

From the Provincial's Desk



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

On 8 March we celebrate the Feastday of our father John of God who himself

became Hospitality and compassion. The whole world thank God for the wonderful gift to the humankind especially to the suffering people - Juan Ciudad, and celebrate the joy and happiness as a Hospitaller Family. With great joy and gratitude to our Holy Founder, I wish you all a very Happy Feastday. Let us celebrate this great day in a meaningful way and in a memorable way as a family in all our centers. Each and every celebrations especially the Feastday of our Father, is an occasion to be united more and more and to make ourselves real witnesses of Hospitality.

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Aggregation Ceremony

Most Rev. Dr. Abraham Viruthikulangara, Archbishop of Nagpur has been aggregated to the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God. The ceremony of the handing over of the official document of Aggregation was conducted on 21

February 2008 at Provincial House Poonamallee. In the concelebrated Eucharist in which the Bishop was the main celebrant, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, the Provincial congratulated him for his love and close association with the Order for many years and handed over this prestigious honour.

8 March - Feast of St. John of God

In the first half of the sixteenth century, John Ciudad, without knowing his way, wandered as a shepherd, soldier, labourer and bookseller searching for the meaning of his life.



Finally he dedicated the rest of his life for the suffering, sick and the needy, after listening to a sermon, which helped him to experience the mercy and compassion of God, preached by a holy man named John Avila.

The people of Granada started calling him John of God. Today through the Charism of Hospitality, the spirit of St. John of God is spread throughout the world.

John of God is a guide, a paradigm, an inspiration, power and passion for the people of today, who suffer in wandering without knowing the meaning and goal of life.

St. John of God pray for us today; be with us as we journey on our way!

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 Pampur 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

..... Provincial's Message

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Our Prior General, through his message on this feastday, invites all of us, the Brothers, Sisters and co-workers to renew ourselves and renew our Order and he reminds us that it is our responsibility to be John of God in our own age and to become hospitality for others in the way shown us by our Father. I wish that the feastday celebrations help us to be John of God and become hospitality. The spirit of Hospitaller Family has to be developed more and more and shall be hospitality for the suffering people.

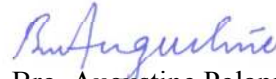
Since I am in Korea with Dr. Joseph to participate in the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Korean Province, I am not able to celebrate the feastday in our Province this year. But I will be with you in spirit in all the celebrations.

The month of March is very special for us; we celebrate Feastday and Easter this month. We are in Lenten season. The Lenten observances, novena of our Father etc. will help us to be hospitality. On 23 March we celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ which is the basis of our Christian faith. May the triumph of our Lord strengthen our souls and grace us with happiness and success. I wish you all a very joyful and peaceful Easter and wish that the happiness and peace be with you always.

I am very thankful to each member of our Province for your dedicated service and hard work. Each member of the John of God Family will be a witnessing example of John of God. As we all know we have to improve more and reach more and more suffering people. Let us renew ourselves and renew our Province. All our Centers is to be houses of hospitality that our clients would feel at home. As a united and enthusiastic Hospitaller Family with passion for hospitality, we shall become John of God of our own age and become prophets of hospitality. As a united family we shall do many things. When there is unity there will be freedom and creativity. During this feastday let us spend some time for self reflection of our attitude towards the meaning of hospitality. Let us join as a family and make our Province a model one that always stands for the needy, in the footsteps of our Father, John of God.

One again I wish you all a very Happy Feast of John of God and a peaceful & Grace-filled Easter.

Fraternally,



Bro. Augustine Polaprayil OH
Provincial

Prior General's Message on 8 March



..... My dear Brothers and friends, no human being that I know of had a stronger commitment and love for the Lord and his fellow human beings than John Ciudad. Therefore, as the Feast of our Holy Founder approaches, I

would like to reflect with you on just two aspects of John's life. The first aspect that I wish to reflect on is the time when John's whole life was thrown into total confusion and turmoil. Something took possession of John's inner being that resulted in his being, one might say, 'born anew' (John 3:3). The 'new' John would never look back, but would "follow Christ by loving as he loved, giving himself up for us as an offering and sweet-smelling sacrifice to God" (Eph 5:1-2). We refer to this episode in John's life as his conversion. A conversion experience is not so much a turning away from a past life of darkness and sin but a turning towards the light who is Christ (Jn. 14:6).

..... In conclusion, we of our Hospitaller Family cannot survive long without constantly turning our eyes to the life, the works, the charism and the spirituality of St. John of God. He is the model for all we do in our lives, which we are called to propose to others across time, and to which the providence of God has destined us.

May the ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, to whom St. John of God was so devoted, guide us along the path of renewal and in our personal, community and family lives. Hoping in God... to quote John of God... I send you my affectionate and warmest regards and my prayerful good wishes for a Happy Feast Day!

Fraternally yours in St. John of God.
Br. Donatus Forkan, O.H.
Prior General

Provincial Council Meeting

The seventh meeting of the Provincial Council was held on 24 February 2008 at Kattappana. Provincial, all the Councillors and Fr. Mathew Vallipalam, facilitator participated in the meeting.



