



# FRATRES

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

Towards New Horizons of Service

Vol. 3

September - November, 2009

No. 13-15 (28)



God, our Father You have chosen St. Francis of Assisi, our Father and Founder to enlighten the darkened world and the falling Church. We who are trying to be his faithful followers, offer the Conventual Franciscan Order generally and the Indian Province particularly into Your hands. We acknowledge Your presence and blessings in leading our Province in difficult moments. Lord, we thank You for all the graces You have been showering on us throughout this quadriennium. We also acknowledge our failures and shortcomings and ask Your pardon for having not recognized Your will and were not faithful to it. Lord, pour forth the gift of Your Spirit on our forthcoming Extra Ordinary Provincial Chapter and arouse in the participants right faith, certain hope, perfect charity, profound humility, simple wisdom and full knowledge of Your will. Amen.

## Co-Traveler's Byword

*Come, Let us celebrate!*

We are fast approaching our celebration of the Extra Ordinary Provincial Chapter which is scheduled from December 09-10, 2009. Practically the chapter begins in the evening of Tuesday, December 08, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

The Extra Ordinary Provincial Chapter is an occasion to discuss special topics and evaluate the Four-Year Plan of the Province and prepare for the next Ordinary Provincial Chapter which is scheduled March 14-19, 2011. Through the celebration of the Chapter of Mats we have studied in depth the origin and foundation of our Order and the 8<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the approval of the Rule. It was an occasion to rethink our franciscan life especially on the basis of our fraternal sharing and co-operation. As a young and vibrant province, we need constantly to evaluate our prayer life, fraternal sharing and the significance of our pastoral and social activities.

We are celebrating the chapter in the Year for Priests which was initiated on June 19 for feast of the Sacred Heart. We keep all our Friar Priests in our prayers and dedicate them to the Heart of Jesus so that all our priests will become meek and humble of heart.

Once we are together in the Chapter we have to dream, plan and programme the whole aspects and spheres of the province with minute details. We have various projects and new initiates to consider and decide. Therefore the members of the Chapter are requested to prepare well and come with creative suggestions. Unlike the Chapter of Mats, the Extra Ordinary Provincial Chapter is limited to the elected members who were also the members of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter held in August 2007. However any friar can send his suggestions and creative initiatives for the better future and growth of the Province.

My beloved brothers, let us have a good time together, let us be happy being near each other. The whole Province is looking forward eagerly the development of the Chapter and praying earnestly for a very effective outcome of the Chapter. Welcome my brothers!

Your Co-Traveler

**DEFINITORY DECISIONS**

During the 18th, 19th and 20th meetings of the Definitory of the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe for this Quadriennium 2007 – 2011, the definitory discussed and decided on the following:

**August 17-18, 2009 (19th) at St. Maximilian Franciscan Ashram, Christianpet and Bala Yesu Franciscan Ashram, Dondapudi:**

- \* The definitory discussed on the Canonical Erection of the first community at Dalupotha in Sri Lanka.
- \* Formed a preparation committee for the Extra Ordinary Provincial Chapter consisting of Friars Louis Panthiruvellil, John Pozhathuparambil and Alfred Parambakathu.
- \* Decided to form a Development office for the Province. It was also decided that the present finance and building commission will take care of this office at the moment and will study on the matter in detail before starting it.
- \* Announced that from December 01-05, 2009 the FAAMC meeting will be held in Sri Lanka.
- \* Met with both communities of St. Maximilian Franciscan Ashram, Christianpet and Bala Yesu Franciscan Ashram, Dondapudi separately and evaluated various social and pastoral activities.

**September 23, 2009 (20th) at Assisi Snehalaya, Coimbatore:**

- \* Met with the community of Assisi Snehalaya and evaluated the developments in the Centre.
- \* Met with the finance and building commission and discussed on the Development office of the Province.
- \* Decided to have the Priestly Ordination of Friar John Paul Vengackal at his Parish either by the end of December or by the beginning of January according to the convenience of the Bishop of Idukki.
- \* Appointed Friar Jesmond Panapparambil as a member of Kolbe Franciscan Ashram, Aluva.
- \* Decided that Fr. Provincial and Fr. Michael Earaly will attend the General Assembly of the Order to be held in Argentina in the month of January, 2009.

- \* Other than these, various matters of individual Friars and of secret nature were discussed.
- \* On October 13, 2009 an extra ordinary definitory meeting was held to discuss on the process of buying a school in Andhra Pradesh.

