



GUYJEST



GUYANA JESUIT NEWS BULLETIN, MAY 2007.



150 years of Jesuit presence in Guyana !!!

Regional Superior's Programme

MAY 2007

1 st & 2 nd May	Meeting of the Interior
4 th - 6 th May	Visitation of Aishalton
7 th May	Return to Georgetown
11 th - 14 th May	Visitation of Berbice
18 th - 23 rd May	Visitation of Pakaraimas
25 th May	Consult (Georgetown)
30 th May	Depart G'town for Barbados
31 st May	Depart Barbados for Europe

News and Announcements



GET-TOGETHER @ 29 BRICKDAM

On Friday 25 May, the Brickdam Community invites all the Jesuits of the Region to a "Get-together". The evening begins with the night prayer at 6.30 pm, followed by drinks and supper.

❖ New Contacts:

- ❖ Guyana Human Development Center
new email: guyhdc@yahoo.co.in
- ❖ St Ignatius has a New Mobile,
contact: 666 3129

Birthdays of the Month: MAY

Marlon Innis (08)

Joe Chira (09)

FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Tim Curtis'
Visit to Guyana

News from Curia, ROME

Fr. General attended a meeting of major Superiors of Africa and Madagascar (JESAM) at Lusaka, Zambia in the middle of April.

Before he left Rome, Father General signed a letter addressed to All Major Superiors and Electors of the 35th General congregation in which he offers some information and comments regarding the work of the Coetus Praevius. The Coetus, says Father General, did the preliminary work on the 350 postulates proposed by the Province Congregations. After analyzing and evaluating them, the Coetus incorporated the postulates into 11 *Relationes Praeviae*, which will be accompanied by some proposals and submitted to the General Congregation. In this way the members of the Congregation can deal with them more expeditiously. In spite of the rather large number of postulates, comments Father General, some important aspects of our apostolic life have hardly received any mention. Perhaps, he adds, it was felt that these aspects had already received attention.

News from the Province

❖ *God in the city: this month's Flourish*

The May edition of Flourish, the Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, carries a full page article about Simon Bishop's chaplaincy work at St Aloysius College.

❖ *The Jesuit mission to China: Tablet*

This week's Tablet carries a review of Liam Matthew Brockley's book *Journey to the East: the Jesuit mission to China, 1579-1724*.

❖ *This week's Rapid Response from HIREPL*

What is the common good? Debates about two issues in the news this week illustrate in concrete form the concerns which arise under the label of the common good, and raise questions which highlight the interconnection of politics, the law and the economy.

❖ *Don Giovanni and Freedom*

The May issue of the Oxford quarterly journal *New Blackfriars* includes an article by Tom Casey SJ, in which he examines Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. He uses the operatic masterpiece to discuss the pivotal questions it raises about freedom and society: should freedom be without constraints? Is absolute freedom possible? Tom, a lecturer in philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, shows how the concerns of Mozart's culture resonate with issues that still preoccupy us today. The article is called 'Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and the Invitation to Full Freedom'.

❖ *Deaf Awareness Day*

Paul Fletcher will be celebrating Mass in Sign Language at the end of a Deaf Awareness Day on 17 May in central London.

❖ *Father Frank Brennan SJ*

The Australian Province has asked for prayers for Father Frank Brennan, who was taken to hospital on 2 May, diagnosed with acute renal failure. He fell ill after traveling to Papua New Guinea as a chaplain for students from Riverview College on a trek along the Kokoda Trail.

Despite days of pain and acute discomfort, there are positive signs of recovery under the care of doctors in the Renal Unit at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. He is expected to be in the hospital for the next 10 days. Updates will be available through the Province Office, on (03) 9810 7300.

The National Trust In Australia named Frank a 'Living National Treasure' in 1998 for his involvement in Indigenous issues. He has been recognised with numerous awards for his work, including the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal and the Order of Australia. At present, he is a Professor at the Australian Catholic University and the Notre Dame.

❖ *English Language School*

There are no further places on the English Language School that will be taking place in London this summer. The course for Jesuits wishing to improve their English that is being held at Southwell House between 28 July and 26 August is now fully

SJ and the Environment

The environment features high on the agenda for the next General Congregation (GC) of the Society of Jesus starting 5 January 2008. By 20 March 2007, 41 environment-related "postulata", items for discussion during the GC, had been sent by provinces around the world. Only Social Justice features higher in the hearts and minds of Jesuits, with 42 postulata sent in.

