



# GUYJEST



Guyana Jesuit Newsletter, *October 2006.*

## **Jesuit Conference at Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana.**



*Back row: ( from left to right) Kuru, Poulouse, Dermot, Joe, Malcolm, Joaquim, Bob, Vikram  
Middle row: Compton, Aloysius, Britt, Derek, Tony  
Front row: Eddy, Paul, Godfrey, Sylvester, Justin.*

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## News and Announcements

- **The Regional Superior has a direct dedicated phone line 227-1504. He hopes to install an answer machine in the near future.**
- **Guyana Region welcomes Fr Poulouse Vellakada from Karnataka Province !**
- **Fr Joe Puli is back from India after his teaching courses.**
- **Clergy Conference of Georgetown held at St Paul's Retreat Centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.**



(His Grace Rt Rev Fr Francis Alleyne OSB, Bishop of Georgetown addresses the Clergy )

## From the Provincial

Please continue to remember the sick of the Province. **Franc Pregelj** is still in St Anne's Hospital in Wood Green. **Bernard Hall** has been undergoing tests at a hospital in Rome. **Charles Higham** however has returned home to Burry Port after hospital treatment.

## News around the World

### •UK: Theology-on-Tap

A ministry for young adults has begun in a pub in central London. And due to the success of its trial earlier in the summer, the organisers have had to move into a larger venue! It will take place over five weeks, at the King's Head in Stafford Street - three minutes away from Green Park tube station.

### •Finance Officer

The Treasurer's office in Mount Street today welcomed Mr Henry Broadbent who has started working there as the Finance Officer.

### • Faith, Reason and Modernity

In case you haven't yet seen his article, Tony Carroll provides a detailed analysis of Pope Benedict's lecture at Regensburg that caused so much controversy, especially among Muslims. It is printed in the 30 September edition of The Tablet.

### • Jesuit Volunteering

Around two dozen people - Jesuits and lay co-workers - met at Southwell House in London last Friday to share a common vision of Jesuit Volunteering (JV). Led by Sarah Rogers, the Director of JV, and facilitated by Max Peberdy, formerly of Oxfam and Christian Aid, the day started with presentations of the volunteer work being done by the XVP, JVC, JRS, St Ignatius Parish Stamford Hill, Sacred Heart Parish Wimbledon, and St Aloysius College Glasgow. As the day progressed, participants were able to explore both the sort of people they wished to attract as volunteers, and areas in which they could cooperate and even collaborate. It was clear from the presentations that volunteering in the Province is not only strong, but also provides a wide range of opportunities and experiences for potential volunteers.

### • The return of Rapid Response

"Rapid Response", the weekly online comment on topical issues from the Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life, has resumed after its summer break.

This week's topics are:

#### • Delusional States

According to Richard Dawkins, there is something strange about God. There is certainly something strange about Dawkins' god, but he does alert us to aspects of our own understanding and faith witness that cannot be ignored.

## NEWS from the Curia, ROME

Fr. General celebrated the Jubilee 2006 on 2 August, the feast of **Bl. Faber** with the Ignatian family assembled at Lourdes, France. In September, he visited several communities Belgium on the occasion of his participation in the celebration of 175 years since the foundation of the University of Notre Dame de la Paix in Namur. From September 24 till October 2, he visited Brazil. This included participation in a seminar on "Jesuits and Globalization" in the city of San Leopoldo and a visit to the Mato Grosso region.

Vatican Observatory: **Fr. Gabriel Funes** (43) of the Argentine Province is appointed Director of the Vatican Astronomical Observatory at Castel Gandolfo. Part of its operations is now carried out at Mount Graham, in Arizona (USA).

Ignatian Project for the Youth Day 2008: details are available in: [www.magis2008.org](http://www.magis2008.org)

A pat on the back of GC34 by women!: The Commission on Women of St. Paul / Minneapolis Archdiocese has honoured the SJ with an award in recognition of Decree 14 of GC34 on 'Jesuits and the Situation of Women in Church and Civil Society'. The award will be received by the Wisconsin Province on behalf of the SJ.

At the Gregorian University: a new course for lay people, 'Laikos, Christian Life and Public Ethics', is being offered, from this academic year.

