

FRATERNITY

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AND

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ATTENTION-PLEASE

Kindly send your news items, Photos, articles, poems, jokes etc. before 22nd February 2010. Those who send the news, type-written, are requested to use double space, so that the editing work becomes easier. Send the photos in a separate folder and not side by side with the word text. Please do not put the side headings in vernacular languages. Those who have email facilities, kindly send the items through the email. Our new email id is. capfraternity@yahoo.com or george_olivera@rediffmail.com.

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*Mary's Child
Jesus Christ
be
Your Peace
on this
Christmas Tide*

**Greetings from
Fraternity Editorial
Board**



Editorial..... 



Santa Versus Jesus

As we approach the Season of the Emmanuel, there is a trend to celebrate Christmas without Jesus. Although Jesus is the reason for Advent and Christmas Season. Market Economy celebrate Christmas with Santa as their main Spokesperson. I came across a reflection to counter this commercial trend. It was entitled: “Why Jesus is Better than Santa Claus”: Santa lives at the North Pole... JESUS is everywhere. Santa rides in a sleigh... JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water. Santa comes but once a year... JESUS is an ever-present help. Santa fills your stockings with goodies... JESUS supplies all your needs. Santa comes down your chimney uninvited... JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited. You have to wait in line to see Santa... JESUS is as close as the mention of His name. Santa lets you sit on his lap... JESUS lets you rest in His arms. Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is “Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?”... JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads. Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... JESUS has a heart full of love. All Santa can offer is “HO HO HO...” JESUS offers health, help and hope. Santa says “You'd better not cry”... JESUS says, “Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.” Santa's little helpers make toys... JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions. Santa may make you chuckle but... JESUS gives you joy that is your strength. While Santa puts gifts

under your tree... JESUS became our gift and died on a tree. It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season. Yes, JESUS is better, He is even better than Santa Claus. Merry CHRISTmas!

I came across an invitation for Christmas and that too from Jesus! Since it is a world-wide celebration, it is worth to share with many more during this Christmas Season.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO . . .GUEST OF HONOR: Jesus Christ. **DATE:** Every day. Traditionally, December 25, but He's always around, so the date is flexible. **TIME:** Whenever you're ready. Please don't be too late though, or you'll miss out on all the fun. **PLACE:** In your heart. He'll meet you there-you'll hear Him knock. **ATTIRE:** Come as you are. Grubbies are okay as He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about new white robes and crowns for everyone who stays till the last. **TICKETS:** Admission is free. He's already paid for everyone. He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it-it's cost Him everything He had! **REFRESHMENTS:** New wine, bread and a far-out drink He calls "living water." This will be followed by a supper, that promises to be out of this world!! **GIFT SUGGESTIONS:** Your heart. He's one of those people who already has everything else. (He's very generous in return though-just wait until you see what He has for you! **ENTERTAINMENT:** Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Life, Love, Real Happiness, Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, Healing, Power, Eternity in Paradise.....and much more! (All rated "G" so bring your family and friends). **RSVP:** Very Important! He must know ahead, so He can reserve a spot for you at the table. Also, he's keeping a list of His friends for future reference. He calls it the "Lamb's Book of Life." **PARTY GIVEN BY:** His Kids. That's us! Hope To See You There! Let

us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints) Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! --Revelation 19:7-9. As religious and Franciscans we have reason to celebrate the Season of Christmas and that vital reason is Jesus. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled Year of the Lord 2010. I feel like reciting the litany of gratitude at the end of the year 2009. Sincere appreciations for all the contributors of news and views from different communities, and a word of gratitude to the Press Staff for their ever-willing assistance to print Fraternity promptly during the Year and to you all our readers I say a big thank you.

For the Editorial Staff: Br. George Olivera.



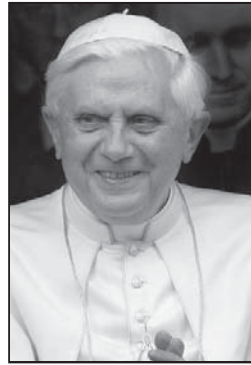
*Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes to the
New Animation Team of Uganda Custody*

Papal Reflections on Christmas

Spiritual Meaning of Christmas

Dear Brothers,

On this very day, the days of Advent that directly prepare us for the Nativity of the Lord begin: we are in the Christmas Novena which in many Christian communities is celebrated with liturgies rich in biblical texts, all oriented to fostering the expectation of the Saviour's Birth. Indeed, the whole Church focuses her gaze of faith on this Feast that is now at hand, preparing herself, as she does



every year, to join in the joyful singing of the Angels who will announce to the shepherds in the heart of the night the extraordinary event of the Birth of the Redeemer, inviting them to go to the Grotto in Bethlehem. It is there that the Emmanuel lies, the Creator who made himself a creature, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a poor manger (cf. Lk 2: 13-16).

Because of the atmosphere that distinguishes it, Christmas is a universal celebration. In fact, even those who do not profess themselves to be believers can perceive in this annual Christian event something extraordinary and transcendent, something intimate that speaks to the heart. It is a Feast that praises the gift of life. The birth of a child must always be an event that brings joy; the embrace of a newborn baby usually inspires feelings of kindness and care, of emotion and tenderness. Christmas is the encounter with a newborn baby lying in a humble grotto. In contemplating him in the manger, how can we fail to think of all those children who continue to be born today in great poverty in

salvific event: "If we are children of God... then [we are] heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him" (8: 17). However, in the Prologue to the fourth Gospel, it is above all St John who meditates profoundly on the mystery of the Incarnation. And it is for this reason that the Prologue has been part of the Christmas liturgy since the very earliest times. Indeed, in it are found the most authentic expression and the most profound synthesis of this Feast and of the basis of its joy. St John writes: "Et Verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis / and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1: 14).

At Christmas, therefore, we do not limit ourselves to commemorating the birth of a great figure: we do not simply and abstractly celebrate the birth of the man or in general the mystery of life; even less do we celebrate only the beginning of the new season. At Christmas we commemorate something very tangible and important for mankind, something essential for the Christian faith, a truth that St John sums up in these few words: "The Word became flesh". This was a historical event that the Evangelist Luke was concerned to situate in a well-defined context: in the days when the decree was issued for the first census of Caesar Augustus, when Quirinius was Governor of Syria (cf. Lk 2: 1-7). Therefore, it was on a historically dated night that the event of salvation occurred for which Israel had been waiting for centuries. In the darkness of the night of Bethlehem a great light really was lit: the Creator of the universe became flesh, uniting himself indissolubly with human nature so as truly to be "God from God, Light from Light" yet at the same time a man, true man. What John calls in Greek "ho logos" translated into Latin as "Verbum" and Italian as "il Verbo" also means "the Meaning". Thus we can understand John's words as: the "eternal Meaning" of the world made himself tangible to our senses and our minds: we may now touch him and contemplate him (cf. 1 Jn 1: 1). The "Meaning"

that became flesh is not merely a general idea inherent in the world; it is a "Word" addressed to us. The Logos knows us, calls us, guides us. The Word is not a universal law within which we play some role, but rather a Person who is concerned with every individual person: he is the Son of the living God who became man in Bethlehem.

To many people, and in a certain way to all of us, this seems too beautiful to be true. In fact, here it is reaffirmed to us: yes, a meaning exists, and the meaning is not a powerless protest against the absurd. The meaning has power: it is God. A good God who must not be confused with any sublime and remote being, whom it would never be possible to reach, but a God who made himself our neighbour and who is very close to us, who has time for each one of us and who came to stay with us. It then comes naturally to ask ourselves: "However could such a thing be possible? Is it dignified for God to make himself a child?". If we are to seek to open our hearts to this truth that illuminates the whole of human existence we must bend our minds and recognize the limitations of our intelligence. In the Grotto of Bethlehem God shows himself to us as a humble "infant" to defeat our arrogance. Perhaps we would have submitted more easily to power and wisdom, but he does not want us to submit; rather, he appeals to our hearts and to our free decision to accept his love. He made himself tiny to set us free from that human claim to grandeur that results from pride. He became flesh freely in order to set us truly free, free to love him.

Dear brothers, Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that

Letter of the General Minister

MISSION AT THE HEART OF THE ORDER



I. A glorious tale to tell

1.1 – On the wings of a dream -“I want to go away, far away!” The young farm hand rested on his spade and gazed into the distance, beyond the horizon of his own fields. His father watched him for a while and asked him what was wrong. Back came the reply: “We have big fields and a large, united family. But I feel this isn’t enough for me. One day I’ll go away. I want to be a missionary”.

Once he had accepted his vocation, the young Lorenzo left home to join the Capuchins, who gave him the name William. Later he met Pope Gregory XVI, who indicated the Oromo people in far-off Ethiopia, as a people to whom he could devote his energies. He lived among them for 35 years, facing all kinds of trials and adversities. This is why we can say that the parable Jesus told his disciples was fulfilled in his life: “There is no-one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over... not without persecutions, now in this present time, and in the world to come, eternal life”. (Mk 10, 29-30).

200 years have passed since the birth of the Capuchin missionary Cardinal William Massaja, and this anniversary suggests a question for us: “How strong in me is the longing to go away, beyond my own fields, like the young Massaja? How

man, he was also “catholic”, i.e. universal, with and in the Church. By inserting into the Rule instructions on how to “go among the Saracens”, he wanted to show first of all the relationship dimension, even before that of martyrdom. Without hiding his identity as a Christian, the Poverello’s first aim was to meet the other person and to see him as a brother. The encounter with the Sultan expresses this in a surprising way.

In this sense our missionary activity should not be understood primarily in terms of how widely the Order is spread in the world, but rather as a way of making the charism of Saint Francis present in cultures where it is still unknown. Our presence is intended to have an impact on the surrounding reality in order to enrich it. In this it will not fail to be a support to the Christian community. If we are to be present in this way we must first be clear about our vocation as lesser brothers; this comes before both intellectual preparation and the desire to “go on the missions”.

1.7 - “To go”: a sign of being sent - The “going” is clearly part of the definition of mission. Our Constitutions define missionary service as a proclamation of the Good News of salvation to those who do not believe in Christ, and as a service to the “young churches”. (Const 174, 5-6). However, in our day the “young churches” have matured and have assumed a purely local appearance. In the same way our fraternities have been enriched by brothers from these local Christian communities. In the current process of revising the Constitutions it will be necessary to keep these changes in mind and to update the Constitutions accordingly.

