



INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,

Greetings from Goa where the rains are playing hide and seek. And the humidity has increased.

On the 10th of July, the Brothers celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Br. Adolph Pinto. Addie has been a wonderful blessing to the congregation both in Ministry and in Community. We wish him all God's blessing and many more active years in our Province. Included in this Newsletter is an account of the Jubilee celebration written by Placid and the official Jubilee address.

The Goa community is very happy that to welcome Sean Viegas into our community. He will be teaching in Regina Mundi school. He is at present in Umbir attending a Management Training program. Sebastian left for Umbir on the 30th to attend a Principal's meeting.

On the 5th of July, the Indian church commemorated the 1st death anniversary of Fr. Stan Swamy. The 85-year-old priest had died under judicial custody on July 5th, 2021, after his arrest in a controversial case alleging his connection with left-wing Maoist rebels in 2020. He was denied bail and medical services by the courts despite his serious illnesses, including Parkinson's disease, causing deterioration of his health. In Ranchi, where he lived for over three decades and in Virgalur, his native village in southern Tamil Nadu state, local communities brought out a rally to mark his death anniversary and erected a pillar in his memory declaring July 5 as "Father Stan Swamy Day."

On the 31st of July, Barney White, who was in community in India for many years celebrated his Platinum Jubilee. Barney was a very hard working Brother with a special concern for the materially poor. He was also at one time the Novice Master of the Indian Province. The Indian Province is very grateful to Barney for his many years of dedicated service.

Last week we received the sad news that Jerome Manuel's sister-Lima passed away very suddenly. Our heartfelt condolences to Jerome, and all his brothers and sister and their families.

We have been very happy to have Senan D'Souza staying with us during this month. Senan has been sorting out the property matters of his family.

Yours fraternally.

Mark



THE JOY OF NOT COUNTING

Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) is a shining example of someone who “practiced the better.” Instead of relying on judgment and criticism, Francis understood the power of simply living a better way:

God gave St. Francis to history in the pivotal period when Western civilization began to move into rationality, functionality, consumerism, and perpetual war. Francis was himself a soldier, and the son of a cloth merchant; he came from the culture he critiqued, and he challenged these emerging systems at the beginning of their now eight centuries of world dominance. Rather than fighting the systems directly and risk becoming their mirror image, Francis just did things differently. He is the inspiration for this core principle of the Center for Action and Contemplation: *The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better.*

As theologian Adolf Holl (1930–2020) observed, Francis was born as people started measuring time by clocks instead of church bells. When Christian leaders started counting, Francis stopped counting. He moved from the common economy of merit to the wondrous economy of grace, where God does not do any counting, but only gives unreservedly.

As Europe began to centralize and organize everything at high levels of control, Francis said, like a divine trickster, “Who cares?!” When Roman Catholicism under Pope Innocent III (1160/61–1216) reached heights of papal and worldly power, Francis answered, “There is another way that is much better!” When we began a style of production and consumption that would eventually ravage planet Earth, he decided to love Mother Earth and live simply and barefoot upon her. And Francis did it all with a “perfect joy” that comes from letting go of the ego.

Francis didn’t bother questioning Church doctrines and dogmas. He just took the imitation of Christ seriously and tried to live the way that Jesus lived. In *The Legend of Perugia*, one of the earliest accounts about Francis, he reminds the first friars that they only know as much as they do. His emphasis on action, practice, and lifestyle was foundational and revolutionary for its time and is at the root of Franciscan alternative orthodoxy. Francis and Clare fell in love with the humanity and humility of Jesus. For them, Jesus was someone actually to imitate and not just to worship as divine.

The early Franciscan friars and Poor Clares wanted to be *gospel practitioners* instead of merely “word police,” “inspectors,” or “museum curators” as Pope Francis calls some clergy. Both Francis and Clare offered their rules as a *forma vitae*, or form of



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life. They saw orthopraxy (correct practice) as a necessary parallel, and maybe even precedent, to verbal orthodoxy (correct teaching). History has shown that many Christians never get to the practical implications of their beliefs. “Why aren’t you *doing* what you say you believe?” the prophet invariably asks.

