



Carmelite Friars of Australia and Timor-Leste

TIMOR-LESTE MISSION CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE 04.05.11

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“As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, “Tell no one about this vision until the Son of man has risen from the dead”.
Matt 17:9

During my March visit to Timor-Leste I experienced Easter new life in the Timorese people who work with and are networked to the Carmelites in Dili, Hera and Zumalai. I believe the Timorese people are now beginning to rise from their past traumas and are taking more initiatives of their own. Some of these new achievements and happenings are:

(a) **First Zumalai Sub-District Graduation from Baucau Teacher’s College, Timor-Leste**

Bernardino Do Nascimento completed his Bachelor of Teaching Degree at the end of last year and graduated on the 28th February 2011 from the Australian Catholic University in Baucau.



L-R (Bernardino’s brother, Br Antonio O.Carm, Bernardino, his mother)

Br Antonio O.Carm said that the graduation ceremony was preceded by a Mass of Thanksgiving prepared by the students themselves and Kirsty Sword-Gusmão was the guest speaker. Antonio loved seeing all the smiles on the faces of the students as they received their certificates.



Bernardino speaking to the people in the village of Raimea about his qualification

In March, I visited Zumalai sub-district with Marita Molloy from Port Melbourne/Middle Park parish. We were both invited to take part in a traditional celebration for Bernardino’s graduation in his home village of Raimea. The people in the village were so proud of Bernardino and Marita and I felt privileged to be part of the ceremony and to be welcomed with such wonderful hospitality.

The Bachelor of Teaching Course in Baucau is a three year course of study that is designed to prepare young adults to become fully qualified teachers for primary schools in East Timor. It is a course that conforms to the curriculum being prescribed nationally and is based on the belief that education is about the growth and learning of the whole person.

With his new qualification may Bernardino and all the graduates from Baucau Teachers College help build up the education system of the new nation of East Timor.

(b) A Desire to Expand their Knowledge

I experienced a new enthusiasm and spark in the students studying to be Carmelites, in the scholarship students, the Carmelite men and the people of Zumalai to want to learn more about and understand our present day world. They talked about the future of their nation Timor-Leste and especially the need for TAFE and tertiary scholarships for people from Zumalai sub-district.

By July of this year there will be three students studying in Indonesia. One will be beginning Year 2 of a 5 year engineering degree and two will begin a 12 month Mechanical Course. Marita and I met the two men from Zumalai who will do the Mechanical Course in Indonesia while we were in Dili. They were busy preparing for their Course, organizing visas for Indonesia, helping with the driving of the Carmelite cars and learning English. Excitement about the Mechanical Course they were soon to begin was written all over their faces.

(c) An Ability to Name their Real Needs

The Project Director, Antonio O.Carm, was able to clearly and confidently name some of the needs in the Zumalai sub-district. At present he is working on a Computer Skills Project with the Parish Priest for the youth in Zumalai sub-district. This has required the renovation of the Community Centre to become a Youth Centre and moving the Community Centre facilities to other areas on the Carmelite Compound. Computers and furniture have already been purchased. An English and Portuguese Course are being run at present for the youth.

As a result of the Timorese education system changing its class structure in 2012, the Carmelites are looking at the pros and cons of a boarding school. The new education system will consist of a primary system of 9 classes (year 1-9) and a secondary system of 3 classes (year 10-12). Three new classes will therefore gradually be introduced to the Zumalai Catholic School.



Eurico

The Zumalai parish received a grant from the Timorese Government to renovate the Church. Plans, materials, workers and finance were all organised by the Timorese.



Old Church



Romeo



New Church

Rosemary Patterson rsm
Carmelite Timor-Leste Mission Coordinator