



INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 13, ISSUE 6

Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,

Greetings from a very wet Goa. Along with the strong winds there are numerous power outages which are quite trying at times.

On the 7th of this month, Regina Mundi School celebrated its Golden Jubilee, Because of the restrictions imposed by the lockdown the celebrations had to conform to the SOPs imposed by the State Government., There was a cake cutting ceremony held in the morning. The cake was a beautiful replica of the monument with the statue of our Lady of the World at the top. At 7 P.M. there was an online Mass concelebrated by the Parish Priest-Fr. Pereira and his Assistant Fr. Peter. The Mass was very well organised with appropriate readings and a superb choir that sang some very beautiful hymns both in English and Konkani. At the end of the Mass, Br. Sebastian thanked the various ex-students and others who had helped organise the program. Br. Finn also spoke on the origins of the school and a couple of ex-students expressed their appreciation of the contributions of the school to shaping their values.

St. Columba's celebrated its Oak Jubilee on the feast of St. Columba. A very impressive online assembly was held where several past Principals, Ex-students, Teachers and present students shared their experiences of what the school meant to them, In this Newsletter is a message from the Principal - Br. Larry Miranda.

Included in this newsletter is a brief resume of the 4 new Head Masters / Mistresses appointed in our schools in Kolkata, New Delhi and Kurseong. We wish all of them the very best in their new assignments.

Fr. Stan Swamy, S.J. is very critically ill at the time of writing this. He is still in Holy Family Hospital. The Mumbai High court has allowed him to stay in the hospital for a further 2 weeks but will not release him because the National





Intelligence Agency has accused him of being a Maoist!!!!.

Mahendra Gamit is leaving the Brothers at the beginning of July. One is sad to see him go as he was always a cheerful and helpful presence in the community. We wish him all the very best.

Climate change has begun to detrimentally affect our world. People in the Western parts of Canada and the United States are experiencing unusually high temperatures. We pray for all those who have died in this heat wave.

Yours fraternally

Mark

Living with Shadow

All God appears to want from us is honesty and humility. There is no other way to read Jesus' stories of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11–32) or the tax collector and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9–14). In each story, the one who did wrong ends up being right—simply because he is honest and humble about it. The one who is formally right ends up being terribly wrong because he is proud about his own performance. How have we been able to miss that important point? I suspect it is because the ego wants to think well of itself and deny any shadow material. Only the soul knows we grow best in the shadowlands.



Western civilization has failed to learn how to carry the shadow side. We did not teach our people how to carry the paschal mystery—with its suffering, death, and resurrection—within ourselves, and it is now coming back to haunt us. Christians have little ability to carry the shadow side of themselves, of the church, of history, or of reality itself. It is much easier to see things as all-good or all-bad, rather than *both crucified and resurrected at the same time*, as Christ is.

In many ways, it's been a constant dilemma of the church. It seems to want to live in perfect light. It does not like the shadow land called Earth. We see in Christian history the Roman Church unable and unwilling to see its own huge shadow, Martin Luther's abhorrence of his own shadow, the Swiss Reformers trying to outlaw darkness, the

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Puritans trying to repress shadow, typical believers afraid of their shadow, and fundamentalists preoccupied with Satan “out there.” All of us, it seems, are trying to avoid the mystery in human life, instead of learning how to carry it patiently, as Jesus did.

There are no perfect structures or perfect people. There is only the struggle to get there. It is Christ’s passion (*patior* in Latin, or the “suffering of reality”) that will save the world, when we are willing to join him in the pattern. “Your patient endurance will win you your lives,” writes Luke (21:19). Redemptive suffering instead of redemptive violence is the Jesus way. Patience comes from our attempts to hold together an always-mixed reality, not from expecting or demanding a perfect reality. That only makes us resentful and judgmental, which is what has characterized much of Christian history. Grateful people emerge in a world rightly defined, where even shadows are no surprise, but, in fact, opportunity for compassion and forgiveness.

