

From the Provincial's Desk



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

Christmas is a time for love and hope. It is a time for showing our affection to our loved ones. It is all about love. First of all I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

As we all know, many significant events had taken place in our Province during the last month. Meet 2007, the meeting of Brothers and Co-workers that was held on 10, 11, 12 & 13 December was a milestone event in the history of our Province. I take this opportunity to thank sincerely each and every one of you. It was arranged very well. My sincere appreciation and thanks to Bro. Baiju Valuparampil, Committee chairman of Mission & Co-workers and all the members of the Co-workers executive committee.

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DIFFERENT CENTERS OF THE PROVINCE

Poonamallee, Chennai	St. Thomas Provincial House St. Thomas Community of John of God St. Thomas Novitiate & 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 Pampurri 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 Abled)
Trichy	Holy Family Community of St. John of God Postulancy 'Santhi Nalayam' (Care & Support Centre for Terminally Ill)
Bangalore	St. John of God Community

Province Gathering



A Gathering of all the Brothers of the Province was held on 10 December 2007 at Kattappana. The theme for the meeting was "Hospitality and Future Challenges". 26 Brothers participated in the meeting. It started at 9 am. Bro. Brian O'Donnell had given a talk on the theme and he moderated the whole programme. A brief report on all the communities and Centers were presented and group discussions were conducted in the morning. The Province Bursar had presented a report on the financial situation of the Province with the help of Mr. Jacob Kora, Finance Manager of St. John's Hospital.

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Meet 2007 – A Historic Event



The first meeting of the Brothers and Co-workers of our Province was held on 11, 12, 13 December 2007 at Kattappana. It was a milestone in the history of



the Province. The theme of the Gathering was "Brothers & Co-workers United in Hospitality". It was conducted in a well arranged manner. The Executive Committee of the Brothers and Co-workers, headed by Bro. Baiju Valuparampil-the Chairperson, made necessary preparations and organised the meeting.

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Provincial Council Meeting



The Provincial Council had met six times during this year. The fourth meeting was held on 28th September at Poonamallee, fifth on 14 October at Kattappana and the last meeting on 10 December at Kattappana. In the sixth meeting, Bro. Donatus Forkan - Prior General, Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel - General Councillor, Bro. Brian O'Donnell and Fr. Mathew Vallipalam - Facilitator participated together with the Provincial and all the Councillors.

Province Gathering Continuation from Page 1

Prior General and Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel joined the meeting in the afternoon. The session started with the address of Prior General followed by Bro. Vincent's address. Representatives of Sisters of Charity of St. John of God and Co-workers attended the afternoon session. Sr. Vimala George, who represented the Sister General also addressed the Gathering. Dr. Mathew Jacob presented a paper on 'Integration of Brothers & Co-workers'. The meeting was an occasion to evaluate the Chapter resolutions and plan for the future.



Formation Syllabus & Job Descriptions

In the Formation Committee Meeting that was held on 14 July 2007 at Poonamallee a committee was formed to prepare the job descriptions for Masters of different stages of Formation and for drafting a syllabus for Formation. The members were Bro. Francis, Bro. Chinnapparaj, Bro. Roy Mani and Bro. Augustine. They prepared the job descriptions



and syllabus in time and submitted it to the Provincial and the same was officially released by Prior General on 10 December 2007 at Kattappana during the Province Gathering.

Meet 2007 - A Historic Event

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The meeting was conducted in three batches so that the routine functions of the different centers may not interrupt. About 450 Co-workers, Brothers and Sisters attended the Gathering.



The Meeting was officially inaugurated on 11 December at 8.30 am by Prior General, Bro. Donatus Forkan. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial, welcomed Prior General, Resource persons and participants. After the inaugural programme, the sessions started. There were six sessions of 45 minutes each on the following topics.



'Mission of the Order'

Rev. Bro. Donatus Forkan OH
Prior General

'Transmission of the Order's Values'

Rev. Bro. Brian O'Donnell OH
Ex-General & President, APIPC



'Integration of Brothers and Co-workers'

Rev. Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel OH
General Councillor

‘Pastoral Care & Bio-ethics’

Rev. Fr. Stephen Chirapanath
Administrator /
Professor, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathur, Kottayam.



‘General / Personal Management’

Prof. Benny Kurian,
Professor, St. Thomas College, Palai

‘Charismatic Management’

Dr. Mathew Jacob,
Medical Superintendent, St. John’s Hospital, Kattappana



On the first two days the meeting concluded with a panel discussion and the last day with feed back by the co-workers.

