

austraLasia #2683

Darkhan's Summer Camps

DARKHAN: 30 July 2010 -- Pretty amazing when you think about it. Ten years back there were no Catholics in Darkhan, Mongolia. Now there are a Salesian parish, some 100 regular parishioners, all new to the faith and, in the brief but torrid summer (40 degrees) days, a camp for kids.

The summer camp began on July 27 and concludes on July 31. It is located some 35 miles north of the city in a forested area and attended by 91 youngsters. The camp has a bit of everything. Already there are some youth leaders trained, and the Missionaries of Charity are helping out too. Of course there are lots of fun activities, sports, and games, but there are also a training program for catechists, and some quieter reflective moments for the Catholic children. Two Salesians from the parish are with the youngsters for the whole time. Two volunteers from the UK are helping out with English classes at the camp, teaching staff and young people.

The warmer days offer other opportunities besides the camp. The parish community has set up a small farm for vegetables and they are assisted by one woman from Korea, working with six local Mongolians. Some Korean doctors and nurses are providing a two-day seminar for local doctors and nurses and some teachers from Darkhan. Some 50 people have been in attendance at this seminar. And of course in the evenings there is the oratory at the parish, with Fr. Andy Tin, the director and delegate for Mongolia.

Very much a hive of activity.