The more attached we are to any *persona* whatsoever, bad or good, the more shadow self we will have. So we need conflicts, relationship difficulties, moral failures, defeats to our grandiosity, even seeming enemies, or we will have no way to ever spot or track our shadow self. They are our necessary mirrors, and even then, we usually catch it out of the corner of our eye—in a graced insight and those gifted moments of inner freedom

Richard Rohr

REGINA MUNDI SCHOOL Celebrates its Golden Jubilee

There is a 40,000 sq metre plot atop Chicalim Hill. It is Communitade property. It once commanded views of The Zuari River to the north, The Harbour to the west and The Arabian Sea to the south. The plot was composed of laterite rock and was totally infertile. The plot was offered to the Presentation Sisters in 1957 if they would build a school on it. Truth to tell, it was a most unsuitable place for a school as it was 5 km from Vasco, had no motorable road and was without electricity and water. The Presentation Sisters came to Vasco in 1958 but by 1969 they had not acquired the Chicalim plot. They bought a plot on Mongur Hill and relinquished all claim on the Chicalim plot.

Meanwhile, a 42’ pillar was erected on Chicalim Hill and a six-foot statue of Madonna and Child was placed upon it. The Enclosed Carmel Sisters, to whom the statue was first given, occupied the



The first Principal of Regina Mundi





contiguous property. A latticed wall was erected to enable the Sisters to view the inauguration of the statue on 31st May 1960, which was then the feast of Mary Queen of the World (Regina Mundi). From then, the site was known as Regina Mundi. Due to the non-user-friendly terrain, the monument was difficult to access. Many of the Chicalim villagers were even more anxious to have a religious order come and open an institution on the hill and make the monument more accessible.

The land was offered to the Christian Brothers in 1969. At the time the Brothers were negotiating to open a school in Vasai, Maharashtra. However, in March 1971, a lengthy telegram from Mr Antonio Mascarenhas was received in Provincial Headquarters, Calcutta. He urged the Brothers to open a school in June and stated that he would provide temporary classrooms. Accordingly, I was sent to Goa almost immediately. While I was travelling across the country, a letter arrived in HQ, unknown to me, calling off the deal.

I arrived in Goa on 31st March and discovered that no arrangements had been made. Mr Mascarenhas started building temporary classrooms in Miraton Gardens, a little colony he was developing off the Airport Road. I set about getting NOC's from church and government, getting school furniture made, interviewing prospective parents and pupils and searching for teachers. Meetings were convened with parents who were encouraged to give their opinion and advice. Transportation of pupils posed a big problem as buses between Vasco and Bogmalo, run by the MMT, plied twice a day. Accordingly, an old carreira was acquired and refurbished at Goa Shipyards. Our clerk, Mr Jm Rozario, possessed a Fiat 1500, and he agreed to ferry some small boys to and from the Harbour daily. Brothers Lenny Lobo and Carmo Noronha had just finished their novitiate training. They arrived in Goa on Sunday 6th June 1971. Next day we started classes in Miraton Gardens. Regina Mundi School was born. The staff consisted of three Brothers, Mrs Antoinette Nazare, Mrs Merlyn Pinto, Miss Lumen Carvalho and our clerk, Mr Rozario. There were 47 pupils spread over Classes 1 to 7. By the weekend there were 74 pupils. And the number kept growing.



The present Headmaster with the first Person - Iqbal Mohidin to be enrolled

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The comunidade made over the Chicalim plot to the Brothers on 22nd December 1971. The foundation stone was laid near the Regina Mundi monument, by Archbishop FX de Piedade Rebello on 16th January 1972, the feast of St. Joseph Vaz, Patron of Goa. The pupils commenced classes in the still incomplete buildings in June 1973. They brought with them the homely spirit which had been engendered in Miraton Gardens. May God shower blessings on all those who encouraged us in our first endeavours, and continue to do so - our Brothers, teachers, staff, pupils, parents, supporters and well-wishers.

Bap Finn

THE ORIGINS OF REGINA MUNDI SCHOOL

Urminda Lima Leitao, influenced by son Noel, urged JJ Rodrigues of the Comunidade Chicalim, to invite the Brothers in 1969. Antonio Mascarenhas followed the file and provided necessary rooms for the infant school. He and his wife Mira were my hosts until 31st May 1971.



The original Regina Mundi School-Kind
curtsey of Mr. Francisco Dias

Fernando and Rui da Costa Araujo drove around each evening's to contact share holders. Antonio Lobo, former Notary Public, advised on

all things legal from the Code des Communidades. The land at the monument was ceded unanimously by the Chicalim Cimmunidade. Mr Lima Leitao ferried the elderly and infirm to the meeting at which the land was offered. Cdr Valens de Souza brought 3 bottles of drinking water to the Brothers daily. He arranged drivers for the carreira. His wife and he accommodated visiting Brothers in their home.

Adolf and Selina provided food regularly. Adolf arranged with his neighbours in Assoi to dam the little stream when we needed tankers of water for building.



