

## LATIN AMERICAN NEWS

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

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### From our Leaders:

We are now in the ecclesiastical season of Lent, a time of great hope which culminates with the Resurrection. We have time to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and to understand our call as disciples. We identify our lives in the manner in which we live and how we minister celebrating the mysteries of Christ. We also thank Br. Hubert Wall for his translation skills, so evident in this newsletter.

*Juan, Pablo y Kevin*

### Colegio Stella Maris – Montevideo

During four days the primary school teachers in our school worked in a seminar whose objective was "to rediscover our identity and to strengthen our bonds". The methodology used was called "Appreciative enquiry" which seeks to focus us on our strengths in order to promote an organizational change. We identified five paths in which to work in teams: institutional climate, inclusion, on-going qualification, communication and pedagogical project. It was gratifying to see the response of all the participants, who showed lots of enthusiasm and commitment in the different activities and who engaged in fruitful discussions. Our purpose is that through our work we may become subjects of our own change, working towards a better school for both children and adults.

### Providencia Community – Moyobamba, Perú

After a long dry spell we are enjoyed a week of tremendous rainfall. The local farmers are grateful for the rain and busy with their harvest.

Our new community consists of Brs. Tony Twomey, Ever Cieza Tello and Juan Prior. We are united and ready for a year of pastoral work, formation and vocational outreach. At present we are awaiting the arrival of José Augusto Rucoba Aspajo, from the town of Tabalosos, who will begin his aspirancy program on Saint Patrick's Day.

Juan and Tony visit prisoners twice a week. The prison is under complete reconstruction which involves an extraordinary amount of water and mud. The reconstruction should be finished within two months. Juan and Tony also work each Sunday with a rural community called Pasamayo. At present they are preparing seven parents for baptism and four children for their baptism and reception of First Communion.

Ever is busy readying the aspirancy program for José. In order to obtain his university degree in Education he is also taking university courses which require virtual examinations each month from the University of Los Angeles of Chimbote.

### Brothers' Community – Buenos Aires

All the Brothers of the community are well as we begin the new year. Br. Jack Casey joined the community in February.

Some of the Brothers took a summer holiday during January in La Floresta, a seaside resort in Uruguay. Br. Patrick Payne went over ahead of time to make his six day retreat before Jack arrived. Br. James Doherty returned to La Floresta for the first time in many years. He travelled by car via Gualaguaychú with three women, Vicky, Monica and Norma, three volunteers who during many years have helped him in his work in the neighbourhood of José C. Paz. Fr. Tom Toal, a Scotsman, was also on holidays with the Brothers together with two Columban deacons from the diocese of Melo, Uruguay. Jim took care of the cooking and served delicious meals.

Br. Edward O'Donnell spent some weeks in Newman in February He was over for a hernia operation. He made a good recovery and had a bit of a rest. During his stay he got news of the death of his brother James in Donegal, Ireland.

Towards the end of February we had a visit from Canon Michael Harrington, retired pastor of Buttevant, Co. Cork. He has been a good friend of the Brothers for many years. He first visited us during Br. Patrick Bowler's term of office (1997- 2002). Patrick travelled with him to different parts of Argentina. Now his travelling companion is Br. Stan Hayes.

LOVE LIFE  
LIVE  LENT  
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

Br. Thomas O'Connell is well and still very much involved with the Primary School. He helps the General Manager (Headmaster), Alberto Olivera, in a variety of matters. Br. Hubert Wall, patriarch of the Region, is also in good health. He continues helping out in Caritas in Santa Rita.

### St. Martin Community - Lima

During the months of January, February and March the members of the community had many irons in the fire. Br. Paul Keohane together with Fr. Mariano and 106 students and ex students of Newman, Buenos Aires, spent two weeks on a mission in Balcarce, Argentina. On his return to Lima, Paul journeyed to Monsefú to accompany a mission there. During the first week of March he made a pastoral visit to Chimbote, and the last ten days of March he will spend visiting groups of volunteers in Buenos Aires and Montevideo.



