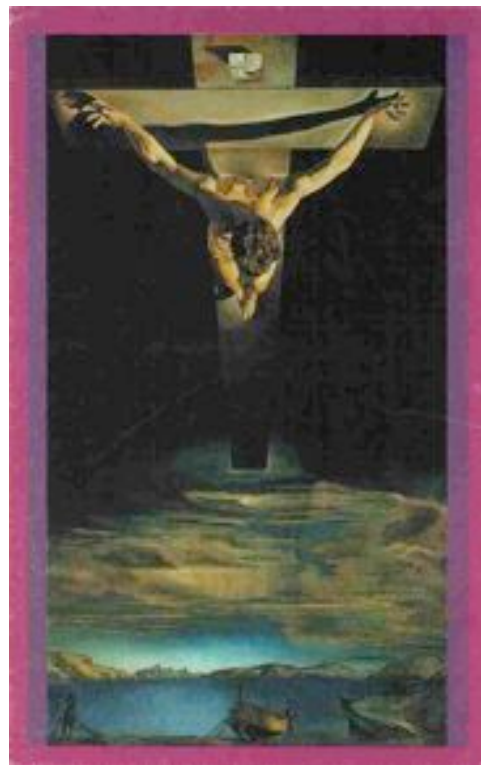




GUYANA JESUIT NEWS BULLETIN, March 2007.



“Wash, make yourself clean, take your wrong-doing out of my sight. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good, search for justice, help the oppressed, be just to the orphan, plead for the widow.” (Is.1 :16-17)

150 years of Jesuit presence in Guyana !!!

Regional Superior's Programme

(March - April 2007)

12th - 15th March, Visitation of T&T and Barbados
23rd March Consult (Georgetown)
26th - 29th March Visitation of Georgetown
9th - 17th April Retreat (Barbados)
17th - 24th April Ursuline Retreat (Barbados)
27th April Consult (Georgetown)
28th April Visitation of Interior.

News and Announcements

To a question submitted to the Holy Father regarding the mandate to elect *ad vitam* the General Superior of the Society, The Holy Father determined that while maintaining the right of the General to present his resignation to a General Congregation for special reasons and, after having informed the Holy Father of his intention, the election *ad vitam* be kept. Father General concluded that the answer of Benedict XVI confirms the current practice of the Society.

❖ Get-together at 29 Brickdam

On Friday 30 March, 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, and ends with the film, CRASH.

❖ Change of contact details:

Michael Campbell-Johnston has now got broadband, so his email address has changed to <:sjbar@caribsurf.com>

❖ Anil Tirkey; aniltirkey53@gmail.com

REGENTS MEET

The meeting of the Regents will be on Friday March 23 at Jesuit Presbytery, Brickdam. It will be a day of sharing and recollection.

Welcome...

Fr Domingos Chagas, who is here from Brazil to learn English, and will be living at Jesuit Presbytery, Brickdam.

News from the Province

PROVINCE MEETING

Details of the Province meeting (April 10 - 13) will be circulated shortly. But in the meantime, there are still a few places left on the coach that has been hired to take people to and from the meeting at Swanwick. It will depart from Mount Street at 11am on Tuesday 10 April and Stamford Hill at 11.30am, arriving at 4pm. The return journey on Friday 13 April will depart from Swanwick at 2pm. The cost will be £15 single or £30 return. If you wish to reserve one of the last remaining seats, please e-mail Sharon Chalmers (officemanager@gbsj.org) or write to her at 114 Mount Street.

CORPUS CHRISTI JESUIT COMMUNITY

St John of God Care Services has kindly seconded Beverley Walton as the Manager at the Corpus Christi Jesuit Community in Boscombe. She will be working closely with the various members of the Province involved in bringing this project to fruition over the next few months. As you already know, we

have entrusted the management and administration of the CCJC to St John of God Care Services, in liaison with the Superior, Michael Barrow. We now expect the CCJC to open in mid-June.

Oxford University RC Chaplaincy (From the Provincial)

A little time ago, Bishop Crispian Hollis, in his capacity as Chairman of the Oxford Chaplaincy Board, invited me to submit a candidate to replace Father Jeremy Fairhead, who has been called to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerants in Rome. This corresponded very much with our own Province priorities, especially our development of Campion Hall, our ministry among young adults, and our commitment to the service of the national Church. In view of his own interest in the intellectual apostolate, I was very pleased to offer John Moffat to this post for a six-year term as Oxford University Chaplain. He will be assisted by Roger Dawson for his first two years of priesthood after ordination.

MEETINGS IN ROME

Over the weekend, I took part in the meeting of the Western European Assistancy (EOC) in Rome. We were joined by Father General for an hour on Sunday morning, and I was one of four Provincials who were invited to lunch with him as well. We found him very relaxed and eager to familiarise us with the preparations for GC35. I will be circulating prayers from Father General for the success of the General Congregation shortly.

