

Noticias Latinoamericanas

Monthly Bulletin of the Latin American Region
of the Christian Brothers

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We send greetings to all our readers in the Latin American Region. The year is well underway with the start of classes in schools and the pastoral activities of our communities. We await the visit of Brother David Gibson, a chance to know us better and improve the quality of our community life. We pray for our sick brothers, Elmer in Moyobamba, suffering a severe attack of dengue and Miguel, in Canto Grande that will operate this week. We ask that they present in their prayers. This week I celebrated the feast of St. Patrick and ask him to inspire us with his great delivery mission.

Juan, Pablo and Kevin

Hope Community– Chimbote – Perú:

COMMUNITY:

Brothers Vincent Peragine and Alberto Llanos participated in Monsefú Mission during the summer along with many brothers who stayed for varying periods of time and 18 young people who felt a calling to the Congregation.

Brother Hugo Cáceres gave a retreat to the Dominican Missionary Sisters in Ica (south of Lima) in Feb. and on the 18 another retreat to teachers of Religious Education.

At the level of the Diocese, Hugo is teaching a Bible course in the deanery of New Chimbote and is on the Directory of the Social Justice Commission.

Two School Boards have been created - one for each of the Mundo Mejor (Better World) institutions, its members are the brothers Paul, Sean and Hugo.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Vincent teaches English and coordinates all English as a Foreign Language teaching at school. Hugo joined the team of "School for Parents", supervises the Communication teachers

and coordinates the campaign to promote the reading of books and reading comprehension. He gave two mornings of reflection on emotional maturity in the high school and the CETPRO.

TECHNICAL CENTER

The summer months passed very quickly; the Director Fabian and Brother Rich Glatz tended to the office every day and the solitary maintenance man fixed up the premises.

Since March 1st, activity increased with the arrival of the teachers. There are only four tenured teachers and the remaining eight had to struggle to meet all the requirements demanded by the Ministry of Education to grant an annual contract.



We welcome the official Resolution from the Ministry authorizing us to give classes at the Intermediate Level --- permission issued to only the best technical centers. It meant a lot of extra work for teachers who had to write new curricula and learning sessions. Now each "module" or course is 350 hours over a three-month period (80 hours more than the Basic Level).

We look forward to a lot of new students entering the CETPRO through two government programs: FONCOPES—for fishermen

who resign from the fishing fleet and PROJoven—three months of technical training to increase youth employability in the marginalized areas.



We continue to promote the entry of women into technical careers by offering half-scholarships, but the harvest has not been very bountiful.

Br. Rich has written emails to many financial institutions seeking support to fund any of the four projects we have prepared, but the responses have been either silence or negative so far. It seems that the economic crisis has hit hard at all these institutions.

The Novitiate, Santa María de la Asunción, Paraguay.

The novitiate community sends warm greetings to all the members of the Edmund Rice Network.

To explain the daily schedule of all the Brothers would be a difficult task. Suffice it to say that the activities go from apostolic activity and classes, to duties around the house – all of which lead to growth as a Christian Brother.

Since the arrival of the novices: Adelfo, Alfredo and Amaximandro, they, in the company of Bro. Jack Casey, have been frequent visitors to the people who live in the poor barrio near the house, the “Bañado”.



Front Row: Amaximandro Llatas, Adelfo Arévalo, Alfredo Ignacio (novicios).

Back Row: Carlos Fitzsimmons, Cristhian Martínez (asp.), Kevin Bernard, Miguel Lynch, Teodoro Salinas (asp.), Juancito Casey.

This year there are five living at the novitiate: Jack Casey, Kevin Bernard and the three novices. Br. Carlos Fitzsimmons is currently enjoying a six-month sabbatical living in an apartment in Asunción, working on his art and keeping in contact with the people in the Bañado through his new undertaking, teaching English to adults.

Jack Casey is a frequent and much appreciated visitor to the Bañado, keeps the community informed as to what is going on with the people, and takes care of the small house that the Brothers own there. Kevin Bernard, as the novice

director, assures that the many details of community living are well planned and executed.

