

# Ramblings from Rome

Curia Newsletter – No. 47

March 2009



## Fr. General and the new Curia

Fr. Joe O'Reilly   D. Marco Tangetti      D. Domenico Mariani   Fr. Anthony Meredith

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**January 6:** Fr General returns to Rome after his Christmas stay at Borgomanero and having visited some of the houses in the North of Italy.

**15 January** – Arrival in Rome of Fr. Anthony Meredith (ex-Superior of Indian Region), a new member of the Curia.

**20 January** – Departure by car of Anthony Meredith to the U.K. to help David Tobin move some of his effects to Ratcliffe and to return with his own belongings.

**30 January** – Fr General and D. Mariani participate in the San Carlo al Corso commemoration of Prof. Pietro Prini (noted Rosminian philosopher), on the 30 days' anniversary of his death.

**1 February** – Marco Tanghetti, another member of the new Curia, arrives in Rome from Venezuela via Milan where he had spent a short holiday at home.



### **Indian Assembly**

Back row: Robbin, Siju, Saveri, Bibin, Tom thomas, Manuel, , Josephray, Belavendram, Tom Thomas, Manuel Arun  
Second row: Paul Babu, Ansalam, Edison, Ambrose, Sunny, Marco Tanghetti, Fr. Xavier, Josek, Vinod, Titus, Dasan

Third row standing: Jomon, Reji, Subin, Abhilash, Yesudas

Third row sitting: Benjamin, Shinto, Biju (hidden) Joseph, John Ravi, Agi, Sajjan Jins.

**8 February** – Decree of Approbation of the revised Rule Book of the Ascribed

**9-11 February** – General Council meeting: Fr General nominates Anthony Meredith, Marco Tanghetti and Joe O'Reilly as the respective Vicars of Spiritual, Intellectual and Temporal Charity.

**9 February** – Decree of Promulgation of Decrees of General Congregation of 2008.

**11 February** – M. Tanghetti professes Presbyter Vows at the hands of Fr General. Decrees of erection of the new Provinces of E. Africa and of India and the nomination of their Provincials.

**14 February** - Departure of M. Tanghetti for India (return March 10)

**February 16** - A. Meredith to Ireland (meeting at Glencomeragh) and from there to the UK (Province Day at Bilton). Return Feb. 28th.

**March 2** – Curia complete with the arrival in Rome of Joe O'Reilly from Ireland. (Will continue as Irish Provincial until nomination of Gentili Provincial and so will have to commute occasionally to Ireland).

**March 4** – Circular of Fr General to brethren and to Ascribed with news of the happenings in the Institute. Request for up-to-date email addresses.

**March 6** – Italian brethren are asked by Fr General to return by March 31 their nominations for the new Italian Provincial.

**March 16-18** – Generalitial Council. (To have time to honour St Patrick, only a short meeting on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup>).

**March 17** – Letter of Fr General inviting the brethren of the U.K., Irish and American Provinces, as well as those of the New Zealand Region, to forward their recommendations for the office of Provincial of the new Gentili Province by Easter Sunday.

**March 19** – Decree of nomination of the Commissions (General Congregation decisions) for the review of the *Ratio Formationis* (M. Tanghetti, C. Fuse, E. Menestrina, O. Stanfield, F. Menachery) and for Finance (J. O'Reilly, C. Papa and P. Pierce).

**March 21** – M. Tanghetti to E. Africa (Kenya and Tanzania) on a visit to the Formation houses and to preach Holy Week retreat at Ngong.

**March 24** – Fr General on a three-day visit to the Sacra. On the same day, A. Meredith to the UK for five days to visit to his ailing 95 year old mother.

**March 30** – Both Superiors General, along with the Porta Latina community, attend the Conference and Mass at S. Carlo al Corso to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Mons. Clemente Riva. High-powered conference (D. Mariani, G. De Rita and F. Rutelli (ex-Mayor of Rome). Mass concelebrated by Card. Vallini (Pope's Vicar for Rome), six bishops and forty priests.

