



Happy Feast

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,

Greetings from Goa.

India celebrated its 75th Independence Day on the 15th of August if one counts 1947 as the first Independence Day. The country has achieved much since Independence in terms of growth in Industrial development, infrastructure, technology, etc but there are still a number of key areas where the country has fallen far short of the ideals set up by the writers of our Indian constitution, Just to illustrate, India ranks 131 among 189 countries on the Human Development Index.

The last year has been particularly bad. The official death toll due to Covid is 3.98 lakh (the unofficial figure is many times more than the official one). The Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent last year. There was a net loss of 7 million jobs between February 2020 and February 2021. Households experienced an average of 12 per cent loss in income. The loss for the poor and middle class is much higher. Estimates show that 218 million additional people have been pushed into poverty. The above are official figures, the reality could be far worse.

On the 15th of August, the Taliban took over Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. The people there are afraid that a reign of terror could be re-imposed. Women and children will be particularly affected. Two Jesuits and Four Missionaries of Charity who were reported by the Vatican Newsletter as still in Afghanistan have since returned..

We wish Roshan Kerketa all God's blessings as he signed his indult to leave the congregation on the 13th of August. Roshan spent 23 years with us and had volunteered for the first cluster of Journeying together in Zambia. Later on he was a Community Leader in the Indian cluster.

Please pray for Ann, Cyril Christopher's sister in law, who is not well. Ann lives in Sydney.

The 29th of August was the 177th death anniversary of our Founder –Edmund Rice. We also remember the Presentation Brothers, with whom we share our Founder. They have a new project called LEAF that focuses on Leadership, Education and Formation.



One can subscribe to the LEAF Newsletter by sending an email to leafprojectpb@gmail.com.

Francis Hall has sent an article that he would like everyone to reflect on. It is included in this Newsletter.

Br. Willie D'Souza has worked hard to successfully get 7 young men to join our formation program. Thank you Willie for your dedication and commitment.

Yours fraternally.

Mark

GIVING UP OUR NEED TO BE RIGHT



Jesus left us the Eucharist as the source of our unity. Sadly, often, it's the cause of our division, both among Christian denominations and within them.

We tend to do battle with each other about most everything connected to the Eucharist: What's its precise theology? Who may preside? How often should it be celebrated? What's the precise role of the presider? How is the presider to be vested?

Where should the altar be placed? Which hymns are appropriate, and which aren't? How is Christ's presence in the bread and wine to be understood? How inclusive must the language to be? What's the relationship of the Eucharistic ritual to the celebration of the Word? Who may appropriately serve the Eucharistic species? The disagreements, it seems, never end.

Scripture scholars suggest that it has ever been thus, right from the beginning. Already within the earliest apostolic churches, these same questions were hotly debated and were the source of painful divisions. By the time that the gospels were written there was not one precise, univocal view on the Eucharist and, seemingly, considerable variety in its practice, not to mention painful and sharp disagreements about it. Already then it was both a source of unity and a source of division within and among the various communities. While the other gospels place the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, John inserts a very different kind of "Eucharistic" text. In place of

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having Jesus take the bread and take the bread and wine and say, “This is my body! This is my blood!”, John has Jesus washing the feet of his disciples – precisely as a “Eucharistic” act.

The Eucharist is an invitation to many things, but it’s also, as Jesus’ gesture of washing his disciples’ feet shows, an invitation to GIVE UP OUR RIGHT TO BE RIGHT, especially as regards our views about how the Eucharist must be celebrated.

Simply put, Jesus tells us (shows us really) that it’s more important to be in union with each other than to be right!

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

“DON’T GIVE UP; THE BEGINNING IS ALWAYS THE HARDEST!”

God provides the opportunities but it is up to us to take them. Despite Covid-19 and so many restrictions around me, I took Vocation Promotion work as an opportunity to make my life and the life of others around me meaningful. “Providence is our inheritance”- this prophecy of Edmund proved true with regard to Vocation Promotion work.

