

FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In February, there was a twofold reason for the journey to India. First, there was the 17th International Leprosy Congress held in the city of Hyderabad. Being sponsored by the **Damien-Dutton Society** enabled me to connect once again with friends and to be updated about the status and development of the disease of Leprosy around the world. There were 1,600 participants. Every medical person involved with Leprosy knows about Fr. Damien, through their medical studies about the disease. Having an SS.CC. at such a gathering or at an SS.CC. parish, retreat house, school, chaplaincy, formation house, etc. makes a statement to people that the Congregation is involved in promoting **God's love** and, in a real way, reaching out to be "**servants of humanity.**"

After the meeting, a visitation was made to Orissa where our ten SS.CC. priests gathered at an Ashram which happened to be next to a Leprosy village. Procurator **Bro. Paul Alves** recommended that **Al Gauthier** make the trip to India to discuss budget plans for the future. A dinner with Archbishop Raphael Cheenath was an opportunity to know more about the anti-Christian attacks and destruction to Church property. There are still threats and fears of new attacks.

An indication of growth in India has been the designation of the present pre-novitiate, **Damien House**, at Kolkata (Calcutta) as the Regional House where the regional superior, procurator, and vocational director will live. The pre-novitiate will move to Bhubaneswar, Orissa, after this school year. **Fr. David Reid** will be setting up the regional superior's office, which will someday be the vice-provincial office of India!!!

In reflection, we can find that we have been blessed as a **life-giving community** whether in Massachusetts, Washington, Texas, New Mexico, the Bahamas, Reynosa or SS.CC. Asia.

"We have a common vocation. Being called by the Lord makes us one body breathing, living, and searching together. We seek then, to act co-responsibly, discerning in community and being in solidarity with each other."
(37th General Chapter Art.36)

We have a strong commitment to promote vocations in collaboration with the USC and with **Fr. Richard Lifrak**, our vocation director. There is a strong, evident desire to continue to be **life-giving**. Article 68 of our SS.CC. Constitutions states:

"The task of awakening vocations is an indispensable aspect of our apostolic ministry....we concern ourselves with sharing our life, charism, tradition and history. We see in new vocations an invitation to grow and to renew ourselves so as to walk together an ever greater fulfillment of our call."
(Article 68)

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,

Bill Petrie ss.cc.

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APPOINTMENTS

Fr. William Penderghest will be Parochial Vicar at Queen of Peace Church, Harlingen, Texas beginning in March.

Fr. Emilio Vega Garcia, will be Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Church, Edinburg Texas beginning in March.

Fr. Subal Nayak will be coming to Fairhaven, Ma. in May for the first phase of his sabbatical pastoral experience.

Fr. Fintan Sheeran has been recommended by the Provincial Council to be the Province Formation Director for one year.

Fr. Leo King will be in retirement full time at Damien Residence

NEW STRUCTURES IN ASIA

The CAP meeting took place in Japan last week. There has been on-going dialogue about Japan/Philippines being either a vice-province or province. This will bring a conclusion for Japan being a vice province of the USA East, once the General Government announces what the new structures will be for SS.CC. Asia. Almost 60 years of relationship has created strong fraternal bonds with Japan that will continue to exist as a new status begins. I look forward to attending the Japan March 24-28 provincial chapter to personally convey congratulations and moral support.

2008 JUBILEES

60 Years Professed

Bro. Damien O'Hare, ss.cc.

50 Years Ordained

Fr. Columban Crotty, ss.cc.

Fr. Michael Coleman, ss.cc.

40 Years Ordained

Fr. Albert Dagnoli, ss.cc.

Fr. William Heffron, ss.cc.

Fr. James McDonough, ss.cc.

Fr. Michael Narita, ss.cc.

40 Years Professed

Fr. Louis Kawamata, ss.cc.

Fr. Frederick Meyers, ss.cc.

25 Years Ordained

Fr. Pat Fanning, ss.cc.

25 Years Professed

Sr. Marion Storjohann, ss.cc.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

The sister of **Fr. Michael Shanahan, Nancy Kelly**, died on February 27, 2008. The funeral will be on Monday, March 3rd at St. Rose of Lima Church in Rockaway, Long Island at 9:45 AM. Michael is making arrangements to return from India to attend the funeral.

The father of **Bibudha (Bulu) Nayak, ss.ccc.** died unexpectedly at his home on Feb 27th at 3:30 AM in the state of Orissa . As it is the custom in village areas, the funeral was held the same day. Presently, Bulu is studying theology in the Philippines. He requests prayer for his father and his family.

Fr. Fred Meyer had successful emergency surgery for the removal of a growth on the front cranium. Doctors are now considering the possibility of radiation treatment. Fred is at the Rio Grande Regional Hospital at Mc Allen, Texas. Fred has had an amazing recovery with his humor and conversation in tact. Fr. Bob Charlton has been giving regular updates several times a day.

Jake Gomes, the brother of **Fr. Martin Gomes**, continues to have treatment for berkitt lymphoma. Martin informs that Jake has been responding well to treatment and appreciates the continued prayers.

