

From the Provincial's Desk

*My Dear Brothers, Sisters,
Co-workers & Friends in
Hospitality,*



The Church is known to be outstanding its commitment to the poor. This commitment, however, remains a challenge that calls for an ever more vigorous response – from us, despite opposition from vested interests.

Every religious Institute, congregation or Order has been founded by its holy founder or Founderess who was a dreamer and a prophet who gave life to the enterprise. Looking ahead, their sons and daughters cannot deny themselves the hope of a future when religious life would be purer, truer and happier.

.....Cont..Page 2



Blessed José Olallo Valdés OH of Cuba



On 29 November 2008, the Venerable **José Olallo Valdés**, a Brother of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God was beatified at Camagüey, Cuba. It was the first ceremony of its kind on Cuban soil. The Beatification ceremony began at 8 a.m. with Mass, presided over by the Cardinal Emeritus of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, José Saraiva Martins. The Apostolic Nuncio, Mgr Luigi Bonazzi, Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino, Archbishop of Havana, the Archbishop of Camagüey, Mgr Juan García Rodríguez and all the Cuban Archbishops, Prior General Bro. Donatus Forkan with his Councillors, representatives from Provinces of the Order, priests and Religious from Cuba were present. Thousands of Roman Catholic faithful and even Cuban President Raul Castro gathered together with the little girl who had been graced by the miracle, Daniela Cabrera with her parents and her sister for the beatification.

Daniela Cabrera who recovered from abdominal tumor after her family prayed to Blessed Olallo for help said that *“I am happy. He gave me happiness and strength. He gave me a miracle and I think he can do it for many children or people who are sick”*.



DIFFERENT CENTERS OF THE PROVINCE

Poonamallee, Chennai	St. Thomas Provincial House St. Thomas Community of John of God Postulantate & Aspirantate St. Thomas Home for the Aged St. John of God Dispensary
Kattappana	St. John of God Community St. John's Hospital 'Pratheeksha Bhavan' St. John's College of Nursing St. John's School of Nursing
Deshgaon, Khandwa	St. Richard Pampuri Community St. John's Health Centre
Velloor, Kottayam	Community of Mary Health of the Sick St. John of God Centre (School and Home for the Differently Aabled) St. John of God Vocational Training Centre Holy Family Community of St. John of God
Trichy	Novitiate 'Santhi Nilayam' (Care & Support Centre for Terminally Ill)
Bangalore	St. John of God Community

Blessed Olallo was born on 12 February 1820 and abandoned at a Havana orphanage. He joined the Hospitaller Order at the age of 15 made his religious vows and stayed the rest of his life in the central city of Camaguey, earning his nickname - "father of the poor" by caring for the needy and chronically ill. He died on 7 March 1889 at age 69.

Bro. George Kizhakkenath - Provincial Councillor and Mr. Jacob Kora (Finance Manager, St. John's Hospital) took part in the Beatification ceremony in Cuba.

..... Provincial's Message

.... Continuation from Page 1

This imposes a serious responsibility on us, religious. We need, therefore, to ask ourselves a few pertinent questions: What changes have taken place in our religious apostolic life since the time of the Founder or foundress? What difficulties we faced and what renewal have we realized in the individual members and in the community? Society? What progress or modification has been made in our relationship with the local church and locality?

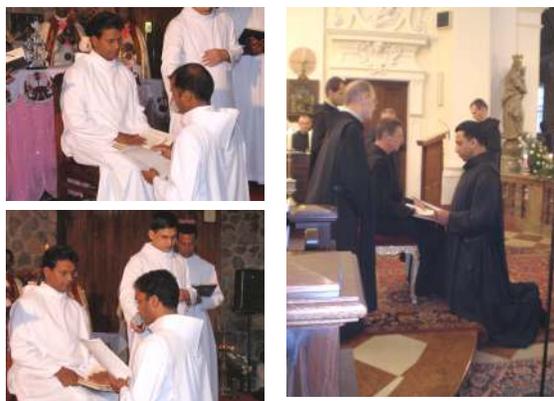
A new threat demands a new response. India has made good start with the planned expansion of the National Security Guard and sophisticated technology. Today terrorism, anti-Christian movements, political instability, atheism etc. are much more active. The very young people become terrorists, due to absence of faith in God, lack of hope in Life, poverty, selfishness and so on. Humanity and human relationships, value of life are not at all considered.

