

# Latin American Newsletter

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

No. 67 – Year 7 – October, 2010



## From our Leaders:



*From the 24th to the 26th of September the community leaders met in Lima. There was a strong spirit of fraternity in the group and, during the weekend, they were able to review various topics on life in the Region: the mission shared by the Brothers now and in the future, the quality of community life, the initial formation program, vocation animation, finances and other themes. It is the third year that the group has met; last year, the Congregation's leadership team attended. The communities will have a chance to reflect on the results of the meeting during their monthly retreats in October and November.*

Juan, Pablo y Kevin

## Noviciate – Asunción, Paraguay



**Juan Domínguez (kneeling), from Bañado Tacumbú, struggles to correctly set the pylons for one of the new houses destined for a poor family.**

Brother Chuck Fitzsimmons accompanied five persons from Bañado Tacumbú on a youth programme "A Roof for My Country." Together

with another 1 000 volunteers they built 100 homes in two days (see photo). Chuck also took students from his English class to a mission in the Chaco, the northern region of Paraguay, to visit a boarding school for about 300 kids. The school is sponsored by De La Salle Brothers and some sisters.

Chuck also works with the community organization CAMSAT, seeking a good way to respond to the arrival of the drug "crack" in the Bañado.

Brother Bernard Kevin went to Lima for the local leaders' meeting with the Regional Leadership Team. Brother Jack Casey published the parish bulletin "Marandú", and works with great success in the gardens of both houses.

## Stella Maris School – Montevideo, UGY

We participated for the first time in the student leadership workshop: ACTION 2010 at St. John's in Florida, USA. It is a program that has met annually for the last 40 years and is open to all Christian Brothers' schools. The object is to promote an interaction among students and train them in various aspects of leadership to become involved in the Educational Community in the school to which they belong.

Our school participated with three students from 5th year of high school: Santiago Azambuja, Maria Flynn and Carl Pfeiffer, accompanied by faculty moderator, Ximena Beyhaut.



Stella Maris representatives and others at ACTION workshop in Florida.

This meeting provided a cultural exchange which

faith and the charism of Edmund Rice, and an experience of being part of a community larger than the school itself. Each member shared his hopes, difficulties, achievements and challenges, recreation and friendship, and training issues.

The idea of "Advocacy," promoting the development of sustainable projects that respond to the many problem situations in school life and in society, were discussed.

It was a very enriching experience for those who participated and we hope to share all that we learned in this meeting.

### **Community Once36 – Cochabamba, Bol.**

Here in Cochabamba we enjoy an eternal spring - sorry you all cannot enjoy it too. It's time for exams at the universities. Alberto, Bruno and Renato are adjusting to life with the poor people on the periphery, about 10 kms from the centre of the city, while meeting the demands of studies and the apostolate.

The visit of eight Uruguayans from Stella Maris College - Joseph, Mary, Laura, Victoria, Teresa, Isabel, Eduardo, Karina and Mario has been a joyous event for everyone. With the ever present *mate* (herbal drink) in hand and an almost unlimited energy, they participated in all the activities either in the house or in the various ministries with working children, orphans and day care centers. It has been a learning experience for everyone; thanks for the visit.



**The Uruguayan visitors pose with their Christian Brother hosts on a sunny day in Cochabamba.**

The visit coincided with the dates of the meeting of community leaders in Lima. John Casey stayed in Peru after the meeting. Eddie McArdle said on returning that the leaders had spoken openly and honestly, sharing both achievements and challenges.

On Sunday, October 3, the community had its vocation promotion at the Expo-Charism in one of the main squares of Cochabamba. A good number of religious participated. Alberto Cumbereras, Francisco Tuiro, Dermot Cregan, Elser Llanos and Javier Sullivan talked with people delivering leaflets and the CeHM

newsletter about the children who work in the street.