Ina Peris da Silva worked voluntarily in the office when JM Rosario died tragically in a motor accident on 19/12/'72. Carlos Noronha, O. Jacob, Mr Lohia from Zuari Agro Chemicals provided practical and invaluable help with obtaining water from Carmel Convent. The Sisters helped all the time with their prayers and concern - and the water! Mr Gopal of SAG





Engineering gave his service free to do all the electrical work. They are all remembered as are those who promoted our interests in govt. Offices, and all those anonymous people who gave their support and good wishes. If I have omitted anyone, I am sincerely sorry. God bless you all.

Anish

(write up by Bap Finn)

MESSAGE ON THE 80TH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY ASSEMBLY

Principal's message

Dear students, staff, alumni and parents.

Our reaching the 80th anniversary of the founding of St. Columba's is truly an important landmark in the history of our school. As we take joy and pride in our school at this time, my heart overflows in gratitude to all those who, 80 plus years ago, had the vision of a Catholic boys' school being set up in the heart of Delhi. Those were the years when it was obvious that the country was moving surely towards independence and it was important that well educated persons with broad minds and large hearts would take their place in this emerging society. I am grateful to the leaders of the Catholic Church particularly Archbishop Sylvester Patrick Mulligan for inviting the Christian brothers to set up our school.



We are grateful to Bro. Baptist Culhane who was the Provincial of the Christian brothers in India at that time and to his Provincial team for accepting the invitation of the Archbishop. We thank the Brothers who had been working in India since the 1840s and had established a great reputation for being excellent educators to especially to students from disadvantaged background. This was also our legacy in Ireland where the Brothers were founded. We are grateful to Bro. Columban Dohney, to whom we owe the wonderful senior school building and to Bro. Richard Butler, who was our first Principal. We are grateful to the parents of those first 32 students who joined the school on the first day on the 21st of January 1941 and to the parents of many students in the early years who didn't mind that their sons studied in tents and faced many other inconveniences but who trusted in the Brothers and teachers that they would get a good education and a good foundation for their lives.

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We are proud of all the Brothers, staff members and students who have been in the school over the last 80 years and because of their exemplary lives and service which have created an awe for St. Columba's. This ethos is truly our heritage and we who are entrusted with this heritage today have the responsibility to use our presence here well and to ensure that we take this heritage to even greater heights. We do this by following in the spirit of our school motto "Sapare Aude" – "dare to know" and "Sincere et constanter" – "sincerely and consistently". I greet all associated with the school, in pride, on this momentous occasion. May the Divine who has guided all events since the beginning of time, continue to bless us and bless our efforts so that the divine purpose of this school may truly be accomplished. May God bless you and keep you well. Thank you.

Larry Miranda

New Lay Leadership in CCBI

There are 3 new lay members in roles of leadership in our schools and one lay Headmistress has been promoted to Academic Principal this year. More about them here:

1) **Ms Nandita Bhattacharjee, Dumdum:** Part of the SMO staff since 1994, Nandita has taught computers in the Senior Classes. Prior to her being appointed Headmistress on 1st April 2020, she had served as Senior School Coordinator for 12 years under 5 different Principals. Her present Principal, Br Placid Henriques gave Nandita several opportunities to prove her mettle and didn't find her wanting. Online schooling wasn't the best time to test her abilities in school management, but an Internal Review as well as an External Assessment found Nandita suitable to be appointed Principal at SMO. The PLT has therefore acted on the recommendation and have appointed Mrs. Bhattacharjee, Academic Principal of St. Mary's Orphanage & Day School, Dumdum, from 1st June 2021. SMO presently runs till Class 12 with all three streams and we wish Nandita every blessing in her new role.



For a variety of reasons, the PLT wasn't able to ensure the recruitment of new lay leadership to bridge the gaps in our school leadership over the last few years. This responsibility was taken with greater urgency in mid-2020 and a process was laid out by the Ministries Office to advertise and recruit candidates for Headmasterships in Goethals, St Edmund's, St Joseph's - Bowbazaar, and St Columba's Middle School. The process included conversations with the local communities, advertisements, shortlisting suitable candidates, 2 rounds of interviews with Panels comprising of fellow CCBI Principals, the local Principal and the PLT. The MO were successful in finding suitable candidates for





three of the four places:

1) **Mr John Gomes, Bow Bazaar:** Mr Gomes has been in a variety of allied educational fields, including 12 odd years in Dubai and the Middle East as Director and Vice-President of School Education providing technological organizations. For the last 2 years, he was Resident Principal of Pathways Higher Secondary School in Durgapur. He has taught Mathematics and Economics in the higher classes. Mr Gomes is a native from Kolkata and an alumnus of St Xavier's College. He has a Master's Degrees in Economics and in Classical Music. Mr Gomes was appointed Headmaster of St Joseph's College, Bowbazaar on 1st December 2020 and is learning fast under Br Lobo's mentorship.

