



The Region of India

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The Regional Updates

Regional Assembly 2024



The long awaited time came true on 2 May 2024 as the District of India made the immediate preparations to celebrate its elevation as the Region of India in the Society of Mary. The Regional Assembly of India was the time of union, fellowship, reflection, and sharing mission. This joyful event brought together Marianist brothers, sisters, priests, lay collaborators, and affiliates from diverse backgrounds and regions to celebrate the Marianist charism and spirituality together.

During the assembly, we engaged in prayer, discernment, and dialogue, deepening the understanding of Marianist values and exploring ways to live out these principles in the new Region of India. Through different presentations, sharing, and collaborative sessions we envisioned a hope filled path towards inculcating Marianist spirit in the life of all those who collaborate with us in our mission.

Welcome ceremony:

The steering committee had planned to welcome the participants of the assembly and the guests with traditional Indian welcoming practices. It was a vibrant and heartfelt expression of hospitality deeply rooted in Indian culture. The Scholastics assisted in welcoming the guests with a warm "Namaste," a gesture of respect and reverence, often accompanied by folded hands and a slight bow. Along with "Namaste", the scholastics placed sandal paste on the

forehead as a sign of enlightening the third eye in the Hindu traditions. The celebration was enthused by the melodious welcome song by the Scholastics. It was wonderful to meet many of our brothers and friends who had spent time in India and have not been around for few years now. The traditional Indian welcome for the Marianist Regional Assembly embodies the spirit of inclusivity, warmth, and reverence, setting the tone for a gathering filled with joy, collaboration, and sense of brotherhood.



Liturgical Celebrations



During the Marianist Regional Assembly, liturgical activities play a central role in fostering spiritual renewal and communal bonding. Brothers and sisters engaged in various prayers and ceremonies that deepened our connection to our faith, our Marianist Charism and to one another. Morning and evening prayers mark the beginning and end of each day, providing moments of reflection and gratitude. The Eucharist is the centre of our community life and it was felt as the melodious

choir led us deep into experiencing the Eucharistic Lord in the Eucharist and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Different types of prayers engaged the brothers to feel close to God.

We wholeheartedly thank the Liturgical committee for their beautiful organization of the prayer time and preparing the needed things for the same. On 3 May 2024, Fr. Sudhir Kujur, District Superior of India celebrated the Holy Eucharist and Fr. Santhosh concelebrated along with him. Bro. Darwin Joseph shared his reflection on the feast of St. Philip. He expressed the importance of mission and responding to the call of God in times most needed. The life of St. Philip becomes model for the Marianist mission in India to follow His words seriously. On 4 May 2024, Fr. Oscar celebrated the Holy Eucharist and Fr. Sudhir concelebrated with him. Fr. Oscar emphasized one theme on love. He shared his reflection on how we need to live following our Lord's commandment to love.



Bro. Mani PFJ's Presentation on: Consecrated Life in India Today

Bro. Mani PFJ is a well-known speaker in the areas of spiritual well-being and consecrated life in India. He belongs to the Little brothers of Jesus congregation of Religious Brothers. The first half of 3 May 2024 was offered to him to deliver his insightful presentation on the topic of "Consecrated Life in India Today". His presentation dealt with the present scenario of the religious situation in India and the role of consecrated people, especially of Marianists in India.



Brother Mani began by explaining how Indian culture has worked on accepting outside influences and put forge into a distinctively Indian culture, including Christianity. He explained about the triangular matrix in understating Religious life in India. The triangular matrix includes Lk 4:18-19, Jesus addresses in Nazareth, it includes Acts 4:32 where people had one heart and one soul and the Preamble of India. He expressed his concern over the reality of Religious Life as the religious do not become the witnesses our Lord wanted to them to be. Youth are looking for witnesses.

They look for a model of consecrated life today. India strives to be the third largest economy in the world by 2030. On the other side, the majoritarianism on the basis of religion and caste discrimination continue to grow. It is already there. He also pointed out that the 10% of the population holding the 57% of wealth; 38% of the population are unemployed and 228 million still live in severe poverty. Some of these data's left us wonderstruck as the reality of the country is very shocking. In this scenario of Indian life, we need to move towards the people by educating them and walking along with them in the times of crisis. We need to address them closely and make the Gospel real for them by our radical Christian commitment.

Bro. Mani invited the assembly to live what Gandhi once said, "Live more like Jesus Christ; if you live like your master, we would not be able to resist you." He also quoted Charles de



Foucauld, "Preach the gospel from the rooftops, not by words, but by the way you live it." He invited the Marianists to focus on the call of our founder to "multiply Christians" and "forming persons and communities in a lived faith". He made us realize that as Marianists, we are called to teach and attract people by our life of faith. We are the living witnesses of our shared faith.

Bro. Mani expressed that we cannot proclaim Gospel explicitly without living the constitutional values of fraternity, equality, justice, peace and harmony. We must adopt to mainstream of life in India. We cannot close our eyes in front of problems. As Marianists we are called to create a sense of community and civic sense. Quoting Gandhi, he said that the rose does not need to preach, it could only spread its fragrance. As religious, we need to live our life genuinely to express it in our actions.