Two months (May-June) at SMO, preparing and planning, getting the book marks, fliers and advertisement ready; advertisements to join our Congregation were published in a few English Weekly magazines. Contacted a few Vocation Promoters of Brothers Congregations in India and listened to their wisdom. They too are going all out with regard to Vocation Promotion work even in the midst of the pandemic!

In July, I made my first trip to Jharkhand state- train from Howrah to Rourkela and then by bus to Pandripani. With the help of the Sisters of the Hand Maids of Mary (HM), Nirmala Niketan Pandripani, Simdega District (Sr. Selvi’s Congregation from Bimitrapur), I was able to contact Enosent Lugun (Sameer and Maurice’s contact). Enosent is from Kutungia village which is about hundred kilometers away from Simdega. I made my base at Nirmala Niketan Pandripani and went to Kutungia Village. Sr. Prasanta Nage HM, Enosent’s sister, Onila Lugun (she stays as a PG in Simdega) and I, hired a vehicle and went by road; we first met the Parish priest; we were welcomed graciously and were offered tea and snacks. The PP and his assistant gave a good report on Enosent and his family. Then we went and visited Enosent’s family. His parents were very hospitable, we listened to their stories and met his siblings too. After lunch at their house we left for Pandripani.

In the first week of August (1-5), I visited Dhekiajuli Parish in Sonitpur district of Assam. Fr. Jose the Parish priest is a very good friend of the CBs. I stayed with him for five days, he is a good host. I had





kept contact with a few boys from Dhekiajuli Parish for almost a year. It took me three days to visit the houses of the eight boys who were interested; met their parents, listened to their stories and had a good conversation with the concerned eight boys. Six boys were selected, two boys were told to do their Higher Secondary and then join us. A date (16 August) was fixed for all of them to travel to Shillong. The six boys were told to get all their documents as well as the certificates ready before they leave their respective homes. I returned to SMO on 5th August.



On 13 August, Onila and Enosent arrived at SMO from Kutungia, via Ranchi by train. Onila stayed at SMO for a day and returned to her home whereas Enosent stayed for a week with us. Curfew was imposed in Shillong on 16th August, so our travel plans were cancelled and we had to wait till 21 August to go Shillong. Enosent and I left for Guwahati Railway Station from Howrah on 20 August after having done our RAT tests in Dum Dum. When we arrived at Guwahati Railway Station, we had to take the RT PCR tests. It took us two hours to get our reports.

The six boys from Dhekiajuli left their respective homes and met at the Parish at 6am on 21 August. They boarded two vehicles from Dhekiajuli and met Enosent and me at Khanapara. St. Edmund's College bus with Wansuk was waiting for us at Khanapara (thanks to Simon and Raj for arranging the bus). We boarded the bus at 12.30pm and headed towards Shillong. At Umpling Check point, the concerned people saw the College Bus and told us to proceed. Thank God for small mercies! At Nongpoh we had our lunch and reached St. Edmund's at 3.45pm. Shawn had prepared tea for all of us at ERTI, we were "in home quarantine" for the next seven days.

Willie D' Souza

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CARE FOR OUR EARTH STARTS NOW!

Season of Creation September 1st – October 4th



I'm sure that most of us are aware of the urgency of action to save our planet. But where do we start?

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis gives us the starting point ... *ecological conversion*. What does that mean? Well it means that we are *converted* to seeing the earth and humans as one interdependent system of energy and life. We need converting because most of us DON'T see it like that now, or at least we don't ACT as if it was so.

For us to act and for humanity to act, it takes more than *knowing about* the climate and environment crisis. We have to *feel personally* about it. Just as with our faith which has to have more than knowledge about God or religion to be alive and active.

What do I *feel* about our earth and its future? I am personally starting to feel angry. I'm angry that we are not yet willing to pressure our governments to listen to the scientists and take action. The latest report from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Report](#) is stark. I also feel very sad every time I see more trees being cut down ... on TV in far-away places or close at hand in our localities.