Responding to the need to find out more about the issues involved, the Ignatian Ecology Network (IEN) has been created by the Social Justice Secretariat. Its aim is to inform the electors of the GC (219 in total) and the whole Society about climate change and its consequences, and to help them find ways of responding appropriately. Initially, the network will operate only until January 2008. Its mission after the GC and the possibility of opening it to non-Jesuits will be decided after a period of evaluation.

As part of the activities of the IEN, Fr Jacques Haers SJ attended a conference organised by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in Rome on 'Climate Change and Development' held on 26 and 27 April. "The interventions of several bishops at the conference gave us reason to hope that the Church is starting to move in the right direction", he reported at the end of the conference. "Poor people will suffer most from the effects of climate change.

While I am not too concerned about the extinction of the human race, I do fear that the suffering will be enormous and that the Church has a huge potential to alleviate it."

CPAL: Regency-without-Frontiers

(Maestrillos sin Fronteras)



Members of the Region will no doubt recall the scholastic, Jandir, from Brazil who did his Regency here, partly learning English and the bulk of his time working among the Wapishiana Indians in the South savannahs. Jandir was one of the scholastics chosen by his Province to test out the concept of "*maestrillos sin fronteras*". The experiment is at present at the evaluation stage under the direction of the President of CPAL (The Conference of Jesuit Provincials of Latin America). From our point of view here in Guyana, a reflection is in place as we were one of the host Regions chosen for this experiment.

The concept and the experiment is very much in keeping with writings of Father General on The Formation of Jesuits published in 2003 by the General Curia, Rome. Previously regency was perceived by most Jesuits as a period to fill gaps in apostolic works, be these colleges, parishes, social centres, etc. The gap became the priority and the regent the filler. Thank God, things have changed and as stressed in the "*Normae Generales de Studiis Nostrorum*" (1979): "The first aim of regency is the growth of those engaged in it; its aim is their growth in virtue and psychological maturity, so that their talents may find expression by the way they accept their responsibility for the communal apostolic tasks assigned to them" The principal purpose of regency as a stage in formation is precisely the contribution it makes to the formation of the Jesuit, and not to the satisfaction of filling some gap in a college or other apostolic work. So that the underlying thrust in deciding where a regent

should spend his regency must focus on the need of the regent to grow in virtue and psychological maturity, especially if regency is the formation stage before theology and ordination.

Moreover following Fr. General's appeal for inter-Provincial cooperation in Loyola 2000, it was natural that Provincials would seek ways of maximizing the growth in virtue and psychological maturity of their regents by looking beyond their "gaps" to what other Provinces may have to offer for the benefit of the regent. Hence the concept of "*maestrillos sin fronteras*". We, in Guyana, were impressed with Jandir and his dedication to the apostolic work among the indigenous peoples in the South of the country and are grateful that the Region was chosen to participate in the experiment. However our main regret must be our inability at the time to provide better guidance and support, both spiritual and apostolic, to Jandir during this period of formation. What this points to is that the host Province or Region must be made aware of what is required in relation to the needs of the particular individual regent, and before accepting so great a responsibility assess whether the necessary support personnel and material structures are there to reasonably fulfil what the General Norms asks of us. I hope that the evaluation of the experiment by CPAL will urge us on to a higher level of seriousness and consciousness of the norms to be applied at this stage of formation of ours and that we strengthen the concept and the practice of "*Regency-without-Frontiers*". (Malcolm Rodrigues S.J.)

GHDC: Vikram

A course on "Anger Management" was conducted on April 12, 2007, nearly 40 youths turned up. This course focused on, why Anger, and 'how to manage' it. On 14th we were supposed to have a Cricket match with the University of Guyana due to rain we have to abandon the match. With the increasing number of students from 10 different villages shows growing popularity and credibility of the center -a great achievement indeed. Moreover, the GHDC community is proud to have nearly 70 dropouts including school children, parents and youth are getting graduated at the end of May, 2007. The GHDC library is now open to the public, where they can borrow books from the center.

