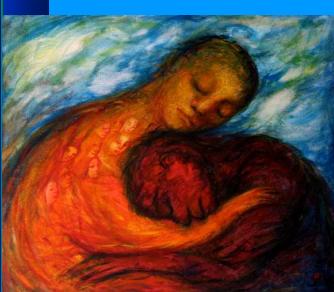
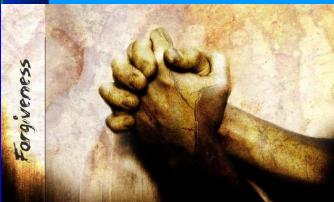




Marist News Letter

March 2011

Volume 04



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Province of South Asia

Provincial Writes

Dear Brothers,

Warmest greetings to everyone!

I am back in Sri Lanka after a very fruitful stay in Rome.

In this month's letter I would like to offer you three brief reflections - about my stay in Rome, this Lenten Season and taking care of our health.

The meeting with Brother Superior General and the General Council in Rome for the newly appointed Provincials and District Superiors was a very helpful one. There were nine Provincials and two District Superiors. The purpose of the meeting was mainly to offer support to the Provincials and District Superiors to lead and animate their work in their Administrative Units.

Facilitating this meeting, the General Council used the dynamics of fraternal dialogue and round-table conversations involving all the participants, to make the best use of our time together. For me this was a rich experience of international and multicultural living. There were many differences among us. We came from different countries using different languages. We had

various opinions on the topics we discussed. Yet nothing prevented us from experiencing a rich brotherhood and encouraging one another with mutual respect. I felt proud and privileged to be one brother among many brothers, helping to build our community there.

On Wednesday 09th March we begin the Holy Season of Lent. This precious time gives us an opportunity to take a serious look at our lives and make whatever changes that may be needed to experience a deeper, richer relationship with our risen Brother and to lead a life in which we truly love and care for ourselves, our neighbors and God. Reflecting on the Lenten season I found the following lines in the Denver Catholic Register very inspiring.

God calls each one of us for reconciliation. "Lent is the acceptable time" in which we should seize every opportunity to confront our infidelities because recognizing the truth of our fallenness is the first, essential step toward reconciliation with those we have wounded and with God. One good way to live this "acceptable time" of Lent is to discover anew the graces of the sacrament of reconciliation.

For us in the South Asia Province the season of Lent could be an opportune

"Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus. For in his cross you proclaim your love for ever and ever."

Living with Christ



time to reflect on the theme of Reconciliation and ask ourselves how we practice reconciliation in our communities. Am I able to forgive myself and my brother? Charlton Heston, the famous film actor, was once asked the secret of his long, happy marriage to Lydia, his loving wife. The man who had played the roles of prophets, kings, and presidents in some of his many films said, "It's not very difficult, you just have to be able to say, 'I'm sorry, I was wrong.'" Perhaps this is the time for us to say sorry to a Brother or Brothers for failing to acknowledge the persons they have been to us. I would invite you to begin a serious personal and community time reflecting on the theme of Reconciliation.

Let the next forty days of Lent be a moment in our lives when we can make a positive difference in our communities and "discover anew the graces of the sacrament of reconciliation."

Lastly, a few words about the need to take care of our health: Recently, addressing his priests, the Archbishop of Colombo said, "...look after those extra kilograms that hang around you as you grow in years. Do not neglect your food on time, adequate sleep, exercise and recreation. God helps those who help themselves. Keep fit for the Lord!"

There is no doubt that all of us are

in the process of aging. May I urge you to take good care of yourselves, following a healthy diet, exercising regularly and getting sufficient rest to stay fit as Marist Apostles, bringing the love of Jesus and Mary to all with whom we live and work, especially the young.

Wishing each of you God's blessings of Peace, Joy and Good Health in your dedicated efforts to share God's love with one another and those we serve.

Yours sincerely,



Bro. Shanthi Liyanage

Bro. Shanthi Liyanage

A Lenten Reflection

Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.
Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred—return good for evil.
Give up negativism—be positive.
Give up anger—be more patient.
Give up pettiness—become mature.
Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
Give up sin—turn to virtue.
Give up giving up—hang in there!

NEWS FROM OUR MARIST MISSIONS IN SRI LANKA, INDIA AND PAKISTAN

SRI LANKA



100 years in Sri Lanka

On 2nd March 1911 five brothers, Peter Leo, Paul Leo, Francis Anthony, Jules Lawrence and Marie Chrysostom left Saint Genis Laval in France to start a mission in Sri Lanka.

They arrived in Sri Lanka, then Ceylon on **24th March 1911**.

