

## Noticias Latinoamericanas

Boletín mensual de la Región América Latina  
de la Congregación de Hermanos Cristianos

Núm. 62 – Año 7 – abril / mayo 2010



### From our Leaders:

*We send many greetings to all our Brothers and friends from the leadership team of the RAL. We had three days of meetings in Asunción, where we were received with great warmth by the communities of the novitiate and aspirants. In our meetings we reflected on the gifts, on the generosity of our Brothers and how best to meet the demands of our ministries. We reflected on the challenge to deepen the level of communication among us as a community. In this time of Pentecost, we pray that the Spirit of our God lives in us in union with the Spirit within our Brother.*

Juan, Pablo y Kevin

### Cardenal Newman Community –Buenos Aires

All the Brothers here are well. We miss Thomas O'Connell, who has been in Lima since the end of April. Bro. Stan Hayes continues to offer tutoring in English in the College; Bro. Jim Doherty is faithful to his visits to help out in José C. Paz; Bro. Hubert Wall is involved in the parish of Santa Rita, in Caritas and in the community of San Benito; Eduardo O'Donnell continues to make a good recovery from his operation. Recently, he returned to Montevideo for a weekend, to witness a rugby encounter between Newman Old Boys and Old Christians.

Thomas and Patrick Payne also travelled to Montevideo a few weeks ago to be present at the ordination of a past pupil, Valentín Goldie. The celebration, presided over by the Archbishop of Montevideo, Mons. Cotuño, and a large number of priests, took place in the Metropolitan Cathedral. One small detail is worth pointing out: in the Litany of the Saints, which is usually sung at ordinations, Valentín had thought to insert the invocation "*Blessed Edmund Rice, pray for us*". A significant gesture and lovely touch, in recognition of his spiritual roots in the tradition of the College of the Brothers.

Newman College was once again the scene of many visits. Dick Fields spent a week with us at the start of May and left a deep impression. He is a former Christian Brother and also one of the founders of *Timirí* (Messengers in Gaelic), an association of former Brothers which originated in the 1980's. Dick is most generous and

compassionate, a living testimony to the spirit and charism of Edmund, as a married layman.

A lecturer in History from Mary Immaculate in Limerick (Ir), Sarah O'Brien, who is doing research on the presence of the Irish in the River Plate, and their impact and contribution from an Irish cultural perspective over the years, was also with the Brothers. She had lunch with the community and later held conversations with some of the Brothers about their experiences.

It is proper to mention the series of conferences being given in the College this year on the occasion of the Bicentenary of Argentinian independence: the Humanistics Study group of Cardinal Newman College has proposed as the central theme of its round of lectures: "Rethinking the Bicentenary". The first conference took place on 29<sup>th</sup> of April, when the distinguished past pupil of the College, Lic. Alfonso Prat-Gay, National Deputy and former President of the Central Bank of the Republic of Argentina, presented "Reflections for Argentina on her Bicentenary". The second conference took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, with the visit of Fr. Pedro Alurralde, O.S.B., who delivered a lecture on the theme "Accompaniment of young people". It's reassuring to see that the Brothers also attend these talks.

### Community La Esperanza – Chimbote, Perú



Students from First Year Orange play for their mothers

As autumn advances and the nights turn rather cold, we still enjoy very sunny days Chimbote. It

really is one of the best climates in the Region, but unfortunately the urban and industrial pollution sometimes obscures the blue of the bay. Our community follows the routine of high school and the Technical Centre.

Alberto Llanos organized several prayer sessions with students for the Feast of the Cross (in Peru it's celebrated in May) and for the month of Mary. he also went to Lima to complete the formalities of his teaching degree and spend a few days with his family Hugo Cáceres continues to encourage the reading project in which students read eight books a year. Vincent Peragine, in addition to his English classes in school, is teaching Writing and Morphosyntaxis of the English Language at the University of San Pedro.

Seán Di Figlia, as the administrator, ensures a pleasant working environment and, with the help of Fernando Chu (academic director) and Eduardo Hurtado (coordinator), have enabled the school to meet its goals the first two months. Two new administrative workers joined the school this month; welcome, Victor and Melvin, to the Better World Family!

At both institutions there were celebrations for Mother's Day, which in Peru is so important because many families are supported mainly by the role of mothers. The secondary school exceeded all expectations for attendance and Sean had to run to install more chairs to accommodate over a thousand guests. The Technical Center students also performed artistic numbers in honor of their mothers.



Prof. Edwin and the ex fishermen in Auto Mechanics.

The community celebrated the feast of Edmund Rice with prayer and a Chinese dinner. The Chimbote Associates had a Mass in honor of the Founder in the parish of the Sacred Heart. Also in memory of Blessed Edmund and for our visitors in the future: murals are being painted on the perimeter walls of the sports field, depicting a parallel between Waterford, Ireland and Chimbote, two distant ports where the same charism for the education of youth occurs in

Edmund's spirit. They are designed by the same artist - Don Orlando, who painted the murals in the courtyard with the themes of the icon a decade ago.