Thank you all for the great services and contributions you have rendered through our Family of Hospitaller Order in the year 2008. Finally I wish you a graceful X-mas and a Prosperous Year 2009. Let us again work together in Hospitality as St. John of God did in the past for the upliftment of the poor and suffering in the society.

Fraternally,

Bro. Augustine Polaprayil OH
Provincial

Solemn Profession, Kattappana & Vienna



Five Scholastics made their Solemn Profession this year in November. Bro. Johnson Arackal, Bro. Saji Mullankuzhiyil, Bro. Bino Parakkanassery and Bro. Binish Mulackal made their profession into the hands of Provincial Bro. Augustine Polaprayil on 23 November 2008 at Kattappana.

Bro. Morly Joseph made his Profession into the hands of Austrian Provincial Bro. Ulrich Fischer on 30 November 2008 at Vienna, Austria.

Congratulations and best wishes to them who decided to dedicate their whole life following the example of St. John of God.



Visit of Bro. Alfons M. Höring



Bro. Alfons M. Höring from Germany has arrived at Poonamallee on 3 December 2008. He will be in India till 2 February 2009. During his visit he will give classes for our candidates, novices and will help us to make a museum for our Province at Poonamallee.

Renewal of Vows



Scholastics Bro. Salim Lakra, Bro. Sudhir Kujur, Bro. Ignace Topno, Bro. Dhan Singh Jamra, Bro. Shailendra Ohariya renewed their Vows on 6 December 2008 at Poonamallee. Recollection Classes and other spiritual guidance were arranged at Poonamallee as a preparation for their renewal. Our two scholastics in Germany, Bro. Abin Paul and Bro. John Suresh renewed their Vows at Reichenbach, Germany.

Admission to Novitiate

Three Postulants, S. Anandan and Shibu Joseph entered into the Novitiate on 7 December 2008 at Poonamallee. The Novices with their Master Bro. Francis Mannaparampil moved to the new Novitiate Community at Trichy on 14 December 2008.

Simple Profession, Poonamallee



Two Novices, Paul Varghese Kizhakkeveetil from Kerala and Ajay Samir Lucas from Madhya Pradesh made their first Simple Profession on 8 December 2008 at Poonamallee. After a short holidays the newly professed Brothers joined the Scholasticate at Velloor, Kottayam.



Eustachius Kugler Old Age Home, Kattappana



Blessing and laying foundation stone for the new Eustachius Kugler Old Age Home was done on 18 August 2008 at Kattappana. The foundation stone was blessed by Rev. Fr. Jose Thekkel, Vicar, St. George Forane Church, Kattappana and laid by Rev. Bro. Jose Mathew Thottathil, Director, Pratheeksha Bhavan. As generous always, the Bavarian Province of the Hospitaller Order in Germany extends their generosity towards the poor and needy by supporting us financially to complete the project. The proposed new project with spacious accommodation for 200 people with more facilities will replace the present Pratheeksha Bhavan on completion of the project.

Psychiatric Hospital Kattappana



St. John's Hospital expands its services. It was a very long awaited need of the area for a centre for the treatment of psychiatric patients. In the last year the hospital started a psychiatric department as OP inside the hospital. The hospital had prepared a detailed plan and estimate for a separate modern psychiatric hospital outside the St. John's campus. This project is financed by the Austrian Province. On 18 August 2008, the foundation stone for the new psychiatric hospital was blessed by Rev. Fr. Peter Thomas Kandavanam CMI, Chaplain of St. John's Hospital and it was laid by Rev. Bro. Pius Manithottiyil, Director, St. John's Hospital.

For both projects, construction agreement with contractors has been made. The work starts in January 2009 and the construction will be finished within 18 months.

Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly



The Third Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly of the Hospitaller Order was held at Tan Bien, Vietnam, from 29 September to 3 October 2008. Forty four Brothers and Co-workers participated in it including the Prior General, all the General Councillors and the Secretary General. The theme of the conference was *“In the Church and in the world at the service of Hospitality. The Order’s Priorities in the Asia-Pacific continent today”*. The logo adopted for the conference a sea voyage with the title *“Travelling together towards the future”*. Dr. Mathew Jacob was the moderator of the conference. From India, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil - Provincial, Bro. George Kizhakkekara Bro. Albert Thekkumkaduthadathil, Bro. Baiju Valuparampil, two St. John of God Sisters - Sr. Flowerlet Emmanuel and Sr. Merly Mathew participated in the Assembly. The conference adopted a number of priorities for the planning and action in the Region in the coming years. After discussions in the groups, the Conference adopted a statement of the vision of Brothers and Co-workers for the Order in the Asia Pacific Region.



The Vision of the Brothers and Co-workers
of the Asia Pacific Region

*Motivated by the life and example of
Saint John of God,
we commit ourselves to collaborate
in the realisation of the reign of God
through our healing presence
amongst people who are sick,
disabled and marginalised in our
various cultures.*

Shifting of Novitiate to Trichy



In response to the resolutions adopted by our last Provincial Chapter, for a better and effective formation of our Novices, the Provincial Council had proposed to shift the Novitiate from Poonamallee to Trichy. The proposal has accepted by the General Council and the necessary permission had been granted by Prior General Bro. Donatus Forkan. The Novitiate House of the Province has been shifted from Poonamallee to Holy Family community, Fathima Nagar, Trichy on Sunday, 14 November 2008. Bro. Francis Mannaparampil and the Novices, accompanied by Bro. Baiju Valuparampil and Bro. Aloysius Mattathil moved to the new novitiate community and they were received by the Provincial, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil and Bro. Antony Palamattom, Prior. Prayerful greetings and best wishes to the new novitiate community. Official blessing and inauguration of the novitiate house and chapel will be organized later.

An Outstanding Volunteer

Mr. Joseph Vempeny, a great educationalist and philosopher joins the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God as a volunteer on 5 January 2009. He was



born at Mukkulam East, in Kerala. For his education, he passed through St. George’s Mukkulam, St. Antony’s Chengulam, St. Berchman’s Changanassery, St. Thomas Pala and NSS Ottappalam. During the forty years of his life as an educationist, he worked in Pondichery, Ethiopia, Zambia, Lesotho and South Africa. This sojourn gave him the privilege to be present and be witness to history making events like the fall of Haile Selassie and the rise of Nelson Mandela. But what he cherishes more than these is the face to face, day to day encounter with the good people of Africa. After retirement he has come back to Kerala. Hearty Welcome to the Hospitaller Order and all the best wishes.

Visit of Bro. Timothy Graham and Bro. Vianney Welch from Australia



Bro. Timothy Graham - Provincial of Australian Province and Bro. Vianney Welch visited our Province. They arrived in Chennai on 13 August 2008. During his visit, Bro. Timothy assisted the Province in preparing the Policies and Procedures for the Province. He returned to Australia on 23rd August 2008. Bro. Vianney remained in our Province until he left for Vietnam for the Regional Assembly on 24 September. During the visit he gave classes, seminars and retreats for our Novices, Postulants and Aspirants. He also visited Trichy, Velloor and Kattappana and participated in the graduation ceremony at Kattappana and Onam celebration at Velloor. The Province is grateful to Bro. Timothy and Bro. Vianney for their continuous support and co-operation.

Visit of Kröner Foundation



Mrs. Christiana and Mr. Roland from Kröner foundation visited our centers and communities in the month of August. Santhi Nilayam, Care and Support Centre for HIV/AIDS patients was financed by the Kröner family. They visited Poonamallee, Trichy, Kattappana and Velloor, and they took part in the foundation stone laying ceremony of Eustachius Kugler Old Age Home and Psychiatric Hospital at Kattappana. Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel accompanied them.



