



FRATRES

News Letter of St. Maximilian Kolbe Province
CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FRIARS, INDIA

Towards New Horizons of Service

Vol. 2

August 2008

No. 11 (20)



*Heavenly Father,
You inflamed Saint
Maximilian the priest
and martyr
With love for the
Immaculate Virgin
And filled him with zeal
for souls and love of
neighbor.
Through his prayers
Grant us to work
strenuously for your
glory in the service of
men, and so be made
conformable to your Son
until death.*

Happy Feast

Co-Traveler's Byword

"Oh my God, my only happiness – how can I come to know you more perfectly? I see your creatures and I am enchanted, I give thanks and I love you, but these do not suffice for me, as You know so well; but I do not see or hear you. I desire to become like unto You according to Your will, but how? You are most pure Spirit, and I am flesh. Make known to me how I, man of flesh, must perfect myself and become like you, most Holy Spirit, to be raised to the divine life..." (Mary was his middle name. P.21)

This is a prayer of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a saint who loved God so much that prompted him to give up his life for the 'neighbour'. It is a very authentic prayer which flows from a heart which is so pure and deeply immersed with the intimacy with God. In the midst of hatred, suspicion, violence, depression, despair etc. he encouraged his co prisoners not to loose heart and kept the fire of faith burning in their hearts in the concentration camp of Auschwitz.

He was a saint of different temperament, talent, verocity, character, thinking, application and planning, who wanted to use the most modern means and tools for the spreading the message of the Gospel all throughout the planet. With such vitality he moved around, worked vigorously and prayed unceasingly with an ever burning desire to transmit to others the burning fire of love in his heart. It was not just an instinct or immediate reaction that he offered his precious life for an unknown man who was imploring for his life, but a reflection of his holiness and deep faith to the evangelical councils which he professed as a religious. In spite of various possibilities of saving his life, he preferred to be with those suffering people of the concentration camp, to be a sign of faith, hope and love which he certainly acquired from his Master.

Intelligence is inborn; holiness is acquired. Both these aspects were combined in the person of St. Maximilian Kolbe that he was endowed with inborn intelligence and geneous and he had acquired holiness through unceasing intimacy with God and through accepting his sickness and sufferings that were very constant in his life. He always chose the difficult path, made such planning which was inconceivable to his confreres, reflected seriously before decision making and was courageous in implementing what was planned and decided. He is a saint born much ahead of time.

