

FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The United States Conference (USC) and Economos meeting was held at the Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham April 6-11, 2008. Superior General **Fr. Javier Álvarez-Ossorio** was unable to attend because of the unexpected death of his father.

In the General Chapter document regarding “Orientations For Living Interdependence”, we are invited to seek a lived experience of contemplation, communion and compassion. That was evident in our discussions for the USC restructuring.

“First of all we want to live this compassion with the brothers of the community, participating in their joys and sorrows, and making our own their difficulties in responding with fidelity to the vocation and mission they have received.” (Page 30 No. 15)

The SS.CC. Provinces of Hawaii, USA West and USA East each have: **a unique history, a different development for community living, and a variety of differentiated ministries**, some within the country and others abroad. Still, the fraternity, common bonds and shared Charism create an SS.CC. Conference striving for unity. Our meeting concluded with a spirit of **Hope**. There was an understanding for the required on-going dialogue both amongst ourselves and with the General Government. **There is a determination for restructuring towards a model of a common USA Province in the future.**

“The Spiritual Itinerary may be defined as a spiritual path or process which is an SS.CC. way of living the Gospel. It tries to unfold, deepen and harmonize the different elements of our Charism....

The process should take into account the lived experiences of the Brothers and Sisters so as to shed light on our spiritual journey, facilitate holistic integration of our spirituality, and energize our options in the world and in the Church today.” (Page 62, no 1)

In 2002-03 the USC dialogue for a restructure did not pass. Now the issue is being reviewed. A new **Hope** has emerged. The dialogue has once again begun.

“They that have hope in the Lord, will renew their strength; they will soar as with eagles’ wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.” (Is. 40:31)

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,



Bill Petrie, ss.cc.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Fr. Fred Meyer continues his radiation and chemotherapy treatments at the San Juan Nursing Home. There have been positive improvements in Fred's recovery.

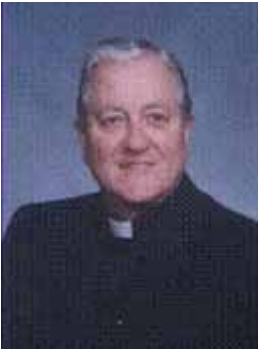
Fr. Martin Gomes brother Jake has responded well to his treatment with cancer. Please also include Martin's brother, Paul Gomes in your prayers as he prepares for triple bypass heart surgery.

Fr. Owen Goodwin had a procedure to have stent in his arm should it be necessary for him to receive dialysis.

Fr. Brian Marggraf had surgery to remove a growth on the side of his head. As usual, there has been a speedy recovery for Brian.

Fr. Javier Álvarez-Ossorio's father died in Spain. On behalf of the Province, we extend our sincere sympathies to Javier and his family.

FUNERAL OF FR. PAUL DEYO, SS.CC.



I was very privileged to be in dialogue with **Fr. Paul Deyo** during the last month of his sickness. Our conversations could be characterized as hope-filled, humorous, and filled with a love for the community. My inspiration came from his doctor who shared that Paul would have quality living until the end of his life because he was filled with hope. The funeral at Nativity Parish in Florida was attended by **Frs. Martin Gomes and Pat Fanning**. The Auxiliary Bishop of Miami was in attendance along with twenty con-celebrants. When the body arrived in Fairhaven, Fr. Paul's sister, **Sr. Shirley Deyo** attended the funeral with over a dozen other Holy Union Sisters from her community in Fall River, MA. It was a joyous celebration and a final farewell for a brother who loved the Congregation and its ministry in his own particular way.

JAPAN VICE-PROVINCE CHAPTER MARCH 24-28, 2008

It was a real privilege to be able to participate in the Vice-Province Chapter in Japan. Check out www.ssscc.org for the community picture on the final day of the chapter. This was a chapter, which had its emphasis on restructuring. The community in Japan voted unanimously to create a new Japan/Philippines Province by April 2009. Commissions will be formed to discuss various aspects of what this unification will be. It is a journey into the unknown, but filled with expectation. The USA East sponsored a banquet to celebrate the creation of the new Province and to begin the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the start of the mission in Japan in 1949. Plans are being made in Fairhaven with the former missionaries in Japan for next years' event. Japan is truly an international community with representatives from Japan, Ireland, the United States, Indonesia, India and Brazil.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE (USC) APRIL 6-11, 2008

The 2008 USC meeting began with the Economos gathering at the Provincial House under the mentorship of **Fr. Ed Popish** on Sunday April 6. Their meeting overflowed to the beginning of the Provincial's meeting on Tuesday, April 8, where there was an interchange of information and summary of the finances of the provinces of the USC. Because of the death of Fr. Javier's father, he was unable to attend. The priority topic was restructuring. This will continue to be an ongoing dialogue between the three provinces, and specifically the provincials, regarding common collaborative projects. One of the highlights of the meeting was the celebration of the SS.CC. Sisters' Centenary of the arrival to Fairhaven in 1908. Superior General **Sr. Rosa Maria Ferreiro** and Vicar General **Sr. Brigid Falahee** were our special guests. The local SS.CC. community and representatives from St. Joseph's School, the Enthronement, Men of the Sacred Heart and the Secular Branch were present for the special liturgy and banquet.



