



Guyjest



Guyana Jesuit Newsletter, November 2006.



***2007: marching towards 150 years of Jesuit presence in Guyana
!!!***

News and Announcements

Regional Superior's Programme

- 15-17th Nov: Trinidad

Transfers

1. Lourduraj Arokiasamy to BERBICE

2. Godfrey Veerasammy to Stamford Hill, UK

NOTE

The Region has a new dedicated FAX
Fax: (+592) 227-8445

The Liturgical Calendar 2007 is in Circulation.

For copies please contact Curia, Brickdam

News around the World

- **Jesuits murdered in Mozambique**

The Jesuit Provincial of Portugal communicates that in the early morning of November 6 (1:30 a.m.) a group of armed people assailed the Residence at Angone, Province of Tete, Mozambique, and killed Father Waldyr dos Santos, 69, from Brasil, and Idalina Neto Gomes, 30, who belongs to the Portuguese Association of Laypeople for Development. Portuguese Father Mario J. de Almeida, 37, and Mozambican Brother Jose Araújo de Andrade, 76, were wounded in the attack. The assailants left with the car of the community.

- **Jesuit-educated Mayor of Baltimore**

Southern Maryland Online - the Internet News Service that covers Baltimore in the US - has posted up a superb article about Jesuit-educated Martin O'Malley. For the past seven years he has been Mayor of Baltimore, where he set out to tackle notoriously high crime rates and a crumbling public school system. He ran for office principally for one reason, he says: 'I had gone to Gonzaga.' A value system based on his Catholic faith and honed by a Jesuit education at Gonzaga has been at the heart of his political career.

News from the Curia, Rome

- **The IVth Centenary of Father Alessandro Valignano SJ**, the great missionary who consolidated the work of Xavier in the East, will be commemorated in his native Chieti (Italy) and in the place where he died (Macau). Father Valignano (1539-1606) is recognized not only as a great missionary but also as "a man of the Renaissance and a bridge between East and West".
- **The Gregorian University** has established a new course on Communication and the Church leading to an Interdisciplinary Masters in Social Communication. For more details, see: www.unigre.it/pug/cics/cics.html.

News from South Africa

- **Campion Medal**

After 25 years of looking after the Jesuit residents at Braamfontein, Yvonne Moloelang will be awarded the Campion Medal on 1 December.

From the Province

➤ **Jesuit Philately**

For the Jubilee year the Austrian Province has produced a finely illustrated guide to stamps featuring Jesuits and Jesuit works across the world. The book is in German but is lavishly illustrated. If anyone would like a copy Alan Harrison at the Curia has access to two copies.

➤ **St Alphonsus Day: October 31st**

The traditional celebration for the feast of St Alphonsus Rodriguez was held this year at Farm St through the kindness of Hugh Duffy and the Mount St community for those brothers able to attend. An engaging and witty address by James Hodgkinson on significant 19th century brothers in the restored province (for example the great Brs Foley, Hedley and Stanley, but also the appropriately named Br Idle who, it seemed, spent his entire Jesuit life taking care of his health) preceded Mass in the Sodality Chapel at which the celebrant, Kevin Fox, recalled more recent hallowed and inspirational figures including Br Lynch. Prayers for vocations followed including for those young brothers in formation internationally and for the two brothers of our Assistency currently in tertianship in Dublin.

➤ **Hand-over and farewell party at Stamford Hill**

On Sunday, 29 October, Fr Provincial went to St Ignatius to celebrate the end of Tim Curtis' term as Parish Priest, and at the same time, welcome the incomer, Peter Randall.

The fruits of Tim's efforts in uniting the parish were so evident, amidst a full and vibrant congregation in a newly painted church, with the sanctuary mosaics cleaned and restored. All four parish choirs participated at the 11.30am Mass, lending solemnity, but also a kind of affection to the liturgy, as drum beats added to Fr Provincial's acclaim of all that Tim had contributed to the parish.

Fr Provincial stressed the significance of the parish, as a spiritual home for such a diverse

racial and ethnic mix of people, who generously give themselves to the wide range of parish activities. He noted that the parish is held in high esteem within the Province, and in the local deanery and diocese, being a community that is nourished through its prayer and spirituality, with an exemplary outreach programme.