**“GIOVANNI VERSO ASSISI”**

**Youth of Assisi Shanthi Kendra towards Assisi**

Four of the Youth from the U-Fra Fraternity of Assisi Shanthi Kendra under the guidance of Friar Giles Veliyana, the Director participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of ‘Youth Towards Assisi’ held from 2-9 August 2009. It was a great blessing for the Youth and their Director to participate this international encounter which aimed to offer the



Youth an opportunity to explore how the Gospel is the unique source of true joy and meaning of life that they are seeking. (“The Gospel: this is my life!”). At Assisi our Youth had the opportunity to learn more about St. Francis and his ideals. They had also the opportunity to present India by means of Dance and Songs. These youth had this great opportunity of their life because of the generous heart of many from the General Custody of Assisi. The youth and the director thank the Custos of Assisi, the organizers of the event and all the members of the Custody of Assisi for granting this opportunity. They also take this opportunity to thank Indian Friars like Manuel Manicompel, Sebastian Peandanathu, Roger Vazhappilly and Alphonse Vazhappanady for spending their valuable time with them to introduce them to the Great Roman culture by means of sight seeing. Friar Giles Veliyana in a special way thank the Almighty God for granting him the opportunity to have audience with the Pope during the meeting.

### OUTING FOR THE CHILDREN

On August 03, 2009 the children of Assisi Snehalaya HIV/AIDS care centre were taken for a half day outing to Walayar Dam. They had a good time there and they also went to OSF convent in Walayar where they had some cultural programs.



### KOLBE PRISON MISSION'S ANNIVERSARY AND FEAST CELEBRATIONS IN SNEHASHRAM AND ASHADEEPAM, TRICHUR

Kolbe Prison Mission Organized an Orientation programme for its members and celebrated the First Anniversary of its beginning and the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe on August 12 and 13. Fifteen Friars were there for the orientation programmes and the celebrations. The group visited 'Ashadeepam' a rehabilitation centre of the prison ministry, for the girls. Sr. Rose the incharge of the centre explained us about their activities, importance of this ministry, etc. Also many other sisters working for this ministry also shared their experiences with us. Friar Titus, President of Kolbe prison Mission introduced them about K.P.M, its goals and future plans, The Friars performed many cultural programmes there. The inmates also joined them with varieties of cultural items. Also K.P.M celebrated the feast of St. Kolbe and First Anniversary of its beginning by cutting cake and had a Koinonia.



Then the group went to Snehashram, which is on the top of a hill. By reciting a solemn rosary and praying the intentions and growth of the K.P.M, the group climbed the mountains.

Snehashram, is a rehabilitation centre for the men who are released from the jail. It is run by prison ministry of India. It is a beautiful Ashram gifted

by beautiful nature. There, Fr. Varghese director of the centre welcomed us.



After the supper, we participated with them for the 'Satsung', which is a kind of sharing in which all were conduct some cultural programmes e. In that program all inmates and friars participated very actively and it was a beautiful experience.

On 13<sup>th</sup> Morning they led the morning prayer and the morning meditations. There was a class by Fr. Varghese, director about its beginning, works, motives, goals etc. He shared his various experiences with the prisoners, also many events that took place is Snehashram . He said that since Kolbe is our patron of our province, we have a special duty and obligation to work for them.

### DIRECTOR'S VISIT

Fr. Jose Karakatt, the state director of Prison Ministry of India, Sr. Marikutty, secretary of state office and the brothers working in Jail Ministry visited Kolbe Franciscan Ashram. During the visit he met with the members of Kolbe Franciscan Ashram and spoke about the importance of working for the prison Ministry. He shared his different experiences and gave a message to us. Since he is transferring from state office, Friar Titus thanked him for all his love and support he had to us and to our ministry and wished him all best in his new office.

### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXPOSURE TO THE ASSISI SNEHALAYA

Foculare and Shanthi Ashram, Coimbatore organized the international youth program for youth called 'Super Congress' in Coimbatore. Members from 20 countries participated in the program, Assisi Snehalaya was also part of the organizing committee and one of the six days of the program. On August 11, the group visited Assisi Snehalaya and had half day of



sramadan (Manual work) to clean around the centre. They also organized cultural program for the children. The community of Assisi Snehalaya along with the children participated the peace festival organized by Foculare- Shanthi Ashram at Coimbatore town on August 07, 2009 on the occasion of the Super Congress.

