

FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The World Synod of Bishops met in Rome during the time that the SS.CC. Coordinators were meeting with the General Government. It was a privilege for the Congregation that **Bishop Georg Muller**, ss.cc. of Trondheim, Norway, was a synod participant. On October 24, 2008 the Bishops released "**A Message to the People of God**". The message asks that the word of God, "*resonate at the beginning of our day so that God has the first word and let it echo in us in the evening so that God has the last word.*" They encouraged that each Catholic should own a copy of the Bible, read it and pray with it. The Bishops' message focuses on four aspects of the Synod's Theme "Word of God".

1. **THE VOICE OF THE WORD** (Revelation)
2. **THE FACE OF THE WORD** (Jesus)
3. **THE HOUSE OF THE WORD** (the Church)
4. **THE ROADS OF THE WORD** (Evangelizing Missions)

The voting members of the synod passed fifty-five propositions which were presented to **Pope Benedict XVI** for consideration. Some of the propositions were:

- Proposition 17 received the most attention with its call to allow women to be installed officially in the ministry of lector.
- Proposition 15 asks for a "*homiletic directory*" to help priests in preparing homilies.
- Proposition 47 asks the Vatican to conduct a study on "*the phenomena of the sects*" citing deep concerns over their growing popularity in traditionally Catholic countries.
- Proposition 16 asks for an examination of the Roman Lectionary to see if the "*current selection and ordering of readings is truly adequate to the Church's mission in this historical moment*".
- Proposition 52 calls for continued dialogue between Catholics and Jews.
- Proposition 53 deals with dialogue with Muslims.
- Proposition 54 treats the theme of Ecology, urging greater pastoral and theological emphasis on the connection between scripture and current efforts to safeguard the created world.

The Bishops pointed out in their document that in the secularized world, where disbelief and indifference seem to reign, there is a hidden yearning. The evangelizing mission of the Church wants to answer this hunger. They said, "*The voice of the Divine Word must echo through the radio, the Internet, the channels-online, CDs, DVDs, pod-casts, etc. It must appear on all television and movie screens, in the press and in cultural and social events.*"

In Article 57 of our Constitutions, "*Community prayer is a key element in the plan of life with which we build our communities. The liturgy of the Hours, especially Lauds and Vespers will occupy a privileged place in this communal prayer; other times of shared prayer or of reflection on Sacred Scripture may be included as well as the traditional prayers of the Church and of our Congregation.*"

"*In our personal plan of life, we need regular time for individual prayer, for study and meditation on Holy Scripture...*" (Article 58)

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,



Bill Petrie, ss.cc.

CONDOLENCES TO THE PROVINCE OF HAWAII

Fr. Chris Keahi has informed us of four recent deaths: **Fr. Gaston Diels**, **Fr. Paul McLeod**, **Fr. Joseph Hendriks** and **Fr. Francis Schellemans**. The funeral for Frs. Joe Hendriks and Francis Schellemans, will take place on Saturday, November 22 at St. Patrick's Church, Honolulu. **Bishop Larry Silva** will preside.

WAREHAM NEIGHBORS' MEETING

On November 12, 2008 approximately forty people enjoyed refreshments following a presentation given by Director **Fr. Stan Kolasa** which provided an update of the "Wareham Vision". Great excitement was created and a spirit of unanimity was expressed for the plan to develop a center where people can deepen their spiritual life. Fr. Stan now has his paintings on the various walls of the Retreat House. Many are being sold. Ongoing consultations with the architect are taking place and plans are being made for a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds for the development work.

THE POWER OF PAINTING



The paintings of **Fr. Antoine Knibily** were recently sent to a local shop in New Bedford to be framed. An artist, seeing the paintings, had a moment of grace when he found out the painter was a Catholic priest. The shop gave him my name and a visit was arranged for us to meet. He was so touched by the Knibily works, that he felt compelled to reconcile himself once again with the Church. He plans to go to Wareham to see Fr. Stan's paintings and to be inspired. The General House has made arrangements to obtain paintings from the various SS.CC. artists around the world. From the USC, both **Fr. Stan Kolasa** and **Fr. Bill Moore** have sent paintings. **Fr. Andy Healy** also has a painting on the wall.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Fr. Columban Crotty, pastor at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Seat Pleasant, Maryland has announced that the final events of the parish centenary celebration will begin with a banquet on Saturday, November 15, 2008. On Sunday, **Archbishop Wuerll**, of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, will officiate at the closing centenary liturgy. Former pastor **Fr. Martin Gomes** will be attending as well as "yours truly".



FORMATION MEETING

Formators and Vocation Directors, along with the three USC Provincials, will meet at the Sacred Hearts Retreat House in Alhambra, California on November 17-21, 2008. The USC Formation Director, **Fr. Clyde Guerreiro**, has arranged for presentations by guest speaker, **Fr. Charles Talley, OFM** on vocation recruitment. The USC provincials will also be meeting to discuss the agenda for the Expanded General Council meeting in Spain in 2009.