Today, being a missionary means being someone who brings the Gospel, working so that the Kingdom finds fertile ground in which to grow. The missionary perspective includes those who have forgotten or abandoned the Gospel, as well as those who have never known it. A missionary in the strict sense is one who

prophecy Blessed Francis answered him: “Lord, do you think that the Lord sent the brothers only for these regions? But I tell you in truth that the Lord chose and sent the brothers for the benefit and salvation of the souls of all people in this world. They should be received not only in the land of believers, but also in that of non-believers, and they will win over many souls” The Lord Bishop of Ostia marvelled at his words, and admitted that he spoke the truth” (*Mirror of Perfection*, 65).

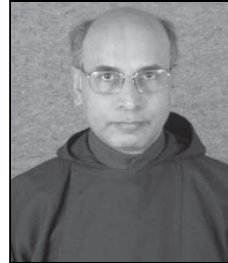
2.5 – Mission belongs to everyone - Our Constitutions speak of “divine inspiration” calling a person to mission work. This call can make itself heard also through the superiors (Const 176, 1) and not infrequently through a conversation with missionaries. The Rule says that superiors should not oppose such a call, except in cases where the brothers are really not suited for it (Rb, XII), and our Constitutions point out that lack of personnel in a province is not a sufficient reason for refusing a friar permission to go on the missions. (Const 176,3).

Granted that not all the brothers are called to actually leave their own country to do mission work, as sons of Saint Francis we are all called to be missionaries (PCO III 10). The Capuchin lesser brother cannot opt out of this commitment. A missionary obedience is not fulfilled only by leaving the country, but also by supporting the brother who does leave, by accompanying him in prayer, by offering concrete help and co-operation, and by encouraging other friars or lay people to assume responsibility for mission.

2.6 – Things to do - Mission secretariats: It is the task of the General Definitory, through the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation, to encourage each Province and Vice-Province to have its own Mission Secretariat and to collaborate actively with the General Secretariat. (Const 178,3). Collaboration: It is important that the structures concerned with the animation of the Order - the General Secretariat for Formation,

Br. Provincial Minister Speaks

Prophetic Call to Priesthood



Jesus Christ is the supreme model of Priestly Ministry. Of course, the eschatological nature of the High Priesthood of the Resurrected Lord is well delineated by the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. But what about the historical Jesus? How his ministry is depicted in the Gospels? In the Gospels he is described as a Good Shepherd, a good Pastor, who lays down his life the sheep, he goes after the lost sheep leaving the ninety nine behind; he is also projected as a friend of the outcasts, publicans and the sinners. We find him again pictured as a great healer, the healing ministry being very prominent in all the Gospels: he gives sight to the blind, makes lame walk, deaf hear, blind see and dead rise. He always takes the side of the suffering and exploited, the poor, the rejected and the suffering. He defends the adulterous woman, shares table fellowship with the outcasts and the publicans. He declared that he has come not to call the righteous but the sinners, not to be served but to serve and that is his kingdom the first will be the last and last will be the first.

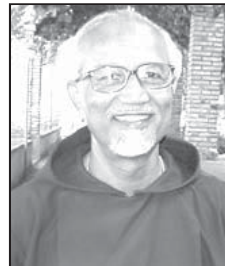
In the parable of the Good Samaritan he ironically condemns the levite and the scribe and upholds the Samaritan, he declares the faith of the centurion, the Syro-phoenician woman, who are gentiles, superior to that of the Jews. He does not hesitate to condemn the religious practices of the Jewish spiritual leaders; he denounces their hypocrisy and dishonesty.

In this way the historical image of Jesus pictured by the evangelists can never be characterized as cultic but it is supremely prophetic. A prophet as a spokesperson of God, basically

Reflections on Priesthood

Br. Patrick Crasta

After concluding the Jubilee Year dedicated to ST. Paul, the apostle of the gentiles, the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, inaugurated year a “Year for Priests” on 19th June 2009 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the “dies natalis” of St. John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of the priests. Obviously, by now some negative observations and criticisms might have reached your ears as regards this decision of the Supreme Pontiff. In fact, certain negative comments, such as, the Holy Father is inaugurating a new year dedicated to priests and priesthood. Is it an urgent need? Don’t we have more urgent and felt needs in the Church and in the world? Should not the Church pay greater attention to and involve herself with the unjust social systems and political exploitations? In fact, observations and negative criticisms of this sort have come to my ears from the clergy as well as the religious-circles.



Why has Pope chosen this topic on a priority basis? We know that, in and through his pastoral visits, pilgrimages, Synodal meetings, personal encounters with the bishops coming from different parts of the world, and the information that he receives day by day through the modern media of communication the Pastor of the Universal Church is sufficiently aware of the existential situation of the world at large and the Church in particular. He has an objective picture of the actual situation of/in the Church. He is fully convinced that faith-dimension, fraternal charity, and moral integrity in the church and the world are very much depending upon the value-system and life-pattern of the

priests whether diocesan or religious. He is fully aware that, if the basic values, such as, contemplative dimension, fraternal concern and moral uprightness are losing the ground in our families today the root cause for this sickness is the compromising and lethargic spirit of the priests. Why is it? The answer is simple. Being over-busy with all their commitments and engagements, they have hardly any time to dedicate to prayer, to be with our Lord: to speak to Him and to listen to Him. The oft-repeated slogan is: I have so much to do that I cannot find time for prayer. So much so, the well-known fraternal Franciscan expression: pax et bonum has become fax et fonum! Life has become so hectic that, for a good number of priests, even the celebration of daily mass becomes so difficult and cumbersome. They do not find time to prepare an adequate introduction to the daily Eucharistic liturgy nor to get ready a decent homily on a Sunday or Feast day. Therefore, the Holy Father explicitly says: This year is meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world". They need to become friends of Christ (cf. Jn. 15.15), who has called them by name (cf. Is.43.1; Jn.10.3). It is against this background we need to understand the precious words of the Curé of Ars: "Were we to fully realize what a priest is on earth, we would die: not of fright, but of love... It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth".

1. Image of a Priest: The life-witness and mission of a priest is something unique. It is a gratuitous gift freely and lovingly conferred upon a fragile human being who has to accept it spontaneously and cultivate it generously with a profound spirit of gratitude. But, at times priests who have received such a precious gift are not aware of its real value. It is like the pears placed before the swine (cf. Mt.7.6) that, not knowing the real worth, trample them under foot. Therefore the Holy Father says: "There are also, sad to say, situations which are never be

overcomes obstacles and performs deeds that seem to be impossible.

2. Initial Formation: Was the life of the Curé of Ars a bed of roses? This is an existential question that deserves our attention and some reflection. The little village parish of Ars was not an easy field to work. Knowing very well the situation the bishop said: “There is little love of God in that parish; you will be the one to put it there”. Bishop had sent him to the place precisely because it was a difficult place. Thus, the Curé was not devoid of trials and temptations. As the rose-plant, that produces beautiful and scented roses, has poking and piercing thorns so the life of the Curé of Ars was a mixture of joys and sorrows with trying and painful situations: His meager formal schooling had not adequately prepared him for seminary studies. His failure to comprehend Latin lectures forced him to discontinue his seminary formation. But, his ardent desire to be a priest gave him the inner strength and courage to go ahead putting up with every difficulty. Thus, after a lengthy battle with the books, he was ordained. What does this statement mean? It shows that John Mary Vianney was neither the brightest nor the most competent seminarian. He had to work hard and sweat profusely in order to complete his ordinary seminary studies. But, as an ordained priest we can see what kind of a minister of the Word and the sacraments he becomes.

How is it that this “stupid” and useless seminarian became such an efficient and efficacious minister of the High Priest? It is a timely question that merits an adequate answer. The answer is quite simple. The secret of his success lies in his spirit of contemplation and humility. He was convinced that he was a limited and fragile person. This self-awareness and self-acceptance made him realize that he is like a little creeper that cannot stand erect with his own strength and that he needs a

strong prop to support him and enable him to stand erect. This self-knowledge enabled him to place his hands in the Hands of the Lord and walk with Him steadily. It constantly reminded him that as a branch he has to be united with/inserted into the Tree of Life (cf. Jn. 15.1-11) if it has to bear plentiful fruit. Therefore, in his catechetical instructions he writes: “This is the glorious duty of man: to pray and to love”.

It was amidst trials and temptations that he acquired a new value-system modeled after the life-pattern and value-system of the High Priest. He was open to the inspiration of the Lord coming from above and the guidance from the formators coming from below. He was humble enough to seek enlightenment and timely assistance from the formators, spiritual companion, and his colleagues. Thus, the seminary formation initiated him into the divine logic which gradually enabled him to transcend the human logic, giving him a new orientation in life. It was in the seminary context that he learnt the wisdom of the cross. Then, as a pastor, he did not give up the evangelical values that he had acquired in the seminary. On the contrary, he tried to cultivate them as an ordained priest.

At this juncture our brothers and sisters in initial formation need to ask: What is the value-system that I am acquiring and entertaining as a formee? Is the set of values, that I try to cultivate in my day to day life, modeled after the value-system and life-pattern of the High-Priest par excellence? As I go through the different stages of formation is the inner attitude of the Son of God fashioned in me (cf. VC.66)? Am I getting more and more rooted in these gospel-values? What is my attitude towards the daily cross? Is it scandalous? Is it ignominious? Is it oppressive and suppressive or is it redemptive and transformative? It is very important to ask these questions to oneself and know where one stands in the presence of the Lord. For, the value-system that

one tries to foster during the initial formation plays a very vital role in the on-going formation of a priest. If one is not properly orientated and if the values that one opts for are cheap and the life-style that one chooses is mundane, it is not so easy to opt for a more challenging value-system and life-pattern once the initial formation is over. The ordinary temptation is to take life easy thinking that one is a mature person who can stand on one's own feet. This is how the negative force, cheater and murderer from the beginning (cf. Jn.8.44) blindfolds and manipulates such an individual.

3. On-going Formation: The formation of the Curé of Ars was not complete with the priestly ordination. He was fully aware that seeds of gospel-values implanted and sprouted during the initial formation needed to be nurtured and fostered if they had to bear plentiful fruit. Therefore, he did not give up the ascetical and mystical measures that he had been employing in the seminary context. With all the pastoral responsibilities he remained ever faithful and generous to those exercises which nurtured his spiritual life as well as his fraternal and social relationships.

