

FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As a reflection in preparation for our Provincial Chapter, May 18-22, 2009, a quote from the Constitution states:

“The Provincial Chapter promotes and animates the life and mission of the province in communion with the life and mission of the whole congregation. To this end, it makes the decisions, sets the priorities and proposes the orientations which it deems necessary.”

Article 106

“Those who have the right to participate in the chapter as members by whatever title, also have the duty to do so. If someone is prevented for a serious reason, he must communicate this in good time to the Provincial.” Statute 47

The participants of this Chapter are all members of the continental USA East Province and the Bahamas. The Regional Superior of India, **Fr. David Reid**, will be attending as well as the elected delegate from India, **Fr. Alexis Nayak**. For members of the Region of India and the Philippines, who will not be attending, we read in the constitutions:

“All religious and communities have the right to send letters to the Chapter to present topics which they consider appropriate. The Chapter must decide when and how to study these letters which will be made available to all chapter members.” Statute 48

In addition to **Fr. Richard McNally**, General Councilor, and **Fr. David Reid**, who has requested that his name not be included on the ballot, **Fr. Pat Fanning** has also informed of his desire not to have his name appear on the ballot. If you have not returned the yellow straw ballot which was sent out in January 2009, please do so before the counting of the ballots on March 2, 2009.

By this time everyone should have received the documents for the area community discussions in preparation for the Expanded General Council meeting in Spain, 2009. The reports from the area meetings will be consolidated for presentation as a report at the Provincial Chapter.

Prayer

*Jesus, you said, “Come Follow Me.”
You have touched us, changed us forever.
In our Province, we are from the USA, Ireland, India.
Shine Your light upon us as we prepare for our Provincial Chapter
and the Enlarged General Council this year 2009.
Enlighten our minds and hearts. Let our Communities shine like the stars
as we strive to contemplate, witness and proclaim the mystery of Your love*

Amen

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,



Bill Petrie, ss.cc.

ROME CONSISTORY ANNOUNCED

Within a day, both **Frs. Columban Crotty** and **Chris Keahi** wrote informing of the Vatican notification about the start of the Rome consistory on February 21, 2009. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM with the Cardinals in the Clementine Hall. There is great hope that the announcement for the date of **Damien's Canonization** will be made.

2009 JUBILEES

60 Years Professed
Owen Goodwin • Austin Nagle

50 Years Ordained
Andy Healey

50 Years Professed
Matt Shanley • Emilio Vega Garcia • Michael Kelly

40 Years Ordained
Pat Killilea • Alfie McHugh • William Petrie • Martin Gomes

Some of the Jubilarians will be requested to be the Celebrant/Homilist during the week of the Chapter and the Retreat.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE (USC)

The USC Economes will meet at Hemet, California with General Econome, **Fr. Ed Popish**. They will be arriving on May 9, 2009 and concluding on May 12, 2009 after a joint meeting with the USC Provincials. The



USC provincials will arrive at the Mary & Joseph Retreat House in Rancho Palos Verdes, California on May 11, 2009 and will depart May 14, 2009. Superior General **Fr. Javier Álvarez-Ossorio** will be present. Among the agenda items to be discussed will be the upcoming Expanded General Council meeting and the appointment of the new USC Coordinator for two years. The question of restructuring between the three USA Provinces will not fully take place until 2012. Due to legal issues of the USA West Province, it is not feasible for structural changes for unification until then.

RICHARD SCHUBERT (HI); BRO. RICHARD KUPO (STANDING); (HI) FR. ED POPISH;
BRO. PAUL ALVES (USA); JOHN SLOMINSKI (CA) (STANDING); AL GAUTHIER (USA)

GRANT TO SOLIDARITY

Fr. Ed Popish has expressed gratitude to the USA East Province upon the offer of \$10,000.00 in support of the SS.CC. Solidarity Network. He wrote, "Thanks to all of the Province for its generosity."

PRE-CHAPTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Four of the five Provincial Council members are part of the pre-chapter planning committee. Volunteers will be requested for a steering committee at the Chapter during the first session. Our previous facilitator, **Sr. Jane Burke** was not available in 2009. **Fr. Fintan Sheeran** has contacted **Sr. Pat Flynn**, a former Provincial and Facilitator to be at our Chapter. Part of the agenda will include:

- Election of the Provincial and Council
- Presentation of the 2008 Assembly mandates
- State of the Province address
- Reports on Corporate Ministries, present and future
- Financial Report of the Province
- Reports from the USC Formation/Vocation/CIM, etc.
- Report on the Region of India
- New Business/Open Discussion

SS.CC. VISITOR FROM THE VICE-PROVINCE OF ECUADOR



FR. HILBAR

Discussions have been held with the Vice-Provincial of Ecuador, **Fr. David De la Torre**, regarding **Fr. Javier Iñiguez** who will be at Sacred Heart Church in Edinburg, Texas for two to three years. Fr. Javier is making his application for a 3-year religious worker Visa and is scheduled to arrive in Texas to attend English courses at the Pan American University beginning in May. With the consent of the Superior General, Fr. Javier's stipend for his ministry in Texas will be used for the formation program in Ecuador. Seeing the need for our Latino Apostolate, former Vice-provincial, **Fr. Hilbar Loyaga Mendez**, who spent six months on sabbatical in the Province, helped to make these arrangements.

