



FRATRES

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

Towards New Horizons of Service

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Most Rev. Fr. Marco Tasca,

You are someone special and it's a pleasure
to wish you the very Best.

May everything that is beautiful come into
your life as you celebrate your Birth Day.

May your cherished dream about our Order
and each one of us come true through your
strong guidance in a wonderful way.

Therefore dearest loving Father, we the
members of the Province of St. Maximilian
Kolbe, India remember and pray for you
always especially on 9th of June.

Hope and pray every love of your day is
filled with both of joy and happiness and
may each day turn out to be perfect.

Happy Birth Day!



Co-Traveler's Byword

"Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God" (Mt. 5:13)

While going through the book of the Pope Benedict XVI, I was very much touched by the explanation of the Pope on the beatitudes. Commenting on the first beatitude the Pope writes that the kingdom of God is the basic message of Jesus. He brings the example of St. Francis of Assisi to the forefront to explain that he is the best illustration of the life of the beatitudes.

The Pope narrates, "The saints are the true interpreters of the Holy Scripture. The meaning of a given passage of the Bible becomes most intelligible in those human beings who have been totally transfixed by it and have lived it out. Interpretation of Scripture can never be a purely academic affair, and it cannot be relegated to the purely historical. Scripture is full of potential for the future, a potential that can only be opened up when someone "lives through" and "suffers through" the sacred text. Francis of Assisi was gripped in an utterly radical way by the promise of the first beatitude, to the point that he even gave away his garments and let himself be clothed anew by the bishop, the representative of God's fatherly goodness, through which the lilies of the field were clad in robes finer than Solomons. For Francis, this extreme humility was above all freedom for service, freedom for mission, ultimate trust in God, who cares not only for the flowers of the field but especially for human children. It was a corrective to the Church of his day, which, through the feudal system had lost the freedom and dynamism of missionary outreach. It was the deepest possible openness to Christ, to whom Francis was perfectly configured by the wounds of the stigmata, so perfectly that from then on he truly no longer lived as himself, but as reborn, totally from and in Christ. For he did not want to found a religious order: He simply wanted to gather the people of God to listen anew to the word – without evading the seriousness of God's call by means of learned commentaries" (Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth, P.78-79).

This illustration of the Pope on Francis of Assisi is to be taken as the recognition of Francis by the Church even today as the saint in forefront in living the gospel poverty to the core. Francis and his charism is more valid and needed in our culture and society that we need to deepen our knowledge of the kingdom of God and gather the people of God to listen anew the word from us. We need to take our Franciscan call as the greatest gift to each one of us and be open to the word.

The Co-Traveller.

SOLEMN PROFESSION AND TEMPORARY PROFESSION

On Thursday, May 01, 2008 Friar Angelo Chully pronounced his final religious commitment in the Order of Friars Minor Conventual during the Mass held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, the Provincial Church of Conventual Franciscan Friars in India at Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty. Friar Angelo is the 58th Solemnly Professed Indian Conventual Franciscan Friar. During the same function Six of our Novices Pradeesh Karikunnel, Shyju Elamthuruthiyil, Prajeesh Thelakadan, Sebastian Vadakke Kattezath, Justin Palamattath, Rijo Mulavarikal made their Temporary Profession. For both the Solemn and Temporary Professions, Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom OFMConv., Minister Provincial was the main celebrant and received the Professions, while Fr. Louis Panthiruvellil OFMConv., Rector of the Major Seminary and Fr. Raphael Kaniyampalackal OFMConv., Novice Master were the witnesses.



ALL SOLEMNLY PROFESSED FRIARS' MEETING 2008

This Year's All Solemnly Professed Friars' Meeting was held from the evening of Thursday, May 01 to the afternoon of Saturday, May 03 at Kolbe Franciscan Ashram, Aluva. This meeting marked a very special milestone in the history of Kolbe Franciscan Ashram as it was going through 25 years of its establishment. The meeting officially began with the supper at 08.00 p.m. On the following day at 09.30 a.m. His Excellency Mar Jacob Manethodath, Bishop of Palakkadu addressed the friars for about an hour on priesthood and proclamation of the Word of God. At 11.00 a.m. Mar Jacob Manethodath presided over the concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration in which he also conferred the ministries of **Karoya** to Friars Stanly Panelikudy, Geo Thanaparambil, Alphy Chooraman, Aquino Maliekkal, Varghese Puthenpurackal, **Heupathiakona** to Friar Angelo Chully and **Diaconate** to Friars Dias Theemalangattu and Alex Chokky.



