

From the Provincial's Desk

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



St. John of God lives today in about 51 countries with the Charism of Hospitality, Compassion, Justice, Respect and Excellence. We celebrate his feast on the 8th of March every year. By the grace of God, his mission was continued and developed among the lay people. Good People obviously provided the financial resources for him. John of God had nothing in his hand. But he initiated the following services:

- Providing food, shelter, clothing and other necessities for homeless people.
- Hospice for people who were terminally ill.
- Mental health services.
- Responding to the needs of the local people by developing a wide range of therapeutic, preventive and educational services that have enhanced the quality of life for all who lived in that area.
- Rural health needs, caring for the sick, needy and elderly.

Our Centre at Velloor for persons with leaning disabilities serve the region in a vital manner as it promotes a community-based approach to serve children and persons with learning disabilities and involves their parents and families and helps to emphasize the rights and dignity of disabled persons.

This is just one of the examples indicating how we are responding to the new needs in a manner that mirrors John of God's own understanding of his mission. They show that the mission we carry out demands flexibility and openness to change with a willingness to respond to the most urgent unmet needs.

.... Continue Page 2

Beatification of Bro. Eustachius Kugler OH

Bro. Eustachius Kugler was born as Josef Kugler, son of a farmer and blacksmith on 15 January 1867 at Neuhaus in Bavaria, Germany. Josef Kugler suffered a serious accident during his training as a locksmith in Munich. The injury to his leg never cured and he had to suffer from it till the end of his life.



In 1884 he came to Reichenbach, to his sister and worked as a locksmith with his brother-in-law who was a blacksmith, at a centre for mentally sick and handicapped men opened by the Brothers of St. John of God during 1890-1891. This was an opportunity for Josef to have a good insight into the religious life of the Brothers of St. John of God and this finally caused him to join the Order on 11th January 1893 in Reichenbach. He received the religious name Bro. Eustachius and made his profession in 1898. He served the Order as Prior, Director and was the Provincial of the Bavarian Province for many years till his death.

His special concern was directed towards the Sick and the Handicapped. The foundation and construction of the General hospital in Regensburg was his main-achievement, in which the succeeded in spite of much opposition and severe financial problems. He used to say: "I have an agreement with the Heavenly Father that he will provide whatever is necessary!" He spent every free time and often whole nights in prayer. Bro. Eustachius died on June 10th 1946 in the Hospital in Regensburg.



Pope John Paul II. declared Bro. Eustachius as '*Servant of God*' on 19th December 2005, as he had practiced all the virtues heroically. Recently Pope Benedict XVI has confirmed the joint proposal of the Diocese of Regensburg, Bavaria, Germany, and the

Hospitaller Order to celebrate the Beatification of the Venerable Eustachius Kugler. As per the procedures adopted by the Holy See, the Beatification ceremony will be celebrated on 4th October 2009 in the city of Regensburg which will be presided over by the Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, H.E. Angelo Cardinal Amato.

This Beatification of another Brother of St. John of God, soon after the Beatification of Bro. Olallo Valdes in Cuba, is a great source of joy and thanksgiving for all of us as members of the Hospitaller Family.

..... Provincial's Message

.... Continuation from Page 1

In many parts of the world we continue the traditional apostolate, working for people with long term illness. Here we are also engaged in a process of de-institutionalization or normalization by helping to relocate such people back into the community. People can thus enjoy an improved quality of life and a degree of independence and self-actualization which previously was considered impossible.

The face of the Order is changing with times, you might say it is putting on a new face, a new way of being present to the world and a new way of responding to the needs of people and people in need is being fashioned constantly.

And this is what Pope St. Pius V was referring to where he welcomed the gift of St. John of God Hospitality into the life of the people of God in 1572. He was reported to have said "Behold the flower that was lacking in the garden of the church. May the Lord be thanked that such a necessary institute has been born in the church in our times".

Each one of us is called to be a Brother/Sister/Co-worker /Volunteer/Friend of St. John of God. It is a call to be an icon of the fraternity that Jesus felt the need of and advocated strongly to all whom he met during his time here on earth.

St. John of God understood that, it is this sense of fraternity that characterizes our services to people who may be poor, sick or needy in some way. We never approach the people we serve as if we were their benefactors; we always approach them as their brothers and sisters.

We have to understand that a sense of fraternity is an essential element in the life of any Saint John of God Centre or service and make sure that this is reflected in the professional work in the centre or service.