## Reason of Dialogue: Holy Father

**Pope Benedict XVI and the Reason of Dialogue:** Following Pope Benedict's speech at Regensburg on September 14th, 'Faith, Reason and the University', religion made the headlines yet again. What is our understanding of the relationship between faith and reason?

## News from Asia

Jesuits in Asia share TV and film experiences: You might be interested to read an article published in Indian Catholic that involved a

number of Jesuits. They were among about 100 Catholic communicators from 16 Asian nations who attended a media seminar organised by Signis last month. It took place in Hyderabad, 1,500 kilometres south of New Delhi.

## From Joe Chira (visiting Barbados)

Although Michael Campbell Johnson wanted to pass his 75th Birthday on Wednesday, September 27th, 2006, quietly unnoticed, Fiona, CJ's neighbour and the presence of Joe Chira contributed to a joyful celebration.

At the 7 a.m. Mass CJ focused on the St Vincent de Paul Society and the good works its members are doing in the parish. After the usual welcoming swim in the warm sea down the steps, CJ and Joe had a fairly simple lunch. A bottle of Spanish wine added to the cheer.

Around 7 p.m. Fiona came with a beautifully decorated fruit cake held up on a heavy marble platter. She drove CJ and Joe to Spago, a newly opened Italian restaurant in Hometown, where we had dinner at a leisurely pace.

The Manageress offered a special dessert at her own expense to celebrate. The Italian chef, who attends Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church, and other staff members, came to wish CJ a happy birthday. It turned out to be a very happy day.

May CJ continue to exude his usual charm and warm hospitality to all for many more years.

## A story From CJ

A US Bishop lay dying in the hospital. For years he had faithfully served the people of the nation's capital. He motioned for one of his aides to come near.

"Yes father," said the aide.

"I would really like to see B and C before I die", whispered the Bishop. B and C were two prominent US politicians.

"I'll see what I can do, father" replied the aide. The aide sent the request to Capitol Hill and waited for a response. Soon the word arrived. B and C would be delighted to visit the bishop.

As they went to the hospital, C commented to B, "I don't know why the old goat wants to see us, but it will certainly help our images after all the bad press we've been getting lately".

B couldn't help but agree.

When they arrived at the bishop's room, the bishop took B's hand in his right hand and C's hand in his left. There was silence and a look of serenity on the old bishop's face. Finally B spoke.

"Father, of all the people you could have chosen, why did you choose us to be with you as you near the end?"

The old man slowly replied, "I have always tried to pattern my life after our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

"Amen" said B.

"Amen" said C.

The old bishop continued, "He died between two lying thieves. I would like to do the same".

#### GHDC: Berbice- Vikram writes



Greetings from Guyana Human Development Centre We had the joy of Welcoming Fr.Poulose Vellakada amidst us. He stayed with us for a week and also recharged with the spirit of Ignatius during his retreat and all set to take up his new mission. At the centre The Progressive Youth Club under the guidance of

Vikram is having a 'Car Wash' on 15 of this month (Oct), in aid of raising funds for the youth club and to support its out-reach programmes. We are also celebrating Navrathri and Ramadan, respectively with the spirit of promoting inter-religious harmony, unity and fraternity amidst of the students, belonging to different religions.

#### Carpentry at St Ignatius

The Cary-Elwas centre at St Ignatius includes a woodwork shop set up late Fr Kiss SJ to address the need for vocational training for school leavers.



The building and some basic workshop equipment, which had been unused since Fr Kiss' death, have been developed into a woodworking shop to give hands-on training in modern techniques. In addition to pure skill training, in our school environment it is necessary to provide an introduction to western working attitudes and habits, the lack of which makes many Rupununi residents unemployable in any conventional modern business.

The restarting of this parish activity is led by Gordon Forte, who is contributing his own labour and some capital for equipment and materials, as well as employment cost of a trainer /foreman for the start-up period, until the Centre can pay its way from the sale of furniture and other wooden items. The Francis Collins Trust, a private charity registered in Canada and Guyana, has made a substantial donation of wood-working equipment.