Let us commemorate the One Hundred year anniversary with a sense of gratitude and pride thanking God for the gift of all the Brothers and Lay People who carried on the dream of Marcellin Champagnat throughout these hundred years.

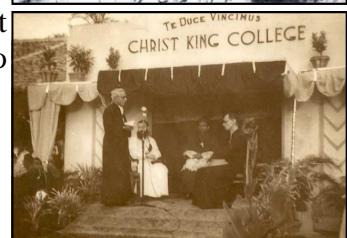
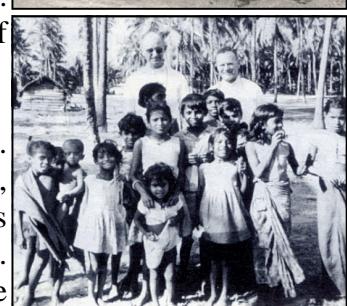
Today in the small island of Sri Lanka our Brothers are engaged in educating children in 6 schools as administrators and classroom teachers. We have also moved in to 3 welfare centers where very poor children are helped with extra classes, free of charge. There is a

Technical Training Center and a farm project for youth who either have completed their compulsory schooling or dropped out of schools mainly due to poverty and various other reasons.

Time is ripe for us to look forward and take the necessary steps to make this mission ever more effective in 2011 and beyond. It is essential that we Brothers follow Jesus in a radical way and form Christ-centered communities. Promotion of vocations to our way of life is another most pressing need.

Marcellin said “We need Brothers”. Yes we need Brothers, Lay Marists, Teachers, Co-partners and Helpers who want to live in fraternal solidarity. We cry out loud with Jesus, “The harvest is abundant, but there aren’t enough workers. Tell the Owner to send more!”

AD MULTOS ANNOS!!!!!!





Jaffna

On the 3rd of March Brothers Nicholas, Anthony, Francis and Jesu shifted to a mission house at Puloppalai West in Palai, 40km from Jaffna. Their new address is: St. Mary's Church, Puloppalai West; Palai. For a long time they have been serving at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna and their services are very much appreciated by the administration, staff and students.

Marist Brothers Farm back to the Brothers

On the 1st of February 2011 the management of the Marist Brothers farm was duly transferred back to the Brothers and thus the contract that was made with Five Star Poultry Farm was terminated. The Brothers had the Farm premises blessed after Rev. Father Rohan from the Catholic Family Life Centre, Tudella, celebrated a meaningful ritual.

Representing Brother Provincial, Brother Mervyn Perera, Vice Provincial, addressed the employees of the farm and emphasized the fact that they should dedicate themselves to its steady progress. They were promised complete support and guidance. Mrs. Sandya, the farm's new manager also spoke to the employees and requested that all of them give her their full cooperation. She feels that with their dedication and commitment to developing the farm, it will definitely make a profit, which would provide them with a handsome share. Mr. Kumar spoke on behalf of the employees and assured their support and commitment for the betterment of the Brothers' Farm. Then all shared the fellowship breakfast and left feeling very happy.

Of course the students and the staff at St. Patrick's have strongly requested the Brothers to continue serving their community. With the guidance of the Rector and due permission from Brother Provincial the three Brothers will continue to serve St. Patrick's from Palai on a part time basis.

St. Joseph's Boys College, Nugegoda

Brothers Chinthana and Chamara and Mr. Anton, along with Miss Nirmali from St. Joseph's Boys' College, Nugegoda paid a visit to several parishes in the Hanwella and Awissawella area. With due permission from the parish priests, they have invited the Catholic parents to send their boys to St. Joseph's. Most of these parents are unable to have their sons enrolled in Popular Colleges in Colombo due to distance and financial constraints. Besides that, the Government Schools refuse admission to them because they are Catholics. Brother Chinthana says that the parish visits have been successful and a number of students have been welcomed to the College based on the scholarship system.

Province of South Asia is blessed with 4 newly professed Brothers

On Saturday the 26th of February 2011 four of our novices, having completed their novitiate formation, made their first profession of vows during a moving celebration of the Eucharist at the Marist Novitiate Chapel. A large number of Brothers, Priests Sisters and other invitees were present on this joyful occasion.

Rev. Father Henry Silva, Director for Bible Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Colombo, was the main Celebrant. Rev. Fathers Gregory Fernando, parish priest at Ja-Ela and Krishntha, OMI, chaplain of De Mazenod College, Kandana were the concelebrants. Brother Joseph Peiris was Master of Ceremonies.