The six sessions were the same for three days. It was a new experience for all the participants. All the members of the Sisters of St. John of God, actively participated in the meeting. Nursing students performed cultural programmes like dance, song, etc. between the sessions. Meals and accommodation were arranged by the respective committees. At the end of each day the Executive Committee evaluated the programme of that day and made necessary changes.



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The concluding session started on 13 December at 4.30 pm. Prior General appreciated the new beginning and he encouraged the Brothers and Co-workers. During the concluding



session Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial presented mementos to the resource persons. Bro. Baiju Valuparampil, the Chairperson thanked all and the meeting concluded by 6 pm.



Unveiling the Bust

A bust of Bro. Fortunatus Thanhäuser, the Pioneer and Founder of the Hospitaller Order in India was unveiled on 11 December 2007 during the inaugural ceremony of the Brothers & Co-workers Meet. Prior General Bro. Donatus Forkan, together with Sister General Rosy Joseph unveiled it. The bust was made in Marble at Mahabali-puram, Tamil Nadu.



<http://www.johnofgodindia.org>

St. Thomas Province, India launched first time its website. Prior General Bro. Donatus Forkan inaugurated the site on 11 December 2007 during the Meet 2007. Address of the site is www.johnofgodindia.org It is still in the process of completion and will be available soon with more information.



Neurosurgical ICU, Kattappana



St. John’s Hospital, Kattappana opened a Neurosurgical ICU with 3 beds. Prior General, Donatus Forkan inaugurated it on 13 December 2007. The Neurosurgical Department has been financed by the Bavarian Province.

2nd Death Anniversary

The Province commemorated the second death anniversary of Bro. Fortunatus Thanhäuser on 21 November. Anniversary Mass was celebrated at Kattappana. Vicar of St. George Church Kattappana was the main celebrant. Many Brothers, Sisters, Co-workers and well wishers participated in it.

Seminar for the Scholastics & Students



Accepting the request of Provincial, Bro. Brian O'Donnell came to India after the AIPIC / Major Superiors meeting in Rome. He arrived at Chennai on 3 December and took classes for the Novices and students from 4 to 6 December and for the Scholastics on 7 and 8.

Renewal of Vows



Eight Scholastics renewed their Vows on 6 December 2007 at Poonamallee. All the Scholastics who are India had come together at Poonamallee. Three Scholastics, Bro. Morly, Bro. Johnson and Bro. Saji renewed their vows at Wien, Austria and Bro. Binish in Rome.

Admission to the Novitiate



On 7 December 2007 Three Postulants, Nazarius Turkey, Basil Dawar and Birchus Kumar Barwa entered the Novitiate at Poonamallee.

Simple Profession



John Suresh has made his Simple Profession on 8 December 2007 at Poonamallee. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial received his Vows. His family members, relatives, Brothers and Sisters from different communities participated.

Brothers' Residence; Trichy



Construction work of the Brothers residence and chapel at Trichy is progressing. Concreting of the ground floor is over and work of the first floor is started.

Admission to Postulancy



On 7 December 2007 two Aspirants, Abraham from Khandwa and Kishore from Orissa entered the Postulancy and joined the Trichy Community.

Bro. Fortunatus Memorial Football Tournament

The second All Kerala Football Tournament for the Differently Abled was conducted on 21 November 2007, on the second death anniversary of Bro. Fortunatus at Velloor. It was organised by the St. John of



God Special School in association with the All Kerala Special School Association. District Collector Kottayam Smt. Sharmila Mary Joseph, inaugurated the tournament. 200 students from all over Kerala participated in the tournament.

Pratheeksha Training Centre, Iringalakuda, St. John of God Special School, Velloor and Holy Cross, Mannarakkad won the First, Second and Third Prizes of the Ever-rolling Trophy respectively. Congratulations to the team members of the St. John of God Special School, Velloor who got the second prize and special congrats to Binu M.P. who won the Best Goal



Keeper award. The concluding ceremony was held at 5 pm which was inaugurated by Mr. K.P. Sugunan, President of District Panchayat,

Kottayam. Bro. George Kizhakkekara, Director of St. John of God Centre, presided over the meeting. Two cini-artists were present and they distributed the prizes.

Siblings' Meet



On 20 October 2007 St. John of God Special School conducted a siblings' meet - meeting of siblings of the Differently Abled children. Siblings from different districts of Kerala attended the meeting. Sr. Linnet from Chaithanya Social Service Society, Kottayam took classes and the Meet helped the siblings of the differently abled children, to love them more and to live for them.

Prior General's Visit

Bro. Donatus Forkan visited the St. John of God Centre, Velloor on 14 December



2007. He was accompanied by Bro. Brian O'Donnell, Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel and Bro. Augustine Polaprayil. He spent two days at the Centre and spent time with the children, visited all the members.

