

# Latin American Newsletter



## Christian Brothers Latin American Region.

N°. 60– Year 6 – October / November 2009

*We met as a team last weekend in Cochabamba, Bolivia, reflecting on the region and took the necessary decisions for another year of service to building up the Kingdom of God. We encourage our writers to continue to contribute, only one more edition this year. We ask God to bless all the apostolic activities in this final part of the year.*

*Heartfelt greetings,  
John, Paul and Kevin.*

## Argentina

### Cardinal Newman Community – Buenos Aires:

Fr. Tony Casey, an Irish diocesan priest working for three years in Lima, called, as did Fergus Keegan, a former brother who is visiting Argentina. Denise Jeffers, also from Ireland, visited with us on her way to Misiones.

### Cardinal Newman School– Bs. As.

The community in Las Flores, Lima, received two separate groups of senior pupils and past pupils with the idea of introducing them to the harsh reality of the country and to maybe move them to act in favour of the marginalized. Living in the community was a special aspect of the visit.

On Monday night, members of the choir who had visited Ireland shared their stories and experience with the senior pupils who had also visited several schools and met Irish pupils.

“Christmas Treasure”, a very important commercial space has been held and while the adults shopped, the children had the opportunity to play games. The proceeds go to finance the works of solidarity undertaken in the school.

Third grade pupils made their First Confession.

The group motivating humanity studies invited Rabbi Sergio Bergman to talk on “Being an active citizen”, which proved to be very ecumenical, had a good perspective on history and focused on what unites us more than anything else. Over 200 attended. Both primary and secondary had their end of term Mass and prize giving.

## Bolivia

### Cochabamba: Centre

It all seems to be happening here these days, gatherings of all kinds. Renato and Alberto made their retreat with the three other second year novices: Williams, Rafael, and Luis Enrique, in Lima, Peru. Saúl made his retreat for third profession here.

All Souls Day was celebrated by putting food on a table for them on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Favorite foods liked by the dead are placed on a table, in this case the street children had a list of over 60 children and family who had died in the streets this year. John and Eddie accompanied a group of 24 of these young people for a day out, which meant a day free of glue sniffing – zero tolerance– very enjoyable with a pool, soccer, volley and sauna, not to mention plenty of food – they had two steaks each for lunch!!!

It is certainly an exciting time to be living in Bolivia when a new constitution is to be put into practice. A joint effort is being made by all those who work with children over the last few weeks to have joint recommendations on behalf of civil society for the new laws to govern the political setup of autonomous departments.

Alberto was beaten up on Sunday night and relieved of his wallet, while Saúl had his wallet taken also, but this time the ID cards were found and returned to him. The regional leadership team met here for their spring session, which included planning for next year.

Renato defended his project on Sat. in great style and with passion on the need for various groups in society to assume their responsibility for young children who work in the streets. Needless to say, he was in the honours group! Alberto has taken part in a leadership course with Maryknoll and received his diploma on Friday.

Friday was something very special; some thirty friends joined the community for the blessing of our new house. An Andean rite was used by Sr. Janet, helped by John Casey . The koá fire was the centre piece outside the front door and the principal rooms were visited and suitable prayers said.

### Cochabamba: Villa Pagador

Peter Dowling, a brother visiting from Australia, had the opportunity to get to know “Cochabamba City”. He visited our Day Centre for shoe shine boys and the primary school in Villa Pagador. Classes have finished for this year since Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Xave celebrated his birthday as you can see.



“Happy Birthday”, Xavier!

### Paraguay

#### Novitiate —Asunción

A group of young religious met here in our house to plan further contacts with juveniles detained in Itaguá detention center. They had told the story of their previous visits to the assembled 200 or so young

religious in Asunción and then they joined us for lunch (see photo ).