In the light of the life-pattern of the pastor of Ars is there something that we can learn today? Yes, there is a wonderful message to the seniors whatever may be their age and stage. Time and again the seniors forget about the need of on-going formation in their life. They do not feel the need of it even if opportunities are offered and provisions are made by the superiors. They are reluctant to participate and get themselves updated and renewed in their holistic enrichment. Often the excuse is: "I do not like to participate in such a course/retreat because it is a diarrhea of words and constipation of ideas", i.e., renewal courses/seminars are useless. Such prejudices and biased ideas block their growth in every sphere of life and they remain stunted plants incapable of offering something worthwhile in spite of their

advanced age and fund of knowledge. Besides, their lack of co-operation sets a wrong priority and becomes a negative example to others in the fraternal life. Therefore, the example of the Curé of Ars is a beautiful model for the seniors. He reminds all of us that on-going formation is sine qua non in our day to day life and mission. If not, we will be noisy gongs or clanging symbols (cf. 1Cor.13.1).

4. Mission: As an ordained priest dedicated to the care of the parish entrusted to him at Ars he focused his attention in faith-formation and the care of the forsaken. Nourished by the Word that is broken, the Bread that is shared, and the time that he spent in the presence of the High Priest, he had the wisdom to meet different sorts of people with whom he came in contact and to share with them the God-experience. He sowed the seed of faith in the hearts of those in whom he found the soil already ploughed and nourished it with the life-giving water (cf.Jn.4.14). He encouraged the discouraged; enthused the indifferent; instilled hope in those in despair. His spirit of sacrifice led him through severe fasts and night vigils, spent quietly in the presence of the High Priest so that he might imbibe His Spirit of love and service. For, he was fully convinced that certain devils, certain “beasts” can only be cast out by prayer and penance (cf.Lk.9.49-50). In his pastoral ministry with Catherine Lassagne and Benedicta Lardet he established La Providence, a home for girls. Only a man of deep prayer-experience and vision could have such trust that God would provide for the spiritual and material needs of all who came to make La Providence their home.

Further, his service in the confessional was most remarkable. He spent hours together daily in listening to the penitents and reconciling them with God and with one another. Hundreds of penitents, who rushed to his confessional from far and near with heavy hearts, returned to their homes comforted, consoled, and

healed of their brokenness. Thus, drawing inspiration and guidance from the dicta and acta of the High Priest and Supreme Pontiff, Who came into the world to re-build the bridges of relationship, the Curé of Ars became an apostle to repair and restore millions of wounded relationships. He became an instrument of peace, joy and brotherhood to the faithful of his parish as well as to those penitents who flocked to his confessional from different parishes and dioceses. His empathetic listening and encouraging words were expressions of the compassionate love of the all-loving and all-forgiving God. In the words of the prophet the all-powerful Potter employed the christified personality of the Curé of Ars in melting, molding, and re-shaping millions of wounded and disfigured individuals (cf. Jer. 18.1-4). His spirit of prayer led him to be a docile instrument in the Hands of the all-creative Potter.

The pastor of Ars knew that repairing the wounded and broken relationships was not an easy task. He was fully aware that long lasting wounds needed long period of time to be completely healed. He was convinced that further touches of the divine Healer were needed to remove the scars and for the healing of the memory (cf. Mk. 8.22-26). Therefore, to facilitate such radical and lasting healing-relationship with the Healer he taught them the spirit of prayer and contemplation. Initiating the faithful into prayer he says: “Prayer is nothing else but union with God. . . . In this intimate union, God and the soul are fused together like two bits of wax that no one can ever pull apart”. In the above statement we see him emphasizing the interpersonal relationship between the Master and the disciple, the Divine and the human. He says that God and the soul are like two bits of wax that are fused into one. This teaching is nothing else but a further reflection and application of Jn. 15.1-11 that we have already referred to. Engrafted into the Tree and sucking constantly the lymph/sap of the trunk the branch is nourished and protected from every

infection and infirmity. In fact, such an integration makes one similar to Him/the Tree in one's thinking, desiring and planning; in a word He creates in the branch "...the mind that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil.2.5).

Shedding further light on the same subject the Curé says: "My little children little, your hearts are small, but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God". What does it mean? What he says here is not something that he has learnt from some books. No, he is sharing something from his personal experience. He wants to say that even the Creator of the entire universe can be housed in our little home/heart/person which is considered by Him as His own habitation/temple. In fact, it is in the context of prayer and interiority that one opens the doors of this temple to the divine Guest. It is in the contemplative atmosphere that one learns not only to pour out one's joys and sorrows in the presence of the loving and compassionate Father/Mother but also to attune one's ears to His fatherly/motherly advice. Therefore, following the example of the High Priest, the most perfect Contemplative, Who tried to be in communion with the Father early in the morning and late at night (cf. Mk. 1.35; 6.46-48; Mt.14.23-25; Lk.6.12) the Curé of Ars spent long hours in the company of the all-merciful Father/Mother to thank Him for the manifold blessings conferred upon him and to pray for himself and the flock entrusted to his care. Being with Him and constantly listening to Him he learnt the heart's desire of God and tried to carry it out faithfully and generously.

5. Witness-value: We know the well-known proverb: Verba volant, exempla trahunt/manent (words fly, examples draw/remain). The life-witness of this pastor bore lasting results. The faithful of the parish and those who came in contact with him, having tasted what prayer is, grew in the spirit of affective prayer. Their filial relationship with the all-compassionate Father/Mother

became more and more intimate. We have beautiful examples that bear witness to this. Just to mention one of them: The man who used to spend long hours in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord in the church. One day being asked what he was doing, the reply was: “I look at Him and He looks at me and we are happy”. It was not just a passing or indifferent look. It was intent and focused look. In the words of St. Clare of Assisi it is gazing. It is an ardent and piercing look of a lover, fallen in love with the Other, wherein words are very few. It is a language of the heart than the mind and lips wherein the person loses oneself in the Other, the Lover.

Here we can see what an important role a pastor can play in the faith-formation, relation-restoration and grace-filled-administration of a parish. A troublesome and marginalized village parish became a model-parish owing to the dedicated and committed life-style of a pastor. Unfortunately, when things do not go on well in a parish or mission-station often the temptation is to criticize the faithful and point finger at them. Priests/religious know to defend themselves although time and again the arguments and reasons brought to light are flimsy and superficial. This is what pains and offends the faithful who, in their ignorance and at times blindfolded by the demon of pride and self-conceit, abandon not only the parish compound but also their Christian-faith and Christian-living. Thus, the “beastly” and “non-priestly” behavior of priests/religious paves the way for the “beastly” behavior and life-style of the people. On the contrary, if such erring priests/religious were to make a sincere examination of conscience, placing themselves in the presence of the High Priest, the results would have been quite different.

6. Social Commitment: Finally, what about the social awareness and social involvement of the Curé of Ars? This question is asked time and again by the so-called social workers

becoming an agent of the great “Beast” that tries to destroy the kingdom of God.

It is in this context that the Holy Father speaks of the absolute need of a solid preparation for the would-be priests/religious so that they may be adequately prepared to face the challenges of the modern world. While underling the responsibility of the formees in imbibing and personalizing the evangelical values imparted to them during the initial formation, he reminds the elders/formators of their responsibility in imparting solid doctrine, based on the Word of God and the Tradition of the Church. Further, he lays due emphasis on a healthy atmosphere of brotherly love and respect in the seminaries and centers of formation, giving due importance to spiritual accompaniment and witness-value of the elders at every stage of formation.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.
- *Oren Arnold*



The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas.
- *W. C. Jones*



He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.
- *Sunshine Magazine*



Christmas is the day that holds all time together.
- *Alexander Smith*

ON THE FIVE FEASTS OF THE CHILD JESUS



Br. Dolphy Pais

“Be born in us incarnate love” is the best mantra during the advent and Christmas seasons. The spiritual need of the time today is the birth of our Lord in our hearts. In order that we may cherish and nourish the child Jesus within us, St. Bonaventure has composed five meditations on the Child Jesus. These five meditations are psycho-spiritual; they touch the internal and external aspects of our life. Let us in short go through the five meditations.

In this mystical writing Bonaventure most honestly and innocently with the grace of God uses the “spiritual imagination”. He speaks of the soul conceiving the Word, only begotten Son of God the Father. The tasks presented in this work depict the spiritual exercises of consecrated people. The tasks are these: to give birth to Him, name Him, seek and adore Him with the blessed Magi, and finally, in obedience to the Law of Moses, joyfully present Him to God the Father in the temple.

The First Feast: How the devout soul spiritually conceives Jesus Christ. Following is the process and preparation to conceive the Lord: “First our intellect must be cleansed by contrition and our will set afire and lifted up by the little flame of love”. Then Bonaventure continues, “We must engage in pious meditation and devout thought on how this blessed Son of God, Jesus Christ, is to be spiritually conceived by the devout soul.

In this first meditation, the second important step would be “receiving the visit of new inspirations”. The third step of this

be found guilty in the sight of the supreme Judge who knows your great, damaging, and dreadful sins; you shall lose the merits of your good deeds; and you shall be convicted as a liar and a hypocrite. Such practices, they declare, befit only those who have never done wrong, but have always led a holy and innocent life; who have given up everything for God and have always and perfectly cleaved to Him.

However, St. Bonaventure is of the view that one should avoid such men who discourage the spiritual life: “As for you, beloved soul devoted to God, keep away from such men; go up into the hill country with Mary”. Going up into the hill country, may mean to go on with your journey towards the Lord, and not worry about what people say.

The Second Feast: How the Son of God is spiritually born in the devout soul. Let us now first understand from Bonaventure himself what is giving birth to Christ means: He is born when, after proper thought, sufficient pondering, and due invocation of holy and divine patronage, the resolve is brought into effect: that is, when the soul sets out to do in fact what it had long entertained in mind, but had been reluctant to undertake for fear of eventual failure.

In the above definition, Bonaventure is touching another significant aspect. The contrast or the conflict that exists between the flesh and the spirit. The symbolic expression is found in this aspect of giving birth. Spiritual life is compared to Mother Mary. She is a model for those who want to give birth spiritually Jesus Christ. The threefold conversion is threefold expression, of giving birth to Christ. Everything ought to begin from birth of Jesus.