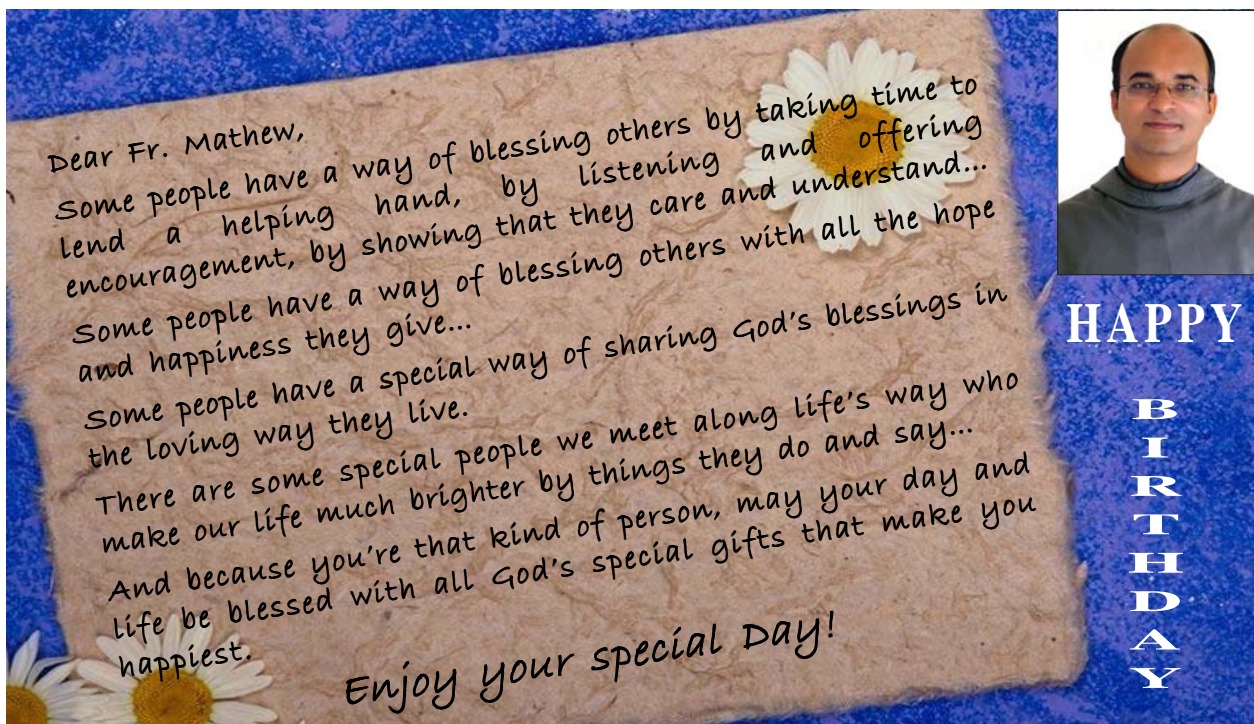
Co-Traveller

DEFINITORY DECISIONS

During the Tenth meeting of the Definitory of the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe for this Quadriennium 2007 – 2011 held on 30 - 31 July, 2008 at St. Paul Franciscan Ashram, Kattappana and Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty, the definitory:

- ♦ Met the communities of St. Paul Franciscan Ashram and Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram separately and discussed various matters of the life and apostolates of the friaries.
- ♦ Decided to conduct a Fraternal Gathering at St. Paul Franciscan Ashram as this year is dedicated to St. Paul to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the saint’s birth.
- ♦ Gave the permission to shift the IIIrd year minor seminarians to Arambha Bhavan and to place the Orientation students to the First Floor Dormitory of the minor seminary.
- ♦ Discussed on the matter suggested by the Nirmalaram Community and entrusted the formation equip of minor seminary to study in detail the possibility to develop our minor seminary to a private Plus II school where the students of other religious houses around Kanjirappally can also attend the daily classes.
- ♦ Evaluated the activities of Provincial Ministries and Apostolates.
- ♦ Agreed to begin four more new SFO fraternities in Assisi Region.
- ♦ Nominated Friar Giles Veliyana to the SFO Regional Council.
- ♦ Evaluated the progress of the construction work of the Greyfriars Junior College, Dondapudi.
- ♦ Decided on the Solemn Profession of Friar Alphonse Vazhappanady.
- ♦ Discussed on the request of Friar Augustine Parambakathu to have a Sabbatical year.
- ♦ Evaluated the progress and present state of the Friars studying abroad.
- ♦ Evaluated the progress of Sri Lankan Mission.
- ♦ Appointed Friar Albert Pulliyadan as the Guardian of First Friary and in charge of Sri Lankan Mission.

(Continuation in page 8)



ASSISI SHANTHI KENDRA DIARY**BLESSING OF NEW OFFICES**

The Greyfriars Publications and Franciscan Centre for Peace and Dialogue have a new office set up in the Provinciate from Tuesday, July 29, 2008 when Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial blessed the new offices. The old cubicle area in the friary was modified and rearranged as the offices of these two ministries.

**M.I.**

The M.I. group of *Assisi Shanthi Kendra* had their one day social work at SSSMIL village, Vettikkuzhy on July 23, 2008. The group was accompanied by Fr. Leo Payyappilly, director and the Regents.

K.F.F.U.