Among the administrative matters discussed at the EOC meeting were inter-provincial collaboration, the staffing of the Roman houses, colleges and universities, preparations for the meeting of delegates to GC35 from the EOC Assistancy in Paris in November, and how we might work together in training our scholastics in Ignatian Spirituality.

After the meeting, I had the opportunity to meet and eat with our men in Rome as well as Robert Althann from the Zimbabwe Province. I also met with Antoni Üçerler, who will be joining the faculty at Campion Hall in

September. You may recall that Anthoni studied for his doctorate there. And finally, I spoke with Claudio Rossi's mother and found her in good spirits.

THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE OF HIV/AIDS

'As educators in a time of HIV/AIDS, we are learning to appreciate the critical importance of attending to the concepts of justice, human rights, the common good, and the option for the poor.' So said Jim Keenan, Professor of Moral Theology at Boston College in his talk this week at the Lauriston Centre in Edinburgh. Read the full text of his talk HIV/AIDS: The Expanding Ethical Challenge. This can be found: <http://www.jesuit.org.uk/>

News from St Ignatius

February days towards the end were rather busy, especially because of the scheduled days of confirmation in many of the stations far and near, big and small. His Lordship the bishop was stationed with us and he would move out with Joachim who planned the programmes quite well. We are touched by the bishop who would put up with quite a bit of inconvenience, quite understandable in these far flung frontier territories.

Before those hectic days Kuru (of late he is being called KC in the Amerindian territories for semantic reasons - ask him directly for further clarification -) had two excursions from his base. He made an anxious trip to Aishalton to find out how Fr Britt was faring as there appeared to be blackout in spite of the latest satellite internet device planted there. Britt was found to be fresh and cheerfully well settled in the temporary shelter of the old church until there would be a roof over his head in the presbytery. Then there was the routine trip to Town to be part of the Consult.

St Ignatius made arrangements for the bible translators' stay at Lethem. Fr Paul and his team were present to add to the success of this unique biblical venture.

Fr Paul and his contingent were provided with transportation to and from Karasabai in our intrepid veteran vehicle 'Pedro Arrupe'!! Fr Dermot made a flying visit to St Ignatius on 28th and joined in the activities with his encouragement and support.

As a transit point in Rupununi, we have the honour of receiving passing guests like the Sister General and the Sister Provincial of the Ursulines. They were on their way to Aishalton on Friday, 2nd March. We wait for their passage back through St Ignatius/Lethem on 5th March. - KURU

News from Jandir

Hello dear Dermot

I read in a newspaper that the Brazilian president, Lula, was visiting Georgetown. I also saw it on the TV. The Brazilian TV showed some places from Georgetown, the supermarket and other places. I felt very happy when I saw it.

I hope that the Region is going well. I only have to thank the Region for all things that the Region offered me. The experience that I had in Guyana was a very rich experience for me and has nothing to do with my decision. You, the Guyanese Jesuits, welcomed me so warmly.

I'm happy, in peace with the decision that I took. For me it became clear that not only as a religious, priest, you can help the others, but in many other ways is possible to do things to help.

I wish you Fr. Dermot all the happiness and a successful work for Guyana Region.

(Note: Jandir was a Brazilian scholastic who left the Society recently)

Ronnie writes on Refugees

Refugees can be good for London

Recently I visited the Museum of London and had the opportunity to hear the reflections of some of London's refugees on the exhibition "Belongings: Voices of London's Refugees". Maybe the locals might consider them nuisances; however I found myself trying to look on the other side and to consider the positive contributions the people called 'refugees' have contributed to London.

They fled from their countries because they feared persecution based on race, religion, nationality and political opinion or membership of particular social groups.

At first they live in disappointment and fear; disappointment at the ignorance of those who

made them flee from their native countries and then fear of the unknown on first arriving in a foreign country. Happiness comes later but mixed with a constant fear at what might be happening to their families. They realise it might be worse if they tried to contact their families and their sadness paralyses them against doing this.

While the challenges are many, for example the cultural differences which continue to affect communication with the natives of the country, there have been achievements among the refugees which enable them to contribute to society in London. For example the skills they may have acquired in caring for fellow refugees who are sick gave them practical experience and training that they are still able to use in their jobs at hospitals and care centres around London.

Maybe it was all good before they came, but I don't think London would have been able to be as alive and active as it is now, as well as truly multi-cultural. Walk around London, and you see that the shops, nightclubs and restaurants vary from Chilean to Ethiopian and Polish to Sri Lankan, all part of the contribution the refugees make to London.

Tony from India

Greetings from Mumbai!. The cardiologist who examined me did not seem to think that I needed any surgery, and is treating me with tablets and thereby reducing my cholesterol and monitoring my lipid profile by treatment. He wants to see me after Easter, and thinks that I could control my health, with the use of tablets, diet control and exercise. So that's a good news for now.

I'm meeting all my old novitiate group, one of who, has invited me to Afghanistan and will be lecturing there. Others have just left for Singapore and Hong Kong, and one of who leaves for Japan and Hawaii. A lot of movement around in India. Hope this little item will be newsworthy.