The Third Feast: How to nourish the child within? The third step in the spiritual life, based on this Mystical writing is the naming of the child: “How is the Infant Jesus spiritually named by the devout soul”. This is the sacred name foretold by the prophets,

are these three gifts offered? The reasons are: Love is the favour bestowed upon us, contemplation or devotion because of the joy that awaits us, and repentance because of the sins. The teaching aspect here is to insist on the three ingredients of prayer life : love, contemplation and repentance.

The Fifth Feast: “How the Son of God is spiritually presented in the temple by the devout soul”.

The threefold gratitude is: firstly, for inspiration, secondly to express gratitude for the resolution that one has taken to continue in this process of having Jesus in one’s life; and lastly, for the grace of perseverance. The fifth feast can be a spiritual meditation on one’s own vocation. The following is the process of meditation on the mystery of incarnation in an ascending process.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. - *Unknown*

There has been only one Christmas—the rest are anniversaries. - *W.J. Cameron*

Christmas without Christ is a mess. - *Jose B. Cabajar*

The implications of the name ‘Immanuel’ are both comforting and unsettling. Comforting, because He has come to share the danger as well as the drudgery of our everyday lives. He desires to weep with us and to wipe away our tears. And what seems most bizarre, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, longs to share in and to be the source of the laughter and the joy we all too rarely know. - *Michael Card*

News from the Province



ST. ANN'S FRIARY

The Feast of Portiuncula, feast of our Chapel, was celebrated on August 2nd, with a concelebrated Solemn Mass presided over by Fr. Vincent Monteiro, Director, Pastoral Institute, at 11 am. He preached on Mary, the Queen of the Angels. This was immediately followed by lunch. While the

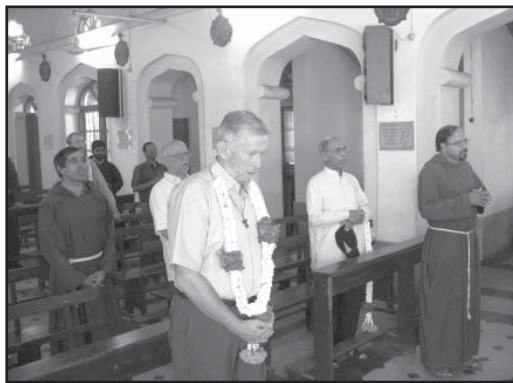


women religious were well represented, the diocesan priests were conspicuous by their very thin attendance, it being Sunday. A piece of cake was distributed to everyone present for the Mass. Even from Friars' side, not many faces were seen, though Brothers Deepak and Basil made their presence felt at the feast. Thanks for the same.

As usual, the Independence Day was celebrated after the Mass with flag-hoisting by one of our well known benefactor, singing of the national anthem and the distribution of sweets. We our annual visitation from August 8th to 13th. Brother Provincial animated and exhorted us to be more faithful to our prayer life.

Other Events of Note:- Br. Superior had an attack of malaria, avoided hospitalization being consigned to his room.

Br. Roshan succumbed to the same malaria, was hospitalized. Br. Superior having recovered, goes to Dubai for a month to make collection needed to renovate our Chapel which has outlived its use. Br. Harry went to Israel and Cyprus on preaching missions, and then he went to some Middle-East Countries on preaching ministry. Br. Anil D'Costa has taken to



study a course in Management and Consultancy, duration of which is of two years. These comprise of 2 hours' classes at week-ends at St. Aloysius College. Br. Pius and Paul represented our

community at the funeral of late Brother Stephen; and Br. Roshan was present for the funeral of Br. Felix Ferrao in Goa. Br. Pius represented at the diaconate Ordination of our theologians at Deena Seva Ashram, Bangalore. A group of 20 friars went into retreat at the Pastoral Institute, Bajjodi, animated by Br. Divakar of Amala Annai Province.

There is a great demand for the ministry of Reconciliation during the seven to ten days prior to the Monti Fest and we respond very generously to the call of parishes.

Monthi Fest: Monthi Fest is the celebration of the Birthday of Mother Mary. It is a family feast, one of intense joy. In our chapel everyone present offers atleast one flower to Mother Mary. ON the feast day, the solemn Mass was at 6.30 am. At which there was a record gathering of the faithful. Before the Mass, new corn was blessed at the grotto of Our Lady where

all those who had brought flowers offered the same to the new born Babe, and then accompanying the Blessed new corn proceeded to the chapel for the Holy



Eucharist. Towards the end of the mass, this blessed corn was distributed to every family present. And as the people started to go home, they were given sugar cane in which both young and old partook. Due to the strong interest and ardent desire of our venerable Brother Thomas, a big picture of Saint Pio of his incorruptible body was displayed at the steps leading to the chapel. This picture is framed and well illuminated. Devotees of the saint beginning with Brother Thomas himself are seen praying at this picture.

Br. General's rare visit to our Community brought a great joy to our community. Community also witnessed the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Sevak which took place on October 11, 2009. The report of the celebrations which appeared in Daijiworld.com is documented in the pages of this Fraternity elsewhere.

Before we close we wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2010.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. - Calvin Coolidge



MONTE MARIANO FARANGIPET

‘Wake up O People’ is the Advent call. Hence, we wake up to share our news with you. Here are few events of the past that stirred up our spiritual excitement in the peaceful campus of Monte Mariano.

The Community in action

As the new batches of Novices and Postulants began their year-long journey, the Community members sprung into action to accompany them. The new face in the team was Br. Robin D’Souza, the young and energetic friar, who came here to take up the task of the Directorship of the Postulants. By then Br. Wilson D’Souza was bound for the eternal city of Rome for his higher studies.

Both the batches of Novices and Postulants, this year, are considerably small, but the mirth of life is not diminished. There are ten Novices and twelve Postulants. However, the daily life and routine goes on in a holy and healthy ambiance which is the characteristic mark of Monte Mariano. Formation of our brothers is given the top priority. Nevertheless, the ministry to the people who come to this place is not neglected. In fact, now there is a greater flow of people to attend the Sunday Mass in our church.

Gate-way of Monte Mariano

Broadening of the Mangalore – B.C. Road highway is underway. Traffic has increased even in our campus especially on Sundays. Larger and broader vehicles were struggling to

enter our ancient narrow gate. Reading these signs of the times, the community planned a broader, higher and glamorous gate to welcome our visitors. At our humble appeal a



good-hearted neighbour, Mr. Felix D'Souza, who has a modest earnings in Kuwait, came forward to sponsor the entire enterprise. An attractive gate with a magnificent arch was ready for inauguration on 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis. Mr. Felix himself was present to grace the occasion. Being a Sunday before our Friary Feast, there was the Eucharistic procession after the Mass and then the inauguration of the gate took place. Breakfast of a 'higher quality' was served to all the people present for the occasion.

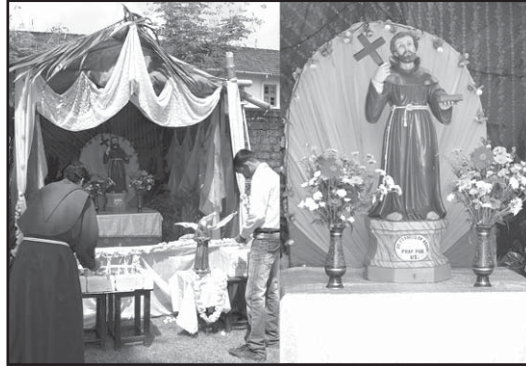
Kovent Fest

It was the annual fun and frolic on 8th October, when all the roads of Mangalore Diocese were leading to Monte Mariano. It was



the 'Koventhachem Fest'. The Friary and the campus received a better face-lift. The Vicar General of Mangalore Diocese, Fr. Denis Moras was the Main Celebrant at the Eucharistic

Celebration. Fr. Joseph Martis, professor of St. Joseph's Seminary, preached an inspiring homily. The choir sang melodious hymns. The



monsoon weather, which was treacherously 'rainy' and occasionally troublesome, spared us that particular day and allowed our celebration to go on well.

A sumptuous meal, with a special variety of dishes, was served to the guests, thanks to Mr. Felix D'Souza, our sponsor, who once again showed his goodwill on the feast day.

The New Wine-Press in the making

We used to manufacture 'new wine' in a 'old wine-press', yet it was delicious and genuine. However, we decided to reconstruct the old wine manufactory before it would become totally dilapidated. Pooling together financial contributions from different sources, its construction work has come up to the roof-level. Very soon a spacious and elegant wine-press will emerge in the midst the greenery of our garden. Your contribution towards the completion of the wine-press is welcome. You will be invited to have a sip of the 'new wine' in the 'new wine-press'!

The Formation Check-up

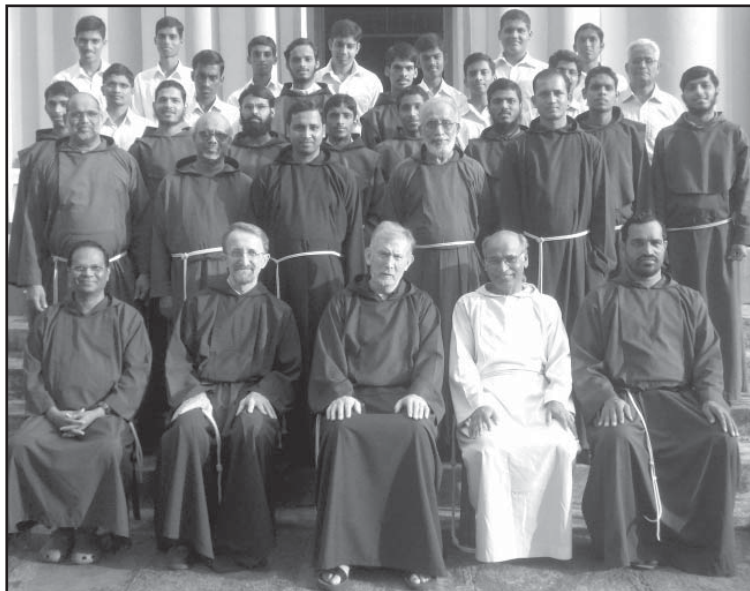
The General Definitior for Formation Br. Carlos Novoa from Rome and his Secretary Br Rocca, who were on their visits to different formation houses in India, landed here in

order to feel the pulse of formation at Monte Mariano. We extended to them a warm welcome as they arrived here on 18th August 2009.

