



## Anthony's Charity a.s.b.l.

Rue André Delzenne 9, 7800 Ath, Belgium.

<http://www.AnthonyCharity.org>

« *Educating the children for a better world* »

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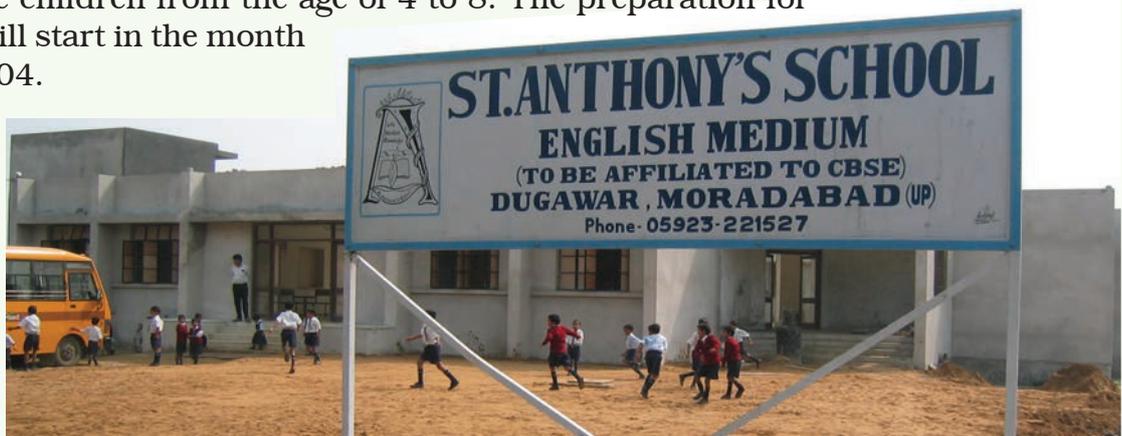
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The advanced technology in communication can bring people together wherever they may be and the world has shrunk into a small global family. This is a great advantage for our work in India too. We have regular contact with India through the electronic communication. The installation of this set up was not easy as there is no electricity in the project area. We installed a solar pannel for the operation of a computer and got connection to the internet, now we are able to communicate through this system. We prepared a software for the supervision of the management of the school, this bring to us in Belgium all the minute details of the work done daily.

As I see the work being done so far, I feel happy, at the moment we have reached the completion of the school building, with 180 children in 4 classes-nursary, LKG, UKG and Class 1, they are children from the age of 4 to 8. The preparation for the next batch will start in the month of December 2004.

*Marc  
Valentin,  
Président*

We have regular contacts with the school thanks to modern technology.



### More Girls Admitted :

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the ratio between the boys and girls in St. Anthony's School was 4:1. We did feel the difference to be too much even for the first year. Knowing the village set up and the delicacy of the issue, we made plans carefully before implementing them. Admitting more girls, completely free and supporting their families could evoke jealousy among others specially as there are so many children not getting proper education. Also, the villagers can easily be misled by a small event they dislike. Involving the village leader for the selection would worsen the situation as he himself may choose his own people and even get bribe from them. In spite of these drawbacks we decided to admit 20% more girls on a sponsorship basis. We put forward some criterias such as to admit girls from the low caste families, starting from families having more than 6 children, with preference to parents diseased or without any job or land. Our staff took a survey in the village and took note of these families and called them in the school. We made it compulsory that the mother and the father have to come with their child for admission and we gave only one day's time. The news leaked and many more came in. It was a very difficult situation, we interviewed all who came and realised that many of them who came had enough money to send their children to school, but they wanted it to be done completely free. We motivated them to educate their girls, telling that we sponsor only very poor children, a few among them joined our school.

The *Pradhan* (leader of the village) was not happy about it and came with some villagers, asking for sponsorship. When he realised that it was not possible, he came out with the issue of *Sheela*, the low caste woman who works in our school, asking to remove her from the school as she is mingling with the children of high

The inauguration day was a real success, the children enjoyed performing cultural programs for their parents and other villagers.

caste (see our previous newsletter). We had to make him aware that his demand is against the law in India and if he proceeds with any move on this matter, we will go to court against him and he will be removed from his place as a *Pradhan*. Since then he never raised the issue.

### Inauguration of St. Anthony's School.

The blessing of the School and its inauguration was not done at the start of the school as we had not yet completed the work of the entire building. August 14th, the day before the Independence day was fixed for inauguration and blessing of the school. Since the running of the school had already started, it gave an opportunity for the teachers to express their talents and to bring the children together to perform different activities. It was a good start for a collaborate action among the teachers, students and parents. They worked hard to teach children many cultural programs in a short period of time. The program was presided over by *Dharamveer Singh*, the Block Development Officer and *Fr. Borgia* Blessed the school. Parents and the villagers crowded on that day and they were very happy to see their little children on the stage. It was a big event for the people in the area !

### Parent-Teacher's Meetings :

The first parent teachers meeting was held in the month of August, surprisingly almost all the fathers of the children were present. Though we insisted that the moth-



ers of the children also should come, there were only a few. We had special guests to speak to the parents. *Fr. Borgia* and me talked to them about the aims and objectives of the school. The parents were motivated to send their children regularly to the school and to help them at home to study the lessons. They all were happy with the school and were ready to cooperate with the teachers and help the children at home. In the following months, we conducted meetings for each class separately, so that the class teacher is able to discuss the progress of the children with each parent.

Monsoon was heavy this year. The bridge on the main road was overflowing by the rain water and no vehicle could pass through. The school had to remain closed for three days. A proposal was put forward



by our staff and the parents of the students to initiate to build a bigger bridge, so that the same problems don't occur again. All the parents signed the papers and we are getting it ready to submit it to the Development officer of the area.

### **A life snatched away...**

*Parul's* father was murdered on the 13th October, on his way back home from a nearby city. *Parul* is studying in U.K.G. in our school and her father, *Yadav*, is familiar to us. He was going back home alone on a two-wheeler from the nearby city around 9.30 in the evening. In the next morning, the villagers saw his dead body on the road, near to the village of Dugawar, and informed the police. The investigations are going on and the rumour is that it is due to a personal revenge. Incidents like this are not isolated. The news has shaken up the school and

Yesudasan, Pius, Hati, Krishna, Sunil, Joy, Annie, Archana, Jyoti, Molly, Sheela, Elizebeth, Neelu, wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New-Year !

the staff as most of them are coming from outside the area.

### **Christmas and Newyear Wishes:**

The year 2004 was an eventful and fruitful year and with all our team in India, I thank each one of you. We wish that each of you find Joy and Happiness in the Year 2005 !

*Molly Sebastian*,  
Project manager



Responsible publisher : M. Valentin, rue A. Delzenne 9, 7800 Ath

*Anthony's Charity* is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to work with and for children. We believe that all children deserve the basic right to health, education and a future where they can realize and demonstrate their true potential.

We are funded through the generous donations of individuals. Our headquarters are in Belgium and our work is done mainly in northern India. Our newsletter is sent quarterly to all our supporters.