Lamp Lighting and Graduation



Graduation Lamp and lighting ceremony of the 24th Batch of General Nursing students took place on 3 September 2008 at Kattappana. Bro. Pius Manithottiyil, Director of St. John's Hospital welcomed the guests to the function which was preceded over by Rev. Fr. Jose Thekkel, Vicar of St. George's Forane Church Kattappana. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial was the chief guest. Mrs. Celin Thomas, Principal of School of Nursing has given the lamps. Certificates were distributed by Bro. Vianney Welch OH from the Austrian Province. Congratulations and Best wishes to the new graduates.

Silver Jubilee of Bro. George Kizhakkekara



On 23 October 2008 the Silver Jubilee of the First Religious Profession of Bro. George Kizhakkekara was celebrated at St. John of God Centre, Velloor. Brothers, Sisters, Co-workers, Students, parents and neighbours participated in it. Hearty congratulations and prayerful greetings to him.

Visit to Khandwa

In November 2008, Provincial Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, all the Councillors and Provincial Secretary visited Khandwa. The 12th Provincial Council Meeting was held at Deshgaon Khandwa. It was the second time that the present Provincial Council visiting Khandwa. They visited the site for the proposed Hospital at Khandwa and evaluated the preliminary works done so far.

Diploma in Nursing



Bro. Johnson Arackal and Bro. Saji

Mullankuzhiyil have successfully completed their Diploma course in Nursing and Bro. Morly completed his Nursing Aid course from Vienna, Austria. The Indian Provincial Council has decided to allow them to work in the Austrian Province for some years. Bro. Johnson and Bro. Saji returned to Vienna on 28 November after their Solemn Profession. Congratulations and Best Wishes to them.

Post Graduation



Bro. Johny George Pullanthithundathil has successfully completed his Post graduation course, Master of Business Administration in Health Care Services (MBAHCS) from Sikkim Manipal University with 'B Grade'. Congratulations to him for his great academic achievement.

Bro. Albert

After five years of service in Mauritius as Director / Prior at Pamplemousses, Bro. Albert Thekkumkaduthadathil returned to the Indian Province. He arrived in Chennai on 23 September 2008 and he participated in the Third Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly in Vietnam. According to the initiative of General Curia, the Province is planning to entrust him the new initiative in one of the Asian countries.



Vatican Pharmacy



Bro. Binish Mulackal who is in Rome since June 2007 has started working in Vatican Pharmacy after learning Italian language.

Bro. Joseph Kattackal, who had been working in the Pharmacy for the last 10 years, has been returned to the Indian Province.



Seminar on Hospitality

A seminar on Hospitality will be conducted by Bro. Kilian Keaney, Director of the Institute of Hospitality and Bro. Gregory, Stillorgan, Ireland in the month of January 2009. It will be organised in three batches of two days, at Velloor (12-13), Kattappana (15-16) and (19-20) for the better and convenient participation of all our Brothers and Co-workers. Hearty welcome to all the Brothers, Sisters and Co-workers to the seminar.

Solemn Profession Preparation Course, Rome

As every year the General Curia conducts Course in preparation for Solemn Profession, in February-March 2009 in Rome. Brothers who made their Solemn Profession this year, Bro. Morly Joseph, Bro. Johnson Arackal, Bro. Saji Mullankuzhiyil and Bro. Bino Parakkanasserry will be attending the course from our Province.

Golden Jubilee, Korea



The Korean Province has celebrated Golden Jubilee of its foundation in Korea. A one-year long celebration had arranged in the Province with various programmes. During the concluding ceremonies two Brothers from the Korean Province, Bro. Benedict Won and Bro. John Jung were ordained as Priests on 18 November at the Gwangju Cathedral by Archbishop Choi Chang-mou. The conclusion of the celebration was held on 22 November at Gwangju, with a thanksgiving Mass. Brothers and co-workers from many Provinces of the Order participated in the celebrations. Bro. Johny George Pullanthithundathil - Provincial Councillor and Mr. Dipu John (Teaching Staff & Co-ordinator of Group Homes, St. John of God Centre, Velloor) took part in the ordination and concluding ceremonies.

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