Common Emblem



It was decided that the emblem which was suggested by the majority of the Brothers in the Brothers gathering, as the common emblem of the Province. It is a pomegranate with cross. From now onwards let us use this as our common emblem.

New Name for the Hospital at Kattappana

The Council approved to Change the name 'St. John's Hospital' to '**John of God Hospital**' as proposed by the Brothers gathering.



Change of Offices

Some change of offices took place in the beginning of this year. Bro. Benedict Nadayil has moved from Bangalore to Deshgaon, Bro. Stephen Chirayath from Deshgaon to Bangalore and Bro. Bino Parakkanassery from Poonamallee to Bangalore. Bro. Stephen Chirayath is the in-charge of the Bangalore Community.

Vocation Promoters Meeting



A meeting of all the Vocation Promoters was held on 13 January 2008 at Velloor under the chairmanship

of Bro. Johny George, committee chairman of Vocation Promotion & Formation. Two representatives of Sisters of Charity of St. John of God, Sr. Leema Sebastian and Sr. Jeena Xavier took part. The meeting discussed various aspects to promote more vocations and decided to work together as Brothers and Sisters in the field of vocation promotion.

Pratheeksha Bhavan, Management Team



Management Team of the Pratheeksha Bhavan, Kattappana met on 8 February 2008 at Kattappana. The

main agenda was construction of new building and facilities for the Pratheeksha Bhavan. The meeting made some changes in the Management Team and it was revised as the following office bearers as its members.

- Provincial
- Provincial Councillors
- Director, Pratheeksha Bhavan (Chairperson)
- Director, St. John's Hospital
- Prior, Brothers of St. John of God, Kattappana
- Mother General, SCJG
- Superior, SCJG Pratheeksha Bhavan
- Students in-charge, Pratheeksha Bhavan
- Social Worker, Pratheeksha Bhavan

Management Team, Home for the Aged

A management Team for the St. Thomas Home for the Aged at Poonamallee has been formed and it met on 30 January and 3 February 2008. The Director Bro. Baiju Valuparampil is the Chairperson of the team. Bro. Aloysius Mattathil has been appointed as the coordinator of the home. The meeting discussed the improvements of the quality care in the Home for the Aged.

Renovation work of buildings at Poonamallee is progressing. The work of St. Thomas Home for the Aged is almost over.



Sports Day Celebration



The Annual Sports Day of St. John of God Centre, was held on 8 February 2008. Provincial, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil inaugurated the Sports Day. Bro. Baiju Valuparampil, the first Councillor received the salute. Various sports competitions were conducted.

Annual Picnic

Students and staff of the St. John of God Special School had their Annual picnic on 9 February 2008 to Kollam. There were 75 of them including staff. For the first time they tried traveling by train and found it very convenient. Mr. Abdul Salim, father of a student Master Rafi guided the picnic and sponsored the whole programme.



Joseph Jude Memorial Quiz competition

Third Joseph Jude Memorial Quiz competition, "VIJNAN 2008" was conducted on 5 March 2008, on the third death anniversary of Joseph Jude who was a student of St. John of God Special School at Velloor. 24 students from eight school participated in the competition. Sanjose Vidhyalaya Ettumanoor, Ashanilayam Ponkunnam and St John of God Special School Velloor won the first, second and third prizes respectively. The winners got the cash award and Joseph Jude ever-rolling Trophy.

Meeting of Formatters & Vocation Promoters

A Meeting of Brothers responsible for formation in the different stages, and Vocation Promoters was held on 24 February 2008 at Kattappana under the leadership of Bro. Johny George. Bro.

Provincial, all the Councillors, Bro. Francis Mannaparampil, Bro. Roy Mani and Bro. Chinnapparaj participated in it. Fr. Mathew Vallipalam moderated the meeting. The main agenda of the meeting was to coordinate the vocation promotion in different states and to



study the syllabus of formation and job responsibility of different masters. Bro. Francis Mannaparampil has been appointed as the co-coordinator of vocation promotion.

Executive Committee Meeting of Brothers & Co-workers

The Executive committee members of the Brothers



and Co-workers met on 7 February 2008 at Kattappana under the chairmanship of Bro. Baiju Valuparampil, the chairperson. Provincial, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil and Sr. Rosy Joseph, Sister General were present. The main agenda was the evaluation of Meet 2007, meeting of all the Brothers and co-workers of the Province, which was held 11-13 December 2007 at Kattappana. All agreed that the meeting was a great success.

Seminar on the Values of the Hospitaller Order

From 14 - 18 January 2008, Bro. Francis Mannaparampil, Provincial Secretary conducted



a seminar on 'Ethos and Values of the Hospitaller Order' for the B.Sc Nursing

students at St. John's Hospital Kattappana. 50 students attended the seminar.