Visits

During November and December, Bro. Joseph Kattackal who is the Director of Vatican Pharmacy, Bro. Albert Thekkumkaduthadathil, the Prior/Director of Mauritius and Bro. Jobino Kochodackal who is in Japan, had come for their annual holidays.

Fr. Ignaz Hochholzer from Austria, who is a medical doctor and a priest, visited our Communities and Centers. He is a co-worker of our Order in Austria and a great friend and benefactor of our Province. Bro. Antony Palamattom accompanied him during his visits in our Province.

Provincial's Visit

On the way to Rome to attend the major Superiors / APIPC meetings, Provincial, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil visited our Brothers, Sisters and Benefactors in Germany and Austria. He had meetings with the Bavarian and Austrian Provincials. Bro. Alfons M. Höring had arranged his programmes and accompanied him. During his visit the Provincials have expressed their readiness to finance some of our Province's projects that was submitted to them.



APIPC Executive Committee



The seventeenth meeting of the APIPC was held at Rome on 23 and 24

November 2007. They elected a new executive committee. Bro. Brian O'Donnell is the new President and Bro. George Kizhakkekara is the new Secretary. Hearty congratulations and all the best wishes to Bro. George Kizhakkekara for the new responsibility as the Secretary.

Major Superiors' Meeting



Provincial Chapters of all the Provinces were concluded by the month of August. A meeting of all the newly elected Major Superiors was held at Rome from 26 to 29 November 2007.

Objectives of the meeting were to reflect, share



and schedule with the Major Superiors of the Order the issues and the actions of particular interest and relevance to the life of our Institution over the coming years in the wake of the General Chapter and the Provincial Chapters.



To exercise collegiality in the governance and animation of the Order jointly with the Major Superiors.

To enable the Major Superiors to become mutually acquainted and to establish brotherly bonds between them, particularly by incorporating the newly elected Major Superiors.

All the General Councillors and Major Superiors of the Provinces participated in the meeting. Representatives of Co-workers attended some sessions. After the meeting Bro. Augustine Polaprayil returned to India on 2 December.



New Leadership Team for SCJG

The Sixth General Synaxis (Chapter) of the Sisters of Charity of St. John of God was held

from 27 to 30 November 2007 at Kattappana. The Leadership Team for the next term was



elected. **Sr. Rosy Joseph** was re-elected as the **Sister General**. The Councillors are:

Sr. Anice Kochamkunnel	: First
Sr. Liza Kuruvila	: Second
Sr. Vimala George	: Third
Sr. Mercy Thomas	: Fourth

Hearty Congratulations and all the Best wishes to Sr. General Rosy Joseph, Councillors and all the Office bearers. We assure them our prayers and co-operation. Wish you all the best in this prophetic ministry of animation. May the blessed Mary ever virgin, queen of hospitality guide and protect you in this great endeavor.

Mid-Life Integration - Sr. Vimila SCJG



The book, 'Middle-Age Crisis' written by Sr. Vimala George Mathalikkunnel during her Post Graduate Degree in Psychology in Rome is translated into Malayalam by Fr. Mathew Mundackal and published by Vimala Publications, Kanjirappally. Title of the new book is "Maduramee Madhyahnam". The book was released during the function held at Kattappana on 13 December 2007, by Sister General Rosy Joseph and Prior General Bro. Donatus Forkan.

Course in Rome

Due to some reasons, Bro. Raphael Swamydoss and Bro. Shiju Nanthikattu could not attend the Preparatory Course for Solemn Profession, in Rome arranged by the General Curia, before their Solemn Profession. Bro. Raphael who is in Japan and Bro. Shiju will be attending the course from 28 January to 9 March 2008 in Rome.

Professional Studies

Bro. Sudhir Chandar Tirkey has joined for General Nursing at Bangalore and he joined the Bangalore Community. With his arrival there are four Scholastics in Bangalore and all are doing GNM course.



Back into the Heavenly Peace



Mr. Mathai, Father of Bro. Aloysius Mattathil, our Province Bursar, passed away on 20 November 2007 at Koodaranji. The funeral took place on 21 November.

Mrs. Annamma Thomas, Mother of Bro. Francis Mannampil, our Provincial Secretary & Novice Master passed away on 30 November at Konakkadu. Funeral was held on 1 December.



Brothers and Sisters from our Communities and Centers attended the both funeral ceremonies. May they rest in Peace.

