro. Paulus (fifth from right, front row) with the tenth standard students.

Bro. Sanjay Ekka shared that Bro. Paulus "was my brother, companion, dear friend--encouraging everyone to be a servant of Mary--a man of faith, God fearing, sincere, humble, simple, sensitive, committed, responsible, a caring Brother, kind, helpful, and above all he gave his life tirelessly in the service of God and the people."



Bro. Paulus in blue muffler (fourth from right, front row) with the chapter participant in 2019.

He was a man of a few words, but his words always amplified a sense of greater good and unity. For many years he worked in the District Administration and served as the member of the District Chapter. During these times, he was a bridge builder who rose above any cultural and the regional perimeters. He was very formidable about the values that he stood for, which were meant to ensure a better future for the District. Even though his words were few, his actions reached out to many people who needed the most in society. Sr. Franca Zonta, FMI, the Superior General of Marianist Sisters, recalled "I cannot forget all that Paulus did for us at the beginning of our mission in India. I myself have experienced it. Paulus' helpfulness, gentleness, and generosity remain in my heart and mind."

He was known for his sense of hospitality with the touch of metallic laughter. He found great joy in welcoming anyone who came into his community. As a community director, he was extremely gracious to the junior Brothers and he assisted them to grow in the Marianist vocation without intimidation.



Bro. Paulus (in the middle) with the UD students.

He was a great Brother who will be greatly missed by the District in the coming days, but he showed all the Brothers the meaning of persevering in the Society of May till the end.

All who knew him were moved to tears by his sudden demise. Bro. Delmar Jorn fondly remembers that "Paulus is especially precious in my eyes and heart since I was with him as a candidate and a novice." On April 26, he was laid to rest in Nirmal Deep, Ranchi. Let us thank God for Bro. Paulus and his dedicated and faithful service in honor of Mary. May he rest in peace.

Prayer Request

Kindly pray for our Brothers and Sister who suffer from the virus and other illnesses.