The center plans to offer a few more job-oriented courses, keeping in the focus the unemployment

faced by the youths of our locality, such as Basic Building Construction course + AutoCAD - an architectural Course, Supervisory Management course, Driving Course (this includes a 2 hour Lecture on the weekends by an Officer from the Traffic Department) along with regular Computer, Sewing and Cooking classes. Added to this, the center plans to start 'Phoenix course' for small children ranging from grade 5 to form 5 as part of their summer programme. To mark these achievements, the Progressive Youth Club with its 40 members plan to organizing a Bar-B-Q on 20 May, 2007 at Tain Play Ground. The Youth Club is greatly indebted to Raj and his sponsors.

Martin de pores Society organized a feeding programme which is on twice a year once at Christmas and on Easter. This Easter nearly 200 of them were fed during lunch time. On Easter vigil we had 5 new Baptisms and on Easter Sunday Mass, nearly 14 of them received first Holy Communion. It was a fantastic week with Domingo's was here at Berbice and Vikram accompanying him to spring lands were his services greatly appreciated. Vikram's Homilies were greatly appreciated both at Port Mourant and spring lands.

News from Rupununi: Kuruville

Lent and the Easter Season keep the pastors busy with more intense ministry. That was literally the case here at St Ignatius. Joachim, the indefatigable minister, was busy going about visiting the villages and stations far and near, quite often subsisting on farin and tasso but bringing in more nourishing spiritual victuals to the sheep of the flock of his care.

George too was engaged in preparing youngsters for the celebration of the paschal mysteries here at St Ignatius. Shortly he will be bidding goodbye to his beloved school where he was serving without salary or any deprivation benefits for the past two years. KC who was officially christened that way by his lordship the bishop himself (unwittingly, of course) has been reflecting and ruminating on his findings educational in his recent visits to the schools. His is planning to come up with suggestions for our involvement in serving the Amerindian education.

Kuru had the satisfaction of coming to the rescue of Joachim in the busy Leneten and Easter ministry. Our simple Easter vigil here at St Ignatius lasted just a little over two and a half hours and every one

was vigilant. Joachim has been of late visiting families in St Ignatius and Lethem. He had been to Mocomuco with the same intent. His mission at Kumo has been appreciated and proved beneficial to many especially in being herded back to the fold. In all these ventures he has been accompanied and assisted by the PLAs.

One remarkable feature of St Ignatius Parish is the great proportion of children and youth at various liturgies. So much so Joachim has started another assistant section of the parish council called the Junior Parish Council for children aged seven to fifteen. Indeed a lovely venture!! A big group of Makushi and Wapishana speaking PLAs (more than thirty) from Brazil had a three day interaction seminar here at St Ignatius in the presence and involvement of our own PLAs here with the purpose of promoting the Amerindian styles of medicine and related aspects of culture.

Hidden among them was a lively little sister from Italy who knew only Portuguese. However, she communicated with her exuberant and endearing ways.

Justin in TRINIDAD



{Justin Prabhu was in Trinidad offering a course on Media & Ethics (THEO 3304 Special Ethics) at Regional Seminary of John Vianney & the Uganda Martyrs, St Augustine. }

Tony from Toronto

Tony from Toronto, where the weather is one day cold and the next day warm. However, I'm OK. I'll give you more information when I come down to Guyana, and when I am in St. Pius. I believe that there was a lot of activity at Easter time and before, and hope to continue it when I return.

Tony is fine, and longing for the sunshine and smiles of the people back in Guyana.

Stamford Hill's Outreach : Raphael

The social outreach office of St Ignatius Church, Stamford Hill, is parish based, i.e. it is accountable to the parish council and parish team. Its tasks include providing support for families, providing advice on welfare benefits, providing information, help and pastoral care for the sick, the housebound and the homeless, and for immigrants and asylum seekers.

At the beginning of the academic year in September 2006, Godfrey Veerasammy and Father James Conway were given the responsibility of the outreach office. Their primary task is to develop the outreach work of the parish. This includes identifying people who might need social or pastoral assistance.

The social outreach office in the parish was started about eight years ago by Michael O'Driscoll, and shortly after he was joined by Sister Winifred Lusk. Both of them belonged to the parish. Michael's full time job at that time was as an advice worker, giving advice to people on benefits, and also advice to people with housing problems. He was approached and was very keen to begin an outreach centre from the church that would specialise in giving advice.

At that time, most of the advice sought was from people who were homeless or had problems with the housing authorities.