..... Provincial's Message

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We are very much grateful to our Prior General, Donatus Forkan for his special concern towards our Province, and coming for this historic event. Thanks to the resource persons, Bro. Brian O'Donnell, Bro. Vincent Kochamkunnel, Fr. Stephen Chirapanath, Prof. Benny Kurian and Dr. Mathew Jacob. I appreciate and thank all the Priors and Directors for sending maximum number of Brothers & Co-workers. Many events were held during the Meet such as unveiling the bust of Bro. Fortunatus, Province website inauguration, blessing & inauguration of neurosurgical ICU, releasing of book written by Sr. Vimala SCJG etc.

The meeting was really an enriching experience to the Brothers and Co-workers. It is a new beginning, we all benefited from it. The ultimate aim of such gatherings is the integration of Brothers and Co-workers to improve the quality

of service we render in our centers. It should help to spread the Charism of Hospitality in a better way according to the great tradition of our Order. Follow up of this gathering is needed in all our Centers. Each member of our John of God Family will get opportunity to utilize their optimum potentiality for the Hospitality services. Please take necessary initiatives to keep up the spirit of unity and trust, be open and share the responsibility in all our centers. If not, the initiative we have taken will be only loss of time and money. I invite all the Brothers, Sisters and Co-workers to be united in Hospitality and work together as a Hospitaller Family.

Almost all the Brothers of our Province participated in the Province Gathering that was held on 10 December at Kattappana. It was a time to evaluate the Chapter resolutions, present situation of the Province and to share and plan for the future. Bro. Aloysius Mattathil, our Province Bursar and Mr. Jacob Kora, Finance Manager of St. John's Hospital worked hard and presented the financial statement of the whole province, our future plans etc. It was presented very well and of course, a great step towards achieving transparency and accountability in our Province. I specially appreciate this first step and I congratulate and thank them for the hard work. We could release the syllabus for the different stages of Formation and job description for Masters. Congratulations and thanks to the chairman of the Formation Commission and its members. The active participation of the representatives of Sisters of Charity of St. John of God and Co-workers was a new and enriching experience.

The Sisters of Charity of St. John of God have recently elected their new Leadership Team for the next three-year term. Congratulations to all the members of the Congregation for the fruitful Chapter. We see the spirit of St. John of God and Bro. Fortunatus Thanhäuser, the founder of the Congregation, throughout the Chapter proceedings and in its outcome. Congratulations to Sister General Rosy Joseph, Councillors and all other Office bearers. We appreciate and thank them sincerely for their readiness to cooperate with the Brothers in our centers and services. Thank you for the wholehearted support, co-operation and working in association with the Brothers as a Family.

Please remember and pray for the newly Professed Brother, John Suresh and for the new Novices that the good Lord may guide them through the footsteps of our Founder St. John of God that they may become prophets of Hospitality. I specially remember and thank Bro. Brian O'Donnell for his support for our Formation programme. He had a very tight schedule when he had been in India in this month. He had given classes to the Aspirants, Novices and Scholastics. We are very much grateful to him for his tireless hard work.

We shall pray for the departed souls of Mr. Mathai (*Father of Bro. Aloysius Mattathil, Province Bursar*) and Mrs. Annamma Thomas (*Mother of Bro. Francis Mannaparampil, Provincial Secretary*) those who are called back into the Heavenly Peace in the month of November.

I would like to stress the urgent need of working hard for promoting more Vocations. It is not only the responsibility of the one who designated, but of all the Brothers. Please pray for more vocations and work together to promote.

Christmas is the time of giving and sharing. It is the time of loving and forgiving.. And to feel the Joy and Happiness of being loved and to be loved.. May this Christmas be a Joyous one as you ever had!! May the New Year be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Prosperity and Happiness throughout the Year!

At this Christmas I invite you all to look towards a united and hospitable future.

Fraternally,



Bro. Augustine Polaprayil OH
Provincial

Feastdays

January	
02	Basil Dawer (Novice)
20	Binu Sebastian Kandathinkara (Novice)
31	Bro. Salim Lakra Bro. Ajay Samir Lucas (Novice)
February	
13	Bro. Jordan Brand (Germany)

Provincial's Engagements, January 2008

2 & 3 : CRI Meeting
15 : Kattappana
16 : Thiruvalla
3rd week : Bangalore
4th week : Orissa



From the Editor's Desk

Dear Friends,

“Great things happen when God mix with man”. Yes dear friends, the great and most joyful event of Christmas has arrived. We are in a mood of festivity and celebration.

Lot of things are taking place in our personal lives, families, societies and world at large. Speed, connectivity, communication and efficiency are the catch words today. Lot of things are taking place in our Hospitaller family too. The Order in India march forward as Brothers and Co-workers United in Hospitality.

To be in touch with all this, to become part of it and to support this great mission of Hospitality, we bring you the fifth issue of ‘Healing’.

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year.

Yours fraternally,



Bro. Francis Mannaparampil OH
Provincial Secretary



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