The Second part of his presentation delved with searching for a Model of Consecrated Life in India today. He emphasized the religious to take model of the Jerusalem community for its existence in the world. It should be the heart of humanity to explore the resurrected Lord in our midst. The living of the gospel becomes a reality through the consecrated life. The Catholic Church is a minority in India. There is a certain domination of the Latin Church throughout the nation. One



of the problems that the Church has to face is caste discrimination both among the Church members and in Religious communities. Including believers from various backgrounds is a big challenge for the Catholic Church. Following Pope Francis' invitation to a Church that is synodal, we must make attempts to listen to the voice of every member. We should aim at making known to all the people who work with us that "Leadership should be from below". He explained many more aspects of a synodal church and helped us understand our Charism better. We will become successful in our mission when we "listen to the peripheries". He had encouraged us to be transparent with our finances, sharing the resources with other local units who are in need, and to help create a "regional fund".



Bro. Mani continued to share his ideas on Religious Formation. He began by saying "Religious formation is an important aspect of Consecrated Life". Marianist formation has a deep tradition of mixed composition. In the Indian tradition, the priests are Brahmins and they are at the top of the caste category. However, the Marianists try to keep up Mixed Composition in India and that is a challenging task. The Marianists have to work on educating the brothers and

giving them quality professional training to cope up with the present world. All members of the society must learn individually about the mystics of India to learn about the life and build a future with the members of other faith.

We thank Bro. Mani wholeheartedly for sharing his wonderful insights with us. As a region, we grow with these seeds of wisdom and rooting ourselves in the Rule of Life of the Society of Mary, Marianist Spirituality and in the Scripture.

Presentation on the Marianist History to this day in India

Bro. Saju delivered an illuminating presentation on the topic of "The Growth and Development of the Marianist Mission in India" on 3 May 2024 in the afternoon. His presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the Marianist presence in India, tracing its evolution, challenges, and accomplishments. Bro. Saju commenced his presentation by providing a historical background of the Marianist mission in India. He presented with some images of the brothers and their work.



Thanks to Bro. Saju for his hard work in making the presentation and giving a glimpse of the Marianist History in India. Continuing his presentation Bro. Balaswamy and Fr. Santhosh presented on the development of ministries, different adventurous experiences the pioneers had and a short tribute to the brothers who worked in India and have passed away. It was a great prayerful moment for us to remember and pray for the generous contribution these brothers have made for the growth of Marianists in India. A big thanks to Bro. Saju, Bro. Balaswamy and Fr. Santhosh.

Encouragements from GA and PA



It was a great occasion to have our Provincial Council present to witness this event in India. Fr. Oscar, Bro. Bernie, Fr. Tim, Bro. Jesse and Bro. Ed addressed the brothers and shared their joy and happiness of seeing the growth of India with another step of becoming a Region in the Society of Mary. They shared their experiences with the brothers and shared their encouragement for the future. The PA assured of their continued support and prayers for the Region of India in various ways. The Region of India thank all the brothers

who were present for the celebration and also for all the generous service they have rendered in planting Marianist Charism in India. Fr. Andre and Fr. Pablo were present from the General Administration and offered their encouragement and support to the Region of India. Fr. Andre expressed his thoughts in form of a presentation talking about "what gives growth?" He said, "India is like a beautiful full-grown tree from a small seed". As a Region, we need to continue the relationship with the other units of the Society of Mary and become a tree that welcomes birds to build their nests. India is the tree and we must take care of it both inward and outward. The members of Indian Region were encouraged to take care of the roots. We must care for the roots well. Our common call unifies us and gives us vitality. To care for the

roots, Fr. Andre suggested to have personal contact with Jesus Christ, be deeply rooted in the scriptures, partake in the sacraments and be accompanied by Mary and our founders.

Pablo Rambaud expressed that the Marianist life in India should be like a tree planted by a running streams, bearing fruit and leaves that never wither. His question, “where are we planted and how are we going to bear fruit?” stirred the brothers to think better of their life. He wished that the Regions should bear fruit and rooted near running streams. The road towards this day was long. Indian Marianists have been on the road for 44 years. This road is not ours but God’s road. We have opened ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are on the road together. He alerted the brothers to be careful in keeping up mixed composition even in people do not like it. Let us listen to God on our way. He has led many people on the road: St. Paul, Abraham and road to Emmaus. We just pray to God and ask “where do you want us to go?” He encouraged us to allow God to reveal what is really going on. India must be aware of strengths and weaknesses, hopes and desires and disappointments.

Dreams, Hopes and Aspirations from the Indian Leadership



Bro. Prakash talked about his dreams, aspirations for the future of the Region of India. He stressed the importance of feeling proud of being a Marianist. We should embrace the Charism of Bl. Chaminade. The failures and success of the past should shape us. He emphasized the importance of collaboration from all the members of the Region to go forward towards success. He expressed his deep conviction of having rooted in a life of faith.