A happy scene during the summer program in Monsefú.

In February, our postulant, Santos Mejía, did well in the entrance exam to the Champagnat University. He later took part in the mission in Monsefú. He is also studying English in the *Británico*.

In the second week of January Br. Diego Glos joined this community, coming from Canto Grande (Lima). During the last week of February, together with three colleagues from the *Instituto Yachay Wasi*, Arequipa, he journeyed to Chachapoyas for a workshop with 86 teachers of primary and secondary levels on themes concerned with the natural sciences.

Br. Carlos Flores is finishing his studies at the CIMAS Institute. He spent a few days with his family in Monsefú at the beginning of March. Carlos will transfer to Chimbote in April.

Our other postulant, Joel Regalado has begun his studies in religious formation in the *Conferencia de Religiosos/as del Perú* and he studies English at night classes in the *Británico*. Two days a week, together with Paul and Santos, Joel works with handicapped children in the *Instituto Yancana Huasy*.

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### Novitiate Community - Asunción

The most important news from our community is the transfer of Br. Jack Casey to Newman and the arrival of Br. Miguel Braulio Córdova from Lima. Both events were celebrated on the same day with a number of our friends from the Bañado Tacumbú.

Shortly after his arrival, Miguel obtained a post as professor in the *Instituto de la Vida Religiosa* (CONFERPAR) teaching three courses: Anthropology of the Christian Vocation, Human Psychological Growth (1st semester) and Social-affective Development (2nd semester). Some other Congregations are looking for him to help in their formation programmes.

While, Br. Michael Lynch continues his work as an educator in the *Penal para Menores* in Itauguá and is also the director of the diocesan pastoral to penitentiaries of adolescents, he runs a programme in which young people come to live in community and work on his projects. They are working on a project to plant trees and then care for them and there is another programme, *A Roof for My Country* in which Br. Carlos Fitzsimmons and a group of young people build houses for those who don't have one.

Br. Kevin Bernard was operated on for a hernia in the early days of March. The operation was a success, but the recuperation was a little slow. Kevin also teaches *History of the Religious Life* in CONFERPAR. Moreover, he is on the commission for the planning of workshops for formators and he runs some of these workshops. During the year he will be teaching in the *Escuelita* (Little School) in the Bañados.

### Community eleven36 – Cochabamba - Bol.

Please remember in your prayers the nine thousand families which have been seriously affected by floods and landslides in several parts of this country. On top of our other misfortunes we have just come through seven days of transport strikes!

This is a house of studies. Brs. Francisco Turio, Alberto Cumberras, Elser Llanos and Saúl Velasquez are all back at studies. Br. Renato Llerena is taking part in a course of swimming and Br. Javier Sullivan is studying Quechua.

Since the beginning of February the community is giving some kind of support to a group of shoeshine



Br. Saúl referees a close soccer match with the shoeshine boys.

boys between the ages of eleven and sixteen. All of them work in the neighbourhood of *La Cancha*, an immense and somewhat precarious shopping centre with hundreds of stalls. The experts tell us that once one becomes a child worker, one commences a process of "streetification" in which the child will be faced with many risks. Soon he will stop attending school, will drift from the family and will begin sniffing glue. As there will be no health protection, the process ends in death. In the past few years 90 of these street children here in Cochabamba have died.

### Colegio Cardenal Newman – Buenos Aires

The Blessed Edmund Rice Missionary Group composed of 106 pupils and past pupils of the College were on mission in a parish in Balcarce from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> February, visiting homes, providing activities for children and holding celebrations of Mass and other functions. They were accompanied by Br. Paul Keohane and Frs. Mariano Erro and Luis Lenzi as well as by teachers and members of the pastoral group of the college.



A large group of students and alumni participated in the mission in Argentina.

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February the teaching staff began activities with a workshop. The regional leader, Br. John Casey presented an exposition of creativity and change.