In the afternoon from 02.30 onwards various commissions or apostolates had their yearly evaluation meeting with the Definitory. Next day at 07.00 a.m. Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial presided over the concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration. At 09.30 a.m. Fr. Provincial met all the Solemnly Professed members in common and discussed various matters of the Province. And the meeting came to an end with the lunch at 12.30 p.m.

JUNIOR PRIESTS' MEET 2008

The Junior Priests' Meet of 2008 (on going formation programme) was held from the morning of Sunday, May 04 to the evening of Monday, May 05. The meeting was conducted by Rev. Fr. Bobby Vadakkal OFM from Bangalore. The inaugural Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom OFMConv., Minister Provincial. The Eucharistic Celebration of the following day was presided over by Rev. Fr. Bobby Vadakkal. During one and half days of meeting, almost all the Friars who had not completed five years after their Ordination participated. After the meeting in the afternoon they also went for boating in the backwaters of Alappuzha.

BEGINNING OF THE NOVITIATE 2008-09

On Sunday, May 04, 2008 at 07.45 a.m. during the Morning prayer session of Junior Priests' Meet 2008 Fr. Mathew Purayidom OFMConv., Minister Provincial conducted the initiation rite held in the Friary Chapel of Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty and admitted to the Novitiate year 2008-2009 the following candidates: Jomet Kanjirakulam, Nineesh Kurudiyakulam, Abin Madathumkudy and Don Vadakkan.

**PREPARATORY COURSE AND RETREAT**

The preparatory course for the 21 new Pre-Novices was held from 17-21, May 2008. In the absence of Fr. Bonaventure Kalluvettukuzhiyil, Director of Pre-Novices, Fr. Varghese Puthussery organized it. The new Pre-Novices will be having their retreat as a preparation for entering into Pre-Novitiate from the evening of May 31 to the evening of June 3. The retreat will be organized by Fr. Paul Pothanattuvelyil. At present Fr. Varghese Puthussery is in charge of the Pre-Novices till Fr. Bonaventure returns on June 13. *Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Pre-Novices for the Pre-Novitiate year and Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Varghese for his availability!*

NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL

During the General Definitory session of April 22, 2008, taking into consideration the suggestions offered by the Ministers and Custodes of the Jurisdictions of Asia and Australia, the Minister General with his Definitory elected a new Assistant General for the FAAMC, **Friar Vincent Long Nguyen**, General Custos of the General Custody of Australia, in substitution for Friar Eugene Kawashimo, who had resigned for reasons of health. (News from www.ofmconv.org)

FR. MATHEW TO EUROPE

Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial will be away from the Province from June 23 to July 16, 2008.

C.C.F.M.C - MAY 16-28, 2008

Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom and Fr. Alfred Parambakathu participated the C.C.F.M.C international retreat seminar conducted at Bangkok, Thailand from 16-30, May. It was a course organized for all the Franciscans of Asia-Oceania and there were 74 participants coming from 15 different countries. The first five days were days of reconciliation directed mainly by Sr. Dorothy Ortega SFIC and Fr. Mathew. In the rest of the days classes were taken by Frs. Lukas Horslink OFM and Bill short OFM. The course was really benefecial to grow in international fraternity in an inter-franciscan level.

**REFRESHED & NOURISHED...
RENEWED & STRENGTHENED...
THROUGH "MISSION 20"**

Student Friars at Kolbe Ashram are back to Ashram after their 'Mission20' experiences. Friars John Paul, Alphy and Aquino were among the *Adivasees* at TUDY, Wayanad. Friars Varghese, Titus and Geo served Bethlehem Bhavan, Thottuva, a charitable society works for mentally challenged persons. Friars Tony, Felix and Jerry rendered service at Navajeevan Kottayam. Friar Angelo went for his second novitiate at FISU, Bangalore. Friars Dias and Alex attended management course and Jail ministry respectively at Pachalam and Vettikadu. Brothers were so happy about their holidays ministry which boosted their commitment to the LORD.

