



THE DISTRICT OF INDIA

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THE DISTRICT UPDATES

Perpetual Profession



Three brothers Mathew Mullangi, Ajay Soreng and Pitar Turkey who professed perpetual profession along with Bro. Ed Violette, Bro. Maximen, Fr. Sudhir Kujur, Bro. Darwin J, Bro. Sukrit and Fr. Prasad.

We are delighted to share the joyous news of the Perpetual Profession ceremony held on January 22, 2024, at the Marianist Campus, Deepahalli, in Bangalore, India. This celebration marked a significant milestone in the spiritual journeys of our Brothers Ajay Soreng, Mathew Mullangi, and Pitar Turkey.

The three of our Brothers--Ajay, Mathew, and Pitar--have been dedicated Brothers of our communities, demonstrating unwavering dedication, a profound sense of service, and a commitment to living out the core values of our Society. Their journey towards Perpetual Profession has been a testament to their deep faith and discernment. The solemn event took place at Deepahalli, a Marianist Campus in Bangalore, where a reverent Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Sudhir Kujur, SM, the District Superior of India. His homily emphasized the significance of the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and stability that Ajay, Mathew, and Pitar willingly undertook

for a lifetime of service to our Blessed Mother and the Church at large.



The participants of Asian Marianist Family Symposium along with the brothers who professed perpetual profession

Bro. Edward Violett, SM, represented the Province of the USA as delegated by Fr. Oscar Vasquez, the provincial of the USA. Others were Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, General Assistant for the Office of Education, the Regional Superiors of SM and FMI from Korea and Japan, the participants of Asian Marianist Family Symposium, Marianists from India, our neighbouring religious communities, many collaborators in our ministries, families and friends of our Brothers who professed the vows, and many others.

Following the Holy Eucharist, we had time to share our joy of brotherhood with traditional dances and festive meals. Bro. Ed Violett and Bro. Maximin shared the greetings they had carried from the Provincial, Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM, and Fr. Andre Fetis, SM. Bros. Ajay and Mathew thanked all those who had offered their time generously to make this day so special. Bro. Darwin Joseph thanked everyone on behalf of the District.



It was an opportunity for everyone present to extend their congratulations and share in the happiness of this significant moment. As Ajay, Mathew, and Pitar embark on this lifelong commitment, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. May their journey be filled with continued growth, spiritual fulfilment, and the grace to live out their vows in service to our community.



Asian Marianist Family Symposium



The Asian Marianist Family Symposium, held in Bangalore, served as a significant platform for fostering and deepening Marianist Education in our Educational Institutes. This symposium brought together Marianists (FMI, SM and MLC) from India, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam to share experiences, discuss different challenges, and find new ways to cultivate the Marianist Charism in our schools. The event, held at Snehadaan (Provincialate of Camillian Fathers at Carmelaram, Bangalore), was organized by the Asian Marianist Family, with the goal of strengthening the Marianist identity as educators. All the participants arrived on January 16, 2024, and the program continued till January 20. On January 21 the group made a City-Tour to explore Bangalore, and on January

22 they witnessed the Perpetual Profession of our three Brothers at Deepahalli Campus in Bangalore. The participants included five from Korea, five from Japan and Vietnam, and fourteen from India. They are members of Society of Mary, Daughters of Mary Immaculate, and Marianist Lay Communities.

Fr. Ignase Arulappen had organized the schedule along with Bro. Sukrit Tirkey, SM, the Assistant for Education for the District of India. The program officially began on the January 17 with the Inaugural Eucharist presided by Fr. Sudhir Kujur, SM, the District Superior of India. Fr. Sudhir Kujur, Bro. Darwin Joseph, and Fr. Santhosh were present to give a warm welcome to all the participants before the first session.

Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, presented the characteristics of Marianist Education on the first day. He emphasized the importance of CME in our mission which "constitutes the culmination of a spirit, the 'Marianist Spirit.' To speak of 'spirit' is to speak of what we want to live in depth. It means thinking about a reality that is still far from our current aspirations, but which we are aiming at. When our daily life as educators is lived in the light of the 'spirit' which animates it, then its greatness and its miseries, its riches and its poverty, its lights and its shadows appear. Our mission as educators is intimately connected with our vocation, "The educator who loves his vocation, or at least is aware of the meaning of what he does, will be personally happy and will help those he educates to be happy through the relationships he establishes with them." Bro. Max explained the process through which the characteristics of Marianist Education were formed, what is the Marianist Spirit and its influence on Marianist Education, and finally how each of the characteristics could be lived in Asian culture. It was inspiring and helped the participants explore new ways to enter the field of education with innovative ideas.