They had a pleasant interaction with the novices and the postulants and were pleased with their enthusiasm and response. Their cordial meeting with the community members was marked with an exchange of experiences and ideas. The common concern of the entire Order towards the formation of our younger brothers was made evident by the visit of these brothers.

Visit of our General Minister

It was an event of the year, when our beloved General Minister Very Rev. Br. Mauo Jöhri visited our Friary along with The General Definitor, Br. John Anthony and the Asst. General Secretary, Br. Charles Serignat. Even though they arrived in the evening, when it was already dark, their presence truly brought brightness and happiness into our fraternal life.



We received them with garlands at the main gate and accompanied them to the church in procession. Then we had a short prayer service. After the evening prayers we enjoyed a modest but tasty dinner befitting the General's visit. Next day during Mass, Br. General Minister preached a meaningful homily. Later at 9.30 a.m. he addressed all the brothers and friars. He pointed out that our call is to be like St. Francis who followed Christ and his Gospel way of life. Br. General Minister and his companions left Monte Mariano with a feeling of holy satisfaction.

We wish all our confreres a Very Joyful Christmas. May the Incarnate Son bless all of us and make us true instruments of Joy and Peace in the coming year 2010.



Kripalaya in News: Star of Mysore

A DAY OF REJOICE AT KRIPALAYA

By S.R. Krishna Murthy

A priest in the Christian community is not selected without any background. The would be priest is selected from a religious family. He is then given proper education to be a



model in his life style. After he becomes a priest, he will be looked upon by the community for all their problems. Therefore he has to be a good counsellor too.

He must know basics of first aid, a bit of farming, animal husbandry, etc., to be a very useful person. The future priests will have to pass a three-year theology examination. For this purpose, the Christian missionary has built several colleges throughout the country, one of which is located in Bogadi, Mysore — Kripalaya Institute of Philosophy and Religion.

There are about 90 students in this college coming from all over India, especially from North East and western coastal belt. Nearly 39 priests pass out from here every year.

The Institute celebrated Sahrudaya-2009 Seminary Day on Nov. 26. Monsignor Dr. Marie Joseph, Vicar General of Mysore and Visiting Professor to the Chair of Christianity at the University of Mysore, was the chief guest. Rev. Dr. Vincent G. Furtado Ofm Cap, Provincial Minister of Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka, presided. The Rector of Kripalaya Br. Denis Viegas gave an account of the activities of the institute. Apart from a couple of dances to film tunes, cultural events included two skits, lasting an hour each.

'The Seal of Confession'

The first one was an English skit named The Seal of Confession, with a detective touch to the secrecy to be maintained by a



priest after listening to a confession. The plot was interesting. Four Brothers and four Sisters are murdered in a city. The murderer confesses his act to a Father of the Church. Though now the Father knows the culprit, he was in a dilemma as to whether to reveal the name of the murderer to the Police or not.

The diktats do not allow him to reveal the name of the murderer to the Police, as revelation of a confession would make people lose faith in the act of confession itself. He concludes that the series of murder would not stop. After much thinking, he finds a connection among all the murders. All the murders had been done on some Christian Holy Day, like Ash Wednesday etc. The names of the victims are found hidden in the Ten Commandments. The Father concluded that the name of the next victim must be found in the Ninth Commandment. He does find it and the Police shoots the murderer while he was in the act of murdering his ninth victim.

The plot was good. Rigorous training was evident in the act.

'Dundugaara Maga'

The second drama, Dundu-gaara Maga, which they had called a Nrutya Nataka, was in fact a Rupaka containing both text and song. This is a Kannada version of the story 'The Prodigal Son'.

In the last scene where the prodigal son is accepted back to the family, the father tells how a house should be built — on the foundation of Kindness (Daye), with a frontage of forgiveness (Kshame), having the walls of tolerance (Sahane) and covered with the roof of compassion (Karune). The pictorial depiction of this scene was very effective.

Kripalaya can boast of having in its wing a very good

musician in Vice-Rector Br. Melwin D'Souza. He has done the music score for both dramas superbly. His musical ability was evident earlier, when the invocation song Kaiya Mugidu Manivenido was sung by a group of students in a flawless Carnatic style. Later, Br. Jacob and troupe presented a symphony with eight rhythm guitars, four violins, four mouth organs, one key-board, one lead guitar and one Congo drum. The deliberations concluded with the Kripalaya Anthem.

Star of Mysore, 28. 2009



BALA YESU NIVAS CHIKMAGALUR

SFO Celebrates:-

The SFO community of Chikmagalur Diocese was enriched by the right animation of Br. Anand Castelino who was here en route Doha Qatar. He was thrilled to see their keen interest in SFO and especially the warm welcome he received from the Parish Priests of Chikmagalur Diocese. This gave him a splendid boost to animate their activities. He was with us for a few days and was busy in the SFO apostolate. Apart from this he also helped us in the school activities. The climax of his stay was marked by the grand celebration of the feast of our founder St. Francis at diocesan level that took place on the 11th of October at Bala Yesu Nivas. Nearly 200 SFO members attended the programme. Br. Arthur Prashanth Menezes, OFM Cap. the Superior and the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Friary, Lower Kasarkod was the main celebrant and the preacher. He preached a touching homily and enlightened the members about the greatness of SFO and he advised all of us to be proud of being

members of this great Franciscan Family. The day was colorful with the various cultural programmes performed by the young and old. The spiritual assistant Br. Anand and our regent Bro. Sudhir helped them in the choir. We had a wonderful experience with our brothers and sisters.

A Day to Accelerate:-

The 6th October a special day in the chronicles of Bala Yesu Nivas to remember. The day was full of fun and frolic as we enjoyed celebrating the birthday of our dear Br. Baptist Gonsalves. The Eucharist was celebrated in the evening and thereafter followed the Dinner wherein the superior thanked Br. Baptist for being a good friar in Bala Yesu Nivas and for taking keen interest in the liturgical celebrations and for offering Eucharist for all the devotees who frequent this Infant Jesus Shrine everyday.

His Grace Archbishop Giuseppe de Andrea:-

Eden gardens the newly built house of Mr. Hilary Crasta, the younger brother of Br. Victor Crasta, the superior of Bala Yesu Nivas, was blessed and inaugurated by His



Grace Archbishop Giuseppe de Andrea, the retired apostolic nuncio to Kuwait, Yemen, Bahrain & Qatar and also the Apostolic delegate to the Arabian peninsula, on 17th October. His Grace came all the way from Vatican City to bless the newly built house of his Personal Assistant Mr. Hilary Crasta at Navoor in Bantval Taluk of Mangalore Diocese. All of us went to participate in the

inauguration and housewarming of Eden Gardens. On the 21st October His Grace visited Bala Yesu Nivas. In the Morning he attended the school assembly and delivered a sweet message to the little children of our school and offered cake to the students. Thereafter he blessed and inaugurated the newly built computer section of our school. Afterwards he had an interview with the journalists and the report appeared in all the major dailies of Chikmagalur. In the afternoon he paid a fraternal visit to the bishop of Chikmagalur as he knew him personally at the Vatican. Then His Grace also visited the minor seminary of Chikmagalur diocese. He left us on the 22nd to Bangalore to visit our provincial, the capuchin houses and also Vidhana Saudha the state parliament en route Rome. Our superior accompanied His Grace and took motherly care all through for 10 days as His Grace being 80 year old and did not enjoy very good health.

Children's Day:-

Our school celebrated the children's day on 14th of November. The mode of celebration was too grand as like the school day celebration. On that day teachers acted as students and did all the daily activities of the school such as conducting the assembly proceedings, reading the



news papers and so on. They also put up a colorful program for the students and all the teachers danced to the tune that marveled every one gathered. Sweet items were sponsored by Mr. Ronald Sequeira our well-wisher to all the students. All the students were very happy as they took part in the Fancy Dress Competition.

Br. Baptist and Mr. Ronald were the judges and the chief guests of the function. Br. Baptist explained in detail the meaning and origin of the Children's day in India. Hundreds of parents witnessed the day's program and felt proud to be the parents of this upcoming prestigious school. One of the items was selected as the best one and it appeared in the daily newspaper "Prajavani" on the next day. Hemanth Kumar, the Std. III student bagged this prize.

We will be having a Christmas programme on the 23rd of December and all of you are welcome. Meanwhile, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2010.

Br. Sudhir D'Souza

VANDHANA FROM SHANTHI SADHANA

To begin with that which many prefer to do at the end, speaks sweetly of what is foremost in our mind and heart in this 'Nativity Issue' of Fraternity – 'Tis CHRISTMAS!

Fond felicitations then, for a gracefilled and happy Christmas to the readership of Fraternity. We will try to bring you up-to-date with the haps and events at FISI.



Ashram Week:

While many seek a 'vishram week' after the fatigue of some study or work, the students of the diploma course in Franciscan Spirituality went for an Ashram Week from 18 – 24 October. Buthanahalli near Bannerghatta, Bangalore has nothing to do with 'bhuta' or 'pretha' as it is the name of the place where the well-known Ashram run by the CMI fathers, with Swami Vineeth as its learned and holy 'guru', is situated. Surrounded by a variety of trees and plants, vegetation and flowers, shrubs and greenery, as it is, the Ashram is a welcome home to seekers of inner peace and harmony. The DFS students, numbering 24, along with Br. Dolphy Pais the prospective Assistant Director and designated programme coordinator of FISl, spent six full days in more contemplation and less action, more silence than chat, more work than walk, more listening than speaking – in one phrase – interiorizing the four months' study of Franciscan Spirituality. The input sessions in the morning, the output sessions during the day and the 'satsangh' sessions in the evening interspersed with prayer and worship sessions, were all experiential and enriching to the group. The vegetarian diet of the Ashram delighted the DFS students to the extent of calling it 'super', 'excellent' and reminiscent of their own diets back in their institutes. 'Good', 'very good', 'fine', and 'very fine', were the general impressions of the participants about the Ashram experience, which they would like to recommend to those who would come after them, of course, sans snakes and other insects having a free movement in the Ashram premises!