Center for Action and Contemplation

ADDIE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE



10 July, 2022 was an auspicious day for the Province – 50 years ago on this day Addie joined the Christian Brothers after having worked in the Private Sector for a few years. 22 Brothers from different parts of the Province congregated in St. Joseph’s Bowbazar to celebrate the occasion. We were joined by the Archbishop of Kolkata, Bishop Thomas D’Souza and the parish priest Fr. Ambrose. It was appropriate that we came together to begin Addie’s Golden Jubilee celebrations with the celebration of the Eucharist. Those of us who know Addie, would agree, that he is always faithful to the Eucharist, which gives him the wisdom, strength and energy to carry out God’s will for him as a Christian Brother.

The decoration in the Chapel was apt. Symbolizing that the altar is the source and the earthenware pot (...in earthen vessels wealth untold) is the conduit through which the graces flow and, Blessed Edmund Rice is a significant part in the process.

The Eucharist was celebrated with enthusiasm, with an all Brothers choir, bringing back memories of former times. At the offertory, the Brothers joined the Jubilarian in renewing their vows.





Later, we all assembled in the Community room, which was aesthetically pleasing. The Jubilee address was then read by Len Noronha. Len had the liberty to add a few more snippets as he went along, since he was the scribe of the address.

A short power point was presented recalling memories of yesteryears.

Addie in his response evoked some emotions as he brought to mind as to how he joined the Christian Brothers, instead of his brother. He has no regrets. He went on to express how God has been faithful to him all along the journey until this day. Among many of his ministries in the Province locally and overseas, the one he treasures most is

his time in Mount Sion, Waterford, which gave him renewed energy.

The Bow bazaar community treated us to a wonderful gaudeamus and dinner.

We wish to thank the Bow Bazaar community of doing a tremendous job. They were great with the hospitality. They went out of their way to make the celebrations meaningful.

The following day, the Staff of St. Joseph's and St. George's got the opportunity to give you an idea about their appreciation of Addie, as he leads them in their present ministry.

Ad multos annos.

Placid Henriques

Golden Jubilee Address

Brothers, We are here to celebrate because Addie joined us fifty years ago, on the 10th of July, 1972. But his call did not begin there. Addie was being prepared all through the 23 years that he had lived until then.

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As Edmund Rice had been, Addie, too, was born into a family where he saw the difficulties that real people had to go through; and how these real people responded in faith.

Addie's mother's students, in Bandra, even today, will tell you how exacting she was in the classroom. She knew what these children would have to face in the real world, and she would stay with them all the way, inviting them to focus, difficult though it may be, on what would get them ahead, what would open doors that were traditionally closed. Today, their faces glow as they describe the influence she had on them.

Another thing she was known for: We are talking about just a few years after Independence. Many people employed domestic workers. It was very rare in those days for an employer of domestic workers to see them through their education, to treat them as their own children.

Dorothy Pinto was one such employer. She accompanied these people all the way to the highest level of education where they could shine: She even saw them happily married.

This is what Addie brought from his family background: Those of us who have lived with Addie can bear testimony to his determined efforts to see the underprivileged find their way to a better life.

In the classroom, that meant: teach them, and teach them, and teach them. And, while it is hard, relentless work, for them and for him, they know that it is for their own good. Some of them recognize





it and respond with gratitude, but even if they don't, Addie will remain behind them.

Edmund Rice must have been such a man. He, too, left others way behind, shaking their heads. Edmund was also refined in the school of tragedy; and he grasped it, and accepted the call to go forward, in faith.

When Addie left home to join the Christian Brothers, he was certain that his mother was secure with his brother Ashley to take care of family needs. It wasn't even two years later that the family had to face the terrible shock of losing Ashley. Addie's decision to join the Brothers now became a renewed decision to stay with us. That was a decision made by him and his mother, a decision made in faith, a leap into the unknown.