### **Cardenal Newman School- Buenos Aires**

Students Marcos Perez Mendoza, Santos Mariano Aguirre and Sioli, along with Thomas Nicholson (alumnus) participated in the Student Action Leadership Workshop which was organized by the Christian Brothers from 30 September to 3 October in Jacksonville (Florida). About 80 students from different schools participated in the meeting. Most were Americans, but there were also two schools from Canada and one from Uruguay represented.

In the words of one participant: "It was a very enriching experience. We took step in the search for our essence; an opportunity to learn more about the community of the Christian Brothers and see in them the charism of Edmund Rice. We had moments of prayer and sharing from the heart, laughter and chatting with students from other schools and other countries. It created new links and ties of friendship. No doubt it made us grow as individuals and as a community - an unforgettable experience."

### **BEATIFICATION OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN**

The following is an excerpt from an article by Mary Mihura, who is a teacher in the primary school: "Monday, 20 September, was a special day for the school community: students, parents, alumni, staff, teachers and friends met on a sunny morning to celebrate a solemn Mass of thanksgiving with our Bishop Jorge Casaretto. The beatification of John Henry Newman had taken place the previous day in Birmingham, England during which the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, raised to the altars of the Church our venerable patron. "



**Priests who are former pupils (Jaime Morea, Marcos Ayerza, Martín Riccur and Andrés Di Cio ) retiring after they concelebrated the Mass,**

In a happy and festive atmosphere, all the community members participated and celebrated the life of this leader who left us a message of tenacity in searching for the Truth. The choirs, both pupils and parents, delighted us with their music and helped us to thank and praise God for His work made flesh in the life of John Henry Newman. Priests, former pupils concelebrated with the bishop as we joined in the prayers. "

### **La Esperanza Community– Chimbote, Perú**

Our greetings to Fe y Alegría #26 school on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and our best wishes to the Brothers there for the fine work they are doing. Also, happy Columbus day to all in the U.S.

Alberto Llanos returned from Lima after having participated in the weekend workshop for junior professed Brothers living in Peru; Juan Casey and Pablo Keohane directed the gathering. Vincent Peragine met with the Edmund Rice Associates in Monsefú to plan the activities for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Convention which will be held there next year.

Hugo Cáceres in the last few weeks has given retreats to different groups: the diocesan clergy, the Tacna area Conference of Religious and in Chulucanas for a group of Sisters preparing for their final vows. Sean DiFiglia is overseeing the second phase of the project to build a house for the Brothers on school grounds: due to very sandy, watery soil, concrete piles must be sunken to support the foundation in this seismic zone.

The students enjoyed a week-long break between marking quarters while teachers were busy passing grades and attending numerous meetings. Our 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities began with the traditional recreational games called "Mundo Match".

### **MUNDO MEJOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL**



On October 13 we participated in the nation-wide earthquake drill and later had an exhibition on the correct use of fire extinguishers. Perú is a seismically active zone and, therefore, instead of fire drills, we have earthquake drills.

Rich Glatz is spearheading a funding campaign to finance another ten graphics-ready computers in order to offer, as of March, 2011, a new specialty crafted especially for women in graphics and Web page design. We actively promote the training of women for non-traditional professions.

### **Providencia Community– Moyobamba, Perú**

Dear Brothers and friends: greetings from Moyobamba!

Since September we have been enjoying beautiful, sunny days but sometimes it's rainy and windy, typical of the Peruvian jungle season. So we are in the midst of delightful weather, full of green. Our community has had many reasons this month to celebrate with happiness and joy our life together. One of the opportunities was Bro. Patrick Payne's visit to our community after the meeting of the local community leaders in Lima. Last year Patrick was the community leader in Moyobamba and worked in formation for six years. His visit was a very happy moment for us and as well as for those in Moyobamba with whom Patrick worked.

After his departure, our Regional Leader, John Casey, and Bro. Tony Twomey visited us. It was another opportunity to celebrate brotherhood and share very deep experiences with them. They stayed with us for two days and then went back to Lima to prepare a meeting for the Peruvian junior professed Brothers.