To be a Brother of St. John of God is to embrace the John of God vision of Hospitality and uphold the values of St. John of God. To be a Co-worker is to work in partnership with the Brothers, in continuing the mission of John of God. To be a benefactor or friend is to share and support John of God mission through prayer and financial contribution even as the people did to him in his time. To be a volunteer is to give out one's time in support of the objectives of the mission of John of God in a variety of ways. Let us try to be creative, imaginative and visionary in advancing the mission of Hospitality. Let us also use our professional skills and talents in this John of God mission.

As we are celebrating his feast, we shall reflect on and return to the original inspirations of our institute, of our founder John of God and apply these after reading the signs of the times.

Surely, St. John of God should be marveling at how the little seed that he sowed in Granada in the 16th century, by the power of the Holy Spirit has become such a beautiful flower in the garden of the Church referred to by St. Pope Pius V.

I can safely say, therefore, that through us, through you and me, John of God truly lives on and his mission will never cease as long as there are people who are willing "to do good to themselves, by doing good to others" as St. John of God had put it

Finally I thank each one of you for your commitment and faithfulness in continuing his work. I thank you for the sensitivity that you

show in serving those brothers/ sisters in great need - among them, the lonely, the children, the sick and the elderly. Finally in the words of St. John of God, I assure you that “what you do is recorded in the Book of Life..... now stay with God”. Happy feast to all!

Fraternally,

Bro. Augustine

Bro. Augustine Polaprayil OH
Provincial

New House at Vellervally, Peravoor



Bro. Jordan, Bro. Albert & Bro. Alfons

St. Thomas Province, India expands its presence and services to the North Kerala. A plot with a house was purchased on 23 January 2009 at Vellervally, Peravoor, Kannur Dist, Kerala. The new house is in the parish of Aryaparampa in the Archdiocese of Thalassery. It is the seventh house of the Indian Province and the third in Kerala.

Bro. Johny George Pullanthithundathil (In-charge), Bro. Benedict Nadayil, Bro. Paul Kizhakkeveettil are the present members of the new house.

The Aspirants, the Higher Secondary students shall join them in the new house for their study. The Province is planning to start an apostolate in the future after a study to find out the need of the society, in line with our Charism.



John of God Brothers
Vellervally P.O., Peravoor,
Kannur (Dt.), Kerala - 670 673.
Tel: 0490-2444573
Bro. Johny: 09961600454 (Mobile)

“A Personal Journey in Hospitality”



A seminar titled “A Personal Journey in Hospitality” was conducted by Bro. Kilian Keaney, Director of the Institute of Hospitaller Studies, Ireland and Bro. Gregory, Vice Provincial Stillorgan, Ireland in January 2009 for the Indian Province. It was done in three batches of two days each, one at Velloor and two at Kattappana. This helped all the Brothers, Sisters and co-workers to participate in it without any interruption in the routine functioning of the centers. About 500 people attended the seminar.



Dr. Mathew Jacob, Medical Superintendent, St. John's Hospital led one of the sessions. Mr. Joseph Vempenny, newly joined voluntary co-worker of the Order, facilitated the seminar. The seminar took us through ‘The principle of the St. John of God Order - Hospitality’, ‘Old and New Testament Hospitality’, ‘Hospitality in Action’, ‘John of God Hospitality’, ‘Mission Awareness’, ‘Legacy of Hospitality’, ‘Architecture and Hospitality’, ‘God of Hospitality’, ‘Hospitality - a Spiritual Practice’ and through group reflections and dialogues. All felt that the programme was effective in improving their personal and professional life and suggested that such programmes be conducted every year.



The Province arranged this seminar as a continuation of the ‘Meet-2007’ which was conducted in December 2007 at Kattappana. We are grateful to Bro. Kilian Keaney and Bro. Gregory for accepting the invitation of the Indian Province and conducting the seminar.

