



From the Provincial's Desk

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

Virgin Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The Word became flesh; God became man; Christ is born in a Manger; God sent His Only son who is the healer and teacher to redeem the world. We have the opportunity to share in His unconditional love. Many ways we become dwelling place of God

The word was the seed. The seed has the potentiality to give new life. By His special call, we all received this seed. This seed is within us. This seed has certain aspect such as social, economical, political and spiritual in our life. Social aspect may be in connection with our relationship with others, friendship and our hospitality. During the extraordinary General Chapter held in Mexico, our Prior General has conveyed a message in which he has given a concept of **Family of St. John of God**

When we are with family and friends at Christmas, we are at our best. As a member of this worldwide family, let us enjoy this unity and relationship with one another through the value of hospitality of our Order. Economical aspect, we shall uplift the downtrodden or to help the poor to meet their basic needs to live quality life. Political aspect, we shall try to fight for the fundamental rights and justice of the poor, sick and needy. Spiritual aspect, we shall be a man of God, by spreading the good news of our Lord, by our new way of evangelization. Let us be ready for the self renewal and spiritual preparations for the birth of Christ. I am coming quickly, says the Lord, and will repay each man according to his deeds. (Rev. 22.12).

Christmas is to be memorable one, in that it challenges us to display our spirit of peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind!

In the name of our Indian Province, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your sincere co-operation and various help for the year 2009. I wish you all a graceful Happy X'mas and a fruitful bright New Year 2010.

Faternally,

Bro. Augustine
 Bro. Augustine Polaprayil OH
 Provincial

Fourth Death Anniversary of Bro. Fortunatus Thanhäuser

Memorial ceremonies of Bro. Fortunatus Thanhäuser (1918 - 2005) was celebrated on 21st November 2009 at Kattappana. Memorial Holy Mass was celebrated at 06.00 a.m. at St. John's Hospital Chapel in which Rev. Fr. Justine Pazheparampil, Vicar of St. George Forane Church Kattappana was the main celebrant. A public Gathering was organised in the evening. Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil-Bishop of Idukki Diocese presided over in the public gathering which was inaugurated by Sri. P.T. Thomas, M.P. Benedictory address was given by Msgr. Joseph Kurinjipparampil-Vicar General of Changanassery Archdiocese. Sri. Roshy Augustine-M.L.A. inaugurated the 'Fortunatus Memorial Construction Fund', which is to construct a memorial in honour of Bro. Fortunatus. Many religious, political and social-cultural leaders and many people from different parts of high ranges participated in the memorial celebrations and public gathering. Prior to the public meeting, a documentary on the life of Bro. Fortunatus was showed in the auditorium which was attended by many people.



APIPC Annual Statutory Meeting



Nineteenth Annual Statutory Meeting of the APIPC was held on 1-2 September 2009 at Poonamallee. Representatives from the member countries and General Curia attended the meeting. They were: Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel and Bro. Moises Martin Bosca (General Curia, Rome), Bro. Timothy Graham, Bro. Vianney Welch (Australia), Bro. Augustine Polaprayil (India), Bro. John Jung (Korea), Bro. Augustine Olikei (PNG), Bro. Peter Nguyen Minh Thang (Vietnam), Bro. John Mark Languet and Bro. Luis Fermin Paniza (Philippines), Bro. Jobino Kochodackal (Japan) Bro. Brian O'Donnell and Bro. George Kizhakkekara (APIPC Secretariat). A large number of Brothers, Sisters and co-workers from India had got the opportunity to attend the meeting since it was held in India.

Bro. Moises Martin Bosca made a presentation on the role and function of the General Curia's Office of Missions and International Co-operation.

Inauguration of Hemodialysis Unit at St. John's Hospital Kattappana



A Rotary Club sponsored Dialysis unit has been installed at St. John's Hospital Kattappana. Mr. Baby Joseph, Rotary Club Ex-Governor inaugurated the Dialysis unit on 29th October 2009. The inaugural function was held at St. John's hospital auditorium. Bro. Pius Manithottiyil, Director, welcomed all the guests to the function which was presided over by Rtn.PHF. Benny Zachariah – President, Rotary Club of Cochin Downtown. Mar Mathew Arackal – Bishop of Kanjirappally, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil– Provincial, representatives of Local Government authorities and members of Kattappana Rotary Club felicitated in the function.