K.F.F.U. Angamaly zone is celebrating the *Transitus* of St. Clare on the 10th August 2008. The Franciscans around Angamaly, the representatives of SFO and the members of the Franciscan Youth at A. S. K will join the celebration.

ASSISI ANNUAL LECTURE 2008

This year the F. C. P. D is organizing the Assisi Annual lecture at the Auditorium of the Morning Star Home Science College, Angamaly, on Wednesday 27 of August. This year Prof. Markose has consented to speak on the occasion. He is at present the Head of the Department of Malayalam literature at U. C College, Aluva. He will talk on a theme that goes in symphony with the motives of the F. C. P. D: "the necessity of a return to the nature in the modern world".

OUR VISITORS

We had some guests from Italy in the last month. They were a group of eight people under the leadership of Laura Madrignani, all coming from

Rome. They are at present helping some of the projects of Assisi Snehalaya. In last February the same group had organized an Indian supper in favor of our AIDS Centre. The parish priest of Santa Galla, Rome also was with them. They came here on July 30 and were with us for a couple of days.

NIRMALARAM FRANCISCAN ASRHAM DIARY

The Annual Retreat was conducted for the Aspirants by Fr. Joseph Kaipadakkunnel V.C. The Nirmalaram community Solemnly Celebrated the feast of St. Thomas, the apostle. Fr. Joe Palukkunnel shared his mission experience with the students. Fr. Michael Earaly attended the course on "New way of Leadership" at NBCLC in Bangalore.

FRANCISCAN ASRHAM DIARY

July 04: First Friday....A day of Fasting and Prayer at the Friary, Almost 25 people participated.

July 06: St.Thomas Day was Celebrated with the cultural programs of the Catechism Students.

July 22: Rev.Fr.Pius S.V.D from Orissa came to the Friary for the self-guided retreat.

August 01: First Friday... Full and overflowing... The Church was full with people.

August 26: A new beginning... Bedseda Franciscan Dyana Kendram. The Fraiars are planning to begin officially the First Retreat from 26th to 30th August. We expect the prayerful Support and all the possible helps from all the members of our Province. *Hearty Welcome to all!*

ASSISI SNEHALAYA DIARY
UPDATE OF THE CENTRE

Now the centre has begun its stabilized functioning with the use of the new block namely the patients wards, dining and kitchen and the basement for various usage. Now all the patients are shifted to the new block and the rooms which they were using are maintained and prepared for the medical and administrative purposes. There is still the need of furnishing the centre with the infrastructure like cots, bed lockers office

furniture etc.,. At present we have 22 patients among them eight are children who are going to the school.

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

The feast of St. Thomas the Apostle of India was celebrated with due solemnity. The Solemn Eucharist was organized at the centre together with the inmates and the Novices from Rosminian community. Fr. Biju, the assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes church Ghandipuram presided over the Eucharistic Celebration, followed by festal dinner.

AN INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER

We had a casual get together of the near by religious communities in our centre on 6th July 2008. Sisters of St. Anns, Thirumalayam Palayam Coimbatore, OSF sisters from Valayar and FSD Sisters from Kozhinjampara came together to have an interaction with the inmates of the centre

CHAT MEETING

Fr. Ferdinand , Director attended the annual general body meeting of Catholic Health Association, Tamil Nadu from July 17th to 19th 2008 at Kodaikanal.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

The Government hospital Coimbatore organized a program for the infected children in the hospital on 19th July 2008 and all the children at our centre along with Sr. Sunita, one of our staff participated. The children were presented with uniforms and study materials.

“Make a Wish” an international NGO organized a program for the children on 19th July 2008 at Hotel Residency, Coimbatore. All our children along with Fr. Regite participated and all were given various gifts.