Alberto, as part of the Conference of Religious Vocation Team, has scheduled two youth retreats at two universities; he is also on the committee for the care of creation, and with a group of young religious prepared an afternoon of reflection for religious that meet every two months.

Rich Glatz and Fabian Torres (director) have endeavored by various means to increase the number of students in the Technical Centre. The CETPRO is considered the best of the Department of Ancash by the authorities who visit because of its practical curriculum, cleanliness and order. This month the teachers have sported new shopcoats (see photo) and next week the students will start wearing the overalls uniform for the first time.



For 15 days students are doing their pre-professional practices in workshops where they are supervised by a technical staff and monitored at least twice by our teachers.

The high school students had a one week vacation and the teachers were busy with administrative work except for Friday when they had a morning of reflection led by Hugo with a Christocentric theme. After so many seriously activities, there was time for fun with a party for workers and their spouses to celebrate Mother's Day, birthdays and the start of the second quarter. (Hugo)

### Communityeven36 – Cochabamba, Bolivia

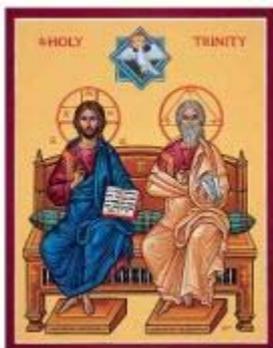
Dick Fields, a great friend and benefactor of our Project "Comunidad Educativa Hermano Manolo", is staying with us. He has a very good grasp of the language and accompanies Dermot and Renato on their rounds.

Life here is made up of studies for many and meetings for others. The idea of a second community in a poor area on the edge of the city

is a topic of conversation and reflection just now. We celebrated Children`s Day with the young people shining shoes, the traditional feast of the Holy Cross, the local Trade Fair, and, of course, the World Summit on Climate Change which gave us food for thought: the ruthlessness of capitalism, life on the planet, and the wisdom of the ethnic groups which has been silenced by western ideas. Leonardo Boff and Frei Betto, to mention but two, have spoken here on the topic.

Alberto invited friends and classmates to celebrate his birthday. We have evaluated the first three months work with the children who work in the market and are making some small adjustments. Renato and Alberto have initiated contacts with the university authorities and youth

pastoral and vocational groups with a view to sensibilize the young people on social matters and ultimately on our vocation. It is hoped that we can inform them on many matters, invite them to get involved helping the needy and that this little group would form the Rice Network. (Renato)



Holy Trinity  
May 30

### Cardinal Newman College - Buenos Aires

#### Teacher`s Workshop

On Saturday the teachers shared with one another the different projects they are currently working on. The Study Group explained their activities and one group explained that in their meeting with teachers from Dominic Savio College, which is in a poor area, they were pleased to hear of the support received from mothers of the pupils in Newman.



It was a time of deep sharing and a chance to experience the help and enthusiasm of the Congregation`s spirituality. Both Nicolás del Sel

and Federico Richards retold their experiences in Zambia.

#### John Casey visits

The catechetics team met with John and tried to expand the vision now offered us through the history of the universe and the new spirit which the Congregation offers. He was joined by Salvador Boucau and Gastón Richelet, Director of SER (Solidaridad Edmundo Rice), who analyzed the activities and checked just where they were heading. John also met with the Board of Directors.

Br. Senan D`Souza (India) and Theresa Johnson (USA), who are investigating the Congregation`s spirituality, spent three days with us. They met with different groups and heard what was happening in ecological justice, retreats, catechetics and social action. They also met with those who had taken part in immersion experiences in India, Zambia, Bolivia and Peru. They also visited institutions where the college`s students help out: *The Ark*, founded by Jean Vanier, tutoring in Copacabana and a night shelter, *Cura Brochero*, founded by a former pupil, Juan Pablo Contepomi.



Feast of the Ascension of the Lord – May 16

#### Mary Rice Olympics

The olympics were held on April 30th for handicapped children who were invited to jump, run, throw etc., giving them a chance to enjoy a day in the fresh air and have fun.

The feast of Blessed Edmund was honoured with a Eucharist in the college. The Senior pupils had a football (soccer) competition to celebrate the day and the funds collected were donated to the works of solidarity undertaken by the College.. (Nicolás del Sel)

#### Comunidad Itauguá –Paraguay

The aspirants spent some time with their families over the Easter period. The parents were suitably impressed with all that they are learning and the life style.

On returning, they spent a week on personal development with a psychologist and will have a session with him twice weekly from now on. At the same time the community has a spiritual director who attends to the group and to the individuals.

Cristhian was attacked and robbed but, thank God, did not suffer any physical harm. As we work with young people in conflict with the law it gave us the opportunity to talk about and commit ourselves to the task

The visit of Cristhian's parents was celebrated with songs, jokes and good meals and gave us the chance to share our dreams and wishes for the future.



*Cristhian, his parents and Teodoro singing a song.*

Both Teodoro and Cristhian took part in a workshop given by Br. Kevin Bernard to the local conference of religious and they are looking forward to a similar event in the near future.