Though there are many dialysis centers in Kerala, this is the first centre in Idukki district. This service

will be a great help for the people in the district. Through the 'Navajeevanam', a Rotary Club sponsored programme, the Rotary Club and St. John's hospital plan to give free treatment to the poor patients though it is costly and many patients needs multiple dialysis in a week. Towards this project, they seek kind assistance of generous people, who are willing to help the poor patients and save a life. Expenses for sponsoring patients and Dialysis are:

Lifelong sponsorship of a patient: Rs. 500,000/-

One year: Rs. 75,000/-

One month: Rs. 6,000/-

Sponsoring one Dialysis : Rs. 600/-



A bank account has been opened for this programme to send donations towards this programme: A/C No. 352802010014670, IFSC Code: UBIN0535281, Union Bank of India, Kattappana Branch, Kerala.

Those who wish to sponsor a patient may kindly send their generous donations, whatever it may to the above bank account and take part in this life saving programme.

Inauguration of Oncology Unit



St. John's hospital Kattappana started a new department of clinical Oncology. The number of cancer patients is increasing day by day and it is the most challenging fact in the healthcare field all over the world today. The number of cancer patients in India is increasing because of the many reasons. As per the studies 5.5 million patients are affected with cancer in India. It is expected that the number of cancer patients in India will increase five times with the next 10 years because of the use of various dangerous pesticides in the plantations (particularly in Idukki district), change in life style, pollution because of urbanisation, use of alcohol and tobacco etc. The land of Spices - High ranges of Idukki is not

free from this deadly disease. In this scenario, the hospital decided to start an Oncology unit for the patients in high ranges at least in a limited scale.



Bro. Augustine Polaprayil – Provincial inaugurated the Oncology department on 29th October 2009. The department will function on all Fridays and Saturdays in the leadership of Dr. Vinod Kumar, who took charge of the Department.

Columbian Ambassador visited Order's Centers and Services in India



On 25 August 2009 the Columbian Ambassador to India, Mr. Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra, his wife and two daughters began a visit to the Order's centres at Velloor and Kattappana. He came to know about the Order in India from his contacts with the Brothers in Colombia - especially former General Councillor Brother Luis Maria Aldana.

At both centres the Ambassador and his family were welcomed with ceremony and musical bands. Public meetings were organized and cultural programmes were conducted in honour of the visitors. During its three-day stay in Kerala, the ambassadorial party was taken for a boat journey through the world famous back waters of the Alapuzha district, the pilgrim centre of St. Alphonsa (the first Indian woman saint) at Bharananganam and the Marian pilgrim centre at Pattumala and the Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary at Thekkady - both in the Idukki district.



The Ambassador said that he was touched by the hospitality extended by the Brothers, Sisters and the Co-workers and added that, "For the past 50 years India and Colombia have been maintaining a very friendly and fruitful co-operation in various areas, such as business, developmental works, etc."

The Ambassador returned from this visit to his other duties on 28 August with the satisfaction of having fulfilled a long-cherished dream of visiting Kerala, and full of praises for the different services of the Order in India.

Visit of Bro. Moises Martin Bosca

Brother Moises Martin Bosca, Director of the Mission and



International cooperation office at General Curia in Rome made a visit in the centers and communities of the Province in the last week of August and first week of September. He arrived at Velloor on 24th August 2009 with Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel. He visited Velloor, Kattappana, Trichy and Poonamallee communities and the various apostolates in these centers. He took part in the APIPC Statutory meeting held on 1-2 September 2009 at Poonamallee and made a presentation on Mission and international cooperation. After his visits and meetings, he returned to Rome on 3rd September 2009.