The community participated the closing ceremony of the Super Congress on August 12, in which Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the chief guest. Two of our kids participated for the Super Congress and one child had the chance to address the audience at the closing ceremony.

**NATIONAL YOFRA MEET 2009**

National assembly of the Franciscan youth in India was held at Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty from August 14-16, 2009. Around 100 youth were

participated from different states of India. The assembly was inaugurated



by Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom OFMConv., Minister Provincial followed by the procession with the lamp which is brought from Assisi, Italy. During the assembly there were classes on psychology and Franciscan Spirituality.

**CELEBRATION OF ASSUMPTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAY**

The day of August 15 began at Assisi Snehalaya with a solemn Eucharistic celebration in connection with the feast of the Assumption of B.V.Mary and the ceremony of flag hoisting in



connection with the Independence day. The children had a half day of recreation. In the afternoon a group of youth from Coimbatore came and organized various programs for the children.

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The advisory board of Assisi Snehalaya had their meeting on August 15, 2009 at Assisi Snehalaya.



Most of the members were present for the meeting. It evaluated the activities of the last year and the members contributed solid suggestions for the better running of the centre. The meeting was followed by the festal dinner in honor of the Assumption of Our Lady and Independence Day.

**FRANCISCAN COURSE**

Fr. Alfred Parambath led the Franciscan Course at Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram for the Minor Seminarians from August 27-29, 2009.

**MAKE A WISH - RADIO PROGRAM WITH OUR KIDS**

Make A Wish foundation organized a radio program through FM Radio about our Assisi Snehalaya HIV/AIDS care centre and especially the children's program on August 30, 2009. Three of our children were interviewed and telecasted.

**ENLIVENMENT OF ONAM FIESTA**

Festivity of Onam takes us on a nostalgic ride down to the memory lane of some evergreen reminiscence of a prosperous past of Kerala. Our Onam celebrations kick started with some thrilling competitions. Such as bottle filling, blind shooting, chakkilidi. Certainly 'Theetamalsaram' as well. The intermittent showers gave us a real scare causing doubt whether the events would have to be shelved. However the enthusiasm of friars drew away those shadows of doubt. Seeing that, the rain gods relented a bit. The cynosure of all eyes was "Maveli". Unlike yester years we were specially privileged with the presence of two "Mavelies" although both of them seem to have some contrast. When one was dressed up traditionally with a crown on his head and came on foot, the other represented a most modern era. He was escorted by two black cats and came by a Bolero. But there was one thing that was common to them viz overflowing 'bellies'. The duo was little haste and before long we proceeded to the highlight of the day. An elaborate "onasadhya" assorted with various dishes relished

our taste buds. "Pulikali", Tug of War, "Pookkalam" and "Sinkarimelam" added colour to the enthrallment of the day. The remarkable day came to close with the distribution of prizes held in connection with the celebrations.

### ONAM CELEBRATION AT ASK

In the midst of cloudy atmosphere the community of Assisi Shanthi Kendra celebrated Onam very well. The celebration started here by preparing a beautiful *Pookkalam* on the eve of *Thiruvonam*. The members of Franciscan Youth coloured the celebration by performing *Pulikali* and *Chendamelam*. Fr. John Pozhathuparambil presided over the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration on the day and Fr. Joel Koikkara gave a beautiful message. The whole celebrations came to an end with a sumptuous *Ona-sadhya*.



### ONAM AT NIRMALARAM

Onam is the passion of Kerala and pride of India. Nirmalaram minor seminarians had wonderful time with the biggest feast of Kerala. The various colourful programs organized on that day was a wonderful occasion to enrich an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood.

### ONAM AT BELVEDERE

Onam celebration at Belvedere Franciscan Ashram, Kottagiri began with the Holy Mass but the actual celebration began on the previous day itself with the floral competition. On the Onam day, in the drizzling raindrops we conducted our *Onam Kalikal* which lasted till afternoon, but the unforgettable was the *Onasadhya*. Every Novices and Fathers came for the *Sadhya* in the traditional dress. The *Sadhya* was served for us with 32 varieties of traditional dishes including 3 varieties of *payasam*.