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER

The temporary professed friars gathered here and spent a day with the Lord and renewed their profession for another year. The renewal of Profession took place here on 24th May 2008. Fr. Raymond Pommelil, Vicar Provincial received the profession of the friars. Friars Louis Panthiruvellil and Stephen Ollethazhathu acted as witnesses

REGENTS 2007-08

We the regents of 2007-08, Friars Robert Vellachalil, Martin Pallikkara, Kolbe Puthenpurayil, Andrew Payyappilly and Jerome Kuriyadom began our regency year on 15th May 2007, under the direction of Fr. Leo Payyappilly. As expected, it was an year to check out the capability of ours - the student friars - to practice the Franciscan and other academic values that we received during our formation years, outside the formation house. And so, after completing a regency year we can portrate this year as the 'Foretaste of the Priestly Community Life while in Formation'.

As the formation directory encourages, the director prepared the programme for us and we had various experiences of Prayer at Udhanashram, Social experience at Assisi Snehalaya and Community experience at Assisi Shanthi Kendra. Apart from those we could part take also in some extra activities like formation experience, Malayattoor experience, mission experience and experience at Pastoral Orientation Centre (P.O.C.). Some of us also had the opportunity to study the computer. All these experiences gave us a chance to grow in our vocation.

Staying away from the normal pattern of student friars and their Rector set-up the Regents were always with the clerical friars in the community. This gave a sense of future community life and its responsibilities.

At the end of the year all of us joined together and made an evaluation of the year. All of us expressed our satisfaction about the year. The regency year came to an end with an outing to *Pooyamkutti* enjoying the wild beauty of nature.

PROVINCE'S ESTABLISHMENT DAY

The commission that was appointed by the All Solemnly Professed Friars' Meeting consisting of Friars Varghese Puthusserry, Alfred Parambakathu and Paul Pothanattuvelyil has presented the suggestions for the celebrations for the anniversary of our Province's establishment on 11th June 2008. The Definitory approved those suggestions for this year with a few addings and corrections. The suggestions of the commission are as follows:

1. The day of establishment shall be celebrated as the day of prayer for vocations in the Province.
2. The celebrations shall be conducted on zonal basis. Accordingly the whole Province is divided into six zones, namely

Zone 1: Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty, Kolbe Franciscan Ashram, Aluva and Padua Franciscan Ashram, Puthenchira

Zone 2: Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty and St. Paul Franciscan Ashram, Kattappana.

Zone 3: Franciscan Ashram, Nattakkal, Assisi Snehalaya, Rottikaundanur and Belvedere Franciscan Ashram, Kottagiri.

Zone 4: Bala Yesu Franciscan Ashram, Dondapudi and St. Maximilian Kolbe Franciscan Ashram, Christianpet.

Zone 5: Sri Lankan mission

Zone 6: Friars abroad (according to their possibility)

3. *Spiritual preparations:* Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, One hour Eucharistic Adoration and Half-day recollection.
4. *External preparations:* Cultural programme, community outings, an act of charity, a dinner, etc. after each zone's possibilities.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Fr. Bonaventure Kalluvettukuzhiyil has successfully defended his Doctoral thesis on May 23, 2008 at the Pontifical University of Angelicum in Rome. The title of his thesis was "AN INVITATION TO AN EVERLASTING COVENANT" (~1'A[tyrIB.): *AN EXEGETICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDY OF ISAIAH 55: 1-13*. He is the third friar of our Province, who has achieved this title. *Hearty Congratulation dear brother!*

