

# THE MESSENGER OF KOLKATA

" Go all over the world, and preach the good news to all the creation "  
Marc 16:15

## EDITORIAL

### ***" MOVE FORWARD TO DEEP WATER. " IK 5:1***

To each of you Peace and Joy!

The call of the Gospel is direct: " go farther! Release ropes! Widen the space of your tent!... " By meeting you again on the occasion of this publication of the messenger of Kolkata, I am happy to announce you this theme which is going to guide our reflection this year.

**To move forward...** it is to remain faithful to our vocation that is to live and to serve the poorest. The time has come "to put" all that we received a little as small crumbs of Love and life, fruit of these 14 years lived with the children on the platform of railway stations. These crumbs are going to be gathered to form the same bread, to move forward and develop us, we enter in a period of spiritual, human and medical training to remain always more faithful.

In this life where we are launched everywhere with the poor people, we have the joy of living our mission in brotherhood formed of the sinners whom we are. After Brother Antoine Emmanuel, came to help us for the training last year, it is Brother Benoît whom the Divine Providence sent us this summer. Its clear, deep and direct teaching touched the hearts.

For us, **"Move forward to deep water", it is to enter a path of conversion in passing from the world of the conquest to that of the meeting** ... It is this way to which the poor people "propelled" us. Here we are at the heart of the Gospel.

The training will be also medical: 3 of our brothers will go for a training in Bengaluru next year and will return with a diploma of nurse's aide to dispense better health care to the poor people whom we accompany.

Then lets go! Let us sail to deep water and more than ever we express you our profound gratitude to be with us in our mission of love.

God blesses you

Brother Francis Mary P.C.

**MAY 2017**

May was rich in events:

First of all the coming of Brother Paul, an old friend...



Then that of Dominique, our French coordinator and his wife Pauline, who had come to share one week with the team, Brother Surajit, to the right of Dominique, and Sanjeev went to welcome our visitors at the airport.



By the way, you do not still know Sanjeev and Surajit!

In front of the more and more numerous demands of care, we had to develop our team. The coming of Sanjeev, 19 years was welcomed as a blessing... His dynamism and his enthusiasm helps us to face the new needs.

As for Surajit, 26 years, he was sent to us and began splendidly its 2 months of " come and see " before being appointed Guard of his Brothers. WHAT? A Guard to the P.C.! No, it is neither about a prison guard, nor about a peace guard but about **Brother Guardian**. This naming comes from Francis of Assisi who used it to indicate the one who was in charge to look after his Brothers so he placed a Guard at the head of every Brotherhood. Brother Surajit thus, lives, prays and works with us by sharing every aspect of our life. He exercises little by little his guard's mission: look after, encourage, train our Brotherhood. After the problems met with our last coordinators, we decided to eliminate this post which, in the Indian mentality, evoked more a social and financial advancement what became incompatible with our simple and brotherly life plan.

On Friday, May 12th it was the anniversary of the death of Chitke.

For those who did not know us at that time, Chitke is one of young boy that we followed and accompanied unfortunately until his departure towards the Sky in 2008, further to a terrible bone cancer which deformed his shoulder and skull.

Here he is with his Dad some time before his death.





On the platform of the railway station of Sealdah, it was a great emotion, we gathered around Didi Ma his grandmother. We prayed and offered flowers and cakes. All of us were in communion with our Brother and Friend who left us at the age of 12. Sadness of the separation and the joy to know him in the plenitude of God.

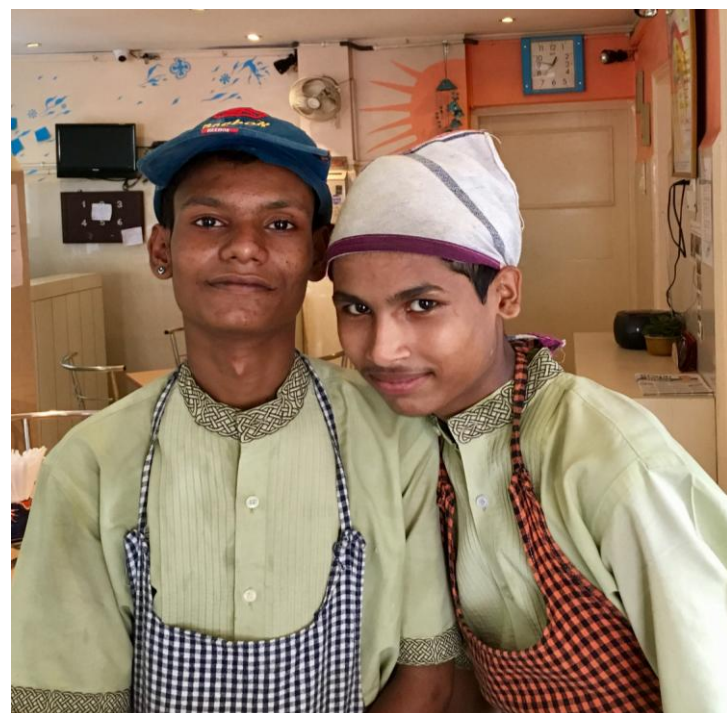
### **Opening of a new dispensary in the city centre.**

**June** was filled with multiple activities to face the needs, always more important of the poor people, it is right at the heart of the city that we found a ground in the district of Molali. We go there every Friday to provide health care to a part of this uprooted population of Bihar.