Br. Joel, the Jewel:

Jewels usually are expensive to be easily acquired. Br. Joel Pinto is a jewel of quite another worth that FISl inherited and treasured for over five years. However, sister sickness that recently afflicted his kidneys and put him on regular dialysis has

also deprived FISI of his precious presence, as the provincial minister of Karnataka decided to take him to 'Saccidananda', Rajajinagar, to be close to St. Theresa's hospital which is a block away from there, to facilitate his treatment. On 26 October we bade him farewell with a sad heart, wishing him at the same time Godspeed and good health. We place on record the singular services he rendered to FISI as Assistant director, Spiritual father and above all, a loving, resourceful brother.

Newest and Best:

It is Br. Dolphy Pais again. He steps in as the freshly appointed Assistant Director and Spiritual guide of FISI on 29 November 2009. His appointment fills the void that was keenly felt in the institute since Br. Joel Pinto took ill on 20 July and got admitted in St. Theresa's hospital. Our good wishes accompany Br. Dolphy Pais in every aspect of his spiritual and administrative assistance to FISI.

Institute Day:

Conventionally FISI used to keep up the 'Convocation Day' at the end of the academic year in the third week of March. The paucity of those aiming at a diploma in Franciscan spirituality in particular and the diminishing number of participants in the third term in general, induced the staff to celebrate the 'Annual Day' of the institute rather than sticking to a convention in a changing situation. Taking advantage of the occasion of the visit of Br. Ephrem Bucher, the Swiss provincial minister and Br. Linus Föh, the project manager, as well as Br. Hans of the same province, we kept 29 November, Sunday, as our Institute Day. With around 100 chosen guests we had a solemn celebration of the Eucharist with Brs. Ephrem and Linus together with Br. Vincent Furtado, our provincial minister as the main celebrants. A liturgical dance by some of our swift footer sisters set the welcome tone of the celebration. The FISI choir under the baton of Br. Dolphy Pais

and the musical help of DITH brothers, sang beautifully adding melody to worship. Br. Jossy, the director of FISl welcomed the chief guests and the rest of the invitees charmingly and disarmingly before the second part of the Institute Day, viz., the luncheon began. In the same breath, he also thanked all the guests for their lovely presence and lively participation in the day's festivity. Indeed, it was a luncheon almost resembling the one the president of the United States hosted to the prime minister of India recently! And so was it, an Institute Day to be remembered.

Ready on Call:

FISI programmes keep the staff members onerously occupied. Yet they make their services available whenever requisitioned. Br. Dolphy Pais is not a few times called as the resource person to speak on Franciscan-Clarist spirituality. Then he took him to be in Mangalore, Mysore, Kerala and Nagaland not to mention the lightening call he received to do the last minute replacement of the resource person at the triennial assembly of the Holy Family Association of the PCPA in Vishakapattanam mid-October. Br. Prashanth Kumar is picking up the tricks of the trade as the administrator of FISl yet does not miss a call to do the ministry of supply in the neighboring parishes. Br. Jossy flew to Rome to participate in the meeting of the international council for formation of our Order from 12 – 16 October and later to preach a retreat to the diocesan priests in Lucknow and Ursuline sisters in Mangalore. Br. Gerry Lobo, OFM, our programme coordinator offered his Franciscan services to the a congregation of sisters in Malaysia for two weeks in the month of November. Contact FISl for the Franciscan availability of the friars!

FISI Facilitates:

That FISl is a desired destination for many a group both catholic and ecumenical, is a known fact. We experienced a

'house-full' several times during October and November due to increasing number of groups coming to FISI for seminars, conferences, study, retreats and courses. Of these we would like to mention just a few for the edification of Fraternity Readers. These are: the diocesan clergy of Bangalore, Capuchin pastors and young priests of Karnataka, Brothers from NARBI Bangalore. They came, they saw and they returned experiencing God's closeness to them in and through everything they lived and did at FISI. Come you too, Brothers, and enjoy the peace and bliss of Shanthi Sadhana.



ASHA KIRAN WAVES

Past two months Asha Kiran was in high demand. We had 30 patients on an average per month. After the return of Br. Charles from TTK –Regional resource centre- Chennai with the experience of one month, our de-addiction programme has taken a new turn. We have standardized talks, group therapy, family counseling, individual counseling and A.A. Meeting.



Br. Deepak attended AGBM meeting of CKSK Society

at Ujire and month's mind of the father of friar George Monis at Mallandur. We went for the feasts at Tarikere and Mavinkere. Br.Charles attended AGBM meeting of CHAI at Vellankanni – Chennai. Br.Deepak gave recollection to the Sisters at Karehally, Sharavathinagar, Mary Immaculate, and Chennagiri.. Br.Braggs went to Sorab to give recollection talk and confessions to the SRA Sisters. Br. Deepak went to Darshan Institute of Theology and took three days of Pastoral Theology Classes for Deacons.

Two awareness programmes were conducted for BSW students of Sahyadri College , Shimoga. Two programmes of one week each on de-addiction incorporated with retreat were conducted at Mulki, Divine centre. The resource persons were Brs.Chetan, Braggs, Charles and Agnel.. Conclusion of Mental Health Week was also organized here at Asha Kiran under the leadership of our Dr.Harish M.D. The chief guests present were three civil judges and President of Lawyers union, Bhadravathi.

Br.Charles attended the feasts of St. Charles Borromeo at St.Charles Convent, New town and Nirmal Hospital, old town, Bhadravathi. Br.Braggs attended the same feast at Mary Immaculate convent, Shimoga.

Our 8th Annual Day of Asha Kiran was celebrated on the 15th of Nov, 09. Our Provincial was the Main Celebrant for Mass and he presided over the function as well. Ms. Rita Madtha, officer of Women and Child development, Shimoga was the Chief guest. Br. Deepak welcomed one and all. Br. Charles felicitated the chief guests and the benefactors. Sober addicts were honored by Br. Provincial.. After the dances, speeches, games and Prize distribution Br. Braggs gave the Vote of thanks. Nearly 250 people were present.

Br. Agnel came here mid February this year and he was

very active as a member of the fraternity and also in the Pastoral ministry assigned to him. Lately he preached a retreat to the youth of Sakinaka, Mumbai. On the 20th Nov, he left us for Pastoral experience as arranged by the Superiors. We thank him and assure our prayerful support.

We had two friar guests in the person of Brs. Jossy Fernandes and Arun Lobo. We had guests Priests and Sisters to whom we extended Franciscan hospitality. We wish all our brothers a Thrice Happy Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2010.



CHIKODI NEWS

Best Trainee Teacher:

Br. John Peter had been a member of Christalaya fraternity since 7th May 2008. He gained a lot of experience at our St. Francis of Assisi School, Chikodi as a teacher for six months. During these months he was popular and familiar with all the students, staff and parents. In January 2009 he became a regular B.Ed student at the R.D. College, Chikodi. By his attractive



and friendly ways he endeared himself to the staff and the students and was elected as the Dean of the B.Ed College. There were more than ten prospective candidates amongst 95 B.Ed students and he was elected Dean.

R. D. College is known for its academic excellence in the state with cent percent results and merits. Students are well taken care off. At times classes are conducted on Sundays and holidays. Br. John Peter has done well in the college. He has won “the Best Trainee Teacher” award for the year 2009. Now he is waiting to write his final examinations and begin his professional life as teacher. He will be missed by the people, priests and sisters to whom he rendered pastoral ministry at Chikodi and around. Christalaya wishes every success to Br. John Peter for his future.

The Social worker:

Br. Blaize Rodrigues is our witness to the villages as a Franciscan social worker. During the past 28 months he has





Kripalaya in News

Hello Friends, we the brothers of Kripalaya take pleasure in sharing our plenitude of life at Kripalaya, which is always exciting and full of verve. Let your eyes be riveted to the paper as you read these news items. Here is the birds' eye view of our fraternity.

Aggiornamento:

It was a great joy for all of us to get recharged with the Franciscan Spirit and we were blessed to have the presence of the Franciscan scholar in the person of Fr. Jerry Lobo to animate our annual retreat from 24th – 30th September. He helped us to know more about Franciscan ideals and life style. His way of animating was very simple yet soul-stirring. Thus this retreat enabled us to prepare ourselves to celebrate the feast of our Father St. Francis in a more meaningful way.

Franciscan Confluence:

All the Franciscan families of the Mysore Diocese came together for a day of sharing the Franciscan joy at Kripalaya on 2nd of October. The Resource person of the day, Br. Dolphy Pais' talk was indeed Franciscan and truly inspiring. Bishop of Mysore, Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Anthony Vazhapilly celebrated the Eucharist. This event was made more colorful as the Franciscan families put up some cultural programs. The program culminated with the prayerful and creative presentation of the Transitus of our Father St. Francis by Kripalaya brothers.

The Festal Ring Tones:

The feast of our Father St. Francis was celebrated with

joy and devotion. In preparation to the great event three days of novena was beautifully animated by brothers on Franciscan themes. Rev. Fr. Jose Aikara was the main celebrant for the festal mass. Many of the Diocesan priests and religious of Mysore diocese joined us in the celebration and enhanced our joy.

Sports Gala:

In order to refresh our minds Kripalaya clicked sports meet for the brothers. Br. Rector officially inaugurated the sports meet of the year 2009. It was time for all the brothers to interact with one another and show their team spirit, vigor, vitality and talents of sportsmanship.

Kripalaya Sahrdaya: “Meeting of Hearts”

The most awaited day at last arose with beautiful dawn of The 26th November 2009 under the caption “Kripalaya Sahrdaya 2009.” We made this event a successful, enchanting and memorable one. The presidential presence of our dear Provincial Minister Rev. Fr. Vincent Furtado and esteemed presence of the Chief Guest Rev. Dr. Marie Joseph, The Vicar General of Mysore Diocese and Professor of Chair of Christianity at the University of Mysore. A detailed report of the cultural programme appears in another page of this Fraternity.

Parish Day Celebration:

It was a unique opportunity for us to celebrate our parish day in St. Peter’s Church premise at Bogadi. It was truly a day of unique experience as we made ourselves available in the parish and showed our active involvement in the parish in and through our presence. We also put up a beautiful drama with a family message.

Kripalaya Rocks:

Brothers with their rigorous preparation had gone to participate in the “Diocesan Carol Singing Competition” on the 6th December 2009.