Lamp Lighting Ceremony



Lamp lighting ceremony of the 28th batch of School of Nursing students and 1st batch of College of Nursing students was jointly held on 19 January 2009 at Kattappana. It was presided over by Bro. Gregory, Vice-Provincial, Irish Province, in which Bro. Kilian Keaney, Director, Institute of Hospitaller Studies, Ireland and Bro. Peter Damian, from Milan Province, Italy, were the Chief Guests. St. John of God College of Nursing band received the guests with honour in a delightful band performance. Bro. Pius Manithottiyil, Director, St. John's Hospital, welcomed the guests. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial and Sr. Rosy Joseph, Sister General gave the light to the students. The students took the pledge as Mrs. Celin Thomas, Principal, School of Nursing, read it out to them. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Sr. Rosy Joseph, Dr. Mathew Jacob and Fr. Peter Thomas Kandavanam felicitated the students and the ceremony concluded with the vote of thanks by Mrs. Ann Mary Jacob, Principal, College of Nursing.



Silver Jubilee and Final Profession of Sisters

The First batch of the Sisters of Charity of St. John of God, Sr. Anice Joseph, Sr. Liza Kuruvila, Sr. Mareena Joseph and Sr. Leya Augustine celebrated their Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession on 31 January 2009 at Kattappana. Seven Sisters made their Final



Profession on the same day. Mar Mathew Arackal, Bishop of Kanjirappally, officiated at the solemn ceremony attended by many Sisters, Brothers, co-workers, relatives, friends and two guests from abroad - Bro. Alfons M.Höring and Bro. Jordan Brand from the Bavarian Province. Congratulations and prayerful greetings to the Jubilerians and the professed Sisters. A gathering to congratulate the Sisters was also arranged at the St. John's auditorium. At this function the Sisters released a book titled '*Paripalanayude Mudrakal*' (Malayalam) about the origin and history of the Sisters of Charity of St. John of God. Mar Mathew Arackal released it by giving a copy to Bro. Alfons M.Höring.



Officers Bearers Meeting

A meeting of all the office bearers of the Province was held on 8 February 2009 at Kattappana. It was arranged as a preparation for the Mid-Term Conference of the Indian Province. 14 Brothers- Priors, Directors, Masters of formation - attended the meeting. Rev. Fr. Mathew Vallipalam OFM Cap. was the facilitator at this meeting.



Visit of Brothers from Germany



Bro. Jordan Brand and Bro. Michael Mockenhaupt from the Bavarian Province, Germany visited our communities and centers during the months of January - February

2009. Bro. Jordan arrived in Chennai on 10 January. He visited Poonamallee, Trichy, Velloor, Kattappana, Vellervally and all the centers of SCJG. He took part in the Jubilee / Final Profession ceremony of Sisters at Kattappana. He returned to Germany on 2nd February together with Bro. Alfons M.Hörling who had been in our Province for 3 months.



Bro. Mochael Mockenhaupt arrived in India on 29 January. He spent one week in the Deshgaon Community, Khandwa. Then he visited Poonamallee on 6 February and stayed with us till left for Germany on 13 February.

An exemplary work by Bro. Alfons



Bro. Alfons M.Hörling had been in India from 4th December 2008 to 2nd February 2009. He spent most of his time in India at Poonamallee, arranging for a museum for the Province and giving classes for the Novices and candidates. He tirelessly

worked hard day and night and arranged the museum in a systematic way with the resources available. For the time being it is set in the archives room of the Province. Later it will be shifted to a most suitable place specially planned and designed for a museum. The Province is very much indebted to him for his great work.

Visit of Friends and Benefactors from Germany



On 16 February 2009 a group of Benefactors from Germany visited St. John of God Centre Velloor. They were given a grand

welcomed to the Centre by the Brothers, Sisters, staff and Students. They spent two days at the centre with the students.

Best Special School Award



St. John of God Special School Velloor is awarded the Best Special School in Kerala by the All Kerala Special School Association. Among the 242 special schools in Kerala, three schools were selected for this prestigious award. St. John of God Special School Velloor, Jaycees Special School Kannur and Emmavus Special School Wayanad received the award. The award was presented at Kaloore Renewal Centre Ernakulam on 21st February 2009 by High Court Justice Harun Ul Rasheed and. Mr. J. Oommen (Chairman of All Kerala Special Schools Association). Mr. VS Basheer (all India President of Y's Men International) presided over the function. Mr. A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish IAS (Director of Public Instruction) was the Chief Guest in the function. The occasion was also graced with the presence of Sri. Mons Joseph, (Minister for Public Works, Govt. of Kerala)

From St. John of God Centre, 40 people including Provincial Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Director Bro. George Kizhakkekara, Principal Sr. Litty Xavier, PTA President Mr. Shaji, Brothers, Sisters, parents, teachers and students participated in the function. There were also many other participants from various special schools in Kerala.