Today, practically every member of the Edmund Rice Network, all over the world, knows about the Christian Brother from India who represented the Congregation in Ireland talking about the Founder with the deep conviction of one who has not just studied the life of the Founder, but absorbed the life, the trials, the triumphs, that made up the spirituality of Edmund Rice. Because Addie is one who has practically made a habit of leaping into the unknown.

When the Christian Brothers made their first entry into Bombay, in 1968, to a school with no reputation, Addie was in a school in Guirim, in Goa, where the 600 boarders were organized into a School Parliament, and Addie had been elected as the President. Needless to say, he was held in high esteem, there.

Addie's mother took her first leap into the unknown. She asked for admission for Addie in Dadar. It was Brothers like deBritto Curran that inspired him to join us, yes, fifty years ago. Is it surprising, then, that Addie has consistently put his hand up when somebody was needed to step into an unknown land ?

Among those missions was the mist-shrouded village of Mawjrong, followed by the equally nebulous situation in Goethals, Kurseong, where his mission was to bring coherence to a school where an attempt with a lay Principal had led to some difficult situations.

In our more established institutions, he brought his own brand of firm management tempered with a deep concern for every person.

When he spoke of Edmund Rice in all these places, people found it easy to conjure up an image of a man who was driven to do things that, even today, are mind-boggling. They could see Edmund in him



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Of course, when he took over as Principal of the College in St. Edmund's, many would have remembered not only his academic achievements, but also his fearsome reputation on the track when he led the athletics team of the College to glory against competition from all the other colleges.

They remembered, too, that Addie had been the first to have the Athletics Meet in the School in the morning, instead of the traditional afternoon sports. (And many of those present on the occasion stoutly refute the rumour that the final events of the day were completed by the light of Hurricane lamps)

But, as Principal of the College, not only did he have to cope with the normal running of classes and other activities and working with teaching staff, but he had to deal, too, with a political situation not related to College issues but which threatened to derail the educational processes set in place so carefully for the benefits of the students. It was not his fearsome reputation that was remembered, for ever after as people recounted the events of those days. It was, instead, the wonder that a man of his strength, provoked as he was, could respond with integrity.

In recent years, it has not been his fearsome reputation but his endearing qualities that have been called upon, especially when he encountered the displaced children in Mawlamyine, many of whom had experienced horrors we could only imagine: children, it is true, who needed to be lifted out of their depressing circumstances, and for whom educational achievement would open doors to a relatively normal life.

Yes, he was there, till "all hours" as we say, to teach, and teach, and teach...But how was one to look beyond these requirements, and see that what they needed, first of all, was someone who loved them, someone who could convince them, all over again, that they were important, valuable, loveable

We believe that, at these times, you took a long hard look at yourself, Addie, the people that had taught you in words, the people that had taught you by the inspiration of their example, and the events through which your loving Father has shaped you - to get to the depths of who you have been, and to find new resources there to reach out in love in yet another way.

A Jubilee is just such a call. In the book of Leviticus, it is an invitation to those who have plenty, to look around and recognize those who haven't. We are only too well aware that hearing yourself praised will undoubtedly lead to some embarrassment (and we promise not to do it too often at least, until the Diamond ...)

We have seen the way you live a life filled with gratitude ; we have seen you re-assess yourself, over and over again, and focus on the bigger picture, which, very often, means those who are most in need.

You have done that in many situations, too, where a Brother in community was in need, and you often





spent all night with him after a punishing day's work.

Wherever you went, it wasn't only the flowers in the garden that bloomed in a very special way. We appreciate you, Addie, for the work you have done, for the times you "put up your hand" when there were difficult jobs to be done. We appreciate your generosity in giving of your best, and more, sometimes to the detriment of your health.