### ONAM AT ASSISI SNEHALAYA

This year the inmates of Assisi Snehalaya, Coimbatore celebrated the Onam with great festivity with collaboration with the inmates of Rosmenian Novitiate House, St. Ann's convent and Shanthi Ashram, Coimbatore. "Pookkalam" was prepared by the inmates of the HIV/AIDS Care Centre under the leadership of Fr. Regite Thuruthel. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was in Indian style presided by Fr. Aphrem, the Novice Master of the Rosmenians. The Competitions were organized for the inmates of Snehalaya and all participated in the competitions and many won the prizes. The coming of "Mahabeli" was something very unique; the Rosmenian brothers organized the coming of "Mahabeli" in a decorated vehicle from Rosmenian house to Snehalaya. "Onasadya" was prepared with the help of Rosmenian community. All the inmates along with the guest enjoyed the "sadya" with a number of curries and "Onapayasm". It was followed with some entertaining programs. In the afternoon, the Rosmenian brothers with the help of MSW students organized competitions for the children from Rottikaundennur and Kaliyapuram village. All the winners were given prizes and all enjoyed the "payasm".



### MSW STUDENTS FOR PROJECT WORK

Three MSW students were in the Assisi Snehalaya HIV/AIDS Care and Research Centre, Coimbatore in the month of September 2009 for the project work as a part of their study curriculum. They organized a library for the inmates especially for the children and also they made a research study on the medical and social conditions of HIV infected children in Snehalaya. This will be useful for any reference to verify the impact of the work of Snehalaya in its service for the infected

children. At the end of their work they presented an appraisal of their stay and work in Snehalaya. They made contribution to the centre for its daily running.

**FLASH VISIT BY NACO OFFICIALS**

Two officials from National AIDS Control Organization, (NACO) made a causal visit to Assisi Snehalaya HIV/AIDS Care and Research Centre on September 14, 2009. They were very much impressed by the activities of the centre and they directed how to proceed for Government Funding.

**ANNUAL FRATERNAL GATHERING**



This year's Annual Fraternal Gathering for all the students not in profession and the formators was held at Nirmalaram Franciscan Ashram,

Chotty from Saturday 19 to Monday 21, September, 2009. It was an occasion for the students to come to know each other and to renew their friendship. All students participated in various programmes of the gathering very actively and had a fruitful time. V.Rev.Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial was the main celebrant on Sunday while Fr. Bonaventure Kalluvettukuzhiyil, director of the Pre Novices was the main celebrant on Monday. Rev. Fr. Joseph Vellamattam, Rector of the Minor Seminary of Kanjirappilly Diocese gave a class on Priestly life during the gathering. The cultural evening was appreciated by all because of the variety of the programs and the standard. The Basketball and Volleyball competitions conducted on the last day of the gathering gave the students the opportunity to prove their efficiency in sports and games. This year the Pre Novices won the Basketball competition while the Volleyball competition was won by the Minor Seminarians. In Basketball PN Justin Puthenveetil was awarded the Best Player award while in Volleyball Br. Fredin Kuriyedom was the Best Player.

**WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM**

The new project - Water Purification System - of St. Maximilian parish, Christianpet under the guidance of Fr. Joe Palukunnel was inaugurated on October 06, 2009 by Fr. Louis Panthiruvellil, Definitor incharge of social apostolates in Andhra Pradesh. The installation work of the system was done under the supervision of Fr. Joe Palukunnel, parish priest. Fr. Joe Palukunnel also blessed the machine on the same day and Fr. John Pozhathuparambil did the switch on function of the system, while Fr. Justine Koonamparayil inaugurated the distribution of water. Through this project 120 families of the village of Christianpet are receiving pure drinking water everyday.



**YET ANOTHER CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

The Construction work of new Chapel at Kunchanappalli Village, Christianpet, Andhra Pradesh.