The *Season of Creation* month was created to help us fall in love with the earth so that the earth's living organisms might convert us. It is THE time for ourselves and our communities to do some serious reflecting leading to bold actions.

We could walk slowly around the garden or park to see what we see.

We could pray every day for the grace of conversion.



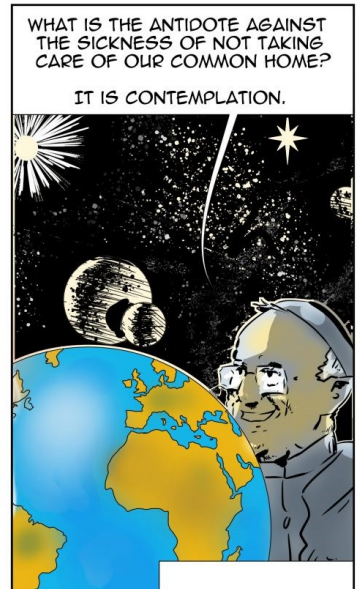


We could explore the special Season of Creation website for resources ...

<https://seasonofcreation.org>

We could do an “ecological audit” of our community to see which foods we buy and eat, how to cut out plastic, how much fuel we use and whether we can grow some food ourselves.

We know that we have to act TOGETHER as the crises are so overwhelming. Let us support each other through this newsletter. If you are willing to write a few lines with a photo about your response to this issue please send it to the Indian Province Newsletter Team. Let us hear from every community in the Province!



Francis Hall

Webinar airs survey results on hierarchical exploitation of nuns in India

Part 2

Sr. Hazel D'Lima said women religious expect priests and bishops to understand and respect their role in the church's mission. Instead, sisters "face a sense of rivalry and fear to dialogue. Too many demands are made on them," said D'Lima, who once headed the women's section of the India conference of religious.

She said the lack of understanding and respect from the priests makes the mission difficult for women religious. Priests don't have a sense of shared planning and

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execution of tasks in the church's mission, D'Lima said.

"Dialogue often leads to hostility between priests and women religious," she added.

The researchers spent months analyzing the data, reflecting on each response and the message it sought to convey, D'Lima said. According to the respondents, working relationships are most important in their mission to build confidence, understanding and encouragement. They expect priests and bishops to respect and appreciate their efforts, potential, and their religious and community life.

The book says nuns who work in church institutions are among the lowest-paid employees. Those working in sacristy or preparing for liturgy get no payment. Around 47 of 174 dioceses in India paid low wages to nuns. The hierarchical response has been that nuns are "collaborators" in the church's mission. "The church is not just the hierarchical church. We are the church. The diocese is not the only element of the church in mission. All of us are players in the field and this needs to be acknowledged and provided for," said Pinto.

Women keep the church alive, he asserted. "If women stopped going to church, the church would die — no matter how many men line up for ordination."

Another problem is sacramental blackmail, or a priest's refusal of sacramental celebration to sisters. Some priests use their power arbitrarily when they refuse to celebrate Mass in the convent chapel or they take away the Blessed Sacrament from there.

Most survey respondents said priests refuse to say Mass when the sisters do not comply with their demands. Normal expectation is that the priest would celebrate Mass once a week in a convent. "However, there have been instances where the Eucharist was not celebrated even for months," says the book.

"Such abusive behavior can be stopped only by refusing to tolerate it," said Pinto. "Like Pope Francis who allowed a cardinal to stand trial for fraud in the Vatican, we must not be party to abusive behavior. That is transparency and a sign of change," he added.

Sr. Noella De Souza said religious congregations should train their young people to think critically and face uncomfortable and exploitative pastoral situations with courage.

Sr. Noella D'Souza, MCJ



She regrets that many nuns stop their spiritual and emotional growth when they join the convent.





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"What are we doing to our young recruits? And this comes to the question of formation."