OUR VISITORS

July 1: Sr. Merykutty Joseph, Provincial of CM congregation Mumbai came to visit the centre and the sisters

July 10: Dr. Kezevino Aram, Director of Shanthi Ashram along with Ms Niarica an Advocate from London visited the centre and had an interaction with the inmates

July 24: Ms. Tiziana, one of our benefactors from Italy, together with Fr. Louis had a visit

July 24: A group of Italians came to our centre and stayed for two days with us. Ms. Laura, the group leader organized the program for them. Fr. Alfred Parambakathu was their guide.

ANNUAL FRATERNAL GATHERING ‘08 for Non-Professed Members

The Annual Fraternal Gathering 2008 of our Province for the non-Professed members (for the students till the Novitiate) is going to take place at our Minor Seminary, Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty on August 15 & 16, 2008. The formators and the vocation directors will take part in the gathering to share the joy of our young brothers. The programme of the gathering is as follows:

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 15	
12.15 P.M.	- ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION CLEARANCE
12.30	- LUNCH
03.30	- TIFFIN
05.30	- BATH
06.15	- CULTURAL PROGRAMS
08.15	- SUPPER
09.15	- CONTINUATION OF THE CULTURAL PROGRAMS
SATURDAY, 16	
05.45 A.M.	- RISING
06.30	- HOLY MASS
07.30	- BREAKFAST
08.15	- SEMINAR BY REV. FR. THOKKANATTU (PRINCIPAL, ST.ANTONY’S HSS, ANAKKALLU)
09.15	- GAMES
12.15 P.M.	- ANGELUS
12.30	- LUNCH/ DEPARTURE.

FROM KERALA, GOD'S OWN COUNTRY TO MELBOURNE, THE GREAT SOUTH LAND!

Franciscan greetings of Peace and All Good!

Having arrived in Melbourne on October 30, 2006, I was amazed to encounter such a multicultural Parish community in Australia. Upon my arrival, I joined our Friars in Springvale, a town about 25 k.m. south-east of the Melbourne Central Business District (CBD). Our community at Springvale initially consisted of four Friars: Fr. Vincent Long (General Custos, Guardian and Parish Priest, originally from Vietnam); Fr Miha (Slovenia); Fr. Paschal Corby (Australia) and me. Later on, we were joined by Fr. Adrian Robson (Australia), who had been a Missionary in Zambia and by Fr. Julian (Romania). The Friary administers the Parish of St. Joseph's, Springvale, as well as the local Catholic Primary School. The Fraternal life of the Friary, balanced by both community and personal prayer; regular monthly recollection and Friary Chapter, as well as my involvement in diverse ministries have enriched and edified me greatly.



Frars of the General Custody gathered for the Annual Retreat

The Parish Community in Springvale consisted of more than 13,000 people from over sixty-five different nationalities. Apart from celebrating the Holy Mass and other Sacraments, my work as Assistant Parish Priest involved working with the SFO, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Charismatic Prayer Group, Inter-faith Network, taking Holy Communion to the sick and celebrating the Holy Mass in two nursing homes.

Since June 2, this year, I have been appointed member of St. Joseph of Cupertino Friary, and Parochial Vicar of St. Mark's Church, Dingley, about 27 k.m. from the Melbourne CBD. The Dingley community consists of Fr. Chris Shorrock (Guardian) and me. Fr. Chris lectures at the Catholic Theological College, Melbourne and in Canterbury, England. The Parish also includes St. Mark's Primary School. Both the Springvale and Dingley communities have lunch together every Wednesday at the Springvale Friary, and I continue to look after the Springvale Charismatic Group and SFO.

Without question, one of the highlights of my Priestly Ministry in Australia has been the great blessing which I received in being able to attend the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney. As the Chaplain to our Franciscan Youth from Springvale, we visited Sydney from 12-21 July, 2008. The first three days were spent joining Franciscan Youth from twelve countries at Paddington, Sydney. These days of prayer, fraternity and celebration, deepened and strengthened our Franciscan Spirituality. The following days in the presence of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI were filled with the joy, peace and vitality of the Holy Spirit, as almost five hundred thousand young people from every nation and every tribe (over one hundred and seventy countries) came together to worship the Lord.