The poor people call. Since a few months, our "service" also extends to the visits of families in villages as well as in the outskirts of Kolkata.

Once a week we also go to the jail to visit boys of the railway station imprisoned ...

The Sponsorships evolve favourably since we undertook the small last reform. Each one progresses in a more or less visible way. Riju and Firoz knows big happiness thanks to their training of assistant cook at Hope Café. Yes they are wild with joy!!! Just like Babu.



For others, as Dileep, after the falls they are the painful recoveries. Situations as that of Pauli are filled with hope. She likes and stabilizes in the centre of Sonarpur, but there also it is necessary to be realistic: the thirst of the street can reappear at any time.

The council of the Sponsorships made up of Surajit our Guard, Charles our President and Chandan meets every month to welcome each one and think about its situation.

## **New content are on program in the timetable of the Brotherhood:**

On Wednesdays we do not go any more to the railway station, but do a training course in 4 components:

- Deepening of our roots, our Life plan. Study of a precise point. This week the reflection concerned our Charisma of **TOURING AND MOBILITY**: how to be always in "starting block" to go to live with the poor people and to serve them. Next week we shall approach our relationship to the money, the following one the questioning will concern our relationship with our "common house" by studying the encyclical of our Pope Francis: **LAUDATO SI**
- Opening of a class of English with Sylvia's arrival, a student avid to contribute to our mission. On every Wednesday she teaches this class from 11 to 12



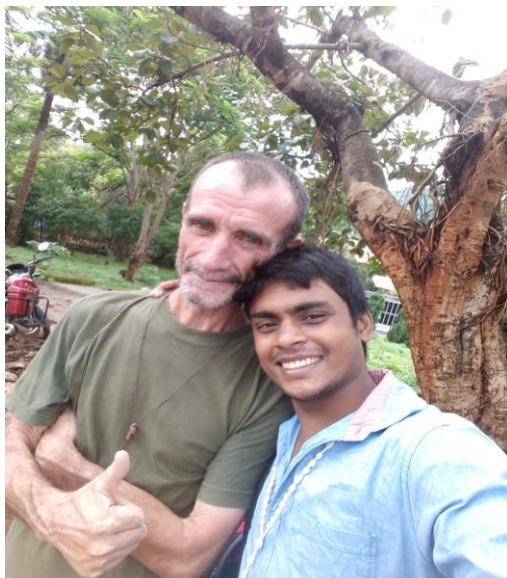
- Personal working time: reading, tutorial classes, spirituality, etc.

## **Other message in the beginning of summer...**

**"July came and here it is raining, it is raining ...** But it is joy and happiness because it limits heat!

**Brother Benoît** "exults" and builds a project to associate us with the Capuchin Friars. He came to spend a few months with us and gave us a remarkable Franciscan teaching ...

Here he is with Akash!



Yesterday we visited the family of Shuki in the village of Aldi.

Today, while we were on pilgrimage on the steps of Mother Teresa in the centre of Calcutta, umbrellas were not enough: a boat would have been necessary or downright to put oneself in swimsuit!

On Saturday 29 we shall go to Krishnanagar to meet our Friend Joseph and his "FBA" (friends of birds of air)

"And finally on Monday, 31 we shall visit Gaston"

.....



These excursions outside Calcutta allow not only to meet our friends but also to escape a few hours the sticky sweatiness of the big city... It is also a break in the middle of the endless administrative harassments which Brother Surajit and Myself do not succeed in getting through although we are thoroughly on the ground. It is also that India!... "

**On July 17th Brother François still sends some news ....**

" **Everything goes well... The new dispensary of MOLALI** is going full swing: more than 50 care last Friday...

**On Sundays** our ministry in villages develops... The teenagers and the young adults of the railway station consider our visit to their family as a blessing.... They understand that we do not content with looking after the little injuries or with teaching them the alphabet but also that their family context has a lot of importance for us...

Two young drug-addicts asked 2 months back to be admitted in detoxification centre ... We visit them on every Thursday.

**Sukhi** tries to start a "business" of fruits and vegetables. He is supported ...

**Shumbu** reappears ... Broken by the street but he resurfaces. We are going to give him again all the chances to start again ...

**Babu** has "just slammed" the door of his job: he quarrelled with Raout, his boss, nevertheless very nice and who was paying him well: The logic of our younger Brothers is not ours... It is up-to us to be converted and to try to follow! We take him back with us as cook until December 31st then we shall see.

**Rana** got married and he seems delighted .....

**We welcome 2 volunteers** Margot and Éléonore; after a time of experimentation, they are a big hit with the girls... They are brilliant and full of life...