Mission in Sri Lanka



Bro. Augustine Polaprayil – Provincial, Bro. Albert Thekkumkaduthadathil and Bro. Pius Manihottiyil had visited the Diocese of Badulla in Sri Lanka from 25th to 27 July 2009. The visit was encouraged by the initiative and support of the General Curia, Rome to open a new center of Hospitaller mission in any one of the neighbouring countries. The purpose of the visit was to do an initial brief assessment and personally discuss with the Bishop about opening a new centre and the possibility of starting an

apostolate. On 25 July they were welcomed by the Bishop of Badulla Rt. Rev. J. Winston S. Fernando SSS, and they had a fruitful discussion of opening a centre.



After their visit, the Bishop visited our General Curia in Rome and discussed this matter with the Prior General and his Council in detail. Both of them agreed to proceed. Subsequent to the Episcopal Council meeting,

Bishop sent a formal invitation letter to establish a foundation of the Hospitaller Order in the Diocese of Badulla. The Bishop has offered all the possible support and help for the mission in his diocese. The Provincial Council decided to send two Brothers – Bro. Albert Thekkumkaduthadathil and Bro. Bino Parakkanassery to Sri Lanka to study well and prepare for an apostolate, listening to the people and Bishop in accordance with our charism. On the arrival of Bro. Albert from Mauritius, he had been assigned for the international mission of our Province.



They have applied for a long term Sri Lankan Residence visa and hope that they can reach Badulla by 15th December 2009.

Beatification of Eustachius Kugler



Beatification ceremony of Bro. Eustachius Kugler was held on 4th October 2009 in Regensburg, Germany. Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, H.E. Angelo Cardinal Amato, presided over the ceremonies as the representative of the Holy Father. Various programmes was organised in connection with the Beatification on 3rd to 5th October 2009. Representatives from all the Provinces, many bishops, hundreds of Fathers, Brothers, sisters, and thousands of people attended the ceremonies.



Bro. Augustine Polaprayil - Provincial, Bro. Stephen Chirayath and Sr. Dr. Mercylit represented the Indian Province. Sr. Anice Kochamkunnel, Sr. Flowerlet Emmanuel and Sr. Merlin from the Sisters of Charity of St. John of God participated in the celebrations. Most Rev. Abraham Viruthakulangara - Archbishop of Nagpur, who has got Aggregation to the Hospitaller Order, also took part in the celebrations. India had large number of participation in the whole celebrations by the presence of Brothers and Sisters from India who are working and studying in Europe, and Bro. Jobino who is in Japan.



After the Beatification ceremonies, the Brothers and Sisters from India, visited the communities and centers of the Brothers and Sisters in Germany and Austria and they also visited Rome. Bro. Augustine, Bro. Stephen and Sr. Mercylit returned to India on 19th October and the John of God Sisters on 30th October.

Extraordinary General Chapter in Mexico



LXVII Extraordinary General Chapter of the Hospitaller Order of John of God was held at Guadalajara in Mexico from 9th to 20th November 2009. The theme for the Chapter was "In the Church and in the World at the Service of Hospitality". During the Chapter, the General Statutes of the Order is amended and got approved. 75 Capitulars representing the Brothers throughout the world on all the Continents and in 50 countries attended the Chapter. They were supported by a number of Brothers and Co-workers who provided translation, secretarial and logistical services.

Bro. Augustine Polaprayil – Provincial, Bro. Yanka Sharma (1st Vocal) and Bro. Chinnapparaj (2nd Vocal) participated from the Indian Province. Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel, participated in the Chapter in his capacity as 3rd General Councillor. Brothers from India reached back in India on 25th November.

Annual Retreat



Annual Retreat for the Brothers conducted in two batches under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Antony Ettunkal OSA. The First batch began at Kattappana on 24 and concluded on 29th. The second batch was at Poonamallee from 7th to 12th September.

Tour Programme to Delhi



The Brothers had a tour programme to New Delhi and Agra. They left for Delhi on 14th August by train and returned on 20th August. 12 Brothers participated in the programme which was very pleasant and fraternal. More Brothers had booked tickets for the programme, but because of Swine Flue threat and other engagements some Brothers cancelled their trip.