De Souza said the religious congregation should focus on human development while training their new members. She agrees the task ahead is immense. "We need to conscientize our sisters and our hierarchy and be firm that we shall decide our own future and our involvement in the Indian church by and for ourselves. We are adult enough to manage ourselves," she said.

D'Lima wants the nuns to choose service instead of servitude. "The important thing is to dialogue with those who tend to impose on us, making known our stand with confidence and conviction leading to collaboration, rather than an either-or situation." She cited her own experience when she was superior general of the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. An apostolic visitor was sent to them "for reasons which I did not know. He was supposed to examine the governance of my congregation and I had to defer everything to him. But I did not."

She was summoned to the dicastery in Rome several times to undergo questioning about her governance. "I did not engage any lawyer but honestly answered whatever I was asked to clarify. I suffered a lot through it, but in the end I not only completed my term as superior general but was elected for a second term."

She said the experience convinced her that one does not have to say yes to everything.

"I was able to take the fight to the Vatican, and I believe God's grace was there to help me. Your conviction in what you are doing and your faith in God will give you the courage to be independent."

"We should train our young sisters in legal and human rights, theology, feminist theology, prophetic call and mission," she stressed. The young nuns should be taught relevant church documents, emerging trends in spirituality and religious life, and feminist interpretation of the Bible, she added. I believe God's grace was there to help me. Your conviction in what you are doing and your faith in God will give you the courage to act and be independent. The Spirit is one of us. She inspires women as well."

Philip Pinto encouraged the forum: "The women religious of our time cannot allow a church in dire need of reform to continue in its broken state. They have to speak up."

Lissy Maruthanakuzhy





Simran, Bhopal

“AS LITERAL AS POSSIBLE, AS FREE AS NECESSARY;

The Month has been exclusively fruitful and eventful in BHOPAL. We, the novices, RANJEET, DILIP AND SANJOY feel extremely gracious having Br. Conrad, Br. Parag and Br. Elton here. They have been our great influencers and imparting to us some captivating lessons on various aspects of our lives, especially Br. Parag who has lately introduced YOGA to us, to stay fit and healthy.

On August 8th, we had been invited to the Queen of the Universe Church, our local parish, by Fr. Naresh - the assistant P.P, to celebrate THE WORLDS YOUTH DAY with the parish youngsters. It was fun and blissful to be a part of such a celebration. We had a few games and interactions with the youth, during the course of the day, followed by a delicious Biryani meal, and some ice cream to top it up.

On the 12th, was of our first villa day, and we headed to Kaliyasot Dam for fishing. We caught none, but we did catch some lessons in patience and the art of baiting.

The next week, we had four virtual sessions on An Introduction to the Bible. It was conducted by FR. SIJI Mathew, residing in Germany. We are immensely grateful to him for his insightful inputs, and grateful too, to Br. Conrad for organizing such an enlightening webinar.



We celebrated our 75th Independence Day by inviting our cook with family for the dinner. It was a fine meal, with dal bati, Russian salad, a baked chicken, and loads of laughter and fraternity.

On the 21st, Br.Parag and Ranjeet received their second jab of vaccine from a nearby centre without any hassle.



On the occasion of “RAKSHA BANDHAN”, Preety (our cook) and Sr Victoria (Cong. of St. Joseph’s of Chambery) tied Rakhis on all of us. We were delighted to have them over. They made us realize the essence of brotherhood and made the day a memorable one.

On the 26th, we had a community meeting, whereby we reviewed our community’s schedule and restructured it as required.





It was such a privilege to have a virtual community recollection with Br. Philip Pinto, who drew our attention to Jesus' presence in our daily lives, by considering the story of Emmaus and the life of Edmund Rice. He also invited us to evolve in our understanding of devotional practices with a different perspective.

I leave thankful for having being dealt a playable hand.

Sanjoy Lugun

St. John's High School

A report on Independence Day Celebrations 2021-22

Independence Day, is significant as it commemorates the valour and spirit of the freedom fighters who fought for the independence of the nation.