But today we want to express our appreciation, besides, for the person you have been, for the gentleness that you try to hide beneath your efficient exterior. (We did NOT mention your soft, gentle voice)

We thank you for your evident yearning for community, not only the fun you bring, but your single-minded determination to bring a worthwhile purpose to our life in community.

We hesitate to even attempt to describe your spirituality, but if it is by their fruits that we are to know them, then, those who have been privileged to live with you would make bold to describe you as .. a brother. And we know, **that** is what you've striven to be for 50 years.

Now and then you have allowed us a glimpse into what drives you, the inner force that keeps you going when lesser mortals have given up.

Keep being grateful for who you are, Addie. We are grateful for who you have been for us. Continue to be aware, as you have been, of the Lord's hand as He guides you - as He has always guided you.

We are proud to know you as our Brother

Len Noronha

Emmaus: an Encounter with the Stranger

I'm sure much has changed here in Emmaus in the past month but being focused on teaching English as a foreign language means a lot passes me by unnoticed.

More and more adults are finding work throughout County Dublin. People are working in hotels as receptionists, security, porters, assistant chefs, and cleaners. Others are working as drivers or in factory settings packing orders or in warehouses stacking shelves and driving forklifts.



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The Centre manager Marie Anna welcoming the residents and officials.

Many are still learning English in Emmaus, but others have gone into the city to the established English language colleges. This of course means that some are paying for the courses that they are doing. Others are studying in local libraries under the control of Fingal County Council. What all want is to learn sufficient English as quickly as possible so as to find work and earn a living. There is a good work ethic among these people.

I teach a mixed group of people. Lately, due to holidays I've attracted three teenage boys to one of my classes. They have basic English, but



all want to improve their English before returning to school in early September.

Residents at a concert in the Emmaus Centre.

I also teach some elderly women who are working very hard to learn English. It is interesting to be with them and to see how determined they are to learn vocabularies and to use the words in sentences. Some are really struggling but I really admire their commitment to be able to use English. I

love meeting these women in the corridor as they will use whatever words they have to greet me and to try and hold a conversation with me. They struggle to find the words and to make themselves understood. Sometimes the effort is too much for them and they throw their hands in the air and laugh at their feeble efforts. I keep praising them for their efforts.

Another angle at the concert

All the children are on holiday now but have little to do. Yet they manage to go for a cycle or a walk in the grounds or sit under a tree and make daisy chains. Some adults take their children to the seaside

which is only fifteen minutes away by bus. The seaside offers the children a wonderful opportunity to play on the sand and to go for a swim. Donabate beach is very safe as it is flat and one has to travel a good thirty to fifty yards to get into deeper water for an adult to have a comfortable swim in. This means that the children are very safe in the shallow water especially with adults and lifeguards close by.





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Some of the teenager boys have been able to join soccer clubs and are now part of summer camps in football. The older teenage girls are better able to entertain themselves and arrange to go to Swords together for a walk or go window shopping. A few have jobs working with the catering company in Emmaus and for this they get a weekly wage. Some of the teenage boys want to work but sadly because they are younger than 16 years of age they are not allowed to work in any official capacity. I'm looking for a way to find odd jobs around Emmaus for them. Of course, they want to be like their older female siblings who are earning money for the work they are doing. It pays to be imaginative when trying to keep teenagers entertained.

What I enjoy most about all the young people is their willingness to speak English when they meet me. Sometimes the young lads are waiting for me after class to test their English but also to see if I have found them work.

While a conversation can start with some small issue it nearly always comes around to speaking about their lives back in Ukraine. Because of smart phone these teenagers are well informed about events back home naming the town or cities that have suffered heavy bombing. They show me photos of bombed out building and I can see the sadness in their faces when they are speaking of such things. Often I ask myself to know which is the better thing to do, let them speak about what they see and feel or try to distract them away from the horrors of war. For now, I feel there is a time for both and I have to judge each moment when it comes and act accordingly.

