

FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In 2005 the people in Belgium voted **Fr. Damien de Veuster** “*the greatest Belgian in their history*”. Although Damien was born in the Flemish village of Tremelo, most of his life was spent in Hawaii and he is being considered the seventh saint from the United States to be raised to the honors of the altar. Really, it is a global celebration as Damien is claimed by the Church and the World.

Pope Benedict XVI declared “*a year of the priest*” to begin on June 19, 2009, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, which is also the day for the “*sanctification of priests*”. It seems fortuitous that Damien be raised as a priest amongst the canonized this year. We see his life and work coinciding with Pope Benedict’s description of the priestly ministry:

“a spiritually intense new life and a new lifestyle which was inaugurated by the Lord, Jesus and which the Apostles made their own.”

When Damien died in 1889, SS.CC. Belgian priest, **Fr. Mauritius Raepsaet** knew how to make use of the emotions that everyone felt by opening the Damien Institute in Araschot, an apostolic school for boys meant to be for recruitment and preparation for those wanting to go to the missions. **Fr. Cor Rademaker**, in his book “*Called to Serve*” mentions that the first expansion of the Congregation grew when a number of Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters had to leave France at the time of the *Commune in France*. The second expansion of the Congregation was aided by the fame which came to the country on the occasion of Damien’s death. He states that only at this time did our Congregation become an international community.

Vocations in Europe increased. In 1899, there was the Damien Institute in Birmingham, England. The Belgian Province had 18 fathers, 43 scholastics, 35 brothers, 33 novices and 204 students. In 1901 when the Superior General, Fr. Bousquet, sent Fr. Mauritius as a visitor to Hawaii, while passing through the United States, he saw possibilities and was the Belgian Provincial who in 1905 founded the community in Fairhaven.

In addition to being the “**year of the priest**”, and the “**year of Damien**”, might it also be for us a “**year of vocations**”? Just as the emotions of Damien’s death in 1889 touched so many young people to discern their vocation, might the canonization of Damien bring the same sentiments? This would be a call for all SS.CC. to be open to young people visiting our communities for vocation discernment. Our house of hospitality at Wareham is open to visitors at any time with arrangements made through the Retreat House staff.

Let the Year of Canonization Begin!

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,



Bill Petrie, ss.cc.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Fr. Subal Nayak** will be assigned to the retreat ministry in Wareham beginning in May 2009.
- **Fr. Alexis Nayak** is the Provincial Chapter delegate from India. Following the Chapter, he will begin his pastoral year at St. Joseph's Church in Fairhaven, MA
- **Fr. David Lupo** begins his residence at St. Mary's Church in Fairhaven. He will be a member of the team who will be giving the Propagation of the Faith Mission Appeals talks this year.
- **Fr. Joseph Sarto** (Region of India) is now in the Diocese of Miao in the State of Arunchal Pradesh in Northern India. This is the beginning of the first stage for the process of incardination into the Diocese.
- **Fr. Javier Iñiguez** from Ecuador is still awaiting approval from the US Department of Homeland Security to obtain his Visa to the US. He will be assigned to Sacred Heart Church in Edinburg when his Visa is received.

FR. WILLIAM MITCHELL, SS.CC. (1921-2009)

Fr. William Mitchell, ss.cc. died at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in New Bedford, Massachusetts on March 21, 2009. His funeral was held on Friday, March 27 at St. Joseph's Church in Fairhaven. Fr. "Mitch" had two surviving sisters, **Zita McCartney** and **Ruth Mitchell**, who came to Fairhaven for the funeral. **Fr. Michael Annunziato** preached at the Funeral Mass recalling some of the events of the 31 years Fr. Mitch spent as a missionary in Japan. A former parishioner of Fr. Mitch in Japan, **Ayako Rooney** who now lives in Acushnet, Massachusetts, recalled several amusing events of Fr. Mitch as a young missionary in Japan. For twelve years Fr. Mitch was the National Director of the Enthronement and Chaplain to the Men of the Sacred Hearts. Both groups were well represented at the funeral. Emails from around the country were received in condolence. One member of the Enthronement Apostolate mentioned that now Fr. Mitch "*is with his predecessors, Frs. Mateo, Larkin and Evans*" who were all so zealous in promoting the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home.



FR. MITCH

REMARKS ABOUT FR. JACK MCARDLE, SS.CC.



FR. JACK

Ireland/England Provincial **Fr. Mike Ruddy** sent some thoughts about **Fr. Jack McArdle, ss.cc.**, who died on January 22, 2009 at the Monaghan Hospital.

