



GUYJEST

The Newsletter of Guyana Region
Of the Society of Jesus
March 2009

Lent: A call to unite as one human race, the Body of Christ

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, One cup of blessing which we share
And we though many, throughout the world, we are one body in this one Lord!



May this Season of Lent bring us together as one body of Christ
And may the wind of change renew the face of the earth!

From the Roman Curia:

On February 19 Father General wrote a letter to the whole Society on Universal Vocation of the Jesuit . The letter was released at the end of February to allow translations in different languages. In the letter Father Nicolás speaks, first of all, about the renewed awareness of our universal vocation as a fundamental element of our Jesuit identity , making a reference to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the Constitutions and the strong call of the 35th General Congregation (D.2, n. 16, 20-24). This vocation also involves the need to restructure the Society at all levels with the view to better respond to new and more universal challenges , a response which requires great agility and flexibility while maintaining or promoting excellence and responsible management in whatever we do locally. The last part of the letter is devoted to reflections on formation and the importance to foster in our young men in formation this awareness of our universal mission , the availability to be sent anywhere in the world; all this is to be a permanent attitude for all our men in the Society . Father General adds: We want to have well formed men who can understand reality with depth of heart and breadth of mind.

From Regional Superior's Desk:

We warmly welcome...

- Recently ordained, **Stephen Patterson SJ**, from the UK. Originally from Oldham in the north of England, Steve spent the last 3 years in Madrid in Spain doing theology. As you will already know, Steve came off the worst in a boxing match between himself and a Georgetown mosquito and spent a week sprawled-out on the canvas K.O.ed by Dengue fever, so continue to keep him in your prayers.
- **Sarah & James Brocombe** who arrived in late January - and then immediately set-off with Paul Martin to Belem in Brazil, for the Word Social Forum. For the last 7 years Sarah has been engaged in organising volunteer programmes in the British Province, is now attached to the Guyana Region as a "Development Officer". This is something of an experiment in our apostolic operations. I have asked her to go to Aishalton to explore social ministries which could enhance & support our work in the interior. I will be in discussions with Sarah and Amar in the coming months and, in the light of these discussions, will mission Sarah to a more specific role in the south Rupununi. Watch this space.
- **Varghese Puthuserry SJ**, who was until recently Provincial of Dumka in India, has been generously missioned by the Indian Provinces to work in Guyana. At the moment he is finishing a sabbatical in the UK and after re-visiting India for a few months, hopes to arrive in Guyana in August/September.
- One KAR Regent, **Sch Wilson Moras SJ**, has been missioned to Guyana and having just finished Philosophy, should be arriving (probably in mid-June) to begin a two year Regency

And departures...

- **Aloysius Church SJ** left Guyana for Scotland in the latter months of 2008 with the immediate plan to be with his brother who was terminally ill with cancer, but the longer-term it was to scout out a suitable community and less-hectic apostolate work back in the British Province. The idea originally was that Aloysius would return to Guyana for a long holiday and say more leisurely goodbyes, but this plan was rather torpedoed by a deterioration in Aloysius' heart-condition and he was forbidden from flying because of the danger of a heart attack or stroke. He is presently based in the Glasgow community and helping on the parish (St Aloysius!) and awaiting further medical tests and treatment.
- **Gilbert & Clyde** will be completing their Regencies in the coming months and returning to Zimbabwe for a short while before (almost certainly) moving on to theology in Hekima College in Kenya.

- **Ramesh & Jerri** have both been passed for Theology (congratulations!) and as their Regencies move to a conclusion, both are now engaged in the careful bureaucratic choreography that we hope that will give them both places in Heythrop College, London University and a British visa. Jerri and Ramesh will be returning to KAR for 6 weeks in May/June.

Marlon & Ronnie also deserve congratulations as they have been finally passed for ordination and will be ordained as Deacons in London on 2nd May. Both are in the latter part of the B.D. in Heythrop and the plan is presently that Marlon will be engaged in a 4th Year of Theology in Boston, while Ronnie will do likewise in a Spanish-speaking context in California. With God's grace, Ronnie will be ordained priest in KAR in December 2009, while Marlon will be ordained in Guyana sometime probably in mid-2010.

RegSup's Programme

Just so that you know where I might be in these coming months:

- 11th - 22nd March: PLA Seminar & Visitation (Kurukabaru)
- Late March: Berbice Visitation
- Early April: Georgetown Visitation
- 13th -18th April: CRA meeting (Dominica)
- 1st May - 7th June: (UK Visitation and journey to Africa)

"The Caribbean Province"

I am presently writing this letter in the Dominican Republic, having just attended the meeting of the 7 Jesuit Major Superiors of the Provinces and Regions which operate in the Caribbean basin - Cuba, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Antilles (*Dominican Republic & Miami*), Haiti, Jamaica and Guyana - with Fr Gabriel who is the new Assistant to Fr General for northern Latin America. Father General is keen to integrate the works of the Caribbean Jesuits as there is much in common which can only be improved by co-ordination and co-operation.

There has been a long-running cultural divide between the four Hispanic Regions and overcoming this is probably the key to such an integration. There now appears to be a momentum to work seriously on this and so things may begin to move forward even in the next few months. The Major Superiors are asking Fr General to appoint a special Delegate to lubricate the process of integration possibly over a three year period. (I attach the text of the request to RPG) .

Both Haiti (*which is French/Creole speaking and shares the other half of the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic*) and Jamaica (*which is English-speaking but with developing strong ties of language and trade with Venezuela*) will be natural partners in this venture. Guyana (with Trinidad and Barbados) sits slightly out on the eastern edge of "The West Indies", but in a number of ways a Caribbean Province would be a natural ally in our work in the region. As always, the Janus-like nature of Guyana means that we keep one foot on the coast (and thus in the Caribbean) and one foot in the interior more attuned to Brazil & Amazonia. In some way we need to find ways to keep this delicate balance and yet not become disconnected from the works in either the Caribbean or South America.

It was a pleasure to have you with us...



Fr Anthony Berridge SJ (ZIM) ,
Deligate for Formation for
Zimbabwe Province, along with
Sch Clyde during his visit to
Guyana

Cary-Elwes Centenary

2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of **Fr Cuthbert Cary-Elwes SJ** on the banks of the Takatu, the beginning of the Jesuit mission of St Ignatius and the start of the Christian evangelisation of the Amerindian tribes of the interior. To mark the occasion, a pilgrimage from all points of the compass is being planned which will gather for two days of spiritual and cultural activities which will culminate in a big Mass in St Ignatius on Sunday 8th November 2009. CC-E was also responsible for the evangelisation of a number of communities in Amazonia and we hope to have pilgrim groups from Brazil for the occasion.

Last, but not least....New Consultors!

Following discussions in the last few months, **Fr Michael Holman** has agreed to the appointment of some new Consultors for the Guyana Region. **Fr Paul Martin** and **Fr James Gonsalves** will replace **Fr Kuruvila Cherian** and **Fr Bob Barrow**. Many thanks to Paul and James for their willingness to take on this role in the governance of the Region; my special thanks also to Kuru, who has completed 6 years as a Consultor in the Region (*this particular sombrero was slapped on his head fairly soon after his arrival in the Region!*) and to Fr Bob Barrow.

Hurray.... Its your Birthday!



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