

'I wanted to be ... a missionary priest'

Meet Our Priests

This week's featured priest:

Father Benjamin
Dande, MSFS



YEAR FOR PRIESTS

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Father Benjamin Dande is a priest of the Missionaries of St. Frances De Sales. He was born in Chirragudur, India. He was ordained by Bishop Govindu Joji of Nalgonda, South India, on Dec. 27, 2001. He came to the Diocese of Dodge City in December of 2007. His current assignment is parochial administrator of St. Lawrence, Jetmore, and St. Anthony, Hanston.

What was it that made you want to be a priest?

Well, it was decided at my early age to become a priest. I grew up in the Catholic boarding schools run by missionary priests and nuns. And I wanted to be like them, a Missionary Priest.

Was there a particular indi-

vidual who inspired you to become a priest?

Yes. Father Alexander Pasala was my inspiration. He used to encourage me to study well and be a good boy. He used to take me on his motorcycle to remote mission stations of India for the Mass and to visit the sick and elderly.

Who were people who encouraged you in your vocation?

My family members, especially my parents.

What do you like most about being a priest?

Being part of the people in their joys and sorrows.

What has been one of the greatest challenges you face in your ministry?

I think that I am inadequate

(insufficient).

What has been one of the highlights, so far, of your priesthood?

Being One with the People.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Reading, watching CNN News and cooking Indian spicy food.

If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Of course to India. My motherland.

What book are you currently reading?

“Introduction to the Devout Life” by Saint Francis De Sales.