CARDINAL RODÉ AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON CONSECRATED LIFE

The Bi-Centennial Celebration for the Archdiocese of Boston concludes with a Mass at Holy Cross Cathedral on Sunday, November 23, 2008. All Major Superiors have been invited to attend. In October, one of the closing events of the Bi-Centenary Year was the Symposium on Religious Life at Stonehill College sponsored by the Holy Cross Fathers and the Diocese of Fall River. **Cardinal Franc Rodé**, the prefect for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, spoke about religious life since Vatican II. A copy of his talk can be obtained at www.zenit.org/article-23916?!=english. The 14-page talk offers direction for religious life in America and the West for today and for the future.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SS.CC. COORDINATORS



The meeting of the four Inter-Provincial Conferences (CEA, USC, CAP, CIAL,) took place in the newly renovated General House on October 20-23, 2008 in Rome. **Superior General Javier Álvarez-Ossorio**, mentioned in *INFO* that the meeting took place in a “*climate of openness and freedom*”. Each coordinator presented the situation of his conference. The General Government presented the principal orientations in work for the past year. The meetings of the General Government and the Coordinators were consultative, and considered a real help for the government and its plans.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MOLOKAI COMMUNITY-IN-MISSION (CIM)

“We, the Sisters and Brothers of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, a community-in-mission in Molokai, Hawaii are called to serve all the people of Molokai. Our special emphasis will be reaching out to the poor, the elderly the unchuched; supporting the pastoral plan of Blessed Damien Catholic Parish; and keeping the Spirit of Damien de Veuster, ss.cc. alive through our attitude and our relationships with one another and the laity. We fulfill our mission by living our Charism with zeal and joy, thus contributing to the re-founding of our Congregation while witnessing to the spirituality of Damien.”



Our mission and response to God’s call is lived in a community characterized by a profound prayer life centered in the Eucharist and expressed through our devotion to the Sacred Heart; by shared meals and recreation, participation in our parish life and activities and community meetings. In view of our response to God’s call, our mission and our community life, we will develop and continually evaluate the necessary structures to support our life and mission together.”

ORISSA ANTI-CHRISTIAN ATTACKS

Archbishop Rafael Cheenath, of Cuttack Bhubaneswar, has disclosed that he received a death threat from Hindu zealots soon after the murder of a prominent Hindu leader in August. The Archbishop, who has frequently criticized government leaders for failing to stop the violence, made known the death threat after meeting with the chief minister of Orissa. Many think that Hindu extremists were only looking for an excuse to attack Indian Christians whom they see as a threat to the caste system. Christianity empowers the poor and frees them from the oppressive caste system by teaching that all are equal in God’s eyes and by offering education, medical assistance and social service projects. The death of Diocesan priest **Fr. Bernard Digal**, from wounds received while being beaten, has made him a martyr of the anti-Christian attacks along with over sixty others who have been killed. Several priests from India, along with Catholic laity and **Fr. Subal Nayak** and myself, were part of organizing committee to issue “*The Boston Statement*” which condemned the human rights violations and religious persecutions in India. A successful Inter-Faith prayer service for peace with representatives of the Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian faiths was held at the Paulist Center in Boston on October 19. Updates can be obtained at www.peaceindia.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

Congratulations to **Sr. Vandana Narayan** and **Sr. Nirmala Kujur** who professed their final vows on Friday, November 14, 2008 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Accepting the vows was **Superior General Sr. Rosa**. **Archbishop Rafael Cheenath** was the celebrant at the liturgy.





The Cause of the Canonization of the Servant of God, **Mother Henriette Aymer de la Chevalerie** was closed on Friday, October 24. The official documents were sealed and brought to Rome. **Fr. Alfred Bell** is now the postulator for **Blessed Damien** and **Mother Henriette**. He, along with Diocesan officials, brought the 31 kilos of documents to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints in Rome.

Former Wareham director, **Deacon Frank and Ginny Tremblay** are now in the Bahamas. This week their photograph is on our ss.cc.org home page. Their new mailing address is:

Deacon Frank & Ginny Tremblay
St. John Chrysostom Parish
St. John's Point, Fresh Creek
Andros, Bahamas

When in Rome, I had a meeting with **Cardinal Josef Tomko** who encouraged the global project for the *Enthronement for Creating a Civilization of Love* to all continents. An organizing meeting was held in Dalton, Pennsylvania on November 7-10, 2008. In addition to myself, **Fr. Matt Shanley** and **Don and Germaine St. Gelais** were participants.

The leadership in the Region of India has given its approval for **Fr. Subal Nayak** to have a second year of pastoral experience in the Province.



PICTURED ARE SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS WHO PARADED TO THE BOSTON COMMON POND AFTER THE INTER-FAITH PRAYER SERVICE



FR. SUBAL NAYAK, SS.CC. WAS ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE *PEACE INDIA* EVENT

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