



# FRATRES

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

Towards New Horizons of Service

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Celebrating the feast of a Saint means recapturing his charism and the festal celebrations get its meaning only when one imbibes his spirit.

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of our Father and Founder, it is an occasion for all of us to think and to re-think of our origin because the passing of centuries might have distorted our memories. We should also remember that we, as Friar Minor, have the reason to exist if and only if we live in the original spirit of Francis.

The fact that in 2009 we are going to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Franciscan Order, adds a further responsibility to discover the charism of Francis. A worthy celebration of the feast of St. Francis invites us all to this. Let it be an invitation for us to return to the origin.

**Happy Feast of St. Francis!**

October 04

## 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

**ASSISI SHANTHI KENDRA DIARY**

**August 10:** All the members of the K.F.F.U Angamaly zone gathered at Assisi Shanthi Kendra for the celebration of the *Transitus* of St. Clare. There were around 200 participants. The prayer was led by Fr. John Pozhathuparambil and Fr. Louis Panthiruvellil delivered a lovely homily on the occasion. After the prayer session sisters and postulants from different Franciscan congregations and the Franciscan Youth of Assisi Shanthi Kendra performed various cultural programs.



**August 13:** The feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, together with the birthday of Fr. Provincial, was celebrated on the 13th. We had the Holy Mass at 5.15pm, presided over by Fr. Mathew Purayidom. There were representatives from all our Friaris.



**August 16:** On the 16th of this month Assisi Shanthi Kendra witnessed a special function: the "Arangettam" of *Bharathanattiam* by Miss Jasmine David Areeckal. She and Justine, her brother are the benefactors of Friar Alphonse and her parents are the benefactors of Friar Basil. The family lives in Germany and is closely attached to our Order.

**FRANCISCAN YOUTH**

The group of Franciscan Youth functioning at Assisi Shanthi Kendra consists of around 40 young people. Under the guidance of Friar Giles Veliyana, the members of Franciscan Youth are active in different activities like social works, cultural programs and seminars.

Last month they had an interaction with old people in an Old age home at Malayattoor. Arriving at 10.30 a.m. in the Old age home they engaged themselves in cleaning the house and its surroundings, hair cutting and shaving



the inmates, feeding the bed ridden, listening and sharing of the sorrows of old people and

entertaining them with various cultural programs. They were accompanied by Friars Leo Payyappilly and Giles Veliyana.

As part of the intellectual and personal growth, they had a half day seminar on ABORTION on Sunday, September 7, 2008. The classes were led by Friars Louis Panthiruvellil, Alfred Parambakathu and Sr. Dr. Venma SD from Alphonsa Hospital, Karukutty.

The number of youth is increasing day by day. Even in this twenty-first century we are here with a question, why youth are after Francis?

**FOURTEEN NEW MEMBERS IN TWENTY ONE DAYS**

The number of the members of the M.I. group at Assisi Shanthi Kendra, Karukutty has risen to forty five as fourteen new members have joined the group in two different days. The first group consisting of ten new members was enrolled on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 after the festal Eucharistic Celebration of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the founder of Militia of Mary Immaculate. Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom OFMConv., Minister Provincial was the main celebrant for the occasion. The simple but beautiful function with prayerful atmosphere of the day attracted many to know more about the activities of M.I. and four among them expressed their wish to join the group. After an intensive preparation they were enrolled to the M.I. Group by Fr. Joel



Koikkara, President of the Marian Apostolate Commission on Monday, September 08, 2008, on the Feast day of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary. The function took place after the Holy Mass in the morning.

### KOLBE ASHARM DIARY

#### **FEAST OF ST. BONAVENTURE AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FRANCISCAN PRIZES**

We, the community of Kolbe Ashram celebrated the feast of St. Bonaventure with great solemnity. Rev. Fr. Mario Kaniyamkunel, former Procurator of the Ashram presided over the liturgical ceremonies. An academy was conducted in



connection with the Feast, in which the winners of the Franciscan Paper 2007-'08 was announced - Friars Stanly Panelikudy and Jijo Karackattu are the winners.

