

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS

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of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

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Merry Christmas
from the
Christian Brothers
in South America



Brothers' Community -- Buenos Aires

The Brothers' residence is vested in Christmas glory with a Christmas tree and several cribs as our hearts prepare to welcome the Lord. All the Brothers are well and working and collaborating generously.

A young Irish couple, Shane and Karina Cadogan spent a few days here with us; they are friends of Br. Michael Ó Catháin. They were married in Ireland in September and since then they are on their honeymoon, visiting a variety of countries. Br Hubert Wall gave them a tour of the historic centre of Buenos Aires.

On the 6th December Br. Roger O'Donoghue arrived for the wedding of his nephew. Br. Roger worked for several years in the prison apostolate in Asunción, Paraguay. He will be with us for Christmas.

Br. Patrick Payne was once again in Montevideo as external examiner for spoken English examinations in Stella Maris College. He was aided by Br. Clement O'Donnell. The college greatly appreciates this annual service and it helps to keep open a link between the Brothers and the school.

While there, Br. Patrick availed of the opportunity to attend a "Christian Rock" musical event which has been organized on an annual basis during the past five years to raise money for the social works of the College.

The event took place on the College campus and a group from Newman College also took part together with groups from Stella Maris primary and secondary schools and past pupils. The organization was impeccable and the night was beautiful. Congratulations to all concerned.

Br. Patrick also visited Casa Edmundo Rice run by the Madres de la Cruz and he was gratified to see the beautiful project of school support for poor children

Last week Br. Thomas O'Connell was invited to the 25th anniversary celebrations of past pupils of Stella Maris. Br Thomas is greatly loved by several generations of past pupils and on his part he is always delighted to return and chat with them.



Bros. Community – Cochabamba, Bol.

We have had a month of much activity. Br John Casey spent 15 days with his family in Ireland and at a meeting of the F.S.G. about Congregation finances. He met Br. Dermot Cregan who has just finished a sabbatical and is now enjoying the Christmas atmosphere.

Br. Renato Llerena spent several days in La Paz at the national meeting of CRIMPO (inserted religious communities). Thanksgiving was celebrated with a few specially invited guests.

The three Brothers studying at the university are finishing their exams and enjoying a few quiet days before heading to Lima after Christmas for our Assembly.

On the 8th December Brs. Saúl Velazquez, Renato, Elser Llanos and Francisco Tuero renewed their annual vows.



The Cochabamba community: Francisco, Elser, Xavier, Eddie, Saúl and Renato. (John is absent.)

We had a busy day on the 9th as we partook in the festivities of the Dignity of the Child Worker Day. On the 10th we celebrated Eddie's birthday with a barbecue and Baked Alaska.

Cardenal Newman School- Buenos Aires

We have just finished the celebrations marking prize giving and the end of regular activities in the primary and secondary departments. Teachers and directives made speeches giving thanks for all that we had shared during the year. We had the pleasure having the Irish Ambassador at the prize giving.

In the secondary, the occasion began with a video concerning the life of Fr. Chifri, a priest who died only a fortnight ago, and who had given a splendid example of transforming leadership working in places of "impossible" access high in the Andes in Salta Province in the North of Argentina. Some of our ex pupils had been in contact with him and had given him help with the works he created there. Fr. Chifri had visited the College and had spoken to the pupils last May.

In the primary there was also a Mass and an awards ceremony. Mention was made of the work done by some of our past pupils, parents and teachers in St. Peter Claver School which caters for children in deprived circumstances and offers them improved conditions.

On 2nd December the traditional graduation ceremony took place. It began with a Mass of thanksgiving for the twelve years spent in the College, followed by speeches made by some student graduates and Dr. Alberto Olivero, General Director. Then, each graduating student approached the stage with his parents to receive his diploma.

Something to eat was offered to all present and the celebrations concluded with a dinner for the graduates, their parents and the teachers. It was a very social occasion for a very special group of young people, young people who had given the College much cause for satisfaction.

This year the theme and motivation of the school was centred on transforming leadership. At the secondary graduation ceremony the director of the school announced that the theme for next year would be the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice.

At the end of November eight students of the school accompanied by some teachers went off to La Plata to



build some houses for the *Techo para mi País* Association. It was the third house built this year. While building, a nice relationship is developed between the boys of the school and the families for whom they are building. Our students returned very tired but really pleased with the effort made, the help given and the love and affection which they received.

In November, to mark the end of their time in the primary school the pupils of Sixth Grade set off for Mendoza for a weeks' camping out. They were accompanied by a group of teachers and four Fifth Year students. Surrounded by very impressive mountain scenery they engaged in a variety of activities such as trekking in the mountains, horse riding, mountain climbing, rafting, cycling, rappel and *tirolesa*. The boys enjoyed themselves greatly and the experienced helped to unite them as a group.