Each member of our community has a particular ministry. John Prior, our community leader, went to Lima last month to attend a meeting of the Local Community leaders with the Regional Leadership Team. After a few days in Lima, John came back to Moyobamba to continue his pastoral work with prisoners in the jail and some Catholic communities in Moyobamba's rural areas.

Last Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, a group of adults from the rural areas received the sacrament of Confirmation. This group was prepared and guided by Bro. John Prior, who worked with them for one year.

For the last two months, Ever Silva has been living with us; he is a non-residencial aspirant who is in the process of experiencing community life. He has the same apostolate as Joel Regalado, our resident aspirant.

Saul and Elmer are also working in a community apostolate; they are in charge of the aspirancy program. Part of their work is to visit rural communities where they share God's message and their personal life experiences. Last month they visited El Afluente, one of Rioja's rural communities. After celebrating a liturgy, they went on a hike into the forest, accompanied by a group of young people who shared with them some unforgettable moments.

Bro. Jim Glos came to our community. He will guide the aspirants in a retreat with the theme of God's presence in nature and the universe. We hope it will awaken the interest of our aspirants concerning nature's splendor.

May God, who speaks to us through human beings and creation, inspire and guide you.

### Birthdays:

Jim Doherty	October 18
Xavier Sullivan	October 23
Eliás Castro	Oct. 29 (Postulant)
Williams Cunyas	November 9
Saúl Velásquez	November 14

### Holidays and Holydays

- 12 Oct. Columbus Day
- 02 Nov. All Souls' Day
- 17 Nov. 1947 – Arrival of the Christian Brothers in Latin America (Buenos Aires)
- 20 Nov.: Universal Day of the Child

*Columbus Day*



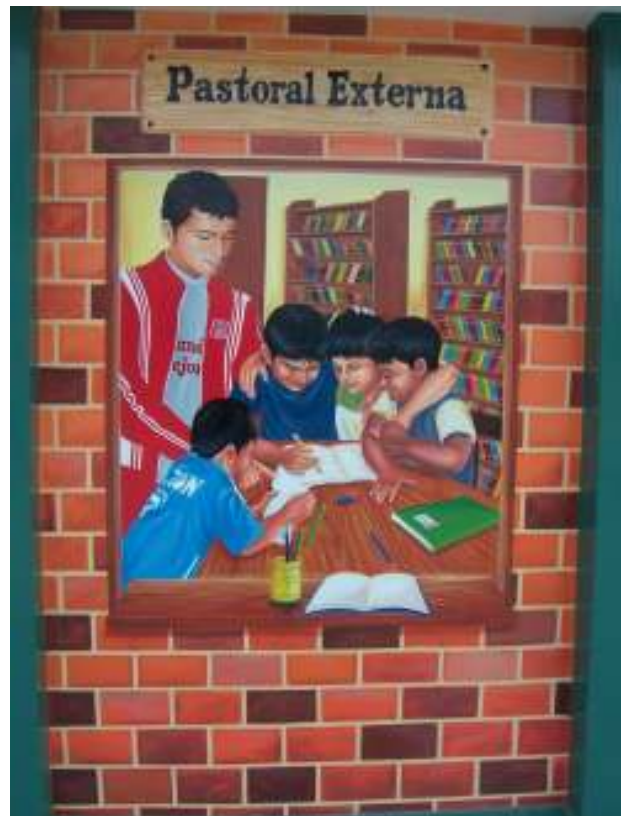
*Day of the Child*

### The next panels in the series of murals honoring Edmund Rice

“Two ports in distant seas  
join hands ...”  
Chimbote-- Waterford



This mural depicts Mundo Mejor students doing their pastoral activity near Chimbote's harbor.



This mural, where the brick is not real, but painted by the artist, shows a scene from the tutoring program for neighboring primary school students.