Fr. John Vayalilkarottu and the Franciscan youth of Springvale with Fr. Ivan Mutic OFM General Asst. for You-Fra

Australia is certainly a beautiful country and rich in many natural resources. Nevertheless, her people are still longing to find and experience God in their lives. I realize that our General Custody in Australia requires more Friar Priests to minister to the Catholic Church in this country. As I undertake my Franciscan-Priestly Ministry in the new Parish, I place myself in the Providence of God through the intercession of Immaculate Mother Mary and our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi

Fr. John Vayalilkarottu OFMConv.
Melbourne, Australia

PACE E BENE

My dear Loving Friars,

The greetings of Franciscan peace and all good wishes to you all from Padua, near to the tomb of our confriar St. Anthony. I am really happy to share a few lines about my ministry here in the Basilica of St. Anthony.

The Basilica of St. Anthony, which the people of Padua call *il Santo* (The Saint), is the most important monument in the city of Padua, as well as being one of the world’s most important art treasures and one of Christianity’s most popular shrines. It is the work of a fine architect, possibly a Franciscan friar, which was begun in 1232 and completed towards the end of that century. It was dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, who died in Padua on June 13, 1231.



For centuries people always venerated St. Anthony and visited his tomb and his uncorrupted and miraculous tongue, which is the most important relic of St. Anthony, in the basilica. It is still continued. What I noticed is that people from all over the world come to the Basilica with great devotion as they found St. Anthony as a wonderful intercessor for them. Even if it is a very short visit for them, they are really satisfied praying near to Saint’s relics touching their hands on his tomb. And seeing this I was thinking, how lucky I am that I have got the chance to serve in the Basilica. I take this as a special gift from God in my Conventual Franciscan priestly life.



I am engaged in various services in the basilica. The most important one is hearing the confessions for 3 hours in a day, in Italian, English and also in Malayalam, as many Malayalees also visit the Basilica regularly. For a visitor of the basilica, his / her visit would be incomplete without the fundamental moments of reflection and internal renewal offered by the sacrament of penance and the Eucharist. So here the friars are always available for the confessions in different languages from 6.30 Am – 7.30 P.M.

Another important service is to be in the chapel of Blessings. It is a wonderful service we do here to the people. Because, in such a way the visitors are more enriched spiritually with a special blessing also.



Then comes the celebration of the Eucharist, as there are daily 11 Holy Masses on the weekdays itself. Other major services in the basilica are: to be in the chapel of relics, to be near to the Tomb, guide the English speaking groups etc. Also at times we conduct some prayer meetings especially for the youth in which we perform also some particular cultural events.

So my dear friars, these are few lines about my service here. Let us meet each other every day in our prayers. Through the intercession of St. Anthony, may God bless you all.

Your Loving brother in St. Francis
Fr. Varghese Puthussery

“A NEW WAY OF LEADERSHIP”

*A report on the course attended by
Frs. Rapahel Kaniampalackal and
Michael Earaly organized by NBCLC
at Bangalore*

