

Things keep happening here at CSIL

.....and we are sure that you are happy to hear from us.



Every Saturday there is the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the School. Since we have 3 classes, the students remain in their classes and the Holy Eucharist is celebrated in their classes (by rotation) in Tetum, Portuguese and English.

Since the last few weeks the local community and some of the students of the local school join in. Here we see some of the children of the local school coming in with Mr. Vitorino, the Director of their school, coming for Mass.



In the above photographs you see the community and the girls and boys of the local school at Mass and then outside with our students. These youngsters, many of whom live in the communities nearby, are looking forward to the time when they will be able to come to this school. After all, this school is becoming known for the high standards of teaching and discipline.

I am writing this report on 21st March, when the students are writing the first of their Trimestral examinations. This year the Education Department, in its plan to get the educational system of Timor Leste in line with that of Indonesia, has decided that this school year will go until October only. We have to cover the years portion in 9 months. The new school year will begin in October and end in June 2014. Thereafter the School year will begin in June every year.

So, our students are answering their first trimestrial examination. In the three photographs below you see the students answering their papers under strict supervision.



Some of them are suddenly faced with the strictness with which the examinations are conducted at CSIL. The other day we were driving to school and gave a lift to one of the teachers. She was sharing with us how in some of the schools, the teachers actually let the students know, a day or two before the examination, the questions that will be asked and the answers that are correct. Some of the students apparently use their mobile phones to photograph the correct answers and this is what helps them get high marks. And those teachers are so proud at the high marks their students get!!!

As I had reported earlier, the youngsters coming to our school have been complaining about the amount of homework given to them, the amount of time they have to spend on travelling and the little time they have for playing at home since they still have to do their homework for the next day.

I had just mentioned how mobile phones are being used in some other schools!

In the code of discipline that had been given to each student and their parents at admission time, it has been clearly stated that the students cannot have mobile phones with them when they come to school. If any student is caught with a mobile phone he/she will have to pay a fine of 20\$. Some of the parents had said that they would like to be able to contact their children in cases of emergency. The telephone numbers of the school were given to them and they were free to call those numbers.

And then, it was Barbara who was caught the other day with a mobile phone on her. This was immediately confiscated and her parents were called and were told about the fine that Barbara now have to pay. Barbara, by the way, is one of our bright students. Let Barbara explain to you what happened:



This is Barbara de Carvalho, who is a student of the VII A Class. It was Fr. Quyen who had told me about this incident and was the interpreter for me.

She says that it was her father who had put the phone into her bag as he wanted to be able to contact her if needed. This was against the rules.

When the phone was discovered in her bag, the phone was confiscated and her parents were sent for. The father admitted his fault and was willing to pay the 20\$ fine. However, Fr. Plinio told him that she has to learn

that she broke the rules and it is she who should raise the money somehow.

Hence mother and daughter would prepare some cakes every evening for a month. Then, every evening from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m., Barbara would put these cakes on a table on the road in front of her house and wait for customers. While waiting for customers she had her school books with her so that she could also do her homework.

In a month she had the 20\$ that she needed to pay the fine and get the phone back which she gave back to her father (...with thanks I am sure!!).

Barbara loves this school. This school does not make it easy she says and it demands a lot from the students. She confirmed what the teacher had told us earlier. At the examinations here one needs to use one's own head! Barbara needs all this as she is determined to become either a Doctor or a Journalist. She wants to help people with her skills.

Here are some photographs of the Mass and Way of the Cross at the school on Saturday 23rd March after the last exam:



Extra-curricular activities:

There is a sheet metal fence between the school and the other buildings under construction. Scholastic Rui spoke with Fr. Quyen and then with our Architect Goncalo. What about a painting competition he asked. Maybe the winners of the competition could then work with the other children to paint these on that white metal fence!

And so, the competition was held and while the winners were being identified, it was decided that they would not be easy to paint them on the fence. And so groups were made and the painting began under the supervision of Rui. Here are some photos:



The examinations were over on 23rd March and students were expected to return to school after Easter i.e. on 2nd April. Can you believe it that all of them were there and in time as usual and they had this to say: "We are so happy to be back in school. We just did not know what to do at home. We just wanted to be back with our friends". I wonder if I had the same feelings when I went back to school after holidays!

That really made the Jesuits and their lay collaborators very happy.

Just to tell you that Frs. Plinio, Bert, Quyen and Ura as also Scholastics Rui and Isaias and all the staff members send you their greetings. All the very best.

Noel Oliver, s.j.