

# PANNUR voice

Pannur Jesuit Mission

... AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE

august 2011



Summer Volunteer groups 2011



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## Editorial

Dear friends,

Who will speak for the voiceless in the world? In our Ignatian tradition, we Jesuits and our collaborators believe in the faith that promotes justice. Therefore we take a stand for all voiceless people as much as we can together with our benefactors.

It is with great joy that we present you with the first issue of our new newsletter *Pannur voice*. It is dedicated to our friend, Dinah Findley who celebrates her birthday and has also been a voice of the voiceless Dalit children and has given a meaning to their lives.

I hope this newsletter will become a voice for our voiceless in and around Pannur. It is my desire that the *Pannur voice* publishes a regular update about the latest developments at our place. I wish to see people to stay in touch with us watching together God's involvement in creation and be inspired to support a just cause.

Ever grateful,

## A birthday wish from Mission Superior

Dear Dinah,

It is with great joy that I wish you a very happy birthday. May the good Lord who has made you such a wonderful person, bless you even more with health, joy, peace and happiness in your life, and make you a source of blessing, not only to your family but also to others, specially the poor Dalits.

I take this opportunity to thank you

for the great, support and inspiration that you have been to us, at Pannur and Manvi who have been trying to serve the Dalits. Your love and concern for these poor despised and oppressed people has strengthened our own commitment to these people. Because of you many Dalits, have had an opportunity to be educated and walk with human dignity and respect in the society. You have touched

the lives of many and have made them bloom. You have brought light and joy into their lives.

Only the Lord can adequately reward you for all that you are and have been to us in our Mission. On this happy occasion may He bless you, and your family abundantly.

Yours sincerely,

Terence Farias SJ

Mission Superior



Project Manvi

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**india** jezuiti.sk

The Jesuits at Pannur with their collaborators are working hard to serve the poor. They serve the Dalits of this area who were being forsaken by the NGOs as well as the Government. Serving this mission has enlightened not only the politicians and leaders of this district but also many foreigners who have love for the poor because love has no boundaries.

#### The English group

Sharon and her team from England have crossed the boundaries of their country to extend their love for the dalits so that they may have a progressive living. The name Sharon has become familiar to every child in our school.

Sharon has visited our Pannur Mission 13 times within a short period. Every year she comes with a group of 15 to 20 pre-university students. Their

involvement is highly appreciated. They become one with the people when they come here. They visit different villages, speak to the people, are with them and work with them. They take interest in people and learn a few Kannada words and sentences through which they are able to communicate with people in the villages. Especially, the typical way of wishing – Namaste.

Whatever may be the climate they try to get adjusted and cope with it and work hard. They help in the construction of the buildings by laying foundations for yet another new building at our Nagar, by digging and carrying mud.

Children enjoy playing with them, especially football. The English students were the ones who inculcated interest for football in our children.

Tiredness brings no barriers to them, after all their hard work in the morning, they take classes in the hostel where individual attention is given.

Every year they come and join in the celebration of Saint Ignatius day and also perform an Indian Folk dance. Hats off to the British team!!!

#### The Spanish group

Every dream hitches the soul to the stars. The Spanish group dreamt of helping the small children in Pannur in their studies and by doing so they have got hitched to the stars above. They were with the small kids in the Kindergarden at Pannur, singing, dancing and teaching them rhymes. They taught them to write and recognize the English alphabet.

In the evenings they played with the children, they visited the houses and spent some time with the families. The group found real happiness in helping their friends at Pannur.

The Spanish come and support the Pannur children in their struggle for a better life. Thank you!

#### The Czech and Slovak group

Two Jesuit priests from Slovakia came with a group of 13 students.

Their presence here is very nourishing, their promptness and punctuality have given us the message that "time is an untapped wealth". Every morning they are present at the construction place passing on the cement, clearing the debris and bushes, digging and leveling the ground, preparing everything for the opening of the building. By evening they are with the children playing with them, talking to them and encouraging them. Then they take the children into study period, giving them a special and individual attention, all what they need.

The message given by them is that there is no more important work than being with the poorest of the poor and the weakest of the weak. We are most grateful to you, our friends!

The Mission is growing and developing fast because of the goodness and generosity of many good souls who have a thirst to serve the poor and thus to serve our good God.

*Sr. Rita TAB*





## Projects Update

We wish to announce our new project, building of the new Church for Pannur people and surrounding villages. The present church is a simple prayer hall (20x18 feet) with a capacity to hold 150 people. In Pannur parish itself we have around 700 Catholics. There are 26 villages surrounding Pannur these are all Dalit villages, but have great inclination towards Christianity. Most of the time they have to sit outside the church. In summer it is in the sun and in the rainy season in the rain.

The location of the existing prayer hall is very close to the river which every year is in spate and creates panic and actual destruction of houses and properties nearby. It has happened in the year 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009 too. The worst floods over the last 100 years occurred in 2009 October when the water level came up to the lintel level of the church and several villages were wiped out with flood water. Everything inside the church was very badly damaged. All the items in the sacristy were damaged beyond repair. Statues were floating in the water. The foundation of the church was badly affected. The place was filled with dirt and sand everywhere.

Our Dalit people and children have a great love for the Church. They come everyday in the morning to sing and pray and in the evening for the Eucharistic

celebration. The children themselves often fill the Church.