Today, however, most of the people who come to the office tend to be migrants, many of them asylum seekers and more recently persons who can be referred to as "irregular migrants" or "undocumented migrants", thus making the 'migrants apostolate' a priority. The processes involved can be a bit complicated as often times the solutions vary, mostly depending on what part of the world the migrants come from.

These irregular migrants would come with questions about their immigration status, as well as questions about how they can access systems such as the health service and the social security system. Sadly they have to be told that they cannot really access national services very much, basically because they are not entitled to anything: they're

not entitled to any benefits or any form of help or service.

How do Godfrey and Jim help? By first listening to their stories, and then by trying to find other agencies or the relevant personnel that deal particularly with this group of people and these kinds of problems; agencies that have set up some form of social support for undocumented migrants. There are only a few of these agencies in London.

Part of the job at the outreach office includes identifying some of those agencies. Godfrey and Jim do this in particular because they are both aware that there are many other things that one can do to try to help in this field, instead of targeting one's energy on something specific. Some of the agencies they have looked at are:

PRAXIS, which is in Bethnal Green in the East End of London, a neighbourhood very similar to Stamford Hill with lots of migrant groups. PRAXIS have set up a full-time outreach service for anybody who might fall under the category of "displaced", which includes refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants. They offer health services, advice networks for immigration lawyers and they offer English classes.

CATHOLIC WORKERS MOVEMENT, which came from the United States. They have just opened a house in Hackney, which is not far from Stamford Hill. Their approach is working with irregular migrants and destitute asylum seekers, but more with a community outreach approach. They have set up a house with three permanent members; a priest and two lay volunteers. They have three other bedrooms which they keep available always for destitute asylum seekers or migrants who might need urgent accommodation.

CANDL (Church and Neighbourhood Development in London), also located in Hackney is another outreach agency, but one that works primarily with young migrants. They focus on things like education, youth clubs and developing networks with other youth organisations.

Jim feels that St Ignatius Church could follow these three agencies and perhaps set up similar services.

All of this is done with the attitude of finding Jesus Christ in these migrants, so that Godfrey and Jim and all who help these migrants in other ways, can

take up their cause under the standard of the Cross.
(Re: GC 34 Decree 3:17)

Marlon Innis: London Marathon



Congratulations to the 17 runners who formed the Jesuit Missions team in the London Marathon on Sunday. Rampe Hlobo joined fellow South Africans Marius Liebenburg and Ian Caldwell to form a trio of Wombles tackling the course. All three successfully completed the 26.2 miles, despite the temperatures being in the mid-20s Celsius, as did **Marlon Innis** from the Stamford Hill Community.

Memory Lane: Fr Quigley & his Horse



(Fr Quigley SJ, climbing by a scarcely recognisable track between a massive tree trunks)



SJ: Statistics 2007

As of January 1, 2007 the number of Jesuits in the world was 19,216 (364 fewer than in 2005): 13,491 are priests, 3,049 scholastic students, 1,810 Brothers, and 866 novices. During the year, 486 joined the Society, 472 died and 378 left. The average age of the Jesuits in 2007 is 57.34 (slightly higher than the previous year): 63.40 for priests, 29.89 for scholastics and 65.54 for Brothers.

There are 91 Provinces and 12 *Dependent Regions*: 3 in Africa, 4 in the Americas and 5 in Asia-Oceania. As in the previous year, the South Asia Assistency, with 4,018 members who represent 20.9% of the total membership in the Society, is the most numerous, followed by the United States of America (2,952 members or 15.4%), South Europe (2,448 or 12.7%), West Europe (1,958 or 10.2%), East Asia-Oceania (1,672 or 8.7%), South Latin America (1,513 or 7.9%), Africa (1,430 or 7.4%), North Latin America (1,374 or 7.2%), East Europe (1,119 or 5.8%), and Central Europe (732 or 3.8%).

Prayer for Sick

From South Africa:

*Please keep in your prayers Kevin McElhatton who is due to visit the medical specialists in Durban. If all is well, he and Mike Lewis will then fly up to Johannesburg, where Kevin will continue with his convalescence which is going very well. Kevin continues to improve and is increasing his strength with bouts of exercise.

*Please also remember in your prayers the mothers of Michael Gallagher, David Smolina and John Enslin, all of whom are not well. Fitz's back while still very painful has responded to his faithful exercises and no doubt our prayers.

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