## PLANNER NOVEMBER 2009

01 SUN	<b>SOLEMNITY OF ALL THE SAINTS</b> Penitential season by the precept of the Rule starts Feast of St. Anthony of Padua at <i>Padua Franciscan Ashram</i> , Puthenchira begins 3rd Prov. Annual Retreat at Sehion Ret. Centre, Attappady
02 MON	3rd Prov. Annual Retreat at Sehion Ret. Centre, Attappady
03 TUE	Comemmoration of all the deceased of the Seraphic Order 3rd Prov. Annual Retreat at Sehion Ret. Centre, Attappady Ongoing Formation Programme for Junior Priests
04 WED	3rd Prov. Annual Retreat at Sehion Ret. Centre, Attappady Ongoing Formation Programme for Junior Priests
05 THU	3rd Prov. Annual Retreat at Sehion Ret. Centre, Attappady Ongoing Formation Programme for Junior Priests
06 FRI	<b>Bl. Alfonso Lopez &amp; Five Companions OFMConv.</b> , <i>Martyrs, Victims of the Spanish Revolution</i> Mass for the Departed FRB of the Order 3rd Prov. Annual Retreat at Sehion Ret. Centre, Attappady
07 SAT	
08 SUN	<b>FEAST OF BL. JOHN DUNS SCOTUS</b>
09 MON	
10 TUE	
11 WED	Personal encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Novices
12 THU	Personal encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Novices Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Novices in common
13 FRI	
14 SAT	Feast of St. Anthony of Padua at <i>Padua Franciscan Ashram</i> , Puthenchira ends Sarvamatha Shanthi Ghosh organized by FCPD at ASK
15 SUN	
16 MON	
17 TUE	<b>FEAST OF ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY</b> , <i>Patroness of the III Order</i>
18 WED	
19 THU	Home day at <i>Kolbe Franciscan Ashram</i> , Aluva
20 FRI	
21 SAT	<b>FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF B. V. MARY</b> CCFMC organizing Committee Meeting at ASK
22 SUN	
23 MON	<b>SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING</b>
24 TUE	
25 WED	
26 THU	
27 FRI	<b>FEAST OF BL. FRANCIS ANTHONY FASANI</b>
28 SAT	Parents' day for the Minor Seminarians begins
29 SUN	First Sunday of Advent <b>FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF THE SERAPHIC ORDER</b> Renewal of Vows by all the Solemnly Professed Friars Novena in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception begins Parents' day for the Minor Seminarians ends
30 MON	Anniversary day of <i>Assisi Snehalaya</i> AIDS Project at Rottikaundanur Week of Pre-Novices with the Provincial at ASK begins

**FCPD DESK: OCTOBER 2009**

**SANGAMAM 2009**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October Fr. Alfred participated in *sangamam 2009* organized at Shanthi Ashram, Coimbatore. Eminent Gandhian thinkers from Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhrapradesh had attended the meeting. The program was meant to engage young leaders, Gandhian thinkers, academics and social development organizations in Peace Building and conflict transformation. The principal aim was peace education, Inter-religious understanding, poverty alleviation and violence reduction. These themes go hand in hand with the FCPD.

The second phase of sangamam 2009 was held at Assisi Shanthi Kendra on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Four leading persons of the youth wing of Shanthi Ashram came to discuss more about the possibility of a higher collaboration in the regard with our Franciscan Centre. Frs Alfred, John, Paul and Manilal Christin participated at the various phased of the meeting. Certain projects for the future are envisaged.

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING OF WFIRC**

The general board meeting of WFIRC was held at Christian Spirituality Centre, Pariaram, near Chalakkudy on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. Fr. Alfred participated in it. The meeting was presided over by Honorable Justice P.K Shamsudhin. The main theme of discussion was regarding the next WFIRC meeting to be held in December next year. Among several proposals there emerged the possibility of conducting it at our Franciscan Centre. Most of the members were favorable. But the final decision will be taken later.

**SAVE THE WESTERN GHATS**

A group of ecological activists were assembled under the auspice of the FCPD on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October. There were 34 participants from all over Kerala who work in various areas of the Western Ghats of India. The focal point of the discussion how to save the remaining forests and the rivers of the Western Ghats that provide India with the Monsoon rains. Frs Alfred and Paul participated in the meeting.



**Programme in the Centre (November)**

- 05 - 06 - Social group of saradhy
- 06 - 09 - CARMA 2009 (17th Training programme of Kdumbashree)
- 07 - 08 - Pilgrim group from Chennai
- 09 - 12 - CARMA 2009 (18th Training programme of Kdumbashree)
- 12 - 15 - CARMA 2009 (19th Training programme of Kdumbashree)
- 15 - 18 - CARMA 2009 (20th Training programme of Kdumbashree)
- 18 - 21 - CARMA 2009 (21st Training programme of Kdumbashree)
- 21 - 24 - CARMA 2009 (22nd Training programme of Kdumbashree)
- 24 - 27 - CARMA 2009 (23rd Training programme of Kdumbashree)

**WELCOME BACK!**

Friar Jesmond Panapparambil, after having finished his Licentiate in Social Communications at Salesianum, Rome with colourful results has come back to the Province. *Congratulations and Best Wishes dear Friar!*