The Novices processed into the Novitiate Chapel to the rhythmic beat of 'Magul Bera'. Just before the beginning of Holy Mass Arati, an Indian form of ritual, was performed, a sacred song being sung and the main Celebrant and the congregation being welcomed and blessed with a lamp circulating through the gathering.

After the reading of the Holy Scriptures and the homily, it was for the rite of Profession. Brother Chinappan, the Novice Master, called out the names of the Novices to be professed and invited them to respond to questions from Brother Shanthi Liyanage, the Provincial of South Asia.

Navinda Fernando from Sri Lanka, Imran Yousaf from Pakistan and Jiji Dhasan and Riyas Aruldasan from South India made their first vows. Brother Provincial

accepted these vows on behalf of Rev. Brother Superior General. The newly professed Brothers were presented with cords by Brother Provincial and the Novice Master.

Jude Pradeep of India and Zubair Yaqub of Pakistan were given their Religious habits to mark the commencement of their Second Year of Formation, while Brothers Chamara Hettiarachchi of Sri Lanka and Albert Anthonysamy renewed their temporary vows for the coming year.

After Holy Mass the newly professed Brothers were warmly greeted and congratulated by the whole congregation. Everyone took part in a festive lunch and then returned home thanking and praising God for His grace-filled gift of these four young men to the Marist Congregation.

May our Blessed Mother and St. Marcellin Champagnat intercede for us and grant us all the grace to persevere in our chosen vocation.





PAKISTAN

Final Vows in Pakistan Brother Adnan Asif

On February the 26th one could very well, sing out aloud with Mary to the Lord, "The Lord has done great things for me". Last Saturday, we the Marist Brothers in Pakistan had Brother **Adnan Asif**, making his Final Vows. Along with Mary, Brother Adnan said, YES, to venture out into new lands, in Marist way of life.

25th evening, at John Paul II Boys Town, the boarders made the night very colourful with singing dancing and various other activities. Number of rituals were celebrated by the family members of Brother Adnan, Brothers and the hostellers. There was great rejoicing and celebration by all those connected to Brother Adnan and the Marist Brothers.

Bishop Rufin Anthony, the Bishop of Rawalpindi Islamabad diocese was the chief celebrant, along with number of Priests. He compared the Marist Brothers with a rose, adding beauty to the garden of God. He appreciated and valued the work done by the Brothers and encouraged vocations to our way of life.

Bro. Paul Bhatti, the provincial delegate in Pakistan, received the Vows on behalf of Br. Emili Turu. All the Brothers in Pakistan joined Adnan in celebrating his day. Many Religious, friends, relatives and family members of Brother Adnan were present to witness the Vows.

In the vote of thanks, Adnan was grateful to all those who had supported

him during his initial formation. He was also very grateful to those who organized the Final Vow ceremony.

Bro. Paul Bhatti, extended special thanks to the family members of Br. Adnan for the gift of his life to the Congregation. He also thanked Bro. Adnan for taking such a bold step in offering total commitment to religious life. Certainly it is a challenge for many young men.

On the same day, two young Pakistani Brothers, **Francis Rahmat** and **Kamran Younas** renewed their Vows. It was another simple but beautiful time to rejoice and celebrate.

At the end of the programme, all the invitees joined for a delicious meal.

Pakistan also received the gift of another Pakistani Brother. Bro. Imran Yousaf, who was one of those four Brothers who made their first profession in Tudella, Sri Lanka.

So, we the Marist all over the world and especially in Pakistan, join Adnan, Francis, Kamran and Imran and say, "The Lord has done great things for us."

By: Paul & Kamran. FMS

Bro. Eric Perera

Father Principal of Joseph Vaz College is extremely happy to have a veteran Brother like Eric as one of his Asst. Principals. Brother Eric is in charge of Grades 6, 7 & 8 and that amounts to 1600 boys with a staff of about 40. Brother Eric feels quite at home with the assignment and he has a well-equipped office to carry out his work efficiently. His recent project was to send the students on a well-planned Educational tour to Kalpitiya. You are welcome to visit him at Joseph Vaz.

By the way Joseph Vaz College is the only Catholic Institute throughout the island to be named after Blessed Joseph Vaz who will soon be

canonized. Imagine the prophetic vision of Brother Anthony, one of our pioneer Brothers, to name this school after Blessed Joseph Vaz when he was not even declared venerable. He knew that Joseph Vaz would be the Apostle of Sri Lanka. Hence in the 1930s the school was named after this saint. We are told that the diocese of Chilaw is drawing up plans to have an official celebration to commemorate this event, recognizing the historicity and the importance of the name of this establishment.



