

1°) G.A. CALENDAR:

(N.B. For all trips, the final date shown is the date the person is back in Rome.)

- * 25/01-17/02: PP attends GLA, Quito.
- * 29/01-17/02: DF attends GLA, Quito.
- * 29/01-18/02: JA attends GLA, Quito.
- * 30/01-18/02: GJC, JMA attend GLA, Quito.
- * 18-24/02: PP in Bogotá.
- * 19-27/02: JA in Bogotá.
- * 19/02-03/03: GJC, JMA visit Colombia.
- * 28/02-18/03: JA visits Cuba.
- * 04-10/03: GJC, JMA visit Haiti.
- * 07-26/03: DF makes Official Visit to Italy/Albania.
- * 12-29/03: GJC, JMA make Official Visit to Italy.
- * 03-16/03: JA visits Ivory Coast.

2°) G.A. E-MAIL, FAX & POSTAL MAILINGS:

Legend: em = E-Mail, fx = Fax, and pm = Postal Mailings

- * 06/01: Death Notice, Nos. 41-42 (Fr); to all Unit Heads, etc. (em)
- * 10-26/01: Death Notice, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5; to all Unit Heads, etc. (em)
- * 15/02: SM 3 Offices, 108; to all Unit Heads, etc. (em)

3°) CONGRATULATIONS:

Ordinations

* Ermenegildo Saglio (IT), Pierre N'Dja Okouin (CC): Deacon, at Rome, January 10, 2004, by Bishop Robert Sarah.

Perpetual Vows

* Callistus Jeje, Michael Otieno (EA): January 3, 2004, at Limuru, Kenya.

First Vows

* Nelson Alfonso Mendieta Galindo (CE): December 12, 2003, at Bogotá, Colombia.

4°) VISIT TO INDIA :

For all the month of December, the four members of the General Council made a team visitation of the Region of India.

- The statistics of the Region are striking. Presently there are 78 members, 75 of whom are Indians, including 33 perpetually professed and 45 temporary professed. In the two years of the novitiate there are 36 novices, and more than 30 aspirants are preparing to enter the novitiate. Such rapid growth is a sign of hope and encouragement. At the

same time, it requires on our part much careful discernment and attention to training for ministry and for leadership.

The Region includes 10 communities, 6 in the North and 4 around Bangalore, in the South.

- At Ranchi, capital of the state of Jharkhand in eastern India, we have our novitiate, presently under the leadership of Bro. Lester Kaehler as novice-master, seconded by a very able staff of 3 other formators: Fr. D'Cruz Nicholas, Bro. Delmar Jorn, and Bro. Marianus Bilung. Plans are underway to prepare an Indian novice-master within the next two years.

- In the same diocese our Brothers of the Gyan Deep community have created a center of outreach to about 750 urban poor children, offering non-formal education, nourishment, scholastic assistance, and job training.

- At Singhpur, in a rural area nearby, seven Marianists are in charge of Prabhat Tara (Morning State) Primary School with some 450 students. The Brothers hope to develop this into a secondary school in the years ahead.

- In the neighboring diocese of Khunti, six Marianists have taken over responsibility for a second rural primary school, at Binda (in its first year as a Marianist school with about 200 students). The Brothers at Binda hope to expand their service to development work and catechesis in a large and rather remote area.

- Some 400 kilometers further north, on the banks of the Ganges, in the archdiocese of Patna (capital of the state of Bihar), we presently have two communities.

- 5 Brothers in the town of Barh direct a "Multipurpose Training Institute" for young people, which offers job-training in computers, typing, spoken English and similar subjects. There are about 200 students at present.

- In the city of Patna, the community of 4 Marianists has a plan for developing a similar center; meanwhile they are

working at various jobs in education and accounting in local Catholic institutions.

- More than 1500 kilometers to the South, Bangalore is a large city (population about 6 million) with a reputation as a center for good education, a salubrious climate, and scientific expertise. We have established our scholasticate at Deepahalli on the outskirts of Bangalore on a beautiful property which includes three communities.

- The Faustino Community for aspirants is sharing lodging with the scholastics while construction of a simple building for the aspirancy program is underway. Bro. Sudhir Kujur is director of aspirants, assisted by Bros. Dennis Lobo and Tom Oles.