Provincial's Visit



(With Mr. Josef & Mrs. Anni Kröner)

Bro. Augustine Polaprayil had been in Germany from 1st to 19th October 2009 to attend the Beatification ceremonies of Eustachius Kugler. The Beatification ceremonies over by 5th October, and after the ceremonies he visited the Provincials of Austrian and Bavarian Provinces, some communities, the Indian Brothers studying in Germany, working in

Austria and the Sisters working there. He also got opportunity to visit some of the Benefactors of the Indian Province and convey the Province's gratitude to them.



Renewal of Profession



7 Scholastics – Bro. Salim Lakra, Bro. Sudhir Kujur, Bro. Ignace Topno, Bro. Sudhir Chandar Tirkey, Bro. Shailendra Ohariya, Bro. Ajay Samir Lucas and Bro. Paul Varghese renewed their Profession of Vows on 6th December 2009 at Poonamallee. Prior to their Renewal, classes were arranged at Poonamallee in preparation for Renewal. Bro. Dhan Singh Jamra made his renewal on 6th December at Kattappana. Bro. Abin Paul Nellikkunnel and Bro. John Suresh who are studying in Reichenbach, Germany made their renewal on 6th December 2009 at Reichenbach.

Simple Profession

Birchus Kumar Barwa made his first Simple Profession on 8th December 2009 at Poonamallee. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil – Provincial received his vows of Profession in the presence of his relatives, Brothers from different communities, Novices, students, friends and Fathers and Sisters from the nearby communities. Rev. Fr. Mathew



Vallipalam OFM Cap. was the main celebrant in the ceremonial Holy Mass.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Brother Birchus!

Practical Training at St. John of God Centre

Since its beginning, St. John of God Special School attracts students and volunteers from Europe, especially the students and co-workers from the Order's institutions in Germany and Austria. This year the centre has accepted a number of foreign guests who came for practical training and voluntary service.

The following guests are at Velloor now:

- From Germany, Ms. Daniela Gollwitzer (getting experience for 4 months), Ms. Vasuki Antonipillai (for 5 months) and Ms. Petra Dittmer (for 3 months).
- Two Co-workers from Kainbach in Austria, Mrs. Astrid Hütter and Mr. Thomas Marn are in the Centre for their practical experience from 30th November to 20th December 2009.



It is a great experience for the visitors working for the differently abled and a great help for the Centre the service rendered by these volunteers.

English Scholastic in India

A Scholastic Brother of the English Province, Brother John Stretton, has been in the Indian Province since 1st August 2009 for apostolic experience during his time of initial formation. He was assigned to the House at Velloor, a centre for children and young adults with learning difficulties.



He enjoys his challenging experience at the St. John of God Centre where his duties ranged from preparing the things for breakfast for the community and guests and assisting in the educational programme of the St. John of God Special School as well as acting as an English teacher. He will return to England on 22nd January 2010. Thanks to Bro. John Stretton for his availability, support and cooperation in all the activities of the School as well as the Community.

Fortunatus Memorial Football Tournament



The Third Bro. Fortunatus Memorial Inter-Special School Football Tournament was held on 27th and 28th of November 2009 at St. John of God Centre. The tournament was inaugurated by MOr. Pradeep (Sub Inspector of Police, Pampady) and Mr. K.A. Abraham (President of Pampady Panchayath) chaired the meeting. Some eminent persons from the community delivered felicitations. Competitions started at 9.30 a.m. on 27th and ended at 3.30 p.m. on 28th. Nine schools participated in the tournament. St. John of God Special School team won the ever-rolling trophy. Prizes were distributed to all participants and staff, and special prizes were given to the best player, the best golly and Special Juries.



Siblings Meeting

St. John of God Special School conducted its annual Siblings' Meeting on 28th September 2009. Mr. Ajithan Nambuthiri, chief editor of 'Kuttikalude Deepika', led the main session. Some cultural items were performed by the siblings. Around 150 people participated in the event.



Swimming Competition

Sujeesh Sadanandan, a student of John of God Special School, participated in an all India swimming competition held at Pune on 14th to 18th November. He won 2nd prize in 4 x 25 relay and 3rd prize in 25 meter swimming.