The “Three A’s” (Adelfo, Amaximandro, Alfredo) celebrated the entrance into the novitiate on the 28th of February in the presence of the Brothers and several invited guests. Since then, on the weekends the community members have taken turns cooking -- Great Food! On the weekend of March 12 – 14, the community had the first of its “desert days” (silent retreat days). Finally, on the 14th, Carlos celebrated his birthday in the presence of both of the Paraguayan communities in the house of the region’s newest community, in Itaipú.



Cardinal Newman School– Buenos Aires: Balcarce Mission

97 pupils and past pupils formed the Blessed Edmund Rice Mission group in the town of Balcarce from 28th January to 11th February. They were joined by Br. Paul Keohane, two priests, teachers, administration staff and members of the pastoral team. The object was to put a bit of new life into the parish. Homes were visited, events were organized for the children, Masses were celebrated, there were youth events and the old folks’ homes were visited. A wonderful spirit was evident in the team; the shared prayer was profound and the missionaries returned better prepared to start into a new year.

The diocese of San Isidro held a seminar for over 250 teachers to define the role of the Christian teacher. Alberto Oliver, our headmaster, was in charge of the workshop on “community and pain” – he was able to draw on the sad experience of the death of three pupils in 2008.

Staff started back on 15th February; after a breakfast and the welcoming by the headmaster, Roberto Rosler, a medical expert in the area of neurobiology, offered the teachers some practical help in gaining the pupils’ attention.

There was also some training in working in diversity. Granted that we are all different, be it our history, our experiences, interests etc. This approach would offer as menu of options from which the pupils could choose, thus promoting autonomy, group work and evaluation.



All the staff took part in appraising the School Charter and how it was being implemented. The presence of Br. John Casey added an extra

stimulus to the workshop and the opportunity presented itself to project into the coming year. John was also invited to various groups like the catechists, pastoral teams, and administration.

whose daily experiences are so different. Edmund's charism is the bond and *"Have faith, the seed will grow later in the children's hearts."*

(Adriana Acuña)

Irish

Itaipú – Asunción:

Nimio Benítez (aspirant last year) decided to take a year out, to create more space for himself and consider his future. He is presently preparing to start at the university. Three days a week the postulants organize soccer for the local children, a difficult task as the kids are quite aggressive, but as time goes on they are more amenable in speech and in their style of play. Houses are being visited during Lent for a small reflection and prayer.



The community is working with a group in the jail in order that they can move from an enclosed system to one in which they can visit their families once a month. On Friday evenings they meet with the families of those youths deprived of their liberty. Teodoro and Cristhian accompany the adolescents who are freed and Michael attends to the older ones.

Spanish and music classes as well as computer science take up a lot of time also. The community decided to have a psychologist for individuals and for the community and a Spiritual Director also.

Stella Maris – Montevideo:

Different groups of the Edmund Rice Network met on the 8th, 9th and 10th of February. Br. Paddy Payne invited them to prepare the ground before sowing during the coming school year. Sr. Cristina Robaina and Br John Casey continued the work they started in 2009 creating new ways to unite the various pastoral groups



IMMERSION IN RURAL SCHOOLS.

Since 2008 the area of social action in our college has focused on rural schools, in which teachers and, more recently, parents and pupils have worked. This summer, during the second week in February, 12 pupils and six adults from Escuela Rural No. 46, Chilcas, Dept. de Florida, had a five-day holiday in the Brothers' house by the sea in La Floresta. They were joined by a team from the college thus bringing to an end the many activities of the year. Br. John Casey joined in all the group action.

José Miguel Bonifacino, Headmaster, Primary

SUMMER CAMP "LOS CEDROS",

As is the custom, a group of Paraguayans came to visit. This year Liza, Perla, Rosa, Doña Morena and Br. Chuck Fitzsimmons were later joined by Arturo, Oscarcito and Baby. A group of children from a home called "Los Cedros" (Paso de los Toros), were the ones who enthused us. This year two young mothers with their babies, Carolina with Lucas (4 months) and Ana Laura with Sofía (9 months) formed the group. The graduation class of '83 surprised us by spending a day with us on the 26th. Each year more and more people like to associate with this venture and it seems that Beato Edmund invites and our lives are enriched in the house in La Floresta.