Meanwhile the cultural group of the Ashram arranged a Franciscan Quiz competition and Fr. Alfred Parambakathu took the role of the quizmaster. During the formal session of the meeting, Fr. Rector awarded the winners with a medal and cash award. Later, Fr. Rector and Fr. Alfred commented on the papers submitted for the competition. After the evaluation Friars Stanly and Jijo presented their papers to the audience, it was well appreciated. Friar Jijo made the vote of thanks. With Papel Anthem the meeting came to an end.

#### **A NEW VENTURE FROM KOLBE ASHRAM**

Kolbe Prison Mission is a new apostolate of the Conventual Franciscans in India, which has begun in Kolbe Ashram in this Jubilee year, in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe, to give a helping hand to the prisoners who are rejected from the society. There is a group of Friars who are members of this, with ardent desire to work for the prisoners. Kolbe Prison Mission aims at the counseling to the prisoners, visiting prisons, visiting their families and enable them to accept the prisoners in their families. The group members will conduct prayer meetings and Adorations; celebrate Holy Mass in the jails, sending seasonal greeting cards etc., for the reconciliation and reformation of the prisoners. The Kolbe Prison Mission also organizes classes

and seminars in Kolbe Ashram, which provides certain orientations to the Friars.

As a first step, we (KPM), conducted a class on prison ministry on July 17, 2008 at Kolbe Ashram at 10.00 am. The class was taken by Rev. Fr. Varghese Karipperri the co-founder of the prison ministry in Kerala. Through his class he reminded us the importance and the meaning of the priestly-religious life today and all should have a good and right motivation for the priesthood because at present it challenges everyone. He also explained the circumstances, that made him to form a new mission and also he explained the practical difficulties of this. After the class he spent some time to give clarifications about the doubts of the Friars. Friar Martin Pallikkara made the vote of thanks.

V. Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial, officially inaugurated our new mission during the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, on August 14, 2008. On this beautiful occasion, the general body members of KPM, Friars Titus (president) Martin (secretary) Pradeesh (treasurer) Jerome, Savio, Shubin and Jobin (members) consecrated themselves to the providence of Blessed Virgin Mary.

#### **THE FESTAL CELEBRATIONS**

We, the community of Kolbe Ashram, celebrated the feasts of St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary very solemnly on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2008 respectively. V. Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial, presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration in honour of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and delivered the message of the day. The Friars had their half-day outing in the afternoon and all enjoyed very well. We celebrated the solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary together with the Independence Day of our nation on the next day. Rev. Fr. Louis Panthiruvellil the Rector celebrated the Holy Mass and Rev. Fr. Stephen Ollethazhathu gave a beautiful message to all. We hoisted the National Flag and exchanged the joy of the day together with the people outside. A volley ball competition was conducted between the groups of the seminary as a part of the celebrations.

**ASSISI SNEHALAYA DIARY**

**FLASH VISIT BY GHANDHIAN - FOCHULARE PEACE BUILDING GROUP**

An international group belonging to Gandhian movement and Fochulare movement made a flash visit to our centre on August 08, 2008. Eminent people from different walks of life such as vice-chancellors, directors of various movements, social workers etc., are the members of group. They had an interaction with the inmates and appreciated the work done by the Conventual Franciscans.

**JESUS YOUTH PROGRAM IN THE CENTRE**

The members of Jesus youth movement from St. Marks Parish, Kuniyamuthur had a half day prayer animation for the inmates of the centre on August 09, 2008. Fr. Ferdinand gave a brief picture of the centre.

**AWARENESS PROGRAM ON HIV/AIDS**

The Centre organized an awareness program in the village of Rottikaundanur on August 10, 2008 with the support of the MSW students, who come here for their field work experience and the Red Ribbon Club of Sree Narayana Guru College, Coimbatore. The seminar was animated by Dr. Mahadevan, HOD of STD, GH, CBE and Ms. Kovai Meenaskhi. The program was enriched with the street play by the Red Ribbon Club and video presentation on HIV/AIDS.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY AND ASSUMPTION OF B.V. MARY**

Both these events were celebrated with due solemnity. After the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, the National flag was hoisted followed by different entertaining programs for the inmates which added color to this day.