Bursar's Visit

Bro. Aloysius Mattathil, our Province Bursar and Mr. Jacob Kora, Finance Manager of St. John's Hospital visited all the Centers of our Province during the month of January / February. The Province is implementing common heads for expenditures in all our centers. They visit all the communities and centers and give necessary directions.

Visit of Bro. Michael Mockenhaupt



Bro. Michael Mockenhaupt from Germany visited our communities and centers. He reached Chennai on 17 February. Mr. Vimal, nephew of Archbishop Viruthikulangara, who is studying in Germany accompanied him. Bro. Michael participated in the handing over ceremony of the Aggregation document to Archbishop Abraham viruthikulangara on 21 February. After his visits in our Province he returned to Germany on 3 March 2008.

Bro. Fortunatus Memorial Old Age Home & Rehabilitation Centre

The Sisters of Charity of St. John of God opened their new service in memorial of their founder, Bro. Fortunatus Thnhäuser, at Adoor on 7 February 2008. The inaugural ceremony started at 3 pm followed by a Social Gathering. His Grace Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of Changanacherry Consecrated the chapel and blessed the Centre. Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial inaugurated the Old Age Home &



Rehabilitation Centre. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kurinjiparambil, Proto Syncellus, Archdiocese of Changanacherry, Rev. Thomas Kumbukattu,

Cor Episcpa, Archdiocese of Trivandrum, Sri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, M.L.A, Sr. Rosy Joseph, Sister General, representatives of Municipal / Panchayat bodies etc. participated.

Solemn Profession Preparatory Course, Rome

11th Course in Preparation for Solemn Profession has begun at Rome on 28 January 2008. The course will conclude on 9 March at Granada in Spain. Brothers from all the Provinces who are making Solemn Profession this year or made their Solemn Profession without attending the course are participating in it. The last one week will be in Granada and all the participants will attend the Feastday Celebration there.

Three Brothers from our Province, Bro. Raphael Swamydoss, Bro. Shiju Nanthikattu and Bro. Binish Mulackal are attending the course. Bro.



Shiju will return to India on 9 March and Bro. Raphael who is on Mission in Japan will be coming to India for his annual holidays from Rome after the course.

Golden Jubilee, Korea

The Korean Province is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its foundation this year. The celebrations will last for the whole year and it will conclude with the Mass of thanksgiving, which will be held on 22 November 2008.



As part of the celebrations, there will be a 2 day seminar on Hospitality on 6 and 7 March 2008, which will be conducted by Bro. Kilian



Keaney, Director of the Institute of Hospitality based in Stillorgan in Ireland, and his team. The Korean Province has

invited all the Provinces to send representatives to share with them at the celebration.

From our Province, Bro. Augustine Polaprayil, Provincial and Dr. P.J. Joseph, chief surgeon of St. John's Hospital, Kattappana attend the seminar and to participate in the celebrations. They left Chennai on 2 March and will return on 9 March. Bro. Jobino Kochadackal who is in Japan, represents the Japan Provincial Delegation for the celebration.

New Aspirant Master



Bro. Chinnapparaj who is assisting the formation has been appointed as the Aspirant Master at Poonamallee. We have been able to separate different stages of formation to some extent.

The Order Worldwide 2008

The Order comprises a world-wide total of **23 Provinces**, **2 General Delegations** and **6 Provincial Delegations**. Total **number of Brothers** in the Order, including Novices is **1269**. The Brothers comprise **135 Priests** and **1 Bishop** from the Province of Aragon, Spain. The Brothers perform their apostolate in **288 Apostolic Centres** of which 211 are canonically erected and 77 provide the range of different services. The Brothers are present in **5 continents**, in **50 countries** and in **213 communities**.

Feastdays

March	
19	Bro. Jose Mathew Thottathil Bro. Joseph Kattackal Bro. Yanka Sharma Bro. Baiju Valuparampil Bro. Shiju Nanthikattu Bro. Abin Nellikkunnel
April	
23	Bro. George Kizhakkekara Bro. George Kizhakkenath Bro. Roy Joseph Palliparampil Bro. Johnson Arackal Bro. Bino Parakkanassery

From the Editor's Desk



Dear Friends,

We are not only passing through an age of change, but a change of age, in a very real sense. The change of age affects us in many ways. The month of March is filled with lot of events: Feast of our father St. John of God, Women's day, Holy Week and Easter. Our students write their final exams. Then comes the month of April with summer vacations!

The fast developments and technology increase the pain and suffering of humanity. Let us be in touch with these mysteries and respond to them with the hospitality of St. John of God. We shall be untied with the CBCI's decision of better empowerment of women. Let our clients experience hospitality and healing as we genuinely go through the paschal mystery and rise with new life united with our brothers and sisters.

I am sure you are enjoying the different issues of our 'Healing'. We would like to thank you for your continuous support and co-operation. We are very grateful for your suggestions and opinions for the betterment of this newsletter.

We wish all our readers the blessings of our father St. John of God and a Joy filled Easter.

Yours fraternally,

Bro. Francis

Bro. Francis Mannaparampil OH
Provincial Secretary



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