SS.CC. ALUMNI MEETING

David Nelson, Fr. Gabriel Healy and I met on January 29, 2009 to begin planning for an Alumni Gathering in conjunction with the closing of our August 24-28, 2009 Retreat/Jubilee/Japan 60th Anniversary. David accepted the invitation to be Director of the SS.CC. Alumni Association and Fr. Gabriel agreed to become the SS.CC. Community contact working with David. Key points of the role of the alumni were identified as:

1. To connect and continue to share in the Charism of the SS.CC. Community
2. To assist as laity in the lives, vision and ministry of the Congregation
3. To continue in friendship in the spiritual legacy of the Congregation



FR. GABRIEL

David first began this coordination in the 1960s. He has many names which need to be verified and addresses updated. The Retreat House in Wareham has been booked for the weekend following the retreat for participating alumni. David believes it is important to have a plan in place for those wanting to continue the spiritual aspect of the alumni group after the reunion. Perhaps a newsletter could maintain the connections which are going to be made.

FR. SUBAL NAYAK'S NEW VOICE



AFTER A MASS FOR THE SICK, AT THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE,
FR. TOM MCELROY ANOINTS FR. SUBAL NAYAK
BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR A MEDICAL PROCEDURE

Fr. Subal Nayak had a throat operation at Massachusetts General Hospital. Although it was only a day long procedure, it was necessary for him to stay in Boston for over a week with daily visits to his doctor and a voice therapist. The deformed nerve in his voice box was corrected. Fr. Subal continues his speech therapy with a voice of a pitch lower.

FR. PAT KILLILEA HAWAII VISIT

Fr. Pat Killilea accompanied **Dora Gomes**, the Secular Branch coordinator for the USA East Province, to the meeting held in Kaneohe, Hawaii. After the week-long meeting, Pat replaced **Fr. Clyde Guerreiro** on the island of Molokai while Clyde attended the initial formation coordinators meeting in Rome. Fr. Pat had the opportunity to say Mass at the three topside churches on two weekends and lived in the small plantation style bungalow next to the first church Fr. Damien constructed, St. Joseph's, which is not currently in use, but remains a pilgrimage site for visitors.



During Fr. Pat's absence, Vocation Director, **Fr. Richard Lifrak**, moved to St. Mary's Rectory where he will continue his ministry and be in residence. **Fr. Tom McElroy** is now living in the Provincial House and still maintains his office for St. Joseph's parish at Damien Residence. The former rectory on Walnut Street was turned over to the Diocese of Fall River. The search is on for another rectory close to St. Joseph's Church.

DAMIEN FORMATION CENTER

The USA East Province initially purchased the Damien Formation Center house (DFC) in Manila. The Provincial Council approved a request by the General Government to make the DFC part of the new Japan/Philippines Province, which will be established at their first provincial chapter, April 20-24, 2009.

Fr. Javier Álvarez-Ossorio wrote, "I am very happy and proud of the generosity, communion and missionary spirit that your Province shows in this answer to our request. Thank you very much indeed. Please share with the brothers my deep gratitude."

Fr. John Yamada also expressed appreciation: "I would like to thank you very much on behalf of our members in Japan for your generous support for the new future province. Even after the new province starts, I believe our emotional relationship with our Mother Province will stay with gratitude and respect."

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please remember in your prayers, the deaths of former SS.CC., **Bernard Clement** and **David Jones**, the brother of **Fr. Boniface Jones**, whose memorial Mass was held in Rochester on Saturday, February 7, 2009.
- The annual LaBrecque Lecture Series on medical ethics was held at Boston College on February 5, 2009. Both **Bro. Paul Alves** and I were in attendance with the whole LaBrecque community and interested invited guests.
- **Fr. David Lupo** will conclude his sabbatical with a visit to the Philippines on May 20-June 24, 2009. He will help with the mission appeals during the summer along with **Frs. Michael Shanahan** and **Alexis Nayak**.
- **Bros. Barnabas Laharey, Ross DeLa Cruz** and **Joseph Pasala** have been approved for final vows with the recommendations of the formators, the leadership in India and Japan and the USA East Provincial Council.



BRO. BARNABAS



BRO. ROSS



BRO. JOSEPH

- A new branch of the Men of the Sacred Hearts was started in Toledo, Ohio in December 2008.
- Five volunteer drivers are now available for pick-up and departure of visitors going and coming from the airport, for doctor's visits or trips to Boston or around Fairhaven. They are accessible to all the members of Damien Residence.
- **Frs. Ben Folger** and **Richard Lifrak** will depart for Artesia, New Mexico on February 19, 2009.
- **Fr. Brian Guerrini** will be making his first visit to the Fairhaven area arriving on February 20, 2009 and departing March 2, 2009.
- **Fr. Columban Crotty** has informed that the school at St. Margaret's has been rented out to the municipality. The income will be a great supplement for the parish expenditures.
- Arrangements are being made to have a registered nurse visit the Damien Residence twice a week.
- On February 5, 2009, as part of an outreach of the Pax Christi involvement with the poor, **Fr. Richard Lifrak** joined a coalition of organizations working with the homeless. There was a twenty-four hour walk in the city of New Bedford with 80 volunteers looking for the homeless. Those who were found would be eligible for municipal assistance.



FR. BEN

CONTEMPORARY MEDITATION WHY HAS THIS HAPPENED TO ME?

Jerry McNamara was on US Airways Flight 1459 when it crashed into the Hudson River in New York on January 15, 2009. Miraculously all 155 people on board survived. As to why this happened to him, he believes the answer will come over time, but already he finds himself being more patient, forgiving, and less critical and judgmental. Thus far, he says he has learned these lessons:

- ❖ *Cherish your family as never before and go to great lengths to keep your promises*
- ❖ *Be thankful and grateful for everything you have and don't worry about the things you don't have*
- ❖ *Keep in shape...you never know when you are going to be called upon to save your own life or the life of someone else.*



AP Photo

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