The second day was graced with the presence of Bro. Paulraj, SG (Brothers of St. Gabriel). He is a prominent educator who has authored a

number of books on brotherhood, education, and formation. He has served his congregation as Assistant General, Provincial, Novice Master, and other roles for a number of years. His vast experience in the field of education enriched the experience and knowledge of the participants in the Symposium. He spoke of 're-engineering' ("going back to the original Marianist charism"). He tried to look back at the whole process from a different perspective. He explored briefly the socio-religious context of Asia, its multifaceted cultural, linguistic, and socio-political nature. Bro. Paulraj also highlighted some possible challenges and our readiness to respond to those challenges in Asia.



There were other renowned presenters who presented on various topics:

1. Artificial Intelligence and Education: Exploring the Technology, Potentials and Dangers,
2. Gamification in education: Re-Igniting Trust and Engagement,
3. A call for an integrated way of life: Marianist Educators and Integrated Way of Life,
4. A report on the status of women – analysed through Sustainable Development Goals.

The Asian Marianist Family Symposium helped our Marianists strengthen and deepen our knowledge of the Marianist Charism. The Marianist Family in Asia was invited by the Symposium to enter into deep reflection upon

the vision of our founders. Let us thank all the organizers of this symposium: Fr. Ignase Arulappen, Bro. Sukrit Tirkey, and Bro. Maximin.

Pongal Celebrations:



Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated in the southern part of India (there are other names for the festival in different states). REDS Bangalore celebrated this festival on January 13 with joy and thanksgiving to the Lord for his graces and blessings throughout this year. The Infant Nilaya community invited the Chaminade Nilaya community to be part of their celebration. Joy was doubled with the presence of Bro. Maximin. He also thanked the staff for being a part of our mission.



There was an auspicious gathering at Austin Town along with some Marianists who took part in the celebration. Fr. Arulraj, Fr. Peter Paul, and the staff had organized the celebration wonderfully. They had decorated the place beautifully with sugarcane branches, colourful

kolam (traditional drawings on the ground) and beautifully decorated pots for preparing pongal dishes. We thank the REDS Family for their contribution in making this day a memorable one for the Brothers, staff and some of our beneficiaries.



Chaminade School at Austin Town celebrated the Pongal with the PRE-KG kids on January 19. The kids who participated in the celebration were dressed in traditional costumes. This celebration gave them joy and an experience of celebrating with others. Thanks to the staff for making it a great day.

Founders' Day in Ranchi



On January 21, Marianists gathered at Shanti Deep in Ranchi to celebrate the life of our Founders Blessed Chaminade and Blessed Adele. There were about 100 Marianists including the SM, FMI and MLC. The day was highlighted with a candle light procession, special prayers, and a presentation by Fr. Sylverius Kerketta on the legacy of our founders. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Santosh Tudu, followed by a festive meal. A great thanks to the FMI sisters at Shanti Deep who organized the celebration and to all those who participated.



Republic Day:



Students getting ready for a parade at Jacob Gapp School Khammam

After India got its independence in 1947, it declared itself a sovereign, democratic republic with the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1950. Therefore, every January 26 is celebrated as India's Republic Day. The Constitution gave the citizens of India the power to choose their own government and paved the way for democracy.



On this day many of our schools and institutions celebrate Republic Day in honour of the Constitution. St. Chaminade School at Austin Town celebrated the day with great joy and pride. Fr. Arulraj was the chief guest of the day and delivered a patriotic speech

encouraging the children to become great citizens of tomorrow. Bro. John Gracious Minz and Fr. Peter Paul had organized the day along with the teachers. Thanks to the students who performed programs and expressed their patriotism through songs and dances.



Chaminade Rural Development Project at Binda also celebrated the Republic Day with our trainees in tailoring and computers. Bro. Marianus Bilung and other staff from CRDP planned and worked on the details of the celebration. Likewise, there were celebrations in all of our ministries. Some pictures arrived from Jacob Gapp School, Chaminade Training Institute, the Scholastic Community, and CRDP, Binda.



Appointments:



Bro. Larry McBride, SM, is appointed to Gyan Deep Community in Ranchi. His appointment will be effective for the personnel year 2024-25.

Bro. Stephen Grazulis, SM, is appointed to Nirmal Deep Community in Ranchi. His appointment will also be effective for the personnel year 2024-25.



The District Council thanks both the Brothers for their willingness to render their services to the (new) Region of India.

Prayer Requests

Kindly pray for our Brothers and Sisters who are in the process of healing and for their speedy recovery from physical or psychological illness.

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

06 Tirkey, Pitar
18 Xalxo, Kerobim
23 Gallelli, Bhaskar