**AN EXPOSURE FROM KARUNYA UNIVERSITY**

The staff and students belonging to Rotract Club from Karunya University performed 2 hours cultural program for the inmates on August 16, 2008 and distributed toilet items for the patients



**DAY OF PICNIC**

All the inmates had an opportunity to entertain and enjoy together with a day of outing to Malampuzha on August 23 and the staff accompanied them.



**VOCATION CAMPAIGN**

Palakkad Zonal level vocation work, under the guidance of Fr. Elias Thekkemundackapadavil took place on August 23, 2008. 16 Friar students from Kolbe Ashram along with Fr. Stephen Ollethazhathu Director of the Vocation Apostolate Commission camped in Assisi Snehalaya and done a wonderful work and collected many address from different parishes. *Special thanks to Fr. Stephen and the Student-Friars!*

**“MAKE A WISH”**

The members of *Make a Wish*, an NGO spend time with the kids at our centre to know their wishes in life and it was fulfilled in the form of bicycles, toys, dresses etc., on August 30, 2008 with a day of programs. They also sponsored dinner for the inmates.



**OUR VISITORS**

- ◆ Mr. P. D. Paul and Family, the owner of Shilpa enterprises, Bangalore made a visit to our centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.
- ◆ Decon Andreyas from Germany visited our centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.
- ◆ Mr. Roberto from Italy, in charge of inter-religious dialogue of FOCHULARE MOVEMENT visited our centre on 8<sup>th</sup> August.
- ◆ A group of MSW students from Appa Samy College Coimbatore had an observation visit as a part of their study program on 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- ◆ A group of MBA students from Nehru College came to the centre on 13<sup>th</sup> August. They had interaction with the patients with various programs and sponsored lunch for the inmates.

- ◆ Students from Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science had an exposure to the centre on 20<sup>th</sup> August.
- ◆ Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial and Fr. George Munjanattu, Province Treasurer visited and evaluated the work of the centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- ◆ Dr. Gladsten, from Australia made a visit to the centre on 29<sup>th</sup> August.
- ◆ Ms. Rani, one of the benefactress from Bangalore visited and gave various articles and donations to the centre on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **BALA YESU FRANCISCAN ASHRAM DIARY**

Christianity always flourished through the blood of so many enthusiastic Christians and even now the situation has not been changed. The assassination of Fr. Thomas Pandippally in Andhra Pradesh and the present situation in Orissa and Karnataka testifies it. These are the situation of mission areas and our situation is also not so different from that. But with the divine providence all our mission activities move smoothly. At present the normal life of the ordinary man is affected by the heavy rain and the consequent flood. Cultivation and the daily works are really in a pathetic condition.

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF FR. PROVINCIAL**

We, the community of Bala Yesu Franciscan Ashram, Dondapudi together with all our villagers fabulously celebrated the birthday of Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom on August 9, 2008. We were really privileged to have him with us on that auspicious day of his birthday. From all our eleven villages people gathered together to celebrate this special day with lot of enthusiasm. They were thankful for the tremendous progress that Fr. Mathew has brought to the place through the hands of Friars living here. Our 'Sangapeddal' (elders) and many other eminent figures honored him with shawls. All the staff and the students of Greyfriars Junior College added colour to the celebration with their highly talented cultural performances. Almost 600 people participated in the birthday celebration.

### **BLESSING OF THE GROUND FLOOR**

On August 11, 2008 Rev. Fr. Mathew Purayidom, Minister Provincial in the presence of all the friars, staff, students and all the villagers blessed the ground floor of our new endeavor –

Greyfriars Junior College. On this occasion Fr. Provincial enlightened the audience through his wonderful message about the important of education and hard work. On the occasion he also thanked all the benefactors, friars and workers who in one way or the other became the part of this dream and requested the staff and the students to become the part of the growth of this college through their professionalism and selfless dedication.