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

- * Friar Giles Veliyana has been granted the permission to start the studies for priesthood. He will be doing his philosophy at Sacred Heart philosophical college, Aluva run by OCD Fathers. I recommend him to your valuable prayers as he begins his priesthood studies. He will be a member of Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty
- * Friar Raymond Pommelil is the new director of regents. He replaces friar Leo Payyappilly who was the director of regents for the last four years.
- * From this year onwards there will be only one group of orientation year and till we have a separate formation house for the orientation year, the formation house of the orientation year will be Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty.
- * Since Fr. John Pozhathuparambil has finished his Post Graduate in Malayalam, he is re-appointed as the Editor of Amalolbhava.
- * Fr. John Pozhathuparambil replaces Fr. Shaji Kaniyaparambil as the director Franciscan Reconciliation Retreat. The old team of FRR is dissolved and a new team has taken charge. The new team consists of Fr. John Pozhathuparambil, director, Fr. Michael Earaly, asst. director and Fr. Joel Koikkara as secretary.
- * As the orientation year has been changed from Franciscan Ashram, Nattakkal to Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram, Chotty, we are planning to make use of the building to develop it as a retreat house. Friar Mariadas Palatty is entrusted with this responsibility.
- * Friar Daniel Palattykoonathan replaces Friar Roger Vazhappilly as the new parish priest of St. Francis Church, Nattakkal.
- * Friars Mariadas Palatty, Elias Thekkemundackapadavil and Robert Vellachalil are appointed as the new vocation promoters of Nattakkal zone, Coimbatore zone and Aluva zone respectively.
- * Fr. Joel Koikkara replaces Fr. John Pozhathuparambil as the Kolbe regional spiritual assistant of SFO.
- * Fr. Paul Pothanattuveliyil replaces Fr. Joel Koikkara as the Assisi regional spiritual assistant of SFO.
- * Fr. Bonaventure Kalluvettukuzhiyil and Fr. Elias Thekkemundackapadavil are the new spiritual assistants of Puthenchira and Coimbatore zones respectively.
- * Fr. Damian Veliyil is exempted from all the responsibilities of Greyfriars publications as he has opted for Sri Lanka mission. At present he is a resident at Assisi Shanthi Kendra till he leaves for Sri Lanka. The process of getting Visa for Sri Lanka is in progress.
- * Friars Alfred Parambakathu and Paul Pothanattuveliyil are included in the Greyfriars publications board members.
- * Friar John Pozhathuparambil is transferred from Kolbe Franciscan Ashram, Aluva to Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty.
- * Friar Paul Pothanattuveliyil is appointed as a member of Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty.
- * Friar Giles Veliyana is transferred from Assisi Snehalaya, Rottikaundanur to Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty.
- * Friar Roger Vazhappilly is transferred from Franciscan Ashram, Nattakkal. He will be a resident at Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty till he leaves to Austria. The process of getting Visa to Austria is on progress.
- * Fr. Mariadas Palatty is appointed as a member of Franciscan Ashram, Nattakkal. He will be helping Fr. Daniel Palattykoonathan as assistant parish priest.
- * Friar Francis Paramby is appointed as a member of St. Paul Franciscan Ashram, Kattappana.
- * Friar Manuel Manicompel is transferred from St. Paul Franciscan Ashram, Kattappana and has been sent to Sacro Convento, Assisi, Italy.
- * Fr. Varghese Puthusserry is a resident at Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty till he leaves for Padua, Italy.

Friars Personal

- * **Friar Antony Nallukunnel** returned to Ireland after his holidays on Tuesday, May 27, 2008. *Wish you a safe journey Fr. Antony!*
- * **Friar Cyriac Purayidom** is among us since 30th of April for a medical treatment. At present he is undergoing an Ayurvedic treatment. He will be returning to Wuerzburg, Germany on 10th June.
- * **Friar Augustine Parambakathu** is among us from 6th May to 19th June for his holidays.
- * **Friars Francis Antony Parekattil, Basil Maniparambil, Abel Purayidathil and Thomas Uzhuthuval** started their Regency on Friday, May 16, 2008.

Programme in the Centre (June)

- 5 - 8: Retreat of Jesus Youth
- 21-22: Training programme of Amway
- 23-25: Marriage preparatory course
- 26-30: Retreat for lay people

AMALOLBHAVA CAMPAIGN

An Amalolbhava Campaign was conducted at St. Mary's Forane Church, Bharananganam, Pala by the student friars of Kolbe Ashram on 20-22, May 2008. There were about 1000 families spreaded far and wide and the friars visited all the houses within 3 days. We could collect around 68,000 Rupees which was much above our expectations. *Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the student-friars and their formators!*

CONGRATULATIONS!