This course on leadership was held from July 14-20. There were 61 participants and 6 resource persons. The main focus of the seminar was “Christian Leadership and Community building”. The Liturgy was very important all throughout the seminar. Day starts with morning prayer, meditation and Holy Eucharist. The inculturation and Indian style Adoration was manifested in all the prayer sessions and Holy Eucharist. The classes were based on the Church Documents. One of the main classes was on Leadership: Vision of Vatican II led by Fr. Thomas D’sa, the director of NBCLC (National Biblical Catechetical Liturgical centre). He also took a class on inculturation as our mission, signs and symbols used in Indian order of Mass. There was also a class on Liturgy by Fr. Paul Puthanangady SDB. He handled subject on a new way of being religious in the Third Millennium, Local superior’s role in incarnating the charism, Eucharist and community building. There was a class conducted by a lay man Prof. Leo Lobo on Animation of community and leadership skills. Fr. Jerry Rosario SJ had the session on religious and their mission in India today and the role of the local superior. There was also sessions by Fr. Felix Koikara SDB on skills for interpersonal relationship in communities. As part of inculturation there were biblical dances by ‘Nrithavani’ of NBCLC (Professional Dance group). The last week was fully dedicated to course of ‘personality development’ by Sr. Juliana Pinto UFS. There were lot of interactions of different cultures which enrich us and widen our heart and mind. We concluded the seminar by preparing strategy for action plan on the basis of above said classes and subjects.

PLANNER AUGUST 2008

01	FRI	Mass for the departed FRB of the Order
02	SAT	SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF PORTIUNCULA -Portiuncula Indulgence
03 - 04		Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Minor Seminarians
05	TUE	Novena in Preparation of the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe begins
06	WED	FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
07	THU	
08	FRI	FEAST OF ST. DOMINIC, <i>Founder of the Order of Preachers</i>
09	SAT	BIRTHDAY OF FR. MATHEW PURAYIDOM, <i>Minister Provincial</i>
10	SUN	
11	MON	FEAST OF ST. CLARE OF ASSISI
12	TUE	
13	WED	Fast and abstinence in preparation for the Liturgical Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe Novena in honour of St. Maximilian Kolbe ends
14	THU	SOLEMNITY OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, <i>Patron of the Province, Titular of Kolbe Franciscan Ashram, Aluva and St. Maximilian Franciscan Ashram, Christianpet</i>
15	FRI	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE B.V. MARY INDEPENDENCE DAY Annual Fraternal Gathering of Students not in Profession
16	SAT	Annual Fraternal Gathering of Students not in Profession Assisi Lecture organized by FCPD Formation and Vocation Apostolate Commissions Meetings at <i>Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty</i>
17 - 18		Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Minor Seminarians
19	TUE	
20 - 23		Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Student-Friars
24	SUN	
25	MON	FEAST OF ST. LOUIS IX KING, <i>Patron of the III Order</i>
26	TUE	
27	WED	
28	THU	Franciscan Course for Minor Seminarians at <i>Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty</i> begins Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Pre-Novices
29	FRI	Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Pre-Novices The feast of the Nativity of the B.V.Mary at <i>St. Paul Franciscan Ashram, Kattappana</i> begins
30	SAT	Guardians’ Meeting at ASK Meetings of Social Apostolate Commission, Finance and Building Commissions, at ASK
31	SUN	Franciscan Course for Minor Seminarians at <i>Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty</i> ends