As Parish Priest, Tim had managed to facilitate the blending of enthusiastic ministerial support from the Jesuit Community with the multiple pastoral activities, to the benefit of both parish and Jesuit Community. His dedication, energy, and humour will be greatly missed, not just by the parish and Jesuit Community, but also by the Deanery of Haringey, which he had served as Dean.

Although the Provincial's address at the end of Mass was punctuated by standing ovations for Tim, he managed to continue to outline Tim's future position with Jesuit Missions, a position which Tim is well suited for given his range of skills, and previous experience in Guyana.

The Provincial's address continued, welcoming Peter, who before tertianship had also served as a Parish Priest and Dean in Edinburgh. There will be challenges ahead, as this parish community looks to the future, seeking to develop the qualities already mentioned above, and open further channels of apostolic service.

Finally, the Provincial challenged the parents of the parish to remember that if the parish is to be served by Jesuits in the future, they need to encourage their sons, grandsons and nephews to consider entry into the Society of Jesus as a real possibility.

The celebrations continued after Mass in the Hall of St Ignatius Primary School, where the parishioners had prepared lunch, and later paid tribute to Tim's period of ministry, presenting him with gifts and then seeing him off to a well deserved holiday in the sun.

From Joe Puli (Aishalton)

Fr.Poulose after visiting a few villages with Joseph Puli is staying for a longer period in Marurianwu. Jandir is in Georgetown improving his English skills. Fr.Britt is busy planting more trees in the church compound. Fr.Puli has been visiting all the villages in the South. Last week, Fr.Puli gave a retreat to the 4 Ursuline sisters there.

Godfrey from UK

I had a really good flight except for the one hour late start from Trinidad , the aircraft had to fitted with 'a new nose' because it had a broken piece that affected the 'radar'. On my arrival -almost 11 am after all the checks, Marlon was there waiting. He had a 3 p.m class, so I went with him to the college , Tim Bryon came to pick me up in the evening.

The first evening of classes wasn't too bad after all the travel. I'm registered for the **Certificate Course in Evangelization and Catechesis for Parish Ministry** . John Mc Dade sj, was the presenter. The topic for discussion was ' Von Balthasar and the Office of Peter in the Church'. Balthasar presents/ speaks of the multi-dimensional reality of the church and underlines some key bible figures to support his ideas. I'm told that the late Pope was really interested in the writings of Balthasar. What a fitting introduction to my new community and ministry!!!

EXTN in Berbice: Fr A Church

It was reported by Leon Suseran in the Standard that EWTN were now regularly showing a Sunday Mass at 9.00.a.m.on Dave's Television Channel. I have no knowledge of how this came to be arranged, as I would have thought it would cost some money. More information would be very acceptable.

I have several times investigated the possibilities of using EWTN. I understand that in Trinidad they have a deal with the Catholic producers that EWTN pay for the time with the TV company, and a certain amount of time is conceded for local productions without further cost. It meant that they are subsidised at the cost of allowing EWTN to come in also as part of our Catholic programmes.

Since the EWTN is a wholly American programme, I was never sure that this was a good deal. We want to produce our own local programmes. We want to show the Church as well rooted in this country. Also, I was given to understand by a leading Jesuit in New York that Mother Angelica's style was "divisive". Whilst agreeing that there were sometimes some very good instructive programmes - e.g. a big series on the Church in the Bible, - yet at the same time he thought Mother Angelica was very much against people she called "liberals" in the Church. Besides, the masses are very much old style with a lot of prominence given to the choir. They lacked the lively Caribbean style with a lot of rhythm in the music.

I have been told that a Jesuit now runs EWTN and Mother Angelica has retired., But one informant told me "he is worse than Mother Angelica". However, money counts. Maybe we should try to use EWTN more. We did receive a large consignment of radio tapes. These were mostly recorded services of prayers and Rosary. I don't think Colin Smith has ever used them.

Medino from Brazil

Yesterday the 31st of October the Jesuits celebrated here the feat of St. Alfonso Rodriguez. The celebration began with a mass said by the Provincial and was attended by some sixty Jesuits. Then after the mass there was dinner and drinks. It was a great experience I think especially to meet other Jesuits.

Birthday ...New born Chicks ..!!!

November Babies.....



Wish U a many happy returns of the day !!!