**Our 3 musketeers** Brother Surajit, Brother Benoit and Akash who left for Kandhamal to try " fishing some brothers' fishes ", are in good shape. They return on Thursday at 5 am in the morning! Brother Prem a friend Missionnaire of Charity. Came to join them for 3 days to help them... " . "



*These young Christian Indians are future brothers or future priests in the process of formation to whom the bishop of Bhubaneswar gives the opportunity to meet the persons in charge of diverse communities with the aim of their life choice. Every year Brother François or his assistants participate in these camps to propose to those who want to join the Pilgrims of Charity. Several candidates followed one another but at the moment little share the spirit of poverty of our association: stemming from poor circles they hope a kind of social advancement in their future ministry and not the despoliation of our brotherhood...*

**At the end of August after a time of silence due to the extra work, the new message:**

"Many medical problems came to push aside our life and my departure towards France is going to get organized one more time in a panic. This summer was marked by many graces and so many difficulties. Among the graces, brother's Benoît presence was a wonderful comfort. This Brother, friend for a long time, inspires us by his Words. His life of a disconcerting simplicity touched us a lot. Its illustrates a path since Saint Damien's crucifix until the Service of the Poor people via Brotherly Life; Path perfectly echoing the priorities of the Pilgrims of charity! A project, in connection with the young Capuchin Friars could be born ... **Surajit** .pursues his training P.C. and begin a computing course of one year. We take care of his training. In May, 2018 if everything is fine he would leave with Sukhi and Akash for 3 months of medical training in BENGALURU with the M.C. and some Buddhist monks.

Tomorrow in August 22nd, he will be officially named Guard of the Brotherhood in front of all the children and the elder boys of the railway station.

**Sanjeev** left us: our life plan was too much demanding for him. We found him a great job: guard/house keeper at Pakrity, Guest house where we send the young volunteers. He is very happy and especially there... he can use his smartphone in the daytime and night!!!!

On the occasion of August 15th a great picnic at the edge of the Ganges, at the Missionaries of Charity, gathered us.

In the program: Prayer, teaching of Brother Benoît, Bathing and ... Crossing of the Ganges in boat ...



"P.C. Hospital"? For almost one month it was the show of our Brotherhood. Result: half of us found itself in bed, including Brother Benoît. Akash, badly put back by a jaundice, is going to have to be operated for tonsils what worries him a lot!

As for your servant, who, according to some stayed the only vigorous one, he found himself confined to bed in turn, by Brotherly solidarity undoubtedly! Bitten by a clandestine tenant (a rat!), my right foot was transformed into pumpkin! A powerful antibiotic treatment, the forced rest and the brotherly care cheered me up just in time to take the plane towards Europe!.

At the beginning of October, before beginning the tour of mission in schools, the family of PC found itself under the leadership of Brother Francis, in St Doulchard, at the convent of Annonciades for two days of recollection. The theme was there **"to Pass from the world of the conquest to the one of the meeting"**.

**Since then Brother Francis cross the rail-roads of France and Europe for the meeting of young and less young as much in schools, colleges or high schools as in retirement homes, to bring his testimony ...**

Here is some echo:

- **From ND la Riche:** Thanks to you for this poignant and joyful testimony, it is the cocktail which works well with the teenagers. Robin D.
- **From the retreat of the students at ND du Grandmont:** thanks to you Brother Francis Mary who knew how to guide our students to the opening of the heart! Before leaving the high school I very quickly investigated myself and I deliver you a pearl: *"I met God"* .Amen! That the Spirit keeps blowing in your mission in France and see you soon. Blandine DSP

## THE PROJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

### IN INDIA : The house of Baruipur

The works for the protection of the ground which we bought in 2010, 35 km from Calcutta, are soon going to begin. To avoid that our ground is occupied by others, we decided to protect it by raising walls and by surrounding all the property by a fence. This ground which is at present used as picnic area for the children of the railway station approximately once a month, could become the house to receive the Brothers.



### IN FRANCE : The Mill of Azinières at the heart of Auvergne



Aware of the more and the more visible presence of deprived people at our doors we intend to build a life plan and welcome Poor people in our Mill, in Auvergne. It requires important works of connecting water and electricity in particular, then the presence of some people avid to make this place alive within a beautiful nature...

**In Calcutta during this time the mission is well and takes advantage of the reinforcement of Edwige, young French student determined and dynamic....**

And Soon, Yvette an English nurse will join us for one year...



**To each of you I express my profound gratitude for your presence with us and your support.**

**Brother Francis Mary P.C.**

*Some information*

Our general assembly will take place on Saturday, December 9th (place to be specified)

We recommend you the exceptional show of JESUS DE NAZARETH at the Sports center - Porte of Versailles up to December 11th and the show FRANÇOIS D' ASSISE at the theater of district in IVRY from 1st till 12 December ....

<b>Address and phone number of the association</b>
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**Treasurer of the association**

( Donation, fiscal receipts)

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