



MANDALAY NOTES JANUARY 2007

Happy New Year to one and all

Carollers Bring Joy during the Christmas Season

Even though many of the people are having a hard time, they were very eager and willing to accept carollers who come from different parishes. This is also the time for fund raising for the Youth Groups as they go around cheering people up. The non-Catholics are also interested in having these young people come to their homes and bring music even though some come in late at night. They prepare some food and drinks for them and an envelop wherein they put a bit of money to give to the singers.

The children practiced a few weeks before as they prepared themselves to go out and bring good tidings to those around. One of the parishes, Myitnge, does not have too many young people and so the whole congregation joined and sang especially to those who do not come to church very often during the year. "May God's blessing surround you tonight" they sang.



**Novena to Our Lady of La Salette:
every Saturday at the Shrine at 5:00 pm**

More Visitors Expected to Come

As the shrine in Chanthagone is getting to be known, more and more people are interested in coming to take a spiritual vacation. Many would like to make retreats and offer seminars and workshops. The Pilgrims from afar would like to stay over night. This means that we need to prepare the place for more visitors. Even though there is one hall and about fifteen rooms and six toilets/bathrooms, That may sound a lot but most of the people prefer the bathrooms where you squat on the floor. (Some would even squat on the toilet bowl.) So there is a need to build more bathrooms where you squat.

Another thing that come with bathrooms is the need to have a big septic tank. The former parish priest had the reputation of building everything very small. The tanks get filled very fast. So the only way to have good sanitary toilets is to have more compartments and to make them big. Hopefully with five different compartments and bigger ones we will have less smell and easier flow of waste.

We will also need a big water tank. It is impossible to keep them clean without much water. When will that come? It depends on some generous donors. It will cost about five thousand dollars if the price of cement would stay at about four dollars a bag..



Forming Good Neighbors



Myauk Kine is a very small village but it has many sectors. The Southern sector is quite Catholic and the church is located there. There are many monasteries and occasionally the Buddhist monks would be invited for a meal. Before the end of the year, Fr. Jerome invited the two monks who live in the monastery only a few yards away from the clergy house. They brought with them their "parish council" members and had a good meal prepared by some members of youth of the parish. Recently they restored the stolen electric wires and they were able to get their electricity back. The people stole the wires for the copper that is inside. They found the covering plastic rubber in the fields nearby. They did that in the village where the shrine is. With a lot

of people without work they try to beg, borrow or steal. It is very difficult to catch them as they observe you and find out when you are in and when you go to bed etc. With frequent brown-outs (or black-outs) it is quite easy for them to get at the wires which are usually shielded.



Sr. Maria Goretti SJA and the Orphanage in Zaw Gyi

The superior of the Zaw Gyi orphanage, Sr. Maria Goretti, SJA, died suddenly of heart attack just after Christmas, at three in the morning on the 27th of December. She was buried the day after. She just moved from the south in a few months before to Zaw Gyi. She was assigned to the orphanage.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition came into the country over a century ago. Their main apostolate was to educate the children. They opened schools and an orphanage. They moved the orphanage to middle part of the country closer to the center nearer to the palace of the kings.

Eventually the diocese opened another orphanage for the boys who were getting bigger and could not stay together with the girls. The sisters continued to take care of the girls up to the moment. Most of the orphans are from the mountains belonging to different tribes. St. Francis Xavier Brothers are taking care of the orphanage for the boys. The diocesan authorities moved the orphanage from Amarapura to Chanthagone where the La Salette Missionaries re-opened the missions in October of 2005.

With the times getting too difficult, the population in the orphanage has shrunk to the level the Church authorities can manage. Many of the faithful help out in many different ways they can.



Ordinations in Anisakhan

One of the Salesian Deacons was ordained to the Priesthood on the 8th of December by the Salesian Archbishop of Yangon, Charles Bo, DD, SDB. Bishop Paul Grawng, the local Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Mandalay could not come because he was sick. Most of the clergy came up from Mandalay after their December Monthly Recollection. Bishop Charles Bo flew up from Yangon the day before. The Salesians will be celebrating their jubilee in February. Anisakhan is on the way to Pyin Oo Lwin (May Myo) the summer capital. The weather is quite cool.



A New House

Using the left over bamboos and posts from the huts the La Salette Missionaries used during the October feast to house the pilgrims, Fr. David Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, MS built a small cosy little house. Even though it is not yet furnished, it will surely help house some visitors. The pond in front does not hold water as yet.



MANDALAY NOTES JANUARY 07

You will make this known to all my people!

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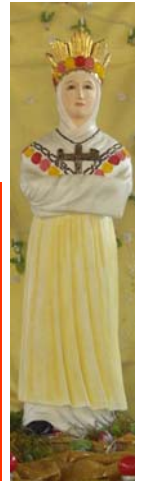
Schedule of Celebrations at the Shrine

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: Feb 11—12, 2007

Feast of Our Lady of La Salette Sept. 19, 2007

Ordination to the Priesthood: October 9, 2007

Feast of O. Lady of the Rosary Oct 25—26, 2007



Novena to Our Lady of La Salette in Myanmar



Now that the Novena to Our Lady of La Salette has been translated into Myanmar, the La Salette Missionaries are beginning a new tradition at the Shrine in Chanthagone, Paleik, Mandalay. Every Saturday at five in the evening, the village people gather around the newly acquired statue of Our Lady of La Salette, donated by Ms. Jesse Tamani of Santiago, Isabela, Philippines, to say the Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of La Salette. The translation is based on that made by our Fathers about fifty years ago. The songs have still to be translated even though the old ones existed. With this new tradition in the Archdiocese of Mandalay, it is a small attempt to heed to the call of Our Blessed Mother to make this known to all my people. After the novena prayers, which include the Litany, Consecration and Memorare to Our Lady of La Salette, the faithful bring the statue of Our Lady of La Salette around in procession bringing her throughout the main roads of the property and the village. A small generator is used to light up the statue. The statue is so light that even the younger members of the congregation can carry it. This is to honour the fact that she appeared to Maximin and Melanie who were eleven and fourteen years of age. May our Lady of La Salette continue to pray for us so we may have peace and reconciliation.



A Scholar from Chanthagone

Through the generosity of the Mr. & Mrs. Mariano & Helen Babaran, one of the young students will be able to go to the University of La Salette in Santiago, Isabela, Philippines. Even though she is still very young, she will be a great inspiration to the small village, Chanthagone, where the La Salette Missionaries began to re-establish their missions in Myanmar.

Zin Mar Way finished her High School the other year and was attending a local college in Kyauk Se, about fifteen miles from her village. Of course these courses she took up will not be accredited as the government does not give out transcripts. She will be taking up Nursing to help the villagers when she comes back from her studies. The processing of the papers has begun and hopefully she will be able to get her passport and visa soon.

Hopefully she will be able to help in taking care of the villagers when they are sick. Thank you Mario and Helen, take good care of her.