SS.CC. USA EAST PROVINCE NO. 38 | | 2009

FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A question we might reflect upon is:

"WHY IS GOD BLESSING OUR CONGREGATION AT THIS TIME IN HISTORY?"

Are we reaching a new spiritual plateau in our SSCC Charism with the canonization of **Blessed Fr. Damien**, the beatification of **Blessed Eustachio**, and the recent approval for beatification of five **Spanish Martyrs of 1936**? It is as if we are on a launching pad for sharing our SS CC Charism with the Church and the World through these significant events. While we have our USA East Province pilgrimage for the Rome canonization, and simultaneously the celebration of the October 11th event at Wareham, still each of us is called to be the SSCC public relations representative and publicist to make Damien known in our areas of ministry. God has given the gift of Damien to the world through our Congregation.

SUMMER AT THE FAIRHAVEN PROVINCIAL HOUSE

This week an article was written in the Hawaiian "*Star Bulletin*" about **Sr. Mary Dolorine Pires,** who is lecturing on Damien through the Faith Formation program of the Diocesan Office of Religious Education. In the article, the journalist, Mary Adamski, who happens to be a parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Honolulu, wrote an interesting statement. She said Sr. Dolorine has an "***evolving presentation on Damien***", portraying him as a happy and holy man. Sr. Dolorine was quoted as saying, "*he was able to leave his culture behind and become Hawaiian, to sit on the floor, to be satisfied with the simple life. His heart was open to the spirit of Aloha. He took on the Hawaiian spirit of welcoming everyone. His love for children, his respect for the oneness of nature, his love for music, all reflect a man who found his place in Hawaii."* Sister Dolorine incarnated the Damien she knows.

I believe as members of the Congregation, we are all called to have an evolving understanding of Damien and of the Congregation. It is one aspect of our SSCC Charism that can impact the world today.

As much as Sr. Dolorine desires to convey the many-faceted character that Damien was, she said,

"We do him an injustice to make him the be-all and end-all. I don't want us to focus so much on Damien that we miss the point that he is only exemplifying what Jesus did for us a long time ago. I don't want Damien to obscure the source from whence he got that grace. "

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,

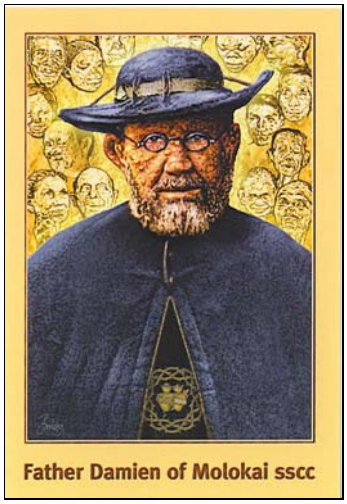
Bill Petrie ss.cc.

Bill Petrie, ss.cc.

October 7-14 Damien Pilgrimage Update

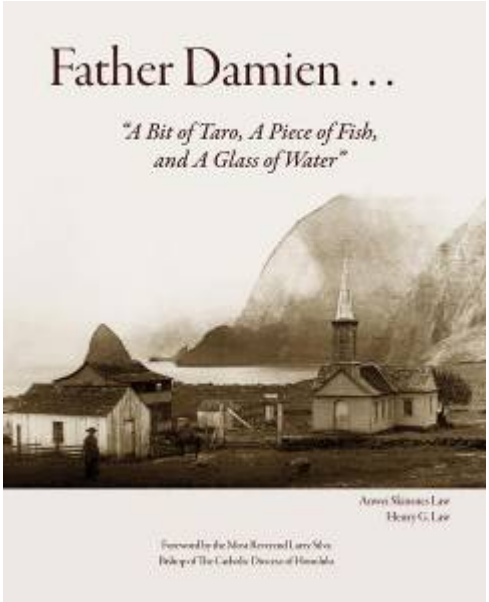
There are approximately sixty registered participants for the USA East sponsored pilgrimage to Venice/Rome for the Damien Canonization. Although the quota of airline seats and hotel accommodations have been filled, if someone would still like to join the group, they may contact **Cynthia Days** at (508) 264-0868 or **Ina Roehr** of Roehr Travel at (508) 748-2220.

In addition to our pilgrimage group, there are others in the Province who will be going to Rome using their airline miles tickets and alternate accommodations. Our postulator, **Fr. Alfred Bell**, has informed us that since the canonization ceremony will take place outside at St. Peter's, there will be unlimited tickets available for the ceremony. Fr. Alfred has also sent a quantity of the official photograph of Fr. Damien which will be used. The postulation office has sent a number of these to each Province as a gift. They will be made available for the various parishes and ministries at our August retreat.



