

**22 June 2011 • 05**

**Thailand Pastoral Visit.** Br. Thomas Lavin and myself embarked on the first pastoral visit in LEAD to the sector of Thailand from 07 – 14 June 2011.

We arrived on the 7<sup>th</sup> and were met by Br. Francis who drove us to Chantaburi where we have a primary and secondary school. Chantaburi is on the eastern part of Thailand and roughly about 250kms by land travel from Bangkok. We arrived after about 3 hours of driving. We had dinner and rested early. The next day, the 8<sup>th</sup>, we were presented to the school community. I proceeded with the interviews after the assembly and Br. Thomas was given a tour of the school. The visit to Chantaburi ended with a meeting with the community. Br. Eugene Prapas is the Director of the school, Br. Alphonso Danai the director of the community and Brs. Dominic Chamlong and Patrick Chayot as members.

We proceeded to Sampran in the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Sampran is the formation center of the Brothers in Thailand. Director of the house is Br. Simon Phanom ably assisted by Br. Stephen Kan. We arrived in time for evening prayers. We joined the community for supper and interviews were conducted the next day. We left for Nakhonsawan after lunch (9<sup>th</sup>).

Nakhonsawan is north of Bangkok and considered a gateway to Chiang Mai. Our school in Nakhonsawan, with a student population of about 5,000 was the first establishment of the Brothers in Thailand. Director of the school and the community is Br. De La Salle Sayam FSC. Br. Mario Zammit from Malta and Br. Joseph Dat from California are assigned there. Br Benilde Preecha is the young Brother teaching in the school with Brs. John Niran and Sebastian Charoen, fresh from the novitiate, having some responsibilities as well. I interviewed the Brothers the next day after an assembly in the school. Br. Thomas was given a tour of the school and had some time with the administrators. We departed from Nakhonsawan late in the afternoon after a short assembly with the teachers and a simple celebration of Br. Mario's birthday.

We arrived in Bangkok early evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> and rested after supper. On the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> I met with the members of the Bamboo school who went down to Bangna namely, Brs. Joe Klong (Director), Francisco Teerayut and Victor Gil. On the same day I interviewed Brs. Stephen Pitchit, Peter Boonchert, Frank Suriya and Luke Chaiporn, members of the community in Bangna. (to be continued)

Fraternally,

**Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC**  
**(In Dasmariñas, Cavite)**