El Prof. Fernando Lasala, the new Director of the Secondary, was presented and given a warm welcome.

During the summer several important construction works were carried out: the floors in the primary school corridors were renewed and new offices as well as three new classrooms for students with special difficulties in English were constructed. A new biology laboratory with a sustainable ecological design was installed in the primary, and it is prepared for the installation of a system to recycle rain water and for solar panels. Extensive changes were also made in the school dining room.

Classes began in both primary and secondary departments on 9<sup>th</sup> March. An *Acto* was held in which the Headmaster, Sr. Alberto Olivero, presented the new slogan, *Creative Leadership*, which will be worked on during the year. A Mass for the opening of the school year was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall.

Professors Glennis Oliver and Daniel Devizenzi assisted at a workshop of the School Justice Network in Tampa, Florida, U.S.A. from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BR. PHILIP!



BR. Philip Pinto (the tallest in back row) with the junior professed Peruvian Brothers and Jason Ford (USA) during the 2010 Lima assembly.

The 3rd of March the Congregation Leader, Philip Pinto, celebrated 50 years of religious life in service to God and his fellow man. We pray that the Lord of Life will bless him with many more years of good health and happiness in the Congregation

### La Esperanza Community - Chimbote, Peru

Classes were cancelled on the 11<sup>th</sup> March when it was feared that the tsunami which originated in Japan would hit Perú around 7p.m., but fortunately we had nothing but some high waves.

Summer activities: Brs. Hugo Cáceres and Alberto Llanos transferred to Lima. Br. Vicente Peragine, with junior Brothers and future candidates for admission to the Congregation, led the mission in Monsefú. Br. Sean DiFiglia supervised the construction of a new residence for the Brothers and the academic programme *Mejorando* which is aimed at helping children who were to begin their secondary schooling in March. Br. Richard Glatz, left on his own with all the teachers on holidays, looked after the *Centro Técnico Productivo*. Richard is also Treasurer of CONFER (Conference of Religious) Chimbote.



The 12 ER Associates who volunteered their services in the summer enrichment programme in Nuevo Chimbote.

During the summer, twelve *Associates of Edmund Rice* gave a three week programme of scholastic help to 45 children in the shanty town of San Luis.

In the afternoons, the school has a new section of 55 First Year secondary school students who form part of the *Edmund Rice Project*. Ninety percent of their school fees will be covered by the tuition of the students attending the morning classes. The *ER Project* students all come from poor neighbourhoods in the vicinity of the school. They have all done their primary school in gratuitous State schools.

Br. Williams Cunyas arrived in Chimbote on 13<sup>th</sup> February and has taken 24 hours of Religious Instruction in the secondary school as of the first of March. He will also be collaborating with Prof. Rusbel Chero in the external pastoral programme with students of the senior year. Williams also forms part of the Pastoral Vocations Commission.

#### MUNDO MEJOR TECHNICAL PRODUCTIVE CENTRE

Williams Cano Granda replaces Fabián Torres Vallejos as Director of the Technical Productive Centre (CETPRO). Prof. Cano is a past pupil of Mundo Mejor high school.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of March CETPRO was the scene of an international symposium on iron work which was organized by *Aceros Arequipa*. Brett Bailey, an expert in iron work arrived from California and gave demonstrations.

We hope to have an increase in numbers of students this year.



#### Birthdays and Celebrations:

Sean DiFiglia Marzo 11

Carlos Fitzsimmons March 14

Santos Mejía March 30 (Postulant)

Juan Casey April 1

Joel Regalado Cieza April 16 (Aspirant)

A couple of pictures taken during the Blacksmithing Seminar in the CETPRO.



Mr. Williams Cano and Br. Rich Glatz (rt.) receive the display case presented to the CETPRO by the representatives of Aceros Arequipa.



Mr. Brett Bailey, master blacksmith, performs a demonstration of his skills at the forge.