This award is a great honour, recognition and encouragement for all of us, St. John of God Centre in particular. Congratulations to its founder director Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Bro. George Kizhakkekara-Director, Sr. Litty Xavier-

Principal, Teachers, students, parents and all those who are associated with the centre. This award is the fruit of team spirit and hard work of each individual who are serving the centre.

10th Anniversary of St. John of God Centre



St. John of God Special School Velloor is in the 10th year of its founding. The centre was started in the year 1998 with a few differently abled children and limited resources under the dynamic leadership of Bro. Augustine Polaprayil. He remained as Director of the Centre till he was elected as the Provincial of the Indian Province in February 2007. As a result of the vision, total dedication and crucial leadership of its founder Bro. Augustine Polaprayil and the Brothers, Sisters and Co-workers served the centre, the Centre now stands as the 'Best Special School'. The celebration will be held on 8 March 2009 at St. John of God Centre Velloor. Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel-General Councillor, Bro. Brian O'Donnell-President of APIPC and Bro. Augustine Polaprayil-Provincial will be the chief guests. The 'best special school' recognition awarded to the centre on 21st February makes this occasion more joyful and of course more responsible to the expectations of the society from a 'Best School'.

Dispensary at Gajawada

St. John's Health Centre, Deshgaon-Khandwa opened a new dispensary at Gajawada on 20 December 2008. Rev. Fr. Chinnappa-raj, Administrator of Diocese of Khandwa blessed and opened the dispensary. Three sisters



from the Secular institute of Salesian are helping the Brothers to run the dispensary. Preliminary works for a new hospital at Khandwa is progressing.

Meeting in Mauritius



A meeting will be held in Mauritius on 4 March 2009 as decided by the General Curia Rome to discuss the future management of

the centre for the care of aged at Pamplermusses. Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel – General Councillor, Bro. Brian O'Donnell –President APIPC, Provincials of French, Vietnam and Indian Provinces will participate in it. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, will leave for Mauritius on 2 March and he will return on 7 March 2009 to Velloor.

Bro. Joseph Kattackal



Bro. Joseph Kattackal who worked in the Vatican Pharmacy for the last 10 years, joined the Roman Province on temporary basis. His request was approved by both Indian and Roman provincials and the Prior General. He joined the community of their Hospital "Buccheri-La Ferla" in the city of Palermo, Italy. May his faithful ministry to the people of God continue inspiring, and may he be blessed with health and happiness all the days of his life in the Roman Province.

Ph.D Sr. Nirmala Kuriakose

Sr. Nirmala Kuriakose SCJG has obtained Ph.D from the Pontifical Institute of theology & Philosophy, Alway in the topic '*Transforming Accompaniment in Consecrated Life: An Integral Approach to Religious Formation in the Light of the Emmaus Experience*'. Public defence of the Doctoral Dissertation was held on 24 February at 2.45 pm in the senate hall of the institute at Mangalapuzha. Congratulations to Sr. Nirmala on this great academic achievement. At present she is serving the congregation at Podimattom as Novice Mistress.

Information

- * Bro. Bino Parakkkanassery who attends the Solemn Profession Preparation course in Rome will be back on 26 March 2009. After his course in Rome he will visit Granada, Austrian and Bavarian Provinces.
- * Bro. Yanka Sharma successfully completed B.Sc. Nursing (P.B.) from IGNOU.
- * Bro. Siby Kalluvettathu makes his Profession on 8 December 2009 at Velloor.
- * Bro. Raphael Swamydoss completes his one year Formative Spirituality course at Siddhi Vihara, Mysore in March 2009.
- * Mid-Term conference of the Province will be held on 13-14 March 2009 at Poonamallee. Representatives of the co-workers from the centers will attend the conference on 14 March.
- * After one month holidays, Bro. Jobino Kochodackal returned to Japan on 3 February 2009.
- * Deepika Children's League (DCL) Special School Fest will be celebrated at St. John of God Centre Velloor on 6 March 2009.