Michael Lynch is recovering from a bout of dengue fever, two full weeks which he could ill afford to lose but he is making up for lost time already! Our monthly retreat was in Tuparendá, where the Chapter was held. (Cristhian)

### **Comunidad San Martín -- Las Flores, Lima**

Greetings from Lima, where it is slowly getting very cold. On 25 April we had a community retreat addressing issues of "Transactional Analysis" by Brother David Gibson and the speech of Philip Pinto, congregational leader, in the regional assembly this year, which was a great help in the growth of our relationship as a community.

On May 1, our community welcomed Brother Thomas O'Connell from Buenos Aires and in the evening, Brother Paul Keohane traveled to Asuncion (Paraguay). That same day we were at the community of Canto Grande to celebrate the birthday and farewell to Brother Jason Ford, who returns to the U.S. May 5 was a very special day for us: the feast of our beloved founder, Edmund Rice, which we celebrated with a meal in a restaurant.

On 8 May we returned to the community of Canto Grande to celebrate the birthday of Brother Miguel Braulio Cordova which was a very pleasant and cheerful evening. On May 12, Brother Paul returned to our community after visiting other communities in the River Plate zone.

As always, each member of the community is involved in their respective activities: Brother Paul doing various tasks of leadership, visiting some communities and accompanying the aspirants, Jeiner and Jose Santos Luz, who attend CONFER in the mornings three days a week, some afternoons do pastoral work at Fe y Alegría 26 school, and other evenings go to *Yancana Huasy* (a school for disabled) to support teachers; and at night study English at the British Academy. Ever Cieza and Rafael Inga are finishing their exams and Carlos Flores studies computer programming in the evenings and also is in charge of the school band.



Finally we said goodbye and pray for God's blessings for you. Happy Pentecost and may the Holy Spirit be poured out to each of us and help us to be good and exemplary Christian Brothers.

### **Providence Community —Moyobamba, Peru**

Dear friends, receive greetings from the Brother's community of Moyobamba. It's been two months since we started sharing our experience of community life. From the 15th of last month the number of community members has increased, because since that date two young non-resident aspirants, Joel Goicochea Cubas (22) and Hoyme Torres (17) are doing their community experience for a month.



*L. to r.: Joel Cubas, Hoymer Torres (non resident aspirants), Franklin Herrera y Joel Regalado (resident aspirants).*

With them we have carried out various activities: one of them a ride to the source of the Tioyacu River (in the province of Rioja, an hour from Moyobamba). The site is located at the base of a

hill covered with vegetation, where cold crystalline waters flow in one of the few places that has maintained intact the surrounding forest. For this occasion Saul Velasquez, with the help of the candidates, prepared a delicious meal for lunch and we enjoyed several games of football and lots of swimming.

On May 5, after finishing the novena, we celebrated the Feast of Edmund Rice, which for us was a sharing of brotherhood and joy. We invited several friends, including: the Mercedarian Sisters of Charity, Dominican Sisters of the Presentation, diocesan priests and staff of the Santa Isabel Orphanage. The ceremony was simple, starting with a welcoming prayer and a reading about the exemplary life of Edmund, then we had a toast and dinner. This party was a good opportunity to meet and develop friendships with the nuns and priests present in Moyobamba.

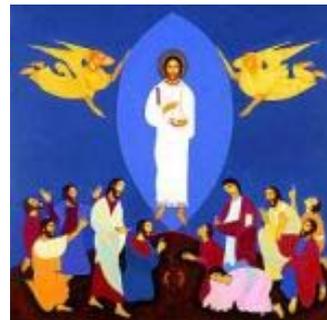
Our task of promoting vocations has already begun; we were invited to give two lectures in vocational schools in Moyobamba aimed at students in upper grades. The work was shared with Saul, Franklin and Joel. During the talks we discussed the meaning of vocation in our lives, ending with an orientation about the life of a Christian Brother.

Each of the brothers are involved in our activities both at home and in the town: John Prior (our community leader) continues his work in San Cristobal jail and also visits three communities on the outskirts of Moyobamba

Elmer and Saul and continue their role as teachers in the initial training of the aspirants, plus work in the Santa Isabel Orphanage, the Martín Elorza Primary School and the Student House (run by the Mercedarian Sisters of Charity) and catechesis in Punta Done (a chapel in Moyobamba).

Joel Regalado and Franklin Herrera (resident aspirants) are performing very well, both in pastoral work and in community life. They help in catechesis and pastoral at Santa Isabel, besides their work and studies at home.

We hope you enjoy our good news and we are glad to read the news of other communities. May the Spirit be with you. (Elmer)



Pentecost – Mayo 23

### Birthdays and Celebrations

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| José Luz Domínguez | Mayo 22 (Postulant) |
| Nando Llatas       | May 29 (Novice I)   |
| Dermot Cregan      | June 10             |

### Feast days

May 16 – Ascension of the Lord  
May 23 – Pentecost  
May 30 – Holy Trinity  
May 31 – Visitation of the Virgin Mary  
**June 01 -- Birthday of Edmund Rice**  
June 06 – Corpus Christi  
June 11 – Sacred Heart of Jesus  
June 12 – Immaculate Heart of Mary



Corpus Christi – June 6