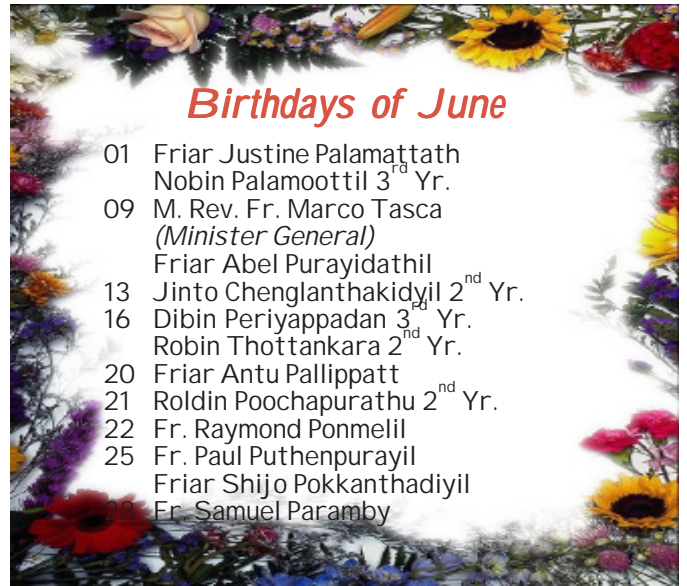
Third year Minor Seminarians of ours have come out of with flying colours in the last Plus Two public exam held in March/April, 2008. Out of 20 students 3 passed with distinction, 15 with first class and 2 with second class. *Congratulations dear brothers!*

ASSISI SNEHALAYA WEBSITE

www.assisisnehalaya.org

BON VOYAGE!

Friar Manuel Manicompel left for Assisi, Italy on Monday, May 26, 2008 to render his service at the Basilica of St. Francis. *Prayerful Best wishes dear Brother!*



Birthdays of June

- 01 Friar Justine Palamattath Nobin Palamoottil 3rd Yr.
- 09 M. Rev. Fr. Marco Tasca (Minister General) Friar Abel Purayidathil
- 13 Jinto Chenglanthakidyil 2nd Yr.
- 16 Dibin Periyappadan 3rd Yr. Robin Thottankara 2nd Yr.
- 20 Friar Antu Pallippatt
- 21 Roldin Poochapurathu 2nd Yr.
- 22 Fr. Raymond Ponmelil
- 25 Fr. Paul Puthenpurayil Friar Shijo Pokkanthadiyil Fr. Samuel Paramby

PLANNER JUNE 2008

01	SUN	Retreat for the Pre-Novices
02	MON	Retreat for the Pre-Novices
03	TUE	Inauguration of the Scholastic year at Kolbe Franciscan Ashram Franciscan Course for the student-friars
04	WED	Franciscan Course for the student-friars
05	THU	International Environment day Franciscan Course for the student-friars
06	FRI	Mass for the departed FRB of the Order Definitory meeting at Franciscan Ashram, Nattakkal
07	SAT	Definitory meeting at Franciscan Ashram, Nattakkal
08	SUN	
09	MON	
10	TUE	
11	WED	Day of prayer for vocations Anniversary of the Establishment of the Province
12	THU	Bl. Antonin Bajewski OFMConv. and six Polish Conventuals, Martyrs, Victims of Nazi persecution End of the 13 days preparation for the feast of St. Anthony of Padua
13	FRI	Feast of St. Anthony of Padua...
14	SAT	
15	SUN	
16	MON	
17	TUE	
18	WED	
19	THU	Last date of giving admission to the Orientation year 2008-09
20	FRI	
21	SAT	Beginning of the scholastic year at Nirmalaram
22	SUN	
23	MON	
24	TUE	The Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist
25	WED	
26	THU	
27	FRI	
28	SAT	
29	SUN	Solemnity of Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles
30	MON	