Sixth Grade boys in the Mountains in Mendoza, Argentina.

Five students from Bergen Catholic High School, New Jersey, together with Br. Brian Walsh and Prof. Lily DiMaggio, visited the school. The students boarded with Newman families.

This interchange is an experience which is developing and strengthening the bonds between the schools and communities of Bl. Edmund Rice.

Four pupils accompanied by teachers Sergio García and Felipe Collazo took part in the music festival "Christian Rock" in Stella Maris College Montevideo, Uruguay. It was a nice experience of shared music with another school of our community.

La Esperanza Community– Chimbote, Perú

We wake each morning to find a light covering of black dust over everything. This is what happens when the fishing fleet finds an abundant harvest of anchovies and the local factories burn the fish to convert them into fish flour. A considerable amount of the flour dust escapes to contaminate the atmosphere, but the people are delighted because the smoke and smell mean a prosperous year.



Brs. Seán, Williams and Richard after the renewal of vows witnessed by his colleagues and friends..

During the celebration of the Eucharist in the presence of 35 invited guests, Br. Williams Cunyas renewed his annual vows. Br. Seán Di

Figlia signed the vow sheet on behalf of the Congregation. Afterwards we all went for a celebratory lunch and later set to work to decorate the house for Christmas.

Brs. Vincent Peragine and Richard Glatz were judges at a competition in English in the Immaculate Heart School.

Later Vincent accompanied our postulant Jose Recoba on his year's end retreat. Rich helped to organize the last meeting of the year of CONFER at which the various vacant offices were finally filled. He also directed the final games of girls' basketball in a three way series of friendly matches.



Br. Rich Glatz and the under 14 girls' basketball team.

Br. Paul Keohane arrived from Lima to join Seán in matters concerned with Mundo Mejor School and one night he led the Associates in a reflection in the chapel.

The Associates of Edmund Rice renewed their promises during a Mass in the school chapel after which along with some invited guests we proceeded to the Brothers' house for a reception.

Painters and carpenters are working hard to have the Brothers' residence in order for Christmas. The painters may manage to make it, but there is still a lot of work for the carpenters to see to yet.

We will soon be saying goodbye to Br. Williams Cunyas, who will shortly be returning to Lima to continue his studies at Champagnat University. However, at the same time we welcome Brs. John Prior and Ever Cieza from the jungle of Moyobamba.

In a national campaign organized by the tax office, the school won an award equal to US\$ 7,500 for collecting receipts of sales and invoices. The money was invested in the renewal of school material and audio equipment.



On the occasion of Monsignor Ángel Simón Piorno's birthday, the school philharmonic band played before an audience of 500 persons.

MUNDO MEJOR TECHNICAL CENTRE

Having struggled against local bureaucracy for six and a half months, we finally got the authorization to issue the certificates for the modules completed this year. Rich had to denounce them before the Defender of the People for violation of the rights of the students.

On 16th December we celebrated the first graduation of students of the Middle Cycle, a new educational initiative begun in 2010. These students can now choose to practice in a business where their specialty is required and to pass a theoretical and practical examination to receive their degree as Technicians from the Ministry of Education.



The professors of the morning session send their Christmas greetings to all.

The families of the CETPRO personnel enjoyed a Christmas celebration on 20th December. There were food, sweets and hot chocolate for all and, especially for the children, there will be a clown with jokes and dancing.

We were visited by a group of 50 university students who specialize in Energy Engineering. They broke into five groups and in rotation went around five workshops and they investigated the technical projects in which our students are engaged. Several of them expressed their interest in studying one or other of our modules because they are so practical and we have good equipment and the best professors.



Hno. Edmundo Community -- Canto Grande, Lima

A warm Christmas greeting from Canto Grande!

The large playground consisting of two volleyball courts surrounded by tiers of seating has now got a canvas covering to protect us from the sun and it makes the area a little fresher for the students.

The great event of this Advent was Br. Rafael Inga's renewal of vows. We had a morning of prayer inspired in the life of Br. Roger of Taizé. The Brothers from Las Flores were here for the ceremony after which we all went out to lunch.

These days we are taken up with a series of ceremonies and farewells for the "Monseñor Romero" graduating class, who now, after eleven years, say good bye to Fe y Alegría with a campfire, Mass and graduation. These graduates have been out camping for three days in a recreational centre as a farewell to their schooldays.

Br. Hugo Cáceres preached the annual retreat to the novices of the Formation Programme of the Peruvian Conference of Religious. He spent eight quiet days in the vineyards of the Jesuit Villa Koska. Nothing better than a retreat in silence where the only one who could speak was himself - before returning to the school to finish up the year's activities!