St. Richard Pampuri Medical & Research Centre, Khandwa



Another long-awaited dream of the Province and great desire of the society for a hospital in Khandwa is coming into reality. Blessing and laying of the foundation stone and 'Bhoomi Poojan' for the proposed Hospital at Khandwa (St. Richard Pampuri Medical & Research Centre) was held on 8th September 2009 at Khandwa. His Excellency Sebastian Durairaj (Bishop of Khandwa Diocese) Blessed and laid the Foundation stone in the presence Brothers, Sisters parish priest and many well-wishers and friends.



Prior to the blessing, the centre has done many preliminary preparations like conversion of land, getting permission from the government, construction of compound wall, digging bore-wells, construction of a beautiful main entrance to the land, a office -cum-residence room for the Brother in-charge of the construction etc. The centre has already bought and kept a good quantity of construction materials like steel, sand, metal and bricks to start the work. The construction work of the building is already started and it is expected to complete within two years, according to the availability of funds.

Renovation work at Vellervally



Renovation work of the new house of the Province which was purchased in January this year is in the finishing stage. Some damaged parts of the building were demolished and the building strengthened. A new room as prayer hall (Chapel) also constructed for the Brothers of the Community. Blessing of the House and consecration of the Chapel will take place in December this year. The community consists of three Solemn Professed Brothers – Bro. Johny George, Bro. Benedict Nadayil and Bro. Stephen Chirayath who is recently joined the community, and a Scholastic – Bro. Paul Varghese who is doing his B.A. (Communicative English) in Peravoor.

Settling Land Affairs in Bangalore

The Province purchased 14 acres of land at Bhimanakuppe Ramsagar Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore in the year 2004. After staying almost a year



in a nearby rented house of the De Paul Fathers, the Brothers completed the construction of a temporary building and shifted to own house in 2006. Due to demand by the previous owners of the land, various legal issues and delay in different government departments, we could not complete the land registration process and we were going through crucial situations for almost 5 years. In the last year, the Provincial Definitory decided to sell the land since it was found that it is not possible to settle the issues concerning the land in the near future and we will not be able to start any mission there.

After a long delay, on 23 September 2009 we have completed the sale of land and settled the affairs. The Brothers who are studying in Bangalore have shifted to Asirvanam, a Benedictine Monastery, to continue and complete their studies. The Province is in search for a suitable plot of land in and around Bangalore for a new mission and in hope that we can continue our presence in the Archdiocese of Bangalore.

Provincial Chapter

Provincial Chapters of all the Provinces of the Hospitaller Order will be held in the year 2010. Prior General, Bro. Donatus Forkan has convened the Provincial Chapters by his Letter of Convocation dated 1st October 2009, Ref. No.CG.121/2009. The Chapters begins on 1st February with the Chapter of Ireland/England Provinces and concludes on 4th June with the Chapter of the French Province. The theme for the 2010 Chapters adopted by the General Definitory is **“Fidelity to the Mission means Fidelity to the Charism of Hospitality”**.

Provincial Chapter of the St. Thomas Province, India will be held from 15th to 19th February 2010 at Poonamallee. As decided in the last Provincial Chapter, all the Solemn Professed Brothers can participate in this Chapter. As directed by the General Definitory, the Province has appointed a Preparatory Commission for the Provincial Chapter. This commission met on 7th November 2009 at Poonamallee to discuss about the preparations for the Chapter. The commission has started the preparations with a questionnaire to evaluate the Province. A meeting of all the Brothers is arranged in two batches; on 7-8 December 2009 at Poonamallee and on 14-15 December 2009 at Kattappana. Further meetings and other preparations will be done on the basis and recommendations of the meeting of Brothers.



Let us pray for the success of the Provincial Chapter which is to be held from 15th to 19th February 2010 at Poonamallee.

Feastdays

December	
10	Bro. Brian O'Donnell (Ex-General)
25	Bro. Siby Sebastian Kalluvettathu
26	Bro. Stephen Chirayath Bro. Binish Thomas Mulackal
January	
31	Bro. Salim Lakra Bro. Ajay Samir Lucas



A Christmas Prayer...

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

Robert Louis Stevenson



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