### **FRESHER'S DAY**

99 new students joined our Junior College in this academic year of 2008-09. On July 26 we celebrated the fresher's day with full vigor and vitality. On the occasion Friar Bosco Puttanal, the correspondent, Friar Jacob Kurishumootil, Friar Dominic Thekkemundackapadavil and Sr. Margaret, the superior of HSM Convent and other invitees motivated the new 99 buds about the value of education and discipline. The senior students gave the new comers a warm welcome with various cultural programs.

### **GOVERNMENT APPROVAL**

After the long struggle and strive we have received the government approval for running a Junior College. With this approval our Junior College will be officially known as Greyfriars Junior College. It was really a Herculean task that we had to face in competing with other sixteen applicants from all over Andhra Pradesh. "Among the new 16 applications to the BIE (Board of Intermediate Education) for this year, yours is the perfect and fully satisfied work that we received" said the officials while we were granted the approval. We believe that it is really a miraculous blessing of Bala Yesu (Infant Jesus). We thank Rev. Fr. Provincial and the definitory and all who helped us through their prayers and supports.

### **UNITED PASTORS ASSOCIATION'S NEW TREASURER**

Fr. Bosco Puttanal is unanimously elected as the Treasurer of United Pastors Association (UPA). UPA is an organization consisted of 160 representatives from various Christian denominations. It is a registered organization clubbed with the Andhra Pradesh Government in which funds for various social activities are released. ***Congratulations and Best wishes to Friar Bosco for achieving this position!***



**FROM M.I. DESK****YET ANOTHER GIFT TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Everything that happens in Nirmalaram is a tribute to Blessed Virgin Mary. As a Birthday gift to B.V. Mary, on September 4 2008 the Militia of Mary Immaculata has been inaugurated at our Minor Seminary. Fr. Joel Koikkara, the director of M.I. gave the recollection talk for the students and after a short break Deacon Dias Theembalangattu and Fr. Joel introduced the Militia of Mary Immaculata to them. In a short and simple prayer ceremony Fr. Joel dedicated all the students to the protecting hands of B.V. Mary and



encouraged them to find B.V. Mary as a means to reach Jesus Christ and also to grow in our Religious vocation. In the presence of Fr. Leo the Definitor in charge of Ministries, Friar Antu Pallippatt the Rector, Fr. Michael Earaly the Guardian, Frs. Roger and Paul, Fr. Joel blessed the miraculous medal and gave to the students as the sign of receiving B.V. Mary as their protectress. A big thanks to the community of Nirmalaram for their support and encouragement.

**MEMBERS OF MARIAN APOSTOLATE COMMISSION (MI)**

Friar Leo Payyappilly (*Definitor in Charge*)  
 Friar Joel Koikkara (*President*)  
 Friar Dias Theembalangattu (*Secretary*)  
 Friar Antu Pallippatt (*Member*)  
 Friar Bonaventure Kalluvettukuzhiyil (*Member*)  
 Friar Raphael Kaniyampalackal (*Member*)

**PLANNER SEPTEMBER 2008**

01 MON	Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Minor Seminarians
02 TUE	<b>Bl. John Francis Brute OFMConv., Martyr, Victim of French Revolution</b> Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Minor Seminarians
03 WED	
04 THU	The Spirit of Assisi National Award 2008 Committee Meeting
05 FRI	<b>Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Titular of Belvedere Franciscan Ashram, Kottagiri</b> Home day at <i>Belvedere Franciscan Ashram, Kottagiri</i>
	<b>Bl. Thomas of Tolentino and Companions, Martyred in India in 1321</b>
06 SAT	Personal Encounter of Fr. Provincial with the Novices
07 SUN	
08 MON	<b>FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE B. V. MARY</b> The feast at <i>St. Paul Franciscan Ashram, Kattappana</i> ends
09 TUE	
10 WED	
11 THU	
12 FRI	THIRUVONAM
13 SAT	
14 SUN	<b>FEAST OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>
15 MON	<b>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</b>
16 TUE	
17 WED	<b>FEAST OF THE STIGMATA OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS</b>
18 THU	<b>FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO OFMConv.</b>
19 FRI	Mass for the Departed FRB of the Order
20 SAT	CCFMC Organizing Committee Meeting
21 SUN	Advisory Board Meeting of <i>Assisi Snehalaya AIDS Centre</i>
22 MON	
23 TUE	
24 WED	Home Day at <i>Belvedere Franciscan Ashram, Kottagiri</i>
25 THU	The Novena in honour of our Father and founder St. Francis of Assisi begins
26 FRI	Day of prayer for formation through out the Order
27 SAT	The Spirit of Assisi National Award Committee Meeting at Archbishop's House, Ernakulam
28 SUN	
29 MON	<b>FEAST OF STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, Arch-Angels</b> FCPD Executive Council Meeting at ASK
30 TUE	