- The St. Joseph Community lives in a section of the property which houses a residential center for skill-training of street-children. 5 Brothers work in this community, taking care of temporalities for the entire Deepahalli complex and organizing many aspects of the life of the resident trainees. They work closely with 5 laypeople, teachers and educators for the skill-training, which much be imparted in the Tamil and Kannada languages.

- The Scholasticate Community, centered in a beautiful Indian-style chapel, presently includes 21 student Brothers, plus the staff consisting of Fr. Santosh Tudu (Director) and newly ordained Fr. Antony Attukaran. Their undergraduate program of studies is carried out under the auspices of the University of Dayton, with an emphasis on philosophy, English, and social sciences.

- In the heart of the city of Bangalore, the Chaminade Nilaya community serves as headquarters for the REDS Program, which carries out a variety of services to street-children, through pre-schools for children at risk, non-formal education for children who do not attend school, women's self-help groups, and waste-management programs. About 1000 children are reached through

these programs among some of the poorest of the poor.

- Three other Brothers are doing post-graduate studies in Bangalore, in theology, social work, and technical skills. In addition, this year two Brothers are in a training program for primary teachers at Hazaribagh, near Ranchi, and two others are in their final year of theology at our international seminary in Rome.

During our visit, we found the Region making much progress and appreciated the efforts of the new leadership, in its majority composed of Indians, to take over full responsibility. We encouraged the members of the Region to work out clear plans for the development of new ministries and finances, and to continue to give a lot of attention to developing good skills for ministry and leadership among the members.

Our visit concluded with the ordination of two Marianist priests, Antony Attukaran and D'Cruz Nicholas, by Bishop Paul Vollmar, S.M. (Zürich) on December 28. The beautiful, inculturated ceremony was prepared by the scholastic community.

Afterwards Fr. David Fleming and Bro. Javier Anso remained on to take part in the first Masses at the home parishes of the two new priests, one in the far South of Tamil Nadu amid rice fields, sugarcane and banana plantations, and the other in the Himalayas, among the tea gardens of Darjeeling. (DF)

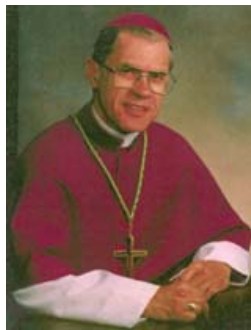


5º) CONGRATULATIONS - ARCHBISHOP ROUSSIN, S.M.:

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has named Most Rev. Raymond Roussin, S.M., current Bishop of Victoria, as Archbishop of Vancouver, succeeding Most Rev. Adam Exner, O.M.I., who has reached the mandatory age of retirement according to Canon 401 of the Code of Canon Law.

Born in 1939 in Saint Boniface, Manitoba, Archbishop Roussin attended our Provencher School

and the Marianist Postulate at Kirkwood, Missouri. After his novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, he made first vows in 1957. He graduated from St. Mary's University (San Antonio) in 1960, taught in St. Louis and in Canada, and studied theology at Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained as a Marianist priest in 1970. He taught for many years in Quebec, Manitoba and the United States before becoming Provincial of Canada from 1980-1986. He was also president of the Western Region of the Canadian Religious Conference from 1984-1986. Archbishop-elect Roussin has been Bishop of Victoria, British Columbia, since March 18, 1999. He was first named a Bishop in 1995 when he was appointed Bishop of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, a position he held until that diocese's dissolution in 1998.



Archbishop-elect Roussin has been active within the *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)*, serving as a member of the Episcopal Commission for Christian Education (French Sector), the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy (English Sector), the Permanent Council and also as CCCB liaison Bishop with Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry.

The Archdiocese of Vancouver has a Catholic population of 402,310 in 94 parishes and missions, served by 89 diocesan priests, 87 religious order priests, one permanent deacon, 145 religious sisters and brothers.

6º) THE GRUPO EDITORIAL S.M.:

Recently inaugurating a new headquarters in a specially designed building near Madrid, the Group



employs about 1000 people and is now the largest publisher of school textbooks in Spain. It has branches in Mexico, Chile and Argentina and is inaugurating a center in Brazil. The group also publishes books of religious interest and children's literature in several languages of the Iberian peninsula. The weekly religious magazine, *Vida Nueva*, is associated with the group. Many of its profits are channeled through the Santa María Foundation to various projects for education and social service to young people. Congratulations on the progress of this important work! (DF)

7º) PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The following Personnel changes, corrections or additions have taken place recently. These are changes to the new 2003-2004 International Personnel listings:

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