Thanks Justin and God Bless you. Fr. Britto Joseph who lives in the next room from me here at St. Xavier's School, Bombay has just left for Madurai and Chittoor this morning. Hope everyone is well in Guyana. Bye for now and

God Bless you all. Sorry for the West Indies defeat by India in Cricket practices. Tony sj

A moving story of reconciliation

At first glance, the two groups might have thought they had nothing in common.

The 10 Californians (including one young woman) from Jesuit-founded Homeboy Industries in East Los Angeles were all Latinos who have left behind the gang life, some for years, others for mere months.

The six young men trainees from the Jesuit-run Cafe Reconcile construction training program in New Orleans included at least one who entered the six-week program fresh from the local jail. All were African-American; many were from New Orleans' Central City neighborhood, plagued by violence before Hurricane Katrina and has seen it only escalate since.

But in mid-February, the two groups teamed up to lend a hand to New Orleans' hurricane recovery.

One of the first things the Homeboys did upon arriving in New Orleans was to attend Mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church, founded in 1842 for worshippers of color, both free and slave. It is the oldest African-American parish in the United States.

"The sign of peace went on for about 10 minutes. That was their welcoming to New Orleans," said John Shaw, a Homeboy Industries case manager. "It really opened their eyes."

More eye-opening still was breakfast the next day, when the Homeboys and the Cafe Reconcile crew ate together, as they would all week, in the restaurant's dining room, which is also home to Reconcile's hospitality training program. Some of his group, said Shaw, "had never eaten between two African-Americans at a table, or talked to them."

Cafe Reconcile, a restaurant in the Central City neighborhood that trains and employs at-risk teens and young adults, was established in 1997. It has gone beyond the food business, launching the construction training program.

It was a week of firsts for many of the Homeboys: first plane ride, first time out of Los Angeles, first time away from home. By Friday, the two groups were trading T-shirts and posing for photos together.

They spent the days in between painting walls, cleaning up hurricane damage, building an elementary school playground and touring some of the city's most damaged neighborhoods, including the Lower 9th Ward. The devastation there shocked the group.

The week in New Orleans, said Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, who founded Homeboy Industries in 1988, was transformative. "It was just one of those life changing, wonderful (experiences) that changes their horizons," he said.

In the same way that working with members of rival gangs in the Homeboy bakery or their lawn maintenance operation or the silkscreen operation or at the Homegirl Cafe can help young people learn to humanize their "enemies," so did the New Orleans trip.

Participants found out, Father Boyle said, that "the illusion of the other is just that, an illusion." Not only did they form friendships that are already spanning the miles via e-mail and cell phone, but the 10 from Los Angeles formed bonds that they would not have otherwise known.

"They suddenly find themselves as more family than family," Father Boyle said. "They're joined at the hip now."

On their last morning in New Orleans, Juan Carlos Zamudio, who has been involved with Homeboy Industries since he was 15 years old, reflected on what he had seen. A former gang member who now does gang intervention work with youths in the community, Zamudio, 28, was surprised at how alike his own story and the stories of the young men at Cafe Reconcile were.

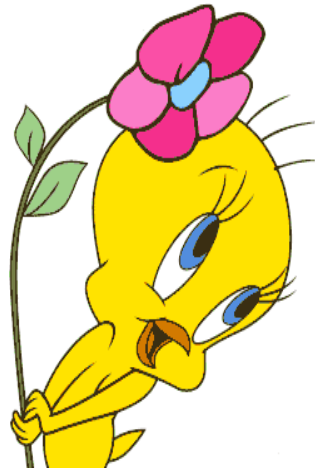
"The only difference is you're in New Orleans and I'm in California. We can relate," Zamudio said, adding, "It's a blessing to be here."

The group from Homeboys has met several times since returning to Los Angeles to reflect and meditate on the trip, as they did before departing. They plan to meet weekly from now on and will likely take on more service projects, said Shaw.

They intend "to continue this walk together and build on what happened in New Orleans," Shaw said, noting that one of the men in the group wants to introduce their prayer and breathing exercises to his family at home, something he could never have imagined before.

"Everyone agreed they kind of came back as changed human beings," he said. ---CNS

Birthday ...New born Chick ...!!!



**PRABHU Justin -- 11th March
AD MULTOS ANOS !!!**

MEMORY LANE : 1962



The Jesuits of the Guyana Mission in 1962, seated second from the left is Fr. Andrew Gordon, who came out to the Mission as Mission Superior in 1958 and died in 1962.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

John Lang in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington; Frank Fitzsimmons at Stamford Hill; Charles Edwards who is back home after hospital treatment; Frank Pregelj in Nazareth House, Hammersmith; Norman Smith at Christopher Grange; Tony Montfort whose treatment continues; Patrick Purnell who is convalescing at his sister's in Wales; and Kevin McElhatton and James Fitzsimmons in South Africa. Also for the mothers of David Smolira, John Enslin, Antonius Widyarsono and Matthew Charlesworth, all of whom are unwell.
