

Latin American Newsletter

Monthly Bulletin from the Latin American Region
of the Congregation Christian Brothers

No. 69 – Year 7 – December, 2010



From our Leaders:

We wish all our readers a very holy and merry Christmas and a blessed and prosperous New Year.

Juan, Pablo y Kevin

Communities – Asunción, Paraguay

Edison López, a young man from Bañado Tacumbú who works with Brother Chuck Fitzsimmons in clean-up projects, attended a marathon session of the program, “A Roof For My Country,” in which he helped build four houses for the poor in nine days.



Chuck coordinated a mass at San Miguel chapel which remembered the ten youths who have been slain by violence in the Bañado in the last four years. Brother Juancito Casey publishes the well regarded parish bulletin, “Marandú,” and coordinates several small groups of parishioners who prepare for Christmas together in their homes. Brother Michael Ó Loingsigh enjoys a few days of reduced activity as the young aspirants in his care returned home for Christmas. Michael has moved from the town of Itauguá back into the novitiate house in Asunción.

La Esperanza Community– Chimbote, Perú

Greetings from the Peruvian capital of the fishing and steel industry! Summer is rapidly approaching and the sun is getting warmer every day, although the meteorologists predict that the Niña cold water current which is bathing our Pacific coast and hurting the local fishing industry, will keep temperatures a bit cooler than normal. Advent is upon us and Christmas brings us the Lord who is the light which illuminates our lives.

Br. Alberto Llanos directed a morning of reflection for two young men – Diego Torres and Jorge Tavera—interested in a vocation to religious life. They travelled from Trujillo for the day and all the

Brothers shared their testimonies on their own religious life experience. In late November the community celebrated a retreat/getaway in the seaside town of Huanchaco. Br. Vincent Peragine lead the retreat and many meditations were performed on the beach.

Alberto and the Religious Ed. Teachers decorated the school for the Advent and Christmas seasons (our school year ends Dec. 21) and on Nov. 27 he directed an afternoon retreat for a group of students from 5th year of secondary who were volunteers in a tutoring program in the basic courses for 1st yr. students. We celebrated the US holiday of Thanksgiving and invited the Principals and Vice Principals of both high and technical schools and their wives.

Br. Paul Keohane paid us a short visit in the first week of December, and he accompanied Vincent to Monsefú to meet all the Edmund Rice Associates. Later he attended the annual vows ceremony of Alberto, along with some faculty and members of his family.

Vincent continues with his English as a Second Language classes in the University of San Pedro and in the school and has also set up a very nice manger scene in the school garden. Br. Hugo Cáceres is into his final activities with the reading program and his Bible class in the Master’s program at Los Ángeles Catholic University.

The 2010 graduating class, named after St. Juan Macías, celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving with their families on Dec. 10 in the cathedral. On Monday, Dec. 13, the students of the Our Lady of Guadalupe graduation class (2013) had a celebration and paraliturgy in the school chapel.



Orlando, the artist, is finishing the last of the 13 murals with the theme Two Ports in Distant Seas Join Hands: Chimbote—Waterford. It is suspected to be the longest (50 yards) mural dedicated to Edmund Rice and the Congregation in the Americas, if not the entire world. Br. Rich Glatz has been highlighting pictures of different parts of the mural in each monthly edition of this newsletter. The last three panels represent the three main geographical

regions of Peru: highlands, coast and jungle. It is really beautiful and is a required stop on the grand tour of the school (see the photos at the end of the newsletter).

On Sunday, Dec. 12, Rich, Alberto and Hugo participated in a friendly outing to the Andean foothills town of Jimbe with 25 nuns from the Chimbote chapter of the Religious Conference. There were elections for the new executive board and each of the Brothers was nominated for a position; two were smart enough to decline, but Rich got elected Treasurer.

MUNDO MEJOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The students all returned after two weeks of preprofessional practices carried out in workshops and factories in and around Chimbote. Br. Rich Glatz did a survey and found that 95% of the students felt either well prepared or very well prepared for the work that they were entrusted to do in the private workshops.