Deepening our prayer life will strengthen our consecrated life and help us mature in our religious life. Our vows lead us to a joyful life and help us to serve the people of God better. Our joy of following the Lord does not stop with us but will continue to spread to others through our vocation ministries. Each member of the Region is responsible for the growth of the Marianist Mission in India. We should work for bringing new vocations to the Society of Mary. We should continue to reach out to many people who are in need and be cautious in keeping up our accounts following the directives of the Government. Every member of the Region is important and we will form personnel and help them with education if it is necessary for mission. We will work for unity in the Region by promoting the fact that diversity is a gift for growth and not an obstacle.

Fr. Ignase talked on how to live as authentic Marianist Religious in the Region of India. He added that we were once encouraged by St. Mother Teresa to count on being faithful more than being successful. We want to be authentic means to be real, believable, genuine, original, real, actual, true. In our process of imitating Christ, Mother Mary is indispensable. Article 2 in the Rule of Life of the SM we read: “to follow, in a special way, Jesus Christ, Son of God become Son of Mary, for the salvation of all and to work for the coming of His Kingdom” is the goal of our Marianist life. We need a personal transformation by aligning inner life with actions. It is important as individuals to place others’ needs before ours. Living the gospel values in the present world is a greater call for all the Marianists. He quoted JM Arnaiz and underlined the importance of being dedicated to Christ with a full and generous heart.



Our generous heart should be the fruit of Eucharist. Bl. Chaminade will lead us to a true transformation into Jesus.

Installation of New Regional Council



Fr. Andre installed the new Regional Council consisted of Bro. Prakash Kujur (Regional Superior), Fr. Ignase Arulappen (Deputy Regional Superior and Religious Life), Bro. Basant Kujur (Assistant for the Office of Education), Bro. Pratap Guria (Assistant for the Office of Temporalities) and Fr. Prasad (Councillor). The new council was installed on 5 May 2024. The Solemn Eucharist was presided by Fr. Andre and Fr. Pablo. It was a joyous moment for the new Region of India. We

thank God for His continuous accompaniment for the Marianists in India and continue to ask his protection and support for the future of Indian Region.

Thanksgiving and Conclusion



On the final day, we had the opportunity to listen to the brothers who had pioneered the Indian Mission and other brothers who served here for many years. The brothers and sisters shared their experiences, hardships, joyful moments and some funny incidents. We thank all the brothers and sisters for

their service to the brothers in India. All the guests and brothers who served India were honoured with momentums and gifts. Thanks to the organizing team to give this opportunity to listen to them. The Regional Assembly concluded with a special festive meal for the Indian brothers, guests, Marianist collaborators and all those who were part of this historic moment.

Some other Joyful Moments





Diaconate Ordination



Showriah Ravulapalli from India and Messi Gatien Loubiya from Congo-Brazzaville were ordained as deacons on 11 May 2024 in Rome. It was a solemn celebration. Members of the Society of Mary, Daughters of Mary, Marianist Lay members, family members and friends had witnessed this great event in the life of the Society of Mary and the Church. Cardinal Luis Ladaria

Ferrer graced the occasion and ordained the brothers to diaconate. Let us thank the Lord for the gift of these brothers and their service to the Marianist Family and the Church.

Annual Retreat

Annual retreat was organized at CRI, Ulsoor, in Bangalore for the members from India from 11 May to 18 May 2024. There were 34 brothers who participated in the retreat and Fr. Leo Anand a Jesuit from Madurai Province preached the retreat. The theme was to reflect each on a special grace and ask God and the spirit to help us in this spiritual exercise. Thanks to all the brothers who participated and gained God's graces towards continuing mission in their respective places.



Come and See Program



Fr. Birendra Kullu, Vocation Director for the North part of India, had organized a "Come and See" program at Nirmal Deep in Ranchi from 9 to 12 May 2024. We were blessed with eleven candidates who were part of this program. Fr. Birendra and other brothers helped the candidates to

have some basic knowledge of the Marianists. He also had organized other come and see program in Maria Nivas community in Budakata and later to the additional two candidates. Knowing the importance of vocation recruitment, he has worked hard to spread the knowledge of the Marianist Charism among 20 candidates among whom 13 are selected to the Aspirancy program in Bangalore. Thanks to Fr. Birendra and other brothers who are involved in this mission.

Prayer Requests

Kindly pray for our Brothers and Sisters who are in the process of healing and for their speedy recovery from physical or psychological illness.

Pray for the soul of Mr. Dorotheus Kujur (69), cousin of Bro. Prakash Kujur who passed away on 09 June 2024. May his soul rest in Peace!

Let us continue to pray for Marilena, cook at Via Latina 22. May God heal her and give her peace of mind.

Pray for all the students, teachers and brothers in our schools who begin their new academic year. God's blessing be upon them and for their successful year.

Please pray for the Brothers who celebrate their birthdays during the month of June:

05 B., Rayappan
12 Minz, John Gracious
14 P., Antony Xavier
16 Larry
26 Tirkey, Sukrit



Thank You!