To date Ireland has taken in forty six thousand Ukrainian Refugees or visitors as I like to call them. Sadly, our visitors are coming in faster than we have suitable places to put them. Now the Emmaus Centre has received a new request to take in extra Ukrainians. Certainly, we still have many empty lecture rooms, and these empty spaces can accommodate up to fifty beds and more if we wish but we don't have common showers which would be essential along with sufficient toilets which thankfully we have. Again, is it a question of balance between keeping the place as it is and comfortable for the 104 residents that we presently have or accommodate another fifty using up the empty space with proper showers and clothes washing facilities. I feel both are possible with a well worked out management structure. Cool heads will find a way forward.

Declan Power & John Ledwidge





NOVITIATE NEWS

“The beauty of life is not the destination, but the journey.”

Having spent a month and half in the J.T Cluster, Dilip and Sanjoy, the two novices assembled in Shillong at the end of June, after an exceptional immersion in the Patharlyndan, Umtyrkhang and in Wahrinong too. Hopefully, our experiences there, will help us absorb more easily, what we learn here in the 2nd year. We are extremely grateful to the PLT, to Br. Sunil Britto, and to our Novice Master, for organizing it.

On the 30th of June we- the novices along with the new postulants ANJULUS, BILLIAM, ROMANUS AND WANLAMBOK made our journey from SHILLONG to Bhopal via Kolkata.

We arrived in KOLKATA the next morning, and headed for BOW BAZAR, getting a bit lost. However, we managed to find our way with the help; of a few phone calls. It was delightful to meet the brothers in the community. We are grateful to the brothers for their hospitality.

As we had the whole day in that city, we planned to go to do some shopping. It was memorable for some of us, as it was the first time visiting the metropolis. Travelling by Metro, gazing at the tall buildings, and mixing with the huge crowds was an amazing experience for us.

In the meantime, DILIP (A NOVICE) discovered that one of his cousin sisters, a nun in Loreto, was staying in the provincial house of the city. So, we decided to visit her after completing all our shopping. The sisters were elated to see the young brothers, so full of passion to follow the foot step of Jesus through our founder Edmund Rice. The Sisters also quite gleefully, accompanied the brothers to a number of nearby places.

On the 2nd evening we boarded our train for Bhopal. We booked an Uber and headed to the station after lunch. Our train was on time, and we thank God for a hassle-free journey.

On the 3rd night, we arrived in Bhopal. Br Elton picked us up, driving us safely to Simran. As a precaution, we all had to maintain social distancing for three days. We were also glad to welcome and meet Br Gabes.

As the days passed, we settled down before catching up with the existing schedule of the house. We, the novices, spent some time guiding the postulants and introducing them to the various activities of the house. We were truly excited and looking forward to exploring the new course.



The second week of the month was quite energizing and lively because, we were involved in paddy plantation in the backyard of our residence. It was so much fun bringing in our own ideas of during





the entire process of rice-cultivation.

We were delighted to get back in touch with people around us so, after a long break. After Sunday mass, we met all our friends and parishioners.

These Sundays, we have responded positively to the PP's invitation to take catechism classes for the primary children. We do this as our personal ministry.



On the 14th, the postulants had their first villa day to Kerwa Dam forest on their own, and then, the following week, we all went together on

another adventurous cycle ride.

Sadly, after a fortnight's stay, Anjlus, one of the postulants, decided to leave, feeling called to pursue his degree, before possibly returning to the Postulancy. We wish him the very best.

On the 23rd, we enjoyed the Investiture Ceremony in the parish school hall. It was a wonderful spectacle of colour, movement and song. We concluded the month with a sumptuous dinner in Campion's School to celebrate St Ignatius' feast.

As we say learning is eternal but, yearning is mortal. So, let us continue praying for each other, so that we may experience the eternity our Lord Jesus Christ promised, through our founder blessed Edmund Rice and his Ministry.

Thank you.