Mariela Uberti de Del Priore and Diego Seré (Catechists).

Canto Grande, Lima

Brothers in Christ, receive greetings from our community in Canto Grande, Lima, which is not yet complete, due to the absence of Brother Michael O'Donnell, who soon will be with us.



This year we have a new member - Brother Jason Ford, who arrived in December from Cochabamba, Bolivia. On March 1 classes began in the school with enthusiasm and encouragement. Brother Miguel Córdova continues to serve as Principal of "Fe y Alegría 26", which is a job that involves many tasks inside and outside school. He is also coordinator of the chapel "Family of Nazareth".

On his part, Brother Williams Cunyas will begin classes this month at Champagnat University. He is also helping out with the discipline in the school and has six hours of Religious Ed. in the first year

of secondary and continues as an adviser in the confirmation program in the chapel.

Brother Luis Enrique Ayala will now be in charge of discipline and is promoting the Program of Assistance to Children and Adolescents at Risk, which is responsible for students with behavioral difficulties and those who are repeating the school year.

Our dear leader, Brother Diego Glos, continues to distribute the government-loan texts to students of secondary and primary. Very soon he will travel to Moyobamba for a workshop at "Ignacia Velásquez" school in the area of CTA.

The pastoral ministry program is doing well due to good management by the Brothers and Professor José Rosel Santa Cruz, who remains in the position of coordinator of pastoral care. This year the ministry has new challenges, as external ministry will take place with high school seniors.

Brother Jason is teaching Religious Ed. classes to ninth-grade students and accompanies the aspirants and Brother Paul to a Center for the Disabled. Contact with students and teachers is helping to improve his mastery of Spanish.

Birthdays and Celebrations:

30 Mar.-- Santos Mejía (aspirant)

01 Apr. -- Juan Casey

17 Apr. -- Bruno Rodríguez

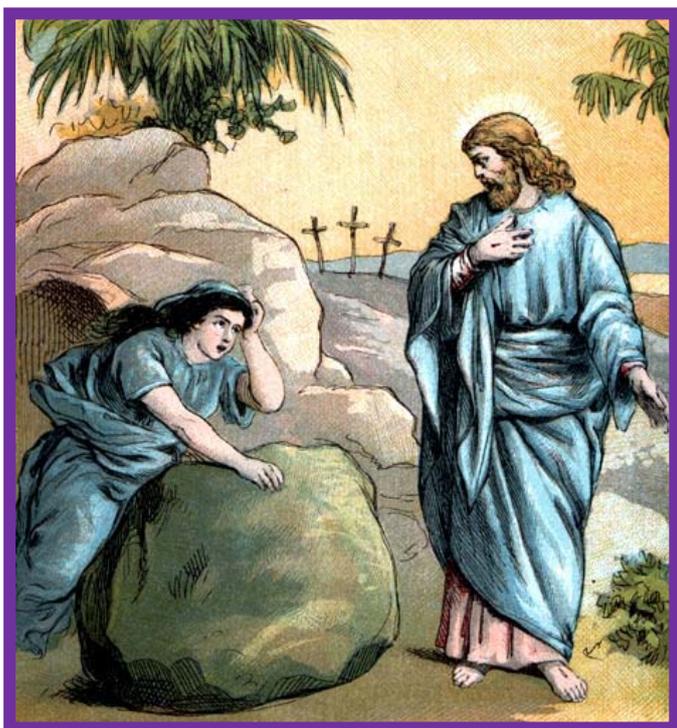
Feast Days

17 Mar -- Saint Patrick

28 Mar. -- 03 Apr. – Holy Week

04 Apr. – Easter Sunday

**HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S DAY,
ESPECIALLY TO OUR
IRISH BROTHERS AND
READERS.**



**HAPPY EASTER
TO ALL!**