Under the leadership of Br. Melwyn our brothers secured the 1st Prize in Kannada, English and Konkani categories respectively.

Brother General Visits Us



We were grace-filled by the Gracious Visit of Our Brother General, along with his Definitior Br. John Antony and his Secretary Br. Charles. The whole

community was at the Main Gate to welcome our Brother General Br. Mauro. Br. Rector welcomed him with a Garland. The honourable Guests were greeted with music and melody of jubilations. Brother General animated us with a spirited message to keep the flames of our Capuchin Franciscan Flames alive in our life. Br. General inaugurated the Franciscan Capuchin Heritage Museum. It was the brain child of our Br. Rector. Br. General had a word of appreciation for us for what we did during his short visit to us.

We the Staff and student body of Kripalaya Wish you a “Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2010.”



DARSHAN HIGHLIGHTS

Seminar on Social Action

As Vimukti Charitable Trust is basking in the joy of its Decennial Celebration, the JPE & SA (Justice Peace Ecology and Social Action) Commission organized a three days Seminar for the Theologians of Darshan Institute from the 23rd September to 25th September. The theme for the Seminar was: “Human Right



Issues and our Relevance and Response”. Br. Jossy Fernandes, the Director of FISCI inaugurated the Seminar. Br. Joachim D’Souza, the Chairperson of JPE & SA and Secretary of Vimukti Charitable Trust presented the Introductory Talk. On the first day Br. Vincent Furtado, the President of JPE & SA Commission gave a talk on the topic “Conception of a Utopia for Dalits”. On the Second Session Ms. Vidya Dinkar, a Social Activist from Dakshina Kannada gave some important information about RTI (Right To Information). On the next day Fr. Cedrick Prashanth SJ, a National level Human Right Activist, Gujarat explained to us the Papal Encyclical “Caritas in

Veritatae”. In his talk he stressed on the concepts of Common Good and Justice. On the last day our own Friars who are heading various Social Work Projects in our Province placed before us their own experience and encouraged us to plunge into the field of Social Work. We are grateful to Brs. Arun Lobo, Vinod Mascarenhas, Rayappa Deepak, Blaise Rodrigues for sharing their experience with us.

Throughout these three days a lot of valuable information was imparted to us but what made the Seminar still interesting was the numerous documentaries, interaction with the resource persons, group discussions and the personal experience of our own Friars working in this field. We are grateful to all the members of JPE & SA for organising this Seminar for us.

Feast of St. Francis

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated with great pomp and grandeur. His Grace Most Rev Dr. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore officiated at the Festive Eucharistic Celebration. Meaningful Liturgy and melodious choir helped us to give thanks and praise to Almighty God in St. Francis-way. The graceful presence of our esteemed guests both at the Eucharistic meal and fraternal meal set the tone of festivity at Darshan Institute.

Retreat

The annual retreat preached by Fr. Sanjay, a young and energetic Redemptorist Priest has enabled us to shape our life after the example of Jesus Christ our Eternal Priest. During this retreat which began on 26th October and ended on 31st October, the preacher urged us to grow in intimacy with Christ and radiate Christ in all our encounters with others.

Institute Day

On the 15th November we celebrated the Institute Day.

Accompaniment”. One for the ‘Students of Masters for the Formators’ at Anthonianum, Rome. Second for the ‘Formators of the Capuchin Cloistered Sisters’ at St. Lawrence College in Rome. Indeed all the Friars and brothers are actively involved in various kinds of ministry- be it lecturing, preaching, administering Sacraments, music etc.

Welcome dear Brothers

We extended a warm welcome to French Provincial Br. Pio on 16th November. On 30th November we also welcomed Swiss Provincial Br. Ephrem Bucher, his Secretary Br. Linus and Br. Hans.

3D-Celebration

On 30th November we had a triple celebration- i) Feast day of our Rector ii) Birthday of our Rector iii) Community Day. The celebration commenced with the special Morning Prayer service. At 11:30 Rector officiated at the Eucharistic Celebration which was con-celebrated by our esteemed guests, Br. Ephrem Bucher, Swiss Provincial, Br. Linus and Friars from our community and our neighbouring communities.

During the felicitation followed by a fraternal meal, Br. Charles Furtado appreciated Br. Rector for his commitment and service to our community. Br. Vincent Furtado, the Provincial Minister, who also graced the occasion acknowledged the hard work and commitment to our community and the Province at large.

In the Bosom of the Father

Mr. Henry Sumi, the beloved brother of our dear brother Justin Sumi from Nagaland, passed away on 2nd December. The funeral service was held on 3rd December. We pray that God may grant him Eternal Rest and consolation and peace to

our Br. Justin and his dear ones as they are mourning the departure of their beloved one.

Ministry of Acolytes

On 5th December during the Holy Eucharist at 11:30 am, our Rector conferred the Ministry of Acolyte to 21 of our II year brothers. On the previous day Br. Ligoury Noronha guided them to prepare themselves intensively to receive the grace to serve at the Altar. Congratulation Brothers!

Crash Courses to Deacons

The deacons after completing their Theological Course, commenced the Pastoral Course on 2nd November. We are grateful to these Professors for guiding our deacons with their respective courses. Fr. Ronald Serrao – Parish Liturgy, Sr. Juliana Pinto, UFS- Pastoral Counselling, Sr. Valsa, FMM – Social-Legal Issues, Br. Marian Miranda – Pastoral Ministry, Br. Chetan Lobo – Communication, Br. Edwin Colaco – Parish Administration and Liturgy, Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira – Moral Development and Formation, Br. Stanley Coelho – Marriage and Family Counselling, Br. Rayappa Deepak- Pastoral Theology, Br. V.J. Menezes, Homiletics, Br. Arun Lobo and Fr. Faustine – Social Action.

We are all busy in this month of December, preparing for the Christmas, yet not so busy as not to wish you on this occasion.

*So we wish you all
Merry Christmas
and Prosperous
New Year 2010*





SACCIDANANDA

Feast day and birthday Bells ring at Saccidananda

We celebrated Provincial's Feast Day on September 27th. Being Sunday, the celebration began with the Sunday liturgy with the people. The provincial presided over the Eucharist and broke the word, giving the life and mission of the St. Vincent de Paul. The Sunday congregation greeted him with words, songs and flowers around the breakfast table. Many a friends and relatives visited personally or greeted over the phone. In the evening all the friars from our neighbouring communities gathered to greet him and joined him for a festal banquet. While all spoke well of the provincial, he on his turn spoke well of his brothers.

On 8th of November our dear Br. Joel Pinto celebrated his birthday. Though he is having an indifferent health, he was joyful and grateful for the gift of life. Being the Sunday, we officiated at the liturgy. A few words, he spoke, expressed the spirituality of his life, He was infinitely grateful for all that he is and that he has become during the past 70 years. In the evening friars we together with the brothers from our neighbouring communities gathered around him and expressed our fraternal appreciation and greetings through words, songs and flowers.

Retreats at Saccidananda: Br. Joel Pinto is with us and regaining his health. He is ever ready to help anyone in their spiritual needs if they are able to come to Saccidananda. He has already directed a few sisters who desired to do their spiritual retreat. All are welcome, but come in small number.

Hearty Welcome: 'You are welcome' is our motto. Your satisfaction through our personal service is our endeavour. The list of those for whom we played host, is long. It may good to mention a few important and extraordinary guests. Among them, one is Msgr. Josephus Andrea, the retired apostolic nuncio, but now working at Vatican, who stayed with us in the company of Br. Victor Crasta.

Then came the provincial minister of France, Br. Pio Murat, on his way to the province of Tamilnadu paid a fraternal visit to our province as our two brothers, Alwyn Dias and Santa Lopez are living in his province and sponsored for their studies.

We were also happy to extend our fraternal hospitality to our brothers and benefactors from the province of Switzerland: Brs. Ephram Buecher, the provincial minsiter, Linus Faeh, the mission secretary and Hans. They were happy to experience our life at Shanti Sadhana, Kripalaya, Darshan Institute of Theology and Saccidananda. Now we are eagerly looking forward for the fraternal visit of our General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri who will shortly be us.

Before we conclude we would like to greet one all A VERY HAPPY AND GRACEFILLED SEASON OF Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2010.



SEVAK HITS A GOLDEN FIFTY NOT OUT

Mangalore, Oct 11: It was an evening most would look forward to especially on a Sunday evening.



“Bhangarotsav”, the event to mark the golden jubilee celebration of “Sevak”, Konkani monthly, organized at Don Bosco Hall, had all the ingredients to make it an epoch making event. There was entertainment, melodrama, fun, dance, music, surprises and of course emotions galore to make it a memorable evening. In the midst of this memorable event there was a touching moment as the function began by observing one minute silence in memory of the recent flood victims and the families affected by the natural calamity.

Rev. Bishop Aloysius Paul D Souza who presided over the golden jubilee celebration described it as ‘history making event’. “When a man reaches 50 years he is able to accomplish most of his dreams and ambitions and almost settles in life.

But for a publication completing 50 years is nothing but creating history. Sevak celebrating 50 years of publication is a proud moment in the history of Konkani publication. By enrolling 18,000 subscribers 'Sevak' has created history and has made us all proud", he pointed out.



Wishing many more fruitful years ahead in the service of family, the Bishop commended the publication for identifying the three families and for felicitating them during the event. "It was thoughtful and a unique way to identify these families" he said referring to the awards given to three families for their uniqueness and through that for contributing to the betterment of the society. Sevak has immensely contributed for promoting family values, spiritual values and for the promotion of Konkani thus promoting the wellbeing of the society in general", he stated.

In a unique gesture the golden jubilee celebration of the monthly included present golden jubilee awards in three unique categories, which made this function a unique one. Serrao family of Moodbidri which contributed 7 children out of 11 in the service of god and humanity (6 priests and 1 nun) was felicitated

woman of his inspiration to the stage to be felicitated by Rev Bishop Aloysius Paul D Souza, the assembled crowd expressed their happiness with a thunderous approval.

The event took off with a welcome song presented by the students of Sandesha Prathishtana. It was indeed a musical night with “Ye Manaa” group providing a perfect entertainment bonanza with songs and dance befitting the occasion. Comedy by Jerry Rasquinha and Joseph Pinto provided the humour element sending waves of laughter among the audience. The stage programme which began after an hour of music and dance continued after the stage programme. Geo Agrar played the role of compere with aplomb.