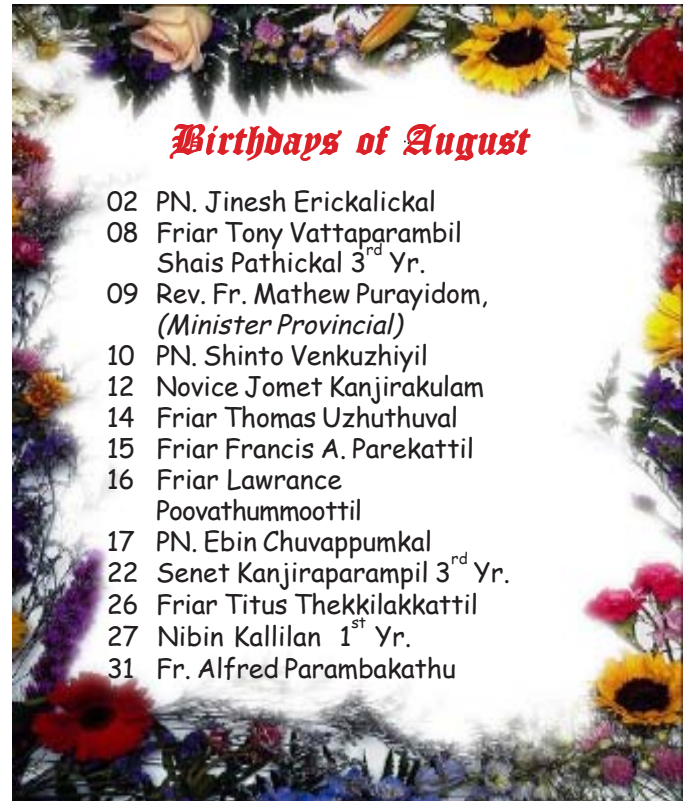
Friars' Personal

- * As part of the ongoing formation and preparing the future missionaries, our Order is joining with the other two Franciscan families of First Order in a missionary course in Brussels from September 01 to November 23, 2008. From our Province **Friars Daniel Palattykoonathan, Damian Veliyil and Simon Elinjely** will be attending in this missionary course. *We wish them all the success and fruitful experience during the course!*
- * **Friar Augustine Parambakathu** has been granted the permission to have a Sabbatical year starting from September 01, 2008 to August 30, 2009. During his Sebathic year he will be having a pastoral experience in a Parish of the diocese of Wuerzburg, Germany. *We wish him all the best and a fruitful year!*
- * **Friar George Kooliparambil** has left our Order due to personal reasons. *We wish him all the success in his future life!*
- * Friar Damian Veliyil will be completing his pastoral experience of two months in the parish of St. Mary's Church, Neduvannoor on August 25, 2008. *Congratulations dear brother for your outstanding performance!*

DEFINITORY DECISIONS

(Continues from page 2)

- ♦ Appointed Friar Peter Kannampuzha as the Director and in charge of Padre Pio Shrine in Sri Lanka.
- ♦ Decided to have the Chapter of Mats in connection with the VIII Centenary of our Beginning (1209 – 2009) in January 2009 – possibly on 28th and 29th - and appointed the on going formation team as organizing committee.
- ♦ Grant the permission to make a Kolbe – Assisi Jubilee Centre at Kolbe Franciscan Ashram to commemorate its 25th anniversary of establishment.
- ♦ Nominated Friar Raymond Pommelil to the General Definitory to be appointed as a member of the Constitution Revising Commission representing the FAAMC.



Birthdays of August

- 02 PN. Jinesh Erickalickal
- 08 Friar Tony Vattaparambil
Shais Pathickal 3rd Yr.
- 09 Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom,
(Minister Provincial)
- 10 PN. Shinto Venkuzhiyil
- 12 Novice Jomet Kanjirakulam
- 14 Friar Thomas Uzthuvhal
- 15 Friar Francis A. Parekattil
- 16 Friar Lawrance
Poovathummoottil
- 17 PN. Ebin Chuvappumkal
- 22 Senet Kanjiraparampil 3rd Yr.
- 26 Friar Titus Thekkilakkattil
- 27 Nibin Kallilan 1st Yr.
- 31 Fr. Alfred Parambakathu

Programme in the Centre (August)

- 7 - 10: Cairos Jesus Youth Retreat
- 10 - 15: Retreat by Fr. Paul Adambukulam
OFM Cap
- 16: 'Arangettam' of Miss Jasmine Davis
in the Auditorium
- 17-21: Our Retreat for the lay people
- 25-27: Marriage preparatory course

Dear Friar, Have you registered in the reserved area of the Website of our Order?

Modalities for Registration:

1. Registration is reserved for OFMConv. members only.
2. To register, please send an e-mail to us web@ofmconv.org indicating:
 - a. your complete name (Eg. Friar Marco Tasca)
 - b. your jurisdiction (Eg. Province of Padua, Italy)
 - c. the password you want to use
 - d. your e-mail address
3. Your account will be activated as soon as you will receive the notification e-mail from www.ofmconv.org