During these unprecedented times of the pandemic, St. John's made sure that this day is celebrated with great zeal and zest. Patriotism was at its peak and the virtual world came alive to beat the real world.

The spirit of patriotism was clearly visible in a mesmerising presentation by the class 5

students which was later aired on YouTube as well. The entire function was recorded by the children under the guidance of the teachers, in the safety of their homes. The celebration started with the hoisting of our national flag, in the morning to mark the beginning of the events of this auspicious day by the President of the Alumni association of St John's. He was



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accompanied by our principal, Mrs. Kavita C. Das. This programme comprised of a prayer, a soulful hymn and inspiring speeches elucidating the struggles and sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and a speech remembering our Johnian Rajiv Sandhu, who laid down his life for the country. A poem recital by a child from Prep(the rising star), a patriotic song by the junior school staff members, a monologue to personify Captain Vikram Batra (PVC), a synchronised dance performance on a medley of patriotic songs, a play in Hindi highlighting the true spirit of Independence and a speech by our honourable Principal, were the main highlights of the programme. This function ended with a beautiful presentation of our National Anthem in Sign Language by our NSS cadets.



The people of India battle COVID-19

Nothing else has affected India and the entire human family so strongly as the deadly COVID-19 virus. It has brought with it a kind of fearful and awkward situation. A dear friend of mine, a college professor, an expert in psychology, whispered over the phone: "I can't share with you what I went through as COVID-19 hit me ... Just when I wanted someone to hold my hands and assure me that 'I am there for you,' all I could see was my dear ones lovingly taking physical distance from me ..."

Right from the start, deep within me, I could feel that the world and those around us needed a lot of courage, hope and encouraging words to battle with COVID-19. A small group of us educators and journalists pooled our resources and brought out some soul-lifting articles and things to share, drawing from our own life experience.





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Many people try to follow the guidelines proposed by the government to fight the pandemic: social distancing, washing hands regularly and maintaining hygiene, avoiding unnecessary meetings and the like. With my own eyes, I saw one of the bank officers sanitizing his hands each time he touched a sheet of paper; in a week's time, I was shocked to hear that he tested positive for COVID-19. Unexpected and sudden deaths crushed my heart many times.

At a convent at Chunangamveli, near Aluva, Kerala, 18 nuns tested positive for the virus. Sr. Ajaya Mary, the Delhi provincial of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, died on July 2. She was 67, the first Catholic nun to be cremated in India.

So many more: Renowned writer and Jesuit priest Fr. Varghese Paul died April 10 testing positive for the virus. Frs. Joy Karayampuram, Lijo Thomas, S. Christudas, Srinivasan, Diago Dsouza, Arulsamy ... among more than 40 Catholic priests claimed by COVID-19 in April in India. The Catholic Church in Gujarat lost five priests in 24 hours in the second wave of the pandemic, and several bishops have died.

Don Bosco Fr. Joseph Aymanathil, who had been feeding slum kids during the pandemic, succumbed to the virus. The 73-year-old priest had pioneered quality free education for underprivileged children for 30 years. He organized the relief work to feed slum children from Day 1 of the lockdown. His team continued his work at railway stations, even during his funeral.

A number of our doctors, nurses, priests and sisters passionately committed to serve the needy and those affected by COVID-19 were attacked by the virus and lost their lives — 25 doctors died in 16-17 days.

Sixteen COVID-19 patients and two nurses died in a tragic fire in the ICU ward of Welfare Hospital in Bharuch. There have been many other hospital fires this year. And 12 people, including a doctor, died at Delhi's Batra Hospital on May 1 after it ran out of medical oxygen for the second time in the space of a week.

It is evident that the pandemic has affected our mental health: the impact of lockdowns, uncertainties and restrictions, firsthand experience of the virus, the loss of loved ones, loss of jobs, financial crises. Counseling facilities are offered by various institutions, and the church and various religious institutes are offering online sessions/services/conferences. Several Catholic Churches in India have formed voluntary groups to offer dignified burial to those who have died of COVID-19.