The entrance of 160 new students gave us the opportunity to give several informational talks to the parents. It also allowed us to reaffirm our commitment to the poorest in the area. Hope in the 2022 graduates is the great theme of our Advent prayers.

Thanks to Rafael, there are flowers flourishing in the school gardens. Helped by his students he organizes the planting of cuttings in the boxes under the school windows. His pruning and fumigation have given good results also as the trees are radiant and healthy. The small gardens around the house are full of verdure and honeysuckle which fill our morning prayers with their fragrance.

The boys who played ping pong in the championship organized during the year by Br. Michael O'Donnell are going to miss that activity, but there are rumours that some of them will come to the optional remedial classes during the summer in order to be able to continue to play.

Sorry we have no photos, but our photographer, Rafael, was left without his camera so we hope the Three Wise Men will come up trumps!



San Martín Community -- Lima

Greetings to all from the community in Las Flores, Lima!

Advent is a time of joy in this community as we know that as well as waiting to celebrate the Birth of Jesus we are also experiencing real life actuality which daily teaches us to be better persons and better Christians.

From 15th to 21st November Br. Jim Glos was in Arequipa visiting and coordinating work in the Yachay Wasi Institute. That same week Br. Paul Keohane was in Argentina attending the meeting of community leaders of the Latin American region.

We celebrated Thanksgiving on Thursday 24th November. The community of Canto Grande was with us for the occasion as were the directors of Fe y Alegría (Gaby Bravo, Fanny Acuña and Lourdes Sanchez) together with a friend of the community, Manolo Hurtado.



Br. Paul Keohane lifts his glass in a toast to Gaby Bravo, head principal of Fe y Alegría.

Towards the end of November a group of students from Bergen Catholic High School, New Jersey, U.S.A., arrived for an immersion experience. They were accompanied by Br. Brian Walsh and teacher. It was really a great group with a wonderful spirit of group work and effort. They built a house in Canto Grande, visited some families in the area and also visited Dr. Tony's Children's Home.

Our postulant, Joel Regalado went off on a holiday to visit his family at the end of November. He will be back at the end of February.

Paul took part in the period of reflection with the Associates in Canto Grande and also in Fe y Alegría and the following Saturday he accompanied Br. Elmer Hurtado to the ceremony in which members of the two groups renewed their promises. Paul later visited the community in Chimbote holding different meetings during two days.



Our new friends from Bergen Catholic High School.

Br. Alberto Llanos was on an Ignatian retreat from 4th to 11th of December in the house of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Chaclacayo.

Elmer is sitting his final exams in Champagnat University and at the same time he is looking after his classes in Fe y Alegría School. He and Alberto are engaged in the task of writing out the students' report cards.

Hearty Christmas greetings to all from our community.

Providencia Community– Moyobamba, Perú

As was made known by the Regional Leadership Team a short while ago, the Brothers will be withdrawing from Moyobamba before Christmas.

The bishop and five priests concelebrated a mass in thanksgiving for the years of service of the Christian Brothers in Moyobamba and the Department of San Martin. The bishop spoke in detail about the life of Blessed Edmund Rice and the works of the Congregation in Moyobamba. On the 19th December the religious of the area held a *Thank You* celebration in honour of the Congregation.

During these last few weeks the library run by the Brothers has distributed gratis among a variety of institutions the many important works it sheltered. The National Institute of Culture received a large collection of works on the history and culture of Moyobamba and the jungle; the two faculties of the San Martin University, that of Education in Rioja and that of Ecology in Moyobamba offered their thanks for books received by means of official resolutions; the San Martin Technological Institute received an extensive collection of texts on Agronomy, Nursing and Accounting.

The major and minor seminaries, the Mercedarian college, the diocesan school, Señor del Perdón, and the nuns school all received library material.

Our furniture and appliances are all destined to end up with Caritas, Dominican Medical Assistance and various religious communities.

Christmas greetings to all and may vocations to the Brothers continue to come along.

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in FEBRUARY. "Feliz Navidad" to all our faithful correspondents!



Birthdays and Celebrations:

Hubert Wall	17 Dec.
Jim Glos	30 Dec.
Clement O'Donnell	9 Jan.
Vincent Peragine	12 Jan.
Thomas O'Connell	15 Jan.
Stan Hayes	18 Jan.
John Prior	24 Jan.
Paul Keohane	31 Jan.
Rich Glatz	8 Feb.
Alberto Llanos	10 Feb.

Holidays and Holydays

20 Jan. Holy Name of Jesus – Br. Edmund received the papal Brief in 1822 to officially begin his Congregation.

