

13-Feb-12

ITEM 4

I am happy to read the Asia Oceania news from the new E-Bulletin sent out by Fr. Ray Hevern.

Since I am in Cameroun at the moment, I can add some background information on the Holy Trinity Region from where Fr. Thadee Mbock comes (ref. News No.1).

This Region was erected in November 2008 with the name of its Mother Province in Germany, the Most Holy Trinity Region.

Cameroun has a unique distinction in the Pallottine world. The Pallottines implanted the Catholic Church for the first time in 1890; the patroness of this country is Mary Queen of the Apostles! The population is around 20 million.

At the moment this Region, consisting of Cameroun and Nigeria, has 126 members: 62 members of perpetual consecration and 40 members of temporary consecration and 26 candidates in Preparatory Formation. And it is growing rapidly. Here is one young Pallottine entity with a lot of promise as well as challenges.

Jacob Nampudakam sac – Rector General – ITALY
07.02.12

ITEM 3**History of St. Antonio de Padua Chaplaincy**

The name of this place is Villa Angela Site. It is 6 km away from Bacolod City and is in the midst of sugar cane field. Bacolod City is the capital of Negros Occidental Island. This chaplaincy comes under the diocese of Bacolod Diocese. St. Antonio de Chaplaincy was started in 1999 and the chapel was constructed in 2000. The parochial house was constructed in December 2003. This chaplaincy takes care of the three villages. Some years back almost all the people worked in the sugar cane field. The people here are settled to work in the sugar cane fields by the landlords. The main village in this chaplaincy was started here in 1997. St. Jude Thaddeus was the patron saint of this chaplaincy before the Chapel was constructed here. But the donor's of the land for the construction of the church wish was that St. Antonio de Padua be the patron saint of this chaplaincy. And so, this chaplaincy has two patron saints, St. Jude Thaddeus and St. Antonio de Padua. It consists of above 450 families. These were the workers working in the land of Fernando F. Gonazaga. As the city started to develop his workers were brought here and given place to stay. However at present only a few people are working in the sugarcane fields as most of the land is sold to the city developers. The people here are mostly poor, working as house maids and construction labourers. The people here are of different Christian denominations, like, Baptise, Eglesia ni Kristo, Born Again Christians, etc. But 70% people are Catholics.

Pallottines (Khrist Jyothi Region) In St. Antonio de Padua Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy was entrusted to the Pallottines on March 7, 2010. With the help of a local priest, Fr. Ronaldo S. Quijano, Rev. Fr. Jacob Napudakam (then General consulter) and Rev. Fr. Arogyadas Kottana (Regional Rector, Khrist Jyothi Regiona, Raipur, India) came in contact with the Bishop here. It was Vicar General of the Diocese, Msgr. Victorino A. Rivas, who helped us find this chaplaincy and consequently it was entrusted to Pallottines.

From 1997 to 2008 there were seven Diocesan priests who were appointed priest in-charge of this chaplaincy at different time. For more than a year no priest in-charge was staying here. However a diocesan priest used to come here on every Sunday to celebrate Mass and to take care of the spiritual needs of the people.

Ministry

Fr. Binay Bhushan Barwa and Fr. Sanjeeb Pani are involved basically in the pastoral ministry in the chaplaincy. Though 70% are Catholic, hardly 15% of the parishioners come regularly for Mass and participate in the celebration of other Sacraments. There are also only a few people who are active in the work of the Church. It is therefore both the priests are involved in the revival of the faith of the people. This is to say that we have made the charism of St. Vincent Pallotti, as described in the Preamble, our priority here. It is done in three ways:

1. Regular visit to the families and conducting prayer in their houses. It is during these visits we encourage the faithful to regularly take part in the Sacrament, especially in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Many have not received Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage. It is during these visits we personally talk to them the importance of sacraments and encourage them to prepare to receive these sacraments.
2. Sunday Catechism classes for the children - Since one year we are having regular Sunday catechism classes. It is difficult to gather the children for Sunday Catechism classes as it was not done here but there is a sign of hope.
4. The main trust of the Diocese of Bacolod for the year 2012 is formation of Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) in every parish. This is our priority too in this chaplaincy for this year. Keeping this in mind we have kept a seminar for training the lay leaders to establish BEC.

The whole village is divided in 28 blocks and each block has it leader. The leaders of the block are the members of the Parish Pastoral Council. We have meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on every first Sunday of the month. We have also youth group here who are quite factitively involved in the ministry of the parish. Beside this we have the members of the Legion of Mary who are very active in the ministry of the parish, especially reaching out to the sick and praying for them, encouraging the people who have not received the Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage to receive those sacraments and assisting the priests in house visiting.

ITEM 2

to whom should this E-BULLETIN be directed / with whom shared?

initially at least the General's covering letter suggests 'Major Superiors, Provincial Delegates and all members of the AOI group'

so could you kindly request your Secretaries to advise appropriate email addresses?

my initial distribution list as as per the attached list – derived from the documentation for the Mysore AOI 2011 meeting

Ray Hevern – Perth – AUSTRALIA
03.02.12

ITEM 1

In mid December 2011 Fr Thaddee Mbock sac from the Cameroon/Nigeria Region arrived in Australia. Prior to this he spent several months in Sth Africa to gain proficiency in English to the level required for an Australian visa.

He is presently assiting in a Pallottine parish [Riverton], and will have extended SAC parish experience elsewhere as part of his introduction

Ray Hevern – Perth – AUSTRALIA
03.02.12