Pannur is surrounded by Dalit villages where people are generally open to the Good News proclaimed by the Church. There are many non-Christian Dalits and Hindus who attend the service every Sunday. They come by bullock cart from surrounding villages ranging from 1 km to 7 kms. In this context we feel the need for an attractive, devotional and spacious church both for the building up of the faith of Dalit Catholics and for the proclamation of the Good News to the non-Catholics who are attending the Church services from nearby villages.

Our budget for the construction of the new church and furnishing of the church: 140 000 euros.

The Dalit community is donating one acre sixteen guntas of land away from the riverside to construct this new church. They have also accepted to give as part of their contribution free labour worth 4 900 euros and the Karnataka Jesuit Province has generously given 13 000 euros for this cause.

We would be very grateful to you if you could kindly support us and be our partners in putting up this St. Peter's Church in Pannur, in the Diocese of Bellary.

*Fr. Maxim Rasquinha SJ*  
Parish Priest-Pannur



## Brief history

### Pannur choice

Jesuits first settled in Pannur at the invitation of the local bishop of Bellary, Joseph D'Silva. The mission was officially inaugurated on June 29, 2002 on the feast of St. Peter and Paul. Soon enough the Jesuits have realized that the key to empowerment of the Dalits lies in providing English medium education that will enable children to tackle roots of their poverty.

### Manvi campus

Loyola Nagar (City) was bought with the help of Fr. Peter Ballies SJ, the German Mission's Procurator. The administration block today at first served as a starting point for school, residence and administration space. Today, each block has its own building.

### First volunteers

Volunteers began to come as early as the summer of 2002. They have never stopped coming since then. First came the British led by Fr. Tim Byron SJ and later continuously led by Mrs. Sharon Wheatley. Then came the French led by Fr. Christian Mellon SJ. The Spanish came for the first time in 2006 led by Fr. Tim Byron SJ and since then each summer a different Spanish Jesuit leads a group. Later came the Australians led by their leader Mr. Paul Hodges. The Slovaks and the Czech first arrived as a group in 2008 led by Fr. Ladislav Sulik SJ. The Polish group also has come, led by Fr. Gregory SJ.

### Volunteer programme

Our place is open to everyone who wishes to come to help us in our daily labour and struggle. For further enquiry, please contact, Fr. Eric Mathias SJ: [ericmathiassj@gmail.com](mailto:ericmathiassj@gmail.com) Tel.: 00919449625563

### Future perspectives

The Loyola Nagar in Manvi hopes to complete the PUC building provided we get enough funds. The next step will be to establish an University degree programme. Email us, if you wish to know more: Fr. Eric Mathias SJ: [ericmathiassj@gmail.com](mailto:ericmathiassj@gmail.com), Tel.: 00919449625563

### New website

We are proud to announce our new website of the Pannur parish: [www.pannurvoice.org](http://www.pannurvoice.org)

# Our Benefactors

We give thanks to our Benefactors in recognition of their generosity and expression of their love and their compassion towards our people. Today we present to you our friend Dinah Findley who celebrates her birthday. Our children wish her well too in their own way. Below are just some of their birthday wishes to Dinah.



Dearest Dinah,  
Wish you a very happy Birthday  
Loving and prayerful wishes ! ! !

I am your loving child Basavalinga of std 10th. This year is an important year for me, I must work hard and pass with distinction, so I am working hard without wasting my time, and in the midst of my heavy schedule when Father told me to write this letter I happily and gladly came running and when I heard that it was your birthday and I have to write greetings to you, I was thrilled to write.

So my prayer for you on your birthday is that God may bless you and your family abundantly and may keep you safe from all dangers. I really admire your goodness and love for the poor and the down trodden.

I remember those days when you were in India last year, we were happy to see you and being with you, you took the trouble to come to India and to see us. Again when are you coming to India? We feel like seeing you this year also, hope to meet you soon.

So once again wishing You a very Happy Birthday and craving your blessings I close these few lines.

Your Loving Child  
Basavalinga

The Farmers are waiting for rain  
The travellers are waiting for train;  
The teachers are waiting to teach  
The preachers are waiting to preach;  
Loyola is waiting for Dinah  
Dinah is waiting to see Loyola  
Loyola is waiting for Dinah  
Dinah Happy birthday

Devraj  
5th Standard

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The sky is full of stars,  
The sea is full of water  
The trees are full of leaves  
But my heart is full of you.  
Lali is a silent sister  
Patrick is a brilliant brother  
Kati is a faithful sister  
Peter is a generous man  
They will drive a peaceful van  
My dear birthday babe Dinah is a kind  
and lovely mother.

Madhu.C  
10th Standard

## A Prayer for our Benefactors prayed daily after Holy Communion

Dear Lord, you have come into our hearts in the form of Your Precious Body and Blood. We greet You and we love You. Do come also into our homes. Live in our families. Bless our parents, our relatives, our neighbours, our fathers and brothers, sisters and teachers and also those who are not good to us. Please do not leave us and our people. Guide us to grow as good and loving children.

Bless in a special way all our Benefactors and their Families. They have been generous to us and have understood the needs and sufferings we go through and have supported us with love.

Bless them abundantly!  
Grant that some from among us come forward to answer Your call and serve the poor and suffering people through a dedicated life.  
Lord, may your kingdom come!  
Amen.

If you wish to support us, you may send your contribution to:

### Centre For Non-Formal & Continuing Education (R)

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The best way of sending the amount to us is through a bank telegraphic transfer to our bank account.



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