"Fr. Jack was one of Ireland's most sought-after preachers and one marveled at his ability to light up the gospel teaching with ordinary words and especially the sayings of the people to whom he was speaking. For example, when the rest of us would speak of a friend as going away in death, Jack would smile and say 'no, they haven't gone away, they've gone before us'. During the long years of illness, he often expressed a yearning to 'go home'. May God grant him a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at last."

THE FIRST JAPAN/PHILIPPINES PROVINCE CHAPTER

Erection of the new Province of Japan/Philippines will take place at the first Japan/Philippines Provincial Chapter, April 10-12, 2009 in Tomobe. There are 23 members of the new Province. However information has been received that the five representatives from the Philippines have not received their Visas for Japan (yet?) Including myself, there will be five guests. The Chapter will review their new statutes, their PARL and have elections for the Provincial and Council. This event is a new "birthday" for SS.CC. Asia and for the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The USA East Province congratulates, supports and affirms each member of the new Province. Our Province received "life" from the Province of Belgium. How privileged we have been to give "life" to Japan. May the new Japan/Philippines Province continue to share SS.CC. "life" in Asia.



FR. JOHN YAMADA

A NEW FILM ON THE JAPANESE MARTYRS



FR. MICHAEL NARITA

Academy award-winning director, **Martin Scorsese**, is planning a movie on the Japanese martyrs of the 17th Century. Names of actors linked to the project include **Daniel Day Lewis** and **Bericio del Toro**. The film will be based on the book, "Chinmoku" (Silence) by the Catholic Japanese author, **Shusaku Endo** (1923-1997). The novel of Endo shows Christianity reconciled with Oriental culture. In November 2008, 188 Japanese martyrs were canonized. **Fr. Michael Narita** was instrumental in the celebrations in Japan for that occasion.

THE DAMIEN BEATIFICATION PILGRIMAGE



Members of the pilgrimage planning committee are **Frs. Petrie, McElroy and Healy** along with **Allan and Cynthia Days** of St. Joseph's Parish. By Easter week, the details and cost for the six-night stay in Rome will be finalized. There are already over twenty interested people. Departure cities will be Boston and New York. General Postulator, **Fr. Alfred Bell**, has requested that the names of participants at the celebration be sent to the General House by the end of April. Please call Kathy Hinds at (508) 993-2442, Ext. 200 if you are planning to go to the canonization, to concelebrate and to attend the SS.CC. gathering on October 11th at St. Peter's.

DAMIEN CELEBRATIONS IN BELGIUM

Fr. Frans Gorissen, the Provincial of Flanders, has announced that a week after the beatification, there will be a **St. Damien** Celebration in Louvain on October 17, 2009. On October 18, the Bishops of Belgium will have Mass in at the Basilica of Koekelberg in Brussels, where the beatification occurred fourteen years ago. Fr. Frans has requested that anyone desirous of participating in either of both of these events contact the Flanders Province secretary at provincialaat.vlaanderen@chello.be. by July 1, 2009

A NEW DAMIEN ICON

Dr. Henry Cote is a retired professor living on Cape Cod. In his retirement years, he began to paint icons. He is presently in the first stages of preparation of fasting and prayer to be guided by the Holy Spirit in discerning a call to make an icon of our own **Blessed Damien de Veuster**. Upon visiting the Damien of Molokai Center in Fairhaven, he received a variety of materials and resources of previous pictures, tapestries and icons which exist around the world. He is very desirous to gratuitously create a new icon for the Congregation.

THE DAMIEN ONE-MAN PLAY



One of the possibilities for preparing people for the canonization of **Blessed Damien** is to sponsor a performance of Aldyth Morris' one-man Play "*Damien*". There are two actors who are available for this: **Casey Groves**, who performed at the Damien Luau at White's of Westport during our centennial year, may be contacted by email at caseydgroves@gmail.com or by phone at (917)



969-9698; the other actor-turned-priest, **Fr. Edward Evanko** who performed at the World Youth Day in Australia, may be contacted by phone at (604) 271-5551 or by email at edwardevanko@yahoo.com.