**THE PROVINCIAL ANNUAL RETREAT  
2008**

The Provincial Annual Retreat of this year is going to be held at Athmadarshan Retreat House, Aluva from October 06 – 11, 2008. The retreat will begin on Monday, 06<sup>th</sup> with the dinner at 08. 00 p.m. and will end on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> at 06.00 p.m. Rev. Fr. M.J. Thomas S.J. will lead the retreat and the participants will be Friars Raymond Pommelil, Ferdinand Melappilly, Antu Pallippatt, Louis Panthiruvellil, Francis Paramby, John Pozhathuparambil, Bonaventure Kalluve-ttukuzhiyil, Saviour Karamvelil, Justin Koonamparayil, Regite Thuruthel, Giles Veliyana, Samuel Paramby, Christy Kallupalathinkal, Mario Kaniyamkunnel, Joel Koikkara, Jacob Kurishumoottil, Philip Karottapuram, Dominic Thekkemundackapadavil and Paul Pothanattuveliyil. (*Other Friars are here by reminded to inform the Vicar Provincial about the date and Place of their personal retreats by the end of this month.*) On 06<sup>th</sup> October, the traveling facility to go to the retreat house will be arranged for those friars who would reach the Provincial house before 06.30 p.m. Other Friars who would reach the retreat house by themselves should reach there before 07.30 p.m. The address of the Retreat house is:

*Athmadarshan Retreat House  
Monastery Lane, P.B. No. 60  
Aluva – 683 101  
KERALA  
Tel. 0484 2620890*



**Have a Spirit filled Retreat!**



**Birthdays of September**

- 01 Novice Nineesh Kurudiyakulam
- 07 PN. Jayesh Thumbiyamkuzhiyil
- 09 Friar Prejeesh Thelakadan
- 10 Fredin Kuriyedom 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr.
- 11 PN. Nithin Maniyamkattel
- 12 Friar Giles Veliyana
- 23 Friar Kuriakose Mattathil
- Sonu Meledathu 1<sup>st</sup> Yr.
- 24 Rinson Vadakkan 1<sup>st</sup> Yr.
- 30 Friar Dias Theemalangattu



**BUON VOYAGE**

Best wishes and prayerful greetings to Friar Roger Vazhappilly who will leave to Vienna, Austria on September 30, 2008 for rendering his service to the Austrian Delegation. His new address and Telephone number are:

Fr. Roger Vazhappilly OFMConv.  
Minoriten Konvent  
Alserstrasse 17  
A 1080, Vienna  
AUSTRIA (EUROPE)  
Tel: (0043) 14059142 111

**Programme in the Centre (September)**

- 5 - 7: Youth Meeting of Malankara, Kalamassery
- 11 - 14: Youth Meeting of Jerusalem Marthoma Church
- 19: Program of Iftas, Trissur
- 21-25: Our Retreat for the lay people
- 28-30: Marriage preparatory course

Mr. Devassy Pengiparamban, grandfather of Friar Williams Pengiparamban, died on July 02, 2008.

Mrs. Rosy Devassy Thiruthel, grandmother of Friar Sinto Thiruthel, died on August 13, 2008.

Eternal Rest give unto them O Lord...  
Let Perpetual Light shine upon them.  
May they Rest in Peace, Amen.