An experience of Montagne at Marist Sevana, Haldanduwana

Brothers Lawrence and Linus, having successfully gone beyond the life span mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, very often come across men, women young and old, and of course children , who are quite poor, downtrodden and marginalized. Often they have to lend a patient ear to soften the agonized hearts. If one could pay a visit to Marist Sevana that is filled with the blossoming flowers, one would also discover the presence of Champagnat alive and active through these, our brothers, living there.



JUST A THOUGHT

If St. Marcellin were to visit our schools in South Asia today, he would be surprised to see how much his Brothers have progressed. Of course he would surely tell us Brothers and teachers these words:

**"Tell your children that Jesus and Mary love them all very much -
those who are good because they resemble Jesus Christ, who is infinitely good.
those who are not yet good, because they will become so."**

Tell them that the Blessed Virgin loves them

because she is the mother of all the children in our schools.

And tell them that I love them very much, too,

and that I offer you and all the children to our Heavenly Father."



An incident worth mentioning

Rajkumar, 40 years old, Tamil by birth, is from Grandpass, Colombo. His Mother and one sister are mentally disturbed and very often they are looked after at Angoda Hospital. The father seems to be doing some sort of work and he has to be out all day. So Rajkumar, together with another of his sisters, has to take care of the mother, sister and others. Though raised in a Tamil household, he isn't able to read or to write in any language. But he knows how to cook and this talent has paved the way for him to be one of the cooks at the Ramadan Hotel. But often he is harassed and taken advantage of due to his ignorance of languages. He wants to create a brighter future for himself and his family members. If he could go to Italy he would be able to acquire some wealth but the language barrier is the main obstacle. Somehow he has come to know about

Br. Lawrence and his ability to understand depressed persons. However Brother Lawrence has explained to Rajkumar that it is too far and expensive for him to travel such a long distance. Rajkumar has been very touched by the tender love and concern of the Brothers for they have softened that agonized heart of his. He earns Rs.20000 a month as a cook and all of that is spent on food, clothing and medicine for his family. He had been looking for a place with someone to lend a patient ear so that he could go forward with his life. He thinks he has found that place at Marist Sevana. He is determined to learn both English and Italian.

Electro Institute

Brothers Victor and Gerard with their able staff are making progress gradually but steadily. Electro is an Institution that had been started by late Father Kinsley to support young school drop-outs in the Negombo area looking to find a brighter future. This Institution has now made great strides under the efficient direction of the Marist Brothers. The hidden and unknown sort of duties that they carry out are quite notable and praiseworthy. Rev. Brother Victor, the present Director is quite positive about the progress of all the sections of this Technical Institute. The school offers courses in Electricity,

Electronics, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, and students repair electronic items. There are about 20 students in each section. Exams are conducted by the Government, awarding certificates of great value. Boys who complete these courses successfully are able to get Jobs both in government and the private sector. Brother Gerard, though an octogenarian, is very much active and alive at Electro. He teaches English and the students seem to like him very much.



Sports' Meets

Joes end their Annual Sports' Meet with flying colours (Nugegoda)

Sports are an essential factor in the formation of our students' character and their participation in these activities paves the way for them to take up future responsibilities. It teaches them to accept and be gracious in both victory and defeat. To foster these objectives, St. Joseph's College, Nugegoda held its annual Sport's Meet on the 3rd of February at 2.00 p.m. at Mirihana Police Grounds. This was the first Sports Meet held after Brother Chinthana Nonis took over the management of the College. The Chief guest was Dr. Jayantha Wikramaratna, former Inspector General of Police. There were many Marist Brothers, Rev. Sisters, Rev. Father Edmund Tilakaratne, the Parish Priest of Nugegoda and a host of other special invitees. This year there were also many parents and well wishers to witness the talents and abilities of their children.

The two drill displays were very

attractive and the March Past was well organized and very orderly.

Dr. Jayantha Wikramaratna, our chief guest, congratulated Brother Principal, the staff and the students for their commitment towards this worthy course. Brother Chinthana with the close collaboration of Brothers Clinton and Chamara has proved his leadership credentials by organizing the Sports Meet so well and making sure that it went on smoothly.



This year there was a very close contest among the three houses. However, in the end Anthony house managed to bag the championship. With the colorful awards ceremony the Sports Meet ended with feelings of great satisfaction and peace.



Annual Athletic Meet at Maris Stella College, Branch.

The annual Inter House Athletic Meet of Maris Stella College, Branch was held on the 5th of February 2011 at the College grounds Major Susantha Fonseka, a venerable Maristonian, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

This year the Sports Meet was well organized by Brother Ranjith Perera, Principal of the Branch School along with Brother Sumith Senadheera. Meticulous planning by Mr. Milan Sanjeeva, who was ably assisted by Mr. Mike Kurukulasuriya, plus the steadfast support of all the staff members led to a very successful day.