Fr. Leo King had his second and successful cataract surgery. He had a patch over his eye for only one day and is back to his regular schedule.

Information has been received that **Fr. Mike Barry** will be having surgery next week. Mike's sister and brother-in-law and are traveling from Ireland to be with him in California.

ANNUAL RETREAT AND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, from St. Meinrad Benedictine Abbey will be the retreat Preacher for our May 26-30, 2008 Annual Retreat. The theme: "**The Parables of Jesus - A Paradigm of Religious Life.**" Registration forms will be sent at the end of April. The **Jubilee Mass** and dinner will be on Friday May 30th, 2008.

ORDINATION

Deacon Stephen Banjare has been in the Ireland/England Province for pastoral experience during the past year. His Ordination date has been set for April 28, 2008. Stephen will be ordained by the Archbishop of Kolkata, **Lucas Sirkar, SDB**, at St. Mary's Church at 6:00 PM. **Fr. Bill Penderghest** will be the representative of the USA East Province in attending this 11th Ordination of SS.CC. Indian Priests.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, FAIRHAVEN, CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Sr. Dolorine Mary Pires from the Pacific Province will be a guest at Damien Residence June 1-9, 2008. Sr. Dolorine has been invited by **Fr. David Lupo** and the staff of **St. Joseph's School** to give talks to the faculty, students, parishioners, and the graduating class on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the school by our Sacred Hearts Sister in 1908.

“FOOD FOR THOUGHT”

Taken from the *Journal of the Mental Environment No.75* (www.adbusters.org):

- ❖ Global warming kicked in with a vengeance and ecosystems crashed like never before. Our fossil fuel-based way of living has thrown the planet out of whack in 2007. Last year, 2007, might be remembered by future generations as the year the earth tipped. Planet earth has veered out of control.
- ❖ The number of marketing messages hitting our brains soared to an astonishing 5,000 per day. Mental health statistics flew off the charts. It may be the beginning of a psycho-system collapse and the loss of our clarity of mind as a species. Sao Paulo, Brazil became the first city in the world to ban outdoor advertising. We might be seeing the birth of a mental environment movement that will take back the space we need to think clear again.
- ❖ There is a dramatic shift taking place from a uni-polar to a more multi-polar way of running global affairs. Russia, China, India, Brazil, Iran, Venezuela and other Latin American countries all flexed their political muscles like never before.
- ❖ More and more youth are unable to cope with the pressures of the modern world and are suffering from a complete mental collapse. In the USA, the number of children diagnosed as being bipolar increased from 20,000 to an astonishing 800,000 in ten years. The number of adolescents under the age of 19 who committed suicide increased by 14 percent in one year. Between 2001-2006, the number of prescriptions for Adult Deficit Disorder (ADD) has become alarming.

Many professional caregivers mention that what is needed in the lives of those caught up in the speed of living is a sense of quiet and tranquility. Our Provincial Chapter decision to expand the **Wareham Retreat House** ministry to be a **Spirituality Center** and a possible **Damien Shrine**, would help in ministering to those who are sensitive to the need for space, silence and reflection.

***“Come to Me all you who labor and are burdened
and I will give you rest.”***

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Frs. Pat Killilea, Stan Kolasa and David Lupo have combined the three parishes for weekly rotation of the Stations of the Cross. A bus picks up the parishioners to bring those who need transportation.

Fr. John A. Worthley, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, made a visit to the Provincial House. In memory of his mother and other deceased members of his family, a donation was made to the new Damien of Molokai Chapel at the Provincial House.

Fr. Bob Charlton has made arrangements for our three pastoral year students to be involved with vocation promotion work after Easter.

Fr. Richard Lifrak had a vocation exhibit in Dallas and made a visit to the valley. He will return during the vocation promotion with Bros. Manoj, Joseph and Balakrishna.

Fr. Brian Marggraf has completed his eight weeks of radiation treatment and is now on a well-deserved vacation.

Fr. Fintan Sheeran was the facilitator for a meeting of the Notre Dame Sisters in Rome. He returns to Washington this week.

Fr. Larry Morrison of the Diocese of Reno has made arrangements for **Fr. Pat Fanning** to give a mission appeal this summer.

*To the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary
Honor & Glory*



After the Provincial visitation, the community gathered for an official photo. Missing from the group is Fr. Tony Biswas (Japan) and Frs. Santhosh and Roche (Philippines).



I realize that not too many are involved with leprosy work in the Congregation. However, that aspect of Damien's Charism is important to others who are involved with the work. It continues a legacy that offers moral support to doctors, patients and healthcare workers. In this picture, I met a former rehabilitation case of Damien Institute. Mr. Sarat, who is now a cured leprosy patient, was a young child when a house was built for his family. He was encouraged to stay in school. After graduation, Damien Institute sponsored him to become a paramedical worker. He is now married with two children and employed by the government as a leprosy paramedical worker. He is able to support both his family and his parents. If we want to break generational poverty, it requires education and training to move to another level of being.