Refurbishing the unused building and installation of new equipment began with the first four trainees on July 17, and the workshop has just entered its production phase, making a range of wooden furniture for market testing in the Rupununi and Georgetown. Joaquim de Melo

### **Medino from Brazil**

Greetings from Porte Alegre Brazil. It is already one week and I just thought of dropping you a few lines. I am doing well and I am settling in slowly. My trip was not bad except that I had lost my luggage. It happened at Sao Paulo air port. The flight from Boa Vista was late and I had missed the plane to Porte Alegre the same night. Thank God I did not lost my documents. However the next morning I had arrived safely and i had gotten help and things are going fine. I had also started Portuguese classes today.

### **From Joe Puli (Aishalton)**

During the rainy season, Fr. Britt and Scholastic Jandir stayed in Aishalton cut off from the rest of the world. In spite of the rains, the Ursuline sisters along with Jandir, visited a few villages and stayed there for a week each conducting prayer sessions and visiting families. Now it is possible to drive through the Rupununi river and the sisters are doing catechizing work in Sawariwau.

Fr .Puli visited most of the villages and did many baptisms. Jandir will be preparing the candidates for confirmation in a few villages. On 27th September, Fr. Britt on his way to Georgetown, stayed in Sawariwau village and the people were happy to see him after several years.

### **Ronnie Fernandes from UK**

Greetings. Indeed I was delighted to read the newsletter. I believe this helps me to be in touch with Guyana. I had a very wonderful time at

home with my mother and in Karnataka province. Now I am back to normal life and

getting used to life in London. We are six in the community at Brixton, Helix Garden. We officially begin our classes on 1st of October until then registration and orientation are on the way. Once again I was happy to read the newsletter and gather the information. Thanks for sending regular mail. Greetings from Marlon.

### **Tony from PIUS X**

While Pius is piously preparing for the Month of October, a few things have been happening in Sept. Our Middle Road, which used to be like a path to hell, is now resurfaced and become so smooth that all vehicles use it. Some parishioners thought of calling it St.Pius Ave. A lot of work is being done on resurfacing side streets and now we hope street lighting will follow. On Mon.25th,Sept,St.Pius was host to 8 Diocesan Priests of the Clergy Association of the Province of Port-of-Spain. They celebrated their first Mass in Guyana, with a congregation from St.Pius and Holy Spirit. They are in Guyana for a Diocesan Clergy meeting of this province, and will be here till Thursday. It consisted of 3 priests from Surinam, 2 from Trinidad and 3 from Guyana. The main celebrant was most recently ordained Fr.Steve Duncan (2004)a true Tobagonian - Trini, the homilist was Fr.Esteban Cross from Surinam. Towards the end of the Mass we greeted them in true Guyanese fashion, with a blackout, and sang lustily to the accompaniment of Sr. Juanita and Gibson Moonsammy's guitars and Kennard's Keyboard music.

The day before, Sunday, Holy Spirit Community, enrolled 17 candidates for confirmation in a packed Church with a children's choir accompanied by Violin, Guitar and Keyboard and a Steel-Pan rendition of Pius and Holy Spirit pianists. We are hoping for more such events.

## New Book Release: EQ and Leadership

“EQ and Leadership” by Joe Puli was published last month by Tata McGraw-Hill Company in New Delhi.

Emotional Intelligence (EQ) has become an integral part of how leaders of the day function and respond to challenges. Since leadership is a function of an emotional response, understanding one's emotional strengths and weaknesses can provide the edge to become better leaders.

EQ and Leadership organized in three parts, identifies nine leadership styles and provides insights to leaders, managers and HR heads to be on the learning curve, perpetually.

Part 1 presents leadership styles along with emotional intelligence and competencies.

Part 2 describes each of the leadership styles and their characteristics along with profiles of leaders from all walks of life.

Part 3 dwells on transformational leadership which is an amalgamation of the nine leadership styles.

## Controversy Vs Graceful apology



Controversy. It's a new trend practised across the global media spectrum. Media, apart from setting an agenda for people to 'what to think about', makes it a controversy. Anything controversial or sensational draws the attention of a larger audience. Controversy is a new global media trend.

When everything is said and done on the Holy Father's speech, what remains a fact in most parts of the world is that Muslims and Catholics live a peaceful co-existence. It's very evident in our own land, Guyana. The intention of the Holy Father's speech was in no way to offend Muslims but to strengthen the relationships among Muslims and Catholics. It was a universal call for brotherhood and harmony.