Provincial's Engagements - March 2009

02.03.09	To Mauritius
04.03.09	Meeting in Mauritius
07.03.09	Return to Cochin
08.03.09	Profession of Bro. Siby, 10 th Anniversary of St. John of God Special School
09.03.09	Pastoral Care Team Meeting
10.03.09	Kattappana
11.03.09	Pastoral Care and Bio-ethics meeting with Province Leadership Team
12.03.09	To Poonamallee
13-14.03.09	Mid Term Conference

Feastdays

March	
08	St. John of God
19	Bro. Jose Mathew Thottathil Bro. Joseph Kattackal Bro. Yanka Sharma Bro. Baiju Valuparampil Bro. Shiju Nanthikattu Bro. Abin Paul Nellikkunel Anand Susai Charles (Nocice)

April	
23	Bro. George Kizhakkekara Bro. George Kizhakkenath Bro. Roy Palliparampil Bro. Johnson Arackal Bro. Bino Parakkanassery
24	St. Benedict Menni
26	Our Lady of Good Counsel
May	
01	St. Richard Pampuri Shibu Joseph Sagayaraj (Nocice)
03	Bro. Morly Ambalathumkal
06	Bro. Savio Padinjarekutte
17	Bro. Pascual Piles (Ex-General)
31	Bro. Prakash Madappally

Renewed Website and new E-mail IDs



Communication has a vital role in the present world. At the meeting of Major Superiors in 2007 in Rome, the General Government had formed a communication office headed by Bro. Daniel A. Marquez B with the purpose of "Encouraging the pastoral ministry of social communication and the use of the new mass media technologies to serve our process of Renewal, in order to perform our hospitaller work more effectively, thereby contributing to enhancing our Hospitaller and ecclesial unity in a provincial, regional and universal context"

The communication office has renewed the official website of the General Curia - www.ohsjd.org with modern technologies and updated information. As part of advanced communication, the communication office has begun work of videoconference facility with some Provinces. Bro. Daniel Marquez, the director has invited all the provinces to institute, update and renew their websites and make use of the modern means of communication to improve the relationship between centers, communities,

and provinces of the Order. The General curia has changed e-mail IDs of all the members at the Curia. The new e-mail addresses are:

Bro. Donatus Forkan (Prior General)	generale@ohsjd.org
Bro. Rudolf Knopp (General Councillor)	Rudolf@ohsjd.org
Bro. Jesus Etayo (General Councillor)	jesusetayo@ohsjd.org
Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel (General Councillor)	vincent@ohsjd.org missione@ohsjd.org
Bro. Elia Tripaldi (General Councillor)	elia@ohsjd.org
Bro. Robert Chakana (General Councillor)	robert@ohsjd.org
Bro. Daniel Marquez (General Councillor)	daniel@ohsjd.org comunicazione@ohsjd.org
Bro. Jose Maria Chavarri (Secretary General)	segretario@ohsjd.org
Bro. Gian Carlo Lopic	giancarlo@ohsjd.org cgbioetica@ohsjd.org
Bro. Felix Lizaso	postulatore@ohsjd.org
Bro. Moises Martin Bosca	cooperazione@ohsjd.org
Bro. Rafael Cenizo	rcenizo@ohsjd.org
Klaus Mutschlenhner	klaus@ohsjd.org
Augusto Fabbioni	augusto@ohsjd.org
Pietro Cacciarelli	economato@ohsjd.org
Silvia Farina	silvia@ohsjd.org
Chiara Donati	biblioteca@ohsjd.org
Innocenzo Fornaciari	nocetta@ohsjd.org
Marco Caccarini	marco@ohsjd.org
Mario Ceccarini	manutenzione@ohsjd.org

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
Trichy	Holy Family Community of St. John of God Novitiate 'Santhi Nilayam' (Care & Support Centre for Terminally Ill)
Bangalore	St. John of God Community
Vellervally	St. John of God Community



Jubilee of SCJG Sisters



Mar Mathew Arackal at
SCJG Jubilee



St. John of God Band Set on
Republic Day, 26.01.09 at
Kattappana



Parade on Republic Day,
26.01.09 at Kattappana



Nursing Graduation, Kattappana



Bro. Gregory, Seminar on Hospitality



Best Special, School Award



Bro. Alfons, Kattappana



Bro. Augustine greets SCJG
Jubilerians at Brothers House



SCJG Jubilerians at Brothers
House, Kattappana



Hospitaller Order of St. John of God
53/54, Queen Victoria Road
Poonamallee, Chennai - 600 056, India.

+91-44-26272348, 26492124, Fax: 26273973
E-mail: hrorder@md4.vsnl.net.in
Web: www.johnofgodindia.org