Responding to calls from concerned COVID-19 patients is ever on the increase today in India. A good number of doctors, health workers and volunteers are passionately engaged in this delicate mission, offering comfort and solace to those in need.

Recently, to my great delight, I received two lists: one filled with contact numbers of sister doctors and their availability to respond to calls, and the other showcasing whom to contact and indicating the best time to do it. Free tele-consultations are becoming more and more a daily lived reality in the midst of the rapid increase of the COVID-19 pandemic. What is to be admired in this process is the network of trust and confidence that is being built up among people.

Bihar saw a sharp rise in cases in April; in a 10-day period, it saw more than 10,000 cases every day. On April 29, the state added 13,089 positive cases, a record spike since the start of the pandemic.

So many organizations around the world are helping. The Church of Scotland is sending a 5,000-pound emergency grant to the Church of South India to support its efforts to help people. A Muslim donated a large amount of oxygen. Catholic Relief Services and Caritas India are on the ground in the subcontinent, and are administering aid. No one knows if there will be a third wave of the pandemic but some are setting up crisis management groups to prepare for it.

Sr. [Lucy Kurian](#), a Catholic nun who runs orphanages said: "We have vacated one of our homes for people from villages who need to be isolated due to the pandemic. We have also kept aside two ambulances for this purpose," and her group intends to distribute cooked food, grains, clothes, sanitizers and masks for those in need.

Sr. Moksha Antonappa, a Salesian Sister of Don Bosco in Mumbai, has begun online delivery of goods. Her group is constantly in touch with people in real need and with shopkeepers.

The terrible corona virus has placed us in the liminal space between life and death. Certainly, there is fear, anxiety — precisely for this, we need an extra dose of courage. As a disciple and friend of Jesus, I am convinced that nothing is impossible with God. Above the terrible corona virus there is a God, and we constantly request God to heal us and bless us.

Teresa Joseph





Poetry Section

Poem by the late Ram Jethmalani, well known lawyer and a former Union Minister

Sometimes in the dark of the night,
I visit my conscience
To see if it is still breathing,
For its dying a slow death
Every day.

When I pay for a meal in a fancy place.
An amount which is perhaps the monthly income
Of the guard who holds the door open.
And quickly I shrug away that thought,
It dies a little.

When I buy vegetables from the vendor,
And his son "chhotu" smilingly weighs the potatoes,
Chhotu, a small child, who should be studying at school.
I look the other way
It dies a little.

When I am decked up in a designer dress,
A dress that cost a bomb
And I see a woman at the crossing,
In tatters, trying unsuccessfully to save her dignity.
And I immediately roll up my window.
It dies a little.

When I buy expensive gifts for my children,
On return, I see half clad children,
With empty stomach and hungry eyes,
Selling toys at a red light
I try to save my conscience by buying some, yet
It dies a little.

When my sick maid sends her daughter to work,
Making her bunk school
I know I should tell her to go back.
But I look at the loaded sink and dirty dishes,
And I tell myself that is just for a couple of days
It dies a little.

When I hear about a rape
or a murder of a child,
I feel sad, yet a little thankful that it's not my child.

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I cannot look at myself in the mirror,
It dies a little.

When people fight over caste creed and religion,
I feel hurt and helpless
I tell myself that my country is going to the dogs,
I blame the corrupt politicians,
Absolving myself of all responsibilities
It dies a little.

When my city is choked,
Breathing is dangerous in the smog ridden metropolis,
I take my car to work daily,
Not taking the metro, not trying car pool.
One car won't make a difference, I think
It dies a little.

So when in the dark of the night,
I visit my conscience
And find it still breathing,
I am surprised.

For, with my own hands
Daily, bit by bit, I kill it, I bury it.