**April 8** - Father General appoints Don Claudio Papa as the new Provincial for the Italian Province. He will take up his office on July 1st 2009.

# Institute

**January 4** –First Profession of Marco Galati at Calvario; now studying at Porta Latina. On same day, a postulant begins his novitiate whilst another young man starts his postulancy.

**January 6** - The Venezuelan Province was formally established by decree, with Father Felice Muratore appointed by Father General as the first Venezuelan Provincial



Francis

**January 7-9** –Assembly at Lushoto of the East African Vice-Province with A. Meredith representing the Curia.

**January 16** –Porta Latina welcomes its third member of staff, Fr. Francis Menachery (Indian Region). His arrival coincides with the publishing in his country of the *Maxims of Perfection* in the Malayalam language (translation courtesy of the Ascribed, Fr Xavier Joseph Malamootill).

**January 21-23** - Calvary Assembly of the Italian Province considers the 2008 General Congregation Decisions.

**January 24** - At St. Joseph's church in Dublin, diaconate ordination of Br Henry Konnoth by Mons. John Arnold, Auxiliary Bishop of London and an Ascribed member.

**January 26** – Death in Omegna hospital (near Domodossola) of the scholastic Gianfranco Vicario: 58 years old and of which the last 6 were spent in the Institute.

**February 1** - Death in Dublin of Fr Dennis Sweeney

**February 2** – One day gathering of the Coadjutors of the Indian Region.

**February 17-18** - At Glencomeragh House, Ireland, meeting of the U.K. and Irish Provincials with their Councils, along with the American Provincial, to consider the steps to be taken in setting-up the new Gentili Province.



Firmati

**February 18-20** – At Coimbatore (Indian Novitiate), Assembly of the Indian Region, with M. Tanghetti representing the Curia.

**February 20** – **Feast of the Cell** in all parts of the Institute.

Institution of the E. African Province of St Giuseppina Bakita with the beginning of service of the Provincial Firmati Tarimo.

Establishment of the Indian Province of St Thomas and St Francis Xavier and the start of the ministry as Provincial of Xavier



Felice



Henry



Xavier

Moonjely (who had taken Presbyter Vows at the hands of M. Tanghetti, delegate of Fr General).



Saji Dominic

At Ngong, diaconate ordination of Br. Saji Dominic Puthenpurakal by Mons. Cornelius Shilder M.H.M., Bishop of Ngong.

**February 21** – In the collegiate church of SS. Gervasio and Protasio at Domodossola, Mons. Renato Corti (Bishop of Novara) accepts Ascription into the Institute at Fr General’s invitation.

**February 22** – At Maracaibo, in the church of St Francis of Assisi, Br. Francisco Valderrama is ordained Deacon by Mons. Ubaldo Ramòn Santana, Archbishop of Maracaibo.



Francisco

**February 25-** Death in Rovereto hospital of Fr Giuseppe Perzoli, 83 years old of which 68 in religious life.

**February 26** – At Bilton, U.K. Province Assembly to consider aspects of the life of the Province and the Decrees of the General Congregation. A Meredith was present for the occasion.

**February 28** – Arrival in Rome of the two Indian Rosminian priests, Dasan Kuttikkat and Sunny Kalathil, en route to Sicily to help out in the two parishes there.

**March 6** – Italian brethren requested to return their nominations for Provincial by March 31.

**March 18** – At Crotone, episcopal consecration of Mons. Antonio Staglianò (native of our Calabrian parish of Isola Capo di Rizzuto and a noted Rosminian student) as bishop elect of Noto (Sicily) by Card. Camillo Ruini. His pastoral staff was given him by the parish. Don Claudio Papa represented Fr General. (cont. p.8)

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**After nearly forty years of ministry in New Zealand, Father John Bland will be returning to England, remaining part of the new Gentili Province.**



Mr. Tom Gerrard Fr. John Bland Fr David Myers Fr. David Tobin

## John Bland

Father Bland joined the staff of Rosmini College Auckland in 1970. Mr Tom Gerrard, Head of Rosmini College Auckland, says of Father Bland: "John was always a school man – he worked with the kids and was tolerant of other people's views." For three years he taught Science, Christian Living and Mathematics.