Sanjoy Lugin

VOCATION PROMOTERS REPORT

In the month of July, as per our Schedule, Jayanti and I went to our established schools on Vocation Promotion work. We stayed in each school community for five days to a week. We interacted with the senior catholic students by taking sessions; we hung around before school, during the break time and after school hours. We met students who had questions to ask on career, vocation and life. We interacted with the students of St. Edmund's School (1 July), St. Edmund's Higher Secondary School (4-5 July), St. Augustine' School (13-16 July), Regina Mundi School (18-23 July), St. Mary's School Mount Abu (25-30 July) and St. John's School (1-6 August). In St. Columba's School we will meet the Christian Students for the second time as a follow-up program from 10-



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13 August. All these interactions were effective and many students have shown interest to contact us in the future. The following table will give you a clear picture of our interaction with the students.

In Regina Mundi School there were boys and girls; 69 out of 95 were boys.

YES* ARE THE NUMBER OF BOYS WHO WANT TO KEEP CONTACT IN THE FUTURE.

S.N.	SCHOOLS	CL VIII	CL IX	CL X	CL XI	CL XII	BOYS	YES*
1	SES, Shillong	-----	19	25	-----	-----	44	22
2	SEHSS, Shillong	-----	-----	-----	91	14	105	56
3	SAS, Vasai	-----	66	50	-----	-----	116	83
4	RMS, Chicalim	-----	44	51	-----	-----	69	26
5	SMS, Mt. Abu	7	7	4	-----	-----	18	14
6	IJC, Mohali	CL6/2	CL7/3	CL8/2	CL9/1	CL10/ 1	09	09
7	SJS, Chandigarh	CL6/7	CL7/9	CL8/10	CL9/4	11	41	13
8	SCS, New Delhi	F	O	L	L	O	W	UP
9	SJC, Nainital	CL 5/1	CL 6/4	CL 7/5	CL8/2	CL9/3	CL 12/1	15

We got full support from the Principal, the CL, and the brothers from the communities and the teachers from the schools. Thank you Brothers for your prayerful support and wishes to us while we were busy with vocation promotion work in our established schools. May God continue to bless our efforts and may we continue to pray for more vocations to our congregation and religious life.





MR. CLIFFORD DRAGWIDGE

'CLIFFY SIR' died on the 11th of July after a long illness. He remained cheerful till the end.

He was a much loved teacher both in St. Vincent's, Asansol and in St. Mary's, Mt. Abu. We pray for his family.



POETRY SECTION

NOW DIVERSITY IS THIS

What is it makes you not me, me you?

Me not you, you me?

Like species, size, gender, age, land:

Not much but everything:

Like family, locale, fit, style,

Like relationships, gifts, lack of,

And tongues and hands and voice.

Remembering and forgetting

Skin and eyes and shade and shape

And lusts and longings and leanings and loathings

And tones and pitch and volume and measure

And certainties and doubts and certainties and hesitancies,

And bodies thus and bodies thus

And souls and spirits and loves and longings.

Then your cosmos misses

Me to you thens to nows who to whom,

Choice to worn know to guess,

Us to all of them. Besides

How we do thing here, you there,

Before after and while and all that

In sound or silence or beat or chord.

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Not to mention the brimless,
 The nevers and alwayses,
 The infinites and invisibles,
 And all the boundless everwheres,
 The innumerable ecstasies plus and minus
 Wrapped in everlasting nows,
 A deity suffusing.

At last then or at least for now:
 Me and you and here and there
 Now and then and always and never
 Like and unlike the same and diverse
 Stinging and forgiving and disliking and loving
 Doing and undoing and hindering and helping
 And longing to be you and me and one.

Brendan July 2022



**JTI CLUSTER BULLETIN
 August 2022**



We are approaching 75 years of freedom from British rule, but are we approaching real freedom?





In many ways it is like we are just in a bigger cage giving us a mirage of independence.

An independent India I hope for is,

when our Indianness is defined by citizenship, and not separated by the bigoted fences of religion, ethnicity or caste.