- 01 Paul Jesuraj**
- 04 Michael Holman (Fr Provincial)**
- 23 Compton Meerabux**

Pray for our sick

- ❖ **Kevin McElhatton** at St Kizito's Seminary, in South Africa, will be undergoing surgery on 21 November to have a malignant tumour on his colon removed.
- ❖ Meanwhile **James Fitzsimons** also in SA has a pinched sciatic nerve for which there is no treatment; however, physiotherapy is helping to relieve his vertebral arthritis.
- ❖ **Br Fitzsimmons** in Stamford Hill and
- ❖ **Harold Wong** just out of hospital
- ❖ **Tony Montfort** (on holiday in Barbados at present)

Obituary: Ralph Woodhall

Ralph Woodhall: a memoir by Aloysius Church

I first met Ralph Woodhall in 1946 when we second year juniors came back to Manresa from St Beuno's. During World War n the Novices and Juniors had been moved up to St Beuno's for safety after bombs had landed on Manresa. One of the Juniors was killed there in an air raid. When we arrived, there were over a hundred novices, mostly ex-service men, but Ralph was able to join our Juniors' community. He had served in the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy, and used to say he did his best to get away from routine by going on "courses" whenever available. I believe he specialised in radio communications.

So I was with him through Philosophy, and again for a spell in theology. We met up again at St Michael's Leeds. I was there from 1959 to 1963. Times were changing. In the run-up to Vatican n there were already heated discussions on all kinds of subjects particularly liturgy and catechetics. Our table at Leeds was very lively . Ralph acquired a name among us for "challenging our basic assumptions". There were always among us what you might call "instinctive conservatives" such as headmaster Charlie Hand, Con Hennessy, Arnold Culshaw, which led to good-humoured discussions. But on the other hand we had such progressive stalwarts as Ralph himself, Paul Edwards, Ted Yarnold, Anthony Horan, Clarence Gallagher, Kevin McElhatton, and for a while even John Ashton, who for a period later lectured in New Testament at Heythrop.

A feature of life at Leeds then was the Catholic Evidence Guild. Every Wednesday during lunch hour, or the following free period, I used to go

down either to speak outside the Town Hall, or assist while a lay member of our teaching staff was up on the rostrum. Several members of staff regularly attended Tuesday night training sessions, which were enlightened by the debates and challenges of the changing church. Several of the Jesuit staff, including Ralph, helped with all this so that stimulating theological discussion was frequently in the air. It was also a time when Fr Bernard Bassett was promoting the Cell movement. The wives of some staff were active in the cells, whilst their husbands were getting deep into theology with the Evidence Guild. I remember Paul Edwards observing that when the staff members and their wives all went to a dance, the wives would be annoyed that their husbands instead of being on the dance floor spent a long time in the bar discussing the ends of marriage. That same group of teachers used to edit the Catholic paper of the Leeds Diocese.

Ralph spent a lot of time visiting the homes of pupils on his bicycle. He would take it by train for instance to York and then move about.

He was a very good community man, unpretentious and yet very helpful, with a good sense of humour. I understand that he went originally to a non-Catholic school because his father was not a catholic. (In arguments he could always bring up a good case for schools with mixed religions). It was only after knowing him for many years that I discovered he had won a scholarship to Oxford from school, but was unable to take it up because of the war. He had a very good mind and ended up his days, I believe, with an honorary Doctorate from the Selly Oak Colleges of Birmingham.

Story from Brickdam

The world's foremost authority on wasps is walking down the street when he sees an old vinyl record in the window of a charity shop: *"Wasp Noises From Around The World"*.

Intrigued, he goes into the shop and asks if he can listen to it.

"Certainly," says the shop assistant and pops it onto his turntable.

After listening to the first track for a while, the world's foremost authority on wasps is a bit confused.

"I don't recognize any of these noises, and I'm the world's foremost authority on wasps! ...Can you play the next track please?"

The assistant obliges and skips the needle onto the next track.

After a while, the world's foremost authority on wasps is still confused "No, I still don't recognize any of these wasps. Can you try the next track?"

The assistant skips the needle on, and the world's foremost authority on wasps listens for a little while longer before shaking his head.

"It's no good. I just don't recognize any of these wasps."

The assistant peers at the label of the record and says, "Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I had it on the bee side"