In 1974 Father Bland went to St Peter's College Gore in the South Island of New Zealand being appointed Deputy Principal and Hostel Master. For seven years he taught Maths, Physics, Creative Design and Christian Living.

Returning to Rosmini Auckland in 1981 he taught Mathematics, Religious Education and Computing. He was chaplain most of the time from 1983 till his retirement.

Father Bland started the first computer room with Commodore 64's and Mr Gerrard describes Father Bland as, "really the trail blazer in this field. What he doesn't know about the equipment is not on the market yet. His 'little notebook' was always at the ready for mass dates, boys' names and maths problems, his other hobby"

In 1989 he joined the Auckland Diocesan Retreat Team for four years and they gave over 500 school retreats to most of the secondary schools in the Auckland Diocese.

Father Bland then returned to Rosmini where, as well as looking after the computers, he was the chaplain again and, he says. "I made a point of visiting the boy's parents in their homes." He regards "Keeping the Sacramental side of our faith as an important part of the ministry at Rosmini College. We had Mass every week and, in the early days, had class Masses as well. We also made opportunity for the boys to get to the Sacrament of Reconciliation which I think is very important."

He concludes "I am sure the Principal and staff will continue the great work of bringing the message of the gospel to the boys of Rosmini College. The college has changed considerably over the last forty years. We came to educate Catholic boys in their faith. Today the teachers often have to bring the message of the gospel to boys for the first time. The whole purpose of the church (and therefore of schools) is to evangelise. If we don't, then we fail in our mission. I am sure Rosmini will continue for many more years to bring Christ to those who know him and those who don't."

Father Bland became the Parish Priest of Glenfield's St Thomas More Catholic Church in 1998, and Mr Gerrard said that "Father Bland's, great ability was to turn his hand to many pursuits. He was teacher, preacher, administrator, a Board of Trustees Representative, Parish Priest, Retreat Master – you name it – John did it. He was a great advocate of the under dog. I personally benefited from his kindness. He also put himself out very much to care for the sick and dying." Mr Gerrard went on to say that "he knew a number of people who were fortunate enough to have Father Bland care for them in their last days. He was able to ensure that their 'passing' was a peaceful one. This included his colleague and close friend, Father Ernie Milne who died on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008."

Mr Gerard concluded "It is with some sadness, that we wish Father Bland all the very best for his future and we pray that he has a safe journey. He will certainly be missed by all the students and staff of Rosmini College."



**East African Assembly:**

(L to R standing) George Kumau, Geoffrey Fieldman, Fraternus Massawa (SJ), Diomedè Nitunga, Firmati Tarmio, Peter Kenny, Bishop Anthony Banzi, Emilian Kibiriri, Augusti Haki, Anthony Meredith, Akello Thomas, Stanislaus Malisa, Anthony Mitchel, Stanislaus Alfani, Victor Mwamu:nyi, Anthony Marandu, Christy McElwee, Nazareno Amboose Chuwa..  
Seated : Our novices and postulants

**March 22-27** – Assembly of the brethren of New Zealand Region along with David Myers (U.K. Provincial) and David Tobin.

**March 24** – Publication of Volume 1 of don Eduino Menestrina’s selection of personal testimonies to the Founder’s sanctity.

**March 25** – Death in Milan of Mr. Giorgio Giroli, father of Don Pierluigi. The Porta Latina community attended the funeral.



Fr. Joe O'Reilly and Fr. General with the UK Ambassador to the Holy See  
HE Mr Francis Campbell