2) **Mr Navin Katwal, GMS, Kurseong:** Mr Katwal has spent the larger part of his professional life in a single school growing from being an Assistant Teacher to Principal within 20 years. MrKatwal has been Principal of Glenhill Public School, a hugely popular residential co-ed institution in Kurseong, since March 2015. His teaching subjects were Accounts and Commerce in Classes 11 and 12. As Goethals welcomes girls and starts the Commerce stream in Class 11 and 12, MrKatwal's experience will be invaluable. Apart from being an educator who has received a 'Best Principal' award, he and his wife are also avid mountaineers, having already tested Br Tommy's dormant adventure skills on 'Sandakfu'. MrKatwal was appointed Headmaster of GMS from 1st Feb 2021.

3) **Mrs Aparajita Pal, St Columba's Middle School, New Delhi:** Mrs Pal is the spouse of an army Colonel and hence has had several jobs around the country before returning to Delhi. In her last position she was the Principal of the Army's Delhi Area Primary School. Prior to 2000, Mrs Pal wasn't into formal education and had a host of Corporate experiences in Marketing and Management, including being an ISO certified Lead Quality Management Auditor. As a teacher, she generally taught PGT English and has trained debate teams in schools. Mrs Pal was appointed as Headmistress of St Columba's Middle



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School from 22nd March 2021.

Even as we successfully recruited 3 new lay persons for school leadership positions, we lost Mrs Shirley Alexander, Headmistress of St Edmund's Higher Secondary, Shillong, after 2 years in the job, because of personal reasons. Finding suitable lay leadership in Shillong is continuing to be a challenge. The Ministries Office wishes all our new lay appointees every success and much professional satisfaction in their association with CCBI.

Ralph Sequeira

Frank Abagnale - A Life Transformed

Many people have watched the Steven Spielberg movie-“Catch me if you can” a highly spiced up version of the life of Frank Abagnale. It earned million of dollars at the box office and was also made into a highly successful TV series and a Broadway musical.

Frank has been telling and retelling his story as the movie was made without any reference to him and he wishes to tell the story from his point of view.



Frank was born in 1948 and in his own words, “studied in in a Catholic school called Iona run by the Irish Christian Brothers, from Kindergarten to Grade 10.”

At the age of 16, Frank's parents divorced and Frank ran away from home. He tried to earn his living by working as a shop assistant, till he saw an airlines crew coming out of a hotel. He thought he could fly around the world if he posed as an Airline pilot. He was able to fly several million miles posing as a Pan Am pilot till he realised he was going to get caught. He then pretended he was a Doctor and worked in a hospital as a shift in charge, then as a lawyer working in a government law office. He also en-cashed cheques worth millions of dollars till he was caught in France and served time in French and Swiss prisons and was then extradited to the U.S. where he was given a 12 year sentence for his various crimes.

While he served his term in prison, he was asked if he was willing to work as an FBI undercover agent to detect fraud cases. He became so good at it that when his parole was over they offered him a job as a FBI agent. He has served the FBI for nearly 40 years, is now married to a former agent and has 3 children, one of whom is a FBI agent.

He says his wife helped him transform his life and has now opened an academy using his own funds to





train young people to ethically use the internet. He is also asked to speak at numerous seminars to warn people of the different ways they can be swindled on line. And he has repaid every cent of the money that he defrauded from banks.

He adds that his greatest achievement is not the things he has done after coming out of prison but that he has been a good father and a good husband. His story is a wonderful example of how one can turn one's life around even after a rocky start. Not many people know that his story started with his 10 years spent in a Christian Brother school.

(Adapted from "Catch Me If You Can: The Real Story with Frank Abagnale" YouTube Video)

Many Journalists have disputed the veracity of many of the things that Frank claims to have done but all the same his story makes a great yarn.