DAMIEN EXHIBIT

An eleventh grade student at Hingham, Massachusetts High School, **Jake McGuiggan**, participated in a national history day program. He chose the life, action and legacy of Fr. Damien and his work on Molokai as his project. It took months of research on the internet, spending hours going through microfilm, newspaper articles on Damien and obtaining copies of original resources, e.g. the letters between Damien and his brother Pamphile. Upon completion of the project and the national history exhibit of other classmates, Jake and his family requested that the exhibit board and all the resources be donated to the Damien of Molokai Center in Fairhaven. Plans will be made as to how the exhibit can be used during this year at our various parishes and vocation programs.

SISTER PATRICIA FLYNN, SSND, CHAPTER FACILITATOR

Sr. Patricia Flynn, who will be our facilitator for the May 18-22, 2009 Provincial Chapter in Wareham has shared the following:

"I am energized by my ministry as a facilitator and bring this energy to the groups with whom I work. I am well-read and updated in the areas of religious life and theology as well as national and world events. I am a learner about groups with whom I work, in particular their Charisms, their foundation as a Congregation and their current critical questions. Last, but certainly not least, I possess a deep joy about life, especially religious life and my own vocation as a School Sister of Notre Dame."

There are two main agenda points for the Chapter:

- The election of the Provincial and the Provincial Council. This process will take place over the first three days as nominations and elections cannot occur on the same day.
- Discussion of the *Mission of the Church in America*, which is in preparation for the Enlarged General Council Meeting in Spain in September 2009. Please have your area reports returned to the Provincial Office by April 12.

Sr. Pat has to depart from the chapter on Thursday, May 21. On Friday we will have the installation of the new government followed by our closing meal.

PRIEST AVAILABLE IN JULY 2009

While attending a meeting at St. Paul's Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania, I met **Fr. Sebastian Mpango**, an African Priest who is studying at the university. He informed me that he would be available in July to fill in at any parish that might need assistance as vacations are taken. Fr. Sebastian can be contacted at (570) 604-4044, or by email at sebba-mn@live.com.

USA WEST SS.CC. VISITORS



FR. BRIAN GUERRINI

Fr. Brian Guerrini, a member of the Community in Mission in Artesia, New Mexico paid a visit to Fairhaven while **Frs. Ben Folger and Richard Lifrak** filled in at Artesia for a week. This was an ordination visit for Fr. Brian who visited the Fairhaven communities for the first time, helping out at the various parishes and getting a tour of New England. In March during his Spring break, **Fr. John Roche** made his first trip to Fairhaven and met the community members. John concludes his studies at the Washington Theological Union in May and will be returning to California.



FR. JOHN ROCHE

CONFERENCE FOR BISHOPS AND PRIESTS ON EXORCISM

His Eminence **Francis Cardinal George**, Archbishop of Chicago and presently the President of the United States Bishop's Conference, is giving his support to the 5th Annual International Conference on Exorcism to be held on August 10-14, 2009 at University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois. One of the main speakers will be His Eminence **Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**, the Archbishop of Galveston/Houston. A letter was sent to all Bishops and Major Superiors requesting information be given to priests if anyone is desirous of taking part in this course.

APOSTOLIC VISITATION FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE US

The Conference of Major Superiors for Men has requested prayers for the success of the Apostolic Visitation for the two conferences of women religious in the US: The Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR); The Council for Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR). Information about the three goals of the visitation may be obtained at www.apostolicvisitation.org.



MISCELLANEOUS

- **Fr. Subal Nayak** will go to Reynosa Mexico in compliance with departing the US every six months. He will be with **Fr. Gerry Shanley** for three weeks before returning to St. Joseph's.



- Congratulations to **Bros. Ross dela Cruz** and **Barnabas Laharey** who graduated from the Maryhill School of Theology in Manila on March 20, 2009.
- What a blessing that our four pre-novices received their Visas to go to Manila to begin their novitiate. The new novices will be **John Albert Raja**, **Lalit Toppo**, **Mahendra Singh**, and **Sukumar Dos**.



- **Don St. Gelais** at the National Enthronement Office informs us that a new edition of “*Enthronement of the Sacred Heart*” by **Fr. Francis Larkin** is being reprinted. With a renewed interest by groups that are part of the Global Project for “*Creating a Civilization of Love through the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart*”, there is also an increased demand for the book.

- **Jack Iddon**, our volunteer photojournalist and webmaster, along with his wife Joyce, spent ten days visiting our SS.CC. missions in Nassau, Bahamas. He captured the spirit of the people and the ministries of **Frs. Michael Kelly** and **Martin Gomes**. During this trip, Jack did not go to Long Island to visit with **Fr. Pat Fanning**.



Photo by Jack Iddon

ASH WEDNESDAY IN THE BAHAMAS

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