The Holy Father's graceful apology manifests "frank and sincere dialogue with great mutual respect". Moreover, the Holy Father's recent meeting with the Muslim leaders fosters and revitalises the inter religious works undertaken by many Catholic leaders. So What do you think ? A controversy-a-day keeps the curious reader awake?- Prabhujustin.

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

### October Babies.....



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

**de Melo Joaquim(07)**

**Preston Dermot (14)**

**Perumalil Augustine(20)**

**Maitland Derrick(31)**

## Earthquake startles Guyana

On 29<sup>th</sup> September, just after 9 am, Guyana was startled by a mild but unmistakable earth tremor. The U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Program reported that there had been an earthquake under the sea just 20 miles NNW of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The shock was anything but mild in Trinidad. However, no casualties were reported and little damage was done. But goods were shaken off shelves. There was an after-shock felt in Trinidad shortly after the first shock and a second one about 2 pm.

Our intrepid apostles in Trinidad quickly reported that they were safe but shaken (literally) - Bob Barrow

## Regional Seminary by Eddy Birmingham

My arrival as Dean of Studies has been a bit of a baptism of fire. Early in August I discovered that two of my core staff would not be available to me. One has begun her fight with cancer, the other had to return to Ireland to take on the caring responsibilities of her mother who has been paralysed by a stroke. Finding staff at short notice has not been easy. It has involved a lot of hard work and creativity. For example, Fr Don Chambers is now coming from Jamaica one a month four days and is delivering systematic theology in an intensive way – three to four hours a day!

The biggest struggle I have had is with the University, which has changed its registration processes completely. Theoretically students were supposed to register on line – needless to say the theory is great but the reality was and is very frustrating. Anyway we are up and running and the semester despite all these back ground difficulties is well under way.



(Picture is the Mural of the African Christ/Trinity in the Main Chapel of the Regional Seminary.)

Part of my job description is to “maintain good relations with the university” therefore I have accepted the invitation to do some teaching in the Centre for Gender and Development Studies. I am co-teaching two courses with Professor Patricia Mohammed: Philosophy and Gender this semester and Caribbean Philosophy and Gender next semester. The students are mainly postgraduates most of whom are Hindu or Muslim women its proving to be a challenging exchange.

I am already talking to the British Province and the Jamaican region about their teaching at the seminary in the future, so hopefully, God willing, the Society will make a significant contribution to the formation of priests in the Caribbean.

**Obituary: Fr Robert Murray Chadwick SJ**

**Letter from Catherine Chadwick**



07/02/1915 Born in Bath, England  
 08/09/1933 Entered the Society of Jesus.  
 01/01/1937 Heythrop, Philosophy  
 01/09/1945 Heythrop, Theology  
 01/09/1949 North Wales Tertianship  
 07/09/1952 Arrived in Guyana  
 01/01/1954 Cathedral Presb, Dioc Chancellor  
 01/01/1962 Secretary Education in Diocese  
 01/09/1968 Hosororo Paroch, Sup HW Region  
 01/11/1982 St Ignatius, Lethem  
 01/10/1986 Co-ord apost Amerindians  
 01/10/1990 Minister, Co-ord Amerindians  
 01/09/1992 Sacred Heart Church Main Street  
 01/09/1994 Offic Tribun Dioc, Ecum, Curat  
 01/09/2005 Prays for the Church and the SJ  
 06/09/2006 Home to New Life.

To the Jesuit Mission in Guyana,

*In memory of my brother Robert (we always used his second name, Murray) I am sending a small donation in heartfelt gratitude for all that you have all been and done for him during his many years in Guyana.*

*Thank you for sending the copy of Murray's obituary - a summer of those years and of a fruitful and blessed life- I was sorry not to be able to attend the funeral ball, knowing the exact time was a consolation, as I was able, in spirit and in prayer to join with you in celebrating in gratitude for Murray's life of 91 years .*

*I will be able to keep in touch with Guyana through Jesuits & Friends publication and, of course, by prayers for the Mission.*

***With renewed thanks and best wishes  
 Catherine Chadwick (Kay)***