From Daijiword.com

L	Manager asked sardar at an interview.
A	Can you spell a word that has more than 100 letters in it?
U	Sardar replied: -P-O-S-T-B-O-X.
G	❖❖❖
H	After returning back from a foreign trip, sardar asked his
T	wife,
E	Do I look like a foreigner?
R	Wife: No! Why?
T	Sardar: In London a lady asked
H	me Are you a foreigner?
E	❖❖❖
R	One tourist from U.S.A. asked
A	Sardar:
P	Any great man born in this
Y	village???
	Sardar: no sir, only small
	Babies!!!



Seven youth of our parish took part in a retreat for first time organized by the ICYM in Bhopal in July. It was a unique experience for them which they shared with us. The retreat has really given them the necessary push to move forward.

The first week of July was a great day for the parish as a couple's marriage was regularized and the children were administered the Sacraments. The Mother Theresa Sisters were instrumental who kept these children and the children of other two families in their Ashram for a month and taught them catechism. These children were put in the hostel in order to give them education.

12th July 2009 we had a special celebration of Yesu Mahotsava for our Parish. We had the celebration which began at 8.00 a.m. with the input sessions, sharing, enriching, enacting and the same finally concluded with the Eucharist by 12 noon.

We celebrated our Parish Feast of St. John Mary Vianney on Sunday the 2nd August with modesty. The whole parish had a common meal.

Our parish which took part in the Archbishop Eugene Memorial Football tournament organized by the seminary for the whole diocese. We reached up to the quarter finals. When we compare participation of the last years it was far better and the progress is something encouraging. Our youth played a well disciplined game which was something unique and they were heroes in the local news papers for their wonderful display in all spheres of the match. It was the unfortunate umpiring that cost us other-wise we were already in the semi finals. With such potentials we will be able to achieve in the coming years.

With nine day's novena we had the beautiful celebration of our Lady's Nativity. A beautiful flag of our Lady of Good Health was prepared, which attracted the people in and around.



News from the Vice Province

ALVERNO FRIARY GOA

Feast of St. Francis:-

Feast of St. Francis was indeed a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving. Friends and Benefactors and the Priests of Deanery were invited for the celebration of the Day. Fr. Thomas Lobo, the dean of the Mapusa Deanery was the main celebrant during the festal Liturgy. He gave a wonderful message on St. Francis and Ecology. Br. Steve blessed the new Kitchen wing for the Boarding. All participated in the Festal fellowship Agape.



School Wins trophies:

Many trophies the School secured during the year. Our School won the champion trophies for both boys and girls in Hockey tournament at the State level and they represented the State in the Inter-State school tournament at Delhi.

Retreats and Meetings:-

Our Vice Provincial Br. Steve found time to take classes in Theology at Andhra, Allahabad and Mater Dei, Old God. Besides he had to attend several commission meetings here and there.

The Celebration of the 800 years of the Franciscan Rule of Life: The 800th Anniversary of the Franciscan life was celebrated on the 3rd of October, by the Franciscan family in Sri Lanka under the initiative of the OFM's,.. All the main branches of the first Order, the TOR's, CMSF, the Holy Cross, FMM's and other congregations took part in the day's program. It was a full day program culminating in Transitus. All the friars and student friars took part in the day's program. The communities pooled their sacrifices at the offertory as a donation to be forwarded to the victims of war. The following day all the friars gathered at the novitiate, to celebrate the feast of St. Francis, at the Delegation level. Br. Arun was the main celebrant and Br. Norbert preached the homily and exhorted the friars to emulate the example of our Father Francis. 'Why after Francis? And why not after us?'

The Franciscan International, which is NGO at the UN, is also making a steady progress in Sri Lanka under the Franciscans and has worked silently in bringing pressure on the government to bring about, peace and justice. Br. Joe Francis represents it in its meetings. We hope to move forward this venture in co-operation.

The Beginning of the Academic year: The brothers who made their profession in Pakistan returned back to Sri Lanka after their holidays, to begin their studies in philosophy along with their seniors, the three brothers at Kandy National seminary. The year began with the retreat preached by Fr. Augustine Valloran, VC with his team and it was attended by 350 students and staff of philosophy and theology and was appreciated by all. The house at Kandy, which was enough to accommodate only six friars is in the process of getting a new shape and will be ready by January 2010.

The Newness in Kurunegala: The life at the little parish at

Kurunegala is always bubbling with life as the young parish priest Br. Fredrick Braggs, who is always on the move. The people are happy and co-operative. Br. Nishshanka, who completed his studies in philosophy, is assisting Br. Braggs and is in the year of community experience (Regency). They have managed to seek the lost and gather the flock together as the shepherd gathers his flock.

The Call to Preach to the preachers: It was the time of renewal in the archdiocese of Colombo as it is shepherded by the new Bishop who earlier served as the secretary to the congregation for the Sacred Liturgy at the Vatican. With more than 400 clergy in the diocese there was call from the Bishop for Br. William Andrade to animate them in this year of priests. He was able to bring them out of the sheaths that cover the life of the priest and reinstate in them the true love for Jesus in a simple Franciscan way. Meantime the young ones too are spotted while Brs. Joe and Sunil keep themselves busy with recollections, Br. Arun is called to animate the Colletine Poor Clares in an eight-day retreat.

May the joy of Christmas be with you.





CUSTODY OF ST CHARLES LWANGA, UGANDA

Chapter 2009

The Chapter of the Custody was held in St Padre Pio Friary, at our Custody Curia from July 27 – 30, 2009. All the Capitulars reached on 26th by 6p.m. The theme was: “**Revitalizing our Charism and Mission**”. The agenda was prepared under the leadership of Br Max D’Silva.

The new Team

Br John Fernandes was re-elected as Superior Regular, Br Max was re-elected as Vicar and First Councillor and Br Emmanuel Masereka was elected as Second Councillor.

Silver Jubilee: Br Leo Lobo

The Religious Silver Jubilee of Br Leo Lobo was celebrated on 29th July as all the friars of the Custody gathered for the Chapter. Br Leo presided over the Eucharist and Br Stephen Lewis preached an inspiring homily. Br Leo recalled twenty-five years of religious life as a gift from God and how meaningful they were in his life. A short felicitation function was arranged on the occasion.

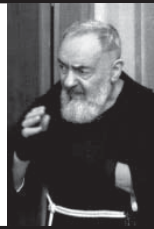
Br Anil Sequeira

Br Anil, the Vicar Provincial was in the Custody as the representative of the Provincial Minister from July 24th to 5th August, 2009. He officiated the Custody Chapter. During his stay in Uganda he visited all the fraternities and personally met the members.

Profession

The Solemn Profession of Brs Joslie D’Silva, Antony

ST PIO FRIARY



Celebrations after celebrations...

It was a great joy for our fraternity to host the Chapter, profession of our brothers and now we are getting ready for the annual feast of our beloved Saint Padre Pio which will be held on 27th September 2009. His Excellency Archbishop Augustine Kasujja, the Apostolic Nuncio in Madagascar will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration.

Brothers in service...

Br Francis Sseguya and Br John Baluku rendered their service during their annual holidays for two months and left for their respective formation houses at the end of August.

Now we are seven...

Seven is the perfect number. This year we have 7 postulants from Uganda. On September 3rd the fraternity celebrated the parents' day. All the parents of the postulants were present.

New Team....

After the Chapter we are now awaiting for the arrival of the new members namely Steven Nsamba

and Stephen Lewis. Br. Prakash Lobo will be leaving to the Province in October for treatment.



Wishing all our Fraternity Readers of Joys of the Christmas and the Hope of the New Year 2010.

Festal Greetings and Showers of Graces

JANUARY

01 Peter Byakatonda
01 Paul Edwangat
03 Joachim D'Souza
03 Leo Lobo
04 Balaraj Sebastian K
05 Stephen Lobo
06 Arun Kumar
07 Anand Castelino
07 Navil Pinto
08 Stephen Rodrigues
08 Denis Miranda
09 Antony Nazareth
09 Naveen Menezes
09 Simon Thangianchina
10 Darel Fernandes
11 Henry Vas
11 Lourd Swamy
12 Sudhir D'Souza
12 Ssuna Frank
13 Hilary Rodrigues
15 Joslie D'Silva
16 Simon Rico Fernandes
16 Patrick Barretto
16 Kasibante Emmanuel
21 Clayton Fernandes
22 Wilson Sequeira
23 Yesudas A.
26 Silvano D'Souza

27 Augustine Sunday
28 Anthony Jakwonga
28 Thomas D'Souza
28 Johnson D'Souza
28 Antony Jakwonga
30 Godwin Lobo

FEBRUARY

01 Vincy D'Souza
03 Lawrence D'Souza
04 Harry D'Souza
06 Luke Shequi
10 Vincent Kumar
11 Dominic Savio
11 Sunil D'Souza
13 Antony Raj
15 Joel Rosario
17 Jose Antao
19 Maxim D'Souza
19 Salvadore D'Cunha
20 Lawrence Baluku
23 Polycarp Fernandes
25 Victor D'souza
25 Albert I
26 Cyril Roshan
26 Sunil Lobo
27 George Olivera
29 Rahul D'Souza

MARCH

01 Anthony D'Souza

02 Kiran D'Souza

02 Nelson Lobo

04 John Fernandes

04 Richard Kadiwal

05 Stanley Coelho

05 Anil Kumar

07 Alwyn D'Silva

07 Glen D'Souza

07 Darick D'Souza

09 Gerald Lobo

09 Francis Ssekulima

10 Santa Lopes

10 Vijaykumar

11 Melwyn Fernandes

11 Agnelo Colaco

12 Santa Lopes

12 Joseph Lwanga

12 Xavier D'Souza

13 Anthony D'Mello

14 Clifford Fernandes

14 Manohar D'Souza

15 Mathias Dias

16 Arun Fernandes

17 Patrick Crasta

18 Naveen Sequeira

22 Jeevan Lobo

22 Fredrick Rodrigues

23 Thomas D'Souza

23 John Gonsalves

24 Denis Lobo

24 Denis Viegas

24 William Prabhu

24 Marcus Fernandes

25 Jeevan Veigas

25 Satish Fernandes

28 John Dias

30 Joy Mathias