...and we call it a living

DIE ALIVE

From womb to tomb it's all about doing.
Our early years are get-up-and-go.
Sadness typifies those years of ruing
Missed chances to dare to stretch to grow.

The body slows, the head takes over.
New views emerge, new questions rise.
The vision mists, the goals we go for
Are focused now on a different prize.

The neighbours take over our waking day.





The elders reign as knowing all.
 Unknowingly we become the prey
 Of custom's chains and greybeards' call.

And so before we've lived we've died,
 All boxes ticked, known flags unfurled.
 Let me my God be thrown outside,
 A fool who tried to change the world.

Brendan August 2021



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On the feast of Mary's Nativity, I was reflecting on this icon of Mary of the Cosmos. In this Icon, the universe is flowing through Mary, (mother, matter, mater) whose body is made of the star stuff of the cosmos.

In her revolutionary form with Earth at her center, the planet becomes the birthing bed of Jesus.

The Mother of love and compassion looks out to us with outstretched arms inviting us to become life bearers for the planet.



UMTYRKHANG

The Remedial classes for the children from Class 3 to Class 8 is working impressively. The Brothers are focusing on the teaching of English. The students and parents are pleased with the classes as the children lost out on a lot when schools were closed due to the lockdown.

Several competitions were held to celebrate Edmund Rice Day on 29th August. The competitions spanned over a few days. There were competitions in art work, singing,

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and dance. Participants were from all age groups including children and youth, women and men. The celebrations concluded with a simple prayer service.

The plans and budget for a new Village Multipurpose Hall are agreed and approved. The village community will look after labour work and the required sand and stones. The Brothers will provide for the other construction materials that will be needed. The blessing of the Foundation is planned for September. The village community is happy to call the Multipurpose Hall as Edmund Rice Hall.

17th of August was a special day as we celebrated the birthday of Edwin with the cutting of one of our own roosters.



The dance contest during the Edmund Rice celebrations



Meeting with the village leaders for the Multipurpose Hall

PATHARLYNDAN

Ajay and Vinod are busy going around the village and taking remedial classes in small groups. They also prepare Maths and English worksheets that the children can do on their own. Many students do come on time. But some don't turn up and that can be a challenge. Schools may resume in September as the government has allowed the schools to open from the 1st of September. The Brothers are going to start Spoken English classes and the enrolment has been initiated.

The induction of our Field worker, Tobias Jana is completed. He has a good grasp now of the vision of Journeying Together and the RBM method of planning and reporting. He is involved in various engagement programs in the village including the setting of the Youth action group.

Theo and Gambhir are exploring the newly started pig rearing scheme by the Meghalaya Govt. called Meghalaya Piggery Mission. They recently met the Veterinary officer in Mairang who explained the





details and the implications of this scheme with a view of setting up small cooperatives in the village.

With Ajay, Vinod and Gambhir getting their second dose, all the brothers are fully vaccinated. The Brothers are actively promoting vaccination and explain its need at public gatherings like Job card meetings and Covid awareness meetings organised by the local Health Centre.



Meeting with Veterinary doctor for info search on Megh Piggery Project



Brothers joined the primary school teachers for a meeting in the parish

ERPAKON

The number of Covid cases began to reduce towards the end of the month and the State Government announced it will unlock schools and travel in the state. With that, the Hub members will resume the pastoral visiting of Patharlyndan and Umtyrkhang. Each of us will stay in the mission communities for a week to help us get a good first-hand feel of the life and mission of the Brothers.

We are kept busy with many meetings, most of them happen on Zoom or Google Meet. The Project Management Team (PMT) meetings also done online every second week. The generative conversations during the PMT meetings help us to see what real needs can be met in the village in sustainable ways. Apart from the Hub Members (Ceddy, Jockey and Sunil), the Local Project Managers and the Community leaders attend the meetings. Currently, Theo and Edwin are Community leaders and Vinod and Bipin are the Local Project Managers.

Sunil Britto

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