

## **November 11, 2009 - India – The Rector Major blesses the foundation stone of Don Bosco University in Guwahati**



**(ANS – Guwahati)** – On November 9 Fr. Pascual Chavez blessed the foundation stone of Don Bosco University College of Engineering and Technology, on the campus of Don Bosco College (DBCET) Azara, Guwahati, dedicated to the people of Northeast India.

In his keynote address the Rector Major emphasized the vitality of the university. He said, "The young people of Northeast India are alive with joy, particularly talented and piously religious. They need to be guided to carve great possibilities in front of the nation."

Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil of Guwahati expressed his joy at the occasion and spoke of the importance of Don Bosco University. He said that the university will have emphasis in planting values in the hearts of people and convictions that build the society.

In his welcome address, Fr. Joe Almeida, Superior of the Guwahati Salesian Province, declared, "The establishment of the university is a fitting tribute to the genius that Don Bosco truly is."

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, vice chancellor of Don Bosco University, made a special note of thanks to the Rector Major in his speech. He said, "The decision of our superior general to come personally and bless the foundation stone of the permanent campus this morning is the clearest signal to us and to the people of Northeast India that the Salesian Society is deeply committed to this project."

About 1,500 people were assembled to welcome the Rector Major to the DBCET, including distinguished guests, members of the local Church, government officials, and academics. Students from various city schools joined DBCET and DBIM students. The function drew to a close with all singing with one voice a hymn to Don Bosco.

Later the Rector Major went with the local Salesians to open the shrine of Don Bosco in Cherrapunjee, the place with the heaviest rainfall in the world, but which ironically is short of water. Fr. Chavez reminded the Salesians present that this was the only church dedicated to St. John Bosco, Father and Teacher of Youth, in the whole of Northeast India.

In the early evening Fr. Chavez visited the Salesian house of St. Anthony. A member of the community told how he and his confreres were eternally grateful to Fr. Joseph Bacchierello, who had wanted to start St. Anthony's College, which is now one of the best educational institutions in India. The community then greatly enjoyed the presence of the Rector Major and listened to what he had to say.