The track events and the drill display were quite colourful and all items ended as planned in advance.



Joseph house were the champions of the 2011 Sports Meet with 221 marks while Julian House were runners up with 203. The Sports Meet was attended by a representative gathering of Clergy, Principals, old boys and many Parents, Benefactors and Well-Wishers.





Annual Athletic Meet at Maris Stella College

On Saturday the 29th of January 2011 the Inter House Athletic Meet of Maris Stella College Negombo was held on a grand scale amidst a large gathering of Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Old Boys and Parents.

In his message Brother Sunanda, Principal of Maris Stella College, aptly mentioned, "This Sports Meet is a golden opportunity to develop fair and respectful behaviour towards fellow participants and also to learn values like self-confidence, responsibility and discipline"

Right from the beginning of the Meet these elements were clearly on display in the activities that took place on the grounds. It was so well organized, a colourful spectacle, well timed, and as a result it attracted a large crowd.

The track and field events, the drill displays done so skillfully and the March Past executed with such precision proved the capacity, ability and creativity of the students and the firm determination of their teachers.

The annual Sports meet of St. Mary's College, Chilaw

The annual Sports Meet of St. Mary's College, Chilaw took place on the Friday, the 11th of February 2011 with Mr. J. P. N. Thilakarathna, the Provincial Director of Education of the North Western Province as the Chief Guest.

The meet commenced with the ceremonial opening done by Mr. A.S.K Jayalath, Zonal Director of Education, along with Rev. Brother Sandalal, Principal of the School.

The structures of the four houses were so creative and the decorations put up with so much dexterity that it was quite hard for the Judges to choose the best one. However Julian House managed to score the highest marks and win First Place.

In a very close competition Anthony house excelled and became champions for 2011.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Dilan Perera, Hon. Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion & Welfare, presided over the meet. One could see how he so thoroughly enjoyed watching events such as Gymnastics, the Karate display, Drill Displays, Band Show and some of the track events.

Our hats off to Brothers Sunanda. Ephrem, Sooriya, Kumar the prefect of Games, the staff members and the students for holding the Sports Meet with such high standards.

The Meet concluded with the awards ceremony.

There was a large gathering of Invitees as well as Parents of the students, adding color and spirit to the Meet.

All the events were very well organized and carried out on schedule. The March Past and Drill Displays were the centre of attention.

We congratulate Brother Sandalal, Brother Joseph Fonseka, the Staff Members, and the Students for holding the Sports meet on a grand scale.

NO TIME

I knelt to pray but not for long, I had too much to do.

I had to hurry and get to work. For bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer, and jumped up off my knees. My Christian duty was now done. My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time, to spread a word of cheer. No time to speak of Christ to friends, they'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do, that was my constant cry, No time to give to souls in need, But at last the time to die.

I went before the Lord. I came, I stood with downcast eyes. For in His hands God held a book; It was the Book of Life.

God looked into his book and said, "Your name I cannot find. I once was going to write it down.. . But never found the time"

Author Unknown



SANDPAPER

When you have to put up with mean people -

Think of them as sandpaper.

They may scratch you, rub you the wrong way,

But eventually....

You end up Smooth and Polished.

And the Sandpaper?

It will be worn out and ugly!

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Never lose sight of who you are,

Because you are the best thing

God ever created, embrace the gift.



Author Unknown

Truth

Those who know do not say

Those who say do not know

The wise are therefore silent

The clever speak - the stupid argue

(From Prayer of the Frog)



Truth

Like a butterfly

Help us know, O Lord, Greatness is like a butterfly
The more we chase it, the more it will elude us.

Help us know, O Lord, Happiness is like a butterfly
The more we chase it, the more it will elude us.

Help us know, O Lord, Godliness is like a butterfly
The more we chase it, the more it will elude us
Help us know, O Lord, greatness, happiness and godliness
Would come in only when we are open to ourselves!



Fr. Jerry Rosario, S.J.

Remainers

April 9th - Centenary Celebrations Youth Rally at Negombo

April 13th - Bursars' Meeting

April 29,30 and May 01st - Province Recollection

Province of South Asia

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ◆ Brother Lawrence Perera who had a fall and was admitted to Ave Maria Nursing Home Negombo with a head injury. He is recovering slowly.
- ◆ The Brothers and the people of New Zealand who were devastated due to the recent Earthquake which killed more than 200 people, left thousands homeless and caused damages worth millions of dollars.

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