A Request for Prayers from the Congregation Leader

Judith Hurley works at Edmund Rice College, Wollongong, Australia. She is very involved with EREBB. She has asked for the Edmund Rice Family to remember her brother, **Jerry Dwyer, age 43**, in their prayers. He has been diagnosed with cancer in his spine and Judith asks us for prayers to Blessed Edmund Rice on behalf of her brother. Thank you.



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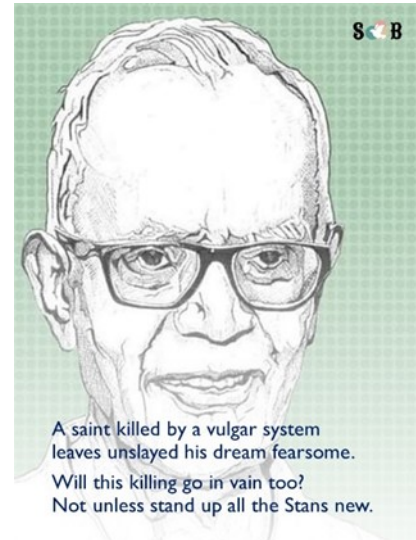


JTI CLUSTER BULLETIN JULY 2021

*The caged bird is bound no longer,
from the Adivasis he loves,
the winged soul soars now
in the free holding of the universe.*

*But dare we say:
May his soul rest in peace,
Because it will not
till the vile system is annihilated.*

For Stan Swamy, A modern day martyr.



UMTYRKHANG



***Piggery Project inauguration by Kristina Dkhar,
President of the SHG.***



***Meeting with Parents of students over remedial
classes***

The Brothers in Umtyrkhang are collaborating with Mait Shaphrang, a local Self-Help Group, in setting up a Piggery Project in the village. The Self-Help Group members and their families did all the labour work of carrying the stones and sand and constructing the piggery shed. They will also take care of daily cleaning and upkeep. The Brothers have offered the land near their house and will support them financially.

On 29th of June, Edwin and Bipin went to Mairang and bought five piglets and one female pig which is pregnant. Part of the project is to set up a breeder system with newborn piglets which can be offered





to families to start their own piggery.

Due to the lockdown, children have been out of school for a long time. The Brothers have decided to answer this need by holding remedial classes for children from class 3 to 10. The Brothers had a meeting with the village headman and the parents who have given their consent. 50 students have registered.

Jerry and Bipin got their first dose of vaccination done in Umsning on the 25th of June. With that all the Brothers in the Cluster have received their first dose. The Brothers are promoting vaccination when they meet people in the village. The Block Administration is organising a vaccination drive in the village in the coming weeks.

PATHARLYNDAN



Ajay with Tobias Jana, the newly chosen Field worker in Patharlyndan



Theo welcomed to Patharlyndan by the Brothers

The Brothers in Patharlyndan are engaging with Tobias Jana, a confident young man in the village to co-assist in the mission in Patharlyndan. In his role as the Field Worker, he will take part in the planning work with the Brothers and get trained in potential income generating activities. He will have a critical role in gathering information on government welfare schemes and disseminating that information to the people.

The Brothers in Patharlyndan welcomed Theo on the 17th June. Theo's ease of interacting with people will be a great advantage to the mission in Patharlyndan. The Brothers had numerous conversations with Theo orienting him to the ministry and life of the Brothers there. Theo's own insights of ministry will be valuable in our goal of people empowerment.

David leaves Patharlyndan on the 20th of July. David will be immensely missed. During his three and half years, he engaged with the people with his whole heart. He played

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an extremely pivotal role in both the life and ministry of the Brothers as the Patharlyndan mission was taking root. We wish him well.

ERPAKON

The Hub welcomed Cedly and Theo into the Cluster where they also spend their initial time of travel quarantine. June was also a time for birthdays in the Hub. Jockey celebrated his birthday on the 22nd and Mahendra celebrated his on the 24th.

The Lockdown and surge of cases in our district hinders us from visiting the mission communities. We meet with the communities using online medium to support them in their life and ministry. Meanwhile we pray for our health and good health of all people.



As we welcomed Cedly in the Hub



During Jockey's birthday celebration

POETRY SECTION

O GOD

I know where I am when my skin wants to dance
 Or I'm dumbed by an aria, or stilled by a marble –
 Or I word the ineffable or chord silent tears
 Or I score every ball, sinking or striking,
 Or enrich priceless wine or bring alive Hamlet
 Or explore keys with Bach or rest in Glendalough –
 Then I know whom I've strolled with
 And I return the stolen apple.

Brendan June 2021