Thanks to some beautiful artwork donated by the students in the high school, the CETPRO is nicely decorated for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Rich and Prof. Herrera set up an interesting nativity scene in the main patio where it can be seen by students and visitors.

The Auto Mechanics students from the third cycle garnered the “fulbito” (small court, 6-man soccer) championship which ended in early December.

Classes end for the summer vacation on Dec. 23.



The proud auto mechanics students show off the jerseys they won for being “fulbito” champs.

Community Once36* – Cochabamba, Bol.

Fraternal greetings from the heart of Bolivia to all our readers. Without further delay, we share our congratulations to the three Peruvian Brothers who have renewed their vows: Renato Llerena, Elser Llanos and Alberto Cumberas. The ceremony was carried out as part of our morning prayer. The next day, 9th December, the community was raising awareness in the public

market on the topic of child labor, not an easy task among poor people.



One of the principal news items in the press were the exchanges between the State and the Church. The debate was quite heated for a number of days. On the other hand birthday congratulations to Eddie McArdle for another year of commitment and dedication.

Providencia Community-Moyobamba, Peru

We are finishing up the year and also all our pastoral obligations in which we have worked in 2010. Brothers Saul Velasquez and Elmer Hurtado are ending their one-year assignment in charge of the aspirants’ formation program, the English tutoring in the residence hall of the Sisters’ high school, the Religios Ed. classes at the Catholic grammar school and their support at the orphanage. Both are very content and happy with the ministries which they have maintained during the year. Last Sunday they made their final visit to the village of El Afluente in Rioja province, three hours from Moyobamba, where the farewells were very emotional.

The aspirant, Joel Regalado, returned to his home on Dec. 12 for a vacation break. He also had several ministries along with the Brothers and taught a Confirmation group in the parish.

Br. John Prior, our community leader, continues with his ministries: visiting the prisoners in the Moyobamba jail, pastoral visits to two rural communities and making sure everything in the house is running smoothly. He is the only member not to have been changed to a new community for 2011, and therefore will be here all summer getting things ready for the new Brothers who will be moving in.



We have had a very nice experience preparing children from the neighborhood to receive the sacraments. On Dec. 4, some were baptized and received First Communion; next week a few of them will be confirmed, thus getting the three sacraments of initiation.



Brothers Saul and Elmer with the children they prepared for the sacraments of initiation.

Saul and Elmer will be leaving soon to have a vacation before returning to their university studies: Saul in Cochabamba, Bolivia and Elmer in Lima.

We wish all a Merry Christmas and may the Lord be born in your hearts.

Birthdays:

- December 17 Hubert Wall
- December 30 Jim Glos
- January 9 Eamon O'Donnell
- January 12 Vincent Peragine
- January 15 Tomás O'Connell
- January 18 Seán Hayes
- January 24 John Prior
- January 31 Paul Keohane
- February 2 Elmer Hurtado
- February 8 Richard Glatz
- February 10 Alberto Llanos
- February 22 Elser Llanos
- February 22 Luis Enrique Ayala
- March 11 Seán DiFiglia
- March 14 Chuck Fitzsimmons

Holidays and Holydays

- December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 25 Christmas

The final panels of the mural in honor of Bro. Edmund Rice

*"Two ports in distant seas join hands . . ."
Chimbote—Waterford*



Coast: dancing the *marinera* in Trujillo, with the famous "caballetes de totora" at far right (used for fishing at Huanchaco beach).



Mountains: A young couple dance the *hayno*.



Jungle: Dressed in native attire, two teenagers happily dance before a majestic sunset.



Here is a panoramic view of about half of the paintings done on the wall separating Mundo Mejor High School from the parish.



OUR WARMEST GREETINGS FOR A
HOLY AND MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS AND
BLESSED NEW YEAR

Until the next edition in
March of 2011.