The aspirants, Gabino and Nimio juveniles who have abandoned their studies and had a radio program on the penitentiary system where they were joined by Michael O’Loingsigh. They also met the President of the country, Fernando Lugo, when he visited the Bañado neighborhood. The same Michael was at the launch of a new book on “Madame Lynch” and he published an obituary of his old friend and companion in the jail ministry, Padre Juan Antonio de la Vega, S.J. who went to his reward recently. Jack, Elser and Nimio were involved in the First Communions and Confirmation celebrated recently. The Edmund Rice Summer Camp is on the agenda these days and also a program to help parents who have problems with their children.

### Peru

#### Canto Grande - Lima:

Luis Enrique took the initiative to help the “troublesome kids” with a special program and now it has produced results as most of these children have passed to a new class and their conduct is much more acceptable.

Another departure has been holding talent competitions during the recreation breaks. One consisted in groups of pupils forming a machine with their bodies; another contest was singing. Now the winners will have a grand finale this week. Several teachers and brothers have joined in the fun! During the afternoon break, table tennis is the big attraction with the girls on one side and the boys on the other, and the game consists of five points!

Four present pupils and two past pupils attended the vocation weekend in Monsefú; they have an invitation to visit the community and may take part in the summer mission. The senior pupils had a weekend campout in Canta, four hours north of Lima.

Magdalena, our cook for the last 15 years, is about to retire at the end of the month (28th) as she wants to have more time with her young children and grandchildren. Should anyone want to email her, Diego will accept messages to pass on to her at: [j\\_glos50@hotmail.com](mailto:j_glos50@hotmail.com).



The Argentines with the house they built.

### Las Flores – Lima:

Retreats have been made: Rafael with Kevin Bernard; Ever, Elmer and Carlos with Miguel Braulio Córdova. Two groups of young people from the Brothers' school in Buenos Aires stayed a week each and visited various social works with Paul Keohane.



Paul and friends from Bs.As.

Twenty-seven young men took part in the vocation weekend in Monsefú: 13 from the jungle, 12 from Lima, one from Piura and one from Chimbote. Ever Cieza and his team: Vincent, Miguel, Carlos, Elmer, Hugo and John Prior put in a lot of work and we offer thanks to one and all for the collaboration.

### Chimbote – Perú:

Vicente and Hugo travelled to Monsefú for the vocation week end as did alumnus Diego Torres (2007), who studies in the University of Trujillo.

Late October and early November were full of activities: Parents' Olympics, Mundo Match (recreational games) for parents and students, Parents Dance and Night of Stars (talent show). Entrance exams for new students to the high school are taking place with 340 applying for only 165 places.

On the feast of St. Martin de Porres, a small provisional chapel was opened on the site of what will someday be our new house.

### Technical Centre

The Principal, Fabián Torres and Br. Rich Glatz were present in an educational fair where they presented the Tech School's benefits to about 200 fishermen who are participating in a mixed government/private effort to retrain about 2000 fishermen in the Chimbote area who are being laid off due to a fleet reduction to conserve fish stocks in this part of the Pacific Ocean.

Those of you who were interested in our campaign to promote women in the technical fields (spotlighted in last month's newsletter) will be a bit sad to hear that even with all the TV and radio interviews that Rich and Fabián did (see photo next page) and the offer of half scholarships, no women signed up for courses. We'll keep trying next year.



Fabián and Richard on local TV in Chimbote

## Moyobamba - Peru

Many of the young men who attended the vocation weekend in Monsefú in October spoke very well of the experience and are prepared to take part in the Mission in January, 2010.

John Prior went to Lima for a checkup as his left arm has been very weak and he is losing his appetite. On his way back, only 20 minutes out of Moyobamba, the bus swerved to avoid a child on a bicycle and crashed. John suffered a blow to the mouth and had internal bleeding. He was taken by taxi to hospital where he was well looked after in an intensive care unit. He returned to his doctor in Lima and on Nov. 21 was interned in the Stella Maris Clinic for tests.

## Birthdays

Saúl Velásquez	14 – November
Ever Cieza	5 – December
Eddie McArdle	10 – December

## Important dates

Arrival of the Brothers in Latin America (Bs.As.)	17 – November 1947.
Presentation of BVM	21 - November .