Where critical legislations are approved by consultation and not by decree, and crucial stakeholders are part of pre-legislative conversation.

Where before we expend public money on overhauling a building for parliament, we first reinstate the eroded ethos of parliamentary democracy.

Where an equitable economy overpowers the senseless rich-poor divide, and green energy over fossil fuels.

Into that heaven of freedom, my God, let my country awake.

UMTYRKHANG

After two weeks of holidays post their mid-term exams children are back in school in the three villages of Pamlatar, Mawlaho and Umtyrkhang. Brothers continue with their commitment to teaching in the three schools. The assistance with teaching the children in the afternoons and evenings is also slowly picking up.

During the mid-term break the Brothers organised a one day retreat on 9th July for the youth by a Capuchin Priest. Prior to that the Brothers had a few meetings with the youth leaders of the four villages to plan activities for the celebration of Edmund's death anniversary as well as other programs for the year.

Unfortunately, the rearing of Vanaraja Breed of chickens has been a disappointment with a majority of chickens dying. There have been some hard learnt lessons through this initiative.

With no electricity for more than a month now the people of Umtyrkhang and Mawlaho have had to endure a lot hardships in addition to the sicknesses among many youths, children and adults. Many of them turn to us for prayers as no health facilities available close by and so visiting families has been an important aspect of Brothers lives here.

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Jerry starting the school day in Mawlaho with the morning assembly



The youth retreat organised by the Brothers in Umyrkhang.

PATHARLYNDAN

The students of the local Lower Primary school where the Brothers are teaching had their midterm examinations. The results from the exams show that the students are still struggling with their studies and they need plenty of remedial teaching.

Theo had reached the four candidates (Donald, Blesstar, Tenborlang and Kitboklang) to St. Edmund's to join the Brothers. They will be in the English course candidates group. This is an encouraging sign for our presence and is due to the rapport created by the Brothers past and

present with the people of the local area. We also visited Krang, the village of Wanlambok Mawlong who was in Patharlyndan for a month long community experience prior to joining the pre-novitiate.



The four candidates from Patharlyndan with their families and formators



The Computer Literacy project is successfully initiated in Patharlyndan





Three computers were bought and set up for the Computer Literacy program through the help of Stelljes Julius. This program was initiated with the idea to teach computer skills to our village students as well as dropped out youth. The computer classes have begun and presently there are 20 students who are attending it. The numbers will increase as it picks up slowly.

The work on the Cooperative societies is progressing well. Two Cooperatives (the Dairy cooperative and the Multipurpose cooperative) are registered and in the process of setting up their bank accounts. The Brothers have also been closely monitoring the two families who are rearing the cows that were earlier part of our Cow Project.

ERPAKON

On the 4th and 5th July, we had our Cluster days. We shared with each other about our inner lives. We then shared with each other how individually we were finding our work and others from the group had the opportunity to affirm and respond. We had a light evening with a movie and barbeque.

The second day we had an Open session where we had the space to say anything about how we were working as a Cluster. We had good robust sharings done in an open listening climate. Later in the afternoon, we went out for an outing to Nongkylllem Wildlife Sanctuary.

Lots of outdoor activities happening in our campus. We dug a new well near the stream as we were facing water shortage in the winter. The greenhouse for vegetable beds is also ready. Jockey and Bipin have been instrumental in monitoring the progress of these activities. Bipin has been teaching in St John's Secondary school from the new semester that began in mid-July.

We continue with our Pastoral visits to the two mission communities. Sunil went to Patharlyndan in the third week of June and Bipin went to Umtyrkhang in the first week of July. Lots of ministry activities are happening in both places and the visits are always a refreshing experience. Samuel Nonglait, our Project Coordinator goes every month to the two mission communities for a week. He has been interacting with the village headman and his village council, the health workers and teachers to do a baseline of various socio-economic parameters in the local village.

Sunil Britto



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