THE 209TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF BLESSED DAMIEN

There was a real connection to the Island of Molokai on April 15, the death anniversary of Blessed Damien, with the arrival of our special guest **Fr. Harold Meyer**, OCSO (Trappist). Harry's great uncle was Rudolph Meyer, the superintendent of Molokai when Blessed Damien was in Kalawao. Every Sunday, Rudolph provided a horse to Damien so he could climb the mountain and say Masses on topside. Although it was just an overnight stay, it was a sacred pilgrimage for Harry to visit our community. The provincial house was his former novitiate and every room was filled with memories. A visit was also made to his classmate, **Fr. Roy Yurco** at Our Lady's Haven as well as a journey to Wareham. Everyone who comes to Fairhaven has a special spiritual experience upon visiting the 74 graves of the SS.CC. brothers who have gone before us.

VOCATION "COME AND SEE"

Fr. Richard Lifrak has made journeys to our communities in Texas, Artesia and California during the past month. A "Come and See" Retreat is being planned at Wareham, May 2-4, 2008. It is not too late for other participants to join from our parishes and other ministries. Richard is in contact with three interested young men who might be available for our August 2008 pre-novitiate at St. Margaret's Church in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE 2008-2009

The Region of India will be sending the following six candidates to participate in the Philippine International Novitiate: **Ajit Baliar Singh, Santhosh Kumar Nayak, Umakanta Porishha, Naresh Kumar Ranjit, J. Michael Kumar, Radhe Lal Jatwar (Jacob)**

TEXAS VISIT APRIL 16-19, 2008

The Texas area community will be gathering in Edinburg for a joint meeting of our three parishes, Sacred Heart, Queen of Peace and the Catholic community in Reynosa (**Fr. Gerry Shanley**). For the past two months, **Fr. Bill Penderghest** has been Parochial Vicar in Harlingen. Evaluations and planning for the future will be part of the agenda for the meeting. **Fr. Bob Charlton** arranged a vocation program with our pastoral year students, **Bros. Manoj Nayak** and **Balakrishna Singh**, who gave talks in both Edinburg and Harlingen. One of the main reasons for this visitation, in addition to the meeting, is to visit **Fr. Fred Meyers** who is recuperating well from his radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

ORDINATION OF BROTHER STEPHEN BANJARE, SS.CC.

Fr. Bill Penderghest will be representing the province at the ordination of **Bro. Stephen Banjare** on April 28, 2008 at St. Mary's Church at 6:00 PM in Kolkata, India. It is another blessing for the region of India and for CAP.

ENTHRONEMENT PLANNING MEETING

Both the National Board of the Men of the Sacred Heart and the Sacred Heart Conference from Syracuse will be meeting at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. Both meetings are separate but share a common goal for planning the future Enthronement Apostolate. The major proposal is to have a worldwide crusade over several years for instructing people about the promotion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Fr. Fintan Sheeran is in the Philippines to give talks to the SS.CC. Sisters

Fr. Subal Nayak will arrive in Fairhaven on May 7 to begin his sabbatical in the USA.

Fr. Hilbar Loyaga Méndez, the former Provincial of Ecuador, will arrive in Fairhaven on May 8 for a six-month visit to the USA.

Bros. Debaranjan Nayak (India) and **Jun Vecina** (Philippines) will not be renewing their temporary vows in May.

Bros. Manoj Nayak and **Balakrishna Singh** will renew their vows for one year before returning to the Philippines.

Bro. Joseph Pasala had a farewell reception at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday, April 13, 2008. The parishioners had a potluck lunch for all who came to bid farewell to Bro. Joseph. **Margaret Gray**, from the Provincial Office, was one of the organizers of the event.

Bro. Balakrishna Singh was able to obtain a ticket to attend the Mass offered by Pope Benedict XVI in Washington, DC.

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



**Recent birthdays celebrated at the Japan Chapter remembered
Frs. John Biffar, Pearce Mullin and Louis Misao Kawamata
each with their own individual birthday cake.**



**Frs. Chris Keahi, William Petrie and Donal McCarthy
concelebrate at the 100th Anniversary Mass of the
SS.CC. Sisters' arrival in Fairhaven in 1908.**