Official Canonization Picture

New Book on Fr. Damien



Over the years, I have been privileged to meet **Anwei Skinsnes Law** and her husband, **Henry G. Law** at Damien Dutton board meetings or at international leprosy conferences. Anwei is the daughter of a famous missionary/leprogolist who worked in China. She has documented the names of over 8,000 patients who were sent to Molokai. In writing the book, she tapped the archives of the General House in Rome, especially noting an unpublished manuscript by Dr. Hutchinson as well as personal letters and Church and Hawaii state archives from the Board of Health. In the 1930s when the leprosy patients were interviewed in Kalaupapa, she read the reflections of the patients who knew Fr. Damien and they reveal a great deal about him. The fame of Fr. Damien is spreading around the world. Already American and foreign film crews are going to Hawaii to visit the historic and heroic story that writers have covered for decades, *"to express the essence of a priest who served leprosy patients for sixteen years until he died of the disease himself in Kalaupapa, Molokai, the place of banishment."* Anwei is the president of the International Association for Integrity, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA) which was started in 1994. This was the first international advisory agency to be led by former Hansen's Disease patients. Her husband, Henry, was the former national park service superintendent of the Kalaupapa National Historic Park. **Bishop Larry Silva** wrote the forward to the book, ***"Fr. Damien… A Bit of Taro, A piece of Fish, and a Glass of Water"*.** Anwei wrote me to inform that they need to make $15.00 on the book to cover its cost. The suggested selling price of the book is $25.00 and it can be used as a fund raiser. The book is published in English, French and Italian. You may order the book by contacting Anwei at alaw@idealeprosydignity.org.

Fr. Richard Czerwien Scholarship

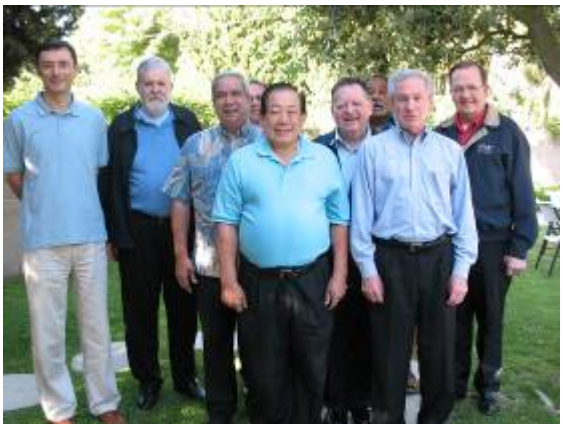
The family of **Fr. Richard Czerwien**, **ss.cc.** started a scholarship fund in memory of their brother who served in both Sacred Heart Parish in Edinburg and Queen of Peace Parish in Harlingen. **Elaine King,** Fr. Richard's sister, has informed that the scholarship this year would go to **Selina Hinojosa** (pictured at right), a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Edinburg.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS 2009-2010

The newly elected provincial council are pictured (left to right) Fintan **Sheeran, Thomas McElroy, Paul Alves, Bob Charlton** and **William Petrie**. At the first meeting in June, the following dates were set for future council meetings: September 1-2, 2009; October 21-22, 2009; November 18-19, 2009; January 20-21, 2010; February 24-25, 2010; March 9-10, 2010; May 26-27, 2010

I express gratitude once again to **Frs. Stan Kolasa** and **Martin Gomes** who made valuable contributions in the past three years as members of the Provincial Council.

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE MEETING



The USC met in California. Pictured left to right are **Javier Alvarez-Ossorio, Donal McCarthy, Clyde Guerreiro, Stan Kolasa, Chris Keahi, William Petrie, Martin Gomes, Richard Danyluk** and **Tom McElroy**. The "State of the Province" reports were shared and a report was given from the Secular Branch. Discussions also took place in preparation for the September 6-21 Enlarged General Council Meeting to be held in El Escorial, Spain. A decision was made to have the General Visitation a year earlier than scheduled for the USA East and Province of Hawaii. Fr. Javier will conduct both visitations and meet individually with each member in discerning the possibility of becoming one province. Because of legal issues, the USA West Province would have an opportunity to become part of the United States Province after 2012. Fr. Donal McCarthy was nominated and affirmed as the USC coordinator for the next two years. In 2010, the USC meeting will be held in Hawaii sometime after Easter.

FINAL PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

On June 19, the Feast of the Sacred Heart**, Brothers Joseph Pasala** (USA East) and **Ross dela Cruz** (Japan/Philippine) made their final professions at the Cathedral Chapel in New Manila. On July 4, 2009, Bro. Ross was ordained a Deacon and is presently at the pre-novitiate house. Pictured are the members of the Damien Formation Community: front row left to right: Bros. Edmun, Roy, Joseph, Ross, Michael, Bambi and Bulu. Second row: Frs. Michiaki & Santhosh, Bros. Manoj, Bala, & Jovy and Fr. Pearse

Goodbye Fr. Subal - Welcome Fr. Alexis

Fr. Subal

Fr. Subal Nayak went to visit **Fr. Gerry Shanley** in Reynosa, Mexico in accordance with his Visa stipulation of leaving the country every six months. Upon attempting to return to the US, his Visa was cancelled as regulations have changed and an US R-1 Visa was required. Presently Fr. Subal is at the Provincial House in Mexico City awaiting an exit Visa. Our hopes of having Fr. Subal at our Sacred Hearts Spirituality Center in Wareham have diminished; he will return to India and be assigned with **Fr. Sudhir Nayak** at the St. Patrick's Dum Dum Mission Parish.

Fr. Alexis

A big welcome to **Fr. Alexis Nayak** who has begun his pastoral year experience at St. Joseph's Church in Fairhaven. For the past six years, Fr. Alexis has been involved in formation at our house in Bangalore. He brings an enriching experience from his years of ministry with the students and preparing the way for the construction of our seminary in Bangalore.

India Update

With **Fr. David Reid** and **Alexis Nayak** present for the Provincial Chapter, and now **Fr. Michael Shanahan** who is here for the mission appeals talks, we have been enriched and connected to India and its hopes and plans for the future. Presently, personnel assignments are as follows:

- Kolkata Regional House – **Fr. David Reid** and pre- novice **Bro. Sujay Sadar**
- Phulnakhara, Orissa – **Frs. Ajith Anthony, Cristo Das Nayak** and six pre-novices
- Bangalore – **Frs. Raja Sebastian, Roche Thiruchiluvai** , twelve first year candidates, eleven second year candidates and five final-year philosophy students
- Serampore – **Frs. Jan Forma, Stephen Banjare**, two second year theologians and four first year theologians attending Morning Star College
- St. Patrick Parish, Dum Dum – **Frs. Sudhir Nayak** and **Subal Nayak**.
- Damien Formation Center, Philippines - **Fr. Santhosh Thottankara,** four brothers studying theology and four novices at the Asian novitiate
- Holy Family Parish, Mito, Japan - **Fr. Tony Biswas**

There is a plan to start the novitiate in India in 2011. At that time, the Indonesian students would have their novitiate in Indonesia. The novitiate in Manila would be used for formation of seminarians from the Japan/Philippine Province. The house in Bhubaneswar will be rented out as all activities of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) and formation are moved to Phulnakhara.

Food for the Needy

Friends of **Fr. Gabriel Healy** from Damien's Pantry and our Fairhaven parishes are planning to commemorate Fr. Gabriel's 80th birthday on July 18, 2009 at the SSCC Adams Street compound. Those attending the celebration are requested to bring gifts of canned goods for Damien's Food Pantry. Fr. Gabriel started this ministry for the poor in 1988. Thousands of recipients have been assisted by the generous financial and food donations from benefactors and friends.

A Very Happy 80th Birthday, Fr. Gabriel!

Creating a Civilization of Love through the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart

On the weekend of July 17, **Don St. Gelais** of the Enthronement Office, **Marc Costa** of the Men of the Sacred Heart and I will be attending a meeting at Our Lady of the Snows Conference Center in Illinois. It is a planning session for promoting the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in each continent. **Fr. Bill Gaffney**, C.Ss.R. and I met with the Archbishop of Boston, **Seán Cardinal O'Malley,** OFM Cap, at the Chancery Office in Braintree. At the meeting, the Cardinal agreed to become a member of the Board of Directors for this global project.

Fr. Petrie, Cardinal O'Malley, Fr. Gaffney

SSCC Alumni Reunion

In conjunction with our August 23-28 Annual SSCC Retreat and the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of our mission in Japan, the SSCC Alumni Reunion will be held on August 28-30. Some of the participants and their wives who will be attending are **Jim Larabee, Pat Reisinger, Ken Gavin, Jed Daley, Jim Curley, John Russell, Peter Healey, Phil McGovern, Seamus Beirne, John Venegas, Gerry Omakanim, Denis Farrell, Andre Fournier, Jim Hip, David Nelson,** and **Fr. Rick LaBrecque**. Regrets were sent from **Cyril Sheehan**, and **John Nutterville**. There is still time for further registration. If you know former classmates who would like to attend, please contact them. Please call Kathy Hinds if you are able to attend the alumni banquet on Saturday, August 29.

Miscellaneous News

- **Fr. David Lupo** was a representative of the USA East Province for the final profession of vows on June 19 in Manila.
- **Fr. Michael Shanahan** has begun the mission appeal talks and is in residence at the Sacred Heart Spirituality Center in Wareham. **Fr. Rich McNally** will be with Fr. Michael in Wareham upon his arrival in July after the *Picpus Experience* course.
- **Fr. Richard Lifrak** is in Artesia, NM for three weeks filling in at the parish and doing vocation work. He will be having a "C*ome and See*" retreat at Wareham upon his return.
- **Fr. Michael Ruddy**, Provincial of the Ireland/England Province, was in Fairhaven for a visit. He was in the area to visit a relative who was seriously ill and also attended the funeral of another relative in Pennsylvania.
- **Bro. Sebastian** from Tanzania was a welcome guest to the Fairhaven area.
- **Fr. Martin Gomes** received a career achievement award from his alumni, The Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School.
- Congratulations to **Martha Bisaillon** and **Joyce Miller** who became members of the Secular Branch.
- **The Daughters of Mary**, a community committed to promoting the devotion to the Sacred Heart, is willing to accept our old materials, holy hours